



NEWSLETTER

February 2019

Doña Ana County Historical Society

David Lee Will Be Our Presenter On February 21

NMSU history student David Lee will talk about his DACHS-funded research at the society's February 21 meeting - 7 p.m. in the Good Sam auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. His oral history project, Hope Stories, focuses on the recent history of the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope and their efforts to mitigate homelessness in the region.

For his project, Lee recorded 16 interviews with staff and volunteers of the Community of Hope in order to understand the historical context of homelessness in Doña Ana County and those who have worked to alleviate it. With financial support from the DACHS J. Paul Taylor education scholarship, Lee was able to pay for transcriptions of the oral histories. Donna



Wojcik, oral history coordinator at the NM Farm and Ranch Museum, turned the spoken word recordings into print. Eventually, the Community of Hope stories will be available to the public at the NMSU Archives. Now in post-production, highlight clips of the interviews, with organizational synopses, can be listened to at www.elpueblomemory.com.

David's presentation will include a historical review of homelessness in Doña Ana County and feature narrator perspectives from the Community of Hope Campus. The Hope Stories thesis argues that affordable housing, access to healthcare, and realistic, long-term food security options can help to lessen, and potentially eliminate, homelessness in Las Cruces.

Our Cousin Organizations Offer Upcoming Talks

⚡ On Saturday, February 9, at 7 pm., Brian Halstead, Archaeologist with Chaco Culture National Historical Park, will speak on "Projectile Points on the Cañada Alamosa Frontier." The lecture is part of the Human Systems Research series summing up their findings in Cañada Alamosa.

Excavations yielded more than 600 projectile points that reflect 4,000 years of occupation. Halstead will discuss how the combination of location where points were found with the variety of styles, material sources, and function within the projectile point assemblage, provide insights into the broad outlines of change at Cañada Alamosa.

The lecture will be in the Good Sam auditorium. At the lecture, HSR personnel will be selling tickets to the 8th Annual Buffalo Roast Fundraiser coming up on March 9.

⚡ The February meeting of the Dona Ana County Genealogical Society will be on Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 2 pm at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library in the Roadrunner Room. Visitors are welcome.

"Carl Revisits An Ancestral Black Sheep" is the title of this month's talk. In 2010 Carl introduced DACGS to one of his ancestors, Nicholas Hutchins, who was summoned to court in Colonial America for Bastardy. His presentation updates the "exploits" of this Black Sheep and also briefly talks to the peculiar justice system of Colonial Maryland.

Before the program members and visitors are welcome to the Resource Center to ask questions beginning at 1:45 pm as well as after the meeting. Focus this month will be the application of spreadsheets for genealogy.

Photos From DACHS Awards Luncheon On Jan. 26



Cheryl Fallstead receives the Katherine Stoes Prize from DACHS President Dennis Daily.



Judith Messal receives the Gemoets Prize from President Daily.



James J. Drexler receives the Paso Del Camino Real Award from President Daily.



Mark Cox accepts the Heritage Award for Rob and Murnie Cox from Dennis Daily.



Dr. Peter Kopp and Norma Hartell received the Old Timer's Award from Dennis Daily for their Murals of Las Cruces Project. Dr. Kopp was also inducted into the DACHS Hall of Fame.



Mark Santiago stands beside the author's book table after he was awarded the Paso Del Camino Real Award.

Ranch Tour And Pat Garrett Festival Successful



The second ranch visited during the tour on Jan. 19 was the Jose Lucero place. Gerry Veara photo.



In Bosque Canyon, the tour visited the Bennett/Potter goat ranch. Gerry Veara photo.



The tour caravan stopped deep in Rhodes Canyon to look down on the former homesite of Eugene Manlove Rhodes. The only thing left is the concrete springbox. Gerry Veara photo.



At the top of Rhodes Pass the group examined the Miller ranch house. The family once had a portable dance floor for holiday picnics. Domestic water was two miles down canyon. Gerry Veara photo.



At the Pat Garrett Festival in the Rio Grande Theater on Feb. 2, Dan Crow & Friends kicked it off with a presentation of old West songs. From left: John Wood, Dan Crow, Ash Soular and Don Kinghorn. On the right, Karla Steen lectured Saturday night about the letters from Pat Garrett to his wife Apolinaria.



Membership Notes

✦ If you have paid your membership dues, thank you very much. If you haven't, please consider renewing soon. Also, please consider talking to friends and relatives to see if they might be interested in joining. As you can see we do some pretty cool stuff.

✦ Turnout for the awards luncheon last month wasn't stellar. Some of us board members are wondering why more of you didn't attend. Was it too expensive? Was it the wrong time of day? If you could take a minute or two and give Jim Eckles some feedback as to why, we would appreciate it - maybe we can fix it. Your comments to Jim will be kept confidential. You can call him at 575-521-8771 or email him at nebraska1950@comcast.net.

✦ The DACHS Board of Directors has been investigating buying insurance for the officers and board members. This is to protect them in case someone sues the DACHS over some issue. In this process, pretty much everyone we have talked to says the organization really needs a hold harmless agreement that individuals have to sign when participating in one of our events - such as a field trip. In fact, attendees on the WSMR ranch tour were each required to sign such a form. Expect to see this more in the future.

✦ Sally Kading reports that the heavy work at the Picacho Cemetery is now complete. She has need of folks interested in doing light cleanup and fund raising for a central marker and fencing.

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