

# The Travel Town **TENDER**



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## *All aboard for Depot Day!!*

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Back to School – hopefully back to COOL!

Well the dog days of summer are upon us, and volunteering has become the challenge at the Museum. We are getting ready for Depot Day this year, we are getting commitments from Vendors and bands and hope that this year's event is the biggest and most fun we've had yet! Mark your calendars, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 10 to 3:00! If you'd like to help volunteer for the event and help us set-up, load in, or tear down, please give shoot us an e-mail at [volunteers@traveltown.org](mailto:volunteers@traveltown.org)!

NANCY GNEIER  
Executive Director

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## *New Exhibits debut at Depot Day, and come see us at Union Station!*

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In preparation for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Travel Town's opening in 1952, Archivist Linda Barth has put together a wonderful exhibit inside the Exhibit Hall about the history of Travel Town. The Arcadia Depot will also feature a new exhibit opening on—you guessed it!—Depot Day! Come out and see the new exhibits and learn about Travel Town's history!

The Travel Town Museum Foundation is also proud to be included in Union Station's Train Festival 2025! We will be bringing the Railway Express Agency Truck down to track 13 for their event on Sept. 21. Come out and say Hello!



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## ***New and Renewing Members***

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Don't forget your donations to us are tax deductible – so if you need that extra write-off, remember the Travel Town Museum Foundation at the end of the year! Give through paypal (you can use a credit card if you don't have a paypal account!!!) by clicking here: [CLICK HERE FOR PAYPAL PAGE](#)

### **Restoration Partners:**

Ivan Bravo  
Howard Levine

### **Little Nugget Club:**

Wendy Quinonez

### **Streamliners**

Brionne Joyner  
Mike Evans  
Kelley Rich  
Craig Christen  
Elliott Prather  
Edward Munoz  
Heather Zien  
Michael Herrera  
Richard Martinez  
Stephen Cooper  
Mary Brown

### **Track Gang members:**

Genesis Larin  
Michael Moeh  
Diana Nelson-  
Manzanares  
Deborah Saltzman  
Margaret Decker  
Freshta Harris  
Ann Smith  
Michal Goldvaser  
Kevin Tyler  
Raleigh Worth  
Adan Pulido  
Lourdes Calderon  
Gitta Meyer-Green  
Robert Morley  
Daniel Flores  
Brittany Yager  
James Cole  
Lauren Appel  
Marzena Maliwanag

### **Track Gang members:**

Haley Yamamoto  
Kathleen Vincent  
Evans Boney  
Celeste Ballard  
Ryan Young  
Isabel Velez  
Kate Rauber  
Jim Rohrig  
Katharine Schwer  
Arsineh Aghakhani  
Brady Frome  
Susan Shiells  
Lisa Crumpley  
Victoria Shaink  
Anna Robinson

### **Engineers:**

Elise Henry  
Elizabeth Hixenbaugh  
Melissa Golebiowski  
Lezlie Vaughn  
Chris Richards  
Kevin Colindres  
Nalida Dubois  
Humberto Escobedo  
Meghan O'Kane  
David Woolf  
Ricky Cervantes



## **New NameTrains Character cars to add to your collection!**

No one's wooden train car collection would be complete without Snickers the dog, Wally the Whale, or Lily the Ladybug! We've added 12 new character cars at the low price of \$7.99 plus tax – if you forget your trains at home, just pick a new one! Member discounts apply!

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## *Depot Day is coming in October*

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Travel Town families!

Mark you calendars for DEPOT DAY, SUNDAY OCTOBER 12, 2025. This year we will welcome back the Del Oro Model Railroaders group inside our exhibit hall! They bring a fun interactive railroad set for the kiddos to control, too!



Sandy has her

special Train-related costume contest ready to go, for all you fantastic members, and our high school bands and food trucks will also be performing in the picnic areas of the Museum. A great fun, day for the family, and you get to see our restoration work in progress out on the platform with special tours, too. Hope to see you there, give you some free popcorn, and share a delicious Reading Soda.



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## *On the Platform – Andre Clarizio*

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We at the Museum are very fortunate to have a new, highly skilled volunteer, Andre Clarizio! Andre is a longtime family friend of Greg and Nancy, and his volunteering has really energized our restoration work and several projects here at the Museum.

I was born in Glendale, and continue to live in Glendale with my wife Marianna, and my two children, Serafina and Angelo.

I feel like I've always been very mechanical. Working with my hands started at a very early age for me. My parents owned rental property and they would take me along to help do repairs. I think I replaced my first garbage disposal when I was 8 years old! Of course, as you can imagine, doing the maintenance at the buildings allowed me to learn how to do all types of handy projects.

In school, I took all the shop classes and rebuilt my first engine when I was 15. After high school, I wasn't sure what I wanted as a career. I enjoyed working on cars and decided to attend Universal Technical Institute to begin a career in automotive repair. I specialized in automatic transmissions and worked at Kings transmissions, In Glendale, for 4 years. During those 4 years I stumbled upon my passion..... I wanted to be a firefighter!

After working for several fire departments, I finally landed a job at the Huntington Beach Fire Department. I worked as a Firefighter/Paramedic for 8 years and then promoted to Engineer (the apparatus driver) of which was the position I retired from. I was also a member of our Urban Search & Rescue Team as well as our Hazardous Materials Team. Working as a firefighter for 30 years and being part of the specialty teams, exposed me to many situations and taught me many skills that I have already put into use at Travel Town.

What is the beginning of your interest in trains?

Although I am intrigued and amazed when standing next to the trains at travel town, the true lover of trains in our family is my son Angelo. Through him, my interest grew. He continues to love and play with train sets and most of what I know comes from what he has learned and shares with me. His favorite railcar is the "Doodlebug" which happens to be one of the railcars at the museum (the M-177). We both have had the opportunity to do some work on it and for Angelo, it's a dream come true! For me, I am amazed at the ingenuity, the engineering, the perseverance, and of course the history of these engines that shaped our country.

Why do you volunteer at Travel Town?

My connection with Travel Town started when my kids were young. We visited the park many times as visitors as well as with our girl scout and boy scout troops. At the time, one of the vehicles on display happened to be an old Seagrave fire engine that was used by the very fire department I worked for. It was a 1922 Seagrave Fire Pumper and was the very first motorized fire engine that Huntington Beach purchased. This fire engine

literally replaced the horse drawn apparatus. Little did I know, but I was going to become very intimate with that engine. In 2002, our Fire Chief wanted the engine to come back to Huntington Beach for restoration. He traded a fork lift for the engine. Because of the difficulty and high cost to restore it, the engine sat for another 5 years in storage. In 2007, our firefighters association made a deal with the city to buy the engine for \$1 and we would do the restoration ourselves. Myself along with a small crew, restored every inch of the pumper. It took us 15 years but everything is functional and it looks out of this world! Because of this, I feel a strong connection to Travel Town. But more than anything, I want to give back and help keep the park alive to bring excitement to children and adults who love trains. I want to help spread the same excitement on their face that I see on my son's face.

What have you learned most about yourself, about volunteering, about leading or following a project, etc. that you would like to share with the members?

For 30 years I worked in a profession where I had to solve problems. Working on these old trains and cars, many times, requires the same level of thinking. I love the challenge and really love to learn how the "old timers" overcame their challenges with the technology they had on hand. When I'm handling old parts and items, many times I find myself thinking about the men and women in history that touched these same items.

Why should other folks come out and volunteer at the Museum?

In general, I believe that being a volunteer for any organization is beneficial. It is always a great way to make new friends and meet people from different walks of life. At Travel Town, it is a great way to give back to a place that has sparked many children's imagination and creativity for decades. The volunteer activities that our younger volunteers take part in will build skills that they will carry with them the rest of their lives. One minute you may be learning how to do yard work, the next you are starting a train engine. There are opportunities to paint, work with many types of tools, or learn how to "water a battery". Other assignments may be to give guided tours, interact and read children's books to our child members, setting up play train areas, or sorting and organizing donated items. I guess what I'm trying to say is that the volunteer program at Travel Town is very unique because of all the different jobs you can do.



## *We've been working on the Railroad – Group Volunteer Opportunities*

We were visited by the Stacy Witbeck company in August who brought a great group of volunteers who helped us with facilities cleanup. Some of the group cleaned and swept out our Arcadia Depot, others helped clean the passenger cars, and others even cleaned out the cabs of the Charley Atkins and Baldwin locomotives. Afterward, the group was given a tour through the sleeping cars and then had a lovely picnic in the Union Pacific picnic area. We have had other businesses donate a day of service in the past, folks like Warner Brothers Studios, CarMax in Burbank, and several high school Key club groups and other organizations. Painting projects, gardening, and artifact cleaning are projects that are almost always available. If your company would like to have a day of service and give back to the Los Angeles Community – Travel Town is a great location! Please contact Nancy or Steve to coordinate with your group!



*The Army arrives! I knew we'd have a great workforce when I saw all the Stacy Witbeck Trucks in the parking lot!*



*Family members were able to volunteer before the start of the school year in the Arcadia Depot waiting room, and the volunteers shine up the engines above!*

*Volunteers wanted for Depot Day this year!  
Can you help us set up, or clean up at the end of the day?  
Give Steve a call at 323-668-0104 ext 12 for details,  
or shoot him an e-mail at [Volunteers@traveltown.org](mailto:Volunteers@traveltown.org)!*

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## ***We've been workin' on the Railroad - Dining Car Update***

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How do you paint the roof of a railroad car? Very carefully! This summer has been spent repairing, washing, priming and now painting the roof of dining car 3669. Because it is a heavyweight car in our Passenger car consist (a consist, pronounced CON-sist, is a group of train cars), we have decided to return it to the more appropriate 1920's paint scheme of a black roof and Pullman green sides, not the mustard yellow livery of the other Union Pacific cars.

Inside, more progress has been made in purchasing and fitting the windowshades for the dining car. Each windowshade was manufactured by the Adams & Westlake Company, the original manufacturer for railroad windowshades. Each windowshade costs around \$1000, and there are 12 windows in the diner. This is why we have to fundraise so diligently, and why



your membership donations mean so much to the Museum!

*New shade at left, old one in comparison on right below.*



# Depot Day, October 12, 2025



**RSVP with Sandy to Participate in our Train-themed  
costume parade!!**

Travel Town Museum Foundation  
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Forwarding Service Requested