

Historical Society for
Southeast
New Mexico, Inc.
200 North Lea Avenue
Roswell, New Mexico 88201
Phone (575) 622-8333
Fax (575) 623-8746

Mission of the Society

To assemble, preserve and
interpret the history of
Southeast New Mexico
and to promote a greater interest,
understanding and appreciation of
the area's past.

Newsletter

This publication is a benefit of
membership and is published
quarterly.

2014 Officers

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Vice Pres., John LeMay
Trea. Cathy Mendiola
Sec. Elaine Mayfield

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Cindy Boswell
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Museum Staff

Tina Williams
Administrative Director
Amy Davis
Administrative Assistant
Elvis Fleming
Chief Archivist

Facts & Traditions

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February 2014

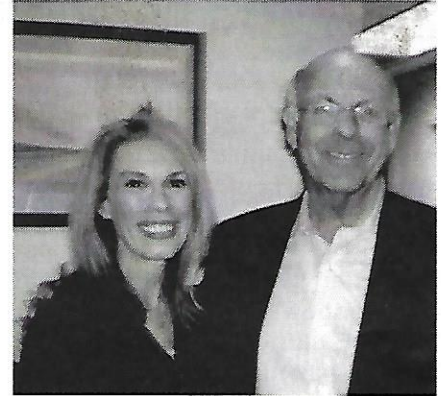
Just Read the Book....

All the activity since November has kept us hoppin' here at the museum and archives. From Christmas decorating to hosting parties and meetings, it's been a whirlwind of fun! The possibilities of the Event Room in the archive building continue to surprise the community. It's a great place for small concerts or recitals, as proven by *The Enchanters* and music teacher David Hett. Not to mention, it looks great, thanks to the decorating talents of our own Amy Davis. Congressman Steve Pearce held a book signing there for his new book, *Just Fly the Plane Stupid* on December 18th. He was very amiable, signing autographs and visiting with everyone. I've read the book and highly recommend it. The Morning Garden Club shared their decorating skills with us again this year, and enjoyed their annual Christmas party here at the house. The entertainment was provided by the Goddard High Stargazers under the direction of Michelle Olson. Nothing gets me in the spirit like a group of sparkle-clad singers! And our annual Christmas Open House was enjoyed by all *who dared* to venture out in that cold, icy, once-every-five-years wintry blast we had that weekend! Another fun group that stopped by were some young ladies from New Mexico Youth Challenge. These girls, from all over the state, were in town for a YC event and finding some free time, stopped in to check out the museum. They were especially attracted to the piano in the foyer, entertaining us with bits of Beethoven and Christmas carols. We have an extra special Valentine's Day in store!

Eva McCollaum will present "Valen-time Machine", a concert to benefit the Historical Society. It promises to be a fun evening of song and amusement. Tickets are \$70 per couple, (\$35 each). The show will be in the museum parlor, so seating is LIMITED! Make your reservation now for our first event of 2014! Here's to your 2014,

may it be filled with laughter!

Tina



Congressman Pearce in between autographs.



Ladies of NM Youth Challenge



Visitors on parade at the Christmas Open House



Morning Garden Club members enjoying their Christmas party

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and visit us on line www.roswellnmhistory.org

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Welcome Spring!

Spring time is school tour time! The Historical Society, with the assistance of a grant from Xcel Energy, entertained over 900 Roswell Independent School District fourth graders in April and May, almost double from previous years' totals. Of the twelve Roswell elementary schools, ten were represented: Monterrey, Sunset, Valley View, Washington Ave, Pecos, Military Heights, Nancy Lopez, East Grand Plains, El Capitan and Del Norte. This year, Hagerman students also attended. Students toured the Museum and, literally, got "a taste" of regional life as it was some 100 years ago. Butter churning, cider pressing, and home-made bread were highlights of the tour. The young historians also



exercised their sleuthing skills with a game of "History's Mysteries", as they guessed the uses of various antiquated gadgets. This project would be impossible without the help of our volunteers (who are listed on page 5) and generous donations from our supporters. We want to thank and acknowledge **Jim Gill (Roswell Seed)** for the corn; **Mark Raney (Lawrence Brothers)** for the apples; **Kelly Goodpasture (SW Dairy Farmers)** for cream and butter; **Margaret Lackey (Historical Society Member)** for the bread, the Roswell Convention and Visitor Center for the bags; and, for the first time, the Roswell High History Club for all their help!

If you've been thinking about volunteering at the museum or archive, now is the time! You'll find other great ways to be involved with the Society in this issue of F&T. Larry Knadle informs on our latest acquisition and has us yearning for brides and weddings of years gone by and Amy has us day dreaming about fashions of the 1940's!

Please remember this: none of this would be possible without **you**, our members and supporters! Please accept our most sincere thanks for this gift to our community!

Happy spring!

Tina

"....the Historical Center for Southeast New Mexico is a gem if you enjoy personal glimpses into the past. No preachy display here, just a charming, well maintained historic home filled with artifacts from the local area. This is well worth the stop and I think the best of all the Roswell museums....."~ from Trip Advisor

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Everything Old is New Again

There's been much ado lately about Roswell's historic buildings. And rightly so. As someone who was raised here, I offer this observation for consideration. I have witnessed the destruction and "up-dating" of the very pleasantness that once inspired Will Rogers to refer to Roswell as the "prettiest little town west of the Pecos". In past decades, the charm was all but remodeled right out of downtown, with little or no regard given to preservation. Unique old buildings fell victim to the age of Mid-Century Architecture and futuristic styles. Don't get me wrong, I'm a fan of all architecture, I just don't always think altering original design is a good idea; good design stands the test of time, regardless (in my opinion) of the era. Case in point: I recently had the good fortune to visit one of Roswell's very fine older homes. This particular home was constructed in the late 1970s. Designed by an architect (who really knew what he was doing) and the homeowners, this house is just as current today as when it was brand new. A thoughtful kitchen update had been made in recent years; clean, nice, not bowing to deep to current trends. A house like that just makes me sigh with appreciation. I love a charming downtown, filled with old storefronts and big windows, it makes me feel secure somehow. Remember when it became the fashion to go "window-less", and in an attempt to keep up with this modern design, several downtown businesses built over their windows? I think it's usually a mistake to try to force a building to be something it's not. Three local lovelies which escaped an unfortunate remodeling, or demolition, are the Roswell Independent School District Administrative Building, on Kentucky, the Chaves County Courthouse on Main Street and Pearson Auditorium on the New Mexico Military Institute campus. These buildings all benefited from remodels and/or additions which married nicely with the existing period details of the structures, and added to the charm and beauty of our town. Even our own Museum was enriched by an appropriate addition, circa 1916. I'd like to see more of that. I say "good job!" to the folks with the spirit to maintain an old house or business! To take an old building and turn it into an art studio or coffee shop. "Good job!" to the outspoken visionaries who care enough to save a wonderful old building from demolition! Roswell needs these old and lovely structures and the charm and grace they lend to the community. Go forth and be charming!

Tina



Charming vintage cottage



Mid-century charm

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Thankful Challenge

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Have you heard of the "Thankful Challenge"? It's an online, social media (Facebook) happening that involves challenging your friends to "post" a certain number of things they're thankful for in so many days. I'm thinking of it as I write these words. I'd have to say, one thing I'm thankful for is Tuesday, August 26th, 2014. That evening may well go down in the Historical Society's own personal history as the day of our most successful fundraiser! We took a risk by moving away from the traditional date, and yes, attendance was ever so slightly down. Still, the 33rd Annual Heritage Award Dinner was a great success. How did we do it? Here's how. First, take a struggling non-profit (that's us) and a committed board of directors (see column to your left). Add two exceptional and gifted award recipients (artists Kim Wiggins and Dorothy Peterson) who generously gave two beautiful pieces to be auctioned for our benefit(\$\$). Now take a decorating budget of less than \$100.00 (I'm being generous here, probably more like \$75.00) and create fantastic decorations (our talented Amy Davis), sprinkle with several hard-working volunteers (Melanie Deason, Bette Leadingham, Jan and Mel Titus, Austin & Jean Maley, Liz McVay, Roxie Moore, Mimi desCognets) add the professional skills of Teresa Davis-McKee and Larry Hobson to engage the audience and just like that, you've got it. Easy as pumpkin pie. Well, maybe not *that* easy, but definitely just as satisfying. I'm thankful for Peterson's and Wiggins' contributions to the art world, to our community and especially to the Historical Society. Roswell is most fortunate that these two talented and gracious people have chosen to make their homes here.

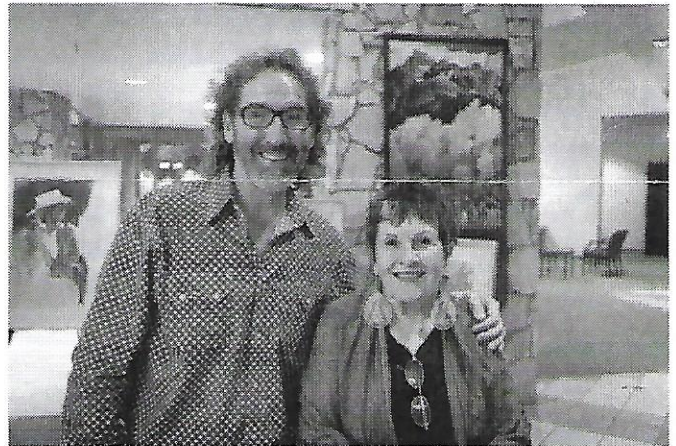


Photo courtesy Rey Berrones

Operating expense is all too often problematic for non-profits, and we are no exception. In fact, without the Heritage Dinner, I'm not sure we'd be open today. Like a broken record, I'm always reminding folks that we don't receive any local, state, or federal assistance. Somehow, we manage to operate and maintain the museum *and* archive building with monies we collect from memberships, donations and the Heritage Dinner! If you received this newsletter, you're a member, and the Historical Society Board and staff is thankful for **you!**

Personally, I'm thankful for my faith and my family. I'm thankful for my co-worker Amy Davis, and all the volunteers, who turn daily challenges into joys. I challenge **you** to count your blessings too, and name them one by one. And may you have a blessed and happy Thanksgiving and Christmas!

Tina

P.S. Mark your calendar, Sunday, December 7th! Don't miss our very special Christmas Open House!