



# The Mansardian™

The Quarterly Publication of the Silver City Museum



## BECOME A NURSE

**YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU**

This WWII-era recruitment poster, urging women to join the nursing profession, reflects a time when the demand for medical professionals surged. It serves as a reminder of the vital role nurses have played in history and continue to play today (Photo is Courtesy of the Ft. Bayard Historic Preservation Society).

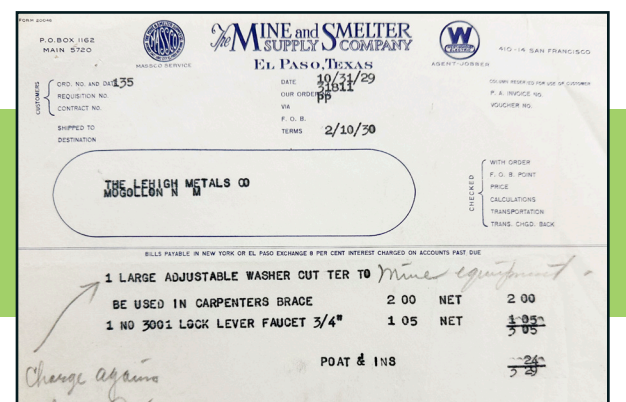
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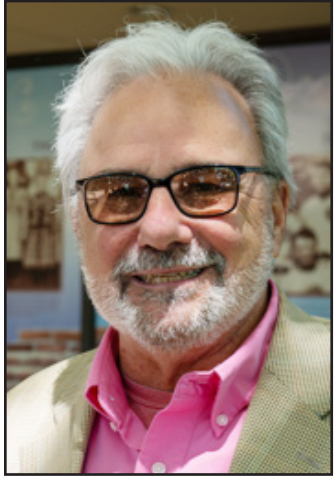
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# Director's Desk

As spring approaches, we bid farewell to the cold weather. New life will soon sprout, and the old wood will decompose into rich compost, fueling the flowers that will bloom later this spring. This natural cycle of renewal mirrors the exciting transformations taking place within our museum's walls.



Bart Roselli

The museum staff has been working diligently on multiple fronts to bring new, colorful programs to you. From fresh exhibits and store products to educational programs for students and community conversations for adults, diverse and impactful works are sprouting up at the museum. We're also organizing a major

new collection, and our staff has received an invitation to a major national convention. These developments reflect our ongoing commitment to serving as a dynamic cultural resource for Silver City and Grant County.

I couldn't be prouder or more inspired by our hardworking and creative staff. Here are some highlights of their accomplishments: Tom Oberg is leading the relocation of our acclaimed "Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story" exhibit to a permanent home on the second floor. Deb James has created and is delivering some awe-inspiring programs with Silver Consolidated Schools and Cobre students, teaching them the skills and joys of collecting oral histories from their community. These young historians are helping us build a more comprehensive understanding of our shared past.

Bea Beers, Jody Rose, and I are launching a spring lecture series in partnership with WILL, complementing our new exhibit "Healers and Heroines." This collaboration demonstrates our

dedication to fostering meaningful discussions about both our historical foundations and contemporary challenges in health care. Mary Stone organized a delightful volunteer recognition event at the Murray Hotel and continues to expand our volunteer program, ensuring that community engagement remains at the heart of our mission.

Ashley Smith is leading a cataloguing project and creating finding aids for the very important Lime Family Collection, which documents early Chinese settlers in Grant County. This work will make these invaluable historical resources more accessible to researchers and community members. Additionally, Javier Marrufo and I have been invited to speak at the prestigious American Alliance of Museums' annual conference this May, where we will share our success in using a community-based approach to local history. This recognition speaks to the innovative work being done by our entire team and puts Grant County's regional heritage in the national spotlight.

I believe this museum, with its dedicated staff, is the best little museum in the state. I look forward to seeing you at one of the many events and programs we're offering our community, as we continue to grow and evolve together.

## Transforming Museum Practice: A Collaborative Approach to Community Engagement

By: **Brittany Beers, Community Engagement Manager**

The Silver City Museum continues its evolution as a cornerstone of regional heritage preservation, embarking in 2025 on a strategic mission to deepen its understanding of community needs and aspirations. Building on our successful community engagement efforts, we have forged a collaboration with Dr. Sabrina Pack, Chief Operating Officer of SkyWest Media and adjunct professor of business and marketing at Western New Mexico University (WNMU), to launch a comprehensive community assessment that aims to enhance our institutional approach to public service.

This data-driven project emerges from our ongoing dialogue about museum innovation and is sparked by insights from the American Alliance of Museums regarding the critical intersection of visitor values and institutional mission. By engaging WNMU marketing students in this research endeavor, we're creating a dual opportunity: gathering essential community feedback while fostering meaningful connections between applied learning and civic development.

The momentum generated by our 2024 "Museum on the Move" initiative—which successfully integrated museum programming into local community gatherings—serves as a foundation for this expanded exploration of community needs. Through the collection of resident perspectives, we aim to create a nuanced framework for future programming that resonates deeply with local values and objectives.

Our work with Dr. Pack and her students embodies the museum's commitment to collaborations that strengthen our institutional capacity while providing authentic learning

opportunities to our community. This relationship between academic inquiry and community engagement aspires to yield insights that will inform our approach to exhibition design, educational programming, and community outreach.

We recognize that the future of the Silver City Museum must be shaped by the diverse voices and experiences of those we serve, and it is through these efforts we're not merely gathering data—we're building bridges between past and present, institution and community, preservation and progress.

## Discover Unique Treasures at the Silver City Museum Store

By: **Melody Collins, Museum Store Manager**

Have you heard about the hidden gem in town? Look no further than our Museum Store, where you can find a diverse selection of gifts for your loved ones. Visitors often find themselves drawn to our store, completing their museum experience with a visit to our treasure trove of unique items.

Whether you're looking for a graduation gift, something special for Mom or Dad, or even a toy for a little one, our store has something for everyone. Explore one of the largest Southwest regional book collections available for purchase, along with a variety of purses, specialty leather goods, greeting cards, Mata Ortiz pottery, and Christmas ornaments.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to discover the perfect gift at our Museum Store. Visit us today and uncover a world of possibilities for your next special occasion!

## The Mansardian

Editor: Brittany Beers  
Layout: Tom Oberg

The Mansardian™ is a quarterly publication of the Silver City Museum. It is named after the *mansard* roof, a hallmark of French Second Empire architecture, characterized by its four-sided gambrel design with steep lower slopes. Constructed in 1881 by H.B. Ailman, the Silver City Museum features this distinctive architectural design.

**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 • silvercitymuseum.org



## Then and Now: Two Generations of Female Physicians Reflect



Dr. Twana Sparks



Dr. Anna Rogers

When asked to reflect on their medical careers, Dr. Twana Sparks and Dr. Anna Rogers share stories that reveal both the persistent challenges and meaningful advances that have shaped women's experiences in health care.

Dr. Sparks, who carved her path through medicine in the 1980s and early '90s, illuminates the institutional resistance women physicians once faced. In contrast, Dr. Rogers represents a newer generation of medical professionals who, while benefiting from their predecessors' perseverance, continue to navigate evolving challenges in the field. Their responses offer unique perspectives that span decades of change in Grant County's medical community.

**How has the perception of women in health care evolved over the years? Did women face any obstacles or stereotypes? If so, what were they?**

Dr. Sparks: The perception of women in health care has evolved over the years. I've watched it go from "they don't belong at all" to "I guess we have to allow them, but we should make sure they're never in charge." Initially, women were fairly well accepted in psychiatry, obstetrics and gynecology, and pediatrics.

Cardiology and surgery remained male-dominated fields until the early 2000s, and there is still hostility against women, especially in subspecialties. When I applied for ear, nose, and throat residency, the ratio of men to women in that field was 600 to 1.

As a medical student on surgical rounds, often the only female member of the team, I could expect the attending to lob the guys softball questions like, "What artery supplies the gallbladder?" Whereas I would get an obscure and irrelevant, "During what three steps of the Krebs cycle are NADH molecules produced?" If I struggled or didn't know, he would roll his eyes and say to the men, "Women in medicine! Great idea, too bad. It didn't work."

When I returned to my hometown of Silver City as a medical student, I was astounded to find the names on the Hillcrest General surgical dressing rooms read "doctors" on one door and "nurses" on another. That was 1982.

That changed to "men" and "women" when Gila Regional Medical Center was built. I had done surgery there from 1994 to 2014 when I

finally got tired of being hit in the face with elbows of people trying to dress and feeling like a sardine every time I went in on my surgery days.

The men's dressing room was spacious and had several dozen lockers, and there were never more than five men there on any given morning. The women's dressing room was tiny, with an inadequate number of lockers, so we double- and triple-occupied them. Around 35 women were using that space every morning.

At a medical staff surgical meeting, I made a simple request that the men and women trade dressing rooms. I expected the gentlemen to say, "Of course." I wasn't ready for the outrage. The anesthesiologist accused me of lying about the numbers. Two male providers vowed to never "allow" the switch. Two others agreed, provided they were guaranteed to have two lockers each.

Ultimately, after a six-week study of usage of the space by the administration, the men begrudgingly gave up their territory.

Dr. Rogers: My grandmother was given three options for a career: teacher, nurse, or secretary. She chose to be a nurse, and at the time, nursing was the role women had in health care. Women were nurses, men were doctors. The perception of women in health care has evolved since that time but not without lingering inequities for women. When I look at my mentors who were often one of a few women in their medical school classes, and sometimes the only women in their residency cohorts, I'm inspired by their perseverance and how they worked to shape and change the perception of women in medicine. They were told they were not smart enough to be doctors or would not have enough time to raise children and pursue their careers. They proved the naysayers wrong and paved the way for my generation of young women inspired to become doctors.

**Can you describe the journey that led you to become a doctor? Were you supported? What unique challenges did you face and how did that affect your experience?**

Dr. Sparks: I was born with a good mind and could read by the time I started school, so I skipped the first grade. By age 12, several teachers had told me I should think about being a doctor. It sounded like a great way to do good and to do well. The main discouragement I got from my family was hearing that I would find advanced education unaffordable. My father also had a fear that I would not be able to handle the ugliness of humanity that I would see in medical practice. They clearly presumed that I would marry and raise a family, and my husband would have a career.

I never expected them to pay for college or medical school, so I worked part-time jobs, took out loans, and earned scholarships. I never would have been able to pay rent in medical

school if the local blood donation center hadn't paid me \$25 a week for my plasma.

Dr. Rogers: I first considered a career in medicine when I was 17, when I watched a documentary about a primary care physician from my hometown who had retired and moved to Bolivia to open a clinic serving a rural community. At the time, I was trying to figure out what I wanted to do, and I knew I wanted to do something where I could be of service and make a difference in my community. There were no doctors in my family, but my grandmother was a nurse, and she encouraged me to consider going into medicine. I took pre-med classes in college and applied to medical school twice. The barriers I faced were mostly financial. The cost of taking the MCAT (and the prep course), applying for medical school, and traveling for interviews was prohibitive. I worked two jobs and lived in Boston on a friend's couch for a year after college while I applied. I was always supported by my family in my career choice.

**How has the understanding and treatment of women's health issues changed over time? What areas, if any, still require significant progress?**

Dr. Sparks: Many women's health issues have been ignored for the last hundred years. Most research was done on men, which often doesn't apply to women. Chronic fatigue and fibromyalgia have been written off for years as psychiatric, although they are real disabling illnesses, and ultimately will likely be proven to be viral or autoimmune.

Women's rights to reproductive care and decision-making is a distant second place concern compared to men's erectile dysfunction and freedom surrounding reproductive issues.

Dr. Rogers: We have come a long way in understanding the large gaps in evidence-based medicine when it comes to applying data to women's health outcomes, as women were systematically excluded from medical trials for decades. These gaps in data are slowly being addressed, the first obvious example in the cardiology literature where we know women present differently from men when it comes to symptoms of a heart attack. The Women's Health Initiative, which was stopped in the early 2000s, put a halt to advances in treatment of menopause, and 20 years later, we are finally talking about hormonal and nonhormonal treatments for symptoms of menopause and making treatments affordable for women. We have a long way to go in the struggle for women's access to safe reproductive health care.

**Grant County women historically advocated for community health initiatives. Can you share any notable examples of this from your experience or the region's history?**

Dr. Sparks: I know women in Grant County initially did in-home care and were responsible for establishing a hospital. Carrying on the tradition, our terrific (retired) certified nurse

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# lect on Challenges and Progress

midwife, Gail Stamler, is bringing good judgment to the hospital board and making huge strides toward health care for all in New Mexico.

Dr. Rogers: This is a remarkable community with a long history of women being involved in the infrastructure, the delivery, and the politics of health care. From spiritual healers to advocates for health care, women have been involved in the voice of health care in Grant County since the 1800s. My aunt Gail Stamler served this community as a midwife, first doing home deliveries then working as a Certified Nurse Midwife, for over 40 years. In her retirement, she continues as a fierce advocate for health care in Grant County in her role on the hospital board and at the state level advocating for health care for all in New Mexico through the Health Security for New Mexicans Campaign. My colleague Dr. Michelle Diaz is from this community and returned here as an OB-GYN 15 years ago; she works tirelessly to serve the women of southern New Mexico and advocates for women's health here in Grant County and at the state level.

**How do you think the stories of early women practitioners should be remembered or celebrated? What lessons do they offer for current and future health care professionals?**

Dr. Sparks: For the museum to have a large display to early women medical practitioners is a wonderful way to tell their stories. Using current and retired providers to speak at high school clubs and classes, and at WNMU programs such as Expanding Your Horizons encourages girls to go into science-related professions.

Dr. Rogers: It is meaningful to have the stories of early women practitioners highlighted in the current exhibit at the museum. They serve to remind us that strong voices can make positive change. They are an inspiration to current providers serving this community, and that inspiration will ripple to future generations of young women dreaming of making a difference in health care in Grant County.

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*Dr. Twana Sparks, who grew up in southwest*

*New Mexico, is a retired otolaryngologist who earned her medical degree from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine in 1986, where she also completed her surgical and otolaryngology residencies. She is a local historian, writer, humorist, and musician. Her medical school journal, "Diary of A Hippocrate," was used in a women's studies course at UCLA. She is also the author of "Ping Pong Balls & Donkey's Milk: A History of Tuberculosis in Fort Bayard, New Mexico."*

*Dr. Anna Rogers is a native New Mexican, born in Gallup and raised in Southern California. Her education includes a BA from Vassar College and an MD from the University of Southern California. She completed two years of residency in OB-GYN at UC Davis before switching to family medicine, where she completed three years of residency at Ventura County Medical Center in 2017. She worked in Ventura County for two years before moving back to Gallup to work as a full-time hospitalist at the Indian Health Services (IHS) hospital serving the Navajo and Zuni people. In 2023, she moved to Silver City to take a job in primary care with Cassie Health Center.*

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## Programs and Events

**"Agents of Change: Women Driving Health Care Policy, Education, and Practice"**  
**Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup> 12:00pm – 1:30pm**  
WNMU Besse-Forward Global Resource Center Auditorium

The Silver City Museum kicks off its Community Conversation series with a powerful panel discussion featuring three women at the forefront of health care, education, policy, and advocacy in our region. Gail Stamler, Gayle Simmons, and Dr. Kimberly Petrovic bring decades of experience as healers, educators, and change-makers, tackling the urgent issues facing rural health care today. This conversation will explore the ever-changing roles of women in health care, the impact of policy, and the fight for a more just and accessible system.

**"Identity and Healing: Who Am I, What Do I Value, and How Do I Take Care of My Emotional Health and Well-being?"**  
**Wednesday April 2<sup>nd</sup> 12:00pm – 1:00pm**  
WNMU Besse-Forward Global Resource Center, ABC Room

Dr. Marie Weil, a bilingual clinical psychologist, will facilitate an interactive workshop exploring cultural intersections in emotional health and well-being. With more than 29 years of professional experience, Dr. Weil maintains a rural psychological practice in Silver City while serving veterans' families through the Veterans Health Administration. Board certified in clinical health psychology and geropsychology, Dr. Weil's diverse experience spans multiple health care settings, making her uniquely qualified to lead this important community discussion.

**"A Mother's Wish: The History & Development of Neonatal Care in Grant County"**  
**Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm – 2:30pm**  
Silver City Museum Courtyard

Join us for an insightful panel discussion on pediatric medicine in Grant County. Dr. Barbara J. Mora and a diverse group of health care practitioners—including midwives, nurses, and physicians from major local providers—will share their perspectives spanning half a century of neonatal care.

**Nuestra Voz: The Re-Opening**  
**Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm – 4:00pm**  
Silver City Museum

Our cherished and critically acclaimed "Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story" exhibition begins an exciting new chapter as it moves to its permanent home in our upstairs gallery. Museum Director Bart Roselli and Curator Javier Marrufo will host a celebration to inaugurate this dedicated space, which will continue to gather and showcase the diverse voices and rich heritage that make Chihuahua Hill's story an essential part of our community's history.

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## Volunteer View

**By: Mary Stone, Volunteer Manager**

Hello everyone! With spring just around the corner, I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you who helped in 2024. Whether at the front desk, in the gift shop, supporting events, working on collections, or assisting with exhibits, your work strengthened our mission. You helped create a warm, welcoming space for everyone who visits, and I'm so grateful for each of you.

Looking ahead, we're excited for what spring brings! We kicked off 2025 with our first volunteer appreciation event in February, and in April, we celebrated Global Volunteer Month. These celebrations give us a chance to honor the countless ways our volunteers enrich the museum. Spring is great time to get involved, connect with others, and bring your unique talents to life. Whether you're new to Grant County or a longtime resident, we'd love to have you join our volunteer team. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering at the museum, please reach out to me, Mary, at 575-597-0226 or [volunteer@silvercitymuseum.org](mailto:volunteer@silvercitymuseum.org).

Thank you again for your support in 2024 and beyond. I can't wait to see what we'll accomplish together!

## Personal Stories in Healers and Heroines: The Necessity of Perspectives

By Javier Marrufo, Curator

The Silver City Museum's newest exhibit, "Healers and Heroines: Women and the Shaping of Local Health Care," launches a yearlong exploration of women's perspectives in Grant County's health care history. Women's perspectives are often omitted from medical history. In these spaces, women's medical needs, such as maternal health, reproductive care,



Javier Marrufo

and mental health, were frequently sidelined or treated as secondary to more "urgent medical issues." This is especially true in rural communities like southwestern New Mexico, where health care was historically limited, and women's health concerns were often overlooked through a lack of resources, technology, or ability. The absence of women's voices in rural New Mexico's medical histories reflects a broader pattern of gender and geographical issues. Reclaiming narratives through community-based research, such as oral history, is essential for building a better representation of our past.

Oral histories, the sharing of personal perspectives, are vital to museums because of the depth, emotion, and authenticity they bring to historical narratives. Objects, photos, or events on a timeline often feel distant without the voices of the people behind them. These firsthand accounts capture lived experiences, offering insights into the daily lives, struggles, and triumphs of everyday people, coloring history in a way that no timeline could. This helps museum visitors connect to history on a personal level, seeing it as a series of human stories that connect past to present rather than just a collection of abstract facts and dates. With this, the museum serves as a community focal point that promotes a more comprehensive view of history and fosters empathy and understanding both historically and in the present.

Incorporating personal narratives into museum exhibits helps diversify the narratives that are presented. Traditional histories tend to center on dominant groups, or groups of perceived importance, while excluding other voices. Highlighting marginalized voices fills historical gaps and challenges the prevailing interpretations by offering a more inclusive view. The choice to explore Grant County's medical history through the lens of women's experiences fills one of these gaps. While research for "Healers and Heroines" uncovered women's prolific contributions to several local medical institutions, far less was discovered



Anita Torrez sits in her Tucson, AZ, living room during an oral history interview with Alfonso Herrera-Neal for "Salt of the Earth: The Revolutionary Life of Anita Torrez," published May 30, 2019 (Photo courtesy of Alfonso Herrera-Neal).

about their individual experiences, especially from the late 19th and first half of the 20th century.

One figure multiple museum patrons have brought to my attention after the exhibit's launch was Anita Torrez, a local activist known for her involvement in the Empire Zinc Mine Strike. According to the stories making their way to my office, Torrez was a significant figure not only in Grant County's civil rights history but also in reproductive rights and women's health.

Through archival research, we've traced Torrez's role in women's health issues in the 1950s and '60s. She was among many pioneering activists in the region working with Planned Parenthood, advocating for family planning and birth control access when these issues were highly controversial and not widely accepted, especially in rural communities.

When the first Planned Parenthood was founded in Grant County in 1969, Torrez served on its inaugural board. An article detailed the board's intention, "The goal of Planned Parenthood is to make every child a wanted child ... Future generations may not be able to survive in dignity and happiness if we do not give the opportunity now to all Americans to make a responsible, free choice as to how many children they will have and when they will have them." The organization outlined their services and noted their typical patient was "...in her twenties, already has four children, and desires to limit further childbearing in order to hold her family together and keep it self-supporting." The board maintained that patients could pay according to their means, and no one would be turned away for lack of money. The clinic also provided modern birth control methods

for women who would otherwise receive no medical attention and excelled in conducting social and clinical research for developing plans for young families.

Exploring the personal lives of those who participated in such organizations helps uncover the root causes of activism and past community circumstances. Torrez herself was born in 1927 in Gila, New Mexico, into a family of eight, where her father worked as an agricultural laborer. In her youth, she worked whatever jobs she could find, cleaning houses or picking crops. In the early '50s, she participated in the Empire Zinc Mine Strike while pregnant with her second child. Through these formative years, Torrez witnessed both her underserved communities' special needs and the limited emphasis placed on women. Her work with Grant County Planned Parenthood was undoubtedly rooted in understanding the unique challenges faced by women in rural areas. Torrez worked alongside other reproductive rights advocates to bring birth control, prenatal care, and other essential health services to women who desperately needed them.

More remains to be uncovered about Torrez and similar women who prioritized community needs while largely remaining historically underrepresented. There is no doubt countless such stories in our community that remain untold. The Silver City Museum is dedicated to recording these perspectives. If you or a family member have any connection to the medical field in Grant County and would like to share your story, please reach out. Hearing personal experiences fosters connection, allowing us all to gain a more nuanced understanding of history and the complexities of human experience.

# Education Update

## Students Uncover Family Values, Community Stories Through Oral History Project

**By: Deb James,**  
Education Programs Manager

Eighth-graders from Snell Middle School and Aldo Leopold Charter School participated in a transformative Oral History project last fall. Students first learned about taking oral histories, how to record five-minute interviews on their devices, and proper etiquette for requesting and conducting interviews. Each student then selected someone to interview and later presented their recordings to classmates, who took notes during the presentations.

While teachers reported that getting students to complete the assignment was “like pulling teeth,” enthusiasm blossomed once the presentations began. Two groups of students even requested to conduct an additional interview and give another presentation in the spring.

The interviews revealed fascinating insights into the local community. Family emerged as the most cherished value among interviewees, who included educators, miners, civil servants, veterinarians, homemakers, foster parents, and military veterans from the Philippines, Vietnam War, and Iraq wars. Most interviewees had spent the majority of their lives in Grant County and identified parenting as one of their greatest challenges—and their children’s

and grandchildren’s successes as their most significant accomplishments.

Numerous interviewees expressed deep connections to the local environment, with two valuing wilderness above all else and many finding joy in outdoor activities like hiking, hunting, and fishing. Several students commented on having learned more about what it was like to grow up in Grant County in the 1960s and ‘70s. As one student, Jayden H., reflected, “Something I got out of this interview was understanding [my] Papa’s feelings better and in more depth—and of our history things that have brought my family to where it is today.”

Students gained unexpected insights from the project, remarking on the courage and deep caring they heard in the interviews. Many were surprised to discover how deeply adults invested themselves in witnessing the struggles of their children and students. The presentations revealed that most interviewees measured their life’s success not by awards or wealth, but by their ability to raise good children and live fulfilling lives. These revelations helped students better understand both the interviewees and classmates, with some noting how their peers’ choice of interviewees offered new perspectives on their classmates’ lives.

The project sparked deeper reflection among students. Some contemplated their own future paths after hearing adults reflect on their lives, while others recognized that not all adults hold the same values as their parents and grandparents. One student notably discovered that an interviewee who she initially found to appear “mean” was actually kind and compassionate. Many students were particularly moved by advice about leading with one’s heart rather than one’s head, and several emphasized the importance of truly listening to others when they share their thoughts and feelings.

Looking ahead, the Silver City Museum will return to Cobre High School and Aldo Leopold U.S. History classes this spring for their final Ethnic, Culture, and Identity Studies lesson. Additionally, from late March through May, the museum will host homeschooled students and Silver Consolidated Schools fourth-graders. These students will rotate between two activities: exploring the “Healers and Heroines: Women and the Shaping of Local Health Care” exhibit and participating in anti-bullying themed shadow-puppet presentations in the Museum Annex. Through these ongoing educational initiatives, the museum continues to foster intergenerational understanding and community connection, helping youth discover the unique stories and experiences that shape our local history.

## Partners

### Theatre, Museum Partnership Enriches Silver City Culture

**By: Jim Charleston,**  
Executive Director of Silver City Theater



As Silver City Theatre (SCT) enters its eleventh year, we’re embracing an exciting transformation.

Founded in 2014 as Silver City Community Theatre by a dedicated group of actors from the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL), our organization has grown from a grassroots initiative into a vital part of Grant County’s cultural landscape.

Last year marked an important milestone as we rebranded to Silver City Theatre. This change reflects our expanded mission to establish Silver City as a major regional destination for theatrical arts while honoring our deep community roots. We’ve recently partnered with the Silver City Museum to create a living history program of performances based upon historical characters and events in the history of the region. Through our other collaborations with the Chiricahua Apache Foundation and the Starlight Theatre we get to tell the stories the world wants to hear.

It is in collaboration with the Starlight Theater that we are excited to announce our upcoming season of performances and classes at the Starlight Theatre, located at 1915 N. Gold Street. Visit [silvercitycommunitytheatre.com](http://silvercitycommunitytheatre.com) for a schedule of performances and classes and to purchase tickets.



At the January 24 dedication ceremony, YCC students join Diana Ingalls Leyba, WILL members, and WNMU Dean of Arts and Sciences Dr. Katie Oubre.

### New Mural on Rhoda House

**By: Trish Kirchhoff**

Over the fall, a collaboration between WNMU, the Youth Mural Project (YMP), and WILL resulted in a wonderful painted mural gracing the two exterior walls of Rhoda House on the WNMU campus. The mural was designed around the concept of life-long learning. Formulating the design took several sessions of discussion and planning under the tutelage of Diana Ingalls Leyba, the director of the YMP. During the project, Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) students learned about WILL’s role in Silver City as a lifelong educational center, and WILL members learned the fascinating process of creating a mural from seasoned student mural painters. Together we developed a design featuring a juniper tree bearing the seeds of knowledge meant to represent the arts and sciences within a hemisphere of earth highlighting the natural world around us.



Special thanks to our WILL members Trish Kirchhoff, Mary Ragins, Francine Popkin, and Susan Price for their help with the mural project.

## March

**“Agents of Change:  
Women Driving Health  
Care Policy, Education, and  
Practice”**

**Wednesday March 5**  
12:00pm – 1:30pm

WNMU Global Resource  
Center, Auditorium

A panel discussion featuring  
Gail Stampler, Gayle Simmons,  
and Dr. Kimberly Petrovic. This  
conversation will explore the  
ever-changing roles of women  
in health care, the impact of  
policy, and the fight for a more  
just and accessible system.

## April

**“Identity and Healing:  
Who Am I, What Do I Value,  
and How Do I Take Care of  
My Emotional Health and  
Well-being?”**

**Wednesday April 2**  
12:00pm – 1:00pm

WNMU Global Resource  
Center, ABC Room

Dr. Marie Weil, a bilingual  
clinical psychologist, will  
facilitate an interactive  
workshop exploring cultural  
intersections in emotional health  
and well-being

**SILVER CITY  
MUSEUM**

## May

**2025 AAM Annual Meeting and  
MuseumExpo**

**Tuesday May 6 – Friday May 9**

Los Angeles Convention Center

Museum Curator Javier Marrufo  
sits on a panel alongside Dr.  
Thomas Richardson to discuss  
how the Chihuahua Hill history  
project serves as a valuable case  
study for community-based  
research.

**“A Mother’s Wish:  
The History & Development of  
Neonatal Care in  
Grant County”**

**Saturday May 10**  
1:00pm – 2:30pm

Silver City Museum Courtyard

A panel discussion on pediatric  
medicine in Grant County. Local  
health care practitioners share  
their perspectives spanning half a  
century of neonatal care.

**Nuestra Voz:  
The Re-Opening**

**Saturday May 17**  
2:00pm – 4:00pm

Silver City Museum

Museum Director Bart Roselli  
and Curator Javier Marrufo will  
host a celebration to officially  
welcome “Nuestra Voz: The  
Chihuahua Hill Story” to its  
new and permanent space in  
the upstairs gallery. Join us for  
this special occasion featuring  
music, refreshments, and special  
programming that honors this  
vital collection.

# Honoring the Legacy of The Mansardian

Since its inaugural issue in 1976, The Mansardian has served as the Silver City Museum’s dedicated publication, sharing stories, research, and insights that illuminate the history and culture of our region. What began as an in-house museum newsletter, printed on ditto paper, has since evolved into a professionally printed publication, maintaining a long-standing relationship with AZ Litho.

As we approach 50 years of publication, we extend our gratitude to its founders and the many contributors, historians, and community members who have shaped its pages over the years. In the spirit of how The Mansardian began, museum staff will continue sharing updates, stories, and insights that connect our community to its rich history.

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# The Mansardian

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*The 2024/2025 Mansardian is underwritten by Liz Mikols in memory of her husband Joe Schindler.*

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