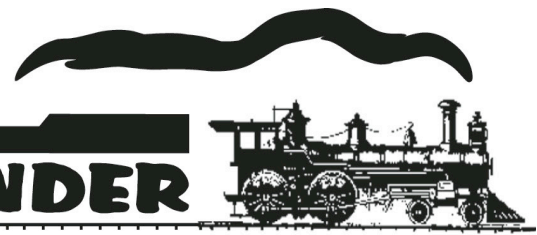


The Travel Town TENDER



A Publication of The Travel Town Foundation

Volume 16, Issue 1 • June 2020

Travel Town Foundation President's Message

Virtual Greetings to all our Travel Town friends!

I hope this message finds you and your family healthy and safe during these crazy and unpredictable times. All of us at the Foundation miss seeing our museum visitors and Travel Town friends! We're really looking forward to welcoming you all back to the Museum soon. While the hiking trails and open spaces in Griffith Park are now available again, as of this writing we don't yet have any word from the City as to a planned reopening date for Travel Town and other popular park attractions.

With Travel Town having been closed to the public since early March, our Foundation is now running on a shoestring budget and without its vital operating revenues normally earned through sales at the Travel Town Gift Shop. But even the darkest clouds have a silver lining... we've been doing our best to embrace the absence of museum visitors as a rare opportunity to get some work done at Travel Town that is otherwise hard to accomplish when the grounds are filled with people.



Volunteer Greg Gonzales putting new lettering on the 664

Armed with masks and social distancing, a handful of very dedicated volunteers have been working almost nonstop to clean out, reorganize and inventory our storage areas in addition to stepping up the repairing, painting, and lettering several of the historic locomotives and cars. Many of the tasks are solitary in nature and thus lend themselves quite well to the constraints of the social distancing. In May, thanks to temporary funding provided by the Federal Government's Payroll Protection Program, we were able to rehire our furloughed Gift Shop and Program employees for a few weeks and re-engage them in a plethora of non-gift shop efforts at the museum, joining with many of the tasks that are usually reserved for the volunteers! They're going gangbusters – helping with groundskeeping, archival cataloging, exhibit maintenance, and restoration work. We have a fantastic team!

We will be sending out e-mails and facebook/instagram posts as soon as we know when Travel Town will open again, and I hope anyone who comes to the park will purchase something wonderful in the Gift Shop to help us out! We'll have delicious ice cream, craft soda pop, and we're fully stocked with books, puzzles and wooden engine sets – Trains for Every Occasion!

GREG GNEIER
President

On the Platform – Introducing Casey Banks – Membership Manager



Hey there! I'm Casey Banks and I'm happy to introduce myself as The Travel Town Foundation's new Membership and Public Relations Manager. I started at Travel Town only a couple of months ago and even though things have gotten a little topsy-turvy since then I'm pretty excited to be a part of this unique and, frankly, really amazing museum in Griffith Park, my favorite part of Los Angeles.

I grew up in upstate New York along the Hudson River before attending college in Boston, MA to study studio and graphic arts. I've lived in Los Angeles for a little over three years now and even though the transition wasn't always easy for me, learning about and exploring this city's history and development has made it easier for me to call it home. I have a twelve year old son and a nine year old daughter and can rightfully give them credit for being the reasons I first discovered and visited Travel Town and for the many subsequent visits that followed.

When not filling my time with The Travel Town Foundation, I like to keep my hands busy with watercolor paintings and even have been lucky enough to start showing at exhibits. Finding new trails to hike in the area quickly became one of my favorite things to do once I moved here and I consider my short commute through Griffith Park the best one anyone in the city could have asked for.

On the Platform – Throwback Thursday – What a blast from the past!



Here's a great photo we just added to our archives! On the left is Travel Town volunteer, Fredrick Gregory "Vince" Vincent, at the ripe ole age of 10 – visiting Travel Town with his 'girlfriend' Brenda, sister Laurie Vincent, and Brenda's brother Mike. The year was 1972 and ST&E No. 1 (The Mariposa) behind them was then just over 100-years-old. Vince is now one of our key volunteers and is leading the restoration work on the historic Pullman sleeping car Hunters Point (that's him at inset on right today!).

The Foundation wants to acknowledge its Awesome Volunteers

Normally the Spring season at Travel Town is filled with high school students volunteering to earn those extra hours so they qualify for our Presidential Service Awards, but of course, that hasn't been the case this year. Still, we want to acknowledge all the volunteers who would have earned these awards for all the work they put in for the previous 9 months. We calculate our PSA's based on April 15 to April 15, and during that time these people earned the following hours:

Greg Gneier	554.5 hours	Gary Teti	157.5 hours
Noah Miller	408 hours	Bill Cosso	154 hours
F.G. "Vince" Vincent	357 hours	Nancy J Gneier	142.5 hours
Brad Slosar	331.5 hours	Chris Duron	140 hours
Randy Lopez (TDS)	291.5 hours	Bob Frein	125.5 hours
Linda Barth	251.5 hours	Patrick Williams	122.5 hours
James Giraco (TDS)	247.5 hours	John Stumreiter	121 hours
Mauricio Palacios (TDS)	244 hours	Sabine Doerstling	117.5 hours
Sarah Urrea (TDS)	232 hours	Aidan Terry	108.5 hours
Evan Babcock (TDS)	207.5 hours	Mike Teti	97 hours
Ruben Zuleta (TDS)	204 hours	Greg Ramsey	95.5 hours
Mark Huber	198 hours	Wes Taimuty	63 hours
Jose Casillas (TDS)	194 hours	Zoey Frankel	60.5 hours
Bryan Reese	181.5 hours		

Volunteers with TDS behind their names are volunteers with the Tierra del Sol Foundation. Tierra's mission is to empower people with disabilities to fulfill their potential and desire to become productive citizens who are accepted, included and valued for the contributions they make to the economic, civic, and cultural vitality of the community. We love our Tierra volunteers!

The following groups were also noted for serving extended hours for projects at the Museum:

Luc Gutierrez Eagle Project	220 hours
Jean-Luc Lesaca Eagle Project	117.5 hours
Benjamin Cronin Eagle Project	111 hours
City Community Services	70 hours

Our dedicated volunteers worked over 6,973 hours on over 27 different projects at the Museum during this time, with over 2,100 hours spent on grounds maintenance (watering our gardens, cleaning our trains, etc.) and over 1,200 hours on the Stockton Terminal Eastern restoration project.

We would love to have more people join this list!

Send a text to volunteers@traveltown.org if you would like to sign up!

We've been working on the Railroad



Eagle Scout candidate Benjamin Cronin from Troop 21 rebuilt the garden scale train track in the garden next to the Volunteer center in February of 2020. He and his troop removed the old track and replaced the wooden support structure with environmentally friendly and durable decking. They also weeded and replanted the garden, and by the end of the day the engine was running around the track! Thank you Benjamin for a job well done, that will be entertaining visitors for years!



Restoration manager Brad Slosar (right, in picture at left) consults with volunteer Gary Teti about while they prepare to insert the window frame for the Pantry in Dining Car 3669. On the right,



volunteer Sabine Doerstling carefully applies primer to the outside of the new windows.

Right, volunteer Sabine Doerstling carefully applies primer to the outside of the new windows.



Engine 664 also got a new coat of paint in April, thanks to volunteer Bob Frein. More Cab lettering was done on the Mariposa (aka the Stockton Terminal)



We've been working on the Railroad

Generous Donation from Exide Technologies 8 Batteries to power our California Western 56 locomotive!!

Special thanks to Exide Technologies, as they donated Eight 8-volt, 4 cell, 450 amp monobloc style locomotive batteries to the Foundation for our Baldwin Locomotive. These batteries have a running life of about 8-10 years, and the ones we received 9 years ago were definitely on their last legs. In these photos you see the arrival of the new batteries (they weigh in at 300 pounds EACH!) so changing them out of the battery boxes on the sides of the locomotive was a tricky job with our forklift. In the photo John Stumreiter is working hard painting sealant on the inside of the boxes, special thanks to him for undertaking that messy but important job. The final photo is of the batteries in place, ready to go! We have fired up the engine during the quarantine, but have not been able to move other pieces of equipment around yet. Thank you Exide!! We hope to see you all when we re-open and move the engine around!



And finally, while the Museum has been closed over the last few weeks, Foundation President Greg Gneier and son Tim (as well as several other volunteers in the first weeks of 2020), have been able to clean up and organize the museums Service Yard. We have now inventoried our spare track parts and other equipment. I hope you have been as successful cleaning out your garage during this quarantine as these guys have been!



New and Renewing Members

Why should I join? The Museum is closed, I can't use my membership....

We rely on membership dollars to support our educational outreach and volunteer programs, and while we do not have visitors to the Museum right now, we are upgrading our website and hope to have it launch by the end of the summer! Your membership dollars still go to purchase supplies (like paint, sandpaper, scrapers, dropclothes, masks and other disposables). PLUS, your membership will be extended for the entire length of the mandatory shut down at Travel Town. If you have the ability, we would appreciate the support.

Restoration Partners

Barbara and Fred Kort
Foundation

Little Nugget Club Members

Linda Barth
Jen Gillaspy

Streamliner Membership

Robert Anderson Arbuckle
Jeffrey Hall
John and Darlene Ruh
Anthony Charters
Betsy Dennis
Kathy McCurdy
Herman-King Family
Gee Foundation
Janet Smith
Anita Chan

Track Gang Members

The Orenstein Family
Michelle Sandoval-Rosario
Julie Ackerman
Rene Vasquez
Lizette Jollett
Amelia Vetrone
DJ Feldman
Sherrie Jessup
Zaraya Skea
Colin McInnish
Raja Sahi
Karen Miles
Kevin Kelly
Christine and Grant Livermont
Karina Mazor-Hicks
Jesse Gonzales
Andrea Mankin
Martha Avalos
Denise Robles
Stevan Dumas
Ezequiel Quiroz
Michael Mangassarian
Adam Sexton

Junior Engineer/Engineer Members

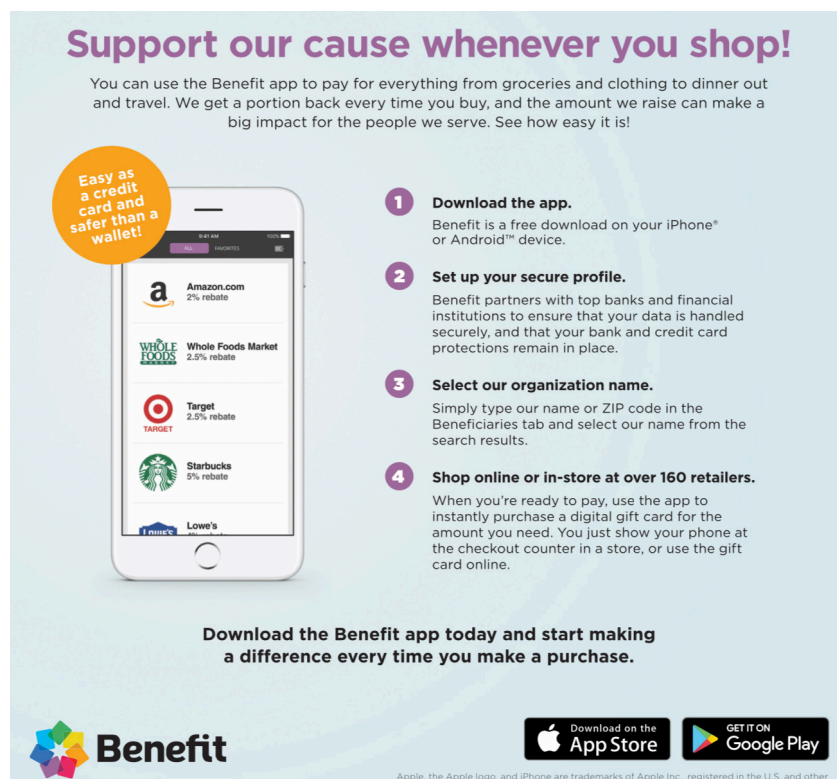
Wesley Thebea
Norman Moline
Ralph Scott
John Kazlauskas
Steve Staffel
Ronnie Rodriguez
John Peake
Makaio Bobo and Chris Hardy
Christy Didier
William Strauss
Adrian Martinez
Ashot Ageleyan
Patty Wu
Johnny Chavarria
Deke Gilbert

**MEMBERSHIPS ARE GREAT GIFTS
FOR FATHERS DAY!**

FREE Ways to support our Foundation – no extra donation required!!

Right now, you may be on unemployment. Our Foundation has made the choice to NOT overwhelm your in-box with pleas for money, because we know that during this time, you may have more important things that your cash dollars are going towards, be it rent, groceries, or other non-profit organizations that may be supporting health care workers, the Black Lives Matter movement, etc. We do hope you might consider the following choices to help support our Foundation -- NONE OF THESE cost you anything extra – the businesses support non-profits through donations, but they have to know you want the donation to go to us.

1. We've teamed up with Benefit, a mobile app that allows you to instantly purchase digital gift cards to use online or in-store, at retailers including Walmart, Target, The Home Depot, and Amazon. When you buy using the app, retailers contribute up to 20% of your transaction back to the Travel Town Museum Foundation — *so you don't have to spend an extra cent!*



Support our cause whenever you shop!

You can use the Benefit app to pay for everything from groceries and clothing to dinner out and travel. We get a portion back every time you buy, and the amount we raise can make a big impact for the people we serve. See how easy it is!

Easy as a credit card and safer than a wallet!

1 Download the app.
Benefit is a free download on your iPhone® or Android™ device.

2 Set up your secure profile.
Benefit partners with top banks and financial institutions to ensure that your data is handled securely, and that your bank and credit card protections remain in place.

3 Select our organization name.
Simply type our name or ZIP code in the Beneficiaries tab and select our name from the search results.

4 Shop online or in-store at over 160 retailers.
When you're ready to pay, use the app to instantly purchase a digital gift card for the amount you need. You just show your phone at the checkout counter in a store, or use the gift card online.

Download the Benefit app today and start making a difference every time you make a purchase.

Benefit

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Download the app and use it for your everyday purchases – use our name “American Southwestern Railway Association” as your Beneficiary!!

2. Shopping online at Amazon? Shop through AmazonSmile and help raise funds for the Museum! NO COST TO YOU! And if you're an Amazon shopper, please click the Amazon.smile link found on our website, on the left hand column.

3. Did you know you can link your Ralph's Club Card with our foundation? It takes only a moment and it plays a big part in our fundraising! First, register your Club Card on www.ralphs.com. Then sign in and click on your name in the top right corner. Click the “Community Rewards - Enroll” link. Next simply fill in the required information: the *NEW* Travel Town NPO is GK464. Be sure to click the circle next to Travel Town to select it and click “enroll”. It's that easy! Now every time you make a purchase at Ralph's, they'll make a donation to Travel Town!