



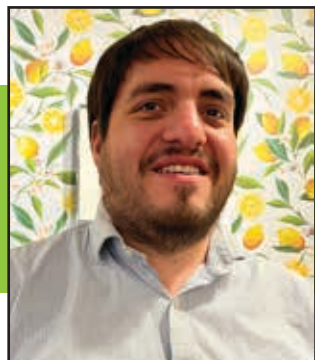
# The Mansardian

The Quarterly Publication of the Silver City Museum Society



Trail riders cross the upper Gila River in an area known as the "Garden of the Gods." 1974 (Silver City Museum Photo Archive #07110).

## In This Issue



**Curator's Corner:**  
Sharing more representations of the past.  
Page 5



**Our Education Volunteers:**  
Celebrating their creativity and dedication.  
Page 7



**A Brief History of the Gila Wilderness:**  
With author Stephen Fox.  
Page 3

# Director's Desk

As we reflect on 2023 I must say thank you to a very supportive community. Twenty-five more people joined the Museum Society this year over



Bart Roselli

last year. The Food Coop adopted us as a Round-up recipients. Our Annual Appeal beat our goal of \$10,000. A major donor and a major friend, Ms. Liz Mikols recommitted to supporting the publishing of the Mansardian. New sponsors have joined to support the operating costs of our programs. These are just a few of the measurable signs that the Silver City Museum must be doing something right.

So with renewed and growing support we look to

the future. Museum staff have been considering a set of topics for new exhibitions that would be most useful and interesting to explore for our community. The recent generous grant from the state of New Mexico's Economic Development Department-Creative Industries Division gives us the resources to completely renovate our **Silver City 101** exhibit adding more objects, photographs and interactive media that will enable the visitor to explore the region's diverse history and the Museum's vast collection more deeply.

The **Silver City 101** exhibit gives us a framework to explore our region. Some of the topics we are considering as we develop a five-year plan for exhibits include the history and present state of healthcare with a special look at the role of women leaders in the inception of professional healthcare in Silver City; the history and culture of the Mining District; the Native American diaspora; and the flow of diverse people who have immigrated to Grant County over time. A

smaller, but critical permanent exhibit will be an overview of the site upon which the museum sits.

Look also for another groundbreaking project in partnership with WNMU. Mimbres Press will soon launch the publication of a collection of 10 essays exploring the themes in **Silver City 101**. "*Unpacking Silver City*" will be out soon, and we are very excited to contribute to the body of professionally researched history of Silver City and Grant County. Ten historians share new scholarship about the myths of the Wild West, contestations over the environment, health and medicine, Native Americans, the Chinese, ranchers, the founding of the neighborhood of Chihuahua Hill and much more.

Thank you again for your generous support of museum programming. Be sure to keep an eye on what's happening.

## Thank You to our New and Renewing Members

**New members:** James Armstrong and Lillian Connelly, Shelly Barnett, Kendal Beasley, David Berry, Richard Bessette, Sharon Bookwalter, Catherine Clemens, Melody Collins, Caterina Di Palma, Mark Duran and Daniel Paiz, Lillian Galloway, Susan Golightly, Connie Hostetler, Patricia Hunt, Susan Jensen, Vicky Jensen, Alice Jones, Sudie Kennedy, Karen Leong, Barbara Lund, Rebecca MacMillan, Rebecca Martin, Cathy Maxwell, Cynthia McCain, Patrick and Stephanie McGovern, Raymond Lozano and Theresa Murphy, Jerry Ouzts, Cheryl Pirtle and Kristin Otto, Juliann Pokorny, Monique Quillen, Francesca Regina, Peter and Amanda Rich, Ken and Barbara Schuster, Denise Singleton, Mick Smith, Gary Starkweather, Nancy Stephens, Corky Stewart, Marcia Stout & Dale Housley, Marina Stretch, Roger Tree, Gena Tweed, Charles and Jean

Wallace, Justin and Hannah Weeks, Lee Zasloff.

**Returning members:** Marilyn Alcorn, Fred and Lynn Baca, David Becker, Lori Belk, Susan and David Berry, Jeff and Anne Bingaman, Aija Blevins, Linda Bluestone, Ida Caffey, Debora Calhoun, Nan and Tom Chalot-Noaker, Catherine Chiavarini, Mary Beth Chrest, Ellen Cline, A.T. and Cinda Cole, Joanie Connors, Paula Cunningham, Ernest Davenport, Doug and Becky Dinwiddie, Heidi Erstad, Scott and Jeannie Fischer, Charles Flanders, Barbara and Ron Gabioud, W. Jay and Kathy Garard, Augustine and Susan Garcia, Mary Finn and Melvyn Gelb, Donna Gianoulis and Brad Van Every, Barbara Good, Ralph & Nancy Gordon, Kathy Harbuck, Barbara Harrison and Jay Parker, Allyson Hearst, Gary and Jeannine Jenks, Carolyn Johannes & Dean Bearup, Rick

and Alice Johnson, Paul Kinneberg, Trish Kirchoff & Pete Henningfeld, Benjamin Lee, Alessandro MacKenzie - Walton Apartments LLC, Patsy Madrid, Donna Magden, Bonnie Buckley Maldonado, Ralph Mastroberte, Richard & Pauline Matthews, Steve May, Bruce McKinney, Timothy and Sharon McLane, Phyllis Haines-McQuaide, Phyllis Mondelli, Don and Kim Montoya, Mike Morones - Mike Morones & Associates LLC, Lloyd Parker and Leo Andrade, Susan Porter, Susan Price, Quata Richards, Philip Robertson, Catherine Romero, David Rose and Ceil Murray, Gerald Schultz, Melinda Shaner, Susan Slade, Elaine Szeto, Jean Uhli, Sterling Van De Moortel, A. Judith Ward, Grace Williams & Jim York, Nathan Williams & Cathy Brett, Thomas & Ann Wood, Bonita Zelinko

## Many Thanks to Society Treasurer Susan Hinojosa and Museum Bookkeeper Lloyd Parker

A great big shout out to Society Treasurer extraordinaire Susan Hinojosa and Museum Bookkeeper Lloyd Parker for raising our accounting game. Susan and Lloyd have been working to complete a thankless, but extremely important task; that of completing an accurate Federal Form 990 Report.

You may at first blush, think this is just more bureaucratic boobalysloop, but the reporting of an accurate view of the Society's financials help us raise money. This year's 990 shows more clearly and accurately than ever before how the Museum Society supports the Museum. This one report is used by two national non-profit watchdogs to "grade" nonprofit corporations on the efficiency of their operations. There are two major watchdogs that watch how we're doing... CANDID (formerly known as GuideStar) and Charity Navigator. Each agency "grades" us on a range of topics which include financial transparency, operating policies, board strength and how much is spent on administration versus how much is spent directly on programming. Thank you so much to Susan, Lloyd and both the society's Finance and Investment committees for their oversight and care. To see the Society's 990 Report go to the Society website at [www.silvercitymuseumsociety.org](http://www.silvercitymuseumsociety.org).

health and efficacy of various town departments. These advisory groups are made up of local citizens assisting the Library, the Cemetery, and the Museum. The Museum Group's main function is to provide advice and consultation to the museum director.

The newly rejuvenated Municipal Museum Community Advisory Group met in January to hear from museum director Bart Roselli about some recent successes and future projects. All members of this group are appointed by the Mayor. The group includes a liaison from the Museum Society and has a member of City Council. The group is to be composed of five community members in addition to the liaisons.

The five newly appointed members are Patricia Hunt of Cliff, Mary Troutman-Gates of Mimbres, George Carr and Colleen Jiron of Silver City. Raul Turrieta Society president represents the Society and Councilor/Mayor Pro Tem Lupe Cano represents Town Council. There is one open position in the group. If anyone is interested in learning more contact Bart Roselli or the Town Clerk.

At their first meeting the group elected Mary Troutman-Gates as president, Patricia Hunt, vice president and Colleen Jiron secretary. All meeting minutes of the Group are posted on the Town's website.

The Town of Silver City has a series of public advisory groups that report to the mayor on the

## The Mansardian

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      Frances Vasquez  
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For membership information, please visit [silvercitymuseumsociety.org](http://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](http://www.silvercitymuseum.org)

# How Wilderness was Won: A Brief History of the Gila Wilderness, as We Celebrate its Centennial

By Stephen Fox

The land up there, around the headwaters of the Gila River's three branches, was a transition zone between the warm, dry Chihuahuan Desert to the south, and the cool, wet Rocky Mountains to the north. The land presented many sudden contrasts; from an elevation of 4,800 feet at the confluence of Turkey Creek and the Gila, up to 6,000 feet higher at the peak of Whitewater Baldy. The cholla, agave, prickly pear cactus, sycamore and grey oak gave way, farther north, to vast forests of ponderosa pine on north-facing slopes, and piñon-juniper to the south.



Stephen Fox

Far into the distant past, across many uncounted centuries, the Chiricahua Apache left their winter homeland in northern Mexico and spent summers on this land. They hunted elk and mule deer, and planted crops. "We broke the ground with wooden hoes," the Apache warrior Geronimo recalled. "We planted the corn in straight rows, the beans among the corn, and the melons and pumpkins in irregular order over the field." When food was scarce the Apache ate berries, the fruit of prickly pear cactus, and the inner bark of pine trees.

These ancient practices were disrupted in the mid-Nineteenth Century by the arrival of Hispanic and Anglo "settlers." They came for gold and silver, were largely disappointed, and turned to farming and ranching instead. Most of the Apache summer homeland was too arid and mountainous for large-scale farming. But it was covered with grama grass, a nutritious wild hay that grew as high as a horse's belly, in endless, unbroken pastures that stretched to the horizon and beyond.

Hispanic ranchers brought their sheep, the Anglos brought their cattle, and for a while it was a free-market banquet. No fees, no rules, no fences. The unrestrained animals wandered at will, always following the grass and seeking water, and doing great damage. They ate the grass down to the roots, leaving the land bare and hard-baked in the summer sun. When the rains came, nothing was left to hold the water, so billowing floods descended upon Silver City and other parts of Grant County.

Enter the federal government. In 1891 Congress authorized the president to establish "forest reserves" on public land, mainly in the west. The Gila River Forest Reserve was created eight years later. Soon renamed the Gila National Forest, it included the old Apache summer homeland. All that land was now subject to fees and rules imposed by the new U.S. Forest Service. Local stockmen bristled at such impositions, understandably upset over losing their former, no-cost freedoms.

Aldo Leopold arrived in New Mexico in 1909, fresh out of the Yale Forest School. He spent the first 15 years of his career here, perhaps the most important period of his life. He began his slow evolution from the selfish, human-centered version of conservation that he'd learned at Yale to the radical, nature-centered vision that informed his classic book, *A Sand County Almanac*.

He also forged a permanent connection to New Mexico by meeting and marrying Maria Alvira Estella Bergere of Santa Fe. On her mother's side, Estella belonged to the Luna family, for centuries one of the ruling Hispano clans of New Mexico (Luna County, bordering Grant County to the southeast, was named for Estella's uncle, Solomon Luna). The marriage was conspicuously happy. Four of their five children were born during Aldo's New Mexico years.

It was during this time that Aldo initiated his first original contribution to conservation practice. Based at the Forest Service Office in Albuquerque, Aldo made regular inspections of the state's national forests. In 1916 he took his first horseback tour of the Gila Forest. Despite the Forest Service's efforts to protect the land, the long-term effects of overgrazing and clear cutting of old-growth trees were plain to see — soil erosion, unchecked floods, and increased fire dangers during dry seasons.

In response to such damage, Aldo conceived

the idea of creating wilderness areas within national forests, where human improvements would be banned, and the land left to itself. He and Arthur Carhart, a like-minded Forest Service colleague, tossed the idea around, but did not pursue it as a new policy.

Aldo returned to the Gila Forest for another inspection in May 1922. Under unusually dry conditions, the forest was ablaze. Lightning started eight fires in a single day, six of them among the inaccessible Mogollon Mountains. The Little Creek fire burned 1,800 acres; the Whitewater Creek fire wiped out 3,500 acres. Aldo spent a dangerous, smoky month fighting fires and patrolling the forest on horseback, learning its details literally under fire.

Well informed and fired up, he sat down in Silver City with other Forest Service men, and together they drew the map of the nation's first designated wilderness area. The Gila Wilderness of 558,065 acres was established in June, 1924. This year, we gratefully celebrate its centennial.

*A historian from Boston, Stephen Fox moved to Silver City in 2008 with his wife, Alexandra Todd. He has done various studies in the social history of Grant County since 1870, including accounts of segregation and discrimination, woman suffrage, cattle ranching, and the "Spanish" flu epidemic of 1918-19.*



Aldo Leopold with his wife Maria Alvira Estella Bergere and one of their many dogs, circa 1910. Photo courtesy of the author.

## A Behind-the-Scenes Glimpse at Creating an Exhibit

By Tom Oberg, Exhibit Projects Manager

It is a busy winter and spring here at the museum as we prepare for future exhibits. Here is a brief behind-the-scenes glimpse at our process of forging what will become a series of exhibits that will span the next five years.

Our first task is to generate a few lists. First, we identify the exhibitions' audiences. Next, we discuss a range of topics that are both engaging and relevant to our audiences. And finally, how we, as a museum, can help address the needs of our community. This is a full-staff exercise that is then refined by a smaller group. In this instance, the smaller group also included a representative from WILL, one of our community partners who not only worked with us by discussing future exhibits, but also worked to create our public programming list.

Once we have the bare bones of an exhibit, we can now begin to map out a plan for presenting not only each exhibit but also the public programming that will support and broaden our ability to tell a few of the many stories of our region. This is where you come in. Like I said earlier, we have the bare bones in place, but what is most important to us is that we get input from our community. There are several methods to gather this information. These methods range from simple evaluation forms to in-person interviews. For example, we

invited a group of Chihuahua Hill residents to participate in a discussion about which aspects of living in the neighborhood were important to them. Many of their thoughts and observations were incorporated into our latest exhibit "*Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story.*"

We want to paint as complete and meaningful a picture as possible. Bringing community members and organizations to the table helps the Museum become a full participant in our community. We want to participate in a dialogue that will strengthen the community. We have no desire to impart wisdom from "on high."

We have a document that we call "the cookbook." There are more than 90 entries that outline the progression of completing an exhibit. I am writing about a few of the initial steps. The cookbook helps us to define exactly what it is that we want to accomplish, how to achieve that goal, and then measure how successful we were. It is a little more complicated than, "hey kids, let's put on a show!"

So, what is next? Our next big project will re-define the "*Silver City 101*" exhibit currently residing in the front room of the museum. A generous grant from the New Mexico Economic Development Department

will allow us to upgrade the graphics, add more information and objects, and install new technologies to better help us share the stories of Silver City and Grant County. We will expand the exhibit to the adjoining room to help facilitate a more thorough reading of the region as well as partner with local theater groups to bring the region's historical figures to life.

Additional grant monies will allow us to move "*Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story*" to a permanent home on the second floor. As always, we consider any exhibition to be part of a continuum. We don't see it as one-off. We plan to schedule updates and refresh the exhibit to showcase the many interesting stories of the neighborhood. There will be new faces and new ways of presenting the rich stories of the neighborhood.

We will also redesign the room just off the museum store. The space will become an exhibit that focuses on the history of the Ailman House, along with its owners, tenants, and architectural changes throughout the years. The exhibit will include biographies, artifacts, and architectural details.

Please stay tuned! I will discuss the details of the major exhibits on deck for the next five years in my next column.

## Programs and Events

### Spring Community Conversations to Celebrate Known and Newly Discovered History

The Silver City Museum, in partnership with WILL (Western Institute of Lifelong Learning), is pleased to announce the Spring 2024 season of community conversations. These will take place at the Besse Forward Global Resource Center at the corner of 12th and Kentucky Streets on the WNMU campus.

**Thursday March 7th 12:00 - 1:00pm Global Resource Center Auditorium "Community Conversation with Aldo Leopold"**

Landscape architect Steve Morgan will portray Aldo Leopold as the father of wildlife ecology and our national wilderness system. Leopold was a forester, philosopher, educator and writer. His book, *The Sand County Almanac*, is



Steve Morgan

one of the most widely read on conservation, and his words, written 100 years ago, are even more relevant today. After this performance, Morgan will engage the audience in a Q&A session, first in character as Aldo Leopold, then as an actor and Leopold expert, along with historian Stephen Fox. This presentation coincides with the celebration of 100 years of the Gila National Forest.

**April 18<sup>th</sup> 12:00 – 1:00 pm Global Resource Center, ABC room "A Burlesque Take on the History of Baseball in SW New Mexico"**

Dr. Doug Dinwiddie is a historian and a member of the Board of Directors of the Ft. Bayard Historical Preservation Society.

Inspired by his 2019 research for *Diamonds in the Rough: Baseball's Legacy in Southwestern New Mexico Symposium*, which was held at Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark, Dr. Dinwiddie offers a new twist on the topic with the surprising emergence of Burlesque Baseball.

The first baseball team in the silver mining camp of Silver City was formed in 1873. The sport became so popular that a new era of competition commenced in 1887: Burlesque baseball, featuring contests between the "Fats" and "Leans" of the community. The thin fellows, known as Slim Jims, wore white suits decorated with skulls and crossbones. The fat fellows, appropriately called Fat Fellows, wore suits bearing decorative beer mugs.

The tradition has seen a resurgence in the 2020's, complete with outlandish costumes, and unusual prizes given for Best Costume and Best Dance Moves.

**Wednesday May 15th 12:00 - 1:00 pm Global Resource Center ABC room "Oral Histories from Grant County about the Empire Zinc Mine Company Strike"**

Presented by Silver City Community Theater re-enactors. The stories of this historic event will come to life through the readings of these oral histories from the mining district. The Empire Zinc Strike was a 15 month-long miners' strike in Grant County against the Empire Zinc Mining Co. for wage discrimination. The strike drew national attention, and after it was settled in 1952, a movie entitled *Salt of the Earth* was released in 1954 which offered a fictionalized version of events.

For more information about the community conversation series and to become a WILL member, please visit [www.will.community](http://www.will.community).

Browse our new selections at the

**SILVER CITY**  
**MUSEUM**  
**STORE**

Tues - Fri: 9am - 4:30pm / Sat - Sun: 10am - 4:00pm

## Nuestra Voz, Sharing Representations of the Past

By **Javier Marrufo, Curator**

Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story, opened in October 2023. The Chihuahua Hill History Project was envisioned as a vehicle for bringing the community to the forefront of



Javier Marrufo

history. Concerned less with dates and events, the exhibit is more about individual experiences, memories and perspectives. The project promotes the idea that history only becomes important when understood through the lens of human experience.

Nuestra Voz was built from the ground up through oral histories - from whomever was willing to share - past residents, newcomers, and people who are no longer with us, including Maria Arellano who was the first person interviewed; Fred Fernandez who returned to the museum any time he thought of more stories to tell; or Senovia Ray, who at 90-years-old became the project's oldest participant.

Themes for the exhibit emerged from the stories told by Chihuahua Hill residents and the input of community advisory panels who ensured that our work truly represented their

experiences. Through this process, the exhibit becomes a mirror for the museum, reflecting the communal experience, rather than a place that tells you what history is. It is history by and for the community. I've personally seen people come to the exhibit and find family members, friends, or people they remember from their youth; memories recalled; tears shed.

Those who shared their oral histories have also given generously of their time, and many have even allowed us to use family photos and cherished objects. Our community continues to share, even after the exhibit opened. Rosemary Peru, a local educator who grew up on Chihuahua Hill, came to the museum with a picture of she and her friends as children standing in front of a huge sign reading "Parrish for Tires," dated May 1958. The importance of the picture is apparent when paired with the frequency of Parrish Tires, a local tire store, was brought up during the oral history project: "Parrish for Tires," a big old sign that was there forever. It was like an institution for Silver City. It was a huge sign. You gave directions using the Parrish for Tires sign ... we lived right in that area." The picture is a slice of the past that was in danger of being forgotten. Now, thanks to community members, it will be remembered.

Like stories, photos and objects exist in every household. Sometimes these are proudly displayed, other times they're used in everyday life. Often they're stuffed into boxes in attics

or basements and left untouched for years. Everyday objects, every faded photograph, holds a story. With the proper context, each piece contains the potential to become an invaluable tool that helps flesh out the story of our past.

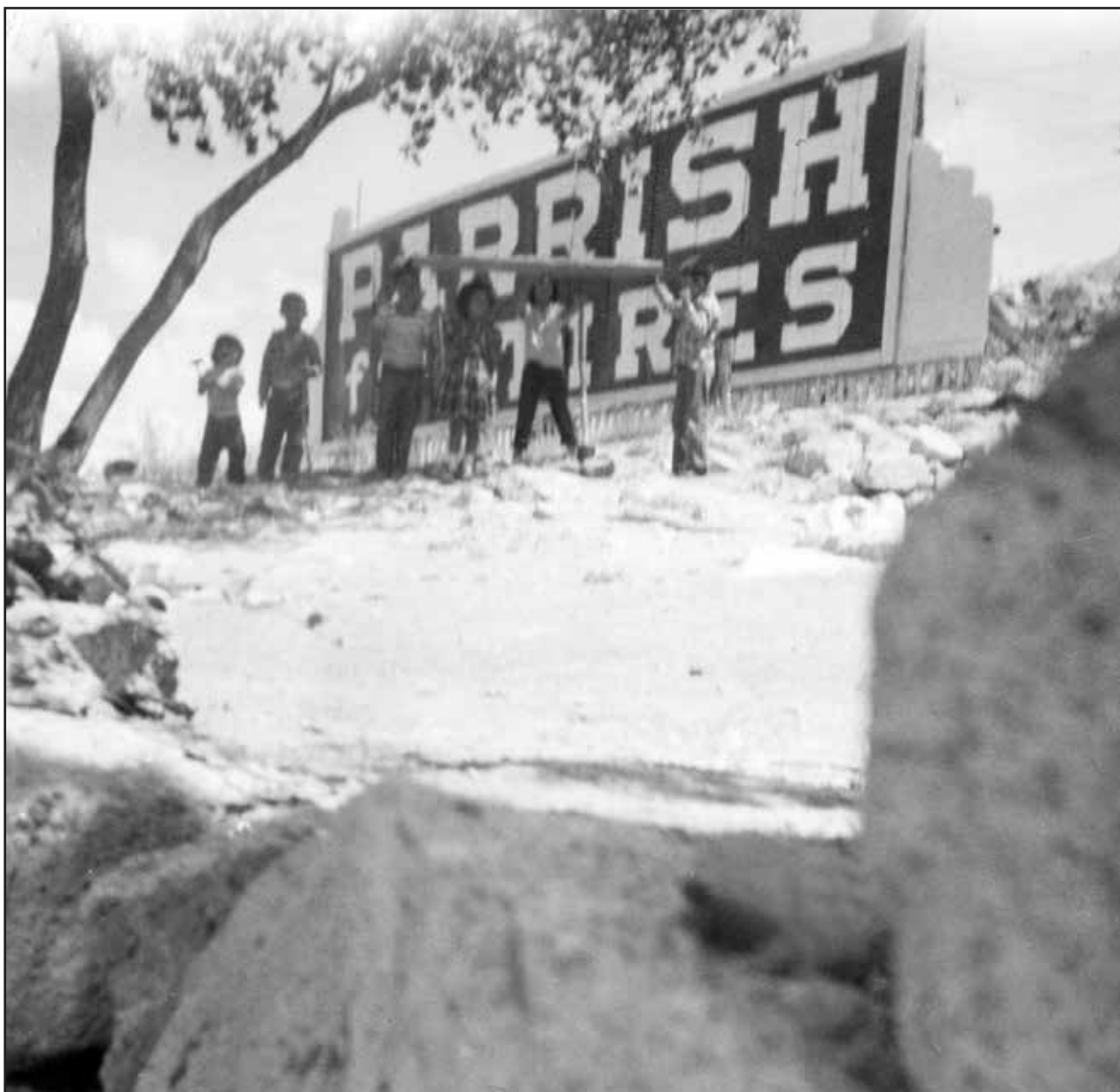


*A native of Chihuahua Hill, Ben Altamirano served in the United States Army with the European occupation forces after World War II. He served on the Grant County Board of Commissioners for four years and served 36 years as a New Mexico State Senator until his death in 2007. November 4, 1970. Photo courtesy of the Silver City Daily Press.*

The community response to Nuestra Voz continues to be overwhelmingly positive and has helped the exhibit evolve. Earlier this year, Ben D. Altamirano, Chihuahua Hill native and the longest-serving state senator in New Mexico history, was added to the exhibit as a result of input from a community member. The exhibit includes a push-pin wall where guests can leave community feedback, pictures or stories from their own lives. I'm overjoyed, watching as that board becomes fuller each day. Every message is a reminder of why this work is important. What follows is an excerpt of one left on October 1, 2023:

*"I am the granddaughter from Gregorio Jaurequi's eighth daughter. Hearing stories about him have always brought me so much happiness because I never got the chance to meet him. Thank you for telling his story. If my grandma Helen were still here, she'd be so happy to see him in her favorite place!"*

The success of this exhibit is shared by those community members who've helped flesh out the story of Chihuahua Hill. Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story will continue to evolve with the neighborhood it represents. As always, if you have anything at all that helps tell the story of Chihuahua Hill, we'd love to hear from you: [curator@silvercitymuseum.org](mailto:curator@silvercitymuseum.org).



*Parish for Tires sign: Located near La Cocina restaurant, at the end of Texas Street. The sign is remembered as a gathering spot, and local landmark. Rosemary Peru is on the far left of the group. Photo c. 1958. Silver City Museum, Courtesy of Rosemary Peru.*

# The Silver City Museum Society Continues to Support and Strengthen the Museum

The Silver City Museum Society Fundraising Committee members, volunteers and community partners have all been busy helping us to raise funds to support museum programming.

The 2023 Annual Appeal to donors is a testament to the generosity and dedication of our supporters. Through your contributions, we were able to raise \$11,100. This annual campaign not only reminds us of our members' generosity over the holiday season, but also energizes our efforts, as we move fully into 2024, while looking forward to bringing new programming, events and exhibits to our community.

## Co-op Round Up

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Silver City Food Co-op for their invaluable support

through the monthly round-up program, which generated \$1,645. All of which helps build our funds for programming and community outreach.

## BINGO!

The Murray Hotel Ballroom came alive with excitement during our January BINGO night. We were delighted to see a fine turnout, with attendees enjoying round after round, along with snacks and beverages which were provided by members of the Silver City Museum Society. A special "thank you" goes out to Len Zamora for lending his talents as this quarter's BINGO caller. Our next BINGO will be on April 15<sup>th</sup>, doors open at 5:00 pm and the games begin at 6:00 pm.

## Give Grandly 2024

Once again we are preparing for this year's

Give Grandly Day of Giving in Grant County. In January, representatives from area non-profits gathered at The Commons: Center for Food Security and Sustainability for initial planning discussions, hosted by the Grant County Community Foundation.

This year's fundraising event happens May 4<sup>th</sup> in the Main Street Plaza, just east of Bullard Street in historic, downtown Silver City. Give Grandly promises to be a day of connection and celebration. We hope to see you there!

The Silver City Museum Society extends its deepest gratitude to all who have supported our endeavors, whether through financial contributions, volunteering, or participation in our events. Together, we continue to enrich and strengthen the Silver City Museum, and create opportunities to learn about and appreciate of our rich and diverse cultural heritage.



## Thanks to our Education Volunteers for their Creativity and Dedication

Many thanks to our education volunteers for their creativity and dedication to our youth and family programs. Recently, students from two fourth-grade classes at Jose Barrios Elementary School enjoyed a full morning of hands-on museum education and discovery.

One class explored a workshop, “Differing

Perspectives on the Mining Industry” in the Museum Annex, while the other enjoyed “Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story Escape Room” activity in the Dodge Gallery.

After a 30-minute break in the courtyard, students then switched locations to experience the alternate workshop. Special thanks to Gail

Avignone, Alexis Collins, Connie Downard and Ally Jordan for leading the mining industry perspectives workshops in the annex. The “Escape Room” activity was led by their fourth-grade teachers, Mr. Duran and Mrs. Hughes, though it is designed to be self-led with hints provided from front desk volunteers. This activity is designed for children aged 10 years and older, especially those who enjoy mysteries and puzzles. This activity is great for individual players or teams, and especially families to explore the many treasures of the Chihuahua Hill Exhibit. For more information about the activity, feel free to inquire at the front desk when you visit the museum!

Thanks to Gail Avignone and Ally Jordan who collaborated to create “The Feliz Navidad Puppet Show,” which was a big hit for kids and families at the Victorian Christmas and More celebration. Many thanks to Liz Mikols and Connie Downard for engaging youth and families with the indoor activity of making paper snowflake ornaments. A great time was had by all!

As our Youth and Family programs continue to expand, we are seeking new volunteers to join the fun. School groups continue to schedule their visits throughout the year, and we anticipate demand for summer programming as well. Please join us!

## Museum Launches Internship Program

The museum has launched a new internship program, and we are excited to welcome our first intern, Jonathan Wooster, a senior at the University of New Mexico. Jonathan is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in history with dual minors in museum studies and geography. Jonathan brings a unique perspective and genuine enthusiasm for preserving cultural heritage, and plans to earn a master’s degree in history. During his month-long internship, Jonathan will work closely with Collections Manager Ashley Smith, assisting with the research and restoration of objects.



Jonathan Wooster

“I’m interested in learning more about museums in general, and broadening my knowledge about the behind-the-scenes work that creates grand museum experiences for guests,” Jonathan said. “I have a real passion for preserving cultural heritage and am looking forward to delving

deeper into historical research, and contributing to the museum in a meaningful way.”

The internship program aligns perfectly with the museum’s commitment to fostering a passion for cultural heritage, arts and education, and interns will have opportunities to learn about various museum operations including research, education, exhibits, administration, fundraising, promotion, marketing, retail sales as well as management at the museum store. Two internships will be offered annually.

We believe this program not only offers valuable hands-on experience for interns but also enhances museum programming. To support the internship program, please contact Bart Roselli at (575) 597-0220, or [director@silvercitymuseum.org](mailto:director@silvercitymuseum.org). We hope you’ll join us on this exciting journey, as we shape the next generation of museum professionals and continue fostering a deep appreciation for cultural heritage.

## Volunteer View

Welcome to the latest edition of Volunteer View, where we highlight the incredible impact of our volunteers, and share exciting opportunities to get involved. This month we’re putting out a special call to action, seeking both dedicated individuals to take on specific volunteer roles, as well as new staff that will play a crucial part in advancing our mission.

**Oral History Transcribing:** At this point, hundreds of hours of oral histories from residents of Chihuahua Hill have been collected. We are looking for a group of people to review AI created transcriptions, as well as listen to the audio to make corrections and adjustments, noting themes, topics and names. This is work that can also be done remotely. Please contact Javier Marrufo, curator, at [curator@silvercitymuseum.org](mailto:curator@silvercitymuseum.org), or (575) 597-0229.

**Archival Collections Data Entry:** This vital component of museum work could even become a Zen-like practice that can make a big difference in just a few hours each week in the quiet confines of our collections care wing. This contribution will make our collection more accessible, while you learn the inner workings of collections, and how knowledge is acquired, stored and disseminated. Please contact Ashley Smith, collections manager, at [collections@silvercitymuseum.org](mailto:collections@silvercitymuseum.org), or (575) 597-0224.

**Museum Greeter:** Often the “greeter” is the only person that museum guests engage with. This job is for people who enjoy engaging with the public, and sharing the stories of the museum, as well as hearing the stories of guests that come to the museum. There are both weekday and weekend shifts available. Please contact Zach Abbott at [admin@silvercitymuseum.org](mailto:admin@silvercitymuseum.org), or (575) 597-0221. In addition, we are currently seeking a Volunteers Manager and an Events Coordinator. The key aspects of volunteer coordinator are recruitment, training, supervision and recognition of museum volunteers. This job includes benefits and compensation commensurate with experience. For more information or to apply, please contact [admin@silvercitymuseum.org](mailto:admin@silvercitymuseum.org), send a cover letter and resume to: Volunteers Manager Search, Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, Silver City, NM, 88061.

Do you love planning events and would like a part-time job, or know someone who does? We are looking for a part-time events coordinator to organize annual events, including the Ice Cream Social, Victorian Christmas & More, Day of the Dead, as well as exhibit opening receptions. For more information or to apply, please contact [admin@silvercitymuseum.org](mailto:admin@silvercitymuseum.org), or send a cover letter and resume to: Event Coordinator Search, Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, Silver City, NM, 88061.

## WILL Offers Mining Operations and History Courses

What is the first thing that comes to mind about a town named Silver City? How about mining? Silver City was formed in the 1870s with the discovery of silver deposits. The glimmering metal was found in Chloride Flats, a hill near the farm owned by John and James Bullard. The



Bullard brothers laid out the streets of Silver City, and a bustling tent city soon emerged. The town boomed, and gold, silver, copper and lead were all mined locally in the 1880s. One of the original mines, the Santa Rita Mine (now known as the Chino Mine) is the oldest in the west. This open pit mining operation began in 1910, and today is the largest copper mine in New Mexico.

WILL, the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning, offers several courses related to the mine, including a tour of several of Freeport-McMoRan’s Chino Mine operations. This is one of our most popular courses, and fills up quickly. Past WILL courses included a tour of original houses of the town of Santa Rita, which disappeared due to the mine’s expansion. The houses were relocated throughout the neighboring area.

The Silver City Museum Store has several books about local mining history. Store Manager Melody Collins has created an entire section on mining, showcasing our fascinating past. Local author and mine expert Terry Humble has written several books about mining, and has led several WILL courses about various aspects of mining operations and mining history.

For more information about WILL and available courses, please visit [www.will.community](http://www.will.community).

## March

**Community Conversation with Aldo Leopold**  
**Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup>**  
 12:00 pm-1:00 pm  
 Global Resource Center Auditorium  
 817 W. 12<sup>th</sup> St.

## April

**A Burlesque Take on the History of Baseball in Southwest New Mexico with Dr. Doug Dinwiddie**  
**Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup>**  
 12:00 pm-1:00 pm  
 Global Resource Center  
 ABC Room, 817 W. 12<sup>th</sup> St.

## B-I-N-G-O

**Monday April 15<sup>th</sup>**  
 6:00 pm, doors open at 5:00 pm  
 Murray Hotel Ballroom  
 200 W. Broadway  
 Concessions & Bingo supplies for sale.



**Making of Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story**  
**Monday, April 22nd**  
 10:00 am-11:30 am  
 Bart Roselli and Javier Marrufo present a WILL course for WILL members only. Please visit [www.will.community](http://www.will.community) to become a member.

## May

**Give Grandly, Community Day of Philanthropy**  
**Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**  
 9:00 am-2:00 pm  
 Main Street Plaza  
 704 N. Bullard Street

**LULAC State Convention**  
**May 3rd-5th**  
 Silver City, NM (city wide)  
[curator@silvercitymuseum.org](mailto:curator@silvercitymuseum.org)



**Burlesque Baseball**  
**Saturday May 11th**  
 1:00 pm  
 At WNMU's The Yard  
 Softball Field



**Oral Histories from Grant County about Empire**  
**Zinc Mine Strike**  
**Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup>**  
 12:00 pm-1:00 pm  
 Global Resource Center,  
 ABC Room, 817 W. 12<sup>th</sup> St.

# Upcoming Programs and Events

# Become a Member!

## Membership Options:

### 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

- 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

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

[www.SilverCityMuseumSociety.org](http://www.SilverCityMuseumSociety.org)

Follow Us On

Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!



# The Mansardian

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

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

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