



The Mansardian

The Quarterly Publication of the Silver City Museum Society



Silver City resident Sue Lew Lime (second from left) and her friend Etta Mammon (second from right) are pictured with friends on El Paso Street, in El Paso, Texas, circa 1930. From the Silver City Museum Photo Archive.

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Director's Desk

There's a lot of new energy around here lately. It comes in the form of two new staff members. It comes in the form of blossoming new



Bart Roselli

partnerships. It also comes from the help of new and returning supporters. Brittany Beers and Ana Trinidad have joined our amazing staff, bringing new experience, energy, ideas, and initiatives. Brittany is our new Community Engagement Manager, taking over where Marcus Hanson and Sarah Zamora left off. We wish both Marcus and Sarah well in their future endeavors, and thank them for the many successes in fundraising, partnership building,

and public relations. Ana Trinidad fills the brand-new position of Events Coordinator. She brings tons of event planning and implementation expertise.

Two of our partner organizations are bringing new opportunities to the museum. We were so honored to host the Women's Luncheon of the New Mexico State League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Convention here in May. Fred Baca, Javier Marrufo, Marivel Medel, and all LULAC Local 8003 members put on a very successful conference. We were thrilled to provide the courtyard for their luncheon. U.S. Representative Teresa Leger Fernández was the special guest speaker, and I had the distinct pleasure of escorting her through our museum, giving particular attention to the *Nuestra Voz: The Story of Chihuahua Hill* exhibit. Need I say, she was impressed!

Our other major partner, the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL) is exploring ways to create a more seamless union of WILL's Lunch and Learn series with our Community Conversations. Stay tuned for the whole becoming greater than the sum of its parts, as my old friend Aristotle used to say.

As we look forward to a summer of exciting programs and events, I must give a shout out to all of the donors who gave to our Give Grandly campaign. It was a wonderful success, and more importantly, an endorsement of the work our staff is doing at this incredible community-focused museum. Thanks to you all, and have a terrific summer!

Meet Lydia Villegas: Local Artist, Community Leader, and Newest Addition to the Silver City Museum Society Board

Join us in welcoming Lydia Villegas to the Silver City Museum Society Board. A native of Silver City, Lydia was raised in two cultures, Mexican and American. Her parents are from Mexico, and she spent a lot of time there growing up. She is married, with four children and six grandchildren.

From a young age, art has been a guiding force in her life. Lydia studied art at both WNMU and NMSU, but learned and developed her artistic skills on her own. A mosaic artist who was featured as part of the museum's Arte Chicano exhibit in 2022, Lydia sees her life as a mosaic, in which many pieces come together to create the whole. Along the varied landscape of her life's journey, she has been a beautician, a martial artist, business owner,



Lydia Villegas

and a law enforcement officer. She is also the former owner of the LV Gallery in downtown Silver City, which showcased antique items and handmade tile mosaic art.

Today, Lydia is a successful artist specializing in mosaics and painting. She is also the founder of a Grant County non-profit, Fight Like a Girl, whose motto is, "See Something, Do Something." The organization supports women and girls to see their own, unique gifts and talents so that they can do something for their communities. Fight Like a Girl's goal is to support and empower women and girls in all aspects of their life: physically, academically, spiritually, and emotionally. Fight Like a Girl also aims to create

and encourage the growth of a healthy and powerful workforce.

Lydia's dedication to community service aligns seamlessly with her new role as a Museum Society trustee, in which she anticipates collaborating with board members and museum staff to help find support for the museum and showcase the multi-faceted aspects of Silver City.

The Mansardian

Editor: Brittany Beers
Layout: Tom Oberg

The Mansardian is a quarterly publication of the non-profit, Silver City Museum Society.

The Museum Society is a vital partner of the Silver City Museum, and is governed by a volunteer board of trustees:

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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

Thank You to our New and Renewing Members

New Members: Elaine Carlson, Claudia Efferdink, Margie A. Gibson, Julie Hotchkiss, Deborah Johnson, Charlie Kiehne and Butch King, Tom and Chris Kirk, Lola and Gary Latson, Joyce Newman, Jerry Ouzts, Lynn Walsh, Dennis Weller, Sarah and Lenny Zamora, The LBB, LLC

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Exploring Chinese American History in Silver City: A Q&A with Dr. Karen J. Leong

What first drew you to researching the Chinese history of Silver City?

I confess I never heard of Silver City before Silver City Museum Director Bart Roselli contacted me last summer—right after my wife and I had just moved from Tempe, Arizona to Albuquerque, New Mexico. She was hired in Native American Studies at University of New Mexico, and I was a partner hire with the Department of History.

At my previous institution, Arizona State University, I was an associate professor of Asian Pacific American Studies and Women and Gender Studies and had been a past director and leader of the APAS program where documenting local Asian American and Pacific Islander history was a very important part of our academic mission. I had earned my doctorate in U.S. history from UC Berkeley and my dissertation research was all about how Chinese Americans were affected by US-China relations. So, I was familiar with certain aspects of Chinese American experiences, particularly in San Francisco and California, as well as Arizona.

Being new to New Mexico, I was hoping to learn more about Asian American and Pacific Islander histories in New Mexico, so I was very excited that Bart contacted me. I was intrigued after a phone conversation with Bart about the history of Silver City, including the early presence of Chinese miners and railroad workers in Grant County during the territorial period, and the existence of a Chinatown in Silver City. Bart invited me to meet the museum staff as well as former director and local historian Susan Berry who told me a lot about the history of Chinese immigrants and the Chinese American community of Silver City. Being invited to conduct additional research about Chinese Americans in Silver City was a timely welcome to the state and has me eager to continue with this research.

Have you been able to discover why Chinese families came to Grant County?

Well, the first Chinese to arrive in New Mexico were not families but single men seeking wage labor in the Americas, including the United States and Mexico. Chinese either came to New Mexico Territory because of mining or the railroads, and some remained in New Mexico as either laborers or small business owners—both were much needed in mining communities that primarily consisted of men. By the 1880s and 90s, after establishing their businesses, some Chinese men sent for their wives to join them. By the turn of the 20th century, Chinese American families also settled in Silver City.

What were the major Chinese industries of Grant County?

The primary Chinese business ventures throughout Grant County were restaurants, laundries, stores, and food markets. The very

first Chinese-run businesses appear to have been hand laundries and restaurants, along with a few Chinese stores that sold imported goods from China. There also were small-scale agricultural businesses referred to as “Chinese gardens” in Deming and Silver City that raised produce and sometimes fruit to sell locally in town to individuals, restaurants, and markets until chain grocery stores and restaurants became more common. Small food markets with meat counters sold small household items and canned goods in addition to fresh produce and meat.



Dr. Karen J. Leong

Did the Chinese Exclusion Act influence the experience of Chinese people living in Silver City?

The Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882 is only the first of a series of federal laws that restricted and then prevented Chinese persons from entering the United States. The restrictions on Chinese immigration were in response to popular fears by White workers that Chinese threatened their livelihood and their families. The justification for the laws was based on assumed innate differences in character and morality based on race—the Chinese were perceived to be too different and foreign to become “good Americans.”

Historian Beth Lew-Williams notes that popular violence targeting the Chinese throughout the western states increased after the first attempt to restrict Chinese immigrants in 1882. The violence reached its height in the 1890s, resulting in new legislation by 1904 enforcing almost complete exclusion of any new Chinese entering the United States. Silver City and the Chinese residents especially were affected by growing calls to remove Chinese from local towns and the United States. What is so interesting is that Chinese residents in Silver City responded to these attempts by declaring their intent to become U.S. citizens. Just as fascinating is that local, anti-Chinese mobilization divided white residents against each other in surprising ways. Some of the leading authorities in town, such as the judges and sheriffs, threatened to arrest anyone who tried to harass the Chinese.

What have you learned about the Chinese experience in Silver City?

I have only begun research about the Chinese experience in Silver City, and the diversity of experiences has been fascinating. While my initial research has focused on the early Chinese immigrants who came from the U.S. and Mexico to create a sustainable life for themselves in Silver City, later settlers came as families and sought to raise families in the town. Early Chinese settlers in Silver City significantly contributed to the town’s sustainability by providing fresh produce, labor, and services for the other residents. A few were very successful at integrating themselves into the community, and many ended up being temporary residents in

the face of anti-Chinese discrimination. Well into the 20th century, significant turnover was common as Silver City’s own fortunes shifted, but there were some families that stayed for a few generations or so. The M.F. Lime family brought Deming and Silver City family histories together; the Toy family is one of several families who moved to Grant County from Morenci, Arizona; the Louie family ended up moving from Silver City to Lordsburg. We see how Chinese immigrants relied on physical movement across town and state and national borders to maximize their opportunities, particularly in the face of racial discrimination on the local or national levels. The Chinese American history in Silver City is one of perseverance and resilience to create a better future for later generations.

What are the issues when researching contemporary Chinese history in Grant County?

The primary challenge has been finding documentation about the Chinese American experience in Grant County. Even with the heroic efforts of folks like Raul Turrieta and Susan Berry, government documents may not have been preserved. We are going to try to locate descendants of families who lived in Silver City and Grant County, but most families do not hold onto paperwork about businesses, or other documents that might tell us more about everyday life. That is always a challenge with any historical research, but it is especially a challenge when so many families no longer maintain ties to the county.

One of the best ways to try to recover this history is through oral histories of family members who may have memories or community members who have stories to share. We know the Chinese American businesses hired local teenagers as workers, and their memories will be valuable. For example, Javier Maruffo and I were very fortunate to be able to interview Herbert Toy, whose family ran the Toy Grocery and Market, and Susan Berry who had memories of the Lime family. We were even able to connect with the Louie family, which had ties to Hing Lee grocery store on Broadway and learn more about their family’s history in Silver City. We hope that with our ongoing efforts, we will be able to locate others who may be willing to contribute and further enrich our understanding of the Chinese history in Silver City.

Dr. Karen J. Leong is an associate professor of history at the University of New Mexico. In her teaching and research, she focuses on 20th century U.S. social and cultural history, with a focus on nationalism, borders, and citizenship as articulated through popular culture, immigration policy, and social formations at the intersections of race/ethnicity, gender, sexuality, socioeconomic status, and other social factors. Dr. Leong is also contributing a chapter on Chinese immigration in Southwest New Mexico to Unpacking Silver City, which will be released in 2024 by Mimbres Press.

Big Plans for Future Exhibits at the Silver City Museum

By: Tom Oberg, Exhibits Projects Manager
Museum staff have spent the last few months developing an exhibition schedule that will take us through October 2028. We began by creating a broad, general list of which audiences we would like to reach, the topics we would like to investigate, and what community needs we should address. Ideas were also generated from surveys of museum visitors. We enlisted a representative from the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL) program to join the discussion as we narrowed the field of potential exhibits. Many thanks to Roger Tree, WILL's Lunch and Learn coordinator. Eventually, we distilled an initial list of twenty-four potential topics down to a list of four, year-long exhibits that will be presented in the main gallery.

The first exhibit will investigate historical and contemporary issues concerning women

and the healthcare system. We have begun the process of defining the topics and themes and are well on our way toward molding the information gathered into another engaging exhibit. The women and healthcare exhibit will be open to the public on Friday, October 31, 2024.

Each exhibit in our main gallery will run for ten months, then we will take a two-month pause to take down the current exhibit and install the next. This translates to an annual rotation that consists of the removal of the current exhibit at the beginning of each September and the installation of the next, with an opening date for the public at the end of each October.

Following women and health, the next exhibit will feature the Grant County Mining District for the 2025-2026 season. In 2026-2027,

the exhibition will focus on the indigenous history of the area, with an emphasis on the contemporary concerns of the present-day Apache. Immigration will be the central topic for the 2027-2028 season. Our work to identify topics of interest and concern to the residents of Grant County will continue as we plan into the 2028-2029 season and beyond.

We will also tackle two major projects early next year. First on the list is a refit of "Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story." The exhibit will be moved upstairs to replace the Tyrone Bank exhibit and become a long-term exhibit that will include a view of Chihuahua Hill itself. Second, a newly revised "Silver City 101" exhibit will open in mid-May. Please stay tuned for updates as we firm-up our concepts and designs for our new exhibits and related programs!

Remembering Linda: A Beloved Community Member

As a pillar of generosity and dedication, Linda Gray left an impact on the community of Silver City with her unwavering commitment to volunteerism. For two and a half years, Linda graced the Silver City Museum with her warmth and passion. She enriched the experience of every staff member and visitor. But her contribution to Silver City didn't stop there. She was actively involved in the Mimbres Regions Arts Council for twelve years and the Silver City Chamber of Commerce for two years. She was also associated with the Friends of the Silver City Library and Friends of 169.



Linda Gray

Beyond her impressive resume of volunteerism, Linda's true legacy lies in the countless lives she touched with her kindness, a sense of humor, empathy, and genuine care. She had a remarkable ability to bring people together, to inspire collaboration, and to ignite a shared sense of pride in our community.

Linda's absence leaves a void that cannot be filled, but her spirit lives on in the countless memories she created and the positive change she championed. Today, and always, we honor her as a cherished friend, a dedicated volunteer, and an irreplaceable member of the Silver City Museum family and the Silver City community.

Finding the Funds to Serve the Community

By: Bart Roselli, Director

It takes many loyal supporters to keep the museum as an active and valued part of our community. We are so thankful to our sponsors, members, partners, donors, and visitors who give financially to the museum. Surprisingly, it takes nearly \$300,000 annually to keep this place humming. This figure does not include the operating funds that the Town of Silver City provides each year.

Members are the foundation of our operations, contributing some 7% of that \$300,000. Thank you to our new members. We have 100 more members than we did last year at this time. Our Give Grandly campaign was quite successful this year, particularly fun as our Education Programs Manager Wendy Spurgeon organized custom interpreters as part of our living history program to "work the crowd." Thank you to all who donated!

Sponsors and partners also provide vital support to our operations, and I'd like to thank the growing number of businesses,

organizations, and individuals who have joined us. They include the WILL Community, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Griffin's Propane, Open Space Brewery, Ruth Seawolf & Associates, and Food Basket.

Another piece of the funding puzzle is the great work by our Museum Society Fundraising Committee led by the intrepid Patsy Madrid. Patsy and her loyal team of volunteers continue to help by organizing our quarterly bingo games at the Murray Hotel, as well as a series of very popular dances or "balls" with wonderful bands. Not only do these events bring in needed revenue, but they also bring new friends into the museum's circle.

Capping it all off, each year we hold our annual appeal at the end of the calendar year to ensure that we're able to balance our budget. Regardless of how you give, we thank you all very much for partnering with us and investing in the Silver City Museum.

MATA ORTIZ POTTERY

Author's Presentation, Demonstration and Sale

Join us!

at the Museum Annex,
302 West Broadway

Saturday, July 27,
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Master artist **Oralia Lopez** will demonstrate the signature **Mata Ortiz** style of painting throughout the day.



Author presentations and book signings at 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm

Best-Selling and Award-Winning author **Charmayne Samuelson** will be giving slide-show presentation on her best-selling biography of **Spencer MacCallum**.

Alianza Banners and the Preservation of the Past

By Javier Marrufo, Curator

Last year I wrote an article about a photo of two banners that found its way to my desk. The banners came from the Silver City chapters of La Alianza Hispano-Americana, a mutual



Javier Marrufo

benefit society located in the Chihuahua Hill neighborhood in the early 20th Century. Originally founded on January 14, 1894 in Tucson, Arizona, this international organization arose in direct response to hostile attitudes toward Mexican Americans throughout the southwest.

The organization first served as a sociedad mutualista, or a mutual benefit society, that offered life insurance and social activities for Mexican Americans in response to hostile attitudes against Mexican Americans throughout the Southwest.

In that article, I described the photo as an introduction to new research in the University of Arizona historical archives. Since then, both banners have been found in our collection along with a slew of new research. Alianza Lodge 17, the first in Silver City, was founded on Chihuahua Hill in 1905 on the corner of Pinos Altos and San Vicente streets. Over the next three decades, its membership soared to 52, making it the second largest of the seven Alianza lodges in Grant County. Another chapter, Alianza Lodge 67, opened in Silver City with another 43 members in 1915. Lodge 67 was a woman's organization, with the words *Circulo de Señoras*, or Women's Circle, written in bold print on their banner.

Correspondence translated from the archives at the University of Arizona provides a glimpse into the lives of those individuals from Chihuahua Hill who were a part of the organization. Some of those involved with La Alianza were also active in other advocacy groups around Silver City. For example, Alianza Secretary Carlos Melendez was an active member of Western New Mexico University's Catholic Youth Recreational Organization (CYRO), a largely Chicano student organization founded in 1939 for the purpose of recreation, social discourse, general culture, civic improvement, and the welfare of others.

As was often the case, advocacy in Chihuahua Hill usually spread beyond the scope of the neighborhood, and its members demonstrated their commitment to the phrase appearing on official Alianza documentation. *"El hombre fraternalista ... esta siempre dispuesto a sacrificarse por su projimo. Es el que imparte el bien a los demas, sin detenerse en detalles, ni examinar a las personas, a las que protege o ayuda--*The fraternal man ... is always willing to sacrifice himself for his neighbor. He is one who imparts good to others, without dwelling

on details or examining the people he protects or helps."

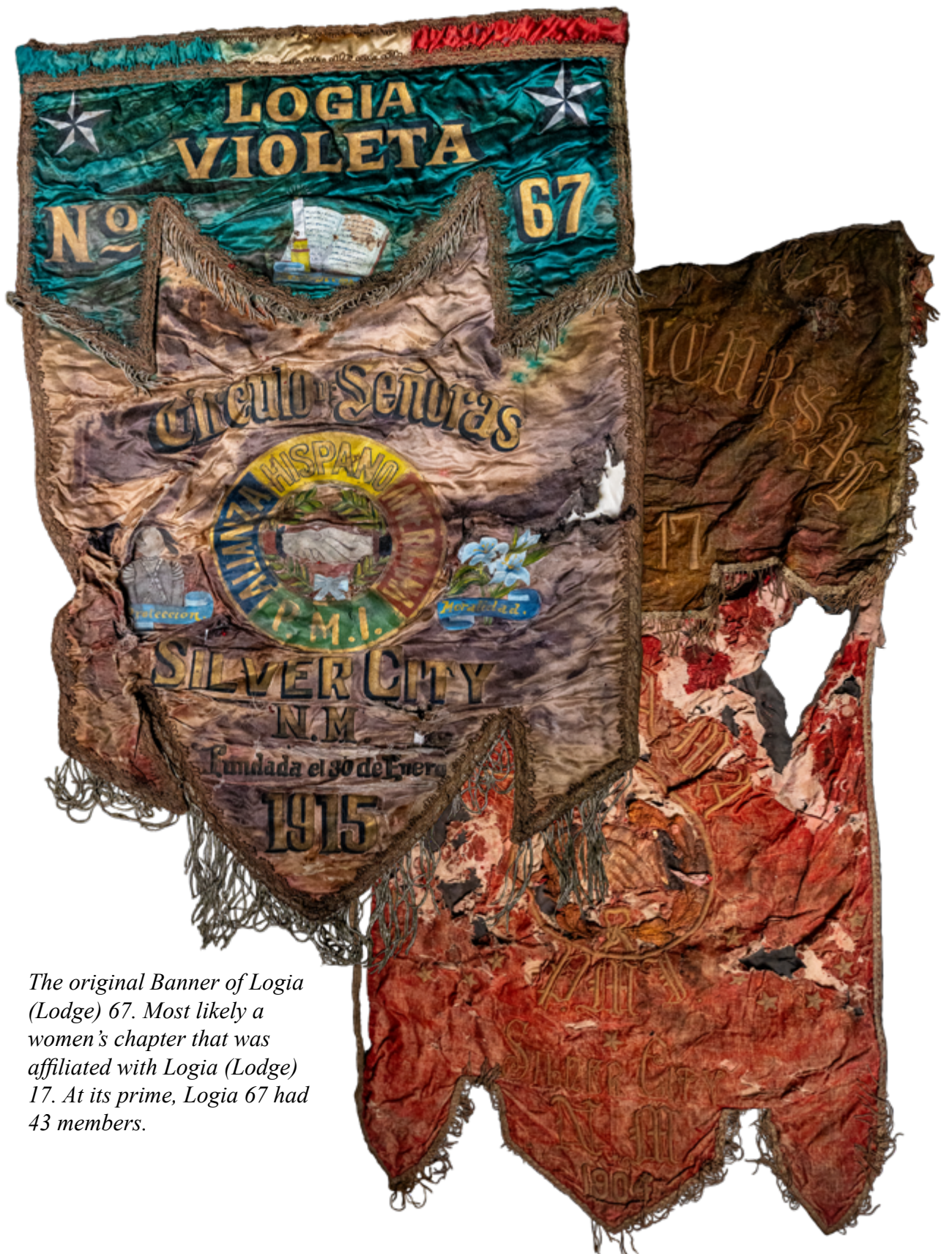
Chihuahua Hill's Alianza lodge was active, regularly sending delegates to regional and national conventions, no doubt connecting the neighborhood to the larger ideas surrounding civil rights and community organizing. In the 1940s, President of Lodge 17 Jose Morales opened the Alianza bar and dance hall on South Texas Street. More than just a place of community activism, La Alianza also acted as a social hub, a gathering point for recreation, drinking, and dances.

In addition to providing fresh avenues for research, the Alianza banners are beautiful, physical representations of the history of Chihuahua Hill. After an assessment by Collections Manager Ashley Smith, it is apparent that both banners need highly

specialized and detailed preservation work. The type of time-consuming work required includes cleaning and sewing onto a large backing board.

The Silver City Museum has reached out to a professional conservator to stabilize the banners to prevent further deterioration. This necessary step in the conservation process will ensure that these banners can be stored safely and even brought out for viewing on occasion. Preservation of objects is essential to the mission of the Silver City Museum, as they are tangible representations of the past. These banners are a truly rare, two-of-a-kind representation of an underrepresented part of that past.

To contribute to this preservation project, please scan the QR code included with this article. Thank you for your generosity!



The original Banner of Logia (Lodge) 67. Most likely a women's chapter that was affiliated with Logia (Lodge) 17. At its prime, Logia 67 had 43 members.

The original Alianza Banner of Logia (Lodge) 17 on Chihuahua Hill. At the center are two hands clasping with the organization's motto, P.M.I., Protección, Moralidad, Instrucción.

Programs and Events

Connecting Communities Through History and Oral Tradition

Summer programs are supported by a generous grant from the New Mexico Humanities Council, and highlight education through oral histories, as presented by guest lecturers and museum staff. The Silver City Museum, in partnership with Western Institute of Lifelong Learning (WILL), is pleased to announce the Summer 2024 season of Community Conversations. These will take place at the Besse-Forward Global Resource Center, ABC Room, at the corner of 12th and Kentucky Streets on the WNMU campus.

Wednesday June 12th 12:00pm – 1:00pm
“Chicana and Chicano Studies and the Value of Oral History”
with Dr. Irene Vasquez



Dr. Irene Vasquez

Dr. Irene Vásquez received her PhD in history at the University of California, Los Angeles. She holds the position of Founding Chair of the Chicana and Chicano Studies Department at the University of New Mexico (UNM). Under her leadership from 2013-2015, UNM established

a Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies, which now offers a Bachelor’s Degree in Chicana and Chicano Studies. She also holds a joint faculty position in Chicana and Chicano Studies and American Studies at UNM.

Dr. Vásquez specializes in the intersectional histories and politics of Mexican-descent populations in the Americas. Her research and teaching interests include U.S. and transnational social and political movements. She co-authored a book on the Chicana and Chicano Movement titled, *Making Aztlan: Ideology and Culture of the Chicana and Chicano Movement: Ideology, 1966-1977*, published by the University of New Mexico Press.

She has written several essays in English and Spanish on the historic and contemporary relations between African Americans and people of Latin American descent, and co-edited *The Borders In All of Us: New Approaches to Global Diasporic Societies*, published by New World African Press.

She is currently writing about immigrant and human rights organizing in the U.S., and has also published essays on Indigenous peoples in what is today northern Mexico. Her current project is a historical survey of Chicana women in the U.S.

Wednesday June 26th 12:00pm – 1:00pm
“Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story”
with Silver City Museum Curator Javier Marrufo

Silver City Museum Curator, Javier Marrufo will discuss his ongoing work on the Chihuahua Hill History Project, and will share his personal interest in the project as both a historian and a Chicano, born and raised in

Silver City. His presentation will describe the need for this project and the previously unexamined historical relevance of the Chihuahua Hill neighborhood – one of Silver City’s oldest and least understood.

“With my connection to the area and love of its history, I am truly fortunate that my career path allows me to study its history, and to make meaningful contributions to our community,” Marrufo said.

The presentation will give audience members a behind-the-scenes look at how Marrufo is working with professional folklorist Dr. Thomas Grant Richardson PhD to create the first comprehensive history of Chihuahua Hill. He will share excerpts from interviews with long-time residents of the community whose stories and experiences are being documented and made public for the first time.

Through Marrufo’s eyes, we will explore an important aspect of local history that has been largely overlooked, due in part to relatively little documentation on the residents of Chihuahua Hill being readily available to the public. This project aims to change that by collecting the stories, photographs, and memorabilia from the people of this historic and culturally rich neighborhood.

July
“The Art of Oral History and Saving Your Family’s Story”

with Dr. Thomas Grant Richardson
Dr. Thomas Grant Richardson holds a master’s degree in ethnomusicology, and received his PhD in folklore and ethnomusicology from Indiana University in 2019. He is currently



Dr. Thomas Grant Richardson

an independent folklorist and documentarian based in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Prior to working as an independent folklorist, Dr. Richardson was the curator of Education and Outreach for the Birthplace of Country Music Museum. He has worked for

Traditional Arts Indiana, Utah Folk Arts Program, New Mexico Arts, the Museum of International Folk Art, and the Birthplace of County Music Museum.

As a researcher and writer, his interests include African Americans in old-time music, Indigenous arts and culture, and community-based self-documentation.

Wednesday August 7th 12:00pm – 1:00pm
“Racial Segregation and Discrimination in Grant County, New Mexico: A Comprehensive Examination Through the Lens of Intersectional Assemblage Theory”
with Cindy “Renee” Provencio

Renee Provencio, a native of Grant County, specifically from the Mining District, is a prominent feminist scholar and activist. She holds a master’s degree in multicultural women

and gender studies from Texas Woman’s University. Notably, her master’s thesis stands as the pioneering work in the serious study of racial segregation and discrimination in the Southwest.

In this presentation of her thesis, Provencio will amplify the voices and narratives of four participants across different generations, who were pivotal in her oral history project and subsequently, her thesis research. The findings of her thesis underscore distressing realities, including instances where Spanish-speaking students faced physical and emotional abuse from teachers for using their native language in schools. Furthermore, Hispanic/Mexican American students were discouraged from pursuing higher education opportunities.

Provencio’s research exposes systemic injustices, such as the case of a Hispanic/Mexican American man who, despite meeting deferment qualifications, was drafted into military service. Another participant, a mine worker and union member drafted into the Korean War, faced accusations of communism by mining company propaganda while advocating for safer working conditions, equitable pay, and healthcare.

Several participants recounted recent encounters with racism in New Mexico, highlighting the persistent need for civil rights advocacy. Through her thesis, Provencio illuminates the ongoing struggle against discrimination and inequality, emphasizing the imperative for continued activism in pursuit of social justice.

For more information about the Community Conversation series or to become a WILL member, please visit www.silvercitymuseum.org or www.will.community.



Renee Provencio

Volunteer View

By: Javier Marrufo

As part of a spring semester service learning project under the guidance of Professor Heather Frankland, Western New Mexico University student Jasmin Flores worked with the Silver City Museum. Jasmin gained experience in conducting and transcribing oral histories. She then wrote an article about these histories for the Silver City Daily Press.

The Silver City Museum happily supports such learning opportunities for local students, and hopes to work with other students as dedicated and hard working as Jasmin. We extend our gratitude to Jasmin and wish for her continued success and fulfillment in all her future endeavors!

Engaging Education, Community Events, and NHD Highlights

By: Wendy Spurgeon,
Education Programs Manager
& Ashley Smith,
Registrar and Collections Manager

Spring was hopping with end-of-year school visits to the Silver City Museum. Education Programs Manager Wendy Spurgeon and volunteers developed a unique solution for serving multiple classrooms visiting the museum at the same time. When two fourth-grade classes from Cliff Elementary School visited in early March, one class visited the Museum Annex for the curriculum-aligned

workshop, “Differing Perspectives of the Mining Industry in Grant County,” while the other explored the *Nuestra Voz* exhibit in the Dodge Gallery and participated in the Chihuahua Hill Escape Room activity. After an hour, both classes took a break in the museum courtyard before switching places to enjoy the alternate activity.

During spring break, the escape room activity and scavenger hunt (for younger children) were both well-attended and especially popular family activities.

Additionally, the education team participated in several community events for youth and families, including an art workshop and student art showcase at Stout Elementary. With a plethora of children’s activities planned for upcoming events like Burlesque Baseball, Fiesta Latina, the Museum’s 40th Annual July 4th Ice Cream Social, and Clay Fest, the

coming months will see many happy children learning about local history and engaging in cultural events.

In February, our Collections Manager Ashley Smith attended the regional semi-finals in Las Cruces for National History Day, along with intern Jonathan Wooster. National History Day celebrated its 50th anniversary this year with the theme of Turning Points in History. Ashley served as the team captain for the Senior Group exhibits and was also a judge alongside two teachers from Las Cruces. Topics they judged ranged from the Fall of Constantinople to the Age of Exploration, to the effects of *Loving v. Virginia* on the legalization of same-sex marriage, to Michael Jackson’s groundbreaking Thriller production and its’ impact on music videos. This wide-range of subject matters made for a fascinating and entertaining day, full of thought-provoking conversations with the students, and between the judges.



Exploring Synergies: The Dynamic Partnership between Silver City Museum and Western Institute for Lifelong Learning

By: Vicky Jensen,
WILL Communications Chair

The Silver City Museum and the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL) is the best kind of partnership! The museum offers

exhibits, events, and educational programming on local history and interests, while WILL offers classes, field trips, and seminars. Often, subject matter overlaps which creates a rich offering for the community.

For example, WILL has offered a class on Native American pottery and the museum shop has an exciting collection by a local artist, as well as numerous books on the subject. WILL has also held classes on local mining operations, while the museum has presented various educational programs on the topic, and has many mining history books for sale in the museum store.

This summer, WILL is offering approximately 28 courses, compared to its regular offering of 70 courses in the spring and fall semesters. Classes are in-person at WMNU, online via Zoom, and often include outdoor classes and field excursions. Examples include courses on Latino art and culture, an acting workshop, Mah Jong, golf lessons, photography, and fun excursions to the Catwalk and Kartchner Caverns,

Of special interest will be a summer collaborative Community Conversation/Lunch and Learn presentation on “How to Master the Art of Oral History Collection,” by Museum Director Bart Roselli and Javier Marrufo, museum curator.

Both the museum and WILL offer education, interaction, and rich cultural experiences through a wide variety of engaging speakers. Topics range from the art of fighting forest fires, to conservation efforts in the Gila, Burlesque Baseball, and many others.

The museum’s Community Conversations series are free to the public and do not require registration.

Registration for WILL’s summer classes begins May 17 and require a membership. Please visit www.will.community for more information.



Welcome New Staff Members

The Silver City Museum is delighted to introduce two dynamic individuals who have recently joined the team-- Brittany Beers and Ana Trinidad. As we continue to strive toward our mission of community engagement and cultural preservation, we are excited to embrace the diverse skill sets and experiences that these two bring to the museum.



Brittany Beers, the new community engagement manager, embodies a deep-rooted commitment to advocacy and community enrichment. Over the course of her 20-year career, she has overseen non-profit development and operations and worked with youth and families as a mental health therapist. She has also worked as a freelance editor, a baker, and an art dealer. She found her way to Silver City by way of Florida, Hawai’i, Alaska, and Washington State, and finds joy and purpose in being of service to rural communities. “I feel fortunate to have been brought onto the team at the museum,” said Brittany. “I’m excited to stand behind the museum’s mission and collaborate with the community on some incredible upcoming projects.” Brittany’s proficiency in communication and development, sales, client relations, and interdisciplinary collaboration will undoubtedly foster stronger connections

between the museum and the community it serves.

Ana Trinidad, the new special events coordinator, is a media literacy specialist, actor, and educator, as well as a media and event producer. Born in the Dominican Republic and raised between New York City and La Capital, her first passion was acting, attending Seward Park High School, where she majored in theatre arts. Ana graduated from the rigorous performing art conservatory at Circle in the Square Theatre School, and later trained in the Meisner technique under John Ruskin.



Ana has been an arts and events producer since she was 19-years old, and has more than 25 years of professional experience. She was the coordinating producer for the first and second annual How! Jr. Festival in New York. Ana also co-directed and co-produced Miguel Pineros Sideshow, which premiered at the Nuyoricans Poets Cafe. After leaving New York, she worked as a production coordinator and event supervisor in Los Angeles for almost 10 years, before relocating to Silver City nearly four years ago. She is “beyond excited” to join the Silver City Museum family.

Please join the museum staff and its partners in welcoming Brittany and Ana, and come by the museum to introduce yourself!

June

Fiesta Latina

Sat. June 8th & Sun. June 9th
9:00am – 2:00pm

Conservatory of Dance Performance
– Fiesta Inspired Dances,
Story Time with Wendy Spurgeon
featuring books from the Silver
City Museum and Papel Picado
activities.

Western New Mexico University
1000 W. College Avenue

Community Conversation

Wednesday June 12th

12:00pm – 1:00pm

“Chicana and Chicano Studies and
the Value of Oral History”

Presented by Dr. Irene Vasquez

WNMU Global Resource Center,
ABC Room

817 W. 12th Street

WILL Class

Friday June 14th

10:30am – 12:00pm

“How to Master the Art of Oral
History Collection”

Presented by Museum Director Bart
Roselli & Curator Javier Marrufo

For WILL members only. Please

visit www.will.community to
become a member.

Community Conversation

Wednesday June 26th

12:00pm – 1:00pm

“Nuestra Voz:

The Chihuahua Hill Story”

Presented by Silver City Museum

Curator, Javier Marrufo

WNMU Global Resource Center,

ABC Room

817 W. 12th Street

July

40th Annual Ice Cream Social

Thursday July 4th

11:00am – 3:00pm

Silver City Museum Courtyard

Annual celebration and fundraising

event featuring local musicians,

vendors, food, and the famous Cake

Walk

Diamond and Denim Ball

Saturday July 6th

7:00pm – 10:00pm

Murray Hotel Ballroom

200 W. Broadway

Library Summer Program

Saturday July 6th

Time TBD

A story shared by Wendy Spurgeon and
puppet actors

Silver City Public Library

515 W. College Avenue

B-I-N-G-O!

Monday July 15th

Doors open at 5:00pm. Games begin at

6:00pm.

Murray Hotel Ballroom

200 W. Broadway

Concessions & Bingo supplies for sale.

Clay Festival

Book Signing & Presentation

Saturday July 27th

Presentations at 10:00am, 11:00am,

1:00pm, and 2:00pm

Silver City Museum Annex

302 W. Broadway

Best-selling and Award-winning author

Charmayne Samuelson discusses how

the Mata Ortiz phenomenon began.

Clay Festival – Mata Ortiz Pottery

Demonstration & Sale

Saturday July 27th

10:00am – 4:00pm

Silver City Museum Annex

302 W. Broadway

Master artist Oralia Lopez of Mata

Ortiz, Chihuahua, demonstrates the

signature Mata Ortiz style of pottery.

Community Conversation

July TBD

12:00pm – 1:00pm

“The Art of Oral History and Saving

Your Family’s Story”

Presented by Dr. Thomas Grant

Richardson

WNMU Global Resource Center,

ABC Room

817 W. 12th Street



Follow Us On
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and YouTube!



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

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



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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