

“The mission of the Maturango museum is to preserve, interpret and develop an appreciation for the natural and cultural history of the Northern Mojave Desert through research and education in the natural and physical sciences and to promote the arts”  
(Adopted by the board of Trustees, December 17, 2012)

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### **Observations from the President**

Wow what a year! Full of ups, downs, and excitement! A new collection storage area was created in the old office and store area. Work began early to get permits to finish the new gallery and work areas of the new building. A major hair puller, but with perseverance the Building Committee volunteers got things moving. Already this year the door to the new exhibit room and gallery has been cut.

We said good-by to Harris Brokke we wish him well in his retirement. With Harris' retirement the search began for his replacement. The committee charged with this task, read resumes and interviewed a number of candidates. But as the search progressed the need for someone at the Museum helm became evident. For the interim, board member Debbie Benson was recommended and she boldly (and graciously) stepped up. Debbie is now director as we research and develop protocols for future searches. Under Debbie's leadership the Museum moves forward with the help of the hard working staff and volunteers.

As the past year came to a close the board needed to fill Debbie's vacant seat and Marcy Holbrook's after her sudden passing. We are pleased to welcome Dianne Dilley and Leslie Layfield. Soon we will welcome new members to the board replacing those who have termed out. Thom Boggs, Steve Boster and Nancy Crawford will be missed. Their time and dedication has been greatly appreciated.

We face a new year of ups, downs and excitement, but we face them with a vision to the future. The Museum is already reconfiguring old space, the Docents are already laying claim to some for their growing programs, as well as utilizing the new space. There are plans to develop the outdoor areas as well. One item is a solar field to help cut the cost of electricity.

The Museum's continued growth and its future depends on the dedicated hours of volunteers, staff, and, of course the many donors who may not give of their time but of their money. If you have given to the project of your choice, Thank You. If you are considering a donation feel free to use the web site, or simply mail it to the Museum. To everyone involved my heart felt THANK YOU.

*Sherry Brubaker  
Board President*

## **Executive Directors Report for 2014**

**Submitted by Debbie Benson**

I began this year as a part of the search committee for a new Director as Harris Brokke was planning to retire in May. This was an educational experience for me, as well as other members on the committee. Finding a person who not only understands what a local museum needs and who has a love of, and desire to protect, the Maturango Museum and the Indian Wells Valley and its many treasures was not easy. Each interview came down to compensation and how much time the job might require. We would not, and could not, negotiate at a level that candidates from outside the area expected. On Harris' departure I was asked to step in as Interim Director. This was an adjustment for us all. I had to change my focus from being a volunteer to directing a Museum where people would want to volunteer. In October I became the permanent CEO/ Executive Director of the Maturango Museum and the learning curve is still reasonably steep but made easier by the staff and volunteers.

Our construction on the expansion on Phases II and III of the expansion were able to begin after making it through the approval process. 2014 did not see their completion, but we are well on the way thanks to our local contractors and the oversight of Dan Burnett, the head of our Building Committee. We are all looking forward to what 2015 will bring.

The Museum played an important role in the Ridgecrest Petroglyph Festival and in the projects involved in Petroglyph Park. Harris had been a part of all of the planning and I have to admit to having some concerns about what we could make happen. What happened was that I found out just what the people involved with the Museum can do. All things Petroglyph were helped by Sandy's knowledge and many great ideas. The numerous Petroglyph Tours were handled through our coordinator, Linda Saholt, on her first season. Definitely a trial by fire! Thanks Fran VV for keeping us all together and thanks for staying Linda! I can't say enough about all of the staff and volunteers who put in so much time working out the logistics of it all. Nora was one of the leads for the education part of the Festival, working with Dr. Sarah King from Cerro Coso Community College to put together the lessons plans for the local 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Nora and The Docents and Sarah and her students made it all happen after much hard work. The staff and volunteers in the store kept it all going. Mary and her staff had the store ready and looking good. We were happy to have Dr. Alan Gold to share his movie and Mike Thompson, the flintknapper, to share his techniques and information. It was a pretty busy week!

The curators work is never done. Between managing collections, receiving new items and protecting what is here, they participate as professionals in their own right. Sandy is in demand by many in his field and is a constant source of information. His two interns during the summer months were fortunate to have the experience and were a great help. Sandy as Author and Liz as Editor were able to get the expanded and redone Epsom Salts Monorail published in time for the holidays. Liz has an amazing logistical task most days working through the historical information that comes her way. She is an amazing source of local history and understands many of the local connections. Maria set up the Behind the Scenes Program that was only put on hold for the period of time that she needed to return to Romania. All of the Curators are getting ready to enjoy the work area that the completion of Phase III will bring them.

Andrea and the Gallery Committee have put on a successful series of shows and events including the Open Studio Tour and the Artifacts exhibit. The Sylvia Winslow Gallery was, once again, a cultural benefit to the community and to our visitors. What Andrea does for the Museum, promoting the Arts and Gallery Events, and her work on the newsletter is an inspiration to us all.

Fran continues to do an excellent job maintaining our membership and volunteer information. It is not easy to convince those busy volunteers to write down their hours! She also keeps our thanks and recognition in wonderful order. Fran was also the Petroglyph coordinator for the first part of the year and has been a great help in training Linda what it means to be a Petroglyph coordinator. Linda has begun the work of coordinating the many facets of being the petroglyph coordinator and is using her skills as a writer to keep our name out in the public with a column in the Daily Independent and press releases for the News Review.

Sometimes I will laughingly say that my favorite band is Nora and the Docents, they Rock!! They are a continuing source of pride for the Museum and an asset to the entire community. Their programs enrich the lives of every person, young or old, they work with. They make a success of everything that they do and make education fun and fascinating!

Fran Rogers keeps the music alive with the very popular concert series. We are hoping that the new gallery will give us more space for her often sold-out events!

Thanks to Mike Brown for our newly updated website. It is a great source of information and is keeping the public up to date with everything we have to offer. Janet Westbrook continues to provide her tourist info, which is available on our website to inform and encourage safe and enjoyable travels.

Our Wildflower Exhibit continued to impress the visitors! Even though it was not a big year for flowers, 247 species representing 39 families were collected by 53 volunteers. This is an entirely volunteer effort that involves a great deal of planning and forethought as well as "boots on the ground" that is a great reflection on our community and the Museum.

Mary Lattig has put together a great Museum store which she and Maureen Goff keep full of exciting and beautiful things. She has a team of staff and volunteers that are our informative greeters who welcome everyone into the Museum. It's worth it to come to the Museum just to get a hello from them!

The finances from the Museum are in the very capable hands of our very wonderful Julie, our Finance Manager. She is able to keep us all on the right track and makes sure that our financial position is sound and our audits are good.

The work our volunteers do encompass most of the activities in the Museum. The Docent Program, the Building Committee, the Gallery Committee, Fundraising, Events, the Store, the Board of Trustees, and all other groups are mostly filled with volunteers. This year they contributed over 16,000 hours. My gratitude for what they do is endless and I admire that they take these moments out of their lives to make this the wonderful place it is. The Annual Fundraising Dinner Auction was a great success due to the donations from Milt Burford and Gary Babcock and many others and the work of our volunteers, especially the docents! Many Thanks to all!!

The Strategic Planning Committee has developed a strategic plan for the years 2015-2035. The plan will be reviewed every year with updates in 5, 10 and 20 years. The committee can review and update the plan when needed.

## 2014 Report, Archaeology Curator

Submitted by Alexander (Sandy) Rogers

This has been a busy year. Accomplishments are summarized below under four headings: Collections, Exhibits, Research, and On-Going Activities.

### Collections

During the course of 2014 we received seven major archaeological collections for accessioning from URS Corporation. The largest is the Pine Tree Wind Farm collection (acc. No. 05.03), made under contract to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Two other large collections are from the Long Valley-Haiwee Transmission Line project (acc. no. 07.02) and the Sage Flat antenna project (acc. no. 05.02). In addition there are two large collections are from Freeman Junction/Coyote Holes (acc. no. 05.03a) and Grapevine Canyon (05.04). Two smaller ones are the collection from the Jawbone-Butterbreed Area of Critical Environmental Concern survey (acc. no. 14.20) and from Sheep Springs (acc. no. 14.06). The collections total 17 cubic feet, and all are under BLM cognizance.

In addition, we received an avocational collection from upper Sand Canyon, from former resident Fred Gey. It consists of obsidian projectile points and "Apache tears". Since its provenience is uncertain, and multiple agencies have cognizance in the area it was collected, the museum holds title to it.

We had two interns working on archaeological collections this summer. Ms. Kirsten Carroll was on an internship funded by the BLM. She cataloged the entire collection from INY-134 ("Ayers' Rock") in southern Inyo County, some 1600 catalog numbers encompassing 14,000 artifacts. She also created an electronic catalog in MS Excel, so we can keep track of it. Kirsten is an archaeology student at Cerro Coso Community College.

Our second intern, Ms. Sarah Izzi, was an archaeology graduate student at California State University, Chico. She gained academic credit for her internship, which involved determining provenience of the artifacts from the Ron Henry collection (acc. no. 87.53). We need the provenience data to determine which land-management agency has cognizance of the artifacts. Both interns did an outstanding job.

The two interns were working in space which used to be the old museum store. The BLM had funded a laboratory bench for the space, and we outfitted the area as a laboratory, with shelves, work tables, and one of our spare computers. It worked very well, and gave them a space which could be secured and where they could work undisturbed.

We received a package of very interesting photographs of Little Petroglyph, taken in 1936. They were sent by Ken Hedges, a rock art researcher in San Diego. The origin of them is unknown, but they are annotated with the date.

The local BLM office has \$15K for us for collections work in the current fiscal year. My plan is to employ local college students as museum interns to execute the task. The task involves inventory of all Museum collections to identify BLM collection; examining each to assess needs for curatorial work; taking any required curation measures; and creating a complete digital catalog of all the BLM collections, with a summary on the museum website.

### Exhibits

Exhibits have been rearranged to some extent, to accommodate the Phase III construction efforts. Aside from that, exhibits activity has been largely confined to maintenance of the current exhibits, and planning for expansions when the new building is completed. In addition, archaeological artifacts were provided to Andrea for the "ART-ifacts" exhibit in November, as part of the petroglyph festival.

### Research

Research in rock art, obsidian hydration, and in the archaeology of the high desert and Great Basin is continuing. In September I gave a lecture on the Coso petroglyphs and local native cultures to Dr. Sarah King's archaeology class at Cerro Coso. The following weekend I led a field trip to the "Ayers Rock" site in southern Inyo County.

I completed an analysis of the projectile point assemblage from Ayers Rock (CA-INY-134), in southern Inyo County. The analysis was a joint effort with Dr. Robert Yohe of California State University, Bakersfield. We presented a paper on the subject at the 2014 meeting of the Society for California

Archaeology: "A Pinto Point Assemblage from CA-INY-1324 ("Ayers' Rock"), Inyo County, California". It has been published in the *Proceedings of the Society for California Archaeology*.

We also published a paper on the Rose Spring site in Inyo County in the *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology*. This site was his PhD dissertation site, and we re-analyzed the obsidian data to infer behavior at the site ("Obsidian Reuse at the Rose Spring Site (CA-INY-372), Eastern California: Evidence from Obsidian Hydration Studies"). The paper appeared in the winter 2014 edition.

The paper I wrote with Daron Duke of Far Western Anthropological Research Group ("Unreliability of the induced obsidian hydration method with abbreviated hot-soak protocols") was published by the *Journal of Archaeological Science*. We have discovered a hitherto-unreported transient property of the obsidian, which seems to be the source of unreliability in the measurement of hydration rates by induced hydration. We also presented a poster on the topic at the Great Basin Anthropological Association meeting in October.

I presented a paper on the Euro-American "discovery" of the Coso petroglyphs, at the annual meeting of the American Rock Art Research Association. In a weak-minded moment I also agreed to serve as vice president of ARARA.

I published two short papers in the *Bulletin of the International Association for Obsidian Studies*. In a paper which appeared last summer I presented a statistically-robust method for estimating obsidian hydration rate from temporally-sensitive artifacts ("Estimating Hydration Rates from Temporally-sensitive Artifacts: Method and Archaeological Examples"). In the other, published in the winter 2014 issue, I developed a method for extending obsidian hydration dating to artifacts in the 20,000 – 200,000 year-old range ("A Method for Correcting OHD age for Paleo-temperature variation").

Finally, I co-authored a paper with Chris Stevenson of Virginia Commonwealth University as lead, on "Transient and Equilibrium Solubility of Water in Rhyolitic Glass: Implications for Hydration Rate Development at Elevated Temperature". It was published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*.

### On-Going Activities

I was asked to sit on a thesis committee for two graduate students in anthropology at California State University, Bakersfield.

I prepared and gave a lecture on "Peoples and Rock Art of the Coso Region" at the old USO Building as part of the Wildflower Festival. I then gave the same talk to the museum docents.

Dr. Sarah King and I led a field trip to Little Lake Ranch, as guests of the Little Lake Duck Club. The weather was beautiful, and everybody had a good time. Our intern, Kirsten Carroll, found a beautiful obsidian projectile point, of the type known as "Elko Eared". It was an unfinished dart point, probably between 3500 and 1500 years old. It has been geochemically sourced to the West Sugarloaf flow, and hydration dating suggests an age of about 5000 years. The Club allowed us to keep it for analysis and curation.

I was invited to take part in a planning meeting at the San Diego Archaeological Center in Escondido in June. Turns out all museums have financial problems, so we aren't unique.

We have received a large collection of books and journals on archaeology and anthropology from a local archaeologist who is looking to retire soon. I am sorting them currently – those we do not need will go to Cal State Bakersfield for their anthropology library.

I assisted in drafting an application for the museum to become a member of the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC). This is a consortium of science-oriented museums, nation-wide (plus a few foreign). Membership gives us wide publicity among exactly the groups we want to reach: museum-goers. In return, members of other ASTC museums would get free admission here. It could potentially bring many more people to our museum store.

I was telephone-interviewed by a journalist who is writing an article on physicists who have gone into archaeology. Apparently there are quite a few! Most interesting.

Liz and I have completely revised my book on the Epsom salts monorail. It is now large format, with lots of pictures and more supporting data. Copies were available for sale at Christmas. Thanks Liz!

Our petroglyph tour procedures video is out of date, and I have been assisting Mark Pahuta in creating a new one. It will be ready by early January, so we can use it for the spring petroglyph season.

**2014 Report, Curator for History**  
**Submitted by Elizabeth Babcock**

**Overview**

During 2014 I prepared numerous items for accessioning and created an exhibit on the Trona Centennial. I also worked on oral histories, answered research questions, served as head of the Publications Committee, and worked on noncuratorial tasks, notably the redesigned and revised *Epsom Salts Monorail*.

**Accessions**

This year I prepared 30 historical collections or items for accessioning. Some of those collections, such as the Carroll Evans and Adler collections, encompass numerous items. Here are a few of the historical items accessioned this year:

- Slides, photos, and other memorabilia from the Carroll Evans estate.
- Hamil Ma artwork donated by Gary Babcock.
- Three of Dr. Charles C. Lauritsen's original NOTS security passes, donated by his granddaughter, Margaret Press. (She donated six, and I gave three of them to HSUMD.)
- A section of Digital 395 fiber-optic cable donated by Hugh Helmick.
- A ball gown worn by the last Miss Indian Wells Valley, and donated by her and her mother, Lori and Donna D'Anza.
- A large collection of works by local artists, donated by Bob McBride for the Mary Lee and Bill McBride estate.
- A historic baptismal gown used by many Schuette babies and donated by Mildred Schuette's daughter, Irene Robertson.
- Historic photos of early Ridgecrest and the Rizzardini family, loaned for scanning by Colleen Simmons
- A 1944 logbook kept by Lt. Norman F. Main, listing contacts made with early miners and other residents the Navy needed to evict as the China Lake ranges were being established, donated by Lee Davis, son of William "Bill" Davis.
- Gearing from a steam shovel used in construction of the L.A. Aqueduct, donated by Darrell Quick and now in the Gladys Merrick Garden.
- A doubletree (mule harness rigging) donated by William Groves, who decided to make this donation when he became familiar with the museum as he worked for Gentry on our new air-conditioning duct.

**Informal Collections**

I continued to work on my informal collection of newspaper clippings, pamphlets, etc. This collection has proved to be a valuable resource for putting together exhibits and answering reference questions. I realized that by not keeping track of what I had already clipped, I was wasting time with duplicative clipping, so I began to make a list of all the items in the files. That list is now up to 38 pages and growing. A large collection of *Weaponeers*, *Rocketeers*, and other local newspapers that had been kept by Frankie Schafer (of Commissioned Officers Mess fame) and donated by his son Bill was what motivated me to start the list. As soon as I finish listing current items, I will be able to start filling in holes in the collection with these newspapers. (The Historical Society also benefited because of duplicates passed along to HSUMD.)

One noteworthy item I was able to obtain in online form (1.76 gigabytes!) was a 1903 map, "Miners Map of Death Valley and the Proposed Salt Lake RR's Including portions of San Bernardino and Inyo Counties, California; Nye and Lincoln Counties, Nevada and Mojave County, Arizona . . . Compiled and Drawn by A. Russell Crowell. A copy is now in our map collection.

**Publications Committee**

I designed a new edition of Sandy Rogers' book, *The Epsom Salts Monorail. The American Magnesium Company Monorail in San Bernardino County, California*, No. 16 in the museum's

publications series. By adding photos we had received the year before from Ian Summers (his dad's photos) and Lit Brush (Searles Valley Historical Society photos), as well as patent paperwork located by Sandy, we were able to expand the size to 8½ x 11 and double the number of pages, thus making the book more saleable. (It always had good content, but had previously looked more like a pamphlet than a book.)

I also corresponded this year with Roxanne Grant Lapidus, Campbell Grant's daughter, asking that the museum be allowed to stop paying royalties on Grant's book (Rock Art of the Coso Range), given that both the author and his wife are now dead. Unfortunately, Roxanne has to obtain permission from her three siblings to stop those payments, so the matter has not yet been resolved.

### **Oral-History Interviews**

Thanks to the transcribing skills of Ridge Writer Anthony Becker, I was able to add to our library an oral-history interview I did several years ago with Martha Schoaf.

As part of my research for my talk on Garden City, I transcribed two oral-history interviews with members of the pioneering Orozco family (one by Billie Hise, one by Mary Ward) that are now in our library. Then as a result of my Garden City talk (see below, last paragraph), I had the opportunity to interview Mary and Johnny Orozco in depth. I haven't as yet had time to transcribe that interview but hope to do so this coming year.

I also did an oral-history interview with Bud Sewell, focused on his years in Japan just after World War II ended. I have finished transcribing that interview and scanning in the photos he loaned me, so that interview will also be available in our library.

Finally, I recorded an hour or so of the reminiscences of Dennis Feeny, an early resident of Randsburg. Jim Kenney of the Historical Society and I plan to speak more with him, since his memories of earlier inhabitants of the El Pasos are invaluable.

### **Exhibits**

With all the construction work going on this year, my exhibit space shrank to only the cases in the old vestibule, plus a newer small case in the new hallway. As a result I installed only one new exhibit:

- Trona Centennial. In honor of the centennial celebration of a community whose history is inextricably bound up with our own, I created an exhibit of historical photos, pamphlets, and other items. The exhibit, which is still in place, is in the east case in the former vestibule. Much of the previous exhibit on the L.A. Aqueduct centennial is in the west case in that same area.

### **Research and Resources**

I helped several people with their research projects and answered numerous research questions, simple and complex. I also provided several digital scans of photographs from our collection for appropriate projects.

I corresponded at length with Dr. Dorothy King, who is doing research for a book about the Saturday Evening Girls, Boston potters of the 1920s-30s. One of those potters was "Auntie" Lili Shapiro, who was later a constant presence in our original Quonset hut museum. The museum owns a lovely piece of her pottery, and I have borrowed several other pieces from Pat Moore, so I expect to set up a small exhibit shortly in one of the hall cases near the gift shop.

I continue to have highly productive relationships with Mark Pahuta and Deanna Ripley-Lotee on behalf of the China Lake historical collections, Carol Porter on behalf of the HSUMD collections, Margaret "Lit" Brush on behalf of the Trona collections, and Bart Parker of the Rand Desert Museum.

### **Noncuratorial Work**

Among other noncuratorial chores, I revised and added a new photo to the Maturango Museum flyer, which (as of this writing) is being reprinted. I also gave a presentation about Garden City at the Trona Centennial History Symposium, subsequently presenting a slightly expanded version as a Historical Society program and a slightly shortened version to the Maturango Museum Docent League.

## **2014 Report, Curator of Natural History**

**Submitted by Maria C. Getusky**

The past 2014 year was marked by a continuous and intense work on the natural history donations, exhibits, events, special programs such as “Behind the Scenes”, scientific research work and also updating the computerized list of new accessioned items for year 2014.

### **Donations**

2014 was a generous year for donations: 34 items were received from private persons and are representing natural history items: birds, animals, minerals, etc. Also, my colleague Liz Babcock, the History Curator, offered me on behalf of Gary Babcock for the Museum’s Library Collection a lot of very valuable books/publications ( geology, volcanology, seismology, animal history ). Sandy Rogers, the Archeology Curator, brought me a rare edition of the “ Fourth Annual Report of the U.S. Geological Survey to the Secretary of the Interior,1882-’83, Author Powell,J.W.

A beautiful publication, a personalized book and a DVD made special for me and for the Museum’s Library Collection was received from Scanlon’s family of Ridgecrest telling and showing an amazing story of 5 members of an Antelope Valley squirrels family. All the above publications are now in the Museum’s Library Collection.

### **Collections**

2014 was an excellent year for the “Wildflower Show” due to some rains in February – March 2014. So, I received a precious help from the new created – at my initiative -HERBARIUM GROUP from botany – passionate people such as: Charlotte Goodson, myself, Kathy La Shure, Nora Nuckles, Kate Goodson, Beverly Hill, Judy Breitenstein, Pat Sorenson and many more. Working on opened foldable tables in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery during June- August 2014 attracted a lot of curious visitors and we are thinking to repeat this interesting experience in 2015. Audubon Society and Dan Burnett kindly offered to pay the taxidermy expenses for a donated bird (American Kestrel female when will be done).Also, I received 2 beautiful rock collections from Diane Sigala and her son.

### **Exhibits**

During year 2014 I was permanently rotated the Museum’s mammals, birds and herbarium collection, and processed them through the freezer for pest control. The Docents did the same thing with their own animal collection. We are sharing the same freezer. Also, I permanently dusted, cleaned and organized the Exhibits in the North Gallery and also in the Collection Storage and in the curatorial area where I used to receive the participants at the “Behind the Scenes” program. Also, the following exhibits were mounted and rotated during year 2014: “RODENTS” ( in the big case display), “BUTTERFLIES” (in the Cube), “BATS” ( in the Drawer), PREDATORS FROM MOJAVE DESERT- AUTUMN AND WINTER SEASONS; on Discovery Corner is displayed “BIRDS OF PREY” AND “WINTER & FALL SEASONS- FURRY PREDATORS”,,“SPRING” – FOR WILDFLOWER SHOW”, the 3 items chosen by curators for the “ARTifacts” exhibit during November – December 2014,also in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery, “AUTUMN & WINTER SEASONS – FURRY & FEATHERED FRIENDS ( Discovery Corner)– also see the new Bobcat mount near second Diorama display, LARGE INSECTS – SPIDERS & BEETLES (in the Drawer ) During the visit to my origin country Romania, my colleague Nora Nuckles and Audubon Society changed the exhibits in the North Gallery as follows : “LOCAL & GUESTS BIRDS – counting birds program (in the big case display ),COMMON RAVEN- nest & eggs ( in the CUBE), NEST ( in a small Cube display) , “EGGS” ( in the Drawer). I also created, printed and mounted a multilingual “Fire Alarm Warning Sign” on the

Emergency Exits on the old entrance at the Museum and in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery. Advertising signs about "Behind the Scenes" program were mounted in the North Gallery.

### **Publications and lectures**

The "Behind the Scenes" program special tour was posted on the Museum's website thanks to Mr. Mike Brown from February – August 2014. The program was advertised on the Museum's electronic panel facing China Lake Blvd. Also, I send a small advertising articles about the "Behind the Scenes" program in the Museum's newsletter "Immerse yourself in the world of Mojave Desert wildlife" then short articles to the "News Review" and with the care and attention of my good colleague Liz Babcock, the tour was mentioned on Community Calendar on each edition of the "News Review" started from April- August, 2014. In August 2014 I had an interview with Jessica Weston- city writer for "Daily Independent" about the "Behind the Scenes" program. On June 2014 I was compiling the guidelines for the Herbarium Group, and all the members we discussed and agreed with these rules.

### **Permits**

At the end of January 2014 I was submitted the Annual Reports to Department of Fish and Wildlife in Sacramento, CA for the Dead Golden Eagle Exhibit and for Migratory Birds- Salvage Purpose. I was also extended the Loan Agreement with Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, CA. I was renewing in May 2014 the Scientific Collecting Permit for the Museum, which was received in August 2014 from California's Department of Fish and Game, and it's valid for 3 years.

### **Activities and Events**

In January 2014 I was participating at the Children's Hour offering, tagging and placing in the Ziploc bags a variety of rocks and fossils.

The special tour "Behind the Scenes" started on February 21, 2014 and was very well received and attended by the Museum's visitors of all ages. It has a successful impact and was inspirational for the public due to the affordable price at 5.00 \$/adult person 18 years and older and is free for children up to 18 years old, the duration of the program ( around one and a half hour) and lots of specialized information and specially because of " hands on " policy. I had 2 volunteers for the program in person of Julia Horney (a close friend who's frequently donating some unique specimens) and Nora Nuckles. Even some of the staff members relatives (children mainly) they attended the program and they been well impressed. The program is representing a unique occasion to show to Museum's visitors the Natural History Collection, being known that the displaying space in Sylvia Winslow Gallery is very limited. The program will continue during year 2015 and I hope will become more popular.

At the end of February 2014 I paid a visit to the taxidermist Mike Dorner in Tehachapi together with Harris Brooke and we picked up the last undone and partial done specimens which I gave it after to a new taxidermist in Bakersfield. In April 2014, together with Andrea Pelch, the Art Coordinator we choose 3 specimens from the Natural History Collection for the exhibit called " ARTifacts" which was on display between November- December 2014. Also, I had a video interview arranged by Andrea with Mr. Mark Pahuta for each curator where I shared some information about each specimen chosen for the "ARTifacts". Between June – August 2014 the Herbarium Group and myself as a member , too we've been very busy with our regular meetings, arranging and identifying the plant specimens. Between October 10 - 12, 2014 the Museum's Bat Collection was loaned to Dr. Pat Berry Brown for her well-known Bat Classes held every year in Baker, CA.

## **Report for 2014, Petroglyph Tours**

### **Submitted by Linda Saholt**

Petroglyph tours in 2014 faced some challenges. During the Fall tour season, half of the scheduled tours were cancelled by the Navy; the notorious "SecNav" Navy Security form became required, causing a great deal of confusion, phone calls and emails to get forms submitted by visitors in the first place and corrected in the second place; plus the first annual Ridgecrest Petroglyph Festival was held, bringing a mixed blessing of many additional tours and visitors to the museum, as well as extra work for staff. The store staffers were especially helpful in answering petro-related questions when I was not available.

Also new this year was the expansion of website capability allowing the forms to be downloaded directly from the website, as well as electronically faxed back. This has proven to be a great labor- and time-saver, thanks to Mike Brown and others. Julie Stephens set up my computer station as an electronic PayPal Manager station, so I could process credit card payments for tours from the annex office instead of having to go interrupt store staff.

Fall 2014's numbers: Eleven regular tours went out, with a total visitor attendance of 92. During the three days of the Festival, a total of 150 visitors (on 9 tours) went to Little Petroglyph Canyon, plus a total of six tours to Seep Springs, with attendance of 56. Thus, a total of 206 visitors enjoyed petroglyph tours during the Festival. The season's total number of visitors taking tours: 298, over 26 tours.

The media attention during the Petroglyph Festival was overall quite positive for the museum, as interest in the petroglyph tours reached many more people than before. Increased tourism brought in more revenue as well as more public participation. Additional activities at the museum, such as docent presentations, flintknapping demonstrations, lectures and the like, added to the festivities. Special activities were held for schoolchildren, which was wonderful. Hopefully, the experience gained will help future Festivals enjoy continued success while running more smoothly.

During the Spring 2014 tour season, 17 tours allowed 390 visitors to enjoy Little Pet.

I was hired as the new Petroglyph Tour Coordinator in July, 2014.

An Appreciation event for the volunteer tour escorts has been scheduled for Feb. 8. The escorts have been a wonderful help during the year, especially during the Festival frenzy. So many generously donated so much of their time, filling in where needed on (sometimes) short notice.

## **Art Gallery 2014**

The Maturango Museum's Sylvia Winslow Art Gallery provides a synergistic role in the mission of the Maturango Museum by providing a professional exhibit space, including an audio-visual projection system and correct lighting for visually pleasing art exhibits by local, visiting, and traveling artists to be experienced by our local community and all visitors.

The gallery space is also used for informative workshops for children and adults, concerts, lectures, docent activities including storytelling and art programs, meeting space and curator exhibits including the Wildflower Show.

The gallery provides funds for the specific needs of the gallery and overall for the museum from sales of art in the gallery (40% of the selling price) and sponsorship by individuals and organizations. Full year sponsors for 2014 were Judy Fair-Spaulding, Pat Brown-Berry, Johanboeke Family, Cynthia and Anthony Damiano, and Heritage Inn.

The gallery exhibits also provide incentives for memberships by providing a 10% discount on gallery sales on reception nights for members, discounted fees for members to participate in various art-related activities and participation in the Member's Art Show.

The gallery showcased a variety of art exhibits in 2014. We hosted 4 individual artists with 2-month shows, the ARTifacts group exhibit for 1 month, the Open Studio Tour exhibit for 1 month and the "Hot Silica" 3-person exhibit for 2 months.



**"Sequestered Waters"**  
Inna Jane Ray  
Watercolor, Pencil, Gouache  
Reception Friday, Jan. 17  
Jan. 18 – March 18



**"Splendid Light"**  
John Dotta  
Photography  
Reception Friday, March 21  
March 22 – May 20



**"Internal Scapes"**  
Jael Hoffmann  
Steel Sculptures  
Reception Friday, May 23  
May 24 – July 22



“Skyscapes”  
Jeni Bate  
“Refractured” Watercolors  
Reception Friday, July 25  
July 26 – Sep 23



**Open Studio Tour**  
Artists’ Work  
Reception Friday, Sep 26  
Sep 27 – Oct 28  
Tour weekend October 25, 26

## “ARTifacts”

Museum Members’ Artistic Interpretations of Curators’ Chosen Items  
Reception Saturday, Nov 1  
Nov 1 – Dec 2



“Hot Silica on Metal: The Art of Enameling”  
Benny Alba, Sarah Gordon, Alana Clearlake  
Reception Friday, Dec 5  
Dec 6 – Jan 27, 2015

We have many great volunteers that make the art gallery functions successful.  
A very heartfelt “Thank You” to:

Debbie Benson for being a get-it-done guru -- always with the happiest way. Even while making the museum a better place with her “Museum Directorship”.

Lois Hinman, Pat Rogers, Ruth Amster, Dianne Dilley, Paula Caudill and Marcy Holbrook for giving great advice and doing lots of stuff necessary for the success of the exhibits.

Melissa Parkinson, Leslie Layfield, and Sue Gilbert for coordinating and making the food for the receptions. Evelyn Roth, Maris Wagener, and Kristen Parkinson for setting up the reception food table.

Shane Arns for “doing the lights and letters” and for being super funny. And showing up with that uncanny way of his just as I needed him. And super funny... again this year.

Mike Brown for bugging me enough to get all the necessary photos and words for the Museum website. And doing a spectacular job making the website functional.

Mark Pahuta for his patient expertise videographing the artists and then putting together the footage for wonderful “Artist Interviews” that can be seen on the website.

Thank You all for attending receptions and buying artwork; so many peoples’ lives are made happier.  
**Submitted by Andrea Pelch, Art Gallery Coordinator**

**Report for 2014, Education Coordinator**  
**Submitted by Nora Nuckles**

The Docent League amassed over 7,406 volunteer hours for 2014. Fran Van Valkenburgh reported that the number of hours increased by 4,000 over the 3,400 hours reported for 2013!

The Docent League welcomed Linda Uhlir-Tsang, Sharon Robesky-Oldfield and Deanna Stewart as new docents. We hosted a week introductory training for new docents in August. Paula Herr served as President, Cam Alden continues as the Vice president, and Elaine Wiley as the treasurer of the Docent League. Lynnette Wilson took over as our new secretary. Lynnette Wilson also serves as well as the new Computer Librarian. Dan Burnett and Elaine Wiley are the back-up computer people. Elaine chairs the Money Delegations Committee and aptly prepared Lynnette to take over as the computer librarian. Elaine wishes to be more involved with script writing and giving presentations. She is marvelous at whatever she does! Nora Nuckles continues as the chair of the Animal Acquisitions Committee. Beverly Hill heads the Script Committee. I asked Charlotte Goodson to remain as chair of the Children's Hour and Carol Dezelle to remain as chair for our art programs. Paula and Mike Herr continue to chair the Beth Armogida Planetarium. Mike writes new programs for the computer and usually gives the programs. Paula keeps it all organized and delivers some of the primary presentations.

In 2014, the Docent League of the Maturango Museum presented 278 programs to more than 10,080 people. This is approximately 2200 more people than in 2013. It is about 80 more programs than we presented in 2013. We presented 70 programs in the museum to about 2030 people. We presented 292 Outreach programs to about 8,050 people. Nearly 81 per cent of the programs presented were Outreach programs and 19 per cent were given at the Museum. Consequently, docents took most of the programs to the schools and other groups. We moved carloads of specimens and equipment. We have designed many programs that are "hands-on" only. We have enclosed more of the skulls in the animal skull collection in plastic boxes. We purchased more Plexiglas containers through SEEP funds to protect the specimens when we travel with them. We continue to explore better ways to pack fragile specimens so that lizards' tails, etc. remain intact. The other challenge is to protect them from young students' busy little fingers! We use large plastic tubs to transport large birds.

The docents presented programs for the following schools: the Sierra Sands schools-elementary and secondary schools, Immanuel Christian, St. Ann, Charter, Trona, Lone Pine, Cal City, and the home schools. We presented programs to the following preschools: Heritage Montessori, Shine Montessori, Oasis, the state preschool at Pierce and the Weapons Center preschool. We gave presentations for several Girl and Boy Scout troops, Boys and Girls Club, other after-school groups, High Desert Haven, and the Wildflower Exhibit. In October we hosted a booth at the Navy base for Community Day. Judy Breitenstein, Dan Burnett, Bob Parker plus Janet Westbrook gave a two day training session for the new Conservation Corps members. In November eight docents participated in the petroglyph education for eighth graders at the Museum and Crossroads Church for the Petroglyph Festival. Docents presented for the Summer Reading program at Ridgecrest, Trona, and Cal City libraries for which we use several hours of special planning.

As in the past, the docents worked with BLM and SSUSD on the Sand Canyon Environmental Education program in the spring, delivering Desert Alive Programs to approximately 500 fourth grade students. Each year I meet several times with Peggy Jacobson, the SEEP Coordinator, to evaluate the classroom presentations. Then I work with the other docents to revamp some of our activities. Bev Hill and I are rewriting the Sand Canyon Alive PowerPoint. Last year I expressed concerns to Peggy Jacobsen and Shelley Ellis about the proposed taping of our docent programs by a San Diego high school class. Communication has been difficult so Harris and I decided there would be no taping of our docent-prepared programs. Some taping was still done and I have yet to be shown anything. Shelley Ellis has retired from BLM for health reasons.

The docents are looking forward to a new room with more space! All the plastic containers and tubs used for traveling are located in the annex hallway and bathroom. The housing of our docent transport carts

impinges on the space available for specimens and other program materials. Our docent library is located in the annex hallway. Most of the materials for our art lessons are kept at a few docents' houses until we occupy our new docent room. The Beth Armogida Planetarium, the docent computers and projectors, some of the art materials and the Children's Hour materials are stored in the new long-term storeroom in back of the break room.

Charlotte Goodson, Judy Breitenstein, Kate Goodson, Elaine Wiley, Susan Moore and many other docents gave countless hours for the Wildflower Exhibit in the spring. Most of the docents help in the collection and/or preparing of the plants for exhibition.

Docents are appreciative of our \$600 operational account budget. Due to the continued development and growth of our outreach art program docents spent part of this money on Children's Hour crafts and bookmarks printed by PackWrap (about half of our budget). Linda Uhlir-Tsang now prints them on the museum copy machine. We buy support materials for the computers and other presentations as well.

Our script committee with Bev Hill as our chairperson constantly works to rewrite and develop new scripts. We aim to address the Next Generation Standards while we encourage critical thinking skills. We revised scripts for weather and are revising endangered species and geology presentations. Paula Herr and Elaine Wiley did most of the work on the weather program for 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> grades. The lab demonstrations are incorporated with the PowerPoint presentation so that the demonstrations are more meaningful. We revised this program again this fall. We are road testing it now. Bev Hill is revamping the geology and rocks presentations and expects to purchase hand lenses and make classroom sets of individual bags of rocks, each containing igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks. Carol Dezellem and Cam Alden with the help of many art docents continue to create new art lessons. These lessons are frequently requested by teachers.

The Beth Armogida Planetarium is in huge demand. Mike and Paula Herr continue to be the "drivers" behind all the showings in the planetarium. Many of us lend support at most of the showings. Docents made field trips to the Eastern California Museum in Independence, Sheep Springs led by Sandy Rogers, and the Olancha art sculptures. Docents received the following trainings: a plant lecture by Kathy LaShure, Garden City lecture by Liz Babcock, Native Americans and Petroglyph lecture by Sandy Rogers, and a presentation on Animal Flight by Dan Burnett. Elaine Wiley provided on-going training on the docent computers and the projectors. We held new docent training for a week in August. Subjects included: tours of the exhibit room and garden, Desert Alive with our live animals, the rosy boa and tortoises. Native American realia in presentations, petroglyphs, bats, and art rounded out the training. We hosted training sessions before the SEEP program began in March.

The docents are grateful for the support shown to the Docent League. We appreciate the continued support of individuals and community organizations through generous donations. We are especially grateful for donations for our shelving in the new room. Many more items are needed to enhance our old and new programs. 2014 was a very productive, successful, and exciting year for the docents!

**Maturango Museum 2014 Annual Report for Concert Series**  
**Submitted by Fran Rogers- Concert Coordinator**

The museum concert series had four concerts, three given more than once, during the 2014 year. Three of the concerts were sold out, but the other was reasonably full. Below are listed the concerts and the attendance.

January 24 & 25 – HDMTA *Constant Classics* - both nights sold out

February 21/22– “We Friends” – 85 tickets (2/3 full each night)

May 2 - Martin Espino - Indigenous Mexican Music - sold out

September 19/20 – Tom Foggia, guitar, with guest, Debra Veit, flute - *Country-Western meets the Tango* - both nights sold out

“We Friends” was competing with the holiday weekend. Other concerts were very well attended and appreciated.

**Web Presence Report**  
**Submitted by Mike Brown**

2014 saw an expansion of the museum's presence on the web and an increase (^) in visitors to our site over 2013.

**Rebuilt Web Site:** The museum web site was completely rebuilt over the summer. It now features a more modern look, greater interactivity and adjusts responsively to tablets and phones.

**Visitors:** The number of unique visitors who came to our web site was 17, 107 (^ 30.31%) with a total of 28,196 (^ 28.38%) visits. Visitors viewed 92,230 (^ 35.27%) pages with the average visit being 3.27 (^ 5.37%) pages viewed per visit and the average time spent on our web site being 3 minutes & 16 seconds (^ 14.37%) per visit. The most popular pages were: Home, Petroglyphs, Events, Media, Sylvia Winslow and Calendar.

Almost 10% of our visitors were from outside of the United States. There were 19% of our visitors from Ridgecrest; 7.31% from Los Angeles; 6.7% from Hesperia; 5.2% from Victorville; 2.44% from San Francisco; 2.06% from Bakersfield; and 2.06% from San Diego.

**Online Store:** April saw the launch of the museum's online store where visitors can purchase merchandise, field trips and concert tickets as well as make donations. The online store is secured through a GeoTrust 256 bit encrypted Secure SLL Certificate. The online store had 2,441 Unique Visitors and generated \$8,907.84 in sales.

**Mass eMailing:** Mass emailing through MailChimp was launched in July. Mass emailings are sent to members who choose to receive the monthly newsletter via email rather than through the USPS, along with visitors to our web site and store who request to join our mass email list. In addition to the monthly newsletter, periodic mass emailing of events are also sent out to this list. The base list began with 126 users in July and grew to 320 by year's end and continues to grow.

**Featured Artist Interviews:** Mark Pahuta has been providing Featured Artist Interviews for the museum since 2012. These interviews are available on our web site on the museum's YouTube and Vimeo channels and recently on Apple's iTunes.

**Social Media:** The museum's Facebook page has been a staple for sharing events and expansion updates for many years. This year the online store, YouTube, Trip Advisor and Vimeo were integrated in the museum's Facebook page. This means that visitors can access these four additional channels without ever having to leave the museum's Facebook page. Late in the year we added Twitter to our social media offerings.

**Thank You!** The revisions and expansion to our web presence could never have happened if there had not been others who had laid a strong technological foundation. I would like to thank Janet Westbrook for her many years of service to the museum in initiating our web presence and her persistence in getting information, photos and movies to the world beyond our doors. Additionally, I would like to thank Gary Babcock for providing technical leadership, support and excellent documents for the museum's computers systems and network. Lastly, I would like to thank Ed Czajka for his leadership and ability in continuing the work that Gary began.

**Report, Spring Wildflower Exhibit – April 11–13, 2014**  
**Submitted by Charlotte Goodson and Judy Breitenstein**

Each year following the Wildflower Exhibit a summary is prepared by Gene and Judy Breitenstein in which is recorded all the species of plants by scientific and common names and the locations where collected. In the days immediately preceding the Exhibit **247 species representing 39 plant families** were collected.

An overview of the conditions leading up to the Exhibit described in the introduction to the summary by Judy Breitenstein follows:

We always say there will be flowers somewhere, and there always are....

It was another dry year with little rain here or a very little snow there. Plants were showing promise in the canyons. Then, about two weeks before show time, it rained. Certainly not a Toad-choker, but a nice rain. And the desert bloomed.

Then it began to warm and plants began a race with time, everything blooming as quickly as possible, bright and fragrant. Pollinators were plentiful and busy. As we gathered plants for the exhibit, we saw Chia blooming at less than two inches and seeds already forming on many kinds of plants. Nothing was as tall as in a good year, but the plants were getting along with their mission of providing for the future.

The pattern of rain was telling. Rain and snow were sporadic and moisture laden winds erratic. Using the location charts, you can plot the precipitation fall, some canyons on south facing slopes, some on north. Sometimes a canyon full of plants and the next one empty. The south side of our range was best in the eastern quadrant because of a storm coming in from Death Valley.

Our intrepid collectors brought in an amazing assortment of blooms. Our tables were full and indeed crowded.

*(Above quotation from the Maturango Museum Wildflower Exhibit Summary, April 2014 which is available for purchase through the Museum Store.)*

Producing the Wildflower Exhibit is a totally volunteer effort that begins the preceding Tuesday and encompasses collecting plants by teams of two or three each, processing specimens, identifying, displaying, educating and hosting the many visitors to this very special annual event of the Museum. Fifty-three volunteers contributed nearly 800 hours. For all it is a labor of love and one for which much appreciation was expressed by members of the community, as well as out of town visitors.

Two greatly appreciated helpers in identifying the wildflowers were Volunteer Botanists Naomi Fraga and Erika Gardiner from Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden. Additionally appreciated was the informative program, "What a Surprise! The Amazing Panamint Mountains Watershed Known as Surprise Canyon" presented by Shelley Ellis, BLM Biologist, and Marty Dickes, BLM Wilderness Coordinator.

Other volunteers listed alphabetically are as follows: Aguilar, Vanessa; Anderson, Camille; Barbee, Joann; Bowling, Karen; Breitenstein, Gene; Breitenstein, Judy; Brubaker, Sherry; Carroll, Ingrid; Commodore, Karen; Corzine, Marty; Crouse, Shirley; Elkins, Wendi 'Ace'; Ellis, Shelley; Foster, Daniel; Foster, Joanna; Gilbert, Sue; Goodson, Charlotte; Goodson, Don; Goodson, Kate; Harris, Glenn; Herr, Paula; Hewett, Wanda; Hill, Bev; Kistler, Marianne; Kurdeka, David; LaShure, Kathy; Luca, MacKensie; Moore, Pat; Nuckles, Nora; Osmundsen, Betty; Parker, Bob; Parker, Sue; Pelch, Andrea; Pierce,

Candace; Prazak, Susan; Ratcliff, Terry; Ray, Merrilee; Richards, Sally; Rogers, Pat; Silberberg, Pat; Smith, Lloyd; Smith, Bea; Sorensen, Pat; Strickland, Pat; VanAken, Jane; Villegas, Richard; Wiley, Elaine; Wiley, Peter; Wilson, Lynnette; Woodman, Alan; Woodman, Joan.

The Coordinating Committee of Charlotte Goodson, Judy and Gene Breitenstein, Kathy LaShure, and Alan and Joan Woodman feel a debt of gratitude to the staff members of the Museum for their patience and enthusiastic support of this annual highlight event of spring in the desert!

## **2014 Museum Store Annual Report**

**Submitted by Mary Lattig, Gift Shop Manager and Buyer**

2014 was our first year of operations in our newly expanded space. In addition, it was our first year of completion with the e-store in place. So, a lot of firsts. I continue to monitor all of our numbers and sales traffic to insure that we continue to be profitable and manage the inventory.

In January, we met with Mike Brown regularly to set up the on-line store inventory and sales/returns policies. We had several concerts and of course our very popular FREE family fun days which continue to be very popular.

February was extremely busy for us. I was unable to attend the CA Gift Show due to health reasons, nor the San Francisco Show.

In March, Maria introduced the Behind the Scenes Tours which were also popular. We held Petroglyph Training, a Children's Hour, a trip to Old Kernville: Below the Lake and a lecture by Janet Westbrook and an artist reception. Our annual meeting was held this month, as well.

I was unable to attend the Las Vegas Show in April, again for health reasons. But, we were able participate in the Alan Alpers celebration of life, as well as hosting a lecture from Shelly Ellison and our FREE Family Fun Day. April was also the Wildflower Festival and Show which was well attended. Janet Westbrook offered a Death Valley for flowers Trip and a Walker Basin Field Trip and we held a wine tasting at my home on April 24<sup>th</sup>. We also launched the e-store in this month. Sales were slow to begin but have steadily increased over the year. What we are finding is that it is a great tool for donations, memberships and concert tickets as well as field trips. We do some apparel sales and books, too. Many of our purchase are out of town. To date, we have done over \$8,000 in sales from April to December.

May was extremely busy. We held a Children's Hour in the gallery. Our popular Free Family Fun Day on May 10<sup>th</sup> with the docents and the planetarium. This was also the month that we lost our very beloved director, Harris Brokke, as he chose to retire. A fond farewell was held for him at the fairgrounds on the evening of May 16<sup>th</sup>. On May 17<sup>th</sup>, the X15 group held a gathering in the gallery to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a lost comrade. Also, Sandy Rogers led a tour to the Little Lake Ranch. On May 19<sup>th</sup>, our summer interns arrived.

In June we enjoyed the docent potluck at Elaine Wiley's home. Janet offered a trip to the Trail of 100 Giants and Kenedy meadows and the Kern Plateau for Flowers. This tends to be a quiet month for the gift shop but is the beginning of our season with European visitors.

July is always very quiet except for our tourists heading to Death Valley. I did not attend any trade shows due to health reasons.

In August the docent training was held from the 18<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>. The SpringHill Suites hosted another Art Night. I began making plans for surgery.

In September we held a t-shirt sale to reduce inventory. I did attend the Oasis Gift Show in Phoenix and the following week I traveled to USC for surgery. Our dinner auction was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> and the Open Studio Tour was the weekend of Sept 26<sup>th</sup>. We had concerts and the Planetarium set up, too. Janet had a lecture on her trip to the Azores, Canaries, et al. October was fairly quiet as I was still recovering from surgery. I returned to work a bit too soon and had to take additional time off for the month of Oct. I was unable to

attend the souvenir show in November for Health reason as I was still recovering. However, the Petroglyph Festival was a huge success for us. We had over 500 visitors during the weekend and did over \$7,000 in sales. We also hosted a Children's Hour that month. These are always so popular.

In December we hosted our annual Volunteer Appreciation Lunch. The volunteers are such an important part of the museum and we are happy to provide this appreciation luncheon for them as well as the shopping discount. This is always well attended with about 70 attendees. Docents had the planetarium up on Dec 17<sup>th</sup>. Christmas sales were good and over all we finished the year out a bit ahead of the previous year thanks in part to the Petroglyph Festival sales.

The visitor's center continues to receive many tourists and people seeking tourist information. This is one area where I believe our staff and volunteers really shine. We routinely receive rave reviews on Trip advisor and were give the award of excellence from trip advisor for 2014 for the many positive reviews we receive. They always mention our staff and volunteers.

My true appreciation goes out to the many volunteers, and staff, who keep the store running, well stocked and with amazing displays. My current volunteers are: Joanne Barbee, Maria Hayes, Fran Rogers, Ellen Jenetzko, Sandy Giroux, Rose Cruse, Kathy LaShure, Dianne Dilley, Pam Evans (who keeps our on-line store running as a volunteer), Deanne Campbell, Mary Ellen Ogren, Charlotte Osterman, Leslie Layfield, Cindy White, Candace Pierce and Diane Youngblood. The store weekend staff consists of Assistant Manager Maureen Goff, Sue Gilbert, Nora Nuckles, Nick Rogers and Duane Rice.

The items that continue to be best sellers are post card (over 1,500), rocks (over 900), and soaps (over 500 ) by our very own volunteer and local herbalist, Kathy LaShure, and over 300 etched glasses and stone ware.

We have added a new publication, Sandy Roger's updated book on the Epsom Salt Monorail. In the first month we sold 75 copies! We are now in our second printing.

I am looking forward to another wonderful year of new promotions, new product development, and new gains in both our on-line and bricks and mortar store. Thank you again for the wonderful opportunity to serve the museum in my capacity as manager and buyer. I appreciate your confidence.

**Report Volunteer Activities**  
**Submitted by Fran Van Valkenburgh**

The Museum would not exist if it were not for the volunteers who, quite literally, make it all happen. Our Board of Trustees, Store volunteers, Gallery Committee, the Docents, The tour escorts, the Wildflower Group, the Building and Maintenance volunteers, our Tech Crew, the Events Committee, the Fundraising Committee and many others. The list is long and, hopefully, will continue growing. What is the reward? It is our Museum and we all have a great deal of pride in it. There is also the friendship and camaraderie that comes from being a part of something so very positive in the community.

The volunteer hours show just how very deep the commitment is to making the Museum and its programs a success.

Our thanks are heartfelt and so very sincere!!

**Volunteer Hours 2014**

Docents	7406
Museum Gift Shop	2594
Gallery	456
Field Trips, tours	67
Petroglyph Tours	1365
Fundraising	150
Curatorial	214
Administrative	1291
At Home equip	25
Highway clean-up	0
Publication	327
Lectures	50
Wildflower Show/other	2217
Jan - Dec	_____
Total Volunteer Hours	16162

**Annual Report**

**Maturango Museum Building Committee**

**Submitted by**

**Dan Burnett**

The Building Committee of the Maturango Museum is responsible to the board of trustees for the buildings and structures of the museum. It is responsible for managing the building and maintenance funds and for executing board approved construction, acquisition, and alteration projects. The committee is open to any museum member and staff interested in the museum's building and structures assets.

This past year the following people have participated in doing the work of the building committee (if someone is not listed I apologize and claim old brain cells as an excuse):

Ron Adkins  
Shane Arns  
Debbie Benson  
Thom Boggs  
Harris Brokke  
Dan Burnett  
Brenda Burnett  
Jay Chun  
Nancy Crawford  
Mary Lattig  
Nora Nuckles  
Richard Nuckles  
Bob Parker  
Andrea Pelch  
Fran Rogers  
Sandy Rogers  
Keith Weicz  
Bob Westbrook  
Elaine Wiley  
Peter Wiley  
Earl Wilson  
Museum Docents

2014 was a very active year for the committee. Here are the things that were done:

- Reviewed and revised plans for completion of the new wing.
- Solicited contractors to complete the new wing and do modification of the old store and office areas.
- Oversaw construction work on the new wing and began remodeling work on the old wing.
- Saw the completion of four Eagle Scout Projects.
- Worked with the Astronomical Society to install two camera domes donated to the museum by the Navy.
- Replaced two old Heating/AC units in the old wing
- Patched, caulked, and repaired many leaks. Replaced or repaired bulbs, fixtures, and equipment throughout the museum.
- Started plans to construct a solar field at the museum.
- Painted the administrative annex.

2015 will also be a very busy year. Here are the major projects for 2015:

- Finish construction on the new wing.
- Install a storage container at the museum (abandon rented units in town).
- Convert lighting in old museum to LED.
- Remodel vacated gallery and install new exhibits.
- Work with staff and volunteers to upgrade the facility as needed.
- Construct a solar field to significantly reduce the Museum's electric bill.
- Assist in furnishing and equipping the new gallery.
- Install shelving for docent storage in the new wing.
- Move earth to provide safe access to North end of new wing.

The Building Committee is a group of folks who enjoy working together to see things done. We are always in need of help on various projects and need people who are willing to take over the lead on major projects. We openly welcome all the help we can get. We have fun doing this. Join us if you are interested.

A big THANK YOU to all who have donated to the building fund over the years. Without your generous donations none of this can be done. We think we have used your money wisely and made it go very far. You should be very proud of what you have enabled the Museum to do. Words can't convey how important you are to the Museum.

## Maturango Museum Strategic Plan for 2015

The Maturango Museum Strategic Plan is updated each year. The planned accomplishments for next year are below. The total plan for 20 years is available at the Annual Meeting and on our website. Projects for 2015:

- Complete construction of new wing
- Furnish and equip new wing
- New Scout projects proposed – desert tortoise area, mock archaeology dig site
- Music Concert group to coordinate acoustic evaluation of new gallery
  - High school, music teachers, local performing artists to perform with audience
  - Plan improvements to gallery if needed
- Move Askania domes from NAWCWD, mount on concrete pads and refurbish
- Construct Shaman Walk
- Design better outside lighting, parking and landscaping
- Prepare specific plans for walkways and paths
- Grade north entrance to improve safety and access
- Install traffic control features to improve safety

The plan projects are dependent on donations, other organizations participation, local business and government, and current events. Below is a property layout diagram for the next 20 years. Exactly where exhibits are located may change as individual projects develop.

Museum Property Layout



## **Operational Fundraising**

**Submitted by Mike Brown**

**History:** In the recent past the Operational Fundraising Committee has met more on an “as needed” basis. After much evaluation and discussion the board of trustees decided that a permanent committee was needed. In October the committee began functioning as a standing committee.

**Important Facts:** Our committee began with the recognition of four important facts:

**#1** - The museum’s greatest assets are its members. Without the generous support of member’s time and finances the museum would not exist and thrive as it has.

**#2** - The museum’s mission is to preserve, interpret, and develop an appreciation for the natural and cultural history of the Northern Mojave Desert through research and education in the natural and physical sciences, and to promote the arts.

**#3** - The museum’s 2013 - 2033 Strategic Plan is ambitious and attainable.

**#4** - We have momentum. The dream, hard work and sacrificial giving needed to expand the museum is now a reality.

**Plan:** As a standing committee empowered by these four important facts we have set out the following plan to support the increase in our general budget and expansion goals of our Strategic Plan.

**Car2Charities** - Donate your unwanted car or vehicle to *Cars2Charities* and you get a tax deduction and the museum gets the net proceeds from the sale of your car or vehicle (min. of 70%). Details are on our web site.

**Grant Writing** - Our grant writing committee got off to a great start. Unfortunately with the untimely passing of trustee Marcy Holbrook the team has had to regroup. Currently we are in need of people willing to join us as we learn and search for available grants. Those with grant writing experience or no experience but have good writing skills are needed. We have purchased a *GrantStation* membership in order to broaden the available grant base.

**Fundraising Appeal Letters to Members** - In the past we have appealed to members for financial support through the monthly newsletter. We decided to implement a financial appeal through direct mail which allows members to send a donation through the mail, on-line or in person.

**Estate Planning Seminar** - We are in the process of teaming together with an estate planner to offer a seminar for members who might wish to include the museum in their estate planning.

**Ridgecrest Area Artist web project** - This project is designed to benefit both the museum and local area artists. Individual artists and artisans will have the opportunity to be listed on this directory for a nominal, yearly subscription fee paid directly to the Maturango Museum which will go to supporting the museum’s general fund.

**Annual Dinner and Auction** - Our annual dinner and auction has been the bread and butter of our fundraising efforts. Our hope is to share the success and vision of the museum to a larger community audience in September.

Our committee meetings are open to all members, and meets the third Monday of each month at 6 pm, one hour before our monthly board meeting. We can always use more members. Current members are: Thom Boggs, Nancy Crawford, Dan Barnett, Joleigh Rafalski, Nora Nuckles, Julie Stephens, Debbie Benson and myself.

**Thank You!** The Total 2014 Contributions were \$91,900.00: General Contributions = \$36,000.00; Summer Appeal Letter Contributions = \$13,250.00; Year End Appeal Letter Contributions = \$21,650.00; and In Kind Contributions = \$20,500.00. Our member’s and the communities generosity is overwhelming and greatly appreciated!

**MATURANGO MUSEUM****Treasurer's Comments**

I am very happy to report that the Museum is financially sound and, if not exactly flush with funds, we are doing pretty darned good. Thank you.

Because of the generous support of members, donors, business in the community and the work of many volunteers and our staff the Museum operating fund actually received more money than was spent last year. This is not always the case.

The annual auction was extremely successful, again, because of the hard work and donations of many people. Everyone who donated and worked to make the auction such a success should be very pleased with the outcome. The auction netted around \$20,000 for the museum.

I want especially to thank Milt and Jane Burford for their generosity and their many gifts to the Museum. Milt's donated steel art raised over \$12,000 at the auction. They raised an additional \$10,000 through sale of his statues to the County for use in the Petroglyph Park.

The operating fund is critical to the museum. Keeping the lights on, paying staff, buying supplies, looking after the museum assets and other operating expenses lack the glamour that building a new wing has but without money to operate there would be no Maturango Museum. From time to time the museum asks for your support for this fund. We try not to bug you often but we do want you to remember the museum when you plan your charitable giving and we want to keep you aware of all that the museum is doing. It is truly your museum.

Of course, the operating fund isn't the only fund at the museum. We had generous donations for the Building and Maintenance Fund, the Docents, the Art Gallery and many other special projects we conducted over the year. With the exception of the installation of the domes donated by the Navy, all these special projects have been conducted with only the funds donated and raised specifically for them.

The future is troublesome. We need to do to continue to improve our financial condition. One major task is to reduce our utility bills. Over the next year we need to install a solar field at the museum to generate green energy to cool and light the museum. Such a field could have saved us about \$16,000 in operating costs this past year. The rates are increasing and we soon will be lighting and cooling large new museum spaces. Without the solar field, over the next ten years we can quite reasonably expect to spend about \$300,000 for electricity. We will be asking for your help to build the solar field and avoid these costs.

As Frank Sinatra once said in song, "It was a very good year."

Thank you for making it so.

Dan Burnett  
Treasurer

**Maturango Museum**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
in dollars

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash on Hand	48,790	30,277	18,513
Savings	218,925	293,961	(75,036)
Investments	200,765	197,659	3,106
<b>Total Cash and in Banks</b>	<b>468,480</b>	<b>521,897</b>	<b>(53,417)</b>
Receivables	27,682	449	27,233
Inventory	68,372	74,117	(5,745)
Prepaid Expenses	10,729	12,664	(1,935)
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>106,783</b>	<b>87,230</b>	<b>19,553</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>575,263</b>	<b>609,127</b>	<b>(33,864)</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Building	1,046,613	1,046,613	(0)
Building Improvements	172,995	149,816	23,179
Equipment and Displays	367,710	365,910	1,800
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(580,589)	(534,158)	(46,431)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,006,729</b>	<b>1,028,180</b>	<b>(21,451)</b>
Work In Process	63,792	-	63,792
<b>Total Net Fixed Assets</b>	<b>1,070,521</b>	<b>1,028,180</b>	<b>42,340</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,645,784</b>	<b>1,637,307</b>	<b>8,476</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>			
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	40,990	27,723	13,267
Payroll	5,370	11,465	(6,095)
Sales Taxes	6,338	8,574	(2,236)
Other Liabilities	10,481	4,575	5,906
Deferred Revenue	5,000	34,750	(29,750)
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>68,179</b>	<b>87,087</b>	<b>(18,908)</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Unrestricted	1,167,871	1,081,177	86,694
Temp Restricted - Building	167,050	230,214	(63,164)
Temp Restricted - Other	29,127	28,476	651
Endowment	213,557	210,354	3,203
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>1,577,605</b>	<b>1,550,221</b>	<b>27,384</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>1,645,784</b>	<b>1,637,307</b>	<b>8,476</b>

The above data is summarized for ease of reporting. Details are available for review in the Museum office.

**Maturango Museum**  
**Income Statement (all funds combined)**  
in dollars

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Store Sales	169,347	157,459	11,888
Less: Cost of Sales	(80,460)	(81,180)	720
Store Sales NET	<u>88,887</u>	<u>76,280</u>	<u>12,607</u>
Gallery Sales	25,213	18,135	7,078
Less: Cost of Sales	(18,609)	(14,665)	(3,944)
Gallery Sales NET	<u>6,604</u>	<u>3,470</u>	<u>3,134</u>
Fundraising	80,250	39,216	41,034
Less: Cost of Sales	(6,519)	(7,735)	1,216
Fundraising NET	<u>73,731</u>	<u>31,481</u>	<u>42,250</u>
Events	35,908	38,131	(2,223)
Less: Cost of Sales	(7,779)	(15,617)	7,838
Events NET	<u>28,129</u>	<u>22,514</u>	<u>5,615</u>
Admissions	9,846	10,052	(206)
Contributions	38,231	244,754	(206,523)
Memberships	39,800	38,875	925
Other Income	59,094	49,076	10,017
In Kind Donations	20,513	15,214	5,299
Grant Income	176,128	126,012	50,116
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>540,963</u></b>	<b><u>617,728</u></b>	<b><u>(76,765)</u></b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Advertising & Promotion	12,405	14,901	(2,496)
Bank Fees	12,371	9,502	2,869
Facilities	37,853	30,841	7,012
Insurance	6,600	8,183	(1,583)
Newsletter-Printing & Postage	5,933	5,694	239
Payroll Expenses	151,717	139,576	12,141
Professional Services	164,695	115,392	49,303
Rent	3,720	6,391	(2,671)
Supplies & Equipment	58,394	40,742	17,652
Travel	1,492	7,104	(5,612)
Other Expenses	7,422	4,815	2,607
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b><u>462,602</u></b>	<b><u>383,142</u></b>	<b><u>79,460</u></b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b><u>78,361</u></b>	<b><u>234,585</u></b>	<b><u>(156,224)</u></b>
Depreciation	(50,975)	(28,186)	(22,789)
<b>Total Net Income</b>	<b><u>27,386</u></b>	<b><u>206,399</u></b>	<b><u>(179,013)</u></b>

The above data is summarized for ease of reporting. Details are available for review in the Museum offices

**Maturango Museum**  
**2014 Income Statement (by Asset Type)**  
in dollars

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temp Restricted - Building</u>	<u>Temp Restricted - Other</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Income</b>					
<b>Store Sales</b>	169,348				169,348
<b>Less: Cost of Sales</b>	(80,460)				(80,460)
<b>Gallery Sales</b>	25,213				25,213
<b>Less: Cost of Sales</b>	(18,609)				(18,609)
<b>Fundraising</b>	57,400	22,450	400		80,250
<b>Less: Cost of Sales</b>	(5,960)	(560)			(6,520)
<b>Events</b>	35,908				35,908
<b>Less: Cost of Sales</b>	(7,779)				(7,779)
<b>Admissions</b>	9,846				9,846
<b>Contributions</b>	21,876	11,485	4,770	100	38,231
<b>Memberships</b>	39,800				39,800
<b>Other Income</b>	49,370	5,743	878	3,103	59,094
<b>Grant Income</b>	16,342		159,786		176,128
<b>In Kind Donations</b>	20,513				20,513
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>332,808</b>	<b>39,118</b>	<b>165,834</b>	<b>3,203</b>	<b>540,963</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
<b>Advertising &amp; Promotion</b>	11,830		575		12,405
<b>Bank Fees</b>	12,371				12,371
<b>Facilities</b>	35,481	2,034	337		37,852
<b>Insurance</b>	4,567	2,033			6,600
<b>Newsletter-Printing &amp; Postage</b>	5,933				5,933
<b>Payroll Expenses</b>	151,717				151,717
<b>Professional Services</b>	30,956	6,170	127,569		164,695
<b>Rent (Storage)</b>	3,720				3,720
<b>Supplies &amp; Equipment</b>	19,196	484	38,714		58,394
<b>Travel</b>	1,492				1,492
<b>Other Expenses</b>	6,870	447	106		7,423
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>284,133</b>	<b>11,168</b>	<b>167,301</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>462,602</b>
<b>Total Operating Profit / (Loss)</b>	<b>48,675</b>	<b>27,950</b>	<b>(1,467)</b>	<b>3,203</b>	<b>78,361</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>	(50,975)				(50,975)
<b>Assets released from Restrictions</b>	88,996	(91,114)	2,118	-	(0)
<b>Total Net Income</b>	<b>86,696</b>	<b>(63,164)</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>3,203</b>	<b>27,386</b>

The above data is summarized for ease of reporting. Details are available for review in the Museum offices