The Quarterly Publication of the Silver City Museum Society



"Slim Jims" on left, umpire and "Fat Fellows" on right. Photo taken at Yankie and Main Streets circa 1888. Silver City Museum photo #15590.

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Director's Desk

December and January mark a transformation. I love pointing out that January is named for the Roman god Janus, who was able to look



Bart Roselli

forward and backward at the same time. A neat trick! And a helpful way to start a new column.

Looking back, we at the museum have much to crow about. Our Nuestra Voz exhibit is reaching people with powerful stories. The recent Day of the Dead celebration attracted

many new visitors, Mimbres Press has listed the Museum Store as their "local bookstore of record," and our partnerships with LULAC and WILL continue to thrive.

Looking ahead, I cheer our staff, Museum

Society board members and volunteers as we lean into several new initiatives. A brand new grant from the New Mexico Economic Development Department's Creative Industries Division provides us with remarkable resources to renovate our Silver City 101 exhibit, making it more interactive and attractive. The grant also gives us the resources to create a living history program that will showcase historical figures in very creative, entertaining and authentic ways to enliven a visit to the museum and other stages around town.

This grant gives us the ability to forge new relationships with three local theater groups and others that are part of Silver City and Grant County's "creative community". We'll be launching a collection of essays about our region's past in partnership with WNMU's Mimbres Press. We'll also be exploring what it will take to renovate collection storage spaces, and plan for the renovation of the upstairs galleries, as part of a long-range exhibitions plan. In less exciting news we will fix nagging roof leaks, and repair the courtyard porch.

This momentum from a very good year is carrying us forward with new projects that serve our community, and make our museum more attractive to tourists as well. That is why the annual appeal and adding more members to the Museum Society are so important to our continued success and growth.

Thank you's must go to you, our members, our staff, the Museum Society Board, and all of our volunteers. Together we create a powerful energy that makes our continued success possible. Thank you all for your continued support, and please pass the word.

Looking ahead,



Bart A. Roselli Museum Director

Many Thanks to our New and Renewing Members

New members: Ann Brown, Becky Harwood, Bob and Nancy Phillips, Carol Jiron, Ph.D., Christine Carillo, Dana Rosser - Facing Obesity, Francine Popkin, Frank Quarrell, Fred and Sally Johnston, Herbert Toy, Kathe Rowland, Kathryn McCarroll, Ken and Becky Ladner, Lynne Zotalis, Marie Weil, Martha Blacklock, Mary Lou Smith, Meriwether McClorey, Dr.

Nicholas Mittica, Patricia Hawley, Patricia Sterling, Richard and Nancy Robertson, Sidney and Reyna Garay, Steve and Bonnie Herter, Tinda Matthes, Wendy & David Phillips.

Returning members: Alan and Mary Ragins, Annette Buckley, Ben Ortiz, Cathleen Norman, Elisa Sanchez, Frances Vasquez, Georgianna

Duarte, Greta Oberg, Kevin Lavine, Linda Shay, Lisa Jimenez, Margaret Shoemaker, Mikki and William Jemin, Mary Stoecker and Rick Bigelow, Michael Schulte, Mike Sheffer, Saundra Arellano, Sharyn McDonald, Stephen Fox, Steven Hein, Susan Malter, Thomas & Robin Hines.

Silver City Museum Board of Trustees Welcomes Raul Turrieta as President

Raul Turrieta

The Silver City Museum Society Board of Trustees is delighted to welcome Raul Turrieta as its new Board President. Raul brings with him a wealth of experience and an extensive

background in public service, community involvement, and professional expertise.

Raul Turrieta commenced his career in 1981 at the Grant County Assessor's office after serving in the Navy. Starting as an enumerator, Raul received an IAAO certification in 1986. Serving as Grant County Assessor from 1999-2006 and re-elected in 2018, Raul's 40-year dedication

to public service is evident. As a member of organizations like IAAO and NMAAO, as well as his involvement in the Assessor's office, Raul has demonstrated a commitment to professional service and community engagement.

Raul's dedication isn't confined to his professional endeavors; he actively engages in community outreach. His involvement spans various committees and boards, such as the Tamal Festival, Santa Clara Festival, as a

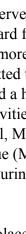
host on KURU's Local Flavor, and extensive participation in sports, including the Senior Olympics. He has also previously served on the Silver City Museum Society Board from

> 2018 to 2019. Furthermore, Raul is deeply committed to a vibrant community and a healthy lifestyle, enjoying activities such as Senior Softball, Men Senior Baseball League (MSBL), rollerblading, and nurturing his golf game.

Off-duty, Raul finds solace in his home on Sanctuary Road with his wife of 16 years, Billie Turrieta. He is a proud father and an ardent supporter of his daughter, Serina

Rain Turrieta, as she pursues her education at New Mexico State University (NMSU) focusing on Music Education, Music Arts, and

The Silver City Museum Board of Trustees eagerly anticipates the vision, leadership, and wealth of experience Raul Turrieta brings to his new role as President, furthering the museum's commitment to the rich cultural heritage and history of Southwestern New Mexico, Grant County and Silver City.





Editor: Sarah Zamora 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:

Raul Turrieta, President Patsy Madrid, Vice President Rick Johnson, Secretary Susan Hinojosa, Treasurer Doug Dinwiddie Romeo Cruz Stephen Fox Gayle Simmons Frances Vasquez Bart Roselli, ex officio

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) 597-0221 • www.silvercitymuseum.org

Museum Awarded \$100,000 Grant to Bring Silver City History to Life

By Lisa Jimenez

The museum's core exhibit, Silver City 101, will literally come to life, thanks to a \$100,000



grant award from the newly established Creative Industries Division of the New Mexico Economic Development Department (NM EDD). The Silver City Museum is one of just 18 entities in the state to receive this

Lisa Jimenez

inaugural grant award, and Museum Director Bart Roselli said the funds will be used to





Neil Fuller, a volunteer at New Mexico Farm & Ranch Museum, performing a reinactment of his grandfather who was a rancher on the Gila during Gila River Festival 2022.

partner with local theater groups to create ongoing living history presentations, based on this exhibit, which showcases Silver City's rich and diverse past.

"We are very proud and delighted to be among the very first projects to be awarded this prestigious grant," said Roselli. "I applaud the Governor and state legislature for creating new energy and support for the creative aspects of our state. We will use these funds to greatly improve our work as an interactive, community-focused museum and tourist attraction. This grant will help us celebrate the diverse history of Silver City and Grant County, and in the course of that, elevate Silver City as a tourist destination, thereby supporting the local economy."

The \$1.8 million grant program is a result of House Bill 8, which passed during the 2023 legislative session, and is designed to stimulate economic development through creative industries. The Silver City Museum is a key tourist destination, and the funds will allow museum staff to redesign the museum's Silver City 101 exhibit, adding new multimedia elements to deepen content, make the exhibit more interactive, and increase visitor satisfaction.

Developing an ongoing living history program means that the museum will be closely collaborating with local theater groups, to create reenactments of local, historical events with local actors. The grant also provides funding for promotion of the newly expanded exhibit, as well as four workshops designed to build local capacity among Silver City's creative community. Workshop topics include arts promotion, set and exhibit design, interactive media, and incorporating history into local theater.

According to a press release from the NM EDD: "The Creative Industries Grants support projects that demonstrate the potential to make a significant impact on New Mexico's creative industries economy. Following a competitive process, the initiatives were chosen for their creativity and clear commitment to advancing creative industry-based economic development by supporting businesses in creative industries throughout New Mexico," NM EDD Deputy Secretary Jon Clark said. "These awards will provide crucial support for a wide range of initiatives, from cultural preservation and arts education to community engagement and economic development."



Nuestra Voz: The More Voices, the Better

"This exhibit is beautifully put-together

found the personal stories, for example,

and full of fascinating information. I

the Manquero sisters, particularly

interesting. The mixture of artifacts,

photos, and audio provides wonderful

this slice of history to the public. It's a

fantastic exhibit."

variety. Thank you so much for bringing

- JJ Amaworo Wilson (writer-in-

residence, WNMU)

Tom Oberg, Exhibit Projects Manager

The Museum's latest exhibit, *Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story*, is now installed, and the responses from guests have been great.

Notes from visitors praise our team's efforts, and we've also received a few questions, along with some requests, to clarify text and improve identifying landmarks. My thanks to everyone for your praise and suggestions. We want to be your museum, and your responses help us chart the course for future exhibits. Part of my task this month is to tweak the exhibit, and

address these questions and suggestions.

At the heart of the exhibit is a sampling of first-hand accounts of living in the tight-knit community of Chihuahua Hill. We accomplish this with a series of video interviews and quotes in the form of text panels. The personal stories

are couched in a more traditional museum presentation of history in chronological order. The timeline is punctuated with vignettes of day-to-day life. The first is a representation of an altar with a grouping of santos reflecting the

importance of religion in daily life. The second vignette is a kitchen, often the hub of activity in many households in the neighborhood. The stories are from real people without the mediation of an "official" telling of their history. The result has been an emotional response to the exhibit, and common remarks include: "This is where I grew up,"

"I knew her/him well," and "I grew up in a neighborhood like this."

We want to make this exhibition a conversation. While our primary goal is to tell the story of a people that, until now, have been overlooked by conventional histories, we have also added ways to connect with the viewer and listen to their stories. We have a telephone that visitors can pick up to leave an audio message, or they

"So I was inside the new exhibit
'Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill
Story.' A woman is touring the walkway
above me, sees a photo and starts
crying – it's her mom's photo in the
exhibit. How sweet a moment, which
encapsulates the Día de los Muertos
celebration happening at the museum
at the same time, plus the power of
history. #diadelosmuertos #museum
#oralhistory"

 Kendra Milligan @Kendraclone via social media

can leave a written one. Video monitors and QR codes round-out the exhibit by providing more stories and information than would be possible to convey in text panels alone. I hope you join the conversation; the more voices, the better.

Silver City's 2023 Día de los Muertos



The revived festival had a great crowd celebrating loved ones who have passed. Mark your calendar for next year's festival, parade, and blessing of the ofrendas, November 1st and 2nd.

Burlesque Baseball: A Grant County Pastime

By Javier Marrufo, Curator

"The baseball epidemic shows no abatement," announced editors of the September 9, 1887, edition of the Silver City Enterprise. "Another diamond has been made at the depot and two games were in progress last Sunday." Grant County adopted baseball as one of its main



Javier Marrufo

pastimes early in its history. The first local baseball club was formed on June 25, 1873, just a few years after the official foundation of the town, and the first ball fields were located on Hudson Street.

A letter from "Lone Mountain" just a few weeks later states: "Dear Mining Life: Your last issue

contained the intelligence of the formation or organization of an enthusiastic Base Ball Club. Enthusiasm being contagious, we caught it over here. The boys could not rest, nor be satisfied, until they likewise had organized and selected a nine."

Throughout the next decade, small communities throughout Grant County organized their own

baseball clubs, playing among themselves and other regional teams, including El Paso. According to local newspaper accounts, there were plenty of quality players from Grant County. An 1892 article from The Southwest Sentinel concluded, "There are enough good players in this county to make up a nine, which could not be beaten in the Territory ... Perhaps neither Silver City nor Deming could organize a nine which could beat the Albuquerque or Las Vegas nine, but by picking out the best players from both places and taking one from Pinos Altos and one from Central City, a nine could be organized which would defeat any other in New Mexico."

In 1887, the citizens of Silver City devised a new and exciting way to indulge in their favorite pastime. Dubbed "burlesque baseball," a new version of the game was conceived and played with teams formed from the "thin and portly" citizens. The local newspaper describes the uniform of the "thin fellows" as a white suit adorned with a skull and crossbones, with each carrying a dudish cane. The uniforms of the "fat fellows" displayed a decorative beer mug, with each player carrying baseball bats instead of canes.

Rules of the burlesque baseball game were often changed for the sole purpose of making the matches more amusing. Some of the greatest highlights were the costumes worn by both players and officials, or the mugs of beer passed out to players who rounded third base.

"The ice wagon was on hand, rigged up as an ambulance and stationed at third base with a plentiful supply of beer, which the jolly tenton who handled the lines dealt to players who reached that goal. He was uniformed as a Dutch peasant, with wooden shoes and wore a government cap."

A photograph was taken of both teams from the game detailed in that 1887 newspaper. Luckily, these photographs still exist in the Silver City Museum's photo collection. Burlesque baseball was a massive spectacle at the time, and the games continue to entertain historians and researchers. Burlesque baseball presents an oddly relatable view of the past, proving that those who came before us are the same in many ways.

In 2020, burlesque baseball was revived for a special Territorial Charter Day event. Advertisements for the game announced a goofy, goodwill game with different rules. "Costumed players win drink tickets rounding bases in reverse order, skipping instead of running, and performing a required victory dance when they catch a pop fly." Once again, the game was a massive hit, highlighting a fun and easy way to honor Silver City's unique heritage and traditions.



The "Slims and Fats" photographed in downtown Silver City, with their fanciful uniforms in full display. Silver City Museum photo #05902, circa 1880s.

Our Deepest Appreciation to Our Dedicated Members and Sponsors

Fundraising continues from 2023 to 2024

As we approach the end of 2023, the Silver City Museum Society has several exciting updates to share. We'd like to start by expressing our gratitude to our generous sponsors who have played a pivotal role in our success throughout the year. Our heartfelt thanks go to Suzie and Janey, Mimbres Realty, Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, Gila/Mimbres Community Radio (KURU 89.1 FM), KRWG Public Media, Skywest Media, Western Bank, Food Basket, First Financial Credit

Union, Vladimir Gnilozubov Edward Jones, First American Bank, The Silver City Daily Press, Desert Exposure, First New Mexico Bank, WILL (Western Institute for Lifelong Learning), and LULAC (League of Latin American Citizens). Your support has been instrumental in helping us fulfill our mission.

We are the Silver City Co-op's roundup recipients for December

In the spirit of giving, we are thrilled to announce that the Silver City Food Co-op has selected the Museum Society as the December Round-Up recipient. Throughout the month of December, customers at the Co-op have the opportunity to round up their purchases, with the change going towards supporting our initiatives. This is a wonderful way for our community to contribute, making a positive impact during the holiday season.

Annual Appeal 2023

This year, Giving Tuesday falls on November 28th. It's the perfect occasion to consider contributing to our annual appeal. Your generosity on this day will make a meaningful difference in helping us continue our work. Looking back a year ago, the 2022 annual appeal letter exceeded our expectations, surpassing our goal by nearly \$5,000. We are deeply grateful for your support, and we are excited to share that this year's annual appeal letter will soon be arriving in your mailboxes. We hope to replicate the overwhelming support and love from last year. Donations can be made via mail: Silver City Museum 312 W. Broadway, Silver City, NM 88061, or online at SilverCityMuseumSociety.org.

B-I-N-G-O

Our quarterly BINGO event held in October was a resounding success. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Society's Fundraising Committee members for their hard work in organizing this enjoyable event, which also serves as a fundraising opportunity.

Next B-I-N-G-O will be on January 15, 2024.

Día de los Muertos

Our Day of the Dead celebration was a memorable event. We would like to express our gratitude to sponsors Janie and Suzy, Diana Ingalls-Lebya, LULAC, and the Town of Silver City for their creativity and support to make this event a terrific success.

Victorian Christmas and More

Mark your calendars! December 16 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, is our annual Victorian Christmas and More holiday event. We are working hard to bring you festivities, food, fun... and more.

Mimbres Press Bookstore of Choice

Additionally, we are pleased to announce that we are now WNMU's Mimbres Press Local Bookstore of Choice, so come visit the museum's gift store for new books, just in time for holiday gift-giving.

Looking Back on Our Year

As we look back on the year, we extend our deepest appreciation to our dedicated members and sponsors. It is your unwavering support that enables us to bring our mission and vision to life, ensuring a bright future for the Silver City Museum Society. Thank you for being an integral part of our success, and we look forward to continued collaboration in the years to come. In addition to you considering us for your year end giving in our annual appeal we would appreciate you making sure all your friends, family and neighbors are Silver City Museum members. If they are not, consider that as a gift to them and our community.



Silver City Museum: Your Holiday Shopping Spot

The holidays are right around the corner and it's time to start thinking about filling stockings. This year be sure to shop the Silver City Museum Store for those on your gift list.

Museum Store Manager, Melody Collins, has put together one of Silver City's best selections of Southwest jewelry, Silver City memorabilia, Día de los Muertos merchandise, books covering New Mexico and Silver City history and educational toys for younger Museum enthusiasts.

"This fall we've assembled a Mercado collection of festive gifts that reflect the rich history of Silver City's Chihuahua Hill neighborhood," Collins said. The collection ties directly into the Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story exhibit currently running at the Museum.

The Silver City Museum Store also offers gift cards in any amount starting at \$10. Gift cards are perfect for letting gift recipients do their own shopping.

"Our Silver City Museum Society members receive a 10% discount in the Museum Store year-round," Collins mentioned. A special 20% discount for member shopping spree begins November 15th and runs through the end of 2023.

Silver City Schools Team Up With Museum

A partnership with Silver Schools was forged this school year, thanks to having a well developed comprehensive curriculum of grade-level, content-specific activities for kindergarten through fifth-graders who make field trip visits to the museum.

"Involving our students in local history is the purpose of museum-based education here at the Silver City Museum, which gives students a deeper understanding of the richness of local culture, and inspires them to learn more about this place they call home." - Connie Downard, long time museum volunteer

In September, Museum Youth and Family Programs Manager Wendy Spurgeon met with Cindy Barris, Associate Superintendent of Instruction, along with fourth-grade teachers from Silver Consolidated Schools to review the activities and schedule field trips.

Activities for fourth graders require instruction from the Museum Educator with the support of four trained volunteers. Hats off to our pool of eight stellar assistants, a combination of museum volunteers Alexis Collins, Connie Downard, Gail Avignone, Aletha (Ally) Jordan, and WNMU Social Psychology interns: Belinda Carillo Gomez, Dade Girven, Justine Spears and Catherine San Miguel.

WILL is Also the Home of Various Enthusiast Groups

WILL, the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning, is an intentional community of learners that's well known in the community for the quality of classes offered, and the wide-ranging topics presented. Music, outdoor activities, art, and literature are all covered,



with course offerings limited only by the imagination of WILL members. Less well known is that WILL is also the home of various enthusiast groups.

WILL member artists, writers, fishermen, and book aficionados all meet at the WILL home office to pursue their interests and share knowledge.

The most recent enthusiast group, departing from the activity model, will be working to establish a "Village," a virtual community and system in which elder organize to provide services to their fellow seniors, with the goal of allowing them to stay in their homes as long as possible.

Interest in this topic was piqued among WILL members by some very popular recent course offerings that dealt with this subject-Aging in Place and Have You Made Your Final Move? The Art of Living in the Right Place, prompting UU minister Reverend Claudia Elferdink to facilitate the enthusiast group.

For more information on WILL please visit their web site at:

http://www.will.community.org

"I liked practicing the presentation for fourth grade. I thought the activity was engaging, and provided opportunities to discuss different perspectives."

- Alexis Collins, volunteer educator.

It is our hope that museum visits become something that school children look forward to each year, and that what they experience benefits them in a variety of ways. Two new self-guided activities are currently being developed for the student population.

WNMU Interns have also been working with Wendy to develop two new self-guided youth and family activities that will encourage deeper engagement with the Chihuahua Hill Exhibit,

a new "treasure hunt" game designed for children ages four through nine, and an "escape room" activity for ages 10 years and older.

"Working on the treasure hunt has been really fun and engaging. Trying to change my perspective to that of a child has really helped the experience. I'm excited to see how it turns out and what the kids will think." - Dade Girven, WNMU intern.

Special kudos to our puppet team, Gail and

Ally, for their recent performance of "La Llorona" at the Día de los Muertos Festival. Thanks to all of our volunteers for their dedication and talent.

Volunteer View



Photo: Volunteers Patricia Sterling, Jan White, Ally Jordan, Sandra McEuen, Jennifer Six, and Stephen Fox listen as Exhibit Manager Tom Oberg debuts the Nuestra Voz exhibit.

Volunteers are Essential to the Museum

Silver City Museum's new exhibit, Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story, has come together beautifully with the help of our hardworking volunteers. We hosted a volunteer appreciation event on September 27, during which we debuted Nuestra Voz to our fantastic volunteers first, to honor their wonderful work! We were proud to also debut a new greeter's desk and custom name tags. Catered by Little Toad Creek, volunteers enjoyed delicious Mexican-inspired hors d'ouevres, while Director Bart Roselli and Exhibits Manager Tom Oberg shared more about the exhibit and what it means to our community. Volunteers learned how to best guide visitors through the new exhibit, and how visitors can share their own voices, adding richness and depth to this very special project.

As we approach the holiday season, our need for volunteers continues to grow. Large events like Victorian Christmas & More and Territorial Charter Day require a lot of extra help, as does the museum store and greeter's desk. Volunteers make it possible for us to be open to the public six days a week, and provide engaging events for our community. Volunteering is also a terrific way to connect with new people and learn more about local history. A win-win! The museum's success depends on the generosity of our volunteers.

To volunteer, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Dani Wales at (575) 597-0227, or volunteercoordinator@silvercitymuseum.org.



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.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED



\$50 gift certificate at the Museum Store Basic, Supporter, Stakeholder, and Patron benefits plus a

Benefactor on our website and a private, behind-the-scenes tour with the Museum Director

Basic, Supporter, and Stakeholder benefits plus acknowledgement Patron 8520

Basic and Supporter benefits plus acknowledgement on our website

051\$ Stakeholder

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

лəзлоddnS 001\$ For Businesses and Individuals:

Membership for up to two adults, plus children under 18

05\$ Family and Couples Friend – Membership for one person \$35

Senior – Membership for one person 60 + years 930

Student - Membership for one person currently enrolled in school \$18

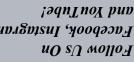
For Individuals:

Membership Options:



isduTuox ban Facebook, Instagram, Hollow Us On





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museum, visit our website: For more information about supporting the

• 20% off at the holiday sale in the Museum Store

• 10% Museum Store discount

exhibit openings

Invitations to special events such as members only

keep you up-to-date on museum activities

• A subscription to The Mansardian and emails to

All Membership Levels Include:

- 8:00 pm

Murray Hotel Ballroom

200 W. Broadway St

recome a Member!

005\$





February

Showcase Territorial Charter Saturday, February 2:00 pm- 4:00 pm 311 North Bullard Silco Theater

Territorial Charter Saturday February

Murray Hotel Ballro 200 W. Broadway St 7:00 pm-10:00 pm







Museum

Christmas Holiday.

ecember



Wednesday November 15th-Museum members have the opportunity for a 20% off Sunday December 31st. Appreciation Discount **Museum Membership** shopping spree in the Museum Store

Concessions & Bingo supplies

for sale

Silver City Museum benefits from Silver City Co-op Round Up

Always say "yes" to Silver City December 1st-December 31st Co-op Round Up. December is Museum Month!

Silver City Museum Society Saturday December 16th 300 West Broadway St 10:00 am-11:00 am Annual Meeting Museum Annex

Silver City Museum Courtyard Victorian Christmas & More Saturday December 16th 11:00 am-3:00 pm