



NEWSLETTER

January 2010

Doña Ana County Historical Society

President's Comments

By: George Helfrich

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all happy, safe, healthy and prosperous 2010. If you have not already done so, it is time to renew your membership, make reservations for the annual banquet, and donate any unwanted treasures for the silent auction (see details elsewhere in the newsletter). At the banquet, we have decided to include a display of DACHS authors works. Ms. Frankie Miller has offered to coordinate the acquisition, display and sale of these items through the services of the NMSU Bookstore. If you are a member of DACHS and an author wishing to participate please contact Frankie at 646-4431. You are encouraged to attend the banquet and sign books that are purchased there. Elsewhere in the newsletter, there are reports on the status of two historic Las Cruces landmarks, the Amador Hotel and the Armijo-Gallagher house. ■

Amador Report Disappoints

By: George Helfrich

In consideration of one of our primary objectives, to preserve our local history, the Society advocated the establishment of a history museum utilizing the old Amador Hotel. The property was transferred from the County to the City of Las Cruces specifically for that purpose. A study was performed to determine the basic condition of the adobe structure which was found to be in remarkably good condition. The state legislature, in 2007 and 2008, appropriated \$170,000 to plan and preserve the Amador for use as a his-

See Amador on Page 4

Banquet Program

The program this year will begin with the usual social hour and silent auction followed by dinner. After dinner entertainment will feature La Cella Bella, a group of very talented cello players. A video presentation featuring this year's awards will follow after which the results of the silent auction will be announced.

La Cella Bella is a cello quartet that specializes in arrangements of popular songs. Formed about 4 years ago, the members are: Alison Reynolds, Alicia Dolan, Debbie Eckles, and Tatianna Dickens. Their music is unique and will



La Cella Bella from left to right, Debbie Eckles, Alicia Dolan, Alison Reynolds and Tatianna Dickens

satisfy the tastes of just about anyone. They play the Beatles, Green Day, jazz, show tunes, celtic fiddle tunes and ballads. All four are classically trained, Alison and Alicia play with the Las Cruces Symphony, Debbie (originally a violin player) teaches Suzuki violin and Tatianna is a very busy mother of three young children. ■

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⌘ If you haven't already, ⌘
⌘ Renew your Membership Today ⌘
⌘ Form on Page 3 ⌘
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Calendar

- Saturday, January 30, 2010 Annual DACHS Banquet and Awards Presentation. Hotel Encanto, 5:30pm
- Thursday, February 18, 2010 @ 7:00pm
- Randy Milligan – **Judge Roy Bean**
- All meetings of the Society are normally at 7:00pm on the third Thursday of the months of Feb. - May and Sept - Nov. in the Good Samaritan Auditorium at 3011 Buena Vida Circle.

Silent Auction Request

One of the Society's significant sources of funds to offset the costs of the annual banquet and awards program is the silent auction. Please take the time to stop and consider what objects you might have and no longer desire to keep that would be appropriate to donate. Items that are still in good condition are needed. They do not necessarily need to have historical significance. For pickup or drop off arrangements please call Roger @ 521-7531, Chuck @ 521-7833, Bob @ 382-8552 or George @ 522-3477. ■

**DOÑA ANA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 43rd ANNUAL BANQUET
JANUARY 30, 2010 * 5:30-9PM
HOTEL ENCANTO DE LAS CRUCES
(formerly the Las Cruces Hilton)**

***WE STILL NEED DONATED ITEMS FOR THE SILENT AUCTION!**

Please call Roger 521-7531, Chuck 521-7833 or George 522-3477 to make arrangements for pick-up or drop-off. The Silent Auction is the Society's major fund raising project to help fund the Banquet and awards program.

BANQUET PROGRAM

AWARDS

The program this year will begin with the usual social hour and silent auction followed by dinner. After dinner entertainment will feature La Cella Bella.

A video presentation featuring this year's awards will follow after which, the results of the silent auction will be announced.

SOCIAL HOUR

Join us from 5:30-6:30pm for the social hour. Enjoy new and old friendships, meet special guests and make a bid on items in the silent auction.

BANQUET MENU

Salmon or Pork Loin
(Vegetable, a rice dish, salad, rolls, dessert, Ice Tea and Coffee).

SILENT AUCTION

During the social hour, bid on silent auction items, such as books (old & new); prints & paintings, antiques, pottery, textiles, glassware & collectables.

- Buildings Worthy of Preservation: Dona Ana Community
- Building Adhering to Regional Architecture: Michael & Jan Clute's home
- Building of Noteworthy Renovation: Rachel Steven's home/studio –and– Cliff Schlothauer's home
- An Endangered Building with Noteworthy History: De La O Salon in Dona Ana
- Homes and Buildings of Historical Significance: Property known as the Jacob Chaves Home
- Old Timers Award: The Roadrunner built by Olin Calk –and– Cotton Gins
- Special Mention: the Railroad Depot

People Award Recipients:

- Hall of Fame Award: Marcie Palmer
- Heritage Award: Gerald Schurtz
- The Pasajero del Camino Real Award: Marvin Tessner

RESERVATION FORM

Please check one entrée per person:

Grilled Salmon _____ Pork Loin _____

(Menu includes: a fresh vegetable, salad, rolls, dessert, Ice Tea & Coffee)

Name _____ Name _____ Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____ State _____ Phone _____

Reservations: **Members \$32.00** How many? _____ **Non-Members \$35.00** How many? _____

Total Enclosed _____

(Mail banquet reservation form & check to Treasurer, Xandy Church % Doña Ana County Historical Society, P.O. Box 16045, Las Cruces, NM 88004 by January 22, 2010. (2010 dues must be current for member prices to apply.) (Make checks payable to DACHS and membership can be included). **Note: Membership form on Page 3.**

2009 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

AS OF 11/30/09

OPERATING FUNDS

Checking Account	\$7,626.78
Certificate of Deposit	\$7,985.98
Total available assets	\$15,532.68

SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

Certificate of Deposit	\$8,200.00
Savings Account	\$227.39
Total Endowment	\$8,427.39

DACHS Authors Invitation

If you have published any books and would like to have them displayed for sale at the Banquet, please contact Ms. Frankie Miller at 646-4431 by January 8 to discuss the details associated with your material being presented. Frankie will contact your publisher, order copies, display them and manage all of the sales. If your work is out of print, but you have copies, you may also call Frankie to arrange to bring copies to the Banquet. ■

Armijo-Gallagher House Status Report

By: Chris Schurtz

Efforts are underway to preserve one of Las Cruces' most valuable historic treasures, the Armijo-Gallagher House, located on Amador Avenue just north of Citizens Bank of Las Cruces. Nestor Armijo, a freighter and early Las Cruces businessman, built the two-story Victorian-style adobe sometime around 1880. It was one of the first buildings in Las Cruces placed on both the state and national registers, and in 1967 was the first structure listed by the Dona Ana County Historical Society as a Building Worthy of Preservation.

The Armijo-Gallagher House has witnessed Las Cruces change from a small dusty town of 2,000 hearty souls to a city of 90,000, and it survived the Urban Renewal of the late 1960s that saw the demolition of hundreds of homes, businesses, and structures within the downtown core. Over the past 130 years, having served as a home for four generations of Armijos and later as a commercial property, it has maintained much of its structural and historical integrity. But it is now showing its age, with some of its exterior walls cracking due to water damage.

The Armijo-Gallagher House's owner Amador Bancshares, which also owns Citizens Bank, has met with various parties this year, including the newly-formed Mesilla Valley Preservation non-profit, who have expressed an interest in preserving the building. Although other major preservation projects are ongoing, particularly the Amador Hotel just down the road, local historic preservationists are urging a community effort to save a property unique to Las Cruces and its history. ■

-----Cut along dotted line-----

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

DACHS Membership Form

Please renew/enroll my/our membership in the Doña Ana County Historical Society. Memberships are active for the calendar year of enrollment and are deductible within legal limits for Federal and State income tax purposes. If you are unsure of your status or have questions regarding membership, please contact the Treasurer, Xandy Church, at 526-9774 or the President, George Hackler, at 521-4458.

Annual Membership/Sponsorship Rates

Individual \$20 Family \$25 Student \$8 Contributor \$40 Benefactor \$150 Life \$300
Southern New Mexico Historical Review Sponsorship \$50

This is a change of information Yes No A check for \$ _____ is enclosed. Date _____
Check # _____

Name(s) _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____ Newsletter via E-mail Yes No

How would you like to receive your copy of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* (SNMHR)?

Printed Version Society Website Version PDF on CD Version No Preference

**We wish to thank our
Corporate Sponsors**

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**We Welcome These
New Members
Tom Carroll**

Amador from Page 1

tory museum. An Albuquerque architectural firm, Kells & Craig, was contracted by the City to develop an adaptive reuse plan to be used to facilitate achieving our objective. A final report was presented to the City Council last month with recommendations that

were unanimously approved. I am sorry to report that the original objective, to develop a history museum, is no longer being considered. Instead the property is to be developed, in several phases, as an event center with a restaurant/bar addition. Several rooms will be dedicated to the history of the Amador Hotel and the Amador family. The projected cost to complete this plan is between 8 and 11 million dollars.

I am disappointed that there is no alternative plan for a history museum and have several concerns related to the basic premise of the final plan. These are my personal views, not those of DACHS, or the Amador Museum Foundation. First, the redirection of the study resulted from the conclusion of the study team that there was insufficient community support

for a history museum and that museums of that sort were the least visited of all museums. This conclusion was based upon 30 interviews with persons selected by the team. That is an incredibly insignificant sampling of a community of 90,000 people. Follow-up meetings were never advertised by the study team, the city or the Amador Foundation. Second, the arrangement between the Foundation and the City of Las Cruces is unrealistic. The Foundation is to raise all of the development funds but is constrained by conflicting City policies regarding the State Legislature. Last, I see the use of the Amador, primarily as an event center, in competition with the City's new convention center due to be completed in 2010. ■

2010 Board Members
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www.donaanaacountyhistoricalsociety.org

