



## Preserving Santa Fe since 1926



OSFA's Pen La Farge, with Daniel Kosharek of the Museum of New Mexico's Photo Archives, signs the film collection agreement (page 3).



Citizens debate the proposed senior living facility on Old Pecos Trail. The July city council meeting was held at Santa Fe High School's gym to accommodate the large crowd. (Courtesy Clyde Mueller/The New Mexican).

## OSFA Opposes MorningStar and El Rio Projects

Public debates land-use policies and future development

News analysis by Barbara Harrelson

The summer heat in 2015 extended to hotly contested debates in Santa Fe on two proposals that pitted neighborhoods against developers. With one project, El Rio, defeated, and the other, MorningStar, stymied by threatened legal action, the public discourse continued at high pitch.

Residents expressed themselves in letters to the editor, with petitions, in neighborhood gatherings, and at meetings of the planning commission and city council. Critics of the city's inconsistent and inappropriate land-use decisions called for better planning—and reforms in the early neighborhood notification (ENN) process.

Developers and the Chamber of Commerce were equally vocal about what they saw as obstruction from NIMBYism. Expressing frustration, they cautioned that critical economic development, especially in the still

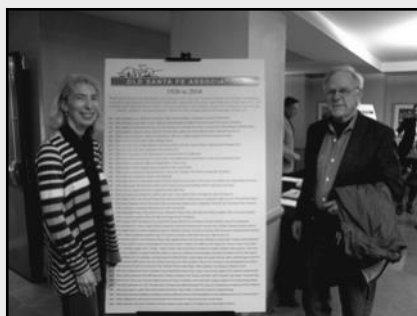
struggling construction industry, will be stalled if ingrained resistance to development prevails.

Finding common ground often seemed elusive. If Santa Fe is (again) at a turning point, our success or failure at reaching consensus, at influencing government decisions, will have far-reaching impact. (See commentary on page 6.)

OSFA urged defeat of the 399-unit El Rio apartment complex on Old Agua Fria because the scale of the development was too large, and not appropriate to the largely rural area around the historic El Camino Real. The city council's June 24 vote to deny the project was unanimous.

The proposed 84-unit MorningStar assisted-living facility on Old Pecos Trail was in limbo as this issue of *El Boletín* closed, with the city council to

(Continued on page 7)



Elizabeth Bradley and Mac Watson at the Preservation Awards event (page 4).

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# Message from the President

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*Historic Santa Fe Foundation*

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jmgonzales@santafenm.gov

### District 1

Patti Bushee 955-2345  
pjbush@sanatfenm.gov  
Signe I. Lindell 955-6812  
silindell@santafenm.gov

### District 2

Peter Ives 955-6816  
pnives@santafenm.gov  
Joseph M. Maestas 955-6815  
jmaestas@santafenm.gov

### District 3

Carmichael Dominguez 955-6814  
cadominguez@santafenm.gov  
Christopher Rivera 955-6818  
cmrivera@santafenm.gov

### District 4

Bill Dimas 955-6817  
bdimas@santafenm.gov  
Ron Trujillo 955-6811  
rstrujillo@santafenm.gov

One of OSFA’s continuing concerns is long-term planning by the city and county, coupled with the need for residents to advocate for the kind of city they want to live in. This issue of *El Boletín* reflects these concerns, especially the recent public debates, often heated and divisive, on proposed developments in Santa Fe this year.

Such matters are always calling us to action. Our long-term concerns are both specific and general—what will happen to St. Catherine’s Indian School? How can we develop consensus on an updated City General Plan to guide us through the coming years?

We have shorter-term concerns, such as the MorningStar and El Rio proposals, the old trees in Sena Plaza and in the courtyard of the Palace of the Governors—and appointments to the Santa Fe Planning Commission and to the Historic Districts Review Board (HDRB). At the mayor’s request, we expressed our views on criteria for HDRB candidates, and we will continue to monitor future board decisions.

We are involved in saving the Old Pecos Trail, and the Red Caboose in the Railyard. We are supporting the restoration of the Palace of the Governors, as well as the proposed WPA/CCC museum in the National Park Service building on Old Santa Fe Trail.

Responding to threats to an historic Santa Fe treasure, OSFA created a task force to save the Francisca Hinojos House on Palace Avenue. The register-listed house, damaged by fire in February 2013, is now undergoing “demolition by neglect.” The task force hopes to find a buyer(s) to restore this historically significant property, and we are assisting with a development plan. (See page 11.)

We have a new water committee to monitor city water policies, to track

water resources in the city and county, and the Santa Fe River.

Again, OSFA has been vocal about the city’s lack of long-term planning. Too many decisions are made in a case-by-case manner, creating a patchwork of incoherent policies. Thereby, neighborhoods can never be certain of their future, whether they can rely on established zoning or risk being overridden by development when “spot zoning” changes are approved.

As I expressed to the Southeast Neighborhood Association (SENA), which is fighting the MorningStar proposal, their concern with inappropriate development is entirely correct, but the greater threat is setting a new precedent if the project goes forward. Should this happen, other developers will expect similar treatment, resulting in the Old Pecos Trail likely to become Cerrillos Road’s little sister.

OSFA is also concerned about the divisiveness and stereotyping heard in recent public disputes over such developments, particularly MorningStar. Some city councilors have been divided along geographic lines, often pitting city districts 1 and 2 against districts 3 and 4, in deciding where the scale of development is most appropriate. More distressing is a perception by some of conflict of interests on the governing body, generated by a further perception of bad faith. We believe this to be incorrect, but the perception, if unchallenged, generates an unhealthy hostility and more division.

For both the long- and short-term, OSFA places the integrity of our town ahead of selfish or shortsighted interests. We are one city, still small enough that policies and actions affect us all. We must find common ground. Your support is both needed and appreciated.

- John Pen La Farge

## OSFA Debuts Film Collection in June

By John Eddy

Some 100 people attended the June 20 public event at the New Mexico History Museum to celebrate the **Old Santa Fe Association Film Collection**—and OSFA's partnership with the New Mexico History Museum/Palace of the Governors Photo Archives.

"Santa Fe in Motion" featured unedited footage shot in 1938 by noted photographer Ernest Knee, depicting varied scenes of northern New Mexico. Also presented was a 1962 German documentary, *Musik Des Wilden Westens* (Music of the Wild West). The black-and-white film highlights music traditions of New Mexico, including artists and musicians of the time, such as Peter Hurd and Tommy Macaione.

Photographer Ernie Knee (1907-1982), who resided in Santa Fe, is best known for his black-and-white photography of the Southwest. Knee's son Eric donated the footage to the Palace Archives in 2009. The State Archives also has copies of this material.

The silent film clips portray farming in northern New Mexico, the Navajo Fair in Window Rock, and the 1938 Santa Fe Fiesta parade, with grotesque effigies of Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini, the villains of the time.

*Musik Des Wilden Westens* is important to OSFA as the inaugural donation to our film collection. The film features the late Bud Hagerman and his wife Kathy, who were drafted as actors in the production.

The Hagerman family's generous donation enhances Santa Fe's historic record. We are extremely grateful that they thought of us when the time came to preserve the film for posterity.

OSFA members conceived of this new initiative in historic preservation when Pen La Farge wanted to restore a home movie of his family. We decided to seek out old-format films, home movies, and other visual material from the attics and garages of Santa Fe residents. The new project, formalized in 2014, will extend OSFA's preservation brand to archival film, expanding awareness of our mission.

We are seeking film material from local families, schools, and other

organizations. OSFA will work with donors wishing to conserve film material, following legal protocols to ensure potential tax benefits and future access to donated material.

OSFA also seeks funds to assist the Palace Archives in

maintaining our collection, ensuring its availability to scholars, filmmakers, historians, and the public. Financial needs include training and tools/equipment for film conversion and dissemination.

***Your financial gift to the Old Santa Fe Association Film Collection will help this important preservation effort grow, providing a new way to experience New Mexico's history and traditions.***



OSFA Board Members Randall Bell and John Pen La Farge with Kathy Hagerman. (Photo Courtesy of Hannah Abelbeck, NMHM/Palace Photo Archives).

### OSFA Participates in ZozoFest 2015—and more!

ZozoFest, presented by the Kiwanis Club before the annual burning of Zozobra, was held at the Railyard on August 29-30, with OSFA participating this year. ZozoFest features a peek at the head of the 50-foot puppet Zozobra—before it burns—and other Fiesta-related activities.

In the 2015 Fiesta de Santa Fe, OSFA collaborated with the **Santa Fe Fiesta Council** and the **Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe** by showing a new digital print of a 1985 film, *Que Vivan las Fiestas!*, produced by the Museum of International Folk Art. OSFA's John Eddy, a film/photography professional, made the print of the film and supervised the screenings, supported by the **International Folk Art Foundation**.

The short film features historic footage from various sources and interviews with prominent Santa Feans, including the history of Zozobra. During ZozoFest, an estimated 300 people saw the film at the old Borders bookstore space at the Sanbusco Market Center, with OSFA board members on hand.

The film then moved to the **Jean Cocteau Cinema**, where it ran prior to multiple screenings of *Ride the Pink Horse*, the 1947 noir classic, shot partly in Santa Fe and featuring the Zozobra ritual.



Courtesy Jean Cocteau Cinema

OSFA was listed as co-host, receiving a portion of each ticket sold, to benefit our film project. We set up information tables at the theater, with OSFA volunteers promoting our film project and recruiting new members.



# 2015 Heritage Preservation Awards

*By Elizabeth Bradley*

The Drury Plaza Hotel was the scene of the 2015 Heritage Preservation Awards ceremony held on May 15. Each year the City of Santa Fe partners with the Old Santa Fe Association (OSFA) and the Historic Santa Fe Foundation (HSFF) to present Heritage Preservation Awards, recognizing outstanding achievements in Santa Fe in historic preservation and design, as well as archaeology. The awards ceremony is held annually during National Historic Preservation Month.

OSFA presented its 2015 Sara Melton Award to **Marilyn Bane**, former OSFA president and active Association leader. This award recognizes those "who honor the character of our beloved city with passion, persistence, intelligence, and commitment in the finest community spirit exemplified by Sara Melton (1930-2006)." Bane's enduring commitment and steadfast efforts on behalf of Santa Fe and its citizens are invaluable, as are her passion and political acumen in pursuing integrity both in historic issues and in city government.

In accepting the award, Bane acknowledged "the outstanding people" who work in historic preservation, including OSFA and HSFF members and volunteers. She also recognized David Rasch and the city's Historic Preservation Division staff; Land Use Director Lisa Martinez, and Sharon Woods, then-chair of the Historic Districts Review Board.

Writer-editor **Paul Weideman** received OSFA's 2015 Cultural Preservation Award for his many illuminating articles in *The Santa Fe New Mexican* (and its *Pasatiempo* and *Home* magazines) that consistently emphasize architectural history and the importance of historical

preservation. Through his careful research and compelling narratives, Weideman has educated and enriched the lives of Santa Feans—consistent with the intent of this particular award. Recipients are those "who have contributed significantly toward maintaining and preserving the priceless cultural assets and traditions of Santa Fe."

OSFA's 2015 Community Service Award went to **Lisa Bemis** for many years of exemplary service on the Santa Fe Planning Commission, and her tireless efforts to preserve the unique character of our city. This award honors those "who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the preservation and advancement of Santa Fe's priceless traditions, and who have contributed significantly to the community spirit of our city."

The Historic Santa Fe Foundation's 2015 Preservation Award recognized **Santa Fe Preparatory School** (Santa Fe Prep) for a sensitive restoration of the Meem Office Building on its campus. Receiving the award were Nicholas Wirth, head of the school's history department, and grandson of architect John Gaw Meem, and Nancy Meem Wirth, the daughter of John Gaw Meem. This was a special moment for the Wirth family, with State Senator Peter Wirth and his wife Carol Romero-Wirth also in attendance.

The City of Santa Fe's Historic Preservation Division Awards for 2015 included the Cultural Preservation Award to the **Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian**, and the Mayor's Award for Excellence in Preservation, presented to the **Drury Plaza Hotel**, Santa Fe. Drury Plaza Hotel is a Lifetime Member of OSFA.



*Marilyn Bane acknowledged the outstanding people who work in historic preservation.*



*Drury Plaza Hotel, Santa Fe, an OSFA Lifetime Member, won the Mayor's Award.*



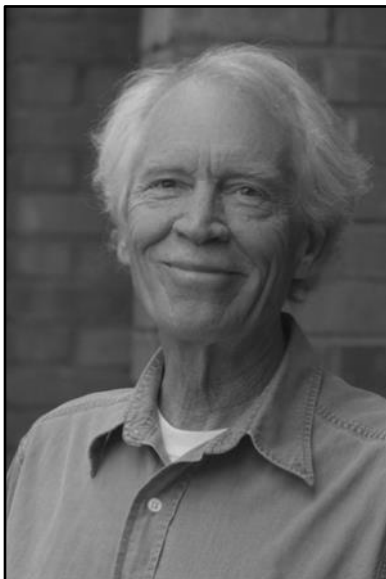
Congratulations to OSFA members Marg VeneKlasen, and brothers Henry and Sam Pick, who were honored as Santa Fe Living Treasures on June 28!



*Marilyn Bane accepts OSFA's Sara Melton Award.*



*Nick Wirth and Nancy Meem Wirth with the Historic Santa Fe Foundation's Preservation Award for Santa Fe Prep.*



*Paul Weideman received OSFA's Cultural Preservation Award . (Photo courtesy of John Eddy).*

## 2015 Heritage Preservation Award Winners



*Lisa Bemis was recognized with OSFA's Community Service Award.*



*Brian Nenninger (second from left) and the team at Drury Plaza Hotel, Santa Fe, accept the Mayor's Award for Excellence in Preservation, with Mayor Javier Gonzales (second from right).*

*Photos courtesy of Rad Acton except where noted.*

# What Do We Want to Be?

*By John Pen La Farge*

*(Modified from commentary published on July 12, 2015, in The New Mexican)*

*"It's a question of whether we'll remain a little old town, or become a modern city with a little bit of old town left in the middle. It's a constant battle. It really is."*

- Irene von Horvath (1918-2007)  
artist, architect, preservationist

***What sort of city do we want to be? Do we want to be a Real City, like Denver and Chicago? Do we want to be Santa Fe, as it has long been understood and valued?***



Given the recent imbroglios over the El Rio project off Agua Fria Street, and the MorningStar proposal on Old Pecos Trail, it is appropriate to consider the future of Santa Fe and what we want our town to be.

The El Rio project sought an R-29 residential density in a commercial zone, a zoning that allows three-story buildings. The MorningStar proposal is for a special exception for an 84-unit assisted-living facility, built with two stories in an area zoned R-1. The problem with each proposal is not one of use but one of density, or intensity. The neighbors do not want their neighborhoods disrupted, even ruined, by developments that are out of character.

A bit of history will give matters perspective.

In the late 1970s, the historic east side created the city's first neighborhood association when a proposal was made to build an inappropriately dense development here, in the oldest neighborhood in the city. When the neighbors objected, they were astounded to learn that our area had been zoned for 21 three-story dwelling-units per acre. How did this happen?

In the early 1960s, our city, being in need of professional zoning, hired a Denver firm to recommend zoning for Santa Fe. The good people from Denver looked at us, said, well, some day you will want to knock down all these mud huts, then put up a Real City—such as Denver or Chicago—so that is how we will zone for the future. Thereby, significant areas of the city were, *and still are*, zoned for 21 three-story dwelling-units per acre.

The Historic Neighborhood Association then took on the task of "down-zoning" our neighborhood to its existing average density of eight units per acre. Some years later, a neighborhood on Juanita Street discovered it had the same problem, and it too rezoned itself for the appropriate and prevailing density.

On the current zoning map of the city, one discovers that significant areas of the city are still zoned for Real City density.

Herewith, we come to the point: Long-term planning. This city has always been poor at planning for its future, and when it has planned, the plans have often been

ignored in favor of "spot-zoning" or whimsical, one-of-a-kind decisions.

*Given recent events, we must think carefully about what sort of city we want.* Do we want intense development, up to three stories, in residential neighborhoods, in commercial neighborhoods, at all? Do we want such development where it will fundamentally alter the character of the surrounding neighborhood? The downtown? The city?

Other problems are attached, especially to El Rio: Building new housing stock will not provide the jobs that are necessary to keep young people in their hometown nor will it attract other youth here. The lack of jobs has been a problem as far back as when my generation came of age, 40 years ago. It has never changed. Building housing for imaginary up-and-coming people holding jobs that are not in evidence is an idea that is hopeful and well intended, but paradoxical.

In discussions about these proposals, I have perceived an undercurrent of brushing aside older generations and long-time residents, with some saying, get out of youth's way, your day is over.

I challenge that. We have lived here and worked to keep the city the sort of place that will, in fact, attract people because it is unique. We have earned respect through action, practical knowledge, and dedication over time. One would think that in a town of 400-plus years that respect for experience and age would not be irrelevant. Those who indulge in contemptuous dismissal would do well to understand that sooner than they believe possible, and given their example, youth will dismiss them with equal contempt.

The central question remains: What sort of city do we want to be? Do we want to be a Real City, like Denver and Chicago? Do we want to be Santa Fe, as it has long been understood and valued? I believe that we cannot be both, that these two visions are antithetical. The citizenry must press our leaders to undertake true planning for the long term, without, then, going back upon the plan when the mood strikes. Further, neighborhoods must be given a real stake. We must think carefully and responsibly, with attention to detail, integrity, character, atmosphere, and a worthwhile future.



# A Stellar Evening to Benefit OSFA

By Barbara Harrelson

"What a pleasure it is to be doing something for something older than I am," said Sally-Jane Heit as she opened her performance for the Old Santa Fe Association on September 3. She followed that crowd-pleasing quip with, "I am adopting your mission statement: *to maintain and preserve the ancient structures.* Here I am!"

About 55 OSFA members and supporters were treated to the rich talent of actress-comedienne Heit in a one-woman show, "For a Woman Her Age," with Santa Fe's inimitable Bert Dalton as musical director.

The audience responded enthusiastically to Sally-Jane's brand of comedy, song, and storytelling in this exclusive cabaret. "The intimate setting in the *sala* of the von Horvath house allowed for easy interaction and audience participation, adding to the enjoyment of us all," said OSFA President John Pen La Farge.

Heit has an extensive career in the theater, on and off Broadway, cabaret,

television, and film. She now tours the country, "giving back" to causes close to her heart, through benefit performances of her original shows. Recipients of her generosity include theaters, universities, and community organizations. And now, OSFA.

A champagne reception followed the performance, with the late-summer weather perfect for a stroll around the gardens.

OSFA inherited the historic Irene von Horvath House at 728 Canyon Road upon von Horvath's death in 2007. It has been leased for several years to **Teresa Neptune** for her art and photography studio. We are extremely grateful to Teresa for graciously making the space available for this event, and its rehearsals.

We extend our thanks also to **Walter Burke Catering** for contributing the delicious desserts.



*OSFA Opposition (Continued from page 1)*

re-visit the controversial matter on October 14. After the governing body narrowly approved the project on July 8, the mayor responded to the ensuing outcry by asking the city council to reconsider its vote and send the proposal back to the planning commission. Unable to get agreement on this action, the mayor postponed deliberations in the hope that the parties involved would be able to reach compromise through mediation, avoiding legal action.

Again, OSFA's position was that the MorningStar facility is inappropriate for the zoning of the area and the

character of the adjoining neighborhoods—and if approved, would set a dangerous precedent for development along the Old Pecos Trail Corridor.

In related actions, Santa Fe County commissioners in August approved tougher rules for sand and gravel mining operations, and other developments with countywide impact, such as landfills and junkyards, while the city council in September approved a large housing development in southwest Santa Fe, Pulte at Las Soleras.

***OSFA continues to urge the city to enforce its own land-use codes, and to update the General Plan approved in 1999.***



*Dan Merians, Jane Reid, Ann Lacy and Elizabeth Bradley*



*Sally-Jane was a singular sensation.*

**OSFA members enjoy an evening of theater and comedy**



*Linda Osborne, Brooke Dulaney, Susan Monroe, Sally-Jane, and Ellen and Bill Dupuy*



*Bert Dalton, Sally-Jane Heit and John Pen La Farge*

*Photos courtesy of Lynette Najimy, Beansprout Productions*



**OLD SANTA FE ASSOCIATION**

*Members as of September 15, 2015*

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Phillip and Eleanor Bové  
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La Fonda on the Plaza  
Los Alamos National Bank  
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Philip Crump and Beverley  
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Mark and Bernadette French  
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Wendell and Harriett Harris  
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Buddy Roybal  
Al and Mary Anne Sanborn  
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Roy and Lori Snable  
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Michael Taylor  
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Alfred Walker  
Pete Warzel  
Suzanne Watkins  
George Watson  
Alan Webber and Frances Diemoz  
Jerry West  
Truel and Joan West  
Nicholas and Hannah Wirth

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Anne Albrink  
David Anderson  
Jane Anderson  
Boni Armijo  
Ellen Bacigalupa  
Joan Brooks Baker  
Dr/Mrs Harris Barber  
Joyce Blalock  
Suby Bowden  
Liane Brown  
Lynn Brown  
Patricia Carlton  
Diana Clanin  
Rebecca Clay  
Blair Cooper  
Mark Cross  
Margaret Detwiler  
Ruth Dillingham  
Connie Dillon  
James H. Duncan, Sr.  
Bill Dupuy  
Ellen Dupuy  
Eleanor Eisenmenger  
James C. Faris

*(Continued on page 10)*



# New Lifetime Members

Accolades are nothing new for the legendary **Elspeth Grant Bobbs**. The longtime OSFA member recently celebrated her 95th birthday, with her friend Pen La Farge among the many well-wishers.

I met her for the first time in the garden of her new residence, the Dower House, in the East Alameda compound named *La Querencia* (beloved home or homeland). Mrs. Bobbs's famous wit was evident as she poked fun at herself for living in the Dower House (in England, the home of the Dowager Duchess), but she shrugged her shoulders with a gleam in her eye that seemed to indicate,

"I am in that stage of life, and this is, after all, my domain."

We talked about the old cottonwood trees making news in Sena Plaza and in the Courtyard of the Palace of the Governors. "Save the trees as long as you can," she advised. I told her that OSFA agreed and recommended that to city officials.

Her love for gardens, roses, and Santa Fe—"it was love at first sight"—along with her lifetime of philanthropy, are well documented. Turn the page for a modified excerpt of a tribute written by OSFA board member Richard McCord, when Mrs. Bobbs was named a Santa Fe Living Treasure in 2008.

- Barbara Harrelson



*The Santa Fe Rose Society's Best Fragrant Rose prize went to Elspeth Bobbs in 2014 (Photo courtesy Connie Helms).*

**La Fonda on the Plaza** is not new to OSFA, but this year decided to become a Lifetime Member. Jennifer Kimball, chief executive of the historic La Fonda on the Plaza, has Santa Fe roots dating back to her childhood. Her family's enduring friendship with Sam and Ethel Ballen, the previous owners of La Fonda, brought her to Santa Fe often. The Ballens were also Lifetime Members of the Old Santa Fe Association.

"I moved here in 1989 and began serving as one of the attorneys for La Fonda, then became chairman of the board when Sam passed away in 2007," Kimball says. She continues to be very active in the Santa Fe community, and is



*Jennifer Kimball*

committed to honoring the historic character of the city—and especially that of the iconic La Fonda on the Plaza.

Under her leadership, the family-owned hotel has received historic preservation awards from both the city and the state for two significant renovation projects, and a new hotel proposal was recently approved by the H-board.

La Fonda is now listed on the Historic Santa Fe Foundation's Register of Resources Worthy of Preservation as an important example of the Spanish-Pueblo Revival style of architecture identified with historic Santa Fe.



*La Fonda on the Plaza (Photo courtesy of La Fonda on the Plaza)*

**Barbara Pohlman** first came to Santa Fe in the early 60s and fell in love with the architecture and historic qualities of the town. Now retired, she resides in Los Angeles and Santa Fe.

Barbara has been for decades a top interior designer completing commissions throughout the country and beyond, including several significant historic ranch properties in New Mexico.

She decided to join OSFA as a Lifetime Member after discussions with her friend Randy Bell (OSFA vice president). Barbara believes strongly that Santa Fe's architectural heritage is unique in North America, and she supports OSFA in its mission of preserving the historic architecture, lifestyle and culture of this exceptional community.

*Members (Continued from page 8)*

Joan M. Fox  
 Lisa Freeman  
 John and Teresa Greenfield  
 Jim Harrington  
 Katherine Hagerman  
 Ray Herrera  
 Jack Hiatt  
 Bruce and Nancy Hutchison  
 Chester Johnson  
 Susan Hebert Jones  
 Louann C. Jordan  
 John and Cynthia Kantner  
 Margeaux Klein  
 Laurie Knowles  
 Anne Lewis  
 Ted Lusher  
 Loren and Margaret Mall  
 David Margolis  
 Gillian W. McHugh  
 Matthew McQueen  
 Kathy McRee  
 Carmen G. Pert  
 Elizabeth Pettus  
 Dr. Claude Phipps

Nicholas Potter  
 William Powell  
 Ann Rasor  
 Steve Reed and Carolyn Lamb  
 Donna Reynolds  
 B.C. Rimbeaux  
 Cecilia Rios  
 Patricia (Tish) Romer  
 Gail Samota  
 William Sauter  
 Peter Schanck and Karen Ushman  
 Billie Schaumberg  
 Nancy Schmitz  
 Jeffrey Seres  
 Ann Reynolds Smith  
 Layne Vickers Smith  
 Rick Smith  
 Louise L. Stuto  
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 Woods Design Builders

We gratefully acknowledge the very generous new donations this year by Lifetime Members Joanne McCarthy, and Dan and Terri Guy.

**In Memoriam**

OSFA honors two of our family and their contributions to the community.

**Andrea "Drew" Bacigalupa**, gifted artist, teacher and longtime resident of Canyon Road, passed away on 22 March 2015.

**Stephen E. Watkins**, an ardent preservationist and community leader who served as president at the *Santa Fe New Mexican*, passed away on 4 June 2015.



**Elsbeth Bobbs Tribute: *She Hears the Joy in the World All Around Her***

*Born in Devonshire County, England, to an American father and a British mother, Elspeth Bobbs inherited a degenerative disease, otosclerosis, which left her totally deaf by the time she reached her 20s. When World War II broke out, the problem of Elspeth's inability to hear the air-raid warnings led her family to emigrate to America.*

*In California, she read all the books by Taos-based writer Mabel Dodge Luhan and developed a great desire to see New Mexico. She moved to Santa Fe in 1943, and worked at an abstract company. In 1945, shortly after the war's end, she met her future husband, Howard Bobbs, a sixth-generation artist in his family. Soon they had three daughters, and in 1955 opened a bookstore and gallery on Canyon Road.*

*In 1967 the Bobbses bought four acres of land on Canyon Road. Starting with a few run-down buildings and not*

*much else, they worked to make it a beautiful estate. Yet its greatest beauty came only after the sadness of Howard's death in 1984. Feeling an artistic void in her life after his passing, Elspeth started a garden.*

*A cochlear implant in 1988 gave Elspeth a small degree of hearing, enabling her to enjoy her family, friends and astonishingly full life more than ever. But she has always lived it to the hilt--as shown by a bumper sticker seen all over town: I'm a Friend of Mrs. Bobbs.*

*She has been a major supporter of the Presbyterian Ear Institute, Santa Fe Community Foundation, Planned Parenthood, Women's Health Services, and numerous other groups. In 1999 she was declared New Mexico's Philanthropist of the Year. Her garden produce is still contributed to Kitchen Angels in Santa Fe.*

- Richard McCord

## OSFA Leads Effort to Restore Hinojos House

By Randall Bell and Barbara Harrelson

OSFA President John Pen La Farge in May appointed a task force to save the historic Francisca Hinojos House on East Palace Avenue, now threatened with demolition—and also damaged by “demolition by neglect.”

The register-listed, contributing building, among the first in Santa Fe to be designated Worthy of Preservation, was seriously damaged by arson in February 2013.

The property was listed for sale in March 2015. The First National Bank of Santa Fe, trustee of the property, then applied for an exception to demolish the fire-damaged structure. The bank claimed that despite the owners’ desire to restore the house, some parts of the building were beyond repair, and restoration or re-creation was beyond their resources.

At the HDRB hearing on April 28, the board voted unanimously to deny the application because it had not met any of the criteria for demolition, and because the house is of historic importance, and “is in repairable condition.”

OSFA’s La Farge testified at the April hearing, asserting that Hinojos House must be saved because of its historical significance. He criticized the bank’s neglect of the building since the fire, saying it was guilty of “demolition by neglect.” La Farge also emphasized that OSFA had been monitoring the status of this building since the fire, and had contacted the bank in June 2013, offering assistance in rebuilding and restoration efforts.

Local residents who spoke at the hearing expressed dismay that the house might be demolished. The overwhelming consensus was to save Hinojos House because of its distinctive architecture and importance to Santa Fe history.

A restoration architect and an engineer, both of whom had examined the house after the fire, testified that the structure could be restored, that the damage was not as devastating as implied by the bank and its agent, Martinez Architecture Studio. Restoration resources abound, they stated, adding that collaboration with



*Hinojos House before the fire--and the way we want to see it again. (Photo courtesy of Paul Weideman/The New Mexican)*

groups like Cornerstones, known for its volunteer forces, could help reduce costs. Members of the HDRB echoed that suggestion.

The OSFA Task Force, comprised of preservationists with relevant experience in historic restoration, is working with more than one potential “angel.” The task force welcomes inquiries and assistance, as legal appeals continue by the First National Bank of Santa Fe. Contact Pen La Farge at 505/983-8377.

## Valdes House Removed from Historic Register



*Valdes House 2008 (Photo courtesy of Historic Santa Fe Foundation)*

In a rare and unfortunate action, the Historic Santa Fe Foundation (HSFF) regrettably announced in June that the Valdes House in the Barrio de Anasco no longer qualified to be listed on the register of Resources Worthy of Preservation.

In reconsidering the historic integrity of the property at 237 and 239 East De

Vargas Street, HSFF concluded that, in its present condition, it no longer met the criteria for inclusion in the registry. Most of the building, its historic facades and garden, are now hidden from the street behind a wall, with the house appearing to be incorporated into the non-historic structures of El Castillo Retirement Community, the present owner of the property.

Architects Duty and Germanas designed the plans for the remodel and re-use of the historic building. Beginning in September 2011, Michael Duty appeared at eight HDRB hearings, with the process becoming increasingly contentious as he asked for more and more changes, many of which were historically inappropriate. He appealed some rulings, and OSFA appealed many of the rulings, but the

end result was that the Valdes House had suffered irreparable damage to its historic integrity.

At the final HDRB hearing on February 24, 2015, then-board chair Sharon Woods apologized to the public. “We are all very troubled by what has happened,” she said. “The board did have a responsibility for this happening ... and I apologize to all of you. We have taken this to heart and it is time to move on.”





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### Our Mission

“To promote the prosperity and welfare of the city and county of Santa Fe and their inhabitants, to preserve and maintain the ancient landmarks, historical structures and traditions of Old Santa Fe and to guide their growth and development in such a way as to promote that unique charm and distinction, born of age, culture, tradition and environment, which are the priceless assets and heritage of Santa Fe.”

**Santa Fe artist Louann Jordan created OSFA’s distinctive logo**, the drawing of an adobe house amidst trees and hills. A longtime OSFA member, she also served as board chair of the Historic Santa Fe Foundation. Now retired from El Rancho de las Golondrinas, where she designed and curated exhibits for 35 years, Jordan serves on the Santa Fe Fiesta Council. Does the logo art seem somehow familiar? Yes, it has a touch of Willard Clark’s style, says Jordan, acknowledging the influence of the late Santa Fe artist and printmaker.

**OSFA will celebrate its 90th birthday in 2016. Watch for news of many special events...and JOIN US!**

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**OLD SANTA FE ASSOCIATION**

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

OSFA’s annual meeting will be held on Monday, November 16, 2015 at 12 noon at El Zagan, 545 Canyon Road. The business meeting includes election of members of the board of directors.

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