

# Doña Ana County Historical Society Annual Awards Program

Saturday, January 26, 2019  
Double Eagle Restaurant in Mesilla



Today we pay tribute to the Murals of Las Cruces Project and their efforts to record the many murals that adorn buildings, walls, fences, water tanks and other structures in our community. This mural is on the back of the Mountain View Co+op.

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Liaison to Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum: Daniel Aguilera  
Liaison to NMSU History Department: Santi Martinez

*If you would like to help out on a committee or with some other aspect of the Society, by all means, volunteer. Just contact one of the officers above and offer your assistance. Our email address is: 19dachs63@gmail.com Thank you.*

# *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*

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Double Eagle Restaurant & Peppers Cafe

On The Mesilla Plaza

# Doña Ana County Historical Society 52nd Annual Awards Program

Welcome ..... Dennis Daily, President

Installation of 2019 Officers and Board Members ..... Dennis Daily

## Program

Master of Ceremonies ..... Dennis Daily, President

## Awards

Gemoets Prize ..... Judith Messal  
for *The Great El Paso-Phoenix Road Race of 1919: A Fateful Encounter In Doña Ana County Between John T. Hutchings and Frank M. Scanland*

Katherine Stoes Prize ..... Cheryl Fallstead  
for *2019 Southern New Mexico Historical Review*

Pasajero Del Camino Real Award ..... Mark Santiago  
for *A Bad Peace and a Good War: Spain and the Mescalero Apache Uprising of 1795-1799*

Pasajero Del Camino Real Award ..... Pete Drexler  
for *his three books dealing with our Southwest history*

Heritage Award ..... Rob and Murnie Cox

Hall of Fame Award ..... Dr. Peter Kopp

Old Timer's Award ..... Murals of Las Cruces

# Awards & Recognition for 2019

## **The Gemoets Prize**

*This \$100 prize is awarded to the author of the “Outstanding Article” in the current issue of the Southern New Mexico Historical Review as determined by the Editor.*

## **2019 Gemoets Prize Recipient**

**Judith Messal** for

*The Great El Paso-Phoenix Road Race of 1919: A Fateful Encounter In Doña Ana County Between John T. Hutchings and Frank M. Scanland*

Judy Messal, an Oregon native, moved to Alamogordo in 1957 and became fascinated by the stories of people living on the border. She studied history and government at New Mexico State University, and from 1998 to 2012, she taught academic writing courses for international students there. She also became involved in border projects. Through a Border PACT grant, she helped disseminate information about women’s cooperatives and their ecologically-sound construction projects in Chihuahua and New Mexico. She helped support the establishment of NMSU’s Rotaract, a student Rotarian club. Its membership included both international and domestic students and its award-winning service project was with a women’s sewing cooperative on the old landfill of Cd. Juarez. Judy has maintained a connection with the co-op, helping to make the women’s economic circumstances and their products known on this side of the border. While at NMSU, Judy received a Government Department Social Justice Award in 2005; an International Programs Globalization Award for 2006-2007, and a College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Award in 2009. Long interested in New Mexico governance, Judy, in recent years, has been researching the careers of some of the state’s notable 20th century political figures and has discovered remarkable side stories along the way.



## **The Katherine Stoes Prize**

*This \$100 prize recognizes outstanding writing or editing in the current issue of the Southern New Mexico Historical Review.*

### **2019 Katherine Stoes Prize Recipient**

**Cheryl Fallstead** for

*Her overall work as editor of the 2019 Southern New Mexico Historical Review*



Cheryl Fallstead was born and raised in California, but has made her home in Las Cruces for the past 13 years. She and her husband, Brian, came here for a more relaxed lifestyle that would allow them to do more of the things they enjoy. In California, Cheryl earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's in educational administration and was an elementary school teacher and administrator for 12 years. When moving to New Mexico, her goals were to teach part time for the community college, work as a freelance writer and photographer, and be involved in volunteer work. She does all three, teaching photography, graphic design, and computer illustration while also writing regularly for Las

Cruces Neighbors and Las Cruces magazines. Her experiences have also included co-hosting the radio shows "Explore! New Mexico" and "New Mexico Mile Markers," roles that gave her the opportunity to learn more about the people, places, history, and culture of her adopted state.

In Las Cruces, Cheryl has also been involved with the local arts scene, served as president of the board for the Foundation for Las Cruces Museums, been president of the Las Cruces and New Mexico chapters of the Press Women, and is a founding member of the Las Cruces Ukes, a community group of ukulele enthusiasts who host the annual Las Cruces UkeFest as well as performing around the community. Cheryl is a proud member of Ben's Brigade, which marches with Bataan Death March survivor Ben Skardon at the Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range.

## **Pasajero Del Camino Real Award**

*This award is given to author(s) of a significant historical publication about events, persons, places or issues in Doña Ana County or the nearby area.*

### **2019 Pasajero Del Camino Real Award Recipient**

#### **Mark Santiago for**

*A Bad Peace and a Good War: Spain and the Mescalero Apache Uprising of 1795-1799*

Mark Santiago is Director of the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces. He studied at the University of Arizona and served as collections manager and curator for the Arizona Historical Society in Tucson before coming east to serve as director of the New Mexico Museum of Space History in Alamogordo. He has served as the director of the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum for more than 12 years now.

Mark is an authority on Spanish military policy and Spanish-Indian relations during the late 1700s. His book *The Jar of Severed Hands: Spanish Deportation of Apache Prisoners of War, 1770-1810* won the 2011 Southwest Book Award



of the Border Regional Library Association and the New Mexico Book Co-op's 2012 New Mexico-Arizona Book Award in the Multicultural Category.

*Bad Peace and a Good War: Spain and the Mescalero Apache Uprising of 1795-1799*, University of Oklahoma Press, challenges long-accepted historical orthodoxy about relations between the Spanish and the Indians in the borderlands. While most scholars describe the decades after 1790 as a period of relative peace between the Spaniards and the Apaches, Mark sees the Mescalero Apache attacks on the Spanish as a sustained, widespread, and bloody conflict. He argues that Commandant General Pedro de Nava's campaigns against the Mescaleros were the culmination of the Spanish military's efforts to contain Apache aggression, constituting one of its largest and most sustained operations in northern New Spain.

The war's legacy of bitterness lasted far beyond the end of Spanish rule. In the words of Viceroy Bernardo de Gálvez, the Spaniards had technically won a "good war" against the Mescaleros and went on to manage a "bad peace."

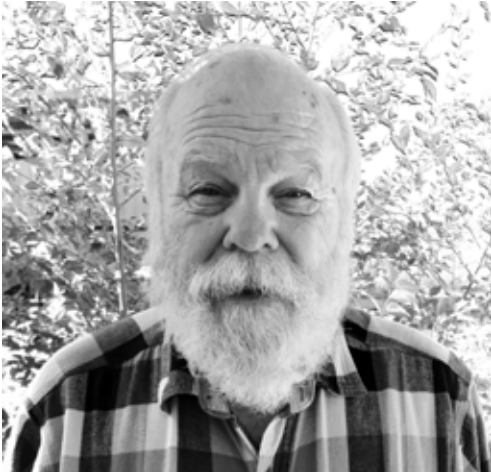
## Pasajero Del Camino Real Award

*This award is given to author(s) of a significant historical publication about events, persons, places or issues in Doña Ana County or the nearby area.*

### 2019 Pasajero Del Camino Real Award Recipient

**Peter Drexel** for his body of work on Southwest history:

*Coronado's Journey to The Seven Cities of Gold(2015); The Route and Ordeal of Cabeza de Vaca(2016); Coronado's Route to Cibola(2017)*



After Pete Drexler was born in Florida in 1938, his family bounced around to many locations before ending in New Mexico. There Pete finished high school and attended New Mexico State University where he earned a master's degree in physics. Professionally he then labored in the scientific fields of optics and semiconductor electronics until semi-retiring at White Sands Missile Range in 2012.

Pete authored or coauthored close to 50 scientific articles or tutorials, but it was not until retirement that he was able

to indulge in his life-long avocation in Southwestern history. Pete has also helped produce four books for other authors: *The Butterfield Trail in New Mexico* (Second Edition) by George Hackler (2012), *The March of The Mormon Battalion Through New Mexico* by George Hackler (2016), *Apache Land From Those Who Lived It* (Geronimo Springs Museum Edition) by Keith Humphries (2016) and *Exploring Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks National Monument* by Devon Fletcher with David Soules (2018).

To discover the paths taken by Coronado and Cabeza de Vaca, Pete used the descriptions in eyewitness accounts and various forms of testimony. Although there is very little detail in existing resources to directly identify geographical features or the locations of the sites the Spaniards passed by, Pete used what does exist and combined this with his extensive knowledge of the Southwest. He did some intricate sleuthing to uncover the most probable routing and delivers some surprising conclusions. As he says they found hardship and danger but no gold or glory.



## Heritage Award

*The Heritage Award is given to a person or persons whose actions or deeds have contributed to the historical or cultural heritage of Dona Ana County and who is (are) not professional or a vocational historian.*

### 2019 Heritage Award Recipient Rob and Murnie Cox

In today's urban world we sometimes forget agriculture drove early settlement and development in southern New Mexico. What we have today rests on a foundation laid down by decade after decade of hard work by farmers and ranchers.

Rob and Murnie Cox didn't forget that fact. They were the third generation of the Cox family to own and operate the famous San Augustine Ranch just over the Organ Mountains. They were strong believers that ranching is difficult and sometimes dangerous work but the rewards of such a lifestyle are honesty, integrity, self reliance and a connection with Nature.

Rob and Murnie felt it was important to keep the area's ranching legacy alive and well. Mostly they accomplished this by being living examples, leaders in the ranching community. They knew it was important to teach the young about ranching and for decades they quietly helped numerous NMSU students financially. During their time they were at San Augustine they offered free room and board in exchange for help with the chores. Sterling Carter said his son was there for six years as it took him that long to get his degree.

Another way to reach the young is through the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. Rob is considered one of the Museum's founders.



## Hall of Fame Award

*The Hall of Fame Award is designed to recognize an individual who is known for their exceptional contribution to the preservation of the history and culture of the Mesilla Valley.*

### 2019 Hall of Fame Inductee

#### Dr. Peter Kopp

Although Dr. Peter Kopp is a relative newcomer to southern New Mexico, his devoted work in promoting the history of the area and developing future historians at NMSU has greatly enhanced the history and culture of the Mesilla Valley.



Dr. Kopp joined the NMSU history department in the fall of 2012 as an assistant professor and the director of the public history program. He is an environmental historian with a specialty in the American West. He teaches public history courses, including museums studies, oral history, and the public history seminar. In addition to teaching younger students, Dr. Kopp has recently worked with the Academy for Learning in Retirement and finished a series of talks on the history of the American West geared at older audiences. Dr. Kopp has written a book entitled, *Hoptopia: A World of Agriculture and Beer in Oregon's Willamette Valley* and is currently working on a book about Fabian Garcia, the "Father of New Mexico Chile."

In 2015 a group of scholars, students and artists led by Dr. Kopp began documenting and helping to preserve public murals with their *Murals of Las Cruces* project, a collective that continues to document and educate the public about the imprint these murals make in southern New Mexico. The Dona Ana County Historical Society applauds Dr. Kopp's work and looks forward to his future endeavors.

## Old Timer's Award

*This award identifies a cherished object, a natural phenomenon or a cultural tradition prominent in the heritage of the Mesilla Valley deserving of public attention and recognition as an important part of the physical character of this region.*

### 2019 Old Timer's Award Murals of Las Cruces

During the summer of 2015, a group of scholars, students, and artists began a journey with cameras and notebooks in hand to document public murals in the city of Las Cruces. What began as a student project in a public history seminar at New Mexico State University grew into the Murals of Las Cruces Project. The group believed the city's murals had stories to tell about their home in the Mesilla Valley, and wanted to preserve them for posterity. The group also wanted to preserve what is often an ephemeral art form—one produced by street artists expressing grassroots and community-based messages not found in the artwork displayed in formal galleries.

Murals of Las Cruces has documented over 250 murals and discovered that through its public murals, Las Cruces claims a distinct artistic style (different than El Paso, Albuquerque, or Santa Fe, for example) highlighted by unique homages to agricultural life in the Mesilla Valley, environmental awareness, and vibrant indigenous and Hispanic street art. The group is interested in starting dialogues with members of the community about these topics and inviting the public to help them continue preserving and interpreting our culture.





*The mural on page 10 is on a wall on south Locust. The unusual mural above wraps around the corner of a building on south Harrelson. To the right is one from another wall on south Locust. Photos by Jim Eckles.*





The Doña Ana County Historical Society (DACHS) was founded in 1963 to encourage and foster a better understanding of the County's far reaching history for future generations. Emphasizing research, education, and preservation, the society encourages a greater appreciation of New Mexico history, especially that of Doña Ana County.

### **Founding Members**

John Altshool, Betty Bowen, Helen Caffey, Laiten Camien, Martin Campbell, Ira Clark, George Adlai Feather, Louis Freudenthal, Dorothy Mechem, Hugh Milton, Thomas Mitman, Helen Shomer, David Streeter, J. Paul Taylor, and Mark Thompson