



Artesia Historical Society Newsletter

August 2025

Volume 21 Issue 2

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Maria Dantema

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Message from the Presidents:

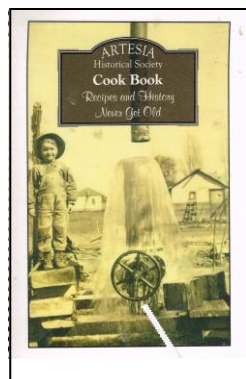
August is here. And you know what that means... SCHOOL DAYS ARE HERE! Hopefully many of you will be attending this year's Fall Fundraiser Gala celebrating 150 years of Education in the Greater Artesia Area (see details on page 3). Come and enjoy a catered dinner, live entertainment, opportunity raffle, silent auction and boutique. Gather and/or wear any school memorabilia you may still have and share your school spirit. You'll be guaranteed a really great time, and you might even get a chance to "ring that (1875) bell".

Our mission to raise funds to build the 1875 Artesia Grammar School bell tower replica is well under way but we're not quite there yet. We hope to accomplish the fundraising goal this year. Please help in any way you can and take the opportunity to put your personal mark on this community project.

Following the Gala, our next Historical Society event will be our "Christmas Open House & Marketplace" to be held at the Historic Fire Station #30 on Saturday, December 6, 2025 from 1pm until 3pm. Come enjoy free treats and hot apple cider as you shop the marketplace gift shop, play a "search for Santa" game, and maybe even take a picture with Santa! We will also be collecting canned goods to be donated to the local food banks as well as unwrapped toys for the annual Project Joy. The event is FREE and open to the public. Come have a ho-ho-ho great time and bring the kids!

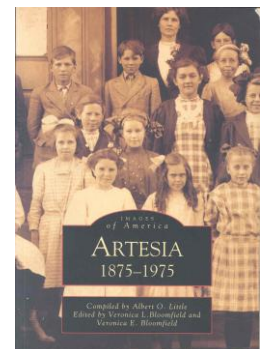
Maria Dantema and Barbara Applebury, Co-presidents

A few copies are still available of the **Artesia Historical Society Cook Book**. Place your order today by mailing your check or money order for \$20.00 plus \$5.00 shipping and handling per book to:



**Artesia Historical Society
P.O. Box 83
Artesia, CA 90702**

Also available
Images of America
Artesia 1875 - 1975,
a pictorial history of old Artesia.
To order your copy call
Barbara Applebury
at (562) 865-3107



Artesia Historical Society Hosts Woman's Club of Artesia-Cerritos



The Artesia Historical Society hosted the regular monthly meeting of the Woman's Club of Artesia-Cerritos on June 12th in the truck bay of Old Fire Station #30.

The Historical Society and the Woman's Club have long had a close relationship with common interest in serving the community. Several individuals hold membership in both organizations, and a few members of the Woman's Club have



acted as school docents in the Historical Society's Educational Outreach Program. In addition, the Woman's Club has consistently supported our School Bus Scholarship program and has made significant donations to the Bell Tower Replica building project.

Woman's Club President Rhonda Burd conducted the business meeting of the organization. She introduced Barbara Applebury and Maria Dantema, Co-Presidents of the Historical Society who welcomed attendees and presented a program about the Historical Society and specifically the Old Fire Station #30 Museum. Barbara shared information about the history of the organization and the acquisition of the two museums. The Frampton/Dantema House was originally built in 1929 on Pioneer Blvd. and was moved to a City Park site on the corner of 187th St. and Alburtis, to become our first museum. Later the City acquired Old Fire Station #30 which was restored as it was when a working single truck fire station that served the entire greater Artesia area (i.e., Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, and parts of Bellflower, Norwalk and Lakewood).

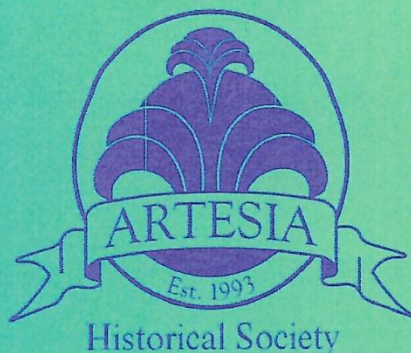
Maria Dantema provided the group information on the Educational Outreach Program and how it has evolved over time. The program is designed for third grade classes to help meet their California standard curriculum which focuses on learning their local history. She explained the structure of the program which includes tours of both museums; a craft session where the students construct a post card like folder that displays photos of subjects they learned about during their visit; and an outside play period where they play games that children would have played in 1929.

Delores Eveland, Vice President of the Historical Society then spoke about a project she co-chairs with Wayne Dantema, that involves identifying all Artesia residents who have served in the military in any conflict. This is an on-going project and needs the communities' support. She explained the project began with the 2017 Fundraiser, "Stars and Stripes Canteen." Though that gala focused on the canteens that supported the military of World War II, the project includes identifying individuals who served in any conflict.

In addition, the Historical Society recently met with the management team at the Historic Artesia Cemetery District and has agreed to work with them to identify their history, which includes the burial of a significant number of Civil War Veterans as well as veterans of many other conflicts. The Woman's Club has traditionally honored the Civil War Veterans buried in the Artesia Cemetery on Memorial Day by placing flowers, often from their own gardens, on their graves.

At the end of the program a box lunch was provided to all attendees by the Historical Society. In addition, as guests arrived, they were given a ticket for a drawing later in the program. The winner of the drawing was Colleen Mar, who was presented with a Cookbook created by, and for sale from, the Artesia Historical Society. The Woman's Club of Artesia-Cerritos presented a significant donation to the Bell Tower Replica Building Project. Guests were then offered a tour of Old Fire Station #30. All attendees expressed a positive feedback of the program and the Historical Society.





19th Annual Gala

CELEBRATING

SCHOOL DAYS

150 YEARS OF EDUCATION IN ARTESIA

1875-2025

Saturday, September 27, 2025 at 5:00

*Albert O. Little Community Center
18750 CLARKDALE AVENUE, ARTESIA, 90701*

*Bring Your Friends & Family
Let's Celebrate Our Community*

SCORE A CHANCE TO RING THE 1875 SCHOOL BELL
CATERED DINNER & LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
OPPORTUNITY RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION
BOUTIQUE



Reserve your Tickets Now!

Additional information on our website: www.artesiahistoricalsociety.com



Number 12 in a Series: "Who was the school named for.....?" **Do you remember this school?**



Richard Gahr High School



Richard Gahr High School opened in 1965 as the first high school in both the newly unified ABC Unified School District, and the recently incorporated City of Dairy Valley (the city would be renamed to Cerritos two years later). The originally proposed name for the school was "Dairy Valley High School," However, it was officially named after Charles Richard "Dick" Gahr Jr., who had served over 30 years at Excelsior High School first as a teacher, then principal and finally school district superintendent. He was born on December 25, 1903, in Norwalk, California and died in 1962 at age 58.

"Dick" Gahr attended Fullerton Junior College and USC. He married Viola Margaret Behrent of Fullerton who he probably met at Fullerton J. C. as they were in the same class. Their family eventually included four children, two boys and two girls. They were Charles Richard Gahr III., Linda L. Gahr, Philip E. Gahr, and Laura L. Gahr.

The first principal of the new school was Willard Redfern.



Celebrate!! August 14, 2025

The 80th Anniversary of the end of World War II.

Honor the "Greatest Generation"



Membership Application

(Renewals mailed in January; membership runs January through December)

Circle One Please: New Renewal

Name (Please Print): _____

Address: _____

(street, city, state, zip code)

Phone (including area code): _____ Email: _____

Membership Level:

Annual Individual	\$20.00
Annual Business	\$50.00
Annual Student/Senior	\$15.00
Annual Family	\$25.00
Annual Nonprofit Organization	\$30.00
Lifetime Individual	\$500.00
Lifetime Business	\$1,000.00

Volunteer Opportunities:

Educational Outreach Docent
Museum Open House Docent
Programs & Events
Oral Histories
Archival Data Entry
Other _____

Please circle membership level you are applying for and volunteer opportunity that interest you! Volunteer hours can be applied to school community service requirements. Please note the day(s) of the week and the times you are available to volunteer _____

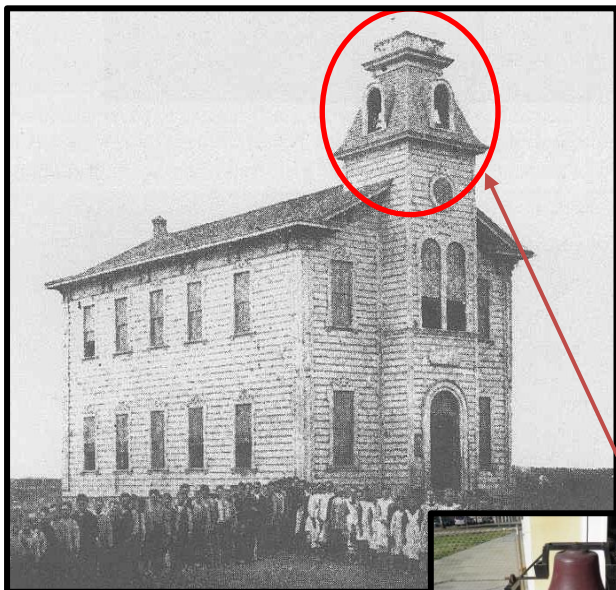
Apply on our Website or
return completed application and payment to:
Artesia Historical Society, P.O. Box 83, Artesia, CA 90702

**We Have a
New Website!**

**Check it out
at:**

[artesiahistorical
society.com](http://artesiahistorical
society.com)

- about us
- photos
- newsletter
- events
- school tours
- store



New Home for Artesia's Oldest Artifact, the Bell from the 1875 School

Be a Part of History!
Donate to Build the
 "1875 Artesia Grammar School Bell Tower
 Replica"

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone _____

Donation options:

Named Sponsor \$100,000
 Bell Tower will be named in your honor

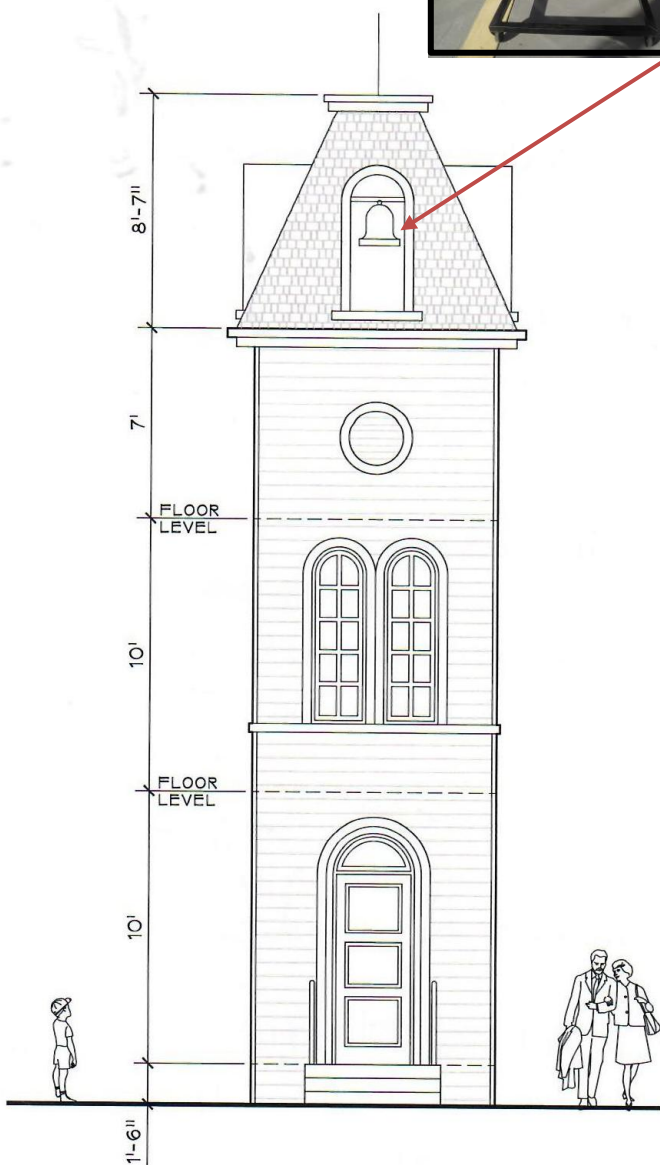
Gold Sponsor-\$25,000

Silver Sponsor-\$10,000

Bronze Sponsor-\$5,000

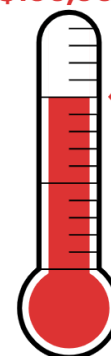
Other Gift (any amount) _____

Gold, Silver and Bronze Sponsor Names
 will be permanently placed on the outside
 of the tower.



Fundraising Goal

\$100,000



**Raised
 \$71,000**

bloomerang



Ruth Asawa
5th Grade
Norwalk School

Ruth Aiko Asawa

Excelsior High School
Class of 1943

World Acclaimed Artist



Ruth 1965



Asawa's mother Haru, standing,
and father Umakichi

Ruth Aiko Asawa was born January 24, 1926, in Norwalk, California, the fourth of seven children. Her family lived on a farm in the north-eastern part of what we now refer to as the greater Artesia area. She would have graduated from Excelsior Union High School in the class of 1943 but for the U.S. Internment of Americans of Japanese descent. As it was, she graduated from the school in the Rohwer Relocation Center in Arkansas in 1942.

On February 19, 1942, President F. D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, authorizing the involuntary removal and relocation of people of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast. Shortly thereafter, the FBI came to arrest Asawa's father Umakichi Asawa. Ruth recalled in a 1989 interview *"---on a Sunday morning about 11 am, two FBI men came, flashed their badges, and said to my father, 'We're here to pick you up Mr. Asawa.' He was in the (farm) field when they came. They gave him enough time to have lunch. I remember that day vividly. My sister Chiyi had made a lemon meringue pie. So, he ate lunch, had a piece of pie. I ironed a white shirt. He got into the one suit he had, and they took him."* Asawa would not see her father for six years. The following April the remaining family, except one sister, was picked up and after processing were shipped by train to a camp in Rohwer, Arkansas. The one sister not included in the family's internment was visiting family in Japan at the time and ended up spending the remainder of the war in Japan.

Ruth was prevented from attending a California College because of the war, but through a scholarship from the Quakers was able to attend Milwaukee State Teacher's College, intending to become an art teacher. However, she was unable to do her student teaching due to hostility against the Japanese, so left without her degree. (The Wisconsin School awarded her the degree in 1989.) Encouraged by friends, she enrolled in the Black Mountain College in North Carolina for a summer art program. She stayed there on scholarship for another three years.

While at Black Mountain she met her future husband, architect William Albert Lanier. They were married in 1949 and chose to make their home in the San Francisco Bay area where she became an art teacher and a community leader. They ultimately had six children.

Ruth was proficient in many art forms; however, her favorite was sculpture. She has works displayed in New York in The Guggenheim, The Whitney Museum

of American Art, and the de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park San Francisco. Several of her fountains are displayed in public places in San Francisco. Among them is the Andrea Fountain at Ghirardelli Square in San Francisco.

In 2020 the U.S. Postal Service honored her work by producing a series of ten stamps that commemorate her well-known wire sculptures. Named in her honor is the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of Art.



Relocation Authority
Citizen's Indefinite Leave
card.



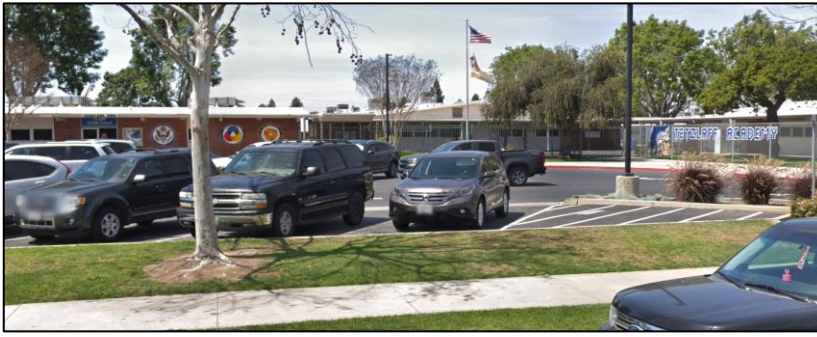
Ruth, Albert and
two of their
children



Untitled wire
sculptor



Ruth Asawa's "Andrea"
fountain in San Francisco's
iconic Ghirardelli Square,
(1966-68)

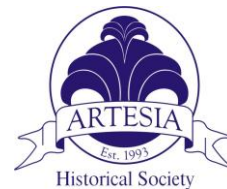


Martin B. Tetzlaff Middle School



Martin B. Tetzlaff School opened September 14, 1965, as an Intermediate school with five classroom buildings and an administration building. It was built with two specialized classrooms grouped around a multi-use room used for group instruction or assembly. In 2013 Tetzlaff Middle School was the only school in California named a National Demonstration School for the College Board for the year 2013-2014.

The school was named in honor of Martin Barney Tetzlaff who was a school board member in the Bloomfield District from 1951 through 1965. Mr. Tetzlaff was born in 1906 in Russia and immigrated as a baby with his German born parents to Oklahoma in 1909. They were living in Norwalk, California by 1930. Mr. Tetzlaff married Dorothy Maud Vierra in 1937. They became the parents of three daughters, Shirley, Linda and Carol. Mr. Tetzlaff died in 1989 and is buried beside his wife at Rose Hills in Whittier.



Historical Society Hosts City Staff

The Artesia Historical Society recently hosted the Artesia City Staff to lunch and a tour of Old Fire Station #30. With the appointment of the new City Manager, Abel Avalos, and the growth of City staff the Historical Society Board recognized a need to re-introduce the staff to our museums and artifact collections. The museums are assets to the community and provide a significant view into the history of our residents, community and City. This year we celebrate 150 years since our first school opened for classes. Over those years we have become a viable and diverse community. We have grown from an agricultural community that included Asian truck farmers and Italian flower growers who helped to form the Los Angeles Flower Mart. Later an influx of Portuguese and Dutch immigrants developed a milk producing capital. Another change occurred in the 1960s when the dairies left the area selling their properties to developers. Our community changed from a rural area to an urban area almost overnight. Slowly we saw our business district also evolve into what many refer to today as Little India. It is important for the City Staff to be fully aware of these changes to better serve our residents and visitors. We are happy that this experience

has resulted in all new City employees being given tours of the museums as part of their orientation and to help them become better versed and acquainted with our city and the area.



Mark your Calendars:

August 9, 2025 Museums are open and free to public 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm



August 12, 2025 Docent's Luncheon 1:00 am Frampton/Dantema Museum



August 14, 2025 80th Anniversary of the end of World War II



September 1, 2025 Labor Day



September 13, 2025 Museums are open and free to public 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm



September 22, 2025 Autumn Begins



September 23, 2025 Rosh Hashanah



September 27, 2025 **Artesia Historical Society's 19th Gala "School Days" 5:00 pm**



October 2, 2025 Yom Kippur



October 11, 2025 Museums are open and free to public 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm



October 31, 2025 Halloween



The publishing dates for the Artesia Historical Society Newsletter are (usually) April, August, and December of each year. Any comments or questions may be directed to the Newsletter Editor



Artesia Historical Society

P. O. Box 83
Artesia, CA 90702-0083

Artesia Historical Museum/ Frampton-Dantema House

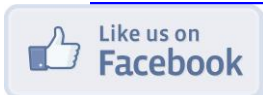
18644 Albutis Avenue
Artesia, CA 90701



Old Fire Station #30

18641 Corby Avenue
Artesia, CA 90701

Email: artesiahistoricalsociety@yahoo.com



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social media!

"Artesia Historical Society"

New! Website www.artesiahistoricalsociety.com