



The
Brinton
Museum

2020 YEAR END NEWSLETTER
vol. 21 no. 1



George Bellows (1882-1925), *Dempsey Through the Ropes*, lithograph

2021 Calendar of Events

February 14 to March 1

All-Schools Fifth Grade Student Art Show

February 14 to March 7

16th Illustrator Show - A Look Back at the First 15 Years

March 13 to May 9

Fiber Arts, Small Expressions

March 13 to July 14

***Bravery, Beauty & Sacred Power:
The Cheyenne, Crow, Lakota & Blackfeet Portraits of
Edward S. Curtis***

May 15 to September 6

T. Allen Lawson: Recollections and Reflections

July 10 to September 5

The Art of Robert Martinez

September 11 to October 17

***Bravery, Beauty & Sacred Power:
The Cheyenne, Crow, Lakota & Blackfeet Portraits of
Edward S. Curtis***

September 11 to October 17

Artists in Residence Exhibit

October 23 to December 19

Kent McCain - Classical Realism

October 23 to December 19

Cemetery Show

Northern Trust Gallery Exhibits:

May

Chessney Sevier

June

Gabrielle Reeves

July

Martin Garhart

August

Jim Jurosek

September

Stephanie Rose

From the Chairman of the Board

Robert G. Berger *President, Board of Directors*

We are looking forward to 2021 when we can view the year 2020 with 20/20 hindsight. Needless to say, a worldwide pandemic has not been kind to The Brinton Museum.

Ironically, we finished work on our updated five-year strategic plan in the first weeks of 2020. We note a variance between the plan and first year results. (Warning: understatement.) Naturally, we have seen visitor numbers fall, Bistro service reduced, major events such as the gala and many weddings cancelled, our balanced budget interrupted by COVID reality, and great art shows viewed by relatively few.

Knowing, however, that we have weathered the storm and charted our path forward, we await a bright, new day. Our supporters remain loyal. Historic

buildings renovations were completed. Our new pavilion is in operation. The parking lot is expanded. The walkway approaching our Forrest E. Mars, Jr. building has a fresh look. New nature trails are in use. New exhibits are scheduled. A new year approaches.

Of utmost importance, our new Director of Operations, Kendra Heimbeck, is ready to help navigate our way forward in the most positive direction. The board is anxious for everyone to meet her and see the great strengths she brings to this position.

All is well, if we keep our focus on our recent improvements, our future plans, and the fact that we remain financially secure. We appreciate the continuing support of those who love The Brinton Museum.

Director's Ruminations

The iconic Bellows image of *Dempsey Through the Ropes* on the cover of this newsletter comes from our own permanent collection, and as many of you know Bradford Brinton was not only a fan of the pugilistic arts but also sponsored local boxers. We use the image here because it basically depicts the assessment of The Brinton Museum's staff, myself included, of how we and our institution have dealt with the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020. Taken at face value one might suspect that we have been leveled by this powerful blow, however those of you with a knowledge of pugilism in America are aware that this scene depicts an event in round one of the World Heavy Weight Championship Fight between Jack Dempsey and Luis Firpo in September of 1923, a fight Dempsey would win in the following round by a knockout.

Like Dempsey TBM has suffered greatly from the COVID-19 Pandemic, visitation is down (6,964 from 20,008 in 2019), our event business which comprises the largest amount of our operations revenue was cut to a fraction of what we had expected and our biggest fundraiser, the Brinton Gala had to be cancelled, exhibition receptions and educational events have been forced online. And, if that were not enough bad news, our bright and multitalented Chief of Operations, Joel Wardell, departed in July. Adding to our misfortune, on July 27 we lost our highly valued friend and Brinton Board of Directors Member Andrew G. Cope (1941-2020), so to say that the year has been a struggle is to put it mildly.

Rather than see 2020 as a loss, we prefer to see it as a defining moment in our institutional history. We have upped the level of visitor engagement at our institution with the opening of our *The Quarter Circle A Nature*

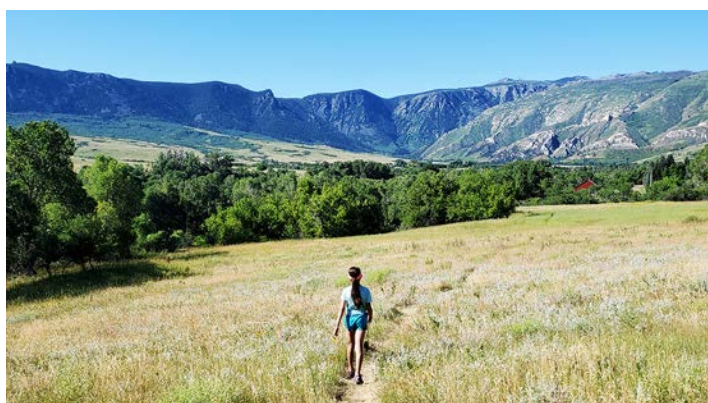
Trail. Two plus miles of the loveliest nature walk one can have along Little Goose Creek, and all within a pristine riparian area which Helen Brinton preserved for future generations through her will back in 1960. We also unveiled our newly restored Milk House, complete with running water. Equally worthy of mention is the refinishing of the floors in the Brinton House which have taken us right back to the time (1923-1936) of Ol' Bradford himself, complete with the old boy's original Lord & Taylor table and chairs in his dining room, at which legend tells, he broke bread with an author named Hemingway. As proud as a well-read man like Bradford Brinton would be of his literary connections, he would have been even prouder of his Horse Barn across Little Goose Creek. Like Bradford's original Wyoming dining room furniture, the Brinton Horse Barn was part of *the grounds tour* for the first time in forever. In addition, we have our new Helen Brinton Education Pavilion for you to rest under, grab a drink of water and perhaps use the WC. This fabulous new space also served as home to our 2020 Brinton Summer Art Camp and The Bighorn Rendezvous and in the future will host numerous artist workshops and other events. Thanks to the generous support of First Interstate Bank, General Admission is FREE for 2020, so come view our *New England Artists Paint in Big Horn* as well as our *Brinton Artists in Residence Show*. In November we unveil this year's iteration of *The Brinton 101*.



Helen Brinton Education Pavilion

The Brinton Museum was dealt a Knockdown by this Pandemic, but certainly not a *Knockout*. We have an innovative and resilient staff, a wise and supportive Board of Directors, diverse, generous and caring patrons, and a museum which really is part of the land on which it sits, so our comeback is assured, and I thank you for your support.

Kenneth L. Schuster
Director & Chief Curator



Quarter Circle A Nature Trail

Exhibitions & Education

Barbara McNab *Curator of Exhibitions*

Looking back at challenges and successes ...

The Brinton's first spring print competition *Printmaking in the Rockies and on the Great Plains* featured artists from fourteen states from throughout the region and opened in March, right when COVID-19 hit. A Celebrate The Arts reception that would have happened in April was cancelled. Nonetheless, a fabulous video produced in-house highlighted each artist in the show and included an educationally informative tutorial on the various printmaking processes. The exhibit *Takuwe* was featured in the S. K. Johnston, Jr. Family Gallery during the summer and focused on contemporary artwork, poems and songs by forty-six Lakota artists. Each created work telling the story of the heartbreaking December 29, 1890 Wounded Knee massacre at Pine Ridge and those who lost their lives on that day. The Center for American Indian Research and Native Studies curator Craig Howe, Ph.D. narrated a highly informative video on truths about this tragic event; he also adeptly enumerated on the intergenerational perspectives represented by several of the artists in their art. Both videos mentioned here are available online.

Not all the museum's 2020 programs were solely virtual. This year's Summer Art Camp was held in the new Helen Brinton Education Pavilion. Bighorn Rendezvous Quickdraw successfully followed in September with participating artists from the *Artists in Residence* show and also artists from *New England Artists Paint in Big Horn* exhibit. Three awards were announced at the Saturday evening dinner. Bruce Graham from Utah received the Western Art & Architecture Award for his nocturnal landscape, *Sun and Moon Over Pathfinder*. Gregory Packard was thrilled to receive Brinton Best In Show for his winter landscape, *Winter Flush*, on display in the *Artists in Residence* exhibit. Jacqueline Jones featured in the *New England Artists Paint in Big Horn* exhibit, received People's Choice for her painting, *Last Errand*, a nostalgically sentimental depiction of the historic Mercantile on a moonlit night. In October, Northern Cheyenne ethnobotanist and Native storyteller Linwood Tall Bull presented an educational lecture "Journey of the Cheyenne people, when we made friends with the wolves" in honor of American Indian Celebration Day.

Linwood's American Indian programs are of great interest on so many levels and we are fortunate to have him as a member of the institution's American Indian Advisory Council.

To accommodate educators unable to schedule school tours to The Brinton during the COVID-19 pandemic, we've introduced Suitcase Lesson Plans designed for teachers to use in the classroom. Suitcase Lesson Plan content focuses on art and topics that have a direct connection to Wyoming and the diversity of peoples who lived here who helped shape, or were shaped by, the culture and economy of the state. The first in this series concentrates on the artist Marie Dorothy Dolph who painted and sold more than 1,400 scenic landscape oils, most of them miniatures, in Jack E. Hayne's stores in Yellowstone during the Great Depression. The Brinton's Suitcase Lesson Plans - literally educational programs packaged in an easy-to-carry Samsonite suitcase - are available free to the schools. For more information, call the museum's education department at 307-763-5924 or email Barbara McNab at bmcnab@thebrintonmuseum.org

Ending the season, this year's *Brinton 101* small works show includes a roster of familiar faces and also new artists presenting a variety of work. Not to be overlooked, the Northern Trust Gallery series of exhibits featured art by Sonja Caywood, Vanessa Compton, Ellen Dudley, John Giarrizzo and Connie Robinson. Remember to follow us on Facebook and on TBM's website to stay informed of upcoming exhibits and events.

We extend our heartfelt thanks for everyone's incredible support this past year, and we look forward to a vibrant, and successful 2021!



Dr. Craig Howe discusses *We Will Pray Where We Please* by Kim Soo Goodtrack, featured in the *Takuwe* exhibit



Printmaker Jim Jereb teaches monotype printing at TBM's 2020 Summer Art Camp



Artist Greg Packard chats with Brinton members, Doug and Sue Moomey, during the Bighorn Rendezvous Quickdraw event



Marie Dorothy Dolph (1884-1979), *Center Street*, oil

Featured in *The Brinton 101*



A Mountain Pond, oil by Jake Gaedtke from Bozeman, MT



Red Canyon--The Road Less Traveled, fused glass and mosaic by Marianne Vinich from Lander, WY



Side Handled Coffee Pot with Pour-over, soda-fired stoneware, by Rod Dugal from Sheridan, WY

American Indian Dolls

Lacasa Michelenia Assistant Curator

We are happy to announce new additions to the *To Honor The Plains Nations* exhibition. Six amazing contemporary American Indian dolls created by Lakota artist Rhonda Holy Bear (b. 1959) and two exceptional Indé (Apache) dolls from ca. 1867 are on view courtesy of the Foundation for the Preservation of American Indian Art & Culture, Inc., Father Peter Powell and Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. Hunter, Jr.

Holy Bear's dolls, which act as story tellers and teaching tools about American Indian culture, are dressed in historically accurate clothing created with meticulous detail. The Field Museum in Chicago, Illinois, recently held an exhibition of her work, *Full Circle/Omani Wakan: Lakota Artist Rhonda Holy Bear*, November 2016 to January 2019, and several of her works are currently on exhibit at the Heard Museum's *Grand Procession: Contemporary Plains Indian Dolls from the Charles and Valerie Diker Collection*.

The Indé (Apache) dolls are clothed in hide dresses and decorated with delicate beadwork and fringe; these dolls would have been carried by a young girl until her coming of age Sunrise Blessing Ceremony. One of the

dolls wears a ceremonial T-shaped beaded necklace and perhaps this doll was used to teach an Indé girl about the rite of passage to womanhood. We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to share all of these dolls with our visitors.



Indé' (Apache) Dolls courtesy of the Foundation for the Preservation of American Indian Art & Culture, Inc., Father Peter Powell



American Indian Dolls by Rhonda Holy Bear

On the Grounds

Andy Sutphin *Facilities Manager/Naturalist*

With COVID-19 slowing down most indoor activities, it gave us a great excuse to get outside and enjoy nature. The new 2.4 mile **Quarter Circle A Nature Trail** was a big hit this summer. Numerous visitors from all over the country strapped on their hiking boots and hit the trail. The trail provides folks with the chance to get outside and enjoy beautiful views of the mountains, Little Goose Creek, and the opportunity to see an array of wildlife. Some notable species observed this year were black bear, mink, porcupine, and peregrine falcon. **The Quarter Circle A Nature Trail** will be shut down this winter beginning November 1st, for maintenance and to prevent injury to hikers due to inclement conditions. The trail will reopen in the spring when the weather improves.

The **Helen Brinton Education Pavilion** was completed this spring and got a lot of use this summer, beginning with a fantastic Father's Day Brunch. **Summer Art Camp** took advantage of the space and facilities in July and the **Bighorn Rendezvous Quickdraw** in September. The Pavilion is equipped with two restrooms, outdoor lighting, electrical outlets and plenty of space for activities. It's great for birthday parties too! Contact Brinton Events Planner, Jenn Dart for information on renting the pavilion.

Museum Store News

If you haven't been in the Brinton Museum Store lately, you're in for a treat. The Museum Store has been completely revamped and has a number of new, unique items.

We are now carrying silk scarves from **Wild Wild Rags**, including the Buck Brannaman-inspired "Houlihan" designs. These are generous Vaquero style scarves that are 42" x 42" with hand-rolled edges. There's no better way to show your Western spirit than with a practical and attractive scarf!

With the holiday season rapidly approaching, the Museum Store is also a good place to shop for chocolates from **Ethel M**. We have a great selection of chocolate-covered espresso beans and cherries, historical Mars candy bars, chocolate bars, and boxes of chocolates. Ethel M is named after Forrest Mars' mother and is the maker of some of the finest chocolates in the country.

Master leather-artisan, James Jackson, who makes his home at the Quarter Circle A Leather Workshop, has work available for immediate sale in the Museum Store.

As always, we have a great collection of children's gifts, unique, hand-crafted jewelry, fine art to fit every budget, and books about the area, the art, and the American Indian.

The Museum Store is open 10 – 4, Thursday through Monday. Brinton Museum Members receive a 10% discount. We look forward to serving you!



Brinton Bistro

We would like to thank everyone for supporting the **Brinton Bistro** this year. It was a rocky time, but we tried to make the best of it with our Mobile Platform of Gourmet Goodness and **Cooking with Jesse**.

While the daily operation of the Bistro has been suspended for the season, **we are booking private dinners and holiday parties**. An evening get-together at the Brinton Museum is a truly beautiful and unique experience. We have a full bar and the ability to create any type of food you wish. Call us today to book your event!

The Brinton Bistro will open again next season. Our format may change, but you will still be able to enjoy food and drinks out on the patio and indoors, all while taking in the best view in the area.

Fundraising News and Year-End Appeal 2020

In this time of social distancing and staying close to home and loved ones, **we have missed so many of our members, donors, and volunteers!** After an extra-long winter/spring break staff and operations continued here at the museum in spite of many cancellations, which unfortunately also included our **Annual Brinton Gala**; however, our expenses of running the institution continued as well. With a revised and slashed budget of less than \$2 million this year, every day of running the museum still costs almost \$5,500.

During the spring and summer we participated in two online fundraising efforts, **Giving Tuesday Now**, and **WyoGives**. The latter fundraiser, for our horse barn project, jump-started with a matching gift challenge from the Denison and Bernard Families, brought in \$21,000 of the \$40,000 goal. TBM came in third on the leaderboard of 130 participating Wyoming charities and garnered a \$915 match from the Ellbogen Foundation! A big **THANK YOU** to all who participated and contributed! The National Advisory Council, at their meeting on September 15th, agreed to assist with raising the remaining funds for the barn renovation. In the meantime, the Horse Barn has already been a major attraction of the buildings and grounds tour this summer! Also, the Gala Committee not only helped solicit funds “**for the Gala that wasn’t**”, in addition the committee members procured seven lovely gift baskets for a raffle, the winners were drawn during the Bighorn Rendezvous.

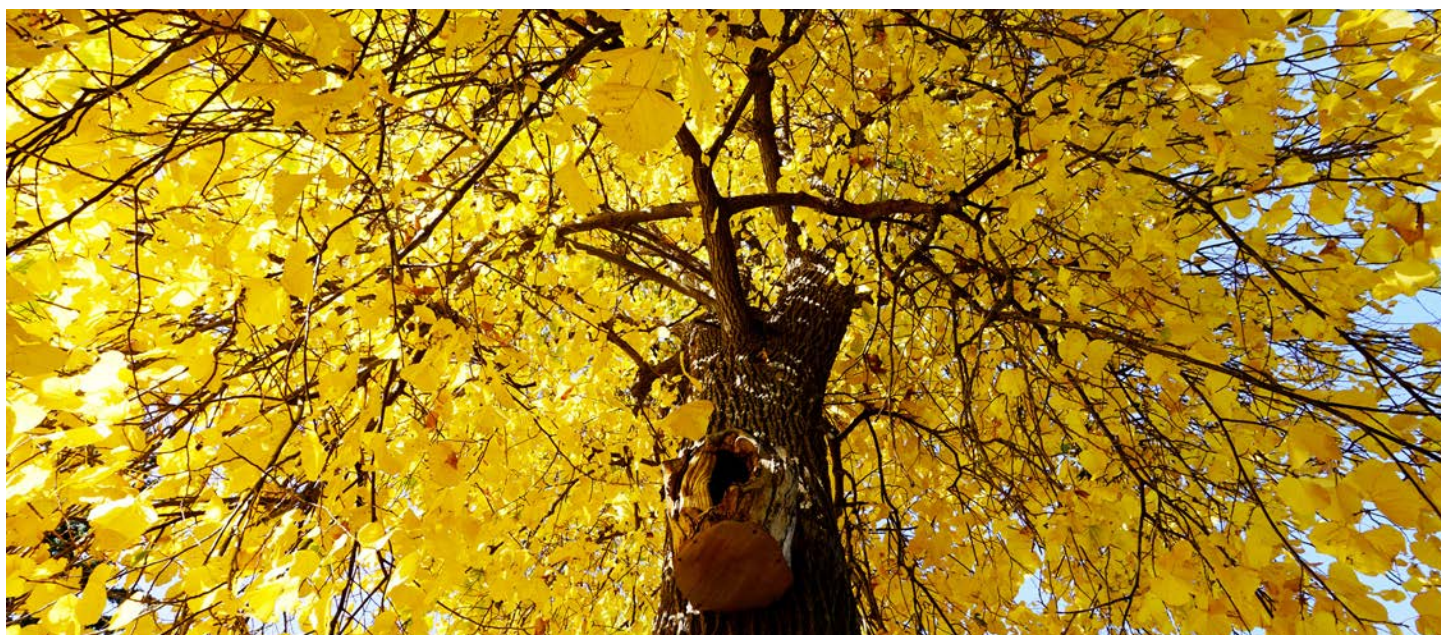
Going into fall and winter, with the lovely yellows, oranges and reds making the trees sparkle against the blue sky along the nature trails and the drive, we are gathering momentum for our major fund drive for 2020, the **Year-End Appeal**. After such a positive response to last year’s year-end appeal (53 donors and \$125,050 in donations, **THANK YOU!**) we hope that you will consider continuing your support of The Brinton Museum this year since **your gifts are now more important than ever** as we try to weather these uncertain times. Please take the time to peruse the enclosed envelope and consider making a gift to the Brinton today! If you have a very specific gift or memorial in mind or would like to discuss a legacy gift, please give me a call!

With warmest regards and best wishes for your continued health and safety,

Barbara Schuster
Development Director

Ways to Donate:

1. Contact Barbara Schuster, Development
307-763-5933 or bschuster@TheBrintonMuseum.org
2. Go to our website: TheBrintonMuseum.org
3. Use the Year-End-Appeal envelope in this newsletter



Admission, Memberships and Giving Societies:

The Brinton Museum has been offering **FREE ADMISSION** to all visitors this year! Through a generous donation by **First Interstate Bank**, we are able to waive our admission fees for 2020.

In addition, thanks to a generous grant from **Whitney Benefits, Inc.**, all school groups and individual Sheridan and Johnson County students are still admitted to the museum **free** as well.

For 2020 we have made changes within our **Museum Membership** program and added even **more benefits**. **ALL Brinton Members** receive a **10% Discount in the Brinton Bistro AND the Museum Store**. Other great benefits include Free Guided Tours of the house and grounds, member discounts on ticketed events, early-access to receptions, and invitations to members-only events. We also offer a Senior Discount for Individual, Family and Contributor memberships! Memberships at the Contributor level and above continue to receive R.O.A.M. and NARM museum reciprocity which includes **free admission** to hundreds of participating museums!

Collector Members continue to be part of a very special group of art enthusiasts and receive a limited-edition, numbered fine art print, a 10% discount on all fine art sales, and an invitation to our annual Collector's Event.

New Member Levels:

Individual \$50/Senior \$40

Family \$100/Senior \$80

Contributor \$150/Senior \$120

Sponsor \$300

Collector \$750

Would you like to do more? Become part of **The Brinton Preservation Society!**

With a gift of \$1,000 or more you join an exclusive group of supporters dedicated to the ongoing success of The Brinton Museum. Members of The Brinton Preservation Society receive exclusive benefits and recognition.

Joe DeYong Society \$1,000 - \$2,499

Hans Kleiber Society \$2,500 - \$4,999

Ed Borein Society \$5,000 - \$9,999

Bill Gollings Society \$10,000 - \$19,999

Helen Brinton Society \$20,000 and up



Also new is the **Quarter Circle A Ranch Hands** option with a gift of \$1,892; 1892 being the year the ranch was founded by William Moncreiffe. Your gift directly benefits the upkeep of the historic buildings and ranch property.

If you prefer to make your gift online in easy monthly instalments, we offer a convenient **monthly giving option** online, similar to NPR and PBS. Please ask either Tod or Barbara if you would like to pursue this option and need help in setting up a monthly contribution.

With the Nature Trails completed, we have received several donations for **memorial benches** and sponsored signage pointing out various features to observe along the trail. Please contact the museum if you are interested in sponsoring a bench or a sign for the trails.

Of course, in addition to these choices there are also many different options available for **Corporate Sponsorship** starting at \$1,000 (Bronze). Please contact Tod Windsor for more information.



Corporate Sponsors

Platinum: First Interstate Bank & First Interstate BancSystem Foundation

Gold: RAMACO Carbon

Bronze: HUB International Mountain States Ltd
First Federal Bank & Trust

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Charley and Penny Whiton
Andy & Doogie Wilson
Todhunter & Marjorie Windsor

Donations in Memory of or in Honor of:

The Brinton Museum offers many opportunities to **honor** friends and family on special occasions either with a **tribute** or a **gift membership**. Other ways to contribute include making a **Memorial Donation** to remember a loved one or a **Bequest** to leave a lasting legacy.

The Brinton Museum recognizes tribute gifts and memorials in many ways, including hand-written cards to the honoree or to the family of the deceased, and listings in our newsletter. Please let us help you create a special memorial, or honor a friend with a thoughtful gift.

Recent DONATIONS received by the museum in MEMORY or in HONOR of:

In Memory of **Jeanie Wallop, Countess Carnarvon**
John H. & Deecie Denison
Isabel Wallop

In Memory of **William H. Porter**
Rick & Lisa Porter

In Honor of **Tracy & Bob Boyle**
James & Julie Alexandre

In Memory of **Mary Burgess**
Lee Helvey

In Memory of **Timothy John Urfer**
Julie, Pam & Sheila Volkmann
Nancy Marquess
Kendall & Joseph Hartman

In Memory of **Torrey and Adrienne Johnson**
Dr. Harold Stanley Javitz & Mrs. Tempe Almond Javitz

In Honor of the **2020 Gala Committee**
Isabel Wallop

In Honor of the **Brinton Museum Endowment Fund**
Isabel Wallop

In Honor of **Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow**
Mardell Hogan Plainfeather

In Honor of **Dr. Meredith H. Miller**
Ruth Miller

In Honor of **Ken and Barbara Schuster**
Kim Morton

In Honor of **Lyliana and Michael Graber**
Ken & Barbara Schuster

In Memory of **Forrest E. Mars, Jr.**
Dan & Kathy Riggs
Ken & Barbara Schuster

In Memory of **Richard Evans**
Suzanne Evans

Please contact Barbara Schuster if you would like to make a special gift or find out more about Legacy Giving. The Brinton Museum is able to accept stock gifts, bequests, as well as contributions from Donor Advised Funds and IRA Distributions. Please let us know if you would like to discuss including the Brinton in your plans for charitable giving. And if you have already included the Brinton in your will, **thank you!**

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Stay current with The Brinton Museum!



In the upcoming year, The Brinton plans on sending out more mailings to keep you up-to-date on our exhibits and events. We also send out periodic emails, both to keep you informed and to extend special offers to our members. Our website is always current with what's going on at the Quarter Circle A Ranch.

- Visit our website: TheBrintonMuseum.org
- Make sure you are subscribed to our email list (click on the “newspaper” icon at the top of our website).
- Follow us on Facebook (@TheBrinton, @BrintonBistro)
- Make sure we have your current mailing address! Our system allows multiple addresses, so if you spend part of the year at another address, let us know and we can make sure you get your Brinton mail.