

T• Museum Times



NEW MEXICO HISTORY MUSEUM | PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS | HISTORY LIBRARY | PHOTO ARCHIVES | PALACE PRESS | PORTAL PROGRAM



Volunteer Jerry Richardson teaches a new trick to a young visitor at our fifth birthday event.

You're Invited: The Annual Volunteer Appreciation Party

We can't count the number of times a volunteer stood at the ready to help us get our jobs done. On Friday, June 20, from 4 to 6 pm, we'd like to thank each one in person.

Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Party will be held in the lobby and courtyard (weather willing). It features a special nibbling menu from Rose Ward. We'll also have short presentations from staffers, bocce ball and croquet games, and a special take-home treat.

How much do our volunteers matter?

In 2013 alone, they donated more than 5,300 hours of work, from leading tours to scanning WPA oral histories, shelving books, cataloguing rare photographic collections, making sure our administrative files were in order, and serving refreshments at our exhibition openings.

The Independent Sector would value those 5,300 hours at \$117,342, but to us, they were beyond priceless.

Consider the 6,000 or so people who might miss out on museum tours if it weren't for volunteers. Who would help children figure out their Santa wish and speak it out loud during Christmas at the Palace? How drab would exhibit openings be without refreshments?

To help us with a head count, please make a reservation by contacting Tay Balenovic at 505-476-5156 or tay.balenovic@state.nm.us.



Detail of *Our Lady of the Rosary of Pomata*, unidentified artist, Peru or Bolivia, late 17th or early 18th century. Oil on canvas. New Mexico History Museum Collection. Gift of the International Institute of Iberian Colonial Art. Photo by Blair Clark.

Our Lady in the Americas

When Spanish colonists braved the ocean and sailed to exotic and uncertain futures in Mexico, Peru, Bolivia and Santa Fe, they didn't go alone. Tucked into their caravans were religious items that reminded them of who they were and defined them to the peoples they encountered.

In remote New Mexico, new artists based their works on those European-inspired paintings and statues, eventually giving birth to a wholly new art form: the *santeros*.

By the 1960s, an ethos of "new is better" threatened all that art. Flat-roofed adobe missions were being modernized, bulldozed and/or rebuilt. Art historians and galleries had yet to see the value in the artwork they held—but Charles W. Collier and his wife, Nina Perera Collier, did. Then cultural attachés to Bolivia, the couple began buying the 17th- and 18th-century paintings, an interest that grew into a passion and, eventually, blossomed into the International Institute of Iberian Colonial Art, based at the Colliers' Los Luceros estate north of Española.

In 2005, the institute needed to find a new home for the artworks. The promise of additional storage and exhibition space at the then-unbuilt New Mexico History Museum proved a clincher. Seventy paintings and three sculptures came to us and, on June 29, more than half of them will share an exhibition space for the first time.

Painting the Divine: Images of Mary in the New World focuses on artwork that depicts Our Lady and Her evolution in the Americas.

continued ►

Calendar

DOWNTOWN WALKING TOURS

Through October 11, Monday through Saturday, museum-trained guides extend the museum's educational mission beyond our doors, while raising money for future programs. \$10; children 16 and under free when with an adult. (No tours on days when big events take over the Plaza.)

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

Poetry writing workshop

1–4 pm, Herzstein Gallery, classroom

Join Santa Fe Poet Laureate Jon Davis for "The Poetry of Light." Open to high schoolers and older, the session will bring participants into the *Poetics of Light: Pinhole Photography* exhibit to study the images, inhabit them and draft poems inspired by them. Free; reservations at 505-476-5096.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

Free Friday Night in the Palace only

A private event in the History Museum will close it to the general public, but the Palace and Palace Courtyard will still be open for free 5–8 pm.

MONDAY, JUNE 9

Museum Guides meeting

9 am refreshments, 9:30 am program, Meem Community Room

Curator Josef Díaz describes the themes of *Painting the Divine: Images of Mary in the New World*, opening June 29.



FRIDAY, JUNE 13

"Treasure from the Bog: The Faddan More Psalter," 6 pm, Auditorium

In the summer of 2006, an Irish peat bog yielded a rare medieval manuscript. Scholar John Gillis tells of the discovery and difficult task of salvaging and then conserving the document. Hosted by the Press at the Palace of the Governors. Free.

Our Lady in the Americas *continued*

"We see Native peoples in their traditional clothes," said Josef Díaz, the museum's curator of Southwest and Mexican colonial art and history collections. "We see mountains typical of Potosí, Bolivia. We see parrots and turkeys. And we experience the love of freedom in form and color found in the baroque style that New World artists often took to the extreme, with canvases exploding in decorative details and layers of iconography."



Our Lady of the War Club, unidentified artist, Mexico, early 18th century. Oil on canvas. New Mexico History Museum Collection. Photo by Blair Clark.

Before they could be displayed, however, some of the works needed facelifts. The conservation work performed on 12 of the paintings was so important that Media Arts students from New Mexico Highlands University created a mini-movie about it to show in the exhibit area.

Cynthia Lawrence, an art conservator based in Denver, did the work, with Díaz carefully shuttling his choices back and forth between the two cities.

"Their condition issues," she said, "were rather typical of many Spanish colonial paintings, with significant, old loss and damage to the paint and image layers."

Lawrence respected the paintings' history first, taking care to only stabilize and clean them, then repair and in-paint where necessary. She spent between 40 and 80 hours of concentrated "bench work" on each painting, not including the time to examine, test, and document them. That forged a personal tie to each one. Pressed for a favorite, she noted *Our Lady of the Lakes*, the only known canvas painting by an early New Mexico santero.

"It holds a very special place for me because of its historic importance for New Mexico, the sweet quality Our Lady portrays, and the outcome of the painting's condition with conservation treatment."

Díaz is drawn to the Peruvian *Our Lady of Pomata* for melding Catholic iconography with an Inca princess. But his heart belongs to *Our Lady of the War Club*, a painting that usually hangs in our main exhibit, *Telling New Mexico: Stories from Then and Now*, but comes upstairs for this exhibit. A statue the painting is based on foretold the 1680 Pueblo Revolt, and the painting of Her presents the earliest likely representation of the Palace of the Governors—all of which makes Her, Díaz said, "a hometown girl."

**The painting
Our Lady of the War Club
presents the earliest
likely representation
of the Palace of the
Governors.**

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

“Pinhole Photography—Projections, Contraptions, Thoughts and Afterthoughts,” 2 pm, Auditorium

Photographer Scott McMahon, whose work is included in *Poetics of Light*, will talk about his exploration of pinhole photography, how he builds subject-specific cameras and how that informs his interest in linking two-dimensional images with sculpture and installation. Free.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

“The Curious Case of New Mexico’s Civil War-Era Slave Code,” noon, Meem Community Room

Santa Fe attorney John Hays delivers a Brainpower & Brownbags Lecture. Free.

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

Volunteer Appreciation Party 4–6 pm, Lobby and Courtyard

We wouldn’t be who we are without the help of many people who don’t appear on our staff telephone list. Join us for light appetizers, a chance to meet fellow volunteers, a moment in the sunshine of our gratitude, and a chance to see just who might be the next bocce ball or croquet king and queen in our midst. Free; reservations at 505-476-5156 or tay.balenovic@state.nm.us.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

Alzheimer’s Poetry Project Meets Pinhole Photography, 10:30–11:30 am, Herzstein Gallery, Gathering Space

Gary Glazner brings his nationally renowned Alzheimer’s Poetry Project to the *Poetics of Light: Pinhole Photography* exhibit. See how these haunting images can provoke memories and spark poems. Open to people living with dementia, their family members and the general public. Reservations via email at gary@alzpoetry.com. Free.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

Members Preview: *Painting the Divine* 6–7:30 pm, Herzstein Gallery, Gathering Space

Be among the first to see this original exhibition featuring treasured paintings from the museum’s Collier Collection. (Story on Page 1.) Wine and hors d’oeuvres will be served, courtesy of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation. Your mailed invitation is your admission ticket. Reservations, 505-992-2715, ext. 6.



Above, an image from *Harvey Girls: Opportunity Bound*, courtesy of Northern Arizona University, Cline Library, and Assertion Films. Below, Katrina Parks (from left), former Harvey Girl Nina Strong, and curator Meredith Davidson join Terry Bumpass of the New Mexico Humanities Council.

On the Road with Fred Harvey

Three cities, 1,121 miles, one souvenir squirrel figurine and 210 seeds planted with people around the state for the upcoming expansion of our mezzanine



exhibit dedicated to Fred Harvey. Meredith Davidson, curator of 19th- and 20th-century Southwest collections, hit the road last month with Katrina Parks, producer and director of the documentary, *Harvey Girls: Opportunity Bound*. DVD in hand, they traveled to Las Vegas, NM, Raton, Las Cruces and Deming, spreading the Harvey message and learning a bit themselves.

First up: A stop at the Castañeda Hotel, an early Fred Harvey masterpiece recently purchased by Allan Affeldt, owner of another Harvey hotel, La Posada in Winslow, Ariz. Affeldt has begun a long-sought renovation of the Las Vegas landmark and took Davidson and Parks on an exclusive tour.

“We peeked in the deep wood oven in the kitchen and waved to a passing Amtrak train from the roof of the historic building,” Davidson said.

The pair then headed to Raton where the local library hosted an evening screening for 35 visitors, including Nina Strong, a former Harvey Girl at the Castañeda. She shared stories about serving WWII troop trains in 1941 and 1942.

“She was poised, well spoken, and in some elusive way, glamorous,” Davidson said.

Next stop: The Railroad Museum in Las Cruces, where 72 visitors enjoyed the film, then onto Deming, which claims one of the first three “eating houses” created by Harvey in New Mexico. The original 1881 depot was demolished in the 1930s, but the Luna Mimbres Museum has collected historic photographs and ephemera from that era. While the film played, 103 visitors snacked on popcorn and then engaged in a lively discussion.

“I believe statewide outreach is crucial in reminding people that the New Mexico History Museum and Palace of the Governors is the home for history for the entire state,” Davidson said. “This program seemed to be a successful reminder of that fact.”

As for the squirrel figurine, it stayed on the road, heading home with Parks to California as a present for her son.

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

***Painting the Divine: Images of Mary in the New World* opening**
1–4 pm, Herzstein Gallery, Gathering Space, Classroom

Enjoy Spanish classical guitar performed by AnnaMaria Cardinali, learn how art conservator Cynthia Lawrence brought the hidden beauty out of 12 of the paintings, and craft a take-home *ramillete* (paper flower) at the public opening to our newest exhibit. Refreshments courtesy of the Women’s Board of the Museum of New Mexico. Free with admission.

FRIDAY, JULY 4

State holiday

Most staff members will declare a day of independence, but the museum is open 10 am to 8 pm (free admission 5–8 pm).



**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY,
 JULY 12 AND 13**

Young Natives Arts & Crafts Show and Sale, 9 am–3 pm, Palace Courtyard

Begin collecting art, jewelry, pottery and more from the next generation of Native American artists and craftspeople. Children and grandchildren of artists associated with the Palace of the Governors’ Portal Program will demonstrate and sell their own arts and crafts at this family event. Free.

MONDAY, JULY 14

Museum Guides meeting

9 am refreshments, 9:30 am program, Meem Community Room and Telling New Mexico, 1st floor

Collections and Education Programs Manager René Harris reprises her presentation, “Maria Ignacia Jaramillo: A Tale of Two Coats,” which explores the life of a New Mexican woman spanning the Spanish colonial and Territorial periods.



VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Lisa Valdez-Bonney

For Lisa Valdez-Bonney, it’s in the genes. Guiding visitors through the Palace of the Governors gives her an echo of a bloodline that stretches all the way back to legendary explorer, mapmaker, artist and mayordomo, don Bernardo Miera y Pacheco. A great-grandfather helped pioneer the Old Spanish Trail and, on her husband’s side, she just might claim a loose family tie to William Bonney, aka Billy the Kid.

“I’ve always loved history, and so working at the museum was something that the more you hear, the more you learn, and the more you want to learn,” she said.

A native of Cebolla in northern New Mexico, she came to the museum after a bout with breast cancer trained her to reach out to others—first working with other cancer patients. A neighbor then encouraged her to give the Palace a try. She took the docent training and by 1998 or 1999 was giving tours in both English and Spanish.

“Giving my first tour to (then-museum educator Penny Gomez) and my mentor, I was so nervous,” she said. “I mixed up all my historical figures. Then I told myself, ‘Stop and do what you learned.’”

Since then she’s stuck to a 100-hours-a-year schedule, with a few extra hours tucked in here and there. She and her husband, a contractor, spend part of every year in San Diego with their grown son and indulge a global love of travel. Most recently they visited South Africa and returned ready for more.

In 2015, Lisa will help with the Three Trails Conference to be held in Santa Fe.

New docents, she advised, should read everything they can and give as many tours as they’re able. “One of the most important things I learned early on was to never answer a question I don’t know the answer to. I just say, ‘I’m sorry, I’ll have to follow up later.’”

As for whether the museum will enjoy another 15 years of her tours, Lisa says only “maybe.”

“I’ll keep doing this until I’m not able to remember things—but I’m not there yet. I think we have the best museum and we’ve had some great educators.”

SATURDAY, JULY 19
"Printing Our Lady," 1–3 pm,
Gathering Space

Recreate a historic image of the Virgin Mary on a replica medieval press with Palace Press printers Tom Leech and James Bourland and curator Josef Díaz. Learn how printing spread ideas and iconic images throughout New Spain. Printed by the millions, these images decorated books, churches and homes and served as models for New World artists. Free with admission.



SUNDAY, JULY 20
"Make a Camera Obscura," 2–4 pm,
Classroom

Join Santa Fe educator, photographer and camera obscura developer Jackie Mathey for a family workshop on building a take-home tabletop camera obscura like the ones in the Gathering Space. Ideal for families, the event invites small groups to build a camera, then take it around the museum to practice using it as a drawing aid. Free; reservations at 505-476-5087.

THURSDAY, JULY 31
Journey to Places of Devotion with
the Palace Guard

Join curator Josef Díaz and guides Rosa Carlson and Nancy Benkof for a special day exploring the devotional art and places of worship in the Española Valley. Travel by bus to the Ron Robles-designed home and studio of artist Paul Pletka, who will show his ethnographic collection and talk about the artistic process. Then head north to the historic Santa Cruz de la Cañada Church, where santero Víctor Goler will talk about the Stations of the Cross he created for the nave. Visit a morada and enjoy a vegetarian lunch at the Sikh farm community. End the day at La Capilla de la Sagrada Familia near San Ildefonso Pueblo. \$63 for Palace Guard members. Make a reservation beginning July 1 by calling 505-992-2715, ext. 4. Join the Palace Guard by calling 505-982-6366, ext. 102.

The Front Page at the Photo Archives

After years of discussions with the *Santa Fe New Mexican*, Photo Archivist Daniel Kosharek recently worked out a neat deal. The newspaper's pre-digital photographs from 1975 through 1995 would make brief stops at the museum, where the best would be catalogued and digitized. The newspaper would keep the paper files, sparing us the storage concern. The public could use the digitized versions, and researchers could get an idea of what they might find rooting through the boxes at the newspaper.

The only problem was that newspaper archivists had left scant information about each photo. Tucked into file folders with broad labels—"Crashes," for example—they threatened to become an archival nightmare.

Enter former District Judge Art Encinias, former Highway Department Director Richard Montoya, and former *New Mexican* Managing Editor Rob Dean. For the last few weeks, the three have used their collective memory to pin down stories.

They started with images of the deadly 1980 prison riot and have since moved on to archaeologists, classic cars and, you bet, crashes. On a recent day, Dean sifted through a box of "Fs" and "Gs," including "Fiestas," "Fireworks," "Grocery Stores" and "Greer Garson."

Given that the newspaper has more than 25,000 paper images, Dean said the three edit them "severely." Take "Fiestas."

"On any given year, we'll have three or four fiesta photos on the Photo Archives database, with 30 or 40 more available at the newspaper," Dean said. "If the photo is just wonderfully rich for faces, for time, for place or for what it depicts, we will like that photo. We use the resources of the photo to get a sense of the time and put that in there, even if it's sketchy. A minority of the photos have no good-quality cutlines. When you find that one, it's like a mother lode."

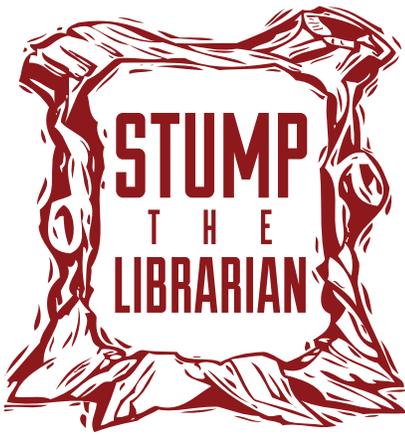
Montoya and Encinias grew up in Santa Fe, so are particularly adept at tagging people and places. Montoya's encyclopedic knowledge of cars helps narrow down time frames.

Kosharek is so impressed with what they've found that he's nurturing the idea of a *Front Page* exhibit—something Dean endorses.

"Who doesn't love photographs?" he asked. "What separates this collection from many others is that they were shot in the moment with a sense of history in mind."



Top: Artist Tommy Macaione celebrates 1989's All Species Day. Above: Inmates huddle against the cold during the 1980 riot at the state penitentiary. Palace of the Governors Photo Archives HP:2014.14.88 and HP:2014.14.29.



Patricia Hewitt fielded a handful of recent questions about old Santa Fe buildings.

Do you have any information on the Roque Lobato House on Washington Avenue?

The house was built around 1785, by Lobato an armorer in the royal garrison. It was renovated in 1910 by archaeologist Sylvanus Morley. The house once had a watchtower called La Garita, where leaders of the Chimayo Rebellion were executed in 1837.

Where was the Magoffin House?

Santa Fe Trail traders James and Susan Shelby Magoffin arrived in Santa Fe on Aug. 31, 1846. Their house was torn down in 1949 to make way for a La Fonda parking lot. Susan Magoffin described the house as "situated under the shadow of 'la iglesia' [the church, spelled incorrectly], and quite a nice little place it is. We have four rooms including 'la cochina' [the kitchen], our own chamber, storage room, and the reception room, parlour, [and] dining-room."



Garfield Street showing the New West Academy on the right, Santa Fe, 1912, by Jesse Nusbaum. Palace of the Governors Photo Archives 11136.

What came before the Andiamo! Neighborhood Trattoria?

The restaurant opened on Garfield Street in 1995, and the owners recently wanted to put up old photos and maps showing the building. Hewitt discovered that in the 1980s the site held another restaurant, the Garfield Grill. A century before that it was the home of the president of an evangelical college called the New West Academy.



A Birthday Party to Remember

We had a blast at our May 25 anniversary bash and hope you did, too. More than 1,400 people enjoyed a free day and plenty of family activities. Our deepest thanks to all the staffers and volunteers who worked to make it so successful. Photos by Allen Brown and Hannah Abelbeck.



Acquiring Minds

What's new in the collections vault? Here's a peek at some of what we received in March and April:



The rights to digitize *Santa Fe New Mexican* photos from 1975–1995 (see story on page 5).

Stereo World Magazines from 1988–1997, celebrating stereographic photographs. Donated by Rosemary Lessard, Santa Fe.

The archived collections of contemporary photographs—thousands of them—by **Ann Murdy**, documenting the culture of New Mexico.



Donated by Ann Murdy, Santa Fe.

Two **pinhole photographs**, *Through the Pinhole 366*, taken by Cody Brothers. Donated by Cody Brothers, Santa Fe.



77 Roadside Crosses, silver gelatin prints created by **Kathlene McRee**, 1993–1995, as part of a New Mexico Humanities Council grant. Donated by Kathlene McRee, Santa Fe.

When the Walls Come Tumblin' Down

Photo Archivist Daniel Kosharek was on his way to the elevator one day in mid-April when he happened to look to his left. Floor-to-ceiling shelves that hold hundreds of heavy books had come loose from the wall. He touched the shelves and, to his horror, they wavered.

"The worst thing about it was I had a \$50,000 pinhole photograph leaning against it," he said. "If it had collapsed, it would have destroyed the photo and maybe killed someone."

Staffers got to work bracing it with wooden beams until the photo could be hung at the top of the Gathering Space stairway. Then Kosharek, Hannah Abelbeck, Patricia Hewitt, and Amy Schaefer tag-teamed a book-by-book removal, carefully arranging them on the floor in library-perfect order to ensure they could replace them correctly.

Henry Trujillo and the security staff then got busy drilling new anchors into the concrete wall and securing the shelves for years to come.

Worth noting: No books were harmed in the making of this repair.



Books from the Photo Archives stand at neat attention in columns on the floor as the bookshelves are repaired.

SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Annual Navajo Rug Auction

Over 150 museum-quality rugs from contemporary weavers are up for bid at the 24th Annual Navajo Rug Auction in the Palace Courtyard on Saturday, Aug. 2, starting at 11 am (preview 9–11 am).

As in years past, the auction will showcase rugs in wide-ranging styles, including Two Gray Hills, Ganados, Teec Nos Pos, Yeis, Pictorials, Wide Ruins, Storms, and Sandpainting. Past auctions have included works by weavers Dennis Long, Julia Pete, Laverne Van Winkle, Rose Nargo, Susie McCabe and Mary Henderson. The breadth of artists and styles makes the auction popular among Navajo textile collectors.

Noted auctioneer Bob Payne of Bloomfield, New Mexico, who has overseen the auction since its inception, will return for the 24th year to lead the bidding.

A program of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation's Museum Shops, auction proceeds benefit educational projects, acquisitions and other programs at the Santa Fe museums, historic sites and Office of Archaeological Studies. Free; bid card \$5.

