

Facts & Traditions

Published by the Historical Society for Southeast New Mexico, Inc.
February 2015

2015, Here We Come!!

Historical Society for
Southeast New Mexico, Inc.
200 N. Lea Avenue
Roswell, NM 88201
622-8333
www.roswellnmhistory.org
follow us on Facebook,
Historical Society for SENM

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

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Vice Pres. Larry Knadle
Trea. Cathy Mendiola
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Amy Davis
Administrative Asst.

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Chief Archivist

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.

Here we are, a month into another new year. I love New Year's! It's a time to take stock, to plan, and reflect. What did we do that made a difference? What can we do to make it better? It's a time to roll up our sleeves and commit to work on improving what we have and to look back at the events and people that made 2014 special. Sunday, December 7 the Museum hosted our annual Christmas open house. This year, both the house and the archive building were open to the public. The archive community room was expertly decorated in holiday greenery, and the Society and volunteers provided festive refreshments. Authors Elvis Fleming, John LeMay, Joyce McCollaum, and Lynda Sanchez joined us, autographing their various books. Also new this year, we provided free gift wrap with any purchase from the book shop! Singers from Roswell High School, the Cyettes and Roadrunners, greeted guests with favorite Christmas carols and holiday songs along with a fantastic Victorian Santa Clause! The weather was very agreeable and our guest book was quickly filled. We



Amy Davis decorates the archive building for the Open House.



Authors Lynda Sanchez, John LeMay, Joyce McCollaum and me, Christmas Open House, 2014.

appreciate your attendance to all of our programs, events and fund raisers, and are always so very pleased to see you. Thank you for renewing your membership for another year and if you have any questions about your membership, please call the office. We are optimistic about our future here, though it becomes more and more difficult to make ends meet. Operating the two buildings that comprise the Historical Center definitely puts a strain on our budget. Please encourage your friends and family to join or to consider a donation. A memorial contribution is also a great way to honor a birthday, anniversary or memory of a loved one and all donations are tax deductible. As I mentioned, we are optimistic and rising to the financial challenges we face! See page 4 for information about our exciting fundraiser! Remember to follow us on Facebook, (Historical Society for SENM) for news about all events, promotions and gift shop specials. We're looking forward to our continued relationship with you and to all that this year has to bring! Here we come, 2015!

Best regards,

Tina



Santa

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Renovation!

You know that satisfied feeling you get when you embark on a home improvement project, and everything goes along according to plan, and you finish ahead of schedule and come in under budget? Yeah, me neither.

But I can say there's life after remodeling! Just keep moving forward, and eventually it will get done. Of course it helps to have good help. And good help can be found! We've been so fortunate to work with courteous, talented professionals, who turn out exceptional work. Plans to renovate the museum began several years ago, the way most projects begin: with meetings and fund raising. Broken into phases, phase one involved structural work and concrete repair in 2012. Then the first week of February 2015, Almond Painting began prepping the downstairs for patching and painting. They moved along quickly and efficiently. Before long, the process had ascended to the second floor. Preparing for this event was no small task. Every item, big and small, on both levels, had to be inventoried, packaged and stored.

Furniture had to be shuffled around, rugs rolled up and artwork covered and relocated to a safe location. Now, antique rugs have been repaired and valuable artwork expertly cleaned and re-hung. A job like this requires many hours and hands and none of this could have happened without time donated by volunteers Mary Lou Glass, Vivian Lochemes, Mary Ann Schrank, Judie Alsup, Janice Dunnahoo, Bette Leadingham, Mimi desCognets, and Melanie Deason. It would have been impossible without all those who donated to the renovation fund and the professionals here in

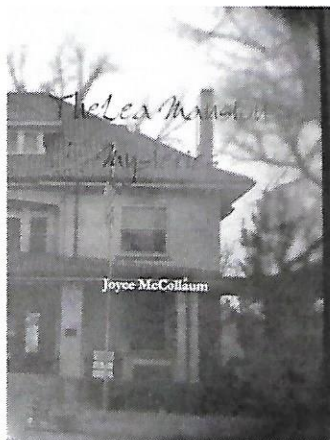
our community. Almond Painting, George's Carpet, All American Cleaners and Finishing Touches. Sunday, April , the first floor was reopened, and author Joyce McCollaum was present to debut her new book, "Lea Mansion Mysteries", a collection of short fictional stories based on the museum and local historical topics. We're proud to offer this and other books by local authors in our book shop. The

entire project has provided us the opportunity to rearrange, and the place is looks fantastic. Plans for the second floor exhibit area are equally exciting. All good things take time, and in our case money too, so bear with us as we strive to bring the community something to be proud of! Though it will be awhile before the second floor is ready, please come by and check out the work on the first floor! And watch for the grand re-opening, coming this fall.

Best regards,

Tina

Happy Spring!!



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August 2015

Great Things Are Happening At The Historical Society!!!

Greetings to ALL! Let me start by saying it is an honor and privilege to have the title as your new director of the Historical Society for Southeast New Mexico. I have lived here most of my life and have a true passion for the wonderful community of Roswell. My involvement within the community consists of Character Counts, volunteering for the RISD and PAC programs, Buddy Walk, many ministries at Grace Community Church and last but not least anything and everything to do with softball! I have truly enjoyed my two years here at the Historical Society—was thrilled to step into the director's position as of May 1—and have enjoyed every single moment since then. A week after starting my new position we hosted almost 1,000 4th graders (every elementary school in Roswell and surrounding communities) with much success. A new flare to the tours was necessary due to on-going renovations here at the museum. It took a little creativity and some fancy footwork to keep the students busy. Words cannot express the thanks and gratitude I have for every single volunteer, including our phenomenal Board of Directors, that made so many things possible within the last couple of months. If you haven't made the time to visit the museum since the Open House it is worth the trip. See the beautiful fresh look within and outside the museum with the best yet to come—many new exhibits and presentations upstairs. Great progress has been made on renovations to the interior and the grounds. Additionally, there are wonderful new books in the gift shop, educational programs, and our 1st ever recipient of the Historical Society for SENM Scholarship, Bryce Davis. My passions are many and I truly believe with your support all things are possible at this beautiful museum of which I am fortunate enough to call my place of employment! EVERY DAY IS A GREAT DAY AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND DON'T MISS OUT ON ONE MORE DAY TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES TO BE PART OF HISTORY!!!



RICHEST BLESSINGS TO ALL,

Board of Directors

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Judie Alsup
Cindy Boswell
Jennifer Cole
Donald Daugherty
Jason Garcia
Steve Harris
Aaron Holloman
Elaine Mayfield

Amy McVay-Davis, Executive Director

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Heritage Dinner Memories

With the scent of fresh bread in the air accompanied by displays of pictures, mementos, loaves of bread on trays, and cameras in the entrance of the Roswell Civic and Center August 25th, 2015, people flocked to one of the most memorable Heritage Dinners ever. All attendees were greeted with a butler service of cheese compliments of the honorees' Wisconsin dairy! The very deserving honorees were the families of Gene Reischman and J. Kenneth Smith. The trip down memory lane began with the Roswell Youth Challenge Color Guard followed by the amazing Masters of Ceremonies—Teresa Davis-McKee and David Gonzales. As a delicious steak dinner was being served, pictures played overhead reminding all who attended of the significant impact both families had on Roswell and the surrounding area. As I took a moment and closed my eyes to take it all in, it was as if we had gone back in time hearing our commentators airing a KBIM News Special. Many stated, "I don't want this night to end." Many relatives, friends, and co-workers that had been influenced by the honorees in one way or another watched Marc Reischman and Steve Smith receiving their awards on behalf of their families then sat at the Round Table on the stage with a phenomenal presentation of both family legacies and the business impact of the Roswell community. Memories of the first bakery purchased in 1940 by L.J. and Gene Reischman were shared in addition to more memories including J. Kenneth Smith becoming a shareholder in 1947, the KBIM Radio legacy beginning in 1953, and KBIM TV in the 1960s. The presentation was full of laughter with a TV presentation which had many in the audience seeing themselves back in the good ole KBIM TV days, also including the Caprock Communication connection, Century 21, and the Dairy Legacy which began in the 1990s. The décor of the evening was memorable and elegant—replete with photos, historical artifacts, and loaves of bread giving attendees a taste of Holsum Bakery, literally. Overall it was an evening I will never forget in which we shared joy, laughter, memories, love, and honored not only the Reischman and Smith families but our much deserving Larry Knadle, Volunteer of the Year. Thanks for the memories!

Blessings to all,

Amy McVay-Davis

