



The Mansardian

The Quarterly Publication of the Silver City Museum Society



*Soldiers and their partners enjoy a turn around the plaza at the old Tyrone town site in 1915.
Photo from the Silver City Museum's collection.*

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Director's Desk

As I write this, the energy among our visitors, staff and board members is palpable. Museum staff and volunteers are involved in produc-



Bart Roselli

ing so many innovative programs for our community that it makes me extremely proud of the crew I am lucky enough to work with, and the impact we are making. To begin with, the overwhelmingly positive response to our annual appeal is just awe inspiring. You, our members, more than stepped up to our call for support ... you knocked it out of the park! We surpassed our goal by more than \$6,000! Thank you! This is the kind of support that charges our batteries, enabling us to produce the kinds of

programs and exhibits that deeply engage our community.

We have launched an effort to broaden the visitation to and the awareness of the exhibit, "The Life and Times of Arturo Flores," which celebrates the life of a remarkable person. We will be offering programs throughout the region and here at the museum to attract folks who may not have ever visited the museum. We are also reaching out to regional and national media outlets to pitch the idea of covering the story of Arturo Flores. Be sure to visit if you haven't yet, and please help spread the word!

Staff are also working with skilled web master Cris Uribe to totally rebuild the outdated Silver City Museum Society website. The initial draft is looking wonderful. With the aid of Society President Georgianna Duarte and the buzzin' Bea "Buzzard" McKinley, a one-person public relations whirlwind agent for the museum, the

new website will be fun to look at and much more user-friendly.

Our spring program series will explore the many ways this community has found common places and ways to share and debate the concerns of the day. We'll host three entertaining and knowledgeable speakers and associated panels of community representatives to liven up the Silco Theater.

There is so much activity at the museum, stoked by so much support, and providing so much service to our community. Thank you. Without your support we simply could not do it.

With pleasure and gratitude,

Bart A. Roselli

Museum Society News

Board members of the Silver City Museum Society recently welcomed a new member, Rick Johnson, elected Stephen Fox to a second term, and wished retiring members Don Montoya and Mary Ihlefeld heartfelt gratitude and warm wishes for their many years of dedicated service.

Rick is a retired WNMU professor, and served for more than a decade as a member of the Society's Long Term Investments Committee. He earned a doctorate in electrical engineering from the University of Rochester New York, and has a deep interest in sonar signals; specifically, animal echolocation. He studied bats at Yale, before joining a naval re-

search lab in San Diego, where he studied dolphins and other marine mammal vocalizations.

He and his wife, Alice, relocated to Silver City to join her retired parents, then built four passive-solar adobe homes while he was teaching math and computer science at WNMU. Since his retirement in 2007, Rick has graciously managed the museum's long-term investments.

Local historian Stephen Fox, PhD, was elected to a second term. Stephen is an author and a frequent featured speaker in the museum's community conversation series, and his participation on the board

is very much appreciated.

Retired physician Don Montoya and Mary Ihlefeld, a former schoolteacher, are both retiring from their long-time service to the museum and will be sorely missed! Don is nearly finished with an extensive history of Grant County, and we look forward to his continued participation and support. Mary has served admirably as secretary, and leaves the board in great shape with accurate records of past meetings and board actions. We will miss both of them, and we thank everyone for their continued service and dedication to the Silver City Museum!

Welcome New Staff Members!

Please join us in welcoming three new staff members, each of whom is also a new member of the Grant County community. David Phillips is the new assistant to Shannon Wilson, volunteers and youth and family programs manager. David says he is enjoying working with smart, humorous colleagues dedicated to preserving and sharing the rich history of Silver City, as well as meeting museum visitors, many of whom have interesting stories to tell. He recently met the nieces of Rudd Weatherwax, who was the owner and trainer of the canine star, Lassie.



David Phillips

As a retired professor of English literature, David also enjoys researching historically underrepresented groups and revealing their importance to the development of Silver City and the region, as well as working closely with Shannon to develop educational resources for local school teachers.

"I used to joke with my colleagues in higher education that my dream job in retirement would be to work as a docent at a historical site, or to conduct research on topics of personal and community interest," David said. "Working at the museum is my chance to do both."

He and his wife, Terri, moved to Grant County in November, 2021, from Charleston, South Carolina. In his spare time David enjoys photo-

graphing nature and landscapes, and hiking in the Gila. He and Terri are also members of the Gila Native Plant and Audubon societies, and agree that moving to Grant County was "the best move we've ever made."

One of David's newest colleagues is Jolynn Martin, who works as an assistant to Melody Collins, gift store manager. Jolynn enjoys working with the public and studied tourism and hospitality in college in Maine, as well as American Sign Language.

"I thoroughly enjoy ensuring that our visitors feel welcome and appreciated," she said, "and I appreciate the connections I get to make with people each day, and the community is so diverse, I'm learning something new every day!"

Jolynn also enjoys working in the museum to learn about the history of the area. She and her partner relocated to Silver City in 2021 to be closer to relatives. When she's not busy helping visitors in the gift store and exploring her new community, Jolynn enjoys spending time with her dog and "cooking delicious recipes."

Tom Oberg, the new exhibits manager, has an extensive history of working "in and around museums since the mid-nineties." He also created and managed an alternative art space, which offered "an aggressive schedule of



Jolynn Martin

public events for local theatre groups, musicians, and poets." Tom has taught design at the college level, and is an award-winning graphic artist. A trained sculptor who comes from a long line of teachers, seamstresses, ship builders and building contractors, he is grateful to have learned "the joy of using my mind and hands at an early age."

He and his wife, Sharla, and their son, Max, relocated to Silver City last November from Corning, NY, after living here briefly in 2012-2013. Tom's primary reason for making the move to Silver City and joining the museum team is his fellow staff members and museum volunteers.

"Prior to making the commitment to move here, I spent a few months online reading about the museum's programs and exhibits," he said. And what really stood out time after time was the high level of dedication from the staff and volunteers; their commitment to the programs and their love for the Southwest."

In this spare time, Tom enjoys making and appreciating art, hiking with his family and mountain biking. "One of the big draws of this region for us was the opportunity for outdoor sports and activities. I see plenty of camping, hiking, biking and running in our future."



Tom Oberg

Community: Building the Present

By Javier Marrufo

What is community? This is the question that will be explored in the Silver City Museum's spring program series or "community conversations." As an institution that serves the community, it is essential to reflect on what community means. In the simplest terms, community is a group of people living in a particular place, or with similar interests. This vague definition easily becomes muddled when viewed through the lens of perspective. What does community mean to you? What does it mean to me?

Of course community is an essential part of the human experience. It is a feeling of fellowship, of belonging, with those who share common attitudes, ambitions, professions, culture, heritage, experiences or circumstances. Community is built on the interactions we have with one another. Our greater community, Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico, is formed from dozens, perhaps hundreds, of smaller communities; like-minded individuals as extended families formed to represent who we are and how we view ourselves in the context of the larger whole.

Over the past few years museum staff have embarked upon a mission to emphasize the community that we serve in all the work that we do. As part of this, it is important for community members to understand how much their contributions impact history. Study any history and you will invariably see people coming together to make a contribution to something greater than themselves.

There are many aspects to explore under the theme of community. Why do people gather and where? How does social life impact the built environment? How does social organization affect how we view one another, or how we view ourselves? Looking through Silver City's history, you'll find there are many different answers to these questions.

While many community members can boast ties to Grant County for generations, early

Silver City was largely a community of newcomers. Immigrants from the Eastern United States, Mexico, Europe or Asia brought with them unique ideas, skills and experiences, culminating in a colorful pastiche of circumstances, language and culture. Naturally, it didn't take long for groups to form within the growing community.

The earliest evidence of an organized social group in Silver City comes from an August 24, 1872, issue of the Las Cruces newspaper, *Bor-derer*: "The citizens of Silver City, some time since formed a literary club and now a movement is on foot to build a fine hall for their lyceum and the foundation of a public library." This is not to say that this was the first social group in what is now Grant County, but it does introduce an important resource for understanding our past and present community - the media.

Among the most important aspects of community building is the availability of information. Silver City's first newspaper, *Mining Life*, began publishing in 1873, a mere three years after the town was founded in the summer of 1870. Local newspapers were used to keep citizens informed, address community concerns, and to plan or organize toward common goals.

Different newspapers often held opposing views and opinions that today offer a glimpse into differing perspectives held within the community, offering contemporary history buffs important insights into what life was like for those who've gone before. Newspapers offer a tool for better understanding how Silver City and the surrounding area developed, as well as those social institutions responsible for laying



Manuela Jenkins shares information at a LULAC Council 8003 "chorizo y menudo" community breakfast last year, as her brother and LULAC President Fred Baca looks on.

the foundation of many services and amenities that we now enjoy. Healthcare and education are two such examples.

In 1873, local women played an active role in the formation of the public education system. The Ladies Educational Society was formed in 1873 to raise funds to build a public school house. Achieving their ultimate goal of free public education took some time, but they did ultimately succeed in creating the first school district in the Territory of New Mexico, laying the foundation for a territory-wide school system.

Similarly, other women formed a sewing circle in 1883 to provide care for the aging or sick miners. Realizing that the need for healthcare would only increase as the bustling community continued to grow, these women organized the Ladies Hospital Aid Society. The organization was incorporated two years later as the Grant County Charity Hospital Society, operating the first healthcare organization in the county, and kickstarting a regional identity that would attract many to the county as a haven for health-seekers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

It is clear to see how community is built from the actions of individuals, everyday people, sharing a common goal, a common interest, or a common circumstance. Because community has people at its core, it is also important to remember that communities are not static. They evolve with each new generation. This is true at all levels of community. Social groups shrink then expand; some thrive while others fade away. The places that we meet also continually shift. Buildings are expanded, torn down or rebuilt. Others remain generation after generation. Likewise, community needs change over time. With each new person, each new place, and each new idea, community continues to evolve.

Community is something that we all contribute to in one way or another. It is important to recognize the effects we've had, and continue to have, on the places we live. It is important to explore how important and how necessary community is to the creation and preservation of history. The museum's spring lineup of community conversations explores these themes, and the many connections that bind us together in community. We hope to see you there!



Museum Director Bart Roselli speaks at a community gathering in the museum courtyard last year, celebrating the life of community member and long-time Museum Society member Bobbie Neal-Little.

Not to be Missed: The Life and Times of Arturo Flores Exhibit Closing in May

By Lisa Jimenez

The Silver City Museum's current, main exhibit, "The Life and Times of Arturo Flores," offers a testimony to the power of individual acts, their potential for impact and influence on local history and, in the case of Arturo Flores, the American labor movement and beyond.

Arturo Flores is best known locally as well as nationally for his tireless work as a labor organizer and his dedication to workers' rights. His life story seems ordinary, yet the simple but profound act of photographing the Empire Zinc Mine Strike from the front lines captured one of the most defining moments in Grant County history.

In the words of Museum Curator Javier Marufo, "the story told through these photographs is more than the legacy of one man, but of an entire community, and serves as a reminder to those who now enjoy the benefits gained through the bitter struggle of those captured in Arturo Flores' lens."

A self-taught photographer, Flores captured everyday moments from the 15-month strike, which began October 17, 1950, when the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, Local 890, went on strike to protest the Empire Zinc Company's exploitative and discriminatory practices. For the next two years, Local 890 steadfastly refused to bow to the steadily increasing opposition to their cause.

Flores' black-and-white photographs offer an intimate view of the strike from the perspective of the strikers themselves, as well as the women of the Ladies Auxiliary who took their place on the picket line when a court injunction forbade union members from picketing. These images capture the struggle, the frustration and solidarity of the strikers, as well as the sporadic moments of calm and laughter. Arturo snapped dozens of photos throughout the course of the strike. Little did he know he was curating one of the most important collections in New Mexico labor history.



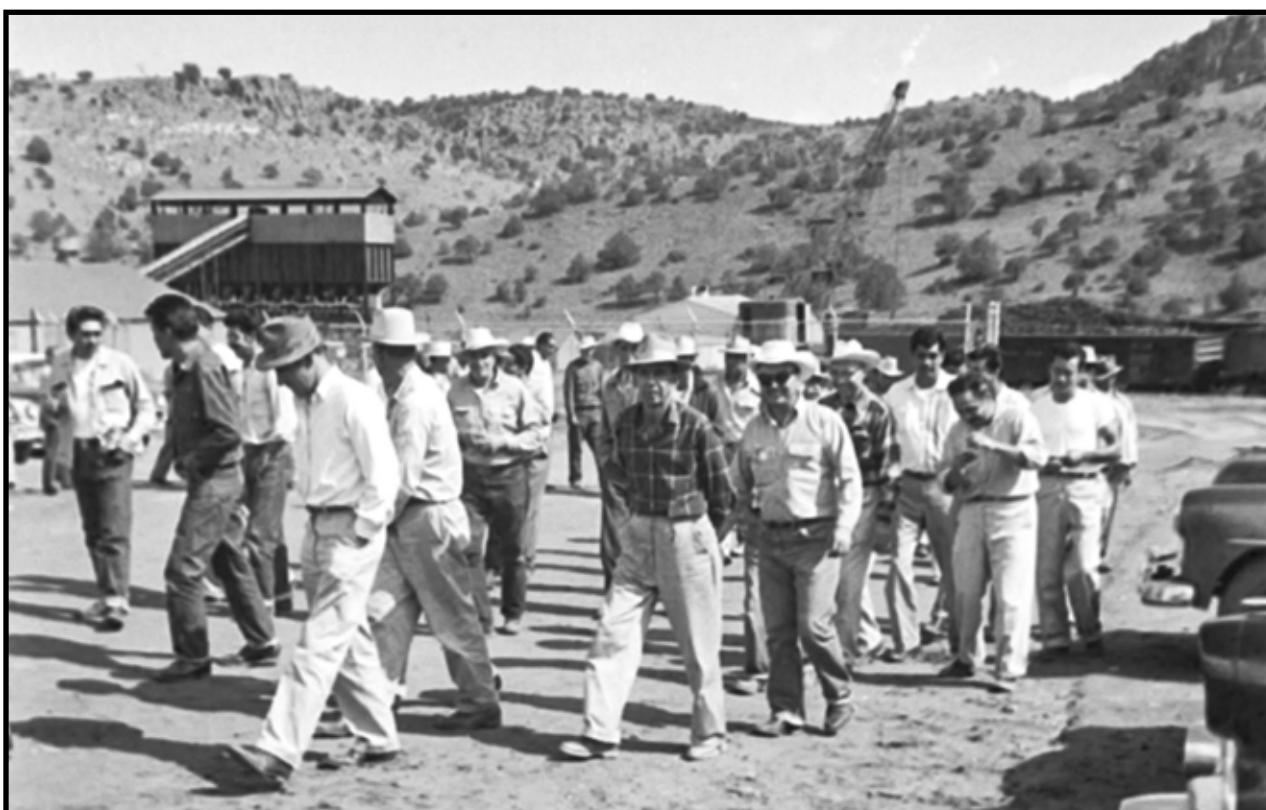
Lorenzo "Larry" Flores, Arturo's son, converses with a visitor at the exhibit opening in October.

The exhibit, however, highlights much more than Flores' photographs, and offers insights into the life of this hard-working man, veteran, father, activist and artist, whose actions helped shape history. His story is told in a colorful, highly creative way, thanks to the mural-style design developed by Silver City graphic designer, Bryan Hyde. Viewers can also listen to live recordings of Arturo sharing his life story, simply by using their smartphones to scan the QR codes located throughout the exhibit.

Bart Roselli, museum director, said that the exhibit's success has led he and his staff to explore other unsung heroes, both individuals and even organizations that have made an impact on Grant County and the region.

"Sharing these kinds of stories is a way to celebrate our rich history and the cultural diversity

that makes this region so fascinating," he said. "We look forward to further exploration of individual stories and contributions by organizations that have influenced this community and helped shape so much of what we enjoy today."



Strikers at the Empire Zinc Mine, circa 1951. Photo courtesy of Lorenzo Flores

The Mansardian

Editor: Lisa Jimenez
Layout: Tom Oberg

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:

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Welcome to our new members!

Kaylah Ailman, Christy Ailman Banasihan
Susan Allen, James Arellin, Fred Baca,
Lori Belk, Celia Castillo, Paula Cunningham,
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Thank you to our renewing members!

For membership information, please visit
silvercitymuseumsociety.org

LULAC Council #8003: Forty Years of Community Support

By Javier Marrufo

The Silver City Museum's spring programming theme of community building and social groups creates an excellent opportunity to highlight one of our newest partners, LULAC Council 8003. LULAC, or League of United Latin American Citizens, is a nationwide organization dedicated to the welfare and betterment of Latinos in the United States. Founded in 1929, it is the oldest and most well-known Latino civil rights organization in the U.S.



Javier Marrufo

LULAC was created at a time in our country's history when Latinos were denied basic civil and human rights, despite their widespread contributions to American society.

When the United States annexed a third of Mexico's territory with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, an estimated 77,000 to 115,000 Mexicans became U.S. citizens by conquest. These were people who had lived in places like southwestern New Mexico for generations. In many places, people were plagued by prejudice and systemic racism that all but nullified their rights as citizens of the United States. Grant County is no exception to this, as seen in the famously documented segregation of the mines, or in the unequal living conditions described in the Chihuahua Hill History Project. For many, opportunity of any kind, be it occupational, educational or economic, was stifled by the circumstances of their birth.

There were many movements in Grant County toward equal rights. Each group built upon the achievements of those that came before. LULAC Council 8003 was established in 1981 from Council 8005, when Apolonio "Polo" and Donna Sierra, decided a shift was needed to move the council in a new direction.

Born and raised in Silver City, Polo was a U.S. Army veteran, who landed in Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Donna worked at John Hopkins before returning to Silver City as a librarian at Western New Mexico University's Miller Library. Both understood the importance of education and the limited means of many Grant County residents, and envisioned 8003 as a scholarship-producing machine for Hispanics.

The first meetings of the council were held in various locations around Silver City before a building - formerly La Primera Iglesia Hispana Baptist Church on the south side of Chihuahua Hill - was purchased in the early 1980s. Polo put down his own money for the down payment on what would become LULAC Council 8003's current hall.

Determined to give back to the community and contribute to the continued education of Grant County's Hispanic youth, council members developed new partnerships with the Silver and Cobre school districts, and with WNMU. The local organization received little outside funding, relying primarily on fundraisers. With as few as six people, members began hosting bingo nights to raise money. Later, members began selling enchilada dinners, now one of their most profitable fundraisers.

LULAC Council 8003 has provided scholarships every year since its foundation in 1981. Current Council President Fred Baca recounted the rough start to the scholarship program: "The first scholarship was \$250. We couldn't find anyone to take it, so we had to go hunting door-to-door to give it away." The scholarship program has greatly expanded since then, with

as much as \$20,000 awarded in some years. Today, the local effort has been recognized at the national level, with the LULAC National Scholarship Fund matching up to 60% of local funds raised each year.

Since its inception, Council 8003 has awarded more than \$200,000 in scholarships. Scholarship recipients choose where they will attend school, and these graduates are now living all over the country as community leaders, doctors, government officials, business owners and contributing members of their community.

The members of LULAC Council 8003 have been recognized many times for their work, including being named National Council of the Year five times, and State Council of the Year many more. It's easy to see why. For 40 years, LULAC Council 8003 has served as a home-grown community support system, spanning generations. My mother was a recipient of a LULAC scholarship in the 1980s, as was I some 30 years later. The Council is truly a community-based organization. Everything earned is a result of the hard work of its members, and the generosity of the community - people who give back because they understand what it's like to live without opportunity.



LULAC members' children enjoy participating in Silver City's annual Fourth of July Parade as they cruise past Gough Park, c. 1980s.

Spring Community Conversation Series Focuses on Community Building

This spring's community conversation series explores the many aspects of community building, including the changing place and nature of "the public square," the influence of media on community awareness, and the scope and range of various community organizations and associations, and how they contribute to the energy and complexity of the larger community.

Community conversations are co-sponsored by WILL, the Western Institute of Lifelong Learning, and held from 11 am to 12:30 pm each third Saturday of the month, beginning in March, at the historic Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard Street. Each "conversation" begins with a guest speaker, followed by a panel discussion and dialogue with the audience. The following is a brief description of the spring series:

March 18: "Plaza Publica - Gathering Places in Silver City" explores the places where people gathered in early Silver City, from pioneers' parlors and smoky taverns, to ballrooms and opera houses, and even a cantina on Chihuahua Hill.

Cathleen Norman, programs coordinator for the Silver City Museum, discusses where people met for many reasons and purposes during the town's first decades, and how this evolved in the twentieth century. Many critical issues and needs energized early residents, but gatherings took place purely for pleasure, too.

The panel discussion delves further into the public square theme, considering such questions as, Where do people meet today in Silver City? How has that changed from earlier times, and why? How do these changes affect the community? What are new forums and trends?

April 15: "A Sundry Mosaic: Clubs, Associations and Societies in Silver City" takes a look at organizations that have helped to better our community through the years. Susan Berry shares how different groups have met a variety of needs and interests, such as education and health, arts and culture, workers' conditions and charitable efforts, as well as recreation and pleasure.

As Silver City grew and matured, government



Cathleen Norman



Javier Marrufo



Susan Berry

stepped in to fulfill some of these functions, such as education and healthcare. Yet the urge to gather together and make our corner of the world a better place grew throughout the 1900s in several new directions, and continues today.

Conversation begins with a panel of members from several local organizations, and continues with questions and dialogue from the audience. We investigate how these groups and organizations have changed through the years. How do they contribute to our community today?

May 20: "Opinions and Facts: Media's Impact on Community" will be presented by Javier Marrufo, museum curator. Javier will examine how media has influenced community awareness. Silver City's early newspapers such as *Mining Life* promoted the community to the outside world, inviting investors, merchants, miners and others to move to Silver City. The press also shaped the town's identity for local residents by urging and praising civic efforts and accomplishments. However, such publications told only part of the community story, often omitting working class citizens and minorities.

Today, local media still share news of projects and events that impact residents' lives, and also help promote the area to tourists and recreation enthusiasts. Whether printed, online or on the air, each media outlet offers a different focus and perspective, based on their primary audiences.

Panel discussion and audience input will further examine how the media has represented Silver

City to the local community and the world beyond. Questions include: What is the media's intent? How does it shape and strengthen our community? How has this changed through the years?

For more information about the museum's community conversation series, please contact Cathleen Norman, programs coordinator, at 720 394-8626, or education@silvercitymuseum.org.

Series Now Available Online!

The years 2020-2021 were marked by lockdowns and social isolation, which forced many organizations, including the museum, to shift many of its programs online. Museum staff quickly adapted by launching a series of "community conversations," featuring local and regional historians, and experts on various subjects. To date, a wide range of topics have been covered, from "Frontier Justice" with Doug Dinwiddie, PhD, to Dr. Twana Sparks' presentation titled, "TB in Southwest New Mexico."

We are proud to announce that 19 of these recordings are now available for viewing on our website. These videos can be accessed at silvercitymuseum.org, by selecting "recorded programs" under the "program and events" drop-down menu. Or, go directly to silvercitymuseum.org/396/recorded-programs.

The Fascinating History of Chocolate

By Trish Kirchoff

So, how was your Valentine's Day? Steeped in love, flowers and chocolate, I hope. Now that you've reignited your daily, chocolate mood-elevation habit, how about learning a bit about its history?

WILL is offering a course in March on the history of chocolate. The course is being taught by Ted Presler, a frequent WILL facilitator. Here's a brief description of the course:

In Mesoamerica, beverages were first produced from cacao seeds around 450 BCE. The belief was that these seeds came from their God of

Wisdom. The drink was bitter, and considered an aphrodisiac. Slowly, the seeds became so valuable they were used as a form of currency. Cacao spread to many cultures, including Chaco Canyon and even the Mississippi Cahokia. Once introduced to European upper classes, cacao and sugar were combined and "chilate" became the rage.

English, Dutch, and French colonizers introduced the planting of cacao into Africa and Southeast Asia where climates were favorable and labor, plentiful and cheap. This course will cover the earlier developments of xocolatl, its dissemination and production, and even includes tastings of chocolate products from the

French, the Belgian, Peruvian and others. This history, though imperfect, will serve as a foundation for exploring our modern day chocolate obsession.

Sound illuminating and decadent? If so, please check out this course and many others being offered by WILL at www.will.community. WILL offers a wide variety of courses annually, and a free "Lunch and Learn" series, which is co-sponsored by the Silver City Museum.



To our Partners and Sponsors - THANK YOU!

Museum staff and volunteers would like to extend a heartfelt “thank you” to our partners and sponsors. Without the continued support of our community partners, we simply wouldn’t be able to offer the level of programming and events that we do. We are so grateful for our continued partnership with WILL, the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning, as well as with the League of United Latin American Citizens, or LULAC, Council 8003. Fred Baca is the president of Council 8003, and also serves as the organization’s New Mexico director. Fred

Museum Staff to Present at Historical Society Conference; UNM and UU Events

Museum staff members Javier Marrufo and Shannon Wilson will be presenting at the Historical Society of New Mexico Conference, March 30-April 1, at the Grant County Business and Conference Center in Silver City.

Javier will present at two sessions of the conference, the first of which will be held on Friday, March 31, from 1:30 to 3:00 pm, entitled “Safeguarding Oral History.” This session is a multi-presenter exploration of oral history as it has appeared in different projects throughout New Mexico. Also presenting are Kathleen Dull, librarian and archivist from the New Mexico History Museum, photographer and cinematographer John Candelario, and Douglas Dinwiddie, PhD, a retired WNMU history professor, who will discuss Lou Blachly’s famous oral history project.

The second session will be held on Saturday, April 1, from 8:30 to 10:00 am, and is titled, “Through the Lens: Perspectives on Historical Photographs,” moderated by Dr. Michelle Hall Kells of the University of New Mexico (UNM). The presentation features panel members Lorenzo Flores, Terry Humble and Javier, who will discuss the importance of the photo documentation of the Empire Zinc Mine Strike by Arturo Flores, Lorenzo’s father.

Saturday, April 1, Shannon Wilson will present “Supporting Classroom Teachers with Museum Resources,” from 10:30 am to 12 noon. Shannon will explain the process of developing community connections between the museum and Silver Consolidated Schools. Through interactive, open discussion Shannon will describe the ways in which she has developed relationships with key school staff, the goals and objectives of the initiative, and how she plans for its continued development.

Javier has also been invited as a guest lecturer at the Southwest Hispanic Research Institute colloquia series at UNM on April 14, where he will share his research methods and work within the Chihuahua Hill community, and the continued development of the Chihuahua Hill History Project. On April 23, he will also present an overview of the exhibit, “The Life and Times of Arturo Flores,” and the impact of individuals on local history to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Silver City.

has graciously agreed to participate in the museum’s ongoing community conversations series, and other LULAC members regularly volunteer at museum events and fundraising activities. Other key partnerships include the Southwest Word Fiesta, the Gila River Festival, Fiesta Latina and AFSCME Council 18.

Our list of local sponsors has also expanded in the past year. For example, First American Bank generously sponsored Victorian Christmas, and Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery has catered recent exhibit openings and local conferences, providing beautiful food trays and welcoming museum advertising via

“table-tents” that you may have noticed while dining at the restaurant.

Museum staff will be working hard this year to further expand its circle of partners and sponsors, with event packages designed to benefit both corporate sponsors, as well as local businesses and organizations. Interested in partnering with the museum to realize its mission to inspire people to explore the diverse history and culture of southwestern New Mexico? Please contact Marcus Hanson at communications@silvercitymuseum.org, or visit SilverCityMuseumSociety.org.

Marketing Advances Include New Website

The Silver City Museum Society is excited to announce a complete overhaul in design and function for its website. The new website will focus on expanding the Society’s membership

base, promoting both partnerships and sponsorships, highlighting annual fundraising efforts, and increasing awareness of the mission of the Silver City Museum Society.



The front page banner of the Silver City Museum Society’s new website

The new website will make it easier than ever to join the organization, renew memberships and purchase gift memberships. Potential sponsors and partners will be able to navigate with ease the diverse range of options for supporting the Museum Society’s fundraising efforts, which directly fund museum programs, events and exhibits.

The new website will also feature the latest Museum Society news, as well as previous editions of *The Mansardian*, volunteer opportunities and other general information about the organization.

Volunteer Corner

Introducing the Museum’s New Volunteer Policy

By Shannon Wilson

Volunteers will now receive a free Museum Society membership upon completion of 100 volunteer hours. Membership includes newsletters and emails, invitations to members-only exhibit openings, and special discounts in the museum gift store.

Our intention is to recognize and reward volunteers for their service. We have been working to iron out the details, and what follows is a brief Q&A to help clarify the details:

Q. Do volunteers who have already achieved 100 hours automatically get a free membership?

A. No. We are using January 1, 2023, as the starting point for all volunteers.

Q. Does the tracking of my volunteer hours start over once I have worked 100 hours and received my free membership?

A. Yes. After volunteering 100 hours, hours counted toward free membership starts again at zero.

Q. What happens if my free, annual membership expires before I have completed another 100 hours?

A. In this situation, volunteers have the option to pay to renew their membership, or wait for a free renewal once they have met the 100-hour goal again.

Q. What if I am a volunteer but don’t spend enough time at the museum to reach 100 hours?

A. All volunteers are encouraged to become members of the museum at any time. We have created this opportunity to earn free membership as a gesture of gratitude for volunteering.

If you have any other questions regarding this policy, please feel free to contact me at (575) 597-5722, or at volunteermanager@silvercitymuseum.org.

Thank You,
Shannon Wilson
Volunteers and Youth & Family Programs Manager

P.S. We would like to give a special thanks to all of our volunteers who helped with Victorian Christmas and More!. The event was a terrific success, thanks to your support! We also want to let everyone know that Alexis Collins, Cathy Palmer and Guy Palmer are superstars for completing the very difficult task of taking down all of the decorations inside and out! Everyone did an amazing job this year. Thank you!



Shannon Wilson

Upcoming Programs and Events

March

March 18
11:00 am - 12:30 pm
SILCO Theater
Spring Community Conversation Series
“Plaza Publica – Gathering Places in Silver City”
Speaker – Cathleen Norman

March 30 - April 1
Historical Society of New Mexico Annual Conference
Grant County Business and Conference Center

March 31
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Javier Marrufo presents
“Safeguarding Oral History”

April 1
8:30 am - 10:00 am
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“Through the Lens: Perspectives on Historical Photographs”

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April

April 15
11:00 am - 12:30 pm
SILCO Theater
Spring Community Conversation Series

“A Sundry Mosaic: Clubs, Associations and Societies in Silver City”
Speaker – Susan Berry

May 20

11:00 am - 12:30 pm
SILCO Theater
Spring Community Conversation Series

“Opinions and Facts: Media’s Impact on Community”
Speaker - Javier Marrufo
Closing May 31
“The Life and Times of Arturo Flores” exhibit

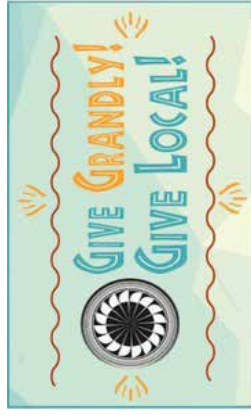


April 17
B-I-N-G-O
6:00 pm Doors open at 5:00
Murray Hotel Ballroom
200 W. Broadway
Cash prizes for all 10 games!

April 23
10:00 am
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
3845 N. Swan St.
Javier Marrufo presents
“Through the Lens of Arturo Flores”

May

May 6
9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Give Grandly at the Makers Market



Membership Options:

Student – 18 - 25 years old, currently enrolled in school

Senior – 60+ years

Friend – individual

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

Sponsor Membership Package

Basic membership benefits plus recognition on the museum appreciation wall, and a print of a historic photo from the museum archives

Business Membership Package

All sponsor benefits plus a 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 a \$50 gift certificate at the museum store

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

All Membership Levels Include:

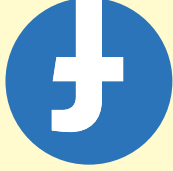
• *The Mansardian* and emails to keep you up-to-date on museum activities;

• Invitations to exhibit openings and member-only special events; and a 10% discount at the museum, store and a one-time, 20% holiday discount.

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

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The Mansardian

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

The 2023/2024 Mansardian is underwritten by Liz Mikols in memory of her husband Joe Schindler.

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