



The Mansardian

The Quarterly Publication of the Silver City Museum Society



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Silver City Main Street (west side) as seen in 1878, the year that the Territorial Charter was finally ratified by the New Mexico Territorial Legislature. Photo from the Silver City Museum's collection.



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Director's Desk



Bart Roselli

When local photographer Mitchell Clinton introduced me to the photographs of Arturo Flores, I knew that this collection of rare images must be shared with a wider audience. Flores' work depicted an often-neglected segment of our community, and his images are intimate photographs of a seminal piece of Grant County and national history. But I never could have predicted the impact this exhibit would have upon our community. Here is just a sampling of the many complimentary remarks our museum team received for the recent exhibit, *The Life and Times of Arturo Flores*:

- "...very moving and inspiring."
- "So proud of all who organized the exhibit ... and others who continue to lift us up."
- "An amazingly well-constructed series of photographs ..."
- "...the exhibit presents a crucial ... chunk of Silver City history, which everyone should discover."
- "... the (exhibit) was excellent!"

- "The story of Mr. Flores was done in a very creative manner."
- "... what could prove to be one of the best exhibits ever at the Silver City Museum" ... and, finally;
- "You knocked it out of the park!"

The exhibit, which was more than three years in the making, profiled the life experiences and accomplishments of an unsung hero of Grant County, Arturo Flores, whose work as a labor organizer improved the lives of thousands of miners and their families over the course of his life.

I invite you who have not yet seen this latest exhibit to come and explore this man's life. He lived a very rich, complex and impactful life. This project made me so proud of our staff and volunteers; seeing the heart and soul they all put into this exhibit, from the deep research effort expended by our Curator Javier Marrufo and Collections Manager Ashley Smith, to the creative layout designed by Bryan Hyde that made it so successful. Every staff person participated in the final product, celebrations, media notices and related programs, including volunteers Tom Welch and Gail Avignone.

For me, this exhibit kicks off a season for counting our blessings. I'd like to thank the Flores family for lovingly preserving the legacy of Arturo Flores. Thank you Mitchell Clinton. Thank you to a dedicated and creative exhibit team, museum staff and volunteer group. Thanks to the Museum Society Board and the Town of Silver City for supporting this project financially.

So please join me in some upcoming, seasonal thanksgivings as we celebrate holiday time with another Victorian Christmas. Celebrate this town's early beginnings and interesting founding on Territorial Charter Day, as well as the fact that this town has, "... one of the best museums in the state," as a colleague recently told me.

Thank you all for your support. We simply could not do it without you, our members.

Happy Holidays,

Bart A. Roselli, Museum Director

Welcome New Museum Staff Members



Donna Mercadante

The Silver City Museum family is growing! **Donna Mercadante** has joined the staff as the new administrative assistant, and **Lloyd Parker** is the museum's new bookkeeper, and will also assist in the museum's gift store.

Donna worked in government in Florida before returning to her family's Mimbres homestead four years ago, then made the decision in August to make the Mimbres River Valley her "forever home."

A lover of learning and exploration, Donna shared recently that her job as administrative assistant supports this passion, as well as her love of history and the importance of preserving history and local culture.

"I'm so pleased to be part of such an excellent museum," she said. "I'm looking forward to learning more about Grant County history and to meeting all of the wonderful people who enjoy and support the museum."

An avid hiker, Donna also enjoys photographing her adventures and "the splendor of it all."



Lloyd Parker

Lloyd, also an avid hiker, enjoys cooking and gardening, and is happy to be using his skills in customer service and retail after 34 years working for Hallmark Cards. "I'm looking forward to putting all of that experience to work in the museum's gift store," he said. "I love working

in the Ailman House and appreciate its architecture, as well as the museum's extensive collection of photos, documents and artifacts."

Lloyd and his partner, Leo, began visiting Silver City in 2015, then purchased a home in the historic district in 2019, and finally relocated in 2020. "We love the town, its warm and friendly people and, of course, all of the outdoor amenities."

Please join museum staff and supporters in welcoming Donna and Lloyd, and come by the museum to introduce yourself!

Gayle Simmons Steps Down as Museum Society Board President



Gayle Simmons

Gayle Simmons has stepped down as president of the Silver City Museum Society Board after two years at the helm, and Georgianna Duarte has graciously stepped up to take the lead. Gayle will remain on the board, saying that she has been

"honored and privileged to serve our Silver City Museum Society as president," and thanked everyone for their support.

"When my good friend Bart Roselli asked me to help build the board, revise the bylaws and handle other organizational needs, I felt confident that my skills were a good match for the job," she continued. "Now that we've accomplished these things, we need a president with strong community outreach

The Mansardian

Edited by Lisa Jimenez

Layout by Bryan Hyde Design

The Mansardian is a quarterly publication of the non-profit, Silver City Museum Society. The Museum Society is a vital partner of the Silver City Museum, and is governed by a volunteer board of trustees:

Georgianna Duarte, President

Patsy Madrid, Vice President

Mary Ihlefeld, Secretary

Susan Hinojosa, Treasurer

Doug Dinwiddie Alicia Ann Palacios

Stephen Fox Gayle Simmons

Don Montoya Frances Vasquez

Thank you to our board, and welcome to our new and renewing members!

Catherine Palmer Ruth West

Damie Nelson Tom Welch

Paul Walmsley

For membership information, please visit silvercitymuseumsociety.org

The Silver City Museum

312 West Broadway, Silver City, NM 88061

Hours: Tue - Fri: 9 am - 4:30 pm;

Sat & Sun: 10 am - 4 pm

(575) 538-5921 • www.silvercitymuseum.org

skills. I'm happy to say that we've found that in Georgianna."

"I am deeply humbled by this opportunity, and I will be leaning in to the support and leadership of this board," said Georgianna.

"I look forward to new friendships, and many fun and successful events. Thank you for your confidence, and thank you to Gayle for her continued contribution."



Georgianna Duarte

A Long and Winding Road – Silver City’s Territorial Charter

By Cathleen Norman

On February 11, 2023, we celebrate Silver City’s Territorial Charter once again. Our town still operates under this original charter, which dates back to 1878. Silver City was the first town in New Mexico to incorporate as a municipal entity, after struggling several years to achieve self-governance in this remote corner of the territory. The town’s territorial charter laid out the process for electing local officials, and it empowered the mayor and town council to adopt ordinances, enforce laws, tax its citizens and buy or sell property for public purposes.

The budding mining camp of Silver City had fewer than 1,000 residents when it became the Grant County seat in 1871, replacing the declining gold camp of Pinos Altos. Discoveries of silver, beginning with the Legal Tender claim just west of the present-day courthouse, attracted investors, merchants, miners, builders and other newcomers eager to profit from developing the rough arroyo into a



East side of Main Street looking north. The building to the far left was the home of the *Silver City Herald*, the town’s only newspaper in 1878. Photo from the Silver City Museum’s collection.

proper town. To do this they needed to create a local government to develop streets, sidewalks, utilities and peace-keeping measures.

Local civic leaders persuaded John R. Johnson, a democratic territorial representative from Grant County, to introduce an act before the New Mexico Territorial Legislature to incorporate Silver City under a municipal charter. This legislative act – and all others presented by Johnson – were rejected by Republican Governor Marsh Giddings. Silver City citizens immediately saw the hand of the Santa Fe Ring – a syndicate of lawyers and judges who dominated the territorial legislature in the decades after the Civil War – and they fumed at being treated as an upstart outlier downstate.

“Grant County has been denied equal representation and regarded as a mere appendage to her body politic,” trumpeted *The Silver City Herald*. Local leaders rebelled immediately. Frustrated, they looked west toward annexation into Arizona territory. Citizens D. B. Rhea, James Mullen, Peter Graves, William H. Eckles and Robert Metcalf crafted a “Declaration of Independence” that civic leaders adopted on October 4, 1876. At the November 7 polls, Grant County residents approved pursuing annexation to Arizona – almost unanimously – with votes from every precinct.

The Tremont House at Main and Yankee streets was where the town’s first election was held in 1878. Photo from the Silver City Museum’s collection.



Robert Black was elected Silver City’s first mayor in 1878. Photo from the Silver City Museum’s collection.

In Arizona, meanwhile, Governor A. P. K. Safford promoted legislation to annex Grant County, and it was approved by the Arizona Territorial Legislature on February 8, 1877. Silver City residents waited hopefully until October that year when Hiram S. Stevens, the Arizona Territory’s delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, introduced Resolution 795, requesting annexation of Grant County. The bill received two readings, but died in the legislature’s Committee on Territories.

Despite this failure, the Grant County rebels’ attempt at annexation won favorable attention from the Santa Fe Ring. When the New Mexico Territorial Legislature convened in January, 1878, Silver City citizens immediately drafted a new act of incorporation. It passed January 14 with unanimous approval, and was signed by Territorial Governor Samuel B. Axtell, Juan B. Patron, speaker of the New Mexico House of Representatives, and President of the Legislature, Santiago Baca. Thus, our town gained its long sought after territorial charter on February 14, 1878.

The charter created a two-square-mile townsite, and empowered elected city officials to carry out many different civic projects. By the early 1880s,

ours was the first town in New Mexico with paved roads, sidewalks and electric street lights. These improvements created an appealing community for the growing populace, but more importantly, town amenities helped attract investors, business owners, merchants and other new residents.

Parallel with the success of the municipal charter, Silver City and Grant County pursued taxing residents to fund a public school system. (Elsewhere in New Mexico, children’s education was provided under the auspices of the Catholic Archdiocese.) Their efforts succeeded. When a handsome, brick school building went up in Silver City, it was the first permanent schoolhouse in the territory.

The 20-page Territorial Charter, hand written in elaborate, elegant cursive, gives us a glimpse at the challenges of upholding civic responsibility and social order in this rustic village on the edge of the frontier. The town fathers regulated storage of gun powder, inspection and weighing of hay, and the size of bricks manufactured. Silver City government could license, tax and regulate “auctioneers, merchants, grocers, butchers, taverns and ordinaries and all places where fermented liquors are sold.”

Silver City founders also wanted to curb any rollicking activity that might besmirch its image as a model American town. The charter enabled the town to tax, regulate and restrain, prohibit and suppress “tippling houses, dram shops, gambling, dances, bawdy and disorderly houses . . .” Regulations prevented shooting firearms in town limits, required licensing dogs, and forbid “galloping or furious driving of horses and mules, fighting, quarreling, Sabbath breaking, drunkenness, indecent and profane language and all offenses against public decency and good order within the corporate limits of town.”

In 2016 the Silver City Town Council voted to set aside a day each year to honor our Territorial Charter. Since then, various events have celebrated this important anniversary – an exhibit at the Silver City Museum, a burlesque baseball game, an urban fun run, tours at Fort Bayard, a hike on Boston Hill and a re-enactment of the signing of the charter, featuring town officials dressed in period clothing. A Territorial Charter Ball takes place February 11 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the Murray Hotel. Music will be provided by the local band, “Illusions,” and Q’s Southern Bistro will tend the cash bar. Tickets are \$15 per person, or \$25 per couple. All proceeds benefit the museum.



Museum's Latest Exhibit

The Life and Times of Arturo Flores Now Open in the Dodge Gallery!

The Silver City Museum unveiled its latest exhibit, *The Life and Times of Arturo Flores*, October 5 in the Dodge Gallery. The opening was well attended by Museum Society members, partners and special guests, including the family of Arturo Flores. The event was co-sponsored by WILL (Western Institute for Lifelong Learning) along with LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens), and was presented for the first time to the public in a mural format, which was well-received by all in attendance.



Lorenzo Flores, the son of Arturo Flores, poses here next to an image of his father (left). Museum Society members enjoy opening night of the exhibit.



Lorenzo Flores is flanked by his children, Joe and Justeen Flores.

The mural format supports a chronological timeline spanning Arturo's rich and interesting life, from his childhood in Santa Rita, to serving in the U.S. Navy, his life and work as a miner and labor organizer, both regionally and nationally, and finally as an artisan in his later years when he enjoyed wood carving.

Flores chronicled the 1952 Empire Zinc Mine Strike from the front-line perspective of a striker rather than casual observer, and his photographs are presented as part of the exhibit. This extensive collection of black-and-white images from this

epic struggle for workers' rights reveals everyday moments from the 15-month strike; the frustration and solidarity of the strikers, as well as sporadic moments of calm, play and laughter. Flores' collection is on loan to the museum from his son, Lorenzo Flores, who attended the exhibit opening with his son, Joe, and daughter, Justeen.

The event kicked off with speeches by Museum Director Bart Roselli, Curator Javier Marrufo, as well as members of the Flores family. Providing music for the evening was flamenco guitarist Farhad Arasteh, and hors d'oeuvres were provided by Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery.

The Life and Times of Arturo Flores exhibit runs through the spring. Visitors are encouraged to use their smart phones to scan QR codes found throughout the exhibit, which provide recordings of Arturo Flores telling his life story in his own words.

For more information, please contact Javier Marrufo, museum curator, at (575) 597-0229, or curator@silvercitymuseum.org.

Victorian Christmas and More!



Father Christmas will be handing out gifts to all the good boys and girls at this year's Victorian Christmas and More celebration on Saturday, December 10, from 11 am to 3 pm at the museum.

Saturday, December 10. "We are expanding this holiday celebration to reflect the entirety of Grant County's rich, cultural diversity and history," said Bart Roselli, museum director. "We're building upon previous celebrations by adding more spice. We've had many different themes over the years, especially in keeping with the period of our building's original construction, but now we want to explore the holiday traditions of all Grant County residents. We think that our members and all Grant County Victorian Christmas lovers will see their traditions included and honored."

The revamped holiday festival will be coordinated by Nan Franzblau, and will feature a variety of musical acts, food vendors, short skits performed by

members of the Silver City Community Theater, a gift exchange, as well as numerous activities and crafts for children. The museum will be decorated for the holidays, and Father Christmas will be on hand to give presents to all the good girls and boys. Literacy Link Leamos will also provide free books to children. Other partners include LULAC, the Copper CowBelles, religious organizations and the Museum Society Board.

The Museum Gift Store will be open the day of the event, and members receive a special, one-time holiday discount of 20%!

For more information, please contact Donna Mercadante, administrative assistant, (575) 597-0221, or admin@silvercitymuseum.org.

The museum's beloved Christmas holiday tradition, Victorian Christmas, is expanding this year to better reflect the desert Southwest and the region's rich, cultural diversity. The holiday celebration, now known as "Victorian Christmas and More," takes place from 11 am to 3 pm

Holiday Traditions, History and Remembrance



By Javier Marrufo, Curator

Traditions are any cultural features, ideas and beliefs, customs and practices, that have been passed along through the generations. Traditions are spread through reoccurring practice that embody aspects of culture deemed precious enough to be remembered. They are inherently participatory. Simple or complex, traditions require two sides; one imparting the tradition and another receiving it. Most importantly, they accomplish more than simple enjoyment and instead influence the way groups of people interact with the world, how they represent themselves and how they relate to others.

Throughout my work with the Chihuahua Hill History Project, I have been fortunate to learn about all manner of traditions present in our small community. From a simple family recipe to the community-wide posadas that spanned several days, Grant County is home to a rich set of holiday traditions. Rather than choose one of the countless traditions detailed in the oral history project, I would like to share one of my own.

In my life, the holiday season has always had two distinct feelings. The first was the frantic anticipation of Christmas, and the second was the deeply solemn and culturally grounded religious aspects of the holiday. One is a celebration, the other an act of reverence. Existing at different ends of a spectrum, these two often came together with food. Food is an important part of any Chicano household.

Enter any abuelita's house and I can guarantee that you won't leave hungry. Traditions inform history, but the opposite is also true. In a place like Chihuahua Hill where families often struggled economically, sharing what little you had became ingrained in the culture, in the traditions.

I remember my family stuffed into our small kitchen, fatigued from the heat of the stove and hard work. Although every season has its traditional foods, to me winter foods are the best. The process of producing velvet smooth red chile from brittle, dried pods is a ceremony all its own. Turning it into the holiday staples of simmering pozoles and menudo, or freshly steamed tamales is another. The cooking was non-stop in the weeks leading up to Christmas; food mostly to be given away. Friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, people in shelters, people in jail; anybody and everybody receives food during the holidays.

Considering the many traditions of New Mexican holiday cooking, the most sacred to me will always be biscochos. In our family, thousands of biscochos were made in a single day with just a couple hours of hard work. A good 90% were given to friends and family, compadres and

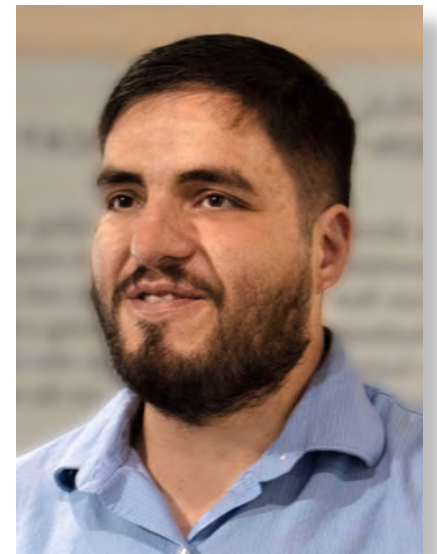
*Everybody loves biscochos!
Lots of them! This beloved New Mexico tradition is always a memorable part of the holiday season.*



Javier's grandmother, Maria Arellano

children. I learned to make biscochos from my grandma, a beautifully kind woman named Maria Arellano. Over the course of a few decades, my grandma passed on the tradition learned from her mother, she from hers, and so on. I learned through lessons that occurred only once per year. "Masarlo con ganas," she would say as I gingerly kneaded the dough against the walls of the mixing bowl. Then, "gently, like you're playing," as we carefully coated the hot cookies in cinnamon and sugar. As my generation grew into adulthood and our grandma into old age, more responsibilities fell to the grandchildren. We pressed the masa into shapes when arthritis claimed her physical strength. We hefted the ingredients and swapped the revolving series of pans baking in the oven when her asthma left her prone to overexertion. We all chipped in, but she never stopped. For the first 30 years of my life, biscochos were made in the Arellano household, the process overseen by my grandma.

The tradition was so special and unbroken in our family that the first year my grandma was not physically involved in the process was the year of her death. She had grown ill in late November, and rather than remain in the hospital, chose to spend



Javier Marrufo

the remaining time at home, with family. Sitting with her in early December, I told her I wanted to make biscochos for the people who had taken part in the Chihuahua Hill History Project. I wanted to demonstrate that the tradition she had carried for so many years would continue. As the first participant of the project, she happily approved. From her death bed, my grandma led her grandchildren

through her final batch of biscochos. We asked at her bedside: "How does the masa look, grandma?" "Is this enough cinnamon?" We then returned to the kitchen with whatever insight she provided as keeper of this family tradition. She tasted the first batch to come out of the oven, and though we knew they did not compare to hers, she approved.

I delivered the biscochos to the participants of the project in mid-December of 2021. I spent the rest of the day with my grandma. I described to her the happiness of those who had received the gifts, and we ate a few remaining biscochos together. It was a good time. She passed away two days later.

Some part of my grandma, what was important to her, and the history that we both share will always be with me, thanks to the simple act of baking for others, year after year. Some small aspect of our identity is embodied in that act. Traditions, history and remembrance circle around some special feature of the human experience. Traditions are a manifestation of remembrance, of what is important. They are a foundational building block of history; the culmination of all our shared experience. We should always remember their value.

Programs and Events

Shannon Wilson Presents School Partnership Program to NMAM Conference

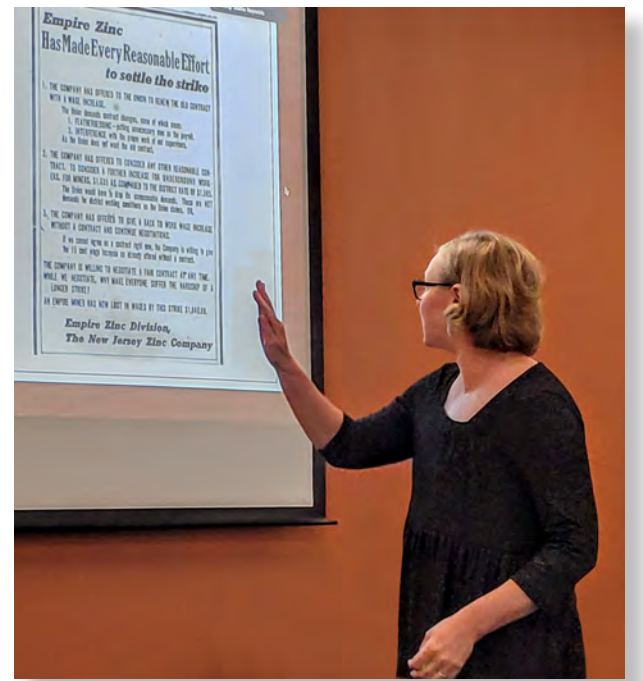


Children from Sixth Street Elementary School visited the museum and created their own “exhibits” and presented them to their classmates. The museum-school partnership provides teachers with educational resources, while fostering a love of local history and culture in a whole new generation of museum-lovers!

During the recent New Mexico Association of Museums Conference (NMAM) held here in Silver City, Shannon Wilson, the museum's volunteers, youth and family programs manager, presented information to museum staff from throughout the state about the Silver City Museum's school partnership initiative. This museum-school partnership is designed to support teachers as they work to implement new state content standards, as well as to better utilize local museum resources in the teaching of local history and culture.

Shannon presented a blueprint for creating such connections, including lesson plans and other resources. The session ended with a lively discussion, networking and tentative plans to continue developing and refining the initiative for sharing at the next NMAM conference.

The next step is to create a menu of content-specific museum activities for various grade levels. The goal is to ultimately build an online menu of options from which local teachers can choose. So far, activities have been developed specifically for kindergarten through second-grade children to teach them about what museums do.



Shannon Wilson presented the museum-school partnership to participants at the annual NMAM conference, held in Silver City.

In October, groups of third and fourth-graders from Sixth Street Elementary School visited the museum and had a great time. They created their own museum exhibits on art pedestals, then presented them to the group using a microphone. As these children are exposed to the museum, the hope is that they will take this early childhood experience with them and keep coming back!

Silver City Museum Gift Store Open for Great Holiday Gifts Members Enjoy a Special, 20% Holiday Discount!

After enjoying *The Life and Times of Arturo Flores* and other exhibits at the Silver City Museum, locals and visitors alike will want to peruse the incredible selection of more than 1,000 affordably priced, easy-to-carry holiday gift items available in the museum store. **And Museum Society members enjoy a one-time, 20% holiday discount!**

The store features an incredible variety of fun and fanciful items sure to please all ages, and all proceeds support the Silver City Museum! The book selection alone is one of the best in the county, and reason enough to come in and take a peak. Topics include Native Americans, especially the Apache; New Mexico, Silver City history and tall tales of the Wild Wild West; cowboy and ranching culture; mining; ghost stories; and, of course, madams and brothels.

In addition to bountiful books, adults will enjoy the many historically and culturally themed gifts, including colorful "rock" soaps, small vials of fools' gold and simulated silver ore, semi-precious stones representing the signs of the Zodiac and



Gift Store Manager Melody Collins and Jolynn Martin, store assistant, create a display of colorful, handmade ornaments made from recycled tin cans in Madagascar, including this red pickup truck.

available in any number of jewelry items, including bracelets, earrings and pendants. Jewelry designs are elemental and varied, many reflecting the southwest style – earthy and tribal – with crosses, turquoise beads, petroglyphs, crystals and stone.

The toy section is packed with fun, colorful, educational items for children, and the child in everyone. Traditional toys are particularly fitting to the museum, and include such things as kaleidoscopes, *Old Maid* and *Go Fish* card games, flash cards, paddle balls, dominoes, pick-up sticks, jump ropes, "Forest Friends" tea sets, locomotives, New Mexico "Zia" T-shirts, young explorers mining helmets, a wide array of popular childrens' books and much, much more.

Other popular items include cashmere scarves, as well as sacred prayer kits and postcards. Gift certificates are also available, and everyone enjoys tax-free purchases, given that the store is non-profit.

For more information, contact Melody Collins, store manager, at (575) 597-0223, or email: store@silvercitymuseum.org.

Volunteer View

Museum Volunteers Organize “Women of Silver City” Tour

By Shannon Wilson

A group of women from the International Women's Forum visited the museum in early October, and were treated to a very special tour of downtown Silver City, which was organized by three of our volunteers, along with museum staff. The tour, entitled *Women of Silver City, Past to Present*, was created by volunteers David Phillips, Jennifer Six and Susan Price. David has only been volunteering since June, and spent numerous hours researching the theme, while long-time volunteers Jennifer and Susan served as tour guides.

We received excellent feedback from the tour participants, and may use this experience as a model for other thematic, downtown tours in the future. The event was a great experience, and an example of how our volunteers' unique skills were put to good use. This project required a lot of time and effort from everyone involved to attend planning meetings, prepare for the tour, practice the route and script, actually give the tour, and then evaluate afterward.

I'm happy to say that we all had fun, and were proud to have accomplished what we set out to do with



Shannon Wilson

integrity. Yet another example of what great things can be accomplished with great volunteers!

To join the fun and become a volunteer, please contact Shannon Wilson at (575) 597-5722, or volunteermanager@silvercitymuseum.org.

“FUNdraising” Committee Activities Support Museum Programming

The Museum Society has created a new “FUNdraising” committee led by Patsy Madrid. This is a great group of museum members whose mission is to raise money for exhibits, events and programs, as well as to promote the museum to Grant County residents. The committee organizes many wonderful fundraising events, including quarterly BINGO!, an annual courtyard art sale, food sales at museum events, and the Territorial Charter Ball, which happens on Saturday, February 11. Stay tuned for more information about this special event!

Thank you to all of the “FUNdraising” Committee Members: Patsy Madrid; Mary Baumhover; Harold Gregory; Randy Anderson; Alex MacKenzie; Janet Ramirez; Mary Beth Chrest; Charlie Kiehne; Daniel Paiz; and Mark Duran!

Join the Museum Society for Quarterly B-I-N-G-O at the Murray Hotel!

Do you love a fun evening of bingo? Then come join the fun with the Silver City Museum Society Board Members! All proceeds benefit programs, exhibits and other museum events. Bingo nights in 2023: **January 16; April 17; July 17; and October 16.**

Doors open at 6:00 pm, and snacks, beverages and bingo supplies are available for purchase. Cost to play is \$25 for 10 games with 9-top cards. Feeling lucky? Extra buy-ins available for final round!



Bart Roselli and Museum Society “FUNdraising” Committee Chair Patsy Madrid take a break from bingo action. Volunteer Harold Gregory assisted with the spring yard sale fundraiser held in the museum courtyard.

New Mexico Association of Museums Conference Comes to Silver City

Museum professionals from all over the state visited Silver City the week of October 10 to participate in the annual conference of the New Mexico Association of Museums, (NMAM). More than 150 curators, educators, exhibit designers, registrars, public relations managers and more participated in educational sessions, guided tours and open houses.

Silver City Museum staff proudly showed off the Arturo Flores exhibit, the new school-museum partnership, our Chihuahua Hill History Project, and, of course, our fabulous gift store. The town gained lodgers' tax revenue, and no doubt new friends who will come back to visit. Many conference attendees had never experienced Silver City before.

Museum staff hosted an open house on October 14, highlighted by two presentations given by Curator Javier Marrufo and Shannon Wilson, volunteers, youth and family programs manager. The galleries and the house were packed, and both Javier and Shannon received rave reviews from the attendees. One inspired conference attendee shared with me after Shannon's presentation – he had attended Javier's session the day before – saying, “The Silver City Museum is doing amazing work. Yours is the best museum in New Mexico.” And, he is from Santa Fe!



Anita Scott Coleman

Ashley Smith to Discuss the Life and Works of Writer Anita Scott Coleman

Ashley Smith, museum registrar and collections manager, will present the story of local, African-American writer and poet Anita Scott Coleman at the regular meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at 10 am on **Sunday, December 18.** A native of Silver City, Anita Scott Coleman was a critically acclaimed writer who published her

Museum/WILL Partnership Promotes Local Presentations



By Trish Kirchoff, WILL

In addition to a robust Lunch & Learn series co-sponsored by the Silver City Museum and WILL each semester, WILL offers many courses on local history. This fall, Julia Robinson presented a class called, “*Early Jewish Settlers and Those Who Stayed.*”

After the discovery of silver in the 1870s, miners and settlers flocked to this area. Some of these early settlers were Ashkenazi Jewish men who established the first saloons and general stores, owned the first banks and started families.

Several booms and busts followed, with small waves of Jewish settlers. Julia's quest was to uncover who these settlers were, who they married and how they survived without the benefit of a synagogue. What marks did they leave on Silver City?

With immense curiosity but no previous knowledge of her subject, she first scoured the newspaper database at the Silver City Public Library. Seeking more information, she turned to the Silver City Museum. There, in the bookstore, she found several books, *Built To Last* and *Stories From Our Streets*, that aided her research. However, her most useful resource was Ashley Smith, registrar and collections manager, who provided many old photos, which added visual interest to the presentation.

In addition to her presentation to WILL members, Julia will be presenting at the New Mexico History Conference in Silver City, which begins March 30, 2023. After this presentation, her notes will be available at the museum.

This community collaboration is a hallmark of the Silver City Museum and WILL. Please check out WILL's courses at www.will.community.

poems, essays and short stories in the most prominent African-American-owned journals and newspapers of her time.

As a child and young adult, Coleman and her family lived on 160 acres of ranchland now known as Scott Park on Silver City's southeast side. Born in 1890 in Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico to Mary Ann Stokes and William Henry Scott, Coleman emigrated to Silver City as a sickly child in 1893 with her parents and older brother, William Ulysses.

Smith will discuss the history of African-Americans in New Mexico, as well as the early Spanish, slavery, the influx of African-Americans as buffalo soldiers and the racism they encountered. Ashley will also share information about **The Harlem Renaissance** and other details of Scott's life and work.

The Harlem Renaissance ran from 1918 to roughly 1937, and though centered in New York's Harlem neighborhood, its reach included the American West. Coleman's body of work was published in the well-known journals of racial uplift and social change, including *The Crisis*, *The Messenger*, *The Competitor* and *Opportunity*, and her name was often listed with other prize-winning African-American writers of her day, including Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen and Claude McKay.

Upcoming Programs and Events

December

Tuesday, November 15 - December 30
Museum Membership Appreciation
 Members enjoy a one-time, 20% holiday discount at the Museum Store

Wednesday, December 7

WILL Class

10 am to noon at WNMU

The Making of an Exhibit, presented by Bart Roselli

For more information, visit www.will.community

Saturday, December 10

Silver City Museum Society Annual Meeting 10 am to 11 am at the Museum Annex

Victorian Christmas and More!

11 am to 3 pm at the Museum

Sunday, December 18

Creating Under the Radar: Anita

Scott Coleman and the African-

American Community of New

Mexico by Ashley Smith

10 am to 11 am Unitarian

Universalist Fellowship

Sunday, December 25

Merry Christmas! Museum Closed

January

Sunday, January 1

Happy New Year! Museum Closed

Monday, January 16

BINGO! "FUNdraiser"

6 pm to 8 pm at the Murray Hotel

February

Saturday, February 11

Territorial Charter Ball

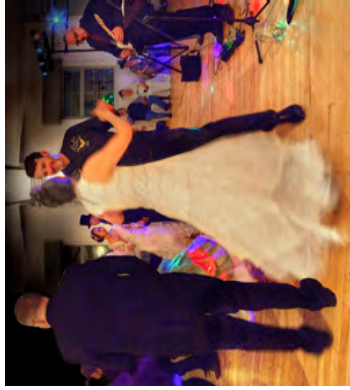
7 pm to 10 pm at the Murray Hotel



Victorian Christmas and More!



BINGO! "FUNdraiser"



Territorial Charter Ball



Current Exhibit
The Life and Times
of Arturo Flores

"... what could prove to be one of the best exhibits ever at the Silver City Museum."



Like Us On Facebook!

For more information, visit our website: www.SilverCityMuseumSociety.org

- Newsletters and emails to keep you up-to-date on museum activities
- Invitations to exhibit openings and member-only special events
- 10% discount at the museum store (including online) and a one-time, 20% holiday discount

Membership Includes:

- \$15
- \$30
- \$35
- \$50
- \$100
- \$150
- \$250
- \$500

Membership Options:

Student

Senior – 65+ years

Friend – individual

Family and Couple – any two adults, plus children under 18

Sponsor Membership Package

Basic membership perks plus:

recognition on the museum appreciation wall and a print of a historic photo from the museum's archives.

Business Membership Package

All sponsor benefits plus:

window decal of appreciation and acknowledgement on our website

Patron Membership Package

All business benefits plus:

private, behind-the-scenes tour of the museum with the director

Benefactor Membership Package

All patron benefits plus \$50.00 gift certificate at the museum store



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The Mansardian

The Silver City Museum Society
 312 West Broadway
 Silver City, NM 88061

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The 2022/2023 Mansardian is underwritten by Liz Mikols in memory of her husband Joe Schindler.

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