



# Maturango News

Maturango Museum: Preserve, interpret and develop an appreciation for the natural and cultural history of the Northern Mojave Desert.

100 E. Las Flores Ave. • Ridgecrest, CA 93555  
760.375.6900 www.maturango.org

Death Valley Tourist Center Northern Mojave Visitor Center

## Museum Director's Notes

*By Debbie Benson, Director*

We are celebrating December and all of its excitement! That chill in the air that makes each sunny day seem precious. I have to admit that I love this time of year, even if most days begin with a sweatshirt! I am already thinking of my plans for a spring garden and I'm hoping for some rain to help with our wildflowers. Our geese neighbors have arrived to fill our days with their overhead conversation as they travel from one patch of green to the next. They may have to work hard to find those bits of green this year. It's the time for us to clean up our gardens and the Garden and Grounds groups are working on projects while the weather is kind. If you see us out working, stop



on by! We may even have an extra shovel and rake! Our agave had its spike removed by our flintknapping friend Mike Thompson and his friend Hugo. Mike hopes to come back with it in the future as a digeridoo. Just another kind of positive repurposing!

This is that time when we can enjoy the festivities of the season and let others know how much they matter and maybe think of some fun gifts to share. I am grateful that I work where there is a fantastic Gift Shop with something for everyone. Books on local lore and pieces by local artists make my gift buying easy! Some people on my list may get a Maturango Museum family membership that they can enjoy all year long! Free admission and member benefits make it the perfect gift. Being a part of the Passport Program as an ASTC Museum makes the benefits even better if travelling out of the area. Check our website to find

out more.

I was very proud to have been with Elaine Wiley, Bev Hill and Dan Burnett for a Chamber of Commerce luncheon where the docents were recognized for their contributions to our community. The work that Nora Nuckles and the docents do is something we can all be proud of. Congratulations!

Take the time to tell a friend you care and try to share the gift of your time! We appreciate everything you do for us! Season's Greeting and my best to you ALL!



**Major Maturango Mojo**  
**Our thanks to everyone who helped us with the Petroglyph Festival!**  
**It was a fun filled weekend and you all made it happen!**



**Friday Night Artist Reception  
with Julianne Black**



**Petroglyph Tours**



**The Speakers Forum &  
Mike Thompson  
Flintknapper**



**The Wine Tour and  
BeerTasting**



**The Gift Shop**



**After a long weekend!  
Mike Cash and  
Sherry Brubaker,  
The Canyon Dwellers  
Return!**



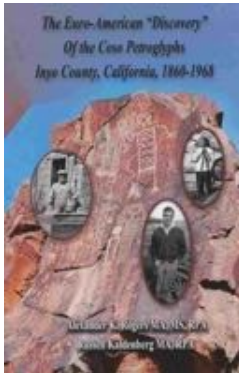
Correction from November: Our thanks to Milton and Jane Burford, Leslie, Rachel and Lois!



## Museum Gift Store

Looking for something unique for a holiday gift? The gift shop has local handmade wooden trivets, Lois Hinman Pottery, Ridgecrest map glass cutting boards and lots of fun jewelry. Petroglyph wine corks, cozy Solmate Socks, Wikki Stix and mini music boxes make great stocking stuffers. Come in and take a look around. Keep your eyes open for our Pop-up sales during the month of December!

### New Book at the Maturango Museum Store



The Maturango Press has just published a new book, *The Euro-American Discovery of the Coso Petroglyphs*, by Alexander K. Rogers and Russell L. Kaldenberg. The book is the result of several years' research on the discovery of the petroglyphs, prompted by frequent questions on petroglyph tours. The book describes the original creation of the rock art, its initial observation by Euro-Americans in 1866, and subsequent visitors, photographers, and investigators. The authors conclude that the archaeology and rock art of the Coso district were known prior to land withdrawal for the Navy in early 1944, but did not play a role in the withdrawal decision.

Both authors are archaeologists with a long experience in the history of Coso Range. Alexander Rogers is archaeology curator at the Maturango Museum; Russell Kaldenberg is former Command Archaeologist at China Lake, and was also the lead archaeologist for the Bureau of Land Management in California.

The book is available in the museum store for \$6.95.



### Julianne DiBlasi Black Art Exhibit: "Color & Vibration"

Exhibit through Tuesday January 3, 2017



"Color & Vibration" is a multi-media exhibit of paintings on a variety of media, created to celebrate the original design elements of the petroglyphs with a modern twist of bright color and pop. Many of the works are painted directly on three-dimensional reclaimed wood structures, letting the texture, shapes and surface imperfections

influence the design of the overall piece - an homage to the original stone artwork, also on unpredictable and unstable surfaces.

Born in Massachusetts, Black's art has been deeply influenced by her collected life experiences and cultural studies from around the planet. Bringing to her work deeply intimate patterns and colors from visits to South America and Africa, she gently "folds in" bright metallics and geometric minimalistic shapes into the design mix.



Directing her eclectic background into the original petroglyph shapes, she hopes to give them an alternate existence where they can be respected and appreciated in a new light - a series of fun, bold technicolor recreations available for viewing in our gallery. This exhibit runs until Jan 3, 2017.

Artist website: [www.JulianneBlack.com](http://www.JulianneBlack.com)

## Sylvia Winslow Exhibit Gallery



The Hi Desert Quilt Guild is displaying 13 art quilts made this year as part of the guilds yearly challenge. This year's challenge was "Petroglyph Inspired" and the quilts displayed at the museum are varied, unique and just simply gorgeous. The quilters allowing the museum to display their quilts are: Patti Bench, Sandy Bosley, Nancy Buchner, Shelley Crabtree, JoAnn Foster, Charlotte Freeman, Nicki Haven, Diana Jackson, Penny LePome, Sandy Meech, Terry Millett, Deanna Ripley-Lotee, and Lynn Wade. These quilts are on display in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery through January 4, 2017.

The quilts, as well as other quilts by the Hi Desert Quilt Guild, will also be on display at the 2017 Quilt Show held at the Desert Empire Fairground on March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The "Petroglyph Inspired" quilts are a "must see" at the museum!



## IWVSAR



The history of the Indian Wells Valley Search and Rescue team is on display at the museum. This exhibit highlights the groups 50 years of service with the Kern County Sheriff's Department in both search and rescue of people on land and underground. Underground rescue required specific equipment and training to be safe when searching for people in mines. These dedicated volunteers spent many hours training to be the best informed and skilled mine rescue volunteers. Come see the specific equipment required and

read about the training required to be a mine rescue volunteer! This exhibit is located in the vestibule, which is an area to the left of the Sylvia Winslow Gallery.

## Monorail Exhibit features model Monorail

A new exhibit featuring the American Magnesium Company Monorail is located in the vestibule of the Maturango Museum, including a model of the monorail track made and donated by Joe Powell of Las Vegas Nevada. This monorail, also known as the Epsom Salts Monorail, was the longest monorail ever built in the United States. It connected an Epsom salts mine located in the Panamint Range just east of Wingate Pass, to Magnesium Siding, 6 miles south of Trona. The monorail was constructed to transport Epsom salts from the mine to the standard gauge Southern Pacific Railroad. The monorail was built and operated between 1922 and 1923, but was not commercially successful and was abandoned by 1927. A book on the monorail is also available in the Maturango Museum store. The exhibit is located in the vestibule at the south end of the museum in a side area off of the Sylvia Winslow Exhibit Gallery.



## Docent Doings

*By Nora Nuckles*

I would like to thank all the docents and other volunteers who helped with the Petroglyph Education program for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The



docents who helped are: Dan Burnett, Mike Cash, Don and Shirley Crouse, Paula Herr, Bev Hill, Penny LePome, Judy Martin, Sharon Oldfield, Bob and Sue Parker, Deanna Stewart, Jinny Valle, Pat Walters, and Elaine Wiley.



Other people who helped were

Charlotte Ostermann, Sherry Brubaker, our Natural History Curator, Andrea Pelch, our Art Gallery Coordinator, Julie Stephens, our Museum Finance Manager, and Debbie Benson, our Museum Director. Dr. King from Cerro Coso and her students, Daisy Zajicek, LeAnn Zajicek, and Carol Blair also helped with the 4 stations that the 8<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed. With as many as 175 8<sup>th</sup> graders at one time we really needed everyone's help!

In the Discovery Area of the Exhibit Room you can view the Symbol stories done by some of the 8<sup>th</sup> graders. In groups of five or six students made up stories using assigned symbols but each group assigned their own meanings to the symbols. Come see them and try to figure out the stories.



In October the docents presented 37 programs to 1085 people! What a month!

In November we continued to present Bat and Native American programs as well as several art programs thanks to Carol Dezellem and Cam Alden.

We invite you to join the docents! Just give me a call at the Museum for details!

## Natural History News

*By Sherry Brubaker*

Exciting things have happened in Natural History Curation; thirteen freeze dried critters have returned from the taxidermist. All thirteen are up for sponsoring. If you would like to sponsor, at



this point adopt, one of these beautifully mounted critters please contact me at the museum. If you would like to sponsor a critter still in the freezer, so they can come out and be enjoyed by all, please contact me and I'll send you a list. Here are our four newly mounted Kangaroo Rats.

Thanks to Peter and Elaine Wiley, two Great Horned Owls are now in the display area. There is also a

Snow Goose in the display cube. They have arrived in the Indian Wells Valley to winter over before returning to the arctic to raise families.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Light Show

December 2 & 3

Doors open at 6 pm, show begins at 6:20 pm

Free Indoor Animated Light Show

Sing Along and Santa!

Cider and treats!

Seating is limited so don't be late!



### Donations and New Members as of November

#### Donations

Mary Adler - paintings  
Linda Anderson  
Philip Archibald  
Glenda Blackshaw  
Thom Boggs  
Dan and Brenda Burnett  
Robert and Alice Campbell – education fund  
Jane Crow  
Jeffrey Grossman –  
    In honor of Dan and Brenda Burnett  
Elvy R. Hopkins  
Susan Hueber –  
    in honor of Jerry Bradley signage  
Penelope LePome –  
    in memory of Lloyd Brubaker  
Arlene and Phil Lopez  
Frank and Joyce Markarian  
Cynthia Miller and Kathie King  
    in memory of Harold J. and Carolyn M.  
    Hockett. (Hockett's Builders Supply)  
David and Therese Moore  
Naomi Norris

Sue and Bob Parker  
Teresa Pastor  
Mike and Bessie Reeves  
Phyllis Simpson  
Bea and Lloyd Smith  
Michael S. Vincent  
Rachel Woodard

#### Parking Lot Repairs

Fred and Susan Hartson

#### Point of Sale Upgrade

Vivian and Dick Wright –  
    in memory of Mary Lattig  
Michelle Behseresht –  
    in memory of Mary Lattig

#### Planetarium Fund

Helen Almengor

#### Building Fund

Robert Westbrook

#### New Members

Rodney and Joan Blankenship  
Jeanette Davis  
Jack Minton

Kristin Parkinson  
Joan Ruehle  
Linda Shepherd

## **Maturango Museum of the IWV**

100 E. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Open every day (except major holidays)

10 am - 5 pm

### **Staff**

Debbie Benson, Museum Director  
Maureen Goff, Store Manager/Buyer  
Sandy Rogers, Archaeology Curator  
Elaine Wiley, History Curator  
Sherry Brubaker, Natural History Curator  
Julie Stephens, Finance Manager  
Fran Van Valkenburgh, Membership  
Andrea Pelch, Art Gallery Coordinator  
Joann Barbee, Assistant Bookkeeper  
Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator  
Linda Saholt, Petroglyph Tour Coord.  
Rachel Avery, Museum Assistant  
Sue Gilbert, Museum Assistant  
Nora Nuckles, Museum Assistant  
Nick Rogers, Museum Assistant  
Andrea Pelch, Newsletter Editor

### **Committee Chairpersons**

Dan Burnett, Building  
Fran Rogers, Concerts  
Bev Hill, Docent League  
Dan Burnett, Finance  
Sandy Rogers, Lectures  
Elaine Wiley, Publications  
Bob Westbrook, Strategic Planning  
Mike Brown, Webmaster

### **Board of Trustees**

Jerry Bradley, President  
Bev Hill, Vice President  
Camille Anderson, Secretary  
Dan Burnett, Treasurer  
Thom Boggs  
Dianne Dilley  
Leslie Layfield  
Sue Parker  
Libby Vincent

## **Businesses and Organizations Supporters • Contributors • Sponsors**

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DART  
Daily Independent  
Econo Lodge  
Epsilon Systems Solutions, Inc.  
Friends of Jawbone  
Furnace Creek Inn  
Gary Charlon State Farm  
Hampton Inn & Suites  
Heritage Inn & Suites  
High Desert Haven  
Historical Society of the Upper  
Mojave Desert  
Hockett's Builder's Supply  
Jacobs Naval System Group  
KPartners Hospitality Group  
Kristy's Family Restaurant  
Law Offices of Phyllis M. Hix  
Lugo's

McDonald's Restaurant  
New Directions Technologies,  
Inc.  
News Review  
Oasis Garden Club  
PackWrap Business Center  
The Pizza Factory  
Ridgecrest Area Convention and  
Visitors Bureau  
Ridgecrest Automotive  
Ridgecrest Regional Hospital  
Ridgecrest Moving &  
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Searles Valley Minerals  
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Sierra Sands Unified School  
District  
SpringHill Suites by Marriott  
The Swap Sheet  
Tax Time Services  
TJ Frisbee Bicycles, Inc.  
TOSS  
WACOM  
Warren's Automotive



### **Regularly Scheduled Meetings**

- China Lake Astronomical Society: 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month, 7 pm
- China Lake Photographic Society: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month, 7 pm
- Kerncrest Audubon Society: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday bi-monthly [Jan, Mar, May, Sep, Nov, not July], 7 pm
- Docent League: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, 8:45 a.m., anyone welcome to attend

## Calendar of Events

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Light Show 6 p.m. Dec 2 & 3  
Museum Free Day Dec 10  
Pizza Factory Museum Fundraiser: all day Thursday, Dec 15  
Children's Hour 10:30 a.m. Dec 16  
Closed Christmas Day  
Hamil Ma Opening Reception Jan 6, 2017 7 p.m.

Maturango Museum of the IVV  
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Ridgecrest, CA 93555-3654

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