

Las Cruces receives prize for preservation work

From Staff Reports

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LAS CRUCES - Las Cruces Sally Kading received the most prestigious preservation prize presented by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, The DAR Historic Preservation Medal.

NSDAR Doña Ana Chapter Regent Linda Bartlett presented Kading with the distinguished award at the chapter's December meeting, noting that the county is lucky to be the recipient of her extraordinary work.

"Ms. Kading's commitment to the preservation of the history of Doña Ana County and tireless efforts on numerous preservation projects over many years are truly outstanding," said NSDAR's National Historic Preservation Chair Leslie R. Miller.

"From inventorying cemeteries to translation and transcription of historic church records, she has shared her expertise and passion for preservation," Miller continued. "Because of Ms. Kading's efforts, the history of Doña Ana and the surrounding areas will be preserved, enjoyed and shared with many future generations."

Kading's work includes:

- Recording names, dates and locations on all inscriptions of headstones at San Albino Cemetery in Mesilla, publishing the information and placing it in the genealogy department of the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library (TBML).
- Recording names, dates, inscriptions and biographies for those interred at The Slumbering Mountain Cemetery in Organ. Results were published and placed in the genealogy department of TBML.



Las Cruces Sally Kading recently received the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution's Historic Preservation Medal. She is pictured here at a local cemetery. COURTESY PHOTO

- Translating and recording baptismal, marriage and burial records for the Basilica of San Albino and St. Genevieve's Catholic Church.

- Working with the Doña Ana County Genealogical Society to update county cemetery records; placing information on Find A Grave along with pictures, GPS locations and biographies.

Kading has an ongoing project that will tell yet another story of early Doña Ana County. With the county Historical Society, Kading and fellow historians are mapping, documenting and, in many cases, discovering interments in the abandoned cemetery of El Campo-santo de la Sagrada Familia, or Old Pí-cacho Cemetery, in the village of Pí-cacho.

The result of the work will include biographies on each known individual interred there, ground-penetrating radar scans to find lost graves, graphic maps of known grave locations, fencing along the open borders and placement of a permanent plaque telling a brief history of the cemetery, village and names of those interred. Copies of this information will be kept at the New Mexico State University Library Archives and Special Collections.

Fellowship Cemetery in Howard County, Arkansas also benefitted from Kading's expertise and work ethic. Kading and two of her cousins cleared and researched this old, abandoned cemetery beginning in the year 2000 and provided paperwork for it to receive the Arkansas Register of Historic Places award.

Typing early Doña Ana County civil marriages (1869-1926), volumes 3-10, which were hand-bound and placed in the genealogy department of TBML. This totaled to thousands of records.

CIAC

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Eugene Suttmiller

Also the current Chair of the Las Cruces Utilities' Utility Customer Advisory Group, Suttmiller came from a background of early education and education administration.



Suttmiller

"Dealing with school budgets, which included the ever-increasing cost

of utilities, had a positive impact in preparing me to serve," Suttmiller said.

Mark O'Neill

Mark O'Neill has been involved with different community affairs since he moved to Las Cruces in 2016. He has served as a member of Elevate Las Cruces Comprehensive Plan and eight years on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, including as Chair.



O'Neill

"CIAC is an important voice for the citizens and developers," O'Neill said. "I want to make sure fees levied on its citizens are not increased

unless a clear case is made that they must be."

Steve Newby, A.I.A.

Owner of Steve Newby Architects and Associates, Newby has overseen the completion of over \$450 million of public and private commissions including CLC Downtown Plaza, CLC Convention Center, CLC Aquatic Center, Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Authority 911 Center, Camino Real Middle School, and the New Mexico State University and Sonoma Ranch Golf Clubhouses.



Newby

"And formerly the world's longest zip

line at Ski Apache, only recently eclipsed by a zip line in the United Arab Emirates," said Newby, who was also the founder and president of the Las Cruces Downtown Partnership for 18 years.

Due to COVID-19, the meetings — every third Thursday at 1:30 p.m. — are currently held via the Zoom Webinar platform, which provides the public the opportunity to participate. Public comments or questions can be emailed to CIACAdminSupport@las-cruces.org.

LCU can be reached at 575-528-3500 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. LCU provides services to approximately 100,000 Las Cruces residents and businesses.