

DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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October 29, 2019

2019- A Year to Remember... For Some

2019 will be remembered as one with new ideas which grew from old ideas. The Animas Museum expanded many of our current events and programs with new and improved versions.

The Christmas Bazaar in December was again a huge hit. Vendors filled the museum and buyers filled their family's and friend's stockings for the upcoming Yuletide season.

Snowfall throughout the winter and spring was reported as the second highest on record for Durango. Pabblo and I shoveled snow from the sidewalls and porches every day we were open. Eric also helped shovel the sidewalks for the schoolkids. Eric helped out now and then on the snow shoveling with financial support from Cheryl and her husband. We welcomed Jennifer Macho-Seekins as our new Bookkeeper.

We met with Jeremy and George nearly every Wednesday afternoon on the comings and goings at the Museum. Michael is the BOD chairperson for events and exhibits. I took care of the leadership of the E&E meetings while Michael recuperated from leg surgery. Susan did a great job over the years in leading the E&E Committee.

Pabblo, Cheryl and Jeff met regularly to promote and organize advertising for the events. Jeremy took the leadership role in creating flyers and posters. By the end of the year we had a good grasp on marketing objectives.

Historic Sites Assessment went through many phases but is complete by October- the HSA draft from Dan Brookie has been reviewed by our HSA Committee which includes Robert, Michael, Charlie, Mike Owen and I.

Community involvement- We continued to work with the Colorado Humanities Roundtable committee to promote a September History Month- Animas Museum Live was a huge hit in September. Amber, Pabblo and I have also met with the 4 Corners Museum Committee. We have created a brochure noting all the museums in our 4 Corners area and we help each other in management efforts such as Emergency Plans. We met every two months. The Animas High School will have their fundraiser at the Animas Museum in May. I met with Peter Shertz of Maria's Bookstore to discuss book signing events at the Museum

Grants- We were approved for a Community Foundation grant for the Secret Gardens. We also were approved for a \$5,000 Ballantine Grant which we received in September. I also applied for a LPEA grant and United Way City Grant. We have yet to hear from the final decision.

History La Plata. The HLP went well. Cheryl did a great job filling the ad space. Our writers also filled the pages with great stories from the 30s. We still have a few copies to hand out. Well done.

Meet the Spinners- Every second Thursday of the each month, the Spinners setup and spin away in the Library for visitor interaction and congregation. This is a great project developed through Pam Dyer and Susan Jones, both are Spinners. The Spinners have been on hand when we have our school group tours.

Here come the Judges- several of our volunteers participated in the annual History Day at Ft. Lewis College on March 15.

Durango Distillery and History Talk- We finished this year's History Talk's at the Distillery on March 16 with Olga Little. We made a few hundred dollars with this event that started with Carolyn sitting down with the Distillery owners and coming up with a plan. Great idea.

The Colorado Counsel of Professional Archeologists (CCPA) toured the Animas Museum on Sunday March 17. We held a brunch and tour which was highly supported. Great job by Amber, Pabblo, Mona, Susan and all.

Rotary Presentation and Dinner- Robert McDaniel made a historical presentation to the noon Rotarians and Jeremy and I gave an overview of the Animas Museum at the After Hours Rotary Club on March 19.

Murder at the Museum- Gay killed Michael and Carolyn made it happen. A fun event and we made some money. Carolyn successfully organized and directed the Murder Mystery event for SW Colorado FCU on March 30. Jeremy and wife Lisa cooked the delicious dinner. Pabblo, Les, Susan, Gay, Michael and I played the parts while Amber and Carolyn setup the mystery. Cheryl was the barkeep. This could be a great idea for future dinners but I would not suggest it unless we made 3X the money.

IT meeting were held nearly every month throughout the summer as we upgraded our PCs based on Windows 7 being phased out. Chuck Williams, our IT and collection's volunteer, purchased surplus (almost new) PCs and monitors for the entire museum except for Pabblo's PC which is still better than everyone else's. Chuck made a great deal with FLC.

All Aboard- The Tacoma Train event on April 6 was a huge hit. All 42 seats were sold and we could have sold more. The Train departed from the depot and dropped off passengers at the Tacoma Station to view the power plant. The Xcel staff was extremely professional and thankful. We made over \$3300. Next year we should consider involving the San Juan County Museum in the Tacoma Train.

Members Only- April 13. Once again we honored our members to a private viewing and refreshments in the Library. The event was attended by 30-40 members. The theme centered on the 1930s with games, foods and exhibits.

Atomic Pub Crawl on April 20 had great intentions but did not fare well. We sold only 50 tickets out of 200. Overall, Main Street was not well attended by college students. Amber did a fine job in promoting the event on campus and Jeremy, George and I placed posters at the participating pubs. Our buttons and card info was top notch.

Raymond Schaaf Memorial on April 27. This memorial, for a lost alumnus, turned out to be wonderful. Over 40 family and friends attended. The family donated 5 books and \$50 to the Museum.

Master Gardeners- The LPC extension office provided up with Master Gardeners. Teresa and Stella worked 40 hours each over the summer. They tended the flower beds, trimmed trees and bushes. The summer has been a whirlwind of activities and events at the Animas Museum.

The LPCHS had a booth at the GEM Show in which we had superb assistance at the booth and wonderful interaction with the visitors.

On July 24 the LPCHS hosted the concert series entertainment at the Secret Gardens in association with the Community Foundation. Rain was not our friend that night but we soldiered on. We made \$1700 for our part from the Community Foundation. On July 31, I was on the Community Foundation radio show to help support the concert series.

Museum attendance was fantastic throughout the month especially compared to last year's fire season.

August- I attended a Ballantine Reception in Bayfield on August 22 where Richard discussed his support for all the nonprofits.

On August 24 we hosted our annual Culinary Heritage Dinner at the Elks Lodge. The overall numbers were down from last year- 48 seats sold compared to 64.

Amber attended at Four Corners Museum Committee Emergency Training workshop on August 26. We need to make minor changes to our plan but we are way ahead of the curve thanks to Carolyn, Kathy, Amber and whomever else helped a few years back in creating our plan.

The Animas City School Reunion brought a dozen alumni back to their old school house on September 7. Kathy prepared all the refreshments. It is always a good time when you meet old classmates.

September was Colorado History Month and the Animas Museum did its part by hosting a living history day called Animas Museum Live! on September 14 starting at 10 and ending at 3, the Animas Museum grounds and buildings were filled with visitors viewing living historians, foodways interpretations, live music, classroom programs and just about every customer service program we have produced. SKA brewed a special brew for us- Kellenberger raspberry julip. Amber's tamales, Zia, LPC Ag, apple press and lemonade were a hit. Over 400 people attended. The event was sponsored by Jeff Johnson, LPEA, DSNRR, Alpine Bank and City Market. The entire event was sponsored by Colorado Humanities.

School tours were also a hit in September. We had over 300 school children toured the Animas Museum throughout the month.

On October 8 we held a ceremony for Loisa Bass at the Greenmont Cemetery. Loisa died 101 years ago and was buried without a headstone. This past year we promoted a headstone fundraiser so that Loisa can forever be remembered. Family Craft Memorials created the headstone and the City of Durango provided chairs for the event. Pastor Jeff Huber from FUMC gave a historical sermon while I gave an overview of the program.

Amber conducted a meeting on emergency planning on October 16 so that we can updated our emergency plans and book. Our plans are the envy of the other historic sites.

On October 30 we held one of the most important events of the history of the Animas City School. The School was presented a plaque naming it on the National List of Historic Places. Dignitaries from the federal, state, county and local governments were on hand along with the Durango Chamber of Commerce. Before and after the event we provided Halloween activities for all ages. The City of Durango FD and PD also helped us with fire and safety tips.