



# The Mansardian

The Quarterly Publication of the Silver City Museum Society



Four women, including three in nurse's uniforms, share a lighthearted moment with a cat in front of the historic Fort Bayard Military Hospital circa 1920. The image captures a glimpse of the camaraderie and dedication of the medical staff who served at this historical site. From the Silver City Museum Photo Archive.

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# Director's Desk

Creating a museum that is deeply engaged with its community and serving critical needs has always been my operating tenet.



Bart Roselli

I'm pleased to share how our staff and volunteers are doing just that.

We're launching new discussions with the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL), one of our major partners, about how our two organizations might connect

even further around our mutual series of public programs. WILL offers us access to Western New Mexico University facilities, and with the team at WILL, we're exploring new ways to meet the museum's mission to engage and serve the community.

With new educator Deb James, we're engaging area schoolteachers, students, and administrators in exciting ways to use the museum's unique historical resources and skilled staff to highlight and explore local history and culture. See our education article in this edition for some of her new ideas.

This fall, our public programs are taking a pivot from meeting rooms to partner with four area festivals, another way to be a vibrant part of our community. Look for our booth and staff at Carnitas, Musica y Mas, Pride Fest, Print Fiesta, and the Tamal Festival. We'll also be hosting the closing event for this year's Gila River Festival in the museum's courtyard.

We're extending our partnerships into the Mining District as a lead partner with the City of Bayard, collaborating on the reimagining of what the former mine workers' union hall might become. We've begun a master planning process with Bayard representatives, Southwest New Mexico ACT, Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments, and Ideum, a museum design firm based in Corrales, New Mexico.

Lastly, we've engaged more than 20 community members to help create our next major exhibit celebrating women's roles in creating and sustaining the region's health care systems. We've enlisted historians, health care professionals, curanderas, other folk healers, as well as area educators as part of four focus groups.

All these efforts are designed to serve our community by sharing the museum's

resources more widely and inviting folks to be a part of the museum. We couldn't do this without your help as members, donors, and volunteers.

Thank you, and see you out there.

## Thank You to our New and Renewing Members

New members: Dougan Hales, Kathy Simon, Paul Simon, and Therese Higgins.

Renewing members: Della Acosta, Karen Aversa, Kathy Branchik, Carol Brooks, L Dean Clark, Mary Cowan, Maureen Craig, Michael Dowd, Kathie Gilbert, Pauline Gomez, Lindsay Griffin, JoAnn Hall, Ronald Henderson, Tom Hester, Janey Katz, Sunny Kellerman, Mary Kressig, Randy Madigan, Robert Martin, John McEachran, Sandra McEuen, Elizabeth Mikols, Damie Nelson, Esther Powell, Ted Presler, Heather Provencio, Howie Richey, Judy Rinsler, Bart Roselli, Lorna Ruebelmann, Thomas Ryan, Cindy Sanchez, James Smith, Linda Telaak, Steve Toms, Paul Walmsley, Pamela Weber, Marie Weil, Elois Weinhold, Jan White, and Lucy Whitmarsh.

## Community Support Drives Fundraising Success

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

The Silver City Museum's summer fundraising initiatives have yielded remarkable financial outcomes, underscoring the community's unwavering commitment to supporting historical and cultural preservation as well as educational programming. These events not only entertained but also significantly bolstered our fiscal health.

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Ice Cream Social, a blend of nostalgia, patriotism, and philanthropy, exceeded expectations. We had more than 1,000 attendees who indulged in frozen treats, hot dogs, and live music while generously contributing to our cause. We extend the sincerest of gratitude to our partners, donors, and Copper Level sponsors Food Basket, James Hamilton Construction Co., The Rotary Club of Silver City, and Freeport-McMoRan. With their support we were able to successfully surpass the funds raised during last year's Ice Cream Social.

Our Diamonds and Denim Ball and quarterly Bingo nights continue to emerge as a consistent revenue stream. These events have tapped into the community's love for a wholesome evening of music and dance, helped bridge the demographic divide, and transformed a Monday night of chance into a reliable source of funding for our ongoing projects. Bingo will be held on Monday October 21 at the Murray, and games will resume quarterly starting in January 2025 and be held the third Monday of January, April, July, and October.

As we move forward, we remain committed to innovative fundraising strategies that engage our community while securing the financial foundation necessary for our continued success. For those interested in becoming a sponsor for our upcoming fall and winter events, please reach out to Brittany Beers, community engagement manager, at 575-597-0230 or [communityengagement@silvercitymuseum.org](mailto:communityengagement@silvercitymuseum.org).

## The Mansardian

Editor: Brittany Beers

Layout: Tom Oberg

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

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**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](http://www.silvercitymuseum.org)

## Local Women Influence Health Care

By: Heather Moorland, PhD

The riches found in Grant County in the latter half of the 19th century spurred the development of New Mexico Territory. Valuable ore discovered in the area attracted scores of men seeking their fortune in mining. Few had families to help these white settlers make a home.

At this time, health care bore little resemblance to what we find today. Germ Theory was newly speculated but not oft accepted. Antibiotics had yet to be invented. It wouldn't be until the end of the century that X-rays were discovered. Many rural areas in the western United States did not have electric lighting. Trained doctors were few and far between, as were hospitals.

While Native and Hispanic populations had their own traditional forms of care, house calls were the manner of visit for Anglos in rustic spheres when a family member became ill. The doctor, whether a graduate of medical school or not, would for the most part care for the patient at home, even performing surgery there when needed. At times, the physician was assisted by someone who may have had a type of on-the-job training, but in general, doctors worked alone. In 19th-century Silver City, physicians arrived and stayed for varying amounts of time, occasionally partnering with one another.

By 1883, the town had increased in population and was under the influence of the female perspective. To "civilize" the town, a public school had been built and a volunteer fire department started. One of the families that arrived in Silver City to help build the growing community was that of the Warrens. While Mr.



*Patients rest in their cots on the sleeping porch at Fort Bayard Military Hospital, circa 1920. This image captures a common treatment for tuberculosis at the time, which emphasized exposure to outdoor air as a crucial element of recovery. From the Silver City Museum Photo Archive.*

Warren tended to his insurance business, his wife, Elizabeth, became acquainted with other local women. One of their diversions came in the form of a sewing club. While stitching, this small group of well-to-do women determined that because of the large number of miners who resided in Silver City without family members to care for them if injured or ill, a small hospital was needed.

A cottage north of town was chosen. The women brought in their own furniture, linens, and supplies for patients' use. The southwest corner of the house was set as the operating room. Because no electricity was available, the roof of that section had to be removed; any surgery was delayed until afternoon hours, when the sun could provide better light than kerosene could.

The owner of this cottage was the husband of the leader of the sewing club, Mrs. Martha Miller. Mr. Miller was then the area's representative to the territorial legislature. While in Santa Fe, he wrote his wife, suggesting that if the women incorporated their board, he might be able to acquire funds from the legislature to help defray the cost of running the hospital, a necessity because the mundane cost of running the facility was not being met by local donors. The board was successfully incorporated, and on March 18, 1884, the Grant County Charitable Hospital Society was created. The county, with some reluctance, also helped financially. The legal name was verbose, and the facility quickly became colloquially known as the Ladies Hospital.



*Elizabeth Warren*

By the following year, the increasing number of patients led the women to seek larger accommodations. The newly built courthouse at the top of Broadway led the county offices on Hudson Street to be vacated, and the Ladies Hospital was relocated to where the U.S. Forest Service warehouse is today. There it remained until 1918, when it was moved to the west side of town.

Not to be outdone, the Sisters of Mercy soon opened St. Joseph's Hospital. The nuns arrived in Silver City in 1883 to provide education at their newly built Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, located on Kelly and Cooper streets. Initially, the Sisters set up their hospital near the train depot on south Bullard Street, entering into an agreement with the Pacific and the Key mines to "care for the sick and wounded of their camps." Later they moved to a property off Market Street, which had on it a house that became the base for what would become known as St. Joseph's Hospital, locally known as the Sisters Hospital.

Seeing the success the ladies had in obtaining territorial funding, the Sisters requested and received a stipend from the legislature and from a local mill levy. At the turn of the century, they were approached by a Fort Bayard doctor about developing a tuberculosis sanatorium at the hospital, with director Mother Paul conditionally agreeing to a trial period of the endeavor. Finding the venture quite successful, St. Joseph's Hospital was eventually remodeled to accommodate TB patients' needs, and renamed St. Joseph's Sanatorium.

In the region, other facilities open and closed. Over the decades, health care changed as science, technology, and experienced influenced medical practice, but the common thread in this continuing story of Grant County is how women of various backgrounds and means determined what succor would be necessary to improve life in Southwestern New Mexico.

*Dr. Heather Moorland holds a doctorate in the History of Medicine. She has published articles on New Mexico's nurses and has a particular interest in local history and how communities have addressed issues of health care and disease.*



*A long corridor at St. Joseph's Sanatorium, with nuns standing watchfully in a doorway circa 1920. This institution, located off Market Street, was previously known as Sisters Hospital, reflecting its roots in faith-based health care. From the Silver City Museum Photo Archive.*

## Dual Exhibits at the Museum: Arté Chicano 2024 and Women in Health Care

**By: Tom Oberg,**  
Exhibitions Projects Manager

Jesse Ochoa is this year's featured artist of the museum's annual installment of "Arté Chicano '24." The exhibition serves as a platform for highlighting the work of local and regional artists and is curated by Silver City's own Diana Ingalls Leyba.

Ochoa works in the tradition of stylized wood carving, a technique that favors form rather than detail. His meticulous attention to the finish of his sculpture is designed to remind the viewer that the sculpture "was once a tree that lived on this earth." A sampling of his photography will also be on view. Ochoa recently attended an Apache Crown Dance and was given permission to photograph the event. His photographs depict the dancers both in and out of their regalia and offer the viewer a glimpse into contemporary Apache culture and its traditions.

We have been gathering community input for our next major exhibit that will highlight the role of women in health care throughout Grant County, New Mexico. Scheduled to open in mid-December 2024, the central thesis for the exhibit is that women have been, and remain, central to health care in Grant County.

The museum has hosted gatherings of local historians, women and men currently active in the fields of health care, practitioners of traditional medicines, and educators from the local school districts. As always, I would like

*"My style of carving is to find a piece of wood, get the most depth out of it in proportion to the piece, and work with it as it is. I give as much time to the finish so the wood can always be touched, and you can feel the fine lines of the piece of wood without losing sight of the fact that it was once a tree that lived on this earth."*

– Jesse Ochoa

to emphasize that this is *your* museum. Your observations and input are valued by us and are central to our development of exhibitions that reflect the interests of the Grant County community.

Two general themes that overlap and connect will be presented in this exhibit. One will highlight women's historic participation as health care professionals, while the other details women's experiences as recipients of health care. Each thematic subsection presents an opportunity to tell the history linearly while

still having an overarching narrative.

The historical participation of women in health care theme is broken into four distinct subsections: women creating a foundation of the health care system built in Grant County, women's continued practice in the forms of traditional, folk, and spiritual healing, the politics behind women's roles in health care, and the realities of their geographical and social position as part of a frontier/rural community.

A second overarching theme, women's experiences as recipients of health care, will explore the ideas of institutional sexism, autonomy, and self-determination throughout history. The exhibit will also be supplemented by a range of public programs.

If you would like to participate or for more information, please feel free to reach out to staff here at the museum. Tom can be reached by phone at 575-597-0238 or by email at [exhibits@silvercitymuseum.org](mailto:exhibits@silvercitymuseum.org). Our curator, Javier Marrufo, can be reached by calling 575-597-0229 or emailing [curator@silvercitymuseum.org](mailto:curator@silvercitymuseum.org). The director of the museum, Bart Roselli, can be reached by calling 575-597-0220 or emailing [director@silvercitymuseum.org](mailto:director@silvercitymuseum.org).

## Toys and Games Bring Fun to the Silver City Museum Store

**By: Lloyd Parker,**  
Bookkeeper and Museum Store Assistant

To play is to learn, discover, experience joy, and share and create memories. The new collection of toys and games at the Silver City Museum Store gives kids — and kids at heart — wonderful opportunities to play and have fun. "We've built an assortment of toys and

games that give our museum store shoppers a wide variety of ways to entertain their children and grandchildren (and themselves), all while learning, exploring, and discovering," said Melody Collins, store manager.

Collins, also the store's buyer, leaned into the history that the Silver City Museum celebrates by bringing nostalgia into the new collection.

As you peruse the store, you'll find toys and games you will likely remember from your childhood. Simplicity — imagine ... no batteries or charging — and natural materials make pick-up sticks, a rubber band paddle boat, and a labyrinth game sure winners. Card games including Go Fish, Crazy 8's, Old Maid, and Hearts will bring old and young together at the table.

Headed on a road trip and want to keep the kids busy? Then you'll want to pick up fun car games like magnetic checkers and Interstate Highway Bingo. Children also will love exploring their musical talents with a learn-to-play harmonica, tin kazoo, or a wooden xylophone.

An adult-focused assortment of games including Know-It-All, a fast-paced card game, and trivia games that test your movie, famous quotes, and pop culture knowledge will make your next gathering a hit. One of the museum staff's favorites is Mystery Missions, a coaster party game that leads to hilarious covert interactions between guests.

"We hope our Silver City Museum Society members will come visit the store to see our new toys and games collection, as well as many new jewelry and souvenir items," said Collins.

Stop by the museum store soon and take advantage of your 10% discount as an active society member. Remember, museum store gift cards are available and make great gifts for those hard-to-buy-for friends and family.



## Beatriz Medina Hill, Curandera: Health of the Body, Mind, and Spirit

By Javier Marrufo, Curator

In November, “Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story” will be replaced by a new exhibit focusing on women in health care. In this time of transition, stories that straddle historical themes show that in the study of history, everything is connected. With this new emphasis, stories of traditional healers of Chihuahua Hill emerge as a perspective on the theme based on culture, tradition, necessity, and faith. Although the Chihuahua Hill History Project uncovered many stories of traditional healers in the community, one that instantly came to mind was that of Beatriz Hill Medina, la curandera de Chihuahua Hill.



Javier Marrufo

Beatriz was born in Hurley, New Mexico, in 1928. Her father was a Spaniard who came to the United States from Mexico at the turn of the century, and her mother, of mixed Apache and Tohono O’odham ancestry, died when Beatriz was just a child. As a motherless child, Beatriz was raised in the segregated company town of Hurley, where Mexican American children attended separate classes while their parents were forced to walk under the bridge that their white counterparts used on their way to work.

Beatriz learned the interactions between culture, faith, and health at a young age. Her father cautiously warned her with the usual folktales often told to children to reinforce safety within bitterly separated social realities. “My grandpa used to tell her if she didn’t come straight home then the cosa mala, the evil thing, would get her,” says Edna Medina, Beatriz’s daughter. “One day, after he told her that, something evil was chasing them. So, they ran all the way home, and she had to say a prayer, *dulce sellas los nombres santos* [sealed with the sacred name of the saints], and then it went a different way.”

In Beatriz’s cultural upbringing, health was not simply confined to the body but encompassed the mind and spirit as well. Strong emotional states, harmony with one’s environment, negative energy, and interactions between the natural and supernatural world all affect one’s health. As an extension of this, faith, tradition, and ceremony were just as important to health as aspirin or bandages. Understanding this at a young age, Beatriz’s journey with curanderismo began.

“She learned from the people around her,” recalls Edna. “She had to learn because they gave my older sister the evil eye, ojo.” Ojo is an ancient belief in many indigenous Mexican cultures that admiring a child without

physically touching them can cause illness. Beatriz’s cure for ojo used a fertilized egg rubbed on the body of the sick child during prayer that is then cracked into a bowl of holy water. “She had to learn because she was always having to cure her. [My sister] was chunky. Chipmunk cheeks and whatnot. So, people were always giving her the evil eye because she was so cute.” Afterward, Beatriz recommended children affected by ojo should wear ojo de venado, or deer’s eye, a small seed from a local plant, to stave off bad energies.

When the family moved to Chihuahua Hill in the 1940s, Beatriz became known as the neighborhood healer.

“Everybody knew that she would cure. There were people that would come from far away. They would say if it wasn’t for her, they would not have made it,” states Edna. Although Beatriz was raised without a mother, Edna remembers that she was

always quick to treat neighborhood babies. She cured el empacho, or stomach infections; la caída de mollera, an issue with a baby’s soft spot; colic; teething; rashes; and a variety of physical wounds. Healing methods depended on the illness but almost always required some mixture of ceremony, physical touch, herbal remedies, and prayer. In her culture, the interactions between physical and spiritual realities were tightly intertwined. “She had a lot of faith, that’s the only way it works.”

It is beautifully fitting that a motherless child would one day care for her community through curanderismo. Edna imparts that Beatriz never expected payment for healing, instead only encouraging that those she healed kept faith.

In her personal life, Beatriz tried to impart her knowledge to her own children with varying degrees of success as the culture changed with the times. “When she was older, she would tell me these stories, but not the other [kids]



Beatriz Medina Hill is pictured in her younger years (left) and later in life (above). Revered for her healing practices, her legacy as a curandera endures in the hearts of the community.

because they were busy growing up and going through life. I try and tell them, ‘I’m telling you guys this so you can learn, because if it wasn’t for my mom telling me her stories, we would never know.’”

Beatriz passed away on January 24, 2007. Before her death, a story called “La Curandera de Chihuahua Hill” was written by Western New Mexico University student, Connie Murrillo, that details the practices of Beatriz Medina Hill. Edna still uses many of the teachings learned from her mother, but she fears that younger generations now see little importance past novelty in the curanderismo practiced by Beatriz. “They don’t believe. I still do.”

## Volunteer View

By: Mary Stone, Volunteer Manager

Greetings! I am honored and excited to take on the role of the museum’s new volunteer manager. My goal is to ensure that all our volunteers feel valued, informed, and comfortable, while also providing an enriching and effective experience. At our recent Ice Cream Social on July 4, I was inspired by the dedication of our 55 volunteers, who showed immense enthusiasm for the event and the community. If you missed it, don’t worry—volunteers can join us in November for Día de los Muertos or in December for the Victorian Christmas and more. We have a variety of fun volunteer opportunities available for these events! Volunteering is a wonderful way to contribute and connect. A huge thank you to everyone who supports the museum! If you’re new to Silver City or looking to help your community, we would love to have you join our team! Contact me, Mary, at 575-597-0226 for more details.

# Programs and Events

This summer at the Silver City Museum was truly remarkable, thanks to an array of distinguished speakers who enriched our understanding and appreciation of oral history. Funded by a grant from the New Mexico Humanities Council, this four-part community conversation series offered insightful lectures ranging from the region's racial segregation and discrimination to engaging discussions



on the intersect of history and politics. Our guest speakers provided invaluable perspectives that left a lasting impression. We are incredibly grateful to

everyone who participated and helped make these community conversations a success, fostering a deeper connection with our shared past and present.

As we transition into the fall, our focus shifts towards strengthening our relationship with the community. We are excited to announce our presence at several local events where we look forward to engaging with you directly. Staff will also be traveling to four out-of-town speaking engagements. Look for our staff at the following upcoming events:

**Saturday August 31 11:00am – 5:00pm**  
**Carnitas, Musica y Mas**  
**Gough Park**

Museum Curator Javier Marrufo and Events Manager Ana Trinidad will be stationed at the museum's informational booth offering a hands-on *masa* demonstration. Specially selected items from the Silver City Museum Store will also be available for purchase.



**Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup> 11:00am – 5:00pm**  
**LGBTQ+ Grant County Annual**  
**Pride Festival**  
**Gough Park**

Join our Bookkeeper/Museum Store Assistant Lloyd Parker and his partner, Leo Andrade, at our informational booth. Learn about our upcoming exhibit, renew your membership, and connect with museum staff as we come together to honor diversity and foster a more inclusive Grant County.

**Sunday September 29<sup>th</sup> 9:00am – 10:30am**  
**Gila River Festival Closing Event**  
**Museum Courtyard**

"How to Love the River with Sharman Apt Russell, Phil Connors, and Mónica Ortiz Urbe" Silver City Museum hosts the closing event of this year's Gila River Festival in the museum courtyard. Sharman Apt Russell and Philip Connors will join moderator Mónica Ortiz Urbe in sharing stories, visions, hopes, fears,

and dreams of the wild Gila River in the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the wilderness that gives birth to it. A donation of \$10 to the Gila River Festival is suggested; however, no one will be turned away for lack of funds. This session will not be offered online.



Visit [www.gilalriverfestival.org](http://www.gilalriverfestival.org) for more information.

**Wednesday October 9<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm – 3:00pm**  
**Eastern New Mexico University**  
**1500 South Avenue K, Portales, NM**  
**Campus Union Building (CUB),**  
**Sandia Room**

"Chihuahua Hill History Project" presented by Museum Curator Javier Marrufo Drawing on the rich traditions of our community conversation series, this



presentation will delve into the vital importance of grassroots historical research and the invaluable role of oral

narratives in preserving our shared heritage. We invite the public to attend this free event, a cornerstone of Hispanic Heritage Month, which embraces the theme "Learn Who You Are, Love Who You Are," encouraging a deeper connection with one's cultural roots and personal identity.

**Thursday October 10<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm – 5:00pm**  
**CampingCon 2024: Wilderness and the**  
**Historian**

**Camp Thunderbird, Mimbres, NM**  
"Seeing the Forest for the Trees: The Silver City Museum" presented by Museum Director Bart Roselli  
Registration is required for this event. Please visit <https://ncph.org/conference/campingcon-2024/> for more information.

**Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup> 10:00am – 4:00pm**  
**Southwest Print Fiesta**  
**The Hub Plaza**

The Southwest Print Fiesta brings together artists and enthusiasts and features an array of activities, including print demonstrations, workshops, and an open-air print market showcasing the work of regional and national printmakers. The fiesta not only highlights Silver City's rich cultural heritage but also serves as a dynamic platform for creative expression and education. Join Community Engagement Manager Brittany Beers and Events Manager Ana Trinidad at the museum booth, where they will offer an assortment of art activities for children.



**Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm – 2:00pm**  
**LULAC Southern Regional Conference on**  
**Civil Rights and Social Justice**  
**Tays Event Center**

**2400 N. Scenic Drive, Alamogordo, NM**  
"Historical Foundations in Social Justice" presented by Museum Curator Javier Marrufo This presentation aims to emphasize the crucial role of historical understanding in addressing modern social justice issues. Marrufo will explore how viewing current challenges through a historical lens can lead to more effective and nuanced approaches to achieving equity and fairness in society. The Otero County LULAC #8105 is hosting this event in collaboration with student Hispanic Heritage Month events.



**Friday November 8<sup>th</sup> 10:30am – 12:00pm**  
**2024 Annual Meeting of the American**  
**Folklore Society**  
**Albuquerque, NM**

"Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story, a Case Study for Curatorship for a Community" Museum Director Bart Roselli chairs a panel with Dr. Thomas Richardson and Museum Curator Javier Marrufo to discuss how the Chihuahua Hill history project serves as a case study for a local history museum using ethnographic methods and a folkloric approach to engage new communities, consider new methods, and redefine a museum. This panel will explore the benefits, pitfalls, and overall considerations of this type of curatorial approach, what it means for museum staff, and what it means for a community. For more information or to register, please visit: <https://americanfolkloresociety.org/>.



**Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup> 10:00am – 4:00pm**  
**Tamal Fiesta y Mas**  
**Santa Clara, Fort Bayard**

Join Museum Director Bart Roselli, Events Manager Ana Trinidad, and Administrative Assistant Jody Rose as we celebrate one of the region's most beloved culinary traditions. The event brings together local vendors, artisans, and tamal enthusiasts for a day filled with food, music, and cultural performances. Attendees can savor a variety of tamales, from traditional recipes to innovative takes, while enjoying the festive atmosphere that reflects the rich heritage of the area.

These events offer a wonderful opportunity for us to connect, offer educational activities, share stories, and celebrate the diverse cultural tapestry that makes Grant County unique. We invite you to join us, learn more about our upcoming programs, and discover how the Silver City Museum continues to serve as a hub for cultural enrichment and community engagement.

# Partners and Staff

## A Trifecta of Talent: Silver City Museum Welcomes Three New Staff Members

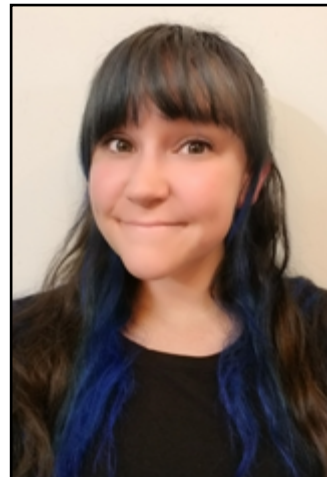
We are delighted to welcome a triad of dynamic new staff, each bringing diverse and highly valued experiences and skills that add to the strength of our team.

Jody Rose joins as the museum's administrative assistant, bringing a background she playfully calls "Adventures in Administration." Her career spans from New York City's corporate offices to Alaska's wilderness, supporting artists, fishermen, scientists, and business executives. Arriving in Silver City just before the pandemic, Rose immersed herself in the Gila and surrounding desert by chasing snakes and butterflies, contemplating the living histories of small-town cemeteries, and capturing it all by way of camera, pen, and paper. Of the people, she says, "It was a happy accident to have landed in such a diverse and vibrant community." A resident of Chihuahua Hill since her relocation, she first became involved with the museum by transcribing some of the oral histories which became the voices of "Nuestra Voz," the museum's nationally recognized Chihuahua Hill project. She is excited to be part of a brilliant (and funny) team and looks forward to fostering the museum's mission.

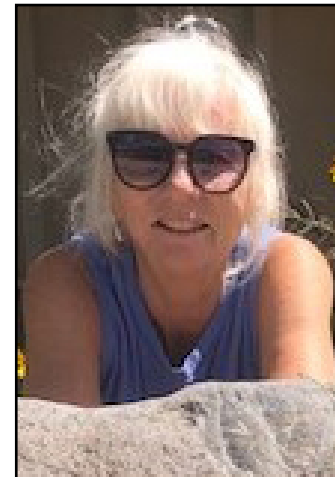
Mary Stone, the new volunteer manager, is an enthusiastic and engaged member of the community. Originally from Hollister, California, and raised in Silver City, her passion for community service was cultivated at Aldo Leopold High School, renowned for its civic engagement. Stone's experience includes roles at Gila Regional Medical Center, event coordination, website development, and business ownership. She is the co-founder and treasurer of Future Forge Makerspace, event coordinator for the Blues Festival, and founder and coordinator of the Makers Market, which led to collaborating with community events such as CLAY Fest, Give Grandly, the Gem and Mineral Show, and Print Fiesta. Stone's passion for civic involvement and her remarkable experience make her exceptionally



Jody Rose



Mary Stone



Debaura James

well-suited to support, manage, and develop the museum's volunteer initiatives.

Debaura "Deb" James steps into the role of education program manager after a 30-year career in education. As a founding teacher at Aldo Leopold Charter School, James developed curriculum, taught high school social studies and managed the Outdoor Education Program. Stone, our new volunteer manager, was also a student of hers during her time at Aldo Leopold. With 35 years of residency in Silver City, she brings both a passion for and knowledge of local and state

history. In her new role, James will expand existing local curricula, design new programs for elementary and secondary New Mexico social studies classes, and provide educational input for museum exhibits and special events.

These additions to our staff reflect the museum's commitment to engaging with the community and providing enriching educational experiences. We are thrilled about the fresh perspectives and valuable skill sets our new team members bring to the Silver City Museum.

## Education Update

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

After thorough review and planning, we've decided to invite second-, third-, and fifth-graders to visit the museum starting mid-March, following spring break 2025. This timing is ideal as it coincides with state testing periods, when teachers often seek supplementary educational activities. We'll utilize the carefully crafted lesson plans already available for second- and third-graders. For the fifth-graders, we're working to introduce a new lesson plan focusing on "Women in Health care." This program will

align with fifth-grade standards and aims to inspire students by highlighting significant contributions of women in the medical field. By participating in this program, students will become knowledgeable guides for their families during visits to our new exhibit, which will open in December 2024.

We're also developing two-session classes for New Mexico history, offering an overview of local history that will engage students with the rich cultural heritage of our region. Additionally, we will introduce a program for eighth-grade English students on taking oral histories. This two-part class will introduce students to the art of capturing personal narratives, complementing the eighth-grade curriculum. Students will learn interview techniques, ethical considerations, and how to preserve and present oral histories. We're in discussions with museum curator Javier Marrufo and plan to meet with curriculum directors from Silver and Cobre schools to further develop and propose these educational initiatives.

It's important to note that all these programs are currently in development. We're working closely with local school curriculum directors and other community partners to ensure our programs meet educational standards and provide valuable learning experiences. Once finalized, these programs will be implemented after receiving approval from the school board. We can't wait to bring these educational adventures to life and share the wonders of history and culture with our local students. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to refine and expand our programs for K-12.

## Western Institute of Lifelong Learning Gears Up for Exciting Fall Semester

By: **Vicky Jensen,** WILL Communications Chair

The Western Institute of Lifelong Learning (WILL) is set to launch its fall semester with a diverse array of courses. Registration opens August 19, offering community members a chance to engage in unique educational experiences.



Beth Leuck, WILL's curriculum chair, highlights several standout offerings which include a tour of the renowned Chile Pepper Institute, an excursion to Palomas, Mexico, and a hands-on blacksmithing course. Multiple music classes will be held including one featuring mariachi. There is also "A Spirited Tour of Downtown Silver City," scheduled just before Halloween, and the popular course "Have You Made Your Final Move: The Art of Living in the Right Place" makes its return.

With approximately 70 courses available, WILL aims to cater to a wide range of interests. From history and science to art and outdoor adventures, the institute promises a "remarkable learning experience" for all participants.

Prospective students can explore the full course catalog and register at [www.will.community](http://www.will.community). Don't miss this opportunity to expand your horizons and connect with fellow lifelong learners.



# The Mansardian

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

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

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For more information about supporting the museum, visit our website:  
[www.SilverCityMuseumSociety.org](http://www.SilverCityMuseumSociety.org)

- A subscription to *The Mansardian* and emails to keep you up-to-date on museum activities
- Invitations to special events such as members only exhibit openings
- 10% Museum Store discount
- 20% off at the holiday sale in the Museum Store

All Membership Levels Include:

## Become a Member!

### Membership Options:

**August**  
**Carnitas, Musica y Mas**  
**Saturday August 31**  
11:00am – 5:00pm  
Gough Park  
Hands on *masa* demonstration by museum staff.

**September**  
**LGBIQ+ Grant County Annual Pride Festival**  
**Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup>**  
11:00am – 5:00pm  
Gough Park  
Join museum staff at the museum booth and shop specially-ordered items from the Museum Store.

**Gila River Festival Closing Event**  
**Sunday September 29<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00am – 10:30am  
Museum Courtyard  
“How to Love the River with Sharman Apt Russell, Phil Connors, and Monica Ortiz Urbe” Visit [www.gilariverfestival.org](http://www.gilariverfestival.org) for more information.

**October**  
**Hispanic Heritage Month**  
**Wednesday October 9<sup>th</sup>**  
2:00pm – 3:00pm  
Eastern New Mexico University Portales, NM  
Campus Union Building (CUB), Sandia Room  
“Chihuahua Hill History Project” presented by Museum Curator Javier Marrufo.  
Explore the vital importance of grassroots historical research and the role of oral narratives.

**November**  
**2024 Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society**  
**Friday November 8<sup>th</sup>**  
10:30am – 12:00pm  
Albuquerque, NM  
“Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story, a Case Study for Curatorship for a Community” Museum Director Bart Roselli chairs panel with forum panelists Dr. Thomas Richardson and Museum Curator Javier Marrufo. Registration required. Please visit <https://americanfolkloresociety.org/>

**Dia de Los Muertos**  
**Saturday November 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
Parade and Festival Times are TBD  
Museum Courtyard

**Tamal Fiesta y Mas**  
**Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup>**  
10:00am – 4:00pm  
Santa Clara, Fort Bayard  
Join museum staff as we celebrate one of the region’s most beloved culinary traditions.

**CampingCon 2024: Wilderness and the Historian**  
**Thursday October 10<sup>th</sup>**  
4:00pm – 5:00pm  
Camp Thunderbird, Mimbres, NM  
“Seeing the Forest for the Trees: The Silver City Museum” presented by Museum Director Bart Roselli. Registration required. Visit <https://ncph.org/conference/campingcon-2024/> for more information.

**Southwest Print Fiesta**  
**Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup>**  
10:00am – 4:00pm  
The Hub Plaza  
Join museum staff at the museum booth, where they will offer an assortment of art activities for children.

**LULAC Southern Regional Conference on Civil Rights and Social Justice**  
**Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup>**  
1:00pm – 2:00pm  
Tays Event Center, Alamogordo, NM  
“Historical Foundations in Social Justice” presented by Museum Curator Javier Marrufo.

**B-I-N-G-O!**  
**Monday October 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Murray Hotel Ballroom  
200 W. Broadway  
Doors open at 5:00pm. Games begin at 6:00pm. Concessions & Bingo supplies for sale.

**For Individuals:**  
**Student** – Membership for one person currently enrolled in school  
**Senior** – Membership for one person 60+ years  
**Friend** – Membership for one person  
**Family and Couples**  
Membership for up to two adults, plus children under 18

**For Businesses and Individuals:**  
**Supporter**  
Basic membership benefits plus recognition on the museum appreciation wall, and a print of a historic photo from the museum archives  
**Stakeholder**  
Basic and Supporter benefits plus acknowledgement on our website  
**Patron**  
Basic, Supporter, and Stakeholder benefits plus acknowledgement on our website and a private, behind-the-scenes tour with the Museum Director  
**Benefactor**  
Basic, Supporter, Stakeholder, and Patron benefits plus a \$50 gift certificate at the Museum Store

**Silver City Museum Society Members Only Store Coupon**  
**Wednesday November 15<sup>th</sup> through Sunday December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
Take advantage of your exclusive society member perk for holiday shopping! Enjoy a one-time shopping spree with 20% off and no sales tax at the Museum Store.