

Maturango Museum News

Preserve, interpret and develop an appreciation for
the natural and cultural history of the Northern Mojave Desert.
100 E. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Open Monday – Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, Sunday Noon – 4pm
60.375.6900 www.maturango.org
Death Valley Tourist Center Northern Mojave Visitor Center

Museum Director's Notes

By Debbie Benson, Director

Gratitude turns what we have into enough – Aesop

Some winds and clouds building around the Sierra Mountains with a mix of some beautiful warmth still in the day and the evening chills make the Indian Wells Valley the place to be in November. Some sunsets of beauty and drama are sure to be on the calendar this month!

At the Maturango Museum we find many reasons to be thankful for our friends and our community. Even though we do not always follow the same path, we still pull together in ways that come from the heart. So often I am reminded of the generous and kind nature of many people in our valley and many who now live in other communities who still keep us in their thoughts. Many thanks for the messages and the visits. It's a pleasure! The many people who work to make our programs appreciate the support and encouragement you give. It matters!

We give a great Thank You to all of those who made our Annual Dinner/Auction a success! Desert Valleys Credit Union, Hyla Nursery, Firequick, State Farm Insurance, our Friends and supporters and the Oasis Garden Club for beautiful décor. The catering by Casey's and the amazing desserts in the auction were delicious and fun. Our very biggest thanks to Steve Morgan for making the journey to be our auctioneer. Truly the best. Thank you for everyone who made it happen, the wonderful attendees and the donations! Our greatest thanks from all of us at the Maturango Museum! Let's do this again next year!

November in the Gift Shop: "Double Dip Sundaes" for Museum Members

Enjoy 20% discount on Sundays throughout November. The Double Dipping begins November 3 and goes till November 29.

If you're not a member call, come in, or go online to Maturango.org to purchase your membership.

Almost everything in the store qualifies with a few exceptions: books, playing cards, blankets, and DVDs.

Many NEW items in
the gift store.



Children's Hour: "Desert Animals by Day"

Friday, November 8, 10:30 to 11:30 am

The children will learn and be entertained through slides, stories, action songs and a craft. Curiosity and questions are always encouraged at the Discovery Table exhibits from the Docent's Collection.

The Children's Hour is a free monthly program presented September through May.

Flyers of the fall schedule will be available for pick-up at each of the programs.

Tel. 760-375-6900 maturango.org

Joint Art Exhibit - Lori Michelin: "Desert Miscellany" and Jael Hoffman: "States of Being"
November 2 – January 31, 2025

Reception Saturday December 7, 2-4 pm



Lori Michelin

I first came to the Eastern Sierra to camp when I was 5 months old! Since then, this area has been a big part of my life - many, many years of living first in Mammoth, then Tom's Place. Scattered here and there were other wonderful living places: San Francisco, Reno, Orange County, France, and Sonoma County. All good places for a variety of reasons. It's always important to get some perspective. I have a BA in French and got to live in France for two years - wonderful. Much later, in my mid-40s, I got an MFA in printmaking from CSULB - received in 2005, after



commuting to Long Beach from Tom's Place for five years! Printmaking is my love - it's the BEST: labor-intensive, meditative, and surprising. Drawing is also a BIG LOVE. I am interested in the creatures that we share this area with, sometimes these creatures need to be dressed in haute couture; they are always important and need to be revered and adored. They come in peace. Let's welcome them. Lori

Jael Hoffmann

I mainly work in metal sculpture, soldered jewelry, and block print. A collection of my larger work is displayed at the Olancho Sculpture Garden in Olancho, CA.



Many of my pieces reflect psychological states of being that arise from unresolved inner tensions or the process of change that follows their acceptance. As I have learned, embracing



oneself despite adverse narratives offers a refuge from dysfunctional repetition, thereby making space for ways of joyous engagement.

My latest exploration has been attaching glass to metal via the stained-glass method. This allows me to play with light and color to expand on the traditional expressions of metal.

Lecture-Concert: Children in Art and Music
Saturday November 16, 7pm and Sunday November 17, 2pm

This event is presented by Catherine Douglas, Karen Sanford, and Sergio Ramirez. Sergio will first read a brief introduction for each painting and piano piece. The paintings will be projected onto the video screen while Cathy and Karen play the piano pieces. In this way, the audience will have a more immersive experience with the combination of visual arts and music. There will be 10 pairs of paintings and piano pieces in a wide range of styles and periods. Some piano pieces will be played by Cathy Douglas and other pieces will be arrangements for four hands and will be performed by Cathy Douglas and Karen Sanford.



The concert is a fundraiser for the Maturango Museum - suggested donation is \$15 for Adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator

The Docents of the Maturango Museum gave programs to about 300 people in September. Dan and Brenda Burnett, Bob Parker and Judy Martin brought many of our bird specimens to the residents of High Desert Haven. Most of the residents recalled having seen many of these birds since they have been in the Indian Wells Valley. Some of the birds were new to the residents perhaps because these birds were not full-time residents but migrators through the valley. Dan, Brenda, and Bob could answer nearly any question since they are members of Audubon!

We also visited Gateway School for a Science/Parent Evening. We had 6 tables set up in the library. Parents and children could touch the pelts of many of our specimens as they observed the prepared coyote, bobcat, badger, and kit fox! We also displayed some reptile specimens, some skulls, and clay footprints. At events like this we need many docents to help with the materials, protect the specimens, and visit with the attendees!

Sometimes people ask about our specimens. We remind them that the Museum never kills an animal. If an adult comes upon a dead animal, it can be brought to the Museum only if it is very fresh, not rotting, smelly, etc. Sherry Brubaker, our Natural History Curator, can contact our taxidermist and have it prepared.

This month we have several programs to present. We hope we have enough docents to fulfil the teachers' requests! Please consider joining our group of volunteers.

Our Children's Hour, Nov.8 at 10:30, will feature desert animals by day. The last Children's Hour featured nocturnal animals.

On Free Saturday, Nov. 9 from 11-2, the craft activity will be fall leaves with oil pastels.

The Maturango Museum Docent League will have a busy, fun season with children and adults. You are invited to join a group of people who love to share the wonders of our desert! Please call me, Nora, at the Maturango Museum if you would like to work with the Docent League. You are sure to have fun, learning experiences!

There it is—Take it! in partnership with Sierra Forever is proud to present:

ALABAMA GATES 2024

A weekend of free community events in Lone Pine, California, celebrating the centennial of the 1924 Alabama Gates Occupation


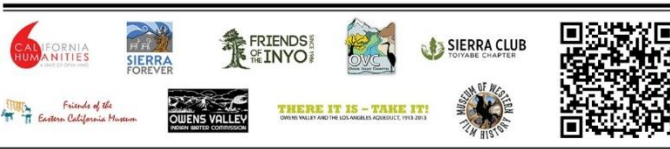
NOV 15 - 17, 2024

Opening reception hosted by FECM and Sierra Forever at the Eastern California Museum in Independence, California, on Friday, November, 15, 2024, from 4 to 6 pm.

Free weekend events include roundtable discussions at Lone Pine's Statham Hall, a no-host community picnic at Lone Pine's Spainhower Park featuring local food truck concessionaires, film screenings at the Museum of Western Film History, and an interpretive walking tour with a local naturalist at Patsiata (Owens Lake).

AlabamaGates2024.org

Full program schedule is available at our website. Pre-registration is required for all events.



FRIENDS OF
THE
EASTERN

CALIFORNIA MUSEUM

*Preserving Inyo County's Past for
the Future*

*FECM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
organization*

P.O. Box 33 Independence, CA
93526

info@fecm.org

760-878-5089

AlabamaGates2024.org

Recent Donations

Donations

Anonymous
Scott and Heidi Allen
Dan and Mary Anders
Frank Armogida
Kenneth Atwood
Mark and Pat Backes
Elizabeth Joann Barbee
Pam and Charles Barnes
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David and Jo Burdick
Dan and Brenda Burnett
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2024 Auction Dinner Pledge

Nick Panzer

In Memory of Ron Atkins

Dan and Brenda Burnett

In Memory of Judyth Reed

Russell Kaldenberg

In Memory of Alan and Joan Woodman

Susan Hueber
Patricia Moore

Building Fund

Robert Westbrook

New Members

John Adams
Joyce and Mike Boske
John and Jasmine Carter
Lawrence O'Connor
Eduardo Pineda
Michael Worley and Alison Alberts

New Premium Members

Elizabeth Joann Barbee

China Lake Soaring Club – a Brief History

The China Lake Soaring Club has a rich history that dates back to the late 1940s. It all began with Al Sievert and a group of like-minded individuals purchasing a war surplus TG-2 training glider in 1948. This glider, originally used for pilot training by the US military, became the foundation for the club's soaring activities above the Indian Wells Valley. In 1953, the club was officially incorporated as the China Lake Soaring Club.

Today, you can learn more about the local history of soaring in the Indian Wells Valley by visiting the exhibit "Soaring - Flying High on the Power of Rising Air" at the Maturango Museum. The exhibit features an actual glider, the "Grob 102 Club III B" single-seat glider, and provides a fascinating insight into the sport of soaring.



BUILDING THE WING - As Jim Gladney holds the rib steady, Charles Drew installs a fastener through the "drag strut" along the trailing edge of the wing. Fasteners projecting upward along the ribs in the foreground hold thin alignment strips in place.

Fundraising Bricks

Our campaign starts NOW! We are enthusiastically beginning our brick campaign. The funds will be used to further beautify and maintain our desert gardens at the museum. The bricks will be installed along the new path to the curation building and around the shade structure.

On this website page you will find a quick video and the printable flyer with mail-in order form.

www.fundraisingbrick.com/online-orders/maturango/



**Maturango Museum
of the IWV**

100 E. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Open Mon - Sat 10 am – 5 pm
Sunday noon – 4pm (except major holidays)

Staff

Debbie Benson, Museum Director
Maureen Goff, Store Manager/Buyer
Barbara Bane, M.A., RPA, Archaeology Curator
Nadia Mohsen, Curation Technician
Elaine Wiley, History Curator
Sherry Brubaker, Natural History Curator
Andrea Pelch, Art Gallery Coordinator,
Newsletter Editor
Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator
Linda Saholt, Membership, Donations
Leslie Layfield, Accounting Bookkeeper
Nora Nuckles, Museum Assistant
Nick Rogers, Museum Assistant
Barbara Ingle, Museum Assistant

Committee Chairpersons

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Bob Westbrook, Strategic Planning
Bev Hill, Gardens

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**Holiday Gift Giving is Easy with a
Gift Certificate
from the Maturango Museum**

Upcoming and Ongoing Exhibits and Events

- Joint Art Exhibit - Lori Michelon: "Desert Miscellany" and Jael Hoffman: "States of Being"
November 2 – January 31, 2025
Reception: Saturday December 7, 2-4 pm
- Children's Hour: "Desert Animals by Day"; Friday, November 8, 10:30 to 11:30 am.
- Free Second Saturday: November 9, 11am- 2pm, craft activities - fall leaves with oil pastels
- Double Dip Sundays in November: Gift store 20% discount for museum members.
- Pizza Factory and Beanster's Espresso Fundraiser: All day, Wednesday, November 13.
- Lecture-Concert: Art and Music, Saturday November 16, 7pm and Sunday November 17, 2pm
- Soaring Exhibit: now through February 2025



Pizza Factory and Beanster's Espresso Fundraiser

All day, Wednesday, November 13.

20% of your purchase is donated to the Maturango Museum

You must mention this fundraiser when ordering.

**BEANSTER'S
ESPRESSO**

Maturango Museum
100 E Las Flores
Ridgecrest CA 93555

November 2024 Newsletter

*Maturango
Museum*

*Ridgecrest,
California*

