

La Pilita Museum

Free Lecture Series

Sick to Death in Arizona

Made possible by the Arizona Humanities Council.

All lectures begin at 6:30 pm.

Please R.S.V.P. to La Pilita Museum 882-7454. Seating is limited.



October 25th , Descansos: Marking Passages

Speaker: Dr. Barbara Jaquay

The conquistadors began the tradition of marking the location of deaths in the Americas with a cross. Crosses or "*descansos*," meaning "rest" in Spanish, were placed at the location that the death occurred. *Descansos* served both as a remembrance for the departed and as a place of rest for weary travelers. The automobile has had a dramatic impact on the role of the *descansos*. The increased numbers and types of roadside memorials have created a need by states' departments of transportation to implement policies for dealing with the shrine. This talk will examine the historical evolution of the *descanso*, the various crosses and the memorabilia placed with the cross, and states' policies on the placement of roadside shrines.

January 29th , Women's Health in Territorial Arizona: Local Healers, Proprietary Medicines, & Frontier Docs:
Speaker: Ann Hibner-Koblitz

When people think of ordinary women's lives in the frontier west, they often assume that their access to health care must have been almost non-existent. Yet indigenous people have lived here for



millennia, and

developed an effective pharmacopoeia for dealing with many women's ailments. And as European colonizers pushed westward, so too did midwives, doctors, homeopaths, proprietary medicine salespeople, and traditional healers from many nations. This presentation discusses women's ailments and healing alternatives in Territorial Arizona and the Southwest during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Among the topics addressed will be: women's health movements, home remedy books, indigenous herbal remedies, nervous conditions, "womb troubles," childbirth options, frontier doctors, and views on menopause and aging.

April 10th , What Do We Do with Our Ancestors?

Speaker: Alan Dart

Many archaeologists have held a view that all materials left behind by ancient peoples -- including human remains -- are proper subjects for scientific study. However, many people, including many Native Americans, believe human remains and grave objects should not be subjected to any kind of destructive scientific studies if they are studied at all, and that when they are disturbed they should be

respectfully reburied. Dart uses this presentation to explore some of the reasoning behind these disparate viewpoints on how to treat the remains of our ancestors, and asks members of the audience to discuss what should be done when human remains and grave objects come to light in archaeological excavations.