



Maturango News

Death Valley Tourist Center • Northern Mojave Visitor Center

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www.maturango.org

Museum Director's Notes

By Debbie Benson, Director

Are you a member? Join us for our Annual State of the Museum Meeting at 6:00pm on March 6. We will have food, beverages, a presentation by Sandy Rogers on his new book "The Epsom Salts Monorail", a short member meeting, tours through the Museum, a Silent Auction with some interesting and exceptional items, a 50/50 drawing and more! Put the date on your calendar!

Not a member yet? It's easy to join -- visit our gift shop to sign up or on-line at shop.maturango.org.

Our expansion is moving along with the holes cut through the store wall into the new temporary exhibit space and the new gallery. We're looking forward to lights, doors, floors and paint as well as hooking up the environmental systems and finding the right shelving system for the docents. The new curation area is coming together with its moveable shelving and new workspaces. We want to share what is happening with our visitors on a daily basis so please know you are welcome!

It may only be February, but we are already looking forward to Spring Wildflowers! The rains have brought about the greening of the desert and there are some early blooms. This is encouraging for the possibility of beautiful flowers throughout the IWW and beyond for our yearly exhibit. Our Wildflower Exhibit group is already working on the plans for the show to be held April 10, 11 & 12.



Valentine's Day in the Gift Shop

Museum members will receive a 25% discount in the gift shop
13 –15 February.



Construction continues in our expansion project.

A new door space being installed.

Are You Good at Writing?

The Fundraising Committee is seeking people to be part of a team that is learning how to research and write grants on behalf of the museum. For more information please contact Mike Brown at sierraview@mac.com or 714-225-3773.

Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator

Children's art is now displayed in the Discovery Area of the exhibit room! At the present time there is art created by some 4th grade students from Richmond after a docent lesson about the element of line. The students proudly bring their families to the museum to see their art!

Dan Burnett and Bev Hill teamed with Hector Villalobos, a geologist, to present geology to Mr. Williams 4th graders. Hector and Dan led the students on a hike in the Rademachers on the following day. The students had a chance to learn about local geology on a beautiful winter day in Ridgecrest! Thank you, Dan, Hector, and Bev!

The Beth Armogida Planetarium continues to be requested. We spent 2 ½ days at Richmond School and 2 ½ days at Pierce School plus a Family Night at Pierce. Mike Herr gives all the presentations! On one day we had a record 290 students and teachers enjoy shows in the planetarium. Since the purchase of the planetarium in May of 2013 over 6,000 people have enjoyed presentations in the planetarium! The winning combination of an outstanding planetarium system plus Mike Herr, a knowledgeable, wonderful presenter, makes for magic in the blue dome! Mike's bio is impressive!

As a young boy Mike enjoyed astronomy and always had a telescope in the backyard. Mike Herr is a Mechanical Engineer who worked at China Lake for 32 years. He has been a program engineer and manager for the space shuttle escape system. He has worked on the Mars Pathfinder and the Mars Exploration Rover for JPL. Presently he consults with NASA on the Orion capsule, the latest project to put people back into space. No wonder Mike can create such informative, fun presentations for the planetarium! Mike says that the presentations are fun to create and give, especially when he is given enough time! Here are a few of the students' comments after experiencing the planetarium:

"Thank you for showing us the hole universe. Also thank you for teaching us some knowlag in are brains."

"I learned a lot. I didn't know galaxies could collide and that the Big Dipper was part of a constellation."

"My favorite thing was the planetarium because it felt like we were flying up and falling down so that was cool."

"Your show was so amazing, outstanding, awesome, and...and I just can't say another word! The telescopes are the same thing with the planetarium presentation!... Pluto is my favorite plant, what's your favorite plant?"

Chuck Morgan and Bob Zeisler bring their solar scopes to all the presentations and this is also very exciting to the students. One child writes, "The telescopes were awesome, to how you got to see the sun spots and the blasts."

We continue to give many wonderful presentations to students and are always active. We are now planning for a move into the new docent room. We need to acquire new shelving, measure, and reorganize docent materials. We hope to move our specimens and some of our materials into our new room in a few months!

You are always welcome to join us at our monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 8:45 in the museum gallery! Give me a call if you are interested in becoming a docent or helping us with our various projects!

“Moods in Black & White and Color” : Ruth Amster’s Paintings and Dolph Amster’s Photography

The opening reception will be Sunday, February 1 at 2:00 in the afternoon.

This exhibit will feature the paintings and sculpture of Ruth Amster and the large-format black and white photography of Dolph Amster. The exhibit will run through 24 March.



“Owen’s Lake” oil painting

Ruth and Dolph moved to Ridgecrest in 1977 when Dolph was named head of the Chemistry Dept at the Naval Weapons Center. Living in the Indian Wells Valley gave both of them access to the wide desert vistas and the grandeur of the Sierras as well as the unique flora of the Southwest. Their appreciation for the many moods of the desert and surrounding area was the focus of their artwork.

Ruth was recognized as an artist at an early age and attended the High School for Music and Arts in New York City where she studied multiple mediums including sculpture. Ruth had been an art docent at the Smithsonian in Washington DC. Within a year of coming to Ridgecrest she founded the docent program and the first Sylvia

Winslow Gallery at the Maturango Museum. The Museum was located on the base at that time.

Dolph was an avid conservationist and served many years with the Sierra Club leading numerous trips throughout the Sierras and the Southwest as well as Nepal and Russia. Dolph’s passion for photography began at age 5 when he was given a Brownie camera for his birthday. He carried a camera with him through his school years and WWII. Later in life he studied under many renowned photographers including Ansel Adams. He had his own photo lab where he developed the large format photographs.



“Rhyolite” black & white photograph

Ridgecrest Area Artists’ Online Directory Website Coming Soon



In an effort to highlight, promote and support local area artists, the Maturango Museum has begun organizing an online directory. The website will also post upcoming artist and artisan events for our local area.

Individual artists will be listed in this directory for a yearly subscription fee of \$50. This fee will be paid directly to the Maturango Museum to support the museum’s general fund. The website will be maintained by the museum’s webmaster on a volunteer basis at no cost to the museum.

If you are interested in being featured on the Ridgecrest Area Artists website or would like to be on the mailing list to receive further information and notice of a public meeting highlighting the benefits of this website, please visit the site at www.ridgecrestareaartists.com and submit the information request. Currently there are a couple of sample pages in production -- they may or may not reflect the final look of the page or site.

Featured Artist Interviews on Apple's iTunes

The wonderful and informative Featured Artist Interviews (courtesy of videographer Mark Pahuta) are now available to view on Apple's iTunes, YouTube and Vimeo.



Go to the museum's website www.maturango.org, select "Artist Interviews" from the "Media" menu or type in <http://maturango.org/artist-interviews>.

These Featured Artist Interviews also include a generous sampling of that artist's work along with the artist's story in their own words. Enjoy!

Donate Any Car or Vehicle

Do you have an unwanted vehicle taking up space or money? Is someone bugging you to get rid of that car? **Cars2Charities** can put it to great use – and help you get the maximum tax deduction: often more than you imagine! The majority of the net proceeds from the sale of your vehicle then goes to the **Maturango Museum**.

- Donate your boat, or donate a golf cart
- Donate your RV, motor home or camper
- Donate a motorcycle, ATV or heavy equipment
- Anything with wheels! Running, or not



Contact Car2Charities at 855-520-2100 or go the museum's web [site \(maturango.org\)](http://maturango.org) and click on the "Donate Any Car or Vehicle" link located in the upper, right hand corner of the page for more information.

Death Valley National Park Field Trip with Janet Westbrook

Saturday, 28 March : Death Valley National Park : limit 19 people - \$30 member, \$50 for 2 adults, \$35 non-member, \$60 2 adult non-members.

Wildrose road is washed out, so we go Townes Pass. Last spring this had THE best wildflower displays!! Death Valley has had 1" of rain so far since fall, so flowers should be abundant.

To Salt Creek to study silly Pupfish mating antics !

To Furnace Creek; Bring a picnic lunch. We'll eat somewhere at Furnace Creek Ranch. Bring a folding chair. Then to the newly remodeled Visitor Center. Then go south to look for flowers.

Artist's Drive is usually good, sometimes the far south end is great.

Head home late afternoon. You might consider stopping at Stovepipe or Panamint Springs for dinner.

The night sky's stars should be great.

Perfect trip for kids! (but not for pets, sorry)

Bring water, ice and snacks for all day. Bring camera and lots of batteries. Watch weather !!

Complete information available in museum gift shop or www.maturango.org

Concerts in February

The 2014-2015 Maturango Museum's concert series will have two concerts in February: Erica Anne MacArthur, violin, and Helen Smoot-Butterbredt, piano on Friday and Saturday, February 6 & 7, 2015; and "We Friends" on Friday and Saturday, February 27 & 28, 2015.

The concerts will be performed in the Sylvia Winslow Exhibit Gallery at 7:30 p.m. Seats are limited to 60 each performance, so avoid disappointment, get your tickets now, for both sets of concerts, in the museum gift shop or on-line at shop.maturango.org The ticket price is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child 12 and younger.

Ms. MacArthur and Ms. Smoot-Butterbredt will present an early 20th Century Recital, entitled "Music for a Winter's Eve", with music by Kreisler, Beethoven, Vaughan Williams and more.

Ms. Erica MacArthur began studying the violin at age three. She has been awarded numerous awards and prizes for her violin playing, and has performed widely in her communities – California, Northern Virginia, Connecticut and Colorado– in addition to giving concerts in Canada, Morocco, and Bolivia. While studying at the Hart School (Hartford CT) with Anthea Kreston, Ms. MacArthur was drawn to the clarity and freedom of early music, and began her study of Baroque violin and historical performance at age 14. She has performed extensively music from the Renaissance to the High Baroque, in addition to more recent repertoire. From 2010-2011, she studied with harpsichordist Elizabeth Farr and violinist Lina Bahn at the University of Colorado at Boulder, presenting a concert of the complete 'Mystery Sonatas' of Heinrich Biber.

Erica performs throughout the High Desert area in solo and chamber music settings, including recent concerts with the John Muir String Quartet and the Sierra Arts Trio, and a performance of the complete Sonatas & Partitas for Solo Violin by J.S. Bach. She lives and teaches in Ridgecrest.

Ms. Helen Smoot-Butterbredt began studying piano at the age of 8. Her teachers included Edith Knox, Eduardo Delgado and Peter Yazbeck. She comes from a large family of musicians and was brought up in Torrance. Helen received her Masters Degree in Piano Performance at the University of California, Santa Barbara graduating in 1975. She has traveled and performed in Europe: Germany, Austria, Switzerland, England and lived in Norway for one year where she taught music and was invited to play for Crown Princess Sonia, now the Queen of Norway.

Helen has taught piano privately since the age of 14, and also has taught at many colleges and universities, including Cerro Coso Community College in Lake Isabella. She has worked at various churches as organist and pianist, and is currently organist/pianist at Kernville United Methodist Church in Kernville, CA. She is active in performing in the Kern River Valley, and is the president of Sierra Performing Arts.

"We Friends" concerts have been a welcome mainstay in the Maturango Museum series for a number of years. The instrumental make up of the group changes year to year with the remaining constant member being Catherine Douglas, piano. This year's friends also include Lynnette Wilson (flute), Gary Fry (clarinet) and Holly Sutton (violin).

"We Friends" will perform musical selections by composers Telemann, Vivaldi, Milhaud and Ewazen.

January 2015 Donations

Donations

Mary Adler – in memory of John Di Pol
Keo Adler – in memory of Joe Adler
Linda Anderson
Elizabeth Babcock – in honor of Mary Adler
and in memory of Joe Adler
Deborah Benson – in honor of the staff and
volunteers at the Maturango Museum
Patricia Brown-Berry
Bob and Jamie Carr
Vern Cook, Margaret Hill and Jane Williams –
in honor of grandchildren, Vernon and
Annabel Carr
and in memory of Norman Carr
John Cunningham
Evanne Jardine
The Kilikauskas Family
Caroline Maddock
Carolyn Roseth
Ronald N. Spees
Gretchen Whisenand

Building Fund

John and Janice Anderson
Henry Blecha – in memory of
Frank Knemeyer
Thom Boggs
Thom Boggs – in memory of Joe Adler
and Bob Burrows
Alan and Sylvia Hugo
Linda Miller – in memory of Jenny Miller
Ridgecrest Area Convention
and Visitors Bureau
Ronald N. Spees
Joy Young
Robert Westbrook

Art Gallery

John and Janice Anderson
Elizabeth Babcock – in memory of
Marcy Holbrook
Dick and Debbie Benson – in memory of
Marcy Holbrook
Thomas Boggs
Sherry Brubaker

Wanda Church
Ward and Ann Fanning
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Bryan and Bev Hill
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Charlotte Ostermann – in memory of
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Carole Poppen
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in memory of Joe Adler
Julie and Harry Stephens
Larry Trowsdale
Rachel Woodward

New Storage building

Thomas Boggs

Docent Shelving Unit

Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Childers

New Members

Bonny Ahern
Craig Bansmer
Scott Demaria
Betty D. Frost
G. Arthur Janssen
Dick and Eleanor Johnsen
Susan Meyer
Elisabeth Romanski
Greg Watson

Corrections from last month.
Eleanor Winnemore – in memory of
Edward Winnemore
M. E. Anderson

Maturango Museum of the IWV

100 E. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Open every day (except major holidays)
from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Staff

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Mary Lattig, Store Manager/Buyer
Sandy Rogers, Archaeology Curator
Elizabeth Babcock, History Curator
Maria Getusky, Natural History Curator
Julie Stephens, Chief Financial Officer
Fran Van Valkenburgh, Membership
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Paula Herr, Docent League
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Regularly Scheduled Meetings

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

Calendar of Events

Amsters' Opening Reception : Sunday, 1 Feb, 2 p.m.

MacArthur / Smoot-Butterbredt Concert : Friday and Saturday, 6 & 7 February, 7:30 p.m.

"We Friends" Concert : Friday and Saturday, 27 & 28 February, 7:30 p.m.

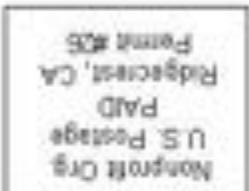
Free Day at the Museum : Saturday, 14 Feb

Pizza Factory Fundraiser : Thursday, 12 Feb

Children's Hour : Saturday, 20 Feb, 10:30 a.m.



Scan this QR code to go directly to the Museum website www.maturango.org



Return Service Requested

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