



Maturango News



Death Valley Tourist Center • Northern Mojave Visitor Center
Maturango Museum • 100 E. Las Flores Ave. • Ridgecrest, CA 93555

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Volume 46, No. 2

February 2010

Annual Meeting Set for February 26, 2010

By: Harris Brokke, Executive Director

The annual membership meeting will be held on Friday, February 26th at the Carriage Inn. There will be a no-host social hour at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner, the business meeting and the program. During the business meeting there will be several membership actions including the selection of four new members to the Board of Trustees and review and approval of changes to the Museum Bylaws.

Bios for each of the candidates for the board were included in the January newsletter and an article identifying the changes to the Bylaws was also included. There is a copy of the proposed Bylaws changes available at the Museum store for review by the members.

Also at the meeting, there will be two tickets drawn. Prizes: either six (6) Petroglyph tour tickets or one panoramic picture of the Trona pinnacles. If you want to participate in the drawing, please fill out the ticket information which is included in the newsletter and bring it along with your payment to the museum prior to the night of the dinner. Tickets will also be on sale during the social hour on the 26th. Good luck to all who enter the drawing.

Tickets for the dinner are on sale at the Museum for \$35 per person. We hope that many of the Museum members will be able to join us.

Concert Series – The Ridgecrest Brass Ensemble

By Fran Rogers

The Ridgecrest Brass Ensemble will present the fourth concert in the 2009-2010 Maturango Museum concert series in the Sylvia Winslow Exhibit Gallery on Saturday, February 27, 2010. The concert will begin at 7:30 pm. Seats are limited to 60, so avoid disappointment, get your tickets now in the museum store. The price is \$8 per adult and \$5 per child 12 and younger.

This is the fourth performance of the Ridgecrest Brass Ensemble in the museum concert series. The group was formed several years ago and has been virtually non-existent until two years ago. The Ensemble now comprises some seventeen members of various musical background, age, and skill, aspiring to bring additional opportunities for performance and enlightenment to the city of Ridgecrest and surrounding community.

The Ensemble uses a “core” brass quintet of two trumpets (Rich Fowler and Mick Rindt), French horn (Lisa Austin), trombone (Roger Lacher), and tuba (Paul Decker). Percussion (Lisa Solidarios) is added in this concert. Lisa and Roger are music teachers in Monroe Middle School and Murray Middle School respectively, in our Sierra Sands Unified School District.

This concert, entitled “Brass Over the Ages – Renaissance To Today”, has a collection of orchestral works arranged for The Canadian Brass; a set of original Brass works composed by John Wasson for The Dallas Brass; the 1890 classical Quintet No. 1 in B-flat minor (Op. 5) by the Russian composer, Victor Ewald; and selections by the eminent contemporary Southern California composer for brass ensembles, Raymond Burkhart.

This is a concert of great music that you will not want to miss!

Art Gallery

Current Exhibit and "The Art Gallery Needs You"

By Andrea Pelch, Gallery Coordinator

Geoff Voigt Exhibit Our first new artist for the 2010 Art Gallery season is local artist Geoff Voigt. Geoff's artwork is extremely energetic and colorful and presented in LARGE format. "The more recent paintings are a stew; made up of cartoon ideas and logic, filled with life and personification, Los Angeles illusions and images, the connection between color and emotion, and heavy doses of the Male Gaze and remnants from early video games, with no subtle emotions. Its combination makes for a "Happy pop" feel I like and wish to add more of in future paintings."

The Art Gallery Needs You Each exhibit that we show in the Sylvia Winslow Art Gallery needs sponsors. The sponsors' money goes toward the basic operations of the space that the gallery has in the museum, plus our wonderful receptions with their great hors d'oeuvres. We usually put on 5 2-month exhibits and 2 1-month exhibits. Please consider being a sponsor for one of our 2-month exhibits for \$100, or \$50 for a 1-month show, or a great friend of the gallery for a whole year for \$600. Please call 375-6900 to talk with Andrea Pelch, our Art Gallery Coordinator.

We Also Need For our September 11 – October 13 Folk Dance Costumes exhibit we need dress forms, padded hangers, or mannequins. We will use them to display the exquisite assemblages that the local Folk Dance group has collected. Please call 375-6900 to talk with Andrea Pelch, our Art Gallery Coordinator.

Spring Events

By: Harris M. Brokke

A portion of the spring 2010 schedule of events is complete but much of the schedule is still in the process of being finalized and will be available on or before February 18th.

The spring 2010 schedule of lectures and concerts is available on our website at www.maturango.org and information for the February lectures and concerts is available in the Museum store.

We are in the process of scheduling the field trips for the first half of 2010, but as of this printing the information is not yet finalized. Detailed information will be available on our website and in the Museum store by no later than February 18th. Please check out the website or contact the Museum on or after that date for this information.

In addition to field trips to other Museums, there will also be a Southwest Desert Bats Class, led by Dr. Pat Brown-berry, which will be held at the Desert Studies Center at Soda Springs [Zzyzx] which is south of Baker, CA. Information on the bat class will also be available on our website and at the Museum store by February 18th.

The spring schedule for Petroglyph tours will be available on our website and in the Museum store on February 18th.

We look forward to your participation in the Museum events during 2010 and hope you enjoy all events in which you participate.

Annual Meeting – Friday February 26 – Program Speaker

Our speaker at the 2009 Annual Meeting will be archaeologist Dr. Mark Allen. Dr. Allen earned his B.A. in anthropology from the University of Illinois in 1984 and moved west that year to attend UCLA, where he completed his M.A. work on the Coso Junction Ranch Site in 1986 and his Ph.D. in 1994 on the archaeology of warfare in New Zealand. He has taught at UCLA and Pomona College, and is currently Associate Professor of Anthropology at Cal Poly Pomona. He has also worked for various environmental firms as an archaeologist, most notably at Fort Irwin from 1997 to 2000. He has a strong commitment to involving students in firsthand archaeological research and to preservation of the archaeological record. His research interests include the Mojave Desert, the Pacific Islands, cultural ecology, political economy, warfare, and hunter-gatherers. Mark is currently the President of the Society for California Archaeology.



Dr. Allen's talk is on "Transformations in Warfare in Prehistoric and Early Historic New Zealand". This talk will focus on Maori warfare during the prehistoric and colonial periods of New Zealand. The Polynesian voyagers who first settled this land faced an entirely new and challenging cool and wet environment. Good horticultural land was rare, and this led to severe competition and warfare. Elaborate fortifications were developed to protect both resources and people. These fortifications allowed chiefs to increase their power, but at the same time limited their ability to conquer their rivals. After European contact, Maori warfare rapidly adapted muskets and new forms of fortification. This led to catastrophic population decreases and eventually pushed Maori chiefs into a treaty with the British Empire. By the late 19th century, however, brutal colonial wars ushered in yet another era of Maori warfare.

Calendar of Events	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>February 2010</u></p> <p>Tues., Feb. 2 – Docents meeting – 8:45 a.m.</p> <p>Mon. Feb. 15 – Board of Trustees meeting – 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Tues., Feb. 16 – Art Gallery meeting – 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Fri., Feb. 26 – Annual membership meeting at the Carriage Inn – 6:00 p.m. no-host social hour followed by dinner, meeting and program</p> <p>Sat., Feb. 27 – Concert, Ridgecrest Brass Ensemble - 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>March 2010</u></p> <p>Tues., Mar. 2 – Docents meeting – 8:45 a.m.</p> <p>Fri., Mar. 12 – Concert, "We Friends" – 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Mon. Mar. 15 – Board of Trustees meeting – 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Tues., Mar. 16 – Art Gallery meeting – 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Wed., Mar. 17 – Lecture, 7:30 p.m. – Dr. Lorraine Blair – Rose Burcham, Pioneer Physician and Owner of Yellow Aster mine</p>



Looking very much like a Christo and Jeanne-Claude installation, the Museum's main gallery wears a blanket of plastic as (from left) Thom Boggs, Steve Benson, Carroll Evans and Jake Freeman take advantage of the closed days around the turn of the year to put in new lighting tracks. See related article by Gary Babcock on how you can help finish the process of lighting the gallery. Photo by Liz Babcock

Carroll Evans Handyman Fund Needs Transfusion

by Gary Babcock, volunteer

You may have noticed that over the years the lighting in the north gallery has gotten dimmer.

No, it wasn't your eyes — the fixtures were breaking, and we couldn't get replacements for the obsolete track.

So when the museum closed for inventory over New Year, the animals and birds temporarily moved to the Sylvia Winslow Exhibit Gallery for their protection. A team that included Natural

History Curator Camille Anderson and me, as well as Carroll Evans, Thom Boggs, Steve Benson and Jake Freeman covered the remaining displays to keep them clean. We then removed the obsolete track and replaced it with new track that will accommodate current fixtures. The new lights will be compact fluorescents which use about 30 percent of the electricity of the old lights.

Unfortunately, we had to deplete the Carroll Evans Handyman Fund to buy the new track and fixtures, and we still need more lights. We estimate that we need about 30 more bulbs and fixtures to achieve a satisfactory brightness.

If you'd like to help us finish this "enlightening" process and/or help provide a continuing maintenance fund for the Museum, please send your check to the Museum with "Carroll Evans Handyman Fund" in the memo line. Thanks!

Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator

Did you meet the docents at Santa's Art Shop? I think the majority of people in Ridgecrest had a chance to meet a few of the newer docents as well as a number of our good old specimens (the animals that is)! The docents were there at the museum booth for both days of Santa's Art Shop. In addition, the docents gave programs to 132 people in December. Penny LePomme and I had the opportunity to give some 4th and 5th grade students a tour at the museum during the winter break. The students were eager to learn and observe. It was a more relaxed tour than our typical school tour.

In January we had many opportunities to present outreach programs. The statistics will be available in the next newsletter.

The sundial is nearly finished! I went over the other day and stood at the appropriate spot. The time I read on the sundial was, of course, correct. Be sure to try the human sundial that is located near the observatory! Congratulations to the team of docents, Thom Boggs, and others who helped to create such a unique feature for our garden.

Our other new venture, the Flex Friday Story Hour, is also very successful. On January 8 more than 50 children and adults attended the Story Hour. This is an hour of fun with specimens, stories, poems, songs, and crafts. Remember you are never too old for stories and fun. Thank You to the team of Charlotte Goodson, Kate Goodson, Judy Breitenstein, Susan Moore, and Dan Burnett for providing such great fun.

The docents continue to shop for specimens and look for ways to obtain copies of animals that cannot be found. We will order latex models of a few animals. We can save money by getting them unpainted. But...we need to find someone who is talented at painting latex model animals. If you know of an artist who is willing to paint a latex model specimen, please call Nora or Camille at the museum.

The docents are always shopping for more docents! Would you like to join the Docent League? Call Nora or come to our meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 8:45 a.m. in the museum gallery.

This newsletter is published monthly by
Maturango Museum
100 E. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555
The Museum is open every day (except
major holidays) from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Tickets for Annual Dinner Raffle – Friday, February 26, 2010

Tickets are \$1.00 each, six for \$5.00 or 12 for \$10.00

Two prizes: (1) six Petroglyph tour tickets & (2) a panoramic picture of the Trona Pinnacles

Please fill out the ticket information and send or bring in along with payment to
the Maturango Museum at 100 E. Las Flores Ave, Ridgecrest, CA 93555.

<p>Maturango Museum Annual Meeting Drawing</p>  <p>Name _____ Address _____ Phone No. _____</p> <p><small>Winner receives six Petroglyph tour tickets or one Panoramic picture of the Trona Pinnacles</small></p>	<p>Maturango Museum Annual Meeting Drawing</p>  <p>Name _____ Address _____ Phone No. _____</p> <p><small>Winner receives six Petroglyph tour tickets or one Panoramic picture of the Trona Pinnacles</small></p>
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