

NEWSLETTER

December 2023

Doña Ana County Historical Society

President Dennis Daily Honored By NMLA

Dennis Daily, president of the Doña Ana County Historical Society and department head of NMSU Library’s Archives and Special Collections, recently earned the 2023 *New Mexico Community Achievement Award* from the New Mexico Library Association. He was nominated for his commitment to state history and connecting the NMSU Library to the local community in his role as department head.

“In the work we do here in the NMSU Library Archives and Special Collections, our relationship with the community is paramount,” Daily said. “Our collections of historical family papers, photographs, and records of southern New Mexico businesses and organizations come from the community, are here for the community to use, and are preserved as a record of the community. I’m happy this award recognizes the important work we do in the community, particularly in the area of preserving and promulgating the history and cultural heritage of our region and our state.”

“Professor Daily is certainly deserving of this award. As head of the NMSU Library Archives and Special Collections department, he has worked diligently to build collections that preserve and document the history and culture of the southern New Mexico region,” said



Lynette Schurdevin, NMLA, presenting Dennis with his award. Courtesy photo.

Kevin Comerford, dean of NMSU Library. “His efforts to engage the research community, provide outreach programming, and ensure our collections are accessible to researchers, faculty and students have been tremendously impressive.”

Annual Awards Banquet Set For Jan. 27 At La Posta

The DACHS Annual Awards Banquet has been set for Jan. 27 at La Posta restaurant in Old Mesilla from noon to 2 p.m. Put it on your calendar.

Details about how to make a reservation and pay will be coming in the January newsletter which should be out a couple of weeks before the event. Right now, it looks like the cost will be \$24 per person for a Mexican buffet lunch in one of La Posta's rooms.

The board has approved a slate of awards but will finalize the list in early January. That means there is still an opportunity for our members to make nominations for awards. For instance, if you think a local should be in the DACHS Hall of Fame for their work in the community and is not already there, nominate the individual.

Those members attending the banquet will receive their copies of the annual *Review*.

Walking Tour Of The Masonic Cemetery A Success

On Nov. 4, DACHS held a field trip to the Las Cruces Masonic Cemetery. It turned out to be a great way of learning about the people who shaped Las Cruces with stops at over a dozen graves and short briefings on each person. And it was a beautiful day.

It was suggested by Jim McKinney with Sally Kading and Garland Courts putting together the actual route and talk. Garland delivered the briefings at each grave. Sally provided cookies and refreshments afterward. Photos by Jim Eckles

It looks like it is a trip DACHS can offer on an annual basis to make it available to those unable to attend and for our new members.



Louis and Carmen Freudenthal were very active in Las Cruces. Louis was president of the Farm Bureau and helped found the Dona Ana County Historical Society. Carmen was president of the Women's Improvement Association and a strong advocate on women's issues with the legislature.



Here Garland is talking about General Viljoen, a South African military leader of Boer forces. He was captured by the British and allowed to immigrate to the U.S. He came to New Mexico and became a leader in building irrigation systems. His grave marker is the one on the left that looks like a large urn or bird bath.



This is the gravesite for Ralph Willis Goddard, the NMSU professor who started the local radio station. He was tragically electrocuted at the station in 1929 as he prepared for a New Year's Eve broadcast. They took his initials to make up the call letters for the current station - KRWG.

DACHS Election Results And Board Set For 2024

George Helfrich, David Brown, Sal Patricolo and Susan Krueger were elected to the DACHS board of directors as at-large members during voting at the November 16 public meeting. In addition, Dennis Daily was elected president and Faith Hutson was elected historian for the group.

There are still two openings on the board for at-large members so if anyone would like to volunteer, they can be appointed to the position until the next election.

Officers for 2024

President - Dennis Daily

Vice President - Dr. Jerry Wallace

Treasurer - Garland Courts

Secretary - Jim Eckles

Past President - vacant

Historian - Faith Hutson

At-Large Board Members for 2024

Susan Krueger

Sal Patricolo

David Brown

George Helfrich

Heather Reed

Thanks to everyone who volunteers!!!!

Members Get Behind The Scenes Farm & Ranch Museum Tour

On Dec. 2, DACHS members got to see what goes on behind the exhibits at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. The tour was conducted by staff members Donna Wojcik and Nathan Japel who patiently answered all questions.



Donna Wojcik, a researcher and archivist at the museum, briefed the group on the now accessible archives. The public can enter the archives on some days to look through its library which includes things like brand books for the last century...and much more. They also have a public access computer which connects to such sites as Newspapers.com and Ancestry.com. For more information, you can contact Donna at 522-4100 EXT. 110.

The tour was arranged through Heather Reed who is on the DACHS board of directors and just happens to be the executive director of the museum. This tour concluded the celebration of the historical society's 60 years of existence.



Nathan Japel, curator supervisor, took the group to several areas of the museum. Nathan, in the center, is explaining how this carpentry shop is kept separate from the printing and fabrication rooms that have to be kept as clean areas. He also took the group into the large artifact storage room. He added that they depend on volunteers to help.

Dues Are Due - Members Get The 2024 SNM Historical Review

If you haven't already renewed your DACHS membership for 2024, please consider doing so now. I've included a very simplified renewal form on the back page that you can fill out and mail in with your payment.

However if you wish a much easier way without the hassle of writing checks, finding a stamp and mailing all of it in, you can go to the DACHS web-

site and pay online with your credit card or PayPal account. It really is simple. Many members did this last year. **You do not need a PayPal account but can use your regular credit card.** The website is at: <http://www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org>

If you have questions, contact Susan at 575-640-4266 or Jim at nebraska1950@comcast.net. Thanks for your support.

Christmas Tour Of The Taylor Home In Mesilla Will Be On Dec. 17

Here is a rare Christmas opportunity in Mesilla on the plaza. On December 17th, you can visit the Taylor-Mesilla Historic Property and explore its collection of more than 200 Nativity scenes from across the world.

The event runs from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children 16 years old and younger. Members of Friends of Taylor-

Mesilla will also enjoy free admission. Visitors may purchase tickets using this link to the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs:

<https://my.nmculture.org/21044/27728>

The Taylor-Mesilla Historic Property is a dazzling microcosm of New Mexico's history and culture, and the Nacimientos Open House is an opportunity to tour its halls.

Doña Ana County Historical Society, P. O. Box 16045, Las Cruces, NM 88004-6045

Annual Membership/Sponsorship Rates - attach your payment and mail to the above P.O. Box

Individual \$25 Family \$30 Student \$10 Contributor \$40
Benefactor \$150 Life \$300

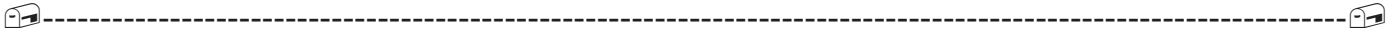
NAME (S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

If you are unsure of your status or have questions regarding membership, please contact Susan Krueger, at 575 525-0654.



2023 Board of Directors
President: Dennis Daily
Vice President: Dr. Jerry Wallace
Secretary, Newsletter, Review & Website: Jim Eckles
Treasurer: Garland Courts
Historian: Vacant
Past President: vacant
At-Large Board Members:
Luis Rios
Sally Kading
Heather Reed
Dr. Susan Krueger
Faith Hutson
Jim Eckman, SNMHR Editor
Luis Rios, Education and Scholarships
Heather Reed, Farm&Ranch Heritage Museum Liaison
www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org

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