

# Newsletter

March 2006



## Dona Ana Historical Society

### Vice President's Message

Those of you that attended the February Historical Society meeting will agree, I am sure that Mr. David Fierro did an outstanding job for us with his power point enhanced presentation of the Tortugas Pueblo. He highlighted mostly the annual Guadalupan fiesta. This was an educational experience for me and I am sure many others in the audience. It might be worth your while to visit the Pueblo and see some of the historic buildings.

We have been having a series of good talks lately and this should continue on this spring. The line up for the spring includes March with Peggy Swoveland, nee Nakayama, talking to us regarding her family roots in the valley, both her mother and father, who came here in the early 1900's.

Then in April we have Mr. James W Hurst discussing Pancho Villa's raid on Columbus New Mexico.

Dr James Williams will be on the docket in May discussing his life in a segregated Las Cruces, and later in the Air Force.

Our first speaker in the fall semester will be Dr. Ben Brown. Dr. Brown is a UTEP professor and he will discuss the French painter Leon Trouset. Trouset painted rather extensively in the American southwest in the late 1800's, including a famous painting of the Mesilla Plaza.

Very little is known of this artist who painted during this historic period. This should be a very interesting talk, especially for those artists who have a feel for history.

Our monthly programs have been somewhat poorly attended lately even though there have been attractive subjects and speakers. Those folks putting on presentations for us do a lot of prep work and spend a lot of time polishing up their speeches.— So lets not do them a disservice by staying away. Please bring a friend or neighbor to our next meeting. Who knows, they may join up.

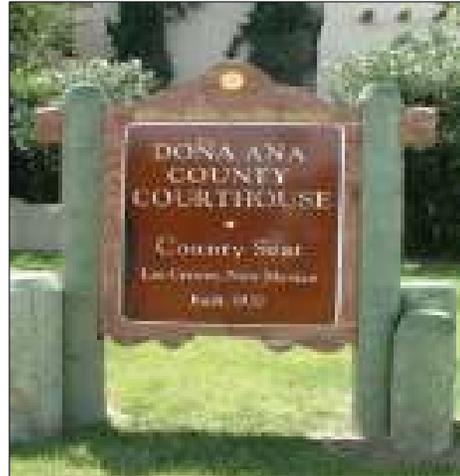
We may have spring outings in April or May to the Gadsden Museum and/or a visit to the J Paul Taylor home, both in Mesilla. There will be more on this later in the newsletter.

Thank you all, see you at the March meeting.  
*Roger Rothenmaier*



## Gadsden Museum Visit

Karen George, our DACHS Historian was able to reach Mary Bird from the Gadsden Museum in Mesilla and set up a visit to the Museum. The date is set for April 22, 2006 (Saturday).



### Volunteers Needed!

The Dona Ana Historical Society is looking for a few persons who would like to do detective work investigating the County Courthouse and the Amador Hotel's past.

Those who are interested will be asked to look for newspaper articles, documents and other written material recorded on microfilm and stored in the archives of the NMSU—as well as the Branigan libraries.

In order to provide for a meaningful occasion, arrangements will be made to have 12 (twelve) persons to go through the exhibits at a time. Two time periods have been set aside on that day (at 10:00am and at 1:30 pm).

If you are interested in seeing the collections in the Gadsden Museum, the only remaining collection of note containing local historical artifacts in our immediate area, please fill out the form below and mail it to Karen George.

The entrance fee is \$ 2.12 which will be collected at the time of the museum visit.

### Gadsden Museum Visit

I am interested in participating in one of the two group visits to the Gadsden Museum in Mesilla on Saturday, April 22, 2006.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Choice of Time (check box) 10:00am or 1:30pm

For more information, call or e-mail Karen George, 233-3529 - Mesquitokaren@yahoo.com

Mail this form to Karen George, PO Box 37, Mesquite, NM 88048

## DOÑA ANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March 16, 2006 Program

*Peggy Swoveland*

**Title:** Two Japanese-American Farming Families in the Mesilla Valley. An oral history of the Nakayama and Yabumoto families since their arrival in the Mesilla Valley in 1915-1918. (The Nakayamas are my father's family and the Yabumotos are my mother's family. The Nakayamas farmed north of Las Cruces near the village of Doña Ana, and the Yabumotos lived and farmed in the south valley near Anthony.)



**Biography:** Peggy Swoveland was born in Las Cruces and is a graduate of Las Cruces High School. Her parents are Carl and Toshi Nakayama. She received a B.A. in zoology from Pomona College in Claremont, CA, an M.A. in zoology from the University of California in Berkeley, CA, and a Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD. Her professional career included a faculty appointment in the Department of Neurology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine where she did research on virus infections and immune disorders of the nervous system, and an appointment in the Office of Research and Development at the Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office in Washington, DC. Peggy returned to Las Cruces five years ago. Her local activities include memberships on the Board of Directors of First Step Center, the Board of Trustees of Memorial Medical Center, the Board of Directors of the Las Cruces Symphony Association, and the Border Advisory Committee of the Santa Fe based New Mexico Community Foundation.

## Newsletter Mailings

Starting this month the newsletter will be sent by e-mail to members who have provided an e-mail address. You should have already received a test copy of last month's newsletter. If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter by USPS please so indicate by return e-mail. If you do not receive an e-mail and are willing to try this new attempt to speed up delivery and lower costs, please so indicate by providing your e-mail address to [dachslcnm@aol.com](mailto:dachslcnm@aol.com).

## 2005 Summary Financial Report

In accordance with DACHS bylaws, a year end summary financial report is provided:

Income *	\$20,329.78
SNMHR Sales	\$ 2,346.30
LC Book Sales	\$ 3,990.00
DVD Sales	\$ 1,246.00
06 Corp. Sponsors	\$ 1,350.00
Dues	\$ 3,368.00
SNMHR Sponsors	\$ 650.00
Checking & CD balance	\$13,255.92

Note\* Income includes all funds received including dues, sales of publications, Banquet reservations and gifts



## Doña Ana County Historic Building Advisory Committee

Draft copies of the nominations to include the Courthouse and the Amador Hotel in the National Register were sent to the State Historic Preservation Division in Santa Fe for comment. Additional work is needed and on 2/24/06. Mr. John Murphy came to Las Cruces and was given an extensive tour of both buildings. The one area needing additional input which The Society has been asked to help provide is a list of significant activities that have taken place in the Courthouse. (Famous visitors, significant trials, jailbreaks, prisoners held, etc.) If you have any information or stories or know of someone who does, please call George Helfrich at 522-3477

**New Members**

Janet Darrow and Betty Corn

Special Thanks To Contributing Member  
J. Paul Taylor

Long-term member and supporter of the Society, Julia Wilke, passed away on February 13, 2006. Our sympathy to Harvey and their children.



If there is a red dot on your address label or a note on your e-mail, 2006 membership dues are needed. If you have a question or have already paid your dues, please call George Helfrich at 522-3477, e-mail at [dachslcnm@aol.com](mailto:dachslcnm@aol.com).

Please renew/enroll my/our membership in the Doña Ana Historical Society. A check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Fees:**

Individual \$ 15      Student \$ 8      Benefactor \$ 150

Family \$ 20      Contributor \$ 40      Life \$ 300

Memberships are active for the calendar year of enrollment. Membership in the Society is deductible within legal limits for Federal and State income tax purposes. If you are unsure of your status, please call Membership Chairman, George Helfrich, at 522-3477.

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**Doña Ana County Historical Society**  
**P.O.Box 16045**  
**Las Cruces, NM 88004**  
**[www..zianet.com/dachs](http://www.zianet.com/dachs)**

2005 Officers:

President - Dr. Chuck Murrell

Past President – Austin Hoover

Vice President – Roger Rothenmaier

Secretary – Donna Eichstaedt

Treasurer – George Helfrich

Historian – Karen George

Board Members-at-Large -

Marcie Palmer

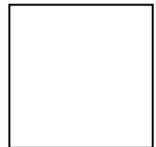
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Buddy Ritter

Wanda Tourney

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