OCTOBER 2026 VOLUME 13

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Oppenheimer House Construction Update

Exciting progress continues at the Oppenheimer House as construction enters its final stage! The plumbing team is installing new sewer and water lines, along with a new boiler and radiators. Meanwhile, the electricians have installed the new 200-amp transformer pad, and both the interior and exterior painting are complete. Painters will return for final touch-ups once the electrical work is finished.

The new oak flooring has also been installed, and it is an exact match to the original flooring!

Fun Fact: The history of the house continues in an unexpected way through this renovation. Shawn, the owner of the company installing the new flooring, is the great-grandson of the owner of Royal Oak, the company that installed the house's original flooring in 1929. Nearly a century later, the connection between these two generations brings a special piece of history full circle! (Shawn is not pictured.)



Plumbers installing the new boiler



Floor installation in Living Room



New ADA Compliant Front Doors



New efficient radiators



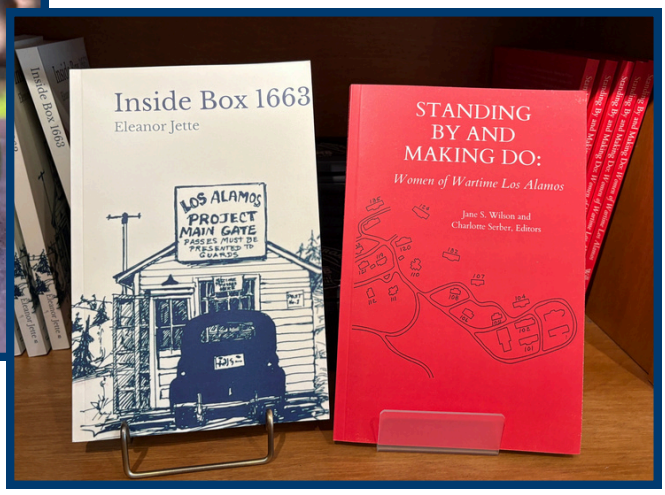
May Connell's and the Oppenheimer's bedroom, with new oak floor and original 1929 fir ceiling exposed.

News from the Museum Gift Shop

Our Museum Gift Shop has been hard at work launching new products for our visitors, especially ahead of our busy season with Balloon Fiesta traffic and holiday shopping. We are proud to be the unique retailer of many Los Alamos and Manhattan Project-themed items, with several of our items made locally here in New Mexico. Our shop is supported by science and history enthusiasts alike, as well as tourists who love a radiation symbol attached to the Los Alamos name.

Most recently, we started to carry custom rubber ducks in the likeness of Oppenheimer and Groves. These have quickly become crowd favorites and are flying off our shelves - virtually and physically! Some people love having a unique duck for their Jeep collection, while others enjoy the character of the duck, and we've seen our younger visitors engage and ask questions about these two men from seeing such an interesting representation. Our ducks are available for $15 each or the pair for $25.





We've also brought back two of the most-loved Bathtub Row Press books! Standing By and Making Do and Inside Box 1663 can both be found in our shop and on Amazon as an e-book. These books share the unique perspectives and stories of women who lived and worked in Los Alamos during the Manhattan Project. They are consistently favorites recommended by our docents and we are thrilled to have them back on our shelves!

Other crowd favorites include our Los Alamos design t-shirt, with a design that honors both the scenery and the culture of the town. It has quickly become our best-selling design and a favorite among our staff.

Our Oppenheimer Bobbleheads were recently featured as part of a clue on JEOPARDY! We've recently updated our bobbleheads to be displayed in a custom box, helping them look more like a collectible and display item.

If you're looking for a unique place for gifts this holiday season, check out our store in person or online at lahistorymuseumshop.square.site. You'll find a wide array of books (including several new titles on the Manhattan Project), kitchen items, decor, ornaments, and unique collectables (like martini glasses featuring Oppenheimer's martini recipe).



November 10, 2026 Lecture

FALL 2026

LOS ALAMOS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lecture Series

Square Pegs into Round Holes: The Air Force and Nuclear Weapons in Limited War, 1950–1960

FEATURING: DR. EDWARD KAPLAN



Dean of the Army War College

November 10, 2026

7:00–9:00 PM

Pajarito Room, Fuller Lodge

Book Signing to Follow

2026-2027 LECTURE SERIES SPONSORED BY ENTERPRISE BANK AND TRUST

ENTERPRISE BANK & TRUST

Our First Two Lectures of the Season Were a Hit!

Our 2026–2027 Lecture Season has gotten off to a strong start! We have been pleased to welcome large audiences to each of our lectures so far.

In September, we hosted Roslyn Franken, speaker and author of *Meant to Be*. Roslyn shared the remarkable story of her parents' survival during World War II — her father as a prisoner of war in Japan and her mother in Nazi concentration camps. Her inspirational message of survival and life after tragedy touched our audience. If you missed her lecture, you can purchase her book, *Meant to Be: A True Story of Might, Miracles, and Triumph of the Human Spirit*, in the Museum Shop.





In October, we welcomed Gary Powers Jr., son of U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers. He discussed the famous U-2 Incident involving his father, the subsequent spy exchange, and his work as a consultant for the film *Bridge of Spies*. His unique perspective as the son of a prominent Cold War figure offered the audience new insight into this period of American history. If you missed his lecture, you can find his book, *Spy Pilot: Francis Gary Powers, the U-2 Incident, and a Controversial Cold War Legacy,* in the Museum Shop.

Thank you to Enterprise Bank and Trust for their sponsorship which has enabled us to bring in such wonderful speakers this season!





HELPFUL LINKS

Scan QR Code for links

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