



# The Mansardian

The Quarterly Publication of the Silver City Museum Society



*In June 1969, Planned Parenthood of Grant County was providing family planning services at Ft. Bayard. By August, a Branch Center was opened in downtown Silver City. Pictured above is the first Director of Planned Parenthood, Ms. Davies, RN (From the Silver City Museum Archive).*

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# Director's Desk

It's been a busy time around the museum this past quarter. It all started with the Town of Silver City's Council unanimously approving



Bart Roselli

a revised mission statement for the museum. A strong mission statement has three components: it names who the organization is serving, it tells what it does, and most importantly, it focuses the organization on the outcome it expects from its work.

Our new mission statement has all those components, and the phrase "...to foster informed perspectives on the present" sings to me. This statement now guides everything we do at the museum.

The new mission is already affecting our work, especially through our brand-new exhibit about the impact women have had, and continue to have, on our various health care systems.

"Healers and Heroines: Women and the Shaping of Local Health Care" brings new research, objects, photographs, and oral histories to the public. This exhibit sheds light on both the historical foundations of our health care and our present concerns and challenges. We're particularly proud to showcase the stories of local women who shaped health care in our community, from our earliest days to now.

In conjunction with the new exhibit, we will be launching a yearlong exploration of our health care history and contemporary challenges and success. Through our community conversation series, we'll dig deep into our past experiences in local health care while also exploring what the future may hold. We want everyone in Silver City and Grant County to be part of this conversation.

Two other powerful new initiatives will demonstrate the museum's commitment to energizing our awareness of local history and showcasing our region's multicultural past. A recently inked contract with the Silver City Community Theater partners the museum with a talented body of actors, producers, directors, and playwrights in service to bringing history to life. Our new Living History Project, supported by the New Mexico Economic Development Department, will be a series of live performances about local characters and events. Stay tuned!

Our second major initiative will be to craft a permanent home for the Chihuahua Hill History Project. The hundreds of oral histories, objects, and photographs we amassed for the project will be fitted into a revised gallery on the second floor of the Museum. This collection represents years of work and countless stories from our community, and it deserves a dedicated space where it can be appreciated.

All this would not be possible without the hard work, creativity, and thoughtful dedication of our professional museum staff. Thanks to them,

this museum is a thriving and important part of our life here in Silver City and Grant County. Their commitment to our community and its stories makes everything we do possible.



## Thank You to our New and Renewing Members

New Members: Manuela Baca Jenkins, Anna Conti, Marty Eberhardt, Rick Engelmann, Kat Sherrell, Sandra Ska, and Charles Whiting  
Renewing Members: Lynda Aiman-Smith, Mary Barrett, Jeff Bingaman, Martha Blacklock, Annette Buckley, Christine Carillo, Georgianna Duarte, Padraic Dugan, Stephen Fox, Diane Hansen, Steve Hein, Thomas Hines, Paul Hotvedt, Mary Jemin, Carol Jiron, Fred Johnston, Kevin LaVine, Patsy Madrid, Belitha McKinney, Katie Nolasco, Cathleen Norman, Greta Oberg, Ben Ortiz, Wendy Phillips, Mary Pierce, Francine Popkin, Alan Ragins, Janet Ramirez, Victoria Reece, Cindy Rogers, Dana Rosser, Kathe Rowland, Elisa Sanchez, Linda Shay, Mike Sheffer, Gayle Simmons, Jennifer Six, Mary Lou Smith, Peter Stubben, Frances Vasquez, and Marie Weil.

## Community Connections Strengthen Museum Impact

By: Brittany Beers, Community Engagement Manager

The Silver City Museum has markedly expanded its community presence throughout 2024, deliberately moving beyond our historic walls to engage with the public in their own spaces. This expansion has been made possible through the dedicated fundraising efforts of our staff and the generous support of community partners. From hosting environmental dialogue at the closing ceremony of the Gila River Festival to celebrating art, education, and local culture at Carnitas, Musica y Más, Pride Fest, Print Fiesta, and Tamal Fiesta y Más, we have reimaged how a small-town museum can serve as a catalyst for meaningful community discourse.

Our "Museum on the Move" initiative has yielded compelling results, particularly with the support of our volunteers and our sponsors Dr. Marie Weil, artist Diana Ingalls Leyba, the innovative team at Future Forge Makerspace, and Freeport-McMoRan. This deliberate shift toward mobile programming and outreach has significantly increased both physical and digital engagement. A notable surge in online engagement and monthly e-newsletter subscriptions reflects growing public interest in accessing historical resources through multiple channels—suggesting that accessibility enhances, rather than diminishes, the impact of traditional museum services.

The museum's growth has been further supported by two significant grants. We received a New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board (NMHRAB) grant of \$5,525, which will bring former UNM intern Jonathan Wooster to our team for two and a half months beginning in January 2025 to archive the Lime Family Collection. Additionally, a \$3,400 grant from the Denver Foundation/Greenwood Fund will enable professional evaluation of the historic Alianza Banners by textile conservation specialist Melanie D. Sanford of Conserving Threads/Textile Preservation Services of Texas.

For those who value rigorous historical interpretation and cultural stewardship, museum membership offers partnership in this vital work. Visit [silvercitymuseum.org](http://silvercitymuseum.org) to learn more about supporting our expanding community initiatives and how you can get involved.

## 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:

**Raul Turrieta, President**

**Roger Tree, Vice President**

**Rick Johnson, Secretary**

**Susan Hinojosa, Treasurer**

Patsy Madrid

Dr. Doug Dinwiddie

Dr. Stephen Fox

Frances Vasquez

Lydia Villegas

Bart Roselli, ex officio

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 • [silvercitymuseum.org](http://silvercitymuseum.org)

## Exploring a Neighborhood and the Shaping of Local Health Care

By: Tom Oberg,  
Exhibitions Projects Manager

As part of our ongoing exhibition schedule, preparations are underway for the next round of exhibits. Following its final showing on November 3, we are moving “Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story” upstairs to its permanent home. The former Tyrone Gallery has been deinstalled and is being refitted with a refreshed view of “Nuestra Voz.” Special thanks to Michale Aguirre and his brother Garrett of Silver Mountains Landscaping for their help in making this transition possible. The new permanent exhibit will open Tuesday, December 31, and programming to celebrate the reopening will be held on January 25, 2025. We hope you will join us.

Museum staff views each exhibit as part

of a continuum where the exhibit is not the end product, but one stop toward a broader understanding of the topic. Through varied public programming, school outreach, classroom partnerships, ongoing research, and active collection of objects, photos, and manuscripts, dedicated staff members continually seek new stories from Grant County residents.

We invite former and current residents of Chihuahua Hill to share their stories with our Curator Javier Marrufo. Interested participants can reach him at [curator@silvercitymuseum.org](mailto:curator@silvercitymuseum.org) or 575-597-0229.

Our next exhibit in the large gallery is “Healers and Heroines: Women and the Shaping of Local Health Care,” which explores women’s roles in developing regional health

and health care practices. It will highlight women who formed the foundation of the health care systems we recognize today, as well as contemporary women important to current health care. Four major themes will be explored: Women as Healers, Women as Foundation Builders, Women as Adapters, and Women as Activists.

Throughout Grant County’s history, women have played and continue to play a vital role in shaping regional health care. Beyond celebrating these accomplishments, “Healers and Heroines” examines the realities and unique challenges of rural health care. At its core, health care in Grant County developed from local women’s recognition that caring for vulnerable community members was crucial to the region’s success.

## Collections

### From Our Collections: Letters Reveal Life at St. Joseph’s Sanatorium

By: Ashley Smith,  
Registrar & Collections Manager

Silver City, like many Southwestern towns in the early 1900s, became a destination for health seekers, specifically those suffering from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, better known as TB. Airborne and highly infectious, TB is a bacteria spread through close contact with an infected individual who coughs or sneezes. At the turn of the 20th century, the disease was one of the deadliest infections known, killing one in seven inhabitants of the U.S. or Europe. It is also one of the oldest diseases, predating modern humans, with evidence showing signs in fossil records dating back almost 3 million years.

Silver City’s high altitude and arid climate made it ideal for health seekers, or “lungers,” seeking a cure. In 1902, the first sanatorium in New Mexico opened in Silver City. St. Joseph’s was founded by the Sisters of Charity and was privately run. When it opened, TB was still not fully understood, and treatments varied.

In Dr. Twana Sparks’ book, “Ping Pong Balls and Donkey’s Milk,” some of these treatments are outlined. One such “cure” was to totally collapse the lung by flooding the pleural space—the two layers of tissue between the lung and the chest—with air. The idea was to “push out the infection” and allow the lung to rest, heal, and re-inflate on its own as the air was absorbed into the body. This would be repeated if needed. Another treatment involved cutting open the chest and inserting ping pong balls between the lung and the chest wall, making it impossible for the lung to inflate fully. These treatments would coincide with bed rest, where patients would do little to no physical activity and be fed nutritious meals. Another approach was to drain infection from the lung by inserting tubes into the lung itself. None of this was pleasant or comfortable, nor was it truly effective.

One early health seeker to Silver City, who

predated the founding of St. Joseph’s, was Catherine McCarty, the mother of Silver’s most notorious but short-lived inhabitant, Billy the Kid. Catherine brought Billy and his little brother, Joe, to Silver in 1871 after her TB returned and worsened. Catherine, like many, hoped that the climate, altitude, and relatively mild weather of Silver City would help her recover and eventually rid herself of this horrid illness. Sadly, this was not to be, and she passed away in 1874 at age 45.

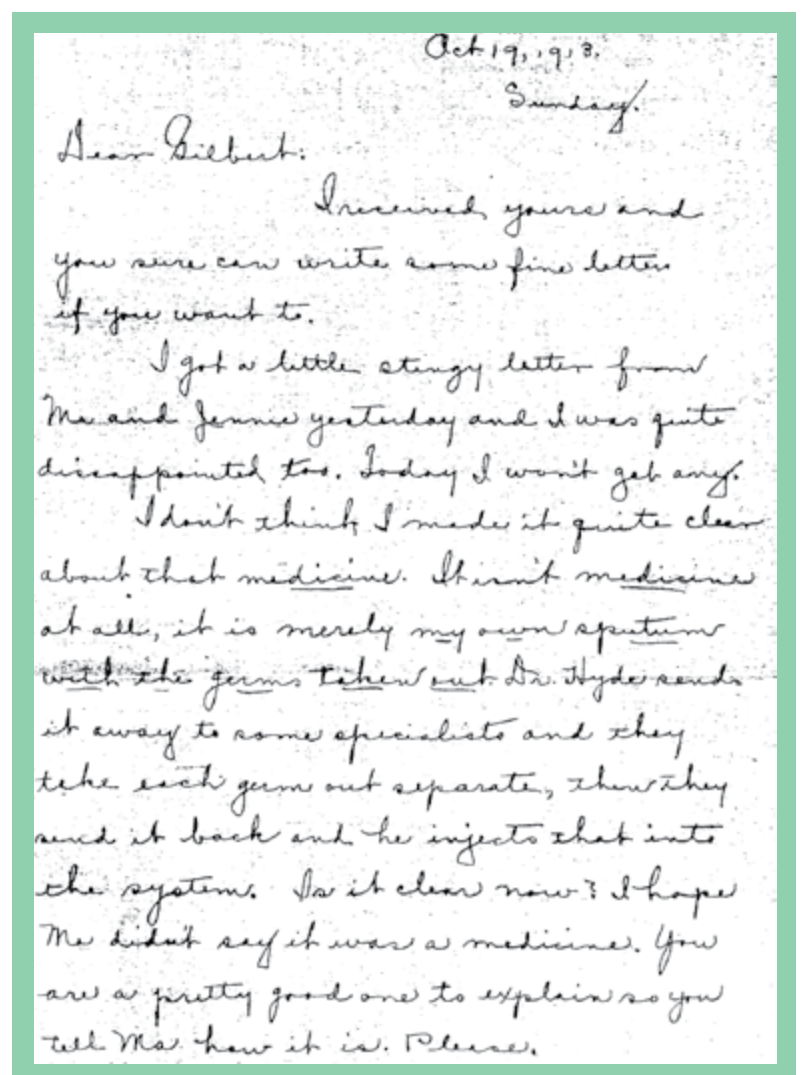
A lesser-known health seeker to the Silver City area was Miss Helen Norine. She came to St. Joseph’s Sanatorium in 1913. The museum holds a small collection of letters written by Helen to her family. They were saved by her sister, Jennie, and donated by her son, DeWitt Hackett, in 2003. The letters are a snapshot of Helen’s time at St. Joseph’s from late September through October 1913. Helen’s letters tell her family of her battle with the “bugs,” as she called them.

Helen mentions less invasive methods than those outlined in Dr. Sparks’ book. Helen would sit in the sun for hours with other patients on the sunning porch and was given “blood tonics” by Dr. Hyde, the attending physician. These tonics, combined with sunlight, presumably consisted of vitamin D—an important nutrient for TB patients, as its deficiency could cause anemia.

Another treatment she outlined to her brother, Gilbert, in her letter dated October 19, 1913, was a “medicine” made of her own germs, isolated from her sputum, and injected back into her. Ten days later, in a letter to her mother, she mentions possibly

receiving “the vaccine” from Dr. Hyde. The cost? A whopping \$25—nearly \$800 in 2024 money. It is not noted what this vaccine was, as the official vaccine for TB was not introduced to the U.S. until 1921. Sadly, this would be seven years too late for Helen, who passed away at St. Joseph’s Sanatorium on February 23, 1914. She was 19 years old.

Helen’s letters in our collection provide an intimate window into the lives of TB patients at St. Joseph’s Sanatorium. Her story, like those of many health seekers who came to Silver City, helps us understand both the personal toll of tuberculosis and its lasting impact on our community’s development.



An excerpt from the letters of Miss Helen Norine describing to her brother the treatment she received while a patient at St. Joseph’s Sanatorium in 1913.

## Health Care's Hidden Heritage

By Javier Marrufo, Curator

What is health, what is health care, and how do we take care of each other? These are the



Javier Marrufo

questions explored in the Silver City Museum's newest exhibit detailing the critical impact of women in Grant County's health care institutions. The exhibit was first envisioned earlier this year and based on the research of local historian Dr. Heather Moorland, who highlighted

the women's sewing circle that in 1882 first proposed a local hospital to "provide some sort of shelter, care, and treatment for the aged and sick prospectors and miners" (Elizabeth Warren speech, December 17, 1937). This historical manuscript, one of 10 similar works included in the Silver City Museum's "Unpacking Silver City" series, became the jumping off point for additional research into the health care industries of the past. Through this research, it became immediately apparent that local women were central to the foundations of Grant County's healthcare system in nearly all cases.

Although the role of women in Grant County's health care institutions has been ubiquitous, their contributions were often diminished, if acknowledged at all, in their respective eras. The history of these circumstances was informed by local, regional, and national factors. From the 19th century onward, health care has been perceived, or at least presented, as a male-dominated field. This is evident in how historic sources were written. Take, for instance, the Health Seekers Era (1890s to 1920s), when Silver City, praised for its "Golden Clime," became a haven for tuberculosis patients (or "lungers"). Past



Established in 1883, the Ladies Hospital was started by the Ladies Sewing Circle in a small, donated cottage on 13<sup>th</sup> street. The hospital was later moved to a building on Hudson Street where it was renamed Grant County Charity Hospital (From the Silver City Museum Archive).

historical works praise Dr. Earl S. Bullock and Wayne McVeagh Wilson, who founded the famous Cottage Sanatorium. Meanwhile, little, if anything, is known about the nurses who cared for the consumptive patients. They remain unnamed to history, their stories faded much like the photographs that remain the only evidence of their contributions.

Because of perceptions created in the past, mostly male perspectives have made their way into medical literature, practice, and historical studies. Since women's roles in health care have been historically minimized, their contributions and experiences often go unheard. Like any marginalized group, the outcomes of this are far-reaching. In Grant County and across the nation, minimization of women's roles meant they were often absent in administrative leadership positions within

the medical and medical research fields, especially in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Anecdotally, this lack of representation meant fewer role models to inspire later generations of young women in the field. One participant in the research for this exhibit noted, "Women's contribution to health care is enormous, but does that get up to the level of serious decision making? ... We have to have a plan for women with administrative backgrounds to be at the decision-making level. It's changed a lot over the years, but it's still only 25%."

The disparities in women's experiences have affected not only their roles as health care providers but as patients as well. Just as women's roles as providers were minimized, so too were the conditions they faced. Compounding these circumstances is the historic underrepresentation of women in medical research, where nearly all medical knowledge reflected male physiology, the male body, and male experiences, reinforcing massive gaps in understanding women's health issues. Many people interviewed for this project relayed experiences where women's conditions and medical issues were trivialized, under-researched, or plainly misunderstood. Often, women's symptoms were dismissed as hysteria, postpartum depression, or menopause, leading to critical misdiagnoses and inadequate treatment practices. One former mental health care professional recalled, "Everything was blamed on menopause, that was the big thing. They're going through the change of life or had a nervous breakdown... And I [as a therapist] would say, 'Tell me what a nervous breakdown is. Literally. I want to know the medical term for what's happening.' ... And I remember always asking the doctor, 'I have so-and-so [here] and [they] need a full checkup... and don't tell me it's menopause!' And, you know, a lot of times they had severe anemia, they



A woman rests outside, in the snow, at Cottage Sanatorium, noted as one of the most famous sites for tuberculosis patients in the Southwest during the early 1900s. Although mostly unnamed, a large force of nurses cared for the patients of the sanatorium (From the Silver City Museum Archive).

were having silent seizures, [or] they had some kind of infection going on...”

This history of systemic issues within not only the health care system but in society itself presents opportunities for the Silver City Museum to explore how the lived experiences of Grant County women compare to the overarching times and influences they lived and continue to live in. Although many of these experiences are true, they are also influenced by a misrepresented depiction of our past. After following the original research of Dr. Heather Moorland, it became immediately apparent that women were involved, at a foundational level, with nearly every medical institution of Grant County, from the late 19th century to today.

The Silver City Museum’s upcoming exhibit will explore this gap in history from multiple viewpoints, envisioning four overarching themes regarding women’s roles in health care: Women as Healers, Women as Foundation Builders, Women as Adapters, and Women as Activists. There are countless experiences that make up these viewpoints. A favorite example is the varied historic cultural healing practices and how they influence modern, “traditional” medicine. The following excerpt comes from a doctor’s letter, originally published in the Lebanon Banner in 1903 and later reprinted in The Silver City Enterprise, which highlights the cultural differences as perceived in the early 20th century:

“After passing through San Juan, we pulled into a large corral where we left our team. We then went to a door on one side of the corral in a large Mexican house, passing through a number of rooms to where the sick woman lay. Everything about the house was nice and clean. But no air in the sick room. The room, about 10x12 feet, had two small windows and two doors; both windows and one door was [sic] closed. I suggested to Dr. Milliken that we give more air to the patient in her treatment, and a little cold water to a fever of 103. The Doctor, who knows how to treat a Mexican, and can speak their language as well as a native, said, ‘You must not cool a Mexican too quick, nor give them all the outdoor air you



*An open house from Grant County’s original Planned Parenthood Center. This center, aimed at making every baby a “wanted baby” was founded almost exclusively by local women. Pictured in the open house are Mrs. Frank Griswold, Barbara Meyer, Mrs. Anita Torres, Mrs. Kenneth Champlin, and Laura Crosby (From the Silver City Museum Archive).*

would an American; it will kill them.’ They are accustomed to sleeping in numbers in crowded rooms, with closed doors, when it is the least bit cold. They are afraid of pneumonia, for it is always fatal up here to both the Mexican and the American alike.”

This excerpt illustrates that health and health care are defined by cultural realities as much as scientific ones. Cultural perspectives on health care are influenced by several factors: social, economic, historical, and ancestral. One of the key aspects this exhibit explores is how these perspectives continue to drive our understanding of health today and how they are not simply relegated to the past but are a part of everyday life. Multiple participants, such as Dr. Maria Arizaga, related as much during one of our community focus group meetings, “A woman very softly asked me if I would do a blessing. I asked her if she could tell me more about what she meant by a blessing, and essentially what she was talking about was a *limpia* [cleansing]. But she was afraid to say it because she felt that people thought she was crazy, or that this

was a crazy way to attend to something that she was concerned about. So, people are slowly wanting to incorporate that into their lives.”

#### A Plea to Our Readers

Although this new exhibit, “Healers and Heroines: Women and the Shaping of Local Health Care,” presents many unrepresented stories from Grant County, the historic underrepresentation of women’s perspectives means there are large gaps in our historical resources. The Silver City Museum is dedicated to presenting honest, truthful reflections of the community that we serve. As such, we often appeal to the community to help construct the histories that we present. Community-based research, a collaboration with the people we serve, is the backbone of our methods, ensuring that we remain reflective of who we are and who we were. By grounding our research in lived experiences, the Silver City Museum becomes more inclusive through respect for the knowledge afforded by the community. This kind of research is inherently culturally appropriate and understanding of the community’s values and beliefs, which in turn enhances the validity of the histories we present.

This community-based work has already begun with a series of community focus groups who have guided the data collection and overall thematic structure of the research. Five community meetings with local historians, healers, educators, and health care professionals provided a baseline for the history and guided the research. Similarly, the Silver City Museum extends an invitation to anyone who knows about this history, holds a different perspective, has their own story to share, or can loan or donate objects, photos or documents to reach out and collaborate.

If you are interested in contributing to this project, you can contact Javier Marrufo at [curator@silvercitymuseum.org](mailto:curator@silvercitymuseum.org).

## *Volunteer View*

**By: Mary Stone, Volunteer Manager**

Hello everyone!

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the incredible volunteers of the Silver City Museum for making our Día de los Muertos celebration a wonderful success! Our 32 enthusiastic volunteers beamed with energy and determination, allowing this event to really showcase the spirit of our community and this meaningful celebration.

A special shout-out goes to our front desk greeters and gift shop cashiers for their consistent weekly commitment to both the museum and our visitors. Without these dedicated individuals, our ability to serve and engage with the community would be greatly impaired.

Have you considered volunteering? It’s a fantastic way to connect with others while making a difference. Our next event, Victorian Christmas and More, is just around the corner! If you’re interested in learning more about volunteering opportunities, please reach out to me, Mary, at 575-597-0226 or [volunteer@silvercitymuseum.org](mailto:volunteer@silvercitymuseum.org)

Thank you all once again, and I look forward to hearing from you! Happy Holidays!

# Partners and Staff

## LULAC Council 8003 Update

By: Fred Baca, President



Council 8003 has been busy since the last issue of *The Mansardian*. Thanks to members Marivel Medel and Javier Marrufo, work was completed on our council website: [grantcountylulac.org](http://grantcountylulac.org).

Members Fred Baca, Fred Marquez, and Javier Marrufo traveled to the Southern Regional Conference on Civil Rights and Social Justice in Alamogordo on October 12, where Marrufo delivered "The Chihuahua Hill Story." Members from area LULAC councils praised his presentation.

The council will participate in the Tamal

Fiesta on November 16, 2024. Fred Baca serves on the committee at large. The council's information booth will feature a 50/50 drawing, applications, and T-shirts.

Javier Marrufo, curator of the Silver City Museum, received the \$1,000 M.H. McKinney Family/Dr. Ken Ladner scholarship. He is pursuing a doctorate in Chicano Studies from the University of New Mexico and has conducted extensive research on Silver City and surrounding areas.

Several members attended a ceremony at Western New Mexico University honoring Manuela Baca Jenkins, who was selected as an Outstanding WNMU Alumni. Jenkins remains active in our organization.

At our October 22 meeting, the council hosted

both district attorney candidates, who presented their platforms and answered members' questions. LULAC does not endorse political candidates.

The council provided a letter of support for Bea McKinney's nomination as Volunteer of the Year by the Silver City Museum. By the time you're reading this, the Silver City Grant County Chamber of Commerce will have made their final selection.

Members continue to support quarterly museum bingos and encourage public participation in museum activities. As an organization, we value our partnership with the museum and appreciate its growth and diverse offerings.

## WILL and WNMU: A Growing Partnership

By: Marla McDonald,  
WILL Communications Chair



Western Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL) continues to grow under its expanded agreement with Western New Mexico University.

The organization welcomed two new staff members: Ha Chau as tech support coordinator and Mary O. "MaryO" Parker as executive

director, who marks her one-year anniversary this month. Together with veteran employee Denise Frederick, they have modernized WILL's website and administrative systems while managing operations during the Rhoda House renovation this summer.

The WILL Scholarship for Lifelong Learners, now established through the WNMU Foundation, provides college and technical program scholarships to local high school students. Applications and qualification details are available at [foundation.wnmu.edu/scholarship](http://foundation.wnmu.edu/scholarship).

To contribute to the scholarship fund, donors may:

- Mail checks to WNMU Foundation, PO Box 1158, Silver City, NM 88062 (note scholarship name in memo)
- Visit [foundation.wnmu.edu/give-today](http://foundation.wnmu.edu/give-today)
- Contact George Turner, scholarship and fund account manager, at 575-538-6691 for card contributions

Spring 2025 Lunch & Learn Programs will be held January 15, 22, and 29. Visit [will.community/lunchlearn](http://will.community/lunchlearn) for details.

## Museum Advisory Group Provides Support, Insight, and Inspiration

By: Mary Gates Advisory Group Chair and  
Colleen Jirón Advisory Group Secretary

The Silver City Museum Advisory Group is a panel of five volunteers who meet every three months to learn and brainstorm about museum programs, priorities, and opportunities. Members are appointed by the mayor and approved by the Town Council. The meetings are open to the public, with topics ranging from future exhibits to collections, planning, and community outreach.

The current members include Chair Mary Gates, Vice Chair George Carr, Secretary Colleen Jirón, Tooahyaysay/Bill Bradford, and Patricia Hunt. Silver City District 4 Councilor Guadalupe Cano attends meetings as a non-voting ex-officio representative of the Town Council, and Raul Turrieta participates as a non-voting ex-officio representative of the Museum Society.

Museum Director Bart Roselli explains that the group is a way for the museum to be informed by a variety of individuals from different backgrounds and experiences. "This helps the museum staff to be mindful of different points of view as we strive to be inclusive and relevant to people's daily lives," he said. At the November 2024 meeting, advisory group members were invited to review and

provide suggestions on text that will be used in an upcoming exhibit about the history of women in health care. One suggestion was to consider expanding the timeline to include pre-20th century indigenous healers and traditions that have focused on wellness care, such as natural childbirth and preventative care.

When asked what motivated his participation in the group, George Carr explained, "I think

that the past really is the present, and the way history is viewed by the community influences a lot about people's ideas going forward." The advisory group's dedication to providing support, insight, and inspiration to the Silver City Museum staff is invaluable. Their diverse perspectives and collaborative approach help ensure that the museum's exhibitions and programs remain relevant, connected, accessible to the entire community.

## Visit the Museum Store: Get a Head Start on Christmas!

By: Melody Collins, Store Manager

The Museum Store offers a delightful selection of affordable gift items perfect for family and friends. With a wide variety of unique and thoughtful gifts, you are sure to find something special for everyone on your list. To enhance your shopping experience, we also provide complimentary gift packaging, making it easy to present your gifts beautifully.

Mark your calendars! Starting on

November 15, we will kick off our annual 20% discount exclusively for Silver City Museum Society Members. This once-a-year benefit is a fantastic opportunity to save on your holiday shopping, but don't wait too long – this offer ends on December 31.

Not a member yet? Join us today to take advantage of this special discount and enjoy other membership benefits throughout the year. Visit the Museum Store and discover the perfect gifts while supporting our museum!

# Education Update

## Building Bridges: Museum and Schools Partner for Cultural Education

By: Deb James,  
Education Programs Manager

Educating school kids about local history has been a priority this past fall at the museum. When social studies educators in the state rewrote the social studies standards three years ago, one of their aims was to help students connect with the historical discrimination and segregation experienced by citizens of non-white backgrounds and help them overcome the pervasive “fear of others” to set a course for a safer, more equitable future. To that end, we created two four-part lessons (also known as units) for delivery in our local schools.

For eighth-grade English/Language Arts classes, we developed an oral history unit, and for juniors taking U.S. History, we created an ethnic, culture, and identity studies unit. Early in the semester, I met with teachers in area schools to gather their input on developing the units and later scheduled dates for facilitating these lessons in participating school. Classes were also invited to visit the “Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story” exhibit before it closed.

I have had a wonderful time working with

students at Snell Middle School and Cobre High School in Bayard, and at Aldo Leopold Charter School in Silver City. Students were enthusiastic about both units. Having visited the current exhibit featuring examples of local oral histories collected by Curator Javier Marrufo, nearly 100 eighth-graders have learned the etiquette and methods for conducting oral histories. They have chosen family or community members to interview and will present their five-minute interview recordings to classmates in upcoming weeks.

For our ethnic, culture, and identity studies unit, Joe Saenz of the Chiricahua Apache Band granted us an interview about the natural and social history of the region’s Apaches. Renee Provencio allowed us to record her discussing the oral histories she collected for her master’s thesis, “Racial Discrimination and Segregation in Grant County,” which will be shown in classes. Dr. Doug Dinwiddie of the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society was recorded portraying Captain Wright of the 12th Cavalry Division of Buffalo Soldiers for use in the lessons. Students will present to their classmates several transcribed interviews from local figures about their experiences in schools

and mines. The objective is to help students learn about the intersection of many cultures and celebrate the diversity found in Grant County.

Additionally, 30 homeschoolers will visit the museum this December. We have also offered educational activities at local events such as the Print Fiesta and Día de los Muertos. At the Tamal Fiesta y Más in November, children learned about the history of the *piñata*, and games of *lotería* (Spanish-language bingo) were held every half-hour to the joy of all who participated. Prizes included authentic Mexican *dulces* (candies) and *juguets* (toys). Culturally inclusive activities are also slated for our holiday event, Victorian Christmas and More.

We are preparing student- and family-friendly activities to accompany our new exhibit, “Healers and Heroines: Women and the Shaping of Local Health Care,” which opens to the public on December 14, 2024. Second- and fourth-grade classes are invited to visit the museum in spring 2025 between March and May. Educators may schedule immersive, interactive field trips and guided tours at the museum by visiting [silvercitymuseum.org](http://silvercitymuseum.org).

## Programs and Events

**Arte Chicano 2024: Jesse Ochoa Exhibition**  
Now Showing through  
Sunday December 29<sup>th</sup>  
Silver City Museum

Our Besse-Forward Gallery proudly presents the masterful works of award-winning wood carver Jesse Ochoa. His stylized, indigenous-inspired pieces capture the essence of movement—wind flowing through a horse’s mane and whales gliding through water. Complementing his woodwork, the exhibition also features a powerful series of photographs documenting the Apache Crown Dance, a sacred ceremonial dance for healing and protection. Diana Ingalls Leyba, exhibit curator and 2024 Governor’s Award recipient for Excellence in the Arts, celebrates Ochoa’s “elegant lines and fine craftsmanship,” bringing these remarkable pieces to our community.

**New Exhibition Opening**  
Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup> 11:00am – 3:30pm  
Silver City Museum

Join us for the unveiling of our newest exhibition, “Healers and Heroines: Women and the Shaping of Local Health Care,” which celebrates the pioneering women who built Grant County’s health care foundation. This compelling showcase explores the multifaceted world of women in medicine, from traditional healers to modern practitioners. Discover the political challenges they faced, their innovative solutions to rural health care needs, and the lasting impact they’ve made on our community.

**Victorian Christmas & More!**  
Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup> 11:00am – 3:30pm  
Museum Courtyard

The museum courtyard comes alive once

again to host our 40-year tradition of Victorian Christmas and More. With the sounds of seasonal music to the charming performances of a puppet show, we’re looking forward to celebrating with our community. The Silver Ringtones will be performing throughout the day while Baile Encanto brings traditional folklorico dance to life. Keana Huerta and Anjelica Padilla will also fill the air with their melodic voices. Young visitors can craft birdseed ornaments with the Bird Alliance of Southwest New Mexico, create holiday luminaries, and enjoy free face painting. Father Christmas himself will be present in our courtyard, distributing books to young readers. Savor complimentary sugar cookies and warm cider while browsing the works of local artisans and craft vendors. For a schedule of performances, visit [silvercitymuseum.org](http://silvercitymuseum.org).

**Nuestra Voz: A New Chapter**  
Tuesday December 31<sup>st</sup>  
Our cherished and critically acclaimed “Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story” exhibit prepares for an exciting transition as the year draws to a close. We’re thrilled to announce its upcoming move to a permanent home upstairs. End the final day of your year with a visit to the upstairs gallery featuring the newly revived installation. In this new space, we’ll continue to gather and showcase the voices and stories of Chihuahua Hill that make that region’s heritage so rich and diverse.

**Member Appreciation Holiday Shopping**  
Friday November 15<sup>th</sup> –  
Tuesday December 31<sup>st</sup>  
Silver City Museum Store  
Our valued members can now enjoy an exclusive 20% discount throughout the holiday season! From November 15 through

December 31, explore our carefully curated Museum Store collection and find the perfect gifts while supporting the Silver City Museum.

**Nuestra Voz: The Re-Opening**  
Saturday January 25<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm – 4:00pm  
Silver City Museum  
Join Museum Director Bart Roselli and Curator Javier Marrufo as they officially welcome “Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story” to its new and permanent space in the upstairs gallery. Museum members, the Mayor’s Advisory Group, and participants of this three-year project are especially encouraged to attend.

**Holiday Hours**  
The museum and museum store will be closed on Christmas Eve (Tuesday, December 24), Christmas Day (Monday, December 25), and New Year’s Day (Wednesday, January 1) to allow our staff to celebrate with their families. We look forward to welcoming you during our regular hours throughout the rest of the holiday season!



## December

### Arte Chicano 2024

#### Through Sunday

#### December 29<sup>th</sup>

#### Silver City Museum

Our Besse-Forward Gallery

proudly presents the masterful works of wood carver and photographer Jesse Ochoa.

### New Exhibition Opening

#### Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup>

11:00am – 3:30pm

Silver City Museum

Join us for the unveiling

of our newest exhibition,

“Healers and Heroines:

Women and the Shaping of

Local Health Care,” which

celebrates the pioneering

women who built Grant

County’s health care

foundation.

### Victorian Christmas

#### & More!

#### Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup>

11:00am – 3:30pm

Museum Courtyard

Kids activities, live music,

and performances all day.

Father Christmas. Book

giveaway. Local artisans and

craft vendors. For a schedule

of performances, visit

[silvercitymuseum.org](http://silvercitymuseum.org).

### Holiday Hours

#### Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup> and

#### Wednesday December 25<sup>th</sup>

The museum and museum

store will be closed in

honor of Christmas Eve and

Christmas. Happy Holidays to

everyone!

### Nuestra Voz: A New Chapter

#### Tuesday December 31<sup>st</sup>

A soft opening for the “Nuestra

Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story”

exhibit. Visit the upstairs gallery

featuring the newly revived and

permanent installation.

### Member Appreciation Holiday

#### Shopping

#### Friday November 15<sup>th</sup> –

#### Tuesday December 31<sup>st</sup>

#### Silver City Museum Store

Our valued members can now

enjoy an exclusive 20% discount

throughout the holiday season!

## January

### Holiday Hours

#### Wednesday January 1<sup>st</sup>

The museum and museum store

will be closed in honor of New

Year’s Day. Happy New Year to

everyone!

### Nuestra Voz: The Grand

#### Re-Opening

#### Saturday January 25<sup>th</sup>

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Silver City Museum

Museum Director Bart Roselli

and Curator Javier Marrufo

officially welcome “Nuestra

Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story”

to its new and permanent space

in the upstairs gallery. Museum

members, the Mayor’s Advisory

Group, and participants of this

three-year project are especially

encouraged to attend.

## Upcoming Programs and Events



Follow Us On  
Facebook, Instagram,  
and YouTube!



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

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

- 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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