



## Preserving Santa Fe since 1926



Phil and Eleanor Bové  
(Photo by John Eddy, © 2013)



New Mexico Museum of Art  
Vladem Contemporary

dnca+StudioGP

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## Vladem Contemporary Museum Clashes With Historic Santa Fe

This op-ed column, by OSFA President John Pen La Farge, appeared in the Santa Fe New Mexican, Sunday, October 28, 2018.

The Museum of New Mexico is the beneficiary of a \$4 million donation from the Vladem family for a con-temporary art annex to the New Mexico Museum of Art for Santa Fe ("Philanthropists make

lasting mark," *Santa Fe New Mexican*, March 25). The Vladem Contemporary will be constructed straddling the Halpin Building once the State Archives center.

Current design renderings reveal a serious problem.

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## OSFA Annual Meeting at La Fonda

On Thursday, October 25, 2018, the Terraza Room of La Fonda on the Plaza, provided a lovely setting for a rendezvous of old and new friends, activists, preservationists and history buffs who participated in an Old Santa Fe Association members' meeting (as is required in our Bylaws.) A no-host bar and a courtesy spread that included delicious tacos helped make the event extra satisfying. La Fonda generously donated the use of the room.

OSFA President John Pen La Farge

welcomed everyone and conducted the meeting, announcing 4 new additions to OSFA's Board of Directors: Mary Ellen Degnan, Barbara Fix, Anne Frej and Ray Herrera. Jack Hiatt, Treasurer, reported on our fiscal sturdiness, of which we can be proud. President La Farge described some of our accomplishments and struggles, noting in particular that OSFA has supported efforts in the county, south of the city, as well as continuing to be active within all parts of Santa Fe as well as the City's Historic Districts.

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# Message from the President

In the 1950's, my father, Oliver La Farge, wrote in his Sunday column about Santa Fe: "We are bent on suicide. It is amazing how many people in this community prefer a fast buck or two to an assured future. We chip and chip away at our great asset, until even the casual visitor begins to notice that things aren't what they are advertised to be."

Little has apparently changed, and nothing has changed for the OSFA mandate "to promote the prosperity and welfare of the city and county of Santa Fe and their inhabitants." This mandate includes the resolve to preserve what is left of our city's authenticity and integrity. Even the extraordinary honor of having received the Sense of Place Award from the National Geographic Society has had little effect upon the plans of developers or the city's governing body. To them, our city is seemingly just another asset to be leveraged for more money, and usually short-term. Our future is ignored. What is most discouraging and puzzling is how the city leaders simply will not see how their decisions affect the qualities that keep them living here and impact tourism and the experience of our visitors, especially visitors who look for culture and its integrity.

Although OSFA joined with southside neighbors to defeat the gigantic and wholly inappropriate truck stop proposed by Pilot Flying J, that it was proposed in the first place, that the entrance into town was proposed to be vulgarized in the first place, causes dismay. A long battle took place, eventually decided by the County Commission in favor of keeping some integrity intact at that gateway area by denying the truck stop; but that it had to be fought in the first place is troubling.

Such carelessness is demonstrated too often all over town. On a minor level, is the bright orange dentist emporium on St. Francis Drive. On a more significant level, the city agreed to violate its own height ordinance for the proposed new addition to El Castillo on the Old Taos Highway. This will, all but inevitably, serve as a precedent for others who want to build higher than is

allowed and than is healthy for our town.

For the proposed Estancias del Norte development more carelessness was approved by the Planning Commission on land previously protected by the Escarpment and Ridgetop ordinances. These ordinances were conscientiously written, and are essential to keeping the look and feel of our town. But do the powers of the center care? Not if a fast buck is to be made and developers are to be cosseted.

Then there is the state's new Museum of Contemporary Art, viewed as an adaptation of the Halpin Building. This new museum is to be named after the benefactors. The Vladims gave enough money to buy their name's prominent placement in the center of town on a building that does not fit its historic district, its streetscape, nor its neighbors. Again, money buys that which is inappropriate if it comes in substantial enough quantities and the state does not care how its capital is being chipped away.

Happily, the design of this last is not yet a done deal, so there is hope, as there is for the new county administration building, which the county does want to be a positive addition to the downtown. One can only wish more developments had a similar conscience.

OSFA continues to watch many other problems and places for hopeful resolution: the airport, St. Catherine's Indian School, the Randall Davey House, the Baca Street neighborhood area, requests for variances on Plaza buildings, future proposals for the old College of Santa Fe/SFUAD property, and, our eternal problem, water. We regularly attend City Council and Historic Districts Review Board meetings.

2018, then, was, as is the usual case, a year of loses and triumphs, both. 2019 will be more of the same, one can only suppose, but that is why we exist: consistent vigilance on behalf of those who love our town.

John Pen La Farge

*This issue of iEl Boletín! was edited by John Eddy and Elizabeth West with the help of Rad Acton, Marilyn Bane, Randy Bell, Ellen Dupuy, Barbara Fix, Barbara Harrelson, Frank Katz, Phyllis Martinez and John Pen La Farge.*

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**Museum Clashes** (Continued from page 1)

See [www.elpalacio.org/articles/fall18/moa-10-2.pdf](http://www.elpalacio.org/articles/fall18/moa-10-2.pdf)

The Halpin is a contributing historic structure within the Historic Transition District, one of the five historic districts established to preserve the city's unique character. The preservation of Santa Fe's style brings millions of tourist dollars to the city (and the state), received an award from the National Geographic Society for Sense of Place in 2017, and is the very reason many of us live here. To preserve that sense of Santa Fe, projects built within the district must comply with the design criteria.

The state has supported preserving historic districts since 1965 with the Historic District and Landmark Act. NMSA §3-22-2 "empowers municipalities ... of this state with as full and complete power to preserve, protect and enhance the historic areas and landmarks lying within their respective jurisdictions as it is possible for this legislature to permit under... the constitution of New Mexico."

In 2008, the state acknowledged that Santa Fe's historic districts ordinance applied to state buildings when it constructed the legislative parking garage west of the Capitol. Through a

collaborative process, the city and state agreed to major changes to the design, transforming what was a tall, generic, concrete-slab garage into the lower, territorial-style building that better fits the style of the area.

Reflecting that success, the Legislature amended the act in 2009, adding §3-22-6, to allow cities to regulate state building projects. It created a process for applying municipal historic preservation laws to "state capital outlay projects," a process similar to what had occurred with the parking garage — the state, city and public consulted and collaborated at every stage.

Sadly, that collaborative approach is being ignored with the Vladem Contemporary. The floating, modernist, shiny louvered-box design fits a contemporary art museum, but it is not appropriate within this historic district.

The state knows the Vladem Contemporary does not meet the design criteria, so it ignores them on the theory that the Vladem is not covered by the statute — it is not a "capital outlay project." Yes, it's a public building, and yes, public funds went to build and to renovate it in preparation of this project, but the actual building is being funded by private contributions from wealthy donors, not capital outlay.

Curiously, if the Vladem were privately owned, as well as privately funded, it would unquestionably be subject to the district design standards. Private development is covered; state projects are covered; but this state-private partnership is not covered? That is just wrong. Meanwhile, solicitation of donors continues.

We call on the state to follow the purpose and intent of its own statute and use the collaborative process set forth in §3-22-6. We call on potential donors to encourage the state by conditioning their gifts on compliance with state and local law concerning design.

The city is mindful of providing the state the flexibility to meet its needs for state buildings. Moreover, design standards in the Historic Transition District are less stringent than in other districts. Finally, being at the southern edge of the historic district and abutting the Railyard District opens further design options.

The Vladem Contemporary will be a significant addition to Santa Fe. However, let's invest in a building that respects the historic context of the area.

## David Leaves the City but Stays in Town

By Elizabeth West

He left the City? Really? How could he do that?!

After more than 15 years at the City of Santa Fe's Historic Preservation Division, ex-historic preservation officer, David Rasch, has moved up to Museum Hill as the new director of the Traditional Spanish Market, under the auspices of the Spanish Colonial Arts Society, with an office at the Museum of Spanish Colonial Art.

The *Santa Fe New Mexican*, in the October 21 issue, quoted Mr. Rasch as saying "Living traditions evolve" when speaking about solidifying the Market's guidelines for artists which determine subject matter, materials and techniques



Photo by Melanie West

David Rasch

permitted in the juried shows, while honoring tradition. He is very happy to be working with the artists, and they are fortunate to have him working with them in refining and defining how tradition and innovation intersect.

Perhaps David's years of understanding, evaluating and often protecting many of the thousands of historic buildings in Santa Fe when he worked for the City will hold him in good stead in his new job. Many of us, who have been appreciative of the expertise and insight he brought to preservation of historic buildings in our City Different have a hard time imagining how anyone could fill his shoes.

Did I, and others at the Old Santa Fe Association, ever disagree with some of his decisions while he was serving the City? Of course! Differences of opinion were part of his job, and of ours no less in working with him and his staff over

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# 2018 Heritage Preservation Awards

Each year, the Old Santa Fe Association, the Historic Santa Fe Foundation and the City of Santa Fe Historic Preservation Division collaborate in honoring the heritage preservation efforts that take place across our state and across our country, including the efforts of the State of New Mexico's Historic Preservation Division and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the latter being the group that officially established Heritage Preservation Month in 1973.

In Santa Fe, we gather in May to recognize outstanding achievements in historic preservation, design and archeology, and the occasion is always an enjoyable event since no matter our other differences, citizens of our different city can find agreement about our shared heritage. That heritage is definitely impacted by our landscape, the built landscape as well as the natural one, and the preservation of our architectural inheritance, as well as

our interest in the archeology of our place, significant historic objects, individual buildings, historic (and other) districts and those who help us preserve our heritage, are all part of our own and our city's work in preservation.

The Heritage Preservation Awards Ceremony was held on Thursday, May 17, at 5:30, and again, this year, the event was held in the San Miguel Chapel, an ongoing restoration project at the center of Santa Fe's history.

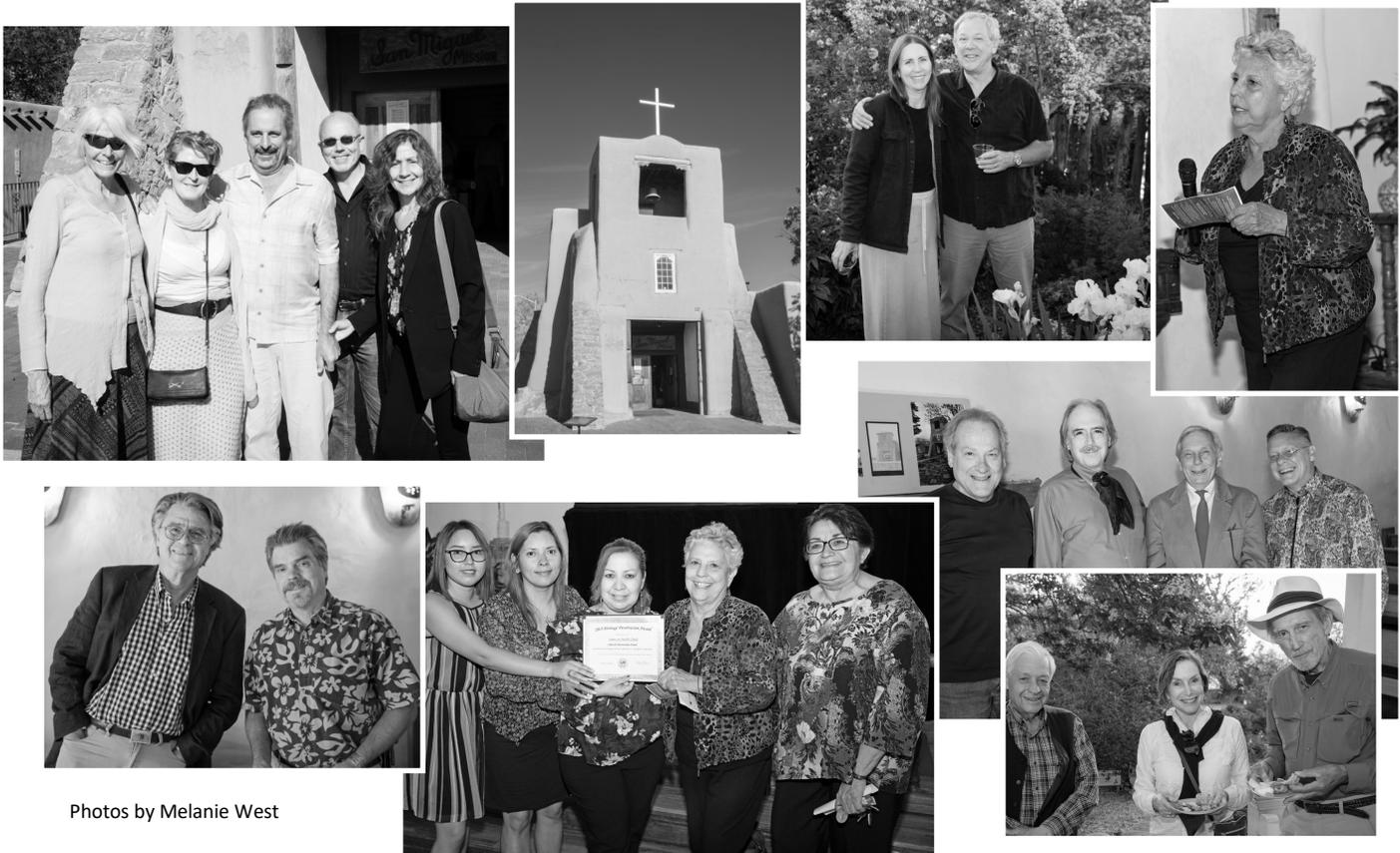
The Old Santa Fe Association gave two awards. President John Pen La Farge presented OSFA's Cultural Preservation Award to Randy Randall, head of Tourism, Santa Fe, for his efforts in securing for the city of Santa Fe the honor of being awarded the National Geographic's Sense of Place award at their World Legacy Awards ceremony in Berlin, last year. OSFA's Community Service Award was awarded to Tim Maxwell, for his unstinting support and

thoughtful efforts that challenge our Association to move forward; he is also a past President of OSFA.

The Historic Santa Fe Foundation presented their Architectural Stewardship Award to the Chimayo Cultural Preservation Association.

The City of Santa Fe Historic Preservation Awards included: the Architectural Preservation Award to 1150 Canyon Road (Manderfield); the Compatible Remodel Award to 355 East Palace Road (Hinojos House); the Compatible New Construction Award to 600 Camino del Monte Sol; the Sara Melton Award to: 912 Canyon Road; the Cultural Preservation Award to: Somos Un Pueblo Unido; the Archaeology Award to: Bill Huey, City of Santa Fe Water Division.

After the event at San Miguel, everyone was invited to gather at a reception at El Zagan, the home of the Historic Santa Fe Foundation.



Photos by Melanie West

# Truck Stop Stopped

By Lisa Burns, Kathy Bilton, Judy Reinhartz and Roger Taylor

The story of a successful grass-roots movement in Santa Fe County may be instructive for all of us who are interested in preservation in the Santa Fe area. This story begins in April, 2016, when a small group of about 30 concerned residents in the Rancho Viejo and Turquoise Trail Business Park (Bisbee Court) neighborhoods first attended a public meeting to hear about a proposed development to include a truck stop at the northern point of the historic Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway — the gateway into the southern side of the city of Santa Fe (junction of Rancho Viejo Blvd and NM SR14).

That first meeting introduced the neighbors to what the owners of the property, the LLC called Exit 278, and their business partner, Pilot Flying J (PFJ), the largest operator of travel centers in North America, intended to build.

The focus of a second meeting in May, where about 60 people showed up, was the presentation of the PFJ proposal for a 24-hour truck stop to accommodate 75 idling semi-trucks overnight, fast food restaurants, a store and showers for truckers. PFJ representatives provided national data on average daily traffic through their truck stops: 300 trucks and up to 3,000 other vehicles in a 24-hour period. The truck stop proposal raised grave concerns, outraging local residents about the construction. But, more importantly, they were disturbed by the location of a truck stop a mile away from residential neighborhoods. Some residents collected email addresses to generate a contact list as the primary vehicle for raising awareness about the truck stop.

A small group of about 10 people gathered to come up with a plan to oppose the truck stop, and a plan developed organically during meetings in each other's kitchens. As the campaign was developing, Lisa Burns decided to hire a lawyer, Matthew

McQueen. They organized more formally and Ms. Burns became the President, Katherine Bilton and Patty Montes-Burks shared the job of Vice-President with Tom Hill, Secretary. They met with a core group to build support for challenging the truck stop.

A third meeting in June, 2017, with temperatures soaring, was convened by the developer in a tent behind a motel at the Fashion Outlet Mall, with a capacity for 75 people. The event was attended by over 250 people, where petitions were signed by 200 attendees, and their emails were collected for a data base, paving the way for the development of the Santa Fe Gateway Alliance (SFGA) whose campaign was to "Stop the Pilot Flying J." The tent meeting was adjourned early because the number of interested participants exceeded the capacity of the venue, providing valuable time for the SFGA to gain momentum and to increase its support.

At the rescheduled July, 2017 meeting at the Santa Fe Community College (SFCC), more petition signatures and emails were acquired. The need to collaborate with like-minded organizations was recognized, among them the Turquoise Trail Regional Alliance (TTRA) and Los Cerrillos. Members of these organizations studied county planning documents: the Sustainable Growth Management Plan (SGMP), the Community College District (CCD) Plan, and the Sustainable Land Development Code (SLDC), and through extensive research, SFGA members determined that a gas station was a conditional use in the CCD, but there was no mention of a truck stop, and a truck stop was not a gas station.

Together with Roger Taylor, TTRA Vice President, SFGA sponsored a community meeting at the Institute for American Indian Arts (IAIA) in December, 2017 to familiarize supporters with the county land use application process, in preparation for

the first Santa Fe County-sponsored meeting, to be held in January, 2018.

About a decade earlier, in 2007, the Turquoise Trail Preservation Trust (the Trust), a non-profit, had been founded to develop a vision and long term planning strategies for communities along the Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway. The TTRA was formed to operationalize the Trust's vision and reach, and to leverage collective strength. Karen Yank is the TTRA President and Roger Taylor is Vice-President. The TTRA supports a strong alliance of diverse groups that have chosen to work together on issues of concern for the well being of this larger region. The goal is to preserve the intrinsic beauty of the natural scenic landscape and its ecological habitat, which is recognized as a critical wildlife corridor for a large variety of birds and animals.

TTRA supports local small business, embracing the tourism and arts economies. TTRA seeks to preserve the traditional ranching communities and raise awareness of the history of the Trail. Much of this region is considered culturally significant by the Pueblo communities, encompassing a large variety of archaeological sites. The TTRA guiding model is: "Inform, Educate, Alert, Act" and this model was a good fit for the emerging Santa Fe Gateway Alliance.

At the county-sponsored Hearing Officer meeting on January 11, 2017, the Hearing Officer (an attorney) and County land use staff made a recommendation to allow the PFJ truck stop application to move forward, concluding that a gas station is "materially similar" to a truck stop. Although almost devastated by the decision, the Santa Fe Gateway Alliance leadership and supporters remained steadfast in their opposition. Recognizing that the road ahead might be a long and costly one, SFGA sponsored a classical music concert

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# OSFA Summer Party for Members at Irene's House

On a warm Sunday in July, the Old Santa Fe Association hosted a delightful party for OSFA members at the Irene von Horvath house and garden, which is located just off Canyon Road, near the Camino del Monte Sol, up a short incline behind the old Borrego house (Geronimo Restaurant). Members were treated to delicious hors d'oeuvres and wine and beer, all catered by Walter Burke, and there was harp music performed by David Ponder. President John Pen La Farge introduced Councilor Signe Lindell, who spoke about her respect for what OSFA does for the City of Santa Fe. Anna Hansen, County Commissioner, also spoke briefly, echoing Councilor Lindell's sentiments.

Some of the guests had not visited the von Horvath house before and were pleased to have a tour of the place and its garden, and to learn about its history. Irene von Horvath bought the

place in 1954, took care of and sensitively enlarged it from its original three rooms. The property was generously given to OSFA as a bequest after her death in 2007. The Historic Santa Fe Foundation put the house on their HSFF Registry.

Irene had first settled in Santa Fe in 1953, and using her architectural and urban planning background, became involved in the preservation of Santa Fe's historic character, pushing for naming streets with Spanish names, and becoming part of the group helping to create Santa Fe's first Historic Styles Ordinance in 1957, which included the architect, John Gaw Meem, Samuel Z. Montoya, city attorney and later chief justice of the state Supreme Court, and Oliver La Farge, the author and anthropologist who fathered OSFA's current President!

During the time that she served on the Santa Fe planning commission (1955 to 1967), at some point Irene conceived of and then persuaded the city to construct, a ring road, the Paseo de Peralta, so that traffic could be alleviated without destroying the narrow, historic streets. The road was nicknamed Irene's Street in the 1960s. She didn't mind speaking up and she usually had a constructive solution or alternative to suggest when opposing something she was against. She was given a New Mexico Heritage Preservation Award in 1997 and was also made a Santa Fe Living Treasure.

OSFA's relaxed summer party was enjoyed by everyone, and we all were made to feel at home by Pilar Law, who lives in Irene's house and has her Gallery there. (See page 7.) Perhaps we can look forward to another distinctive event at Irene's house next summer!

*Photos by Ellen Dupuy and Lisa Law*



# A Visit with Pilar Law at the von Horvath House

By John Eddy

If it's your first time to Santa Fe as a visitor and you happen to find your way up a lane off Canyon Road to Edition One Gallery, you will be lucky to see a property with the sense of what our town used to feel like. The adobe walls undulate, humble but artistic woodworking features are evident, and a walk through the grounds gives you a feel for the scale of early lots fed by irrigation from the Acequia Madre, where a family could grow all the produce they needed for yearly survival.

The bonus you were undoubtedly looking for would be the fine art photography displayed by owner/ proprietor, Pilar Law. A far cry from the sleek, modern galleries in the Railyard district, or downtown Santa Fe, this place feels like a home, and indeed it is.

*"I keep pinching myself. It's got its challenges, in terms of maintenance, and keeping it clean...because the "world" wants to come inside-the spiders and the mice and everybody. But I'm also used to that. I grew up in a two hundred year old adobe in Truchas with dirt floors. It doesn't freak me out. "*

Pilar, much like OSFA's previous tenant in the Irene von Horvath house at 728 Canyon Road, photographer Teresa Neptune, continues the long-established but disappearing tradition of a Gallery owner actually living on



Pilar Law at Edition One Gallery  
(Photo by John Eddy, © 2018)

the premises.

*"We both love to create community, like to involve and engage — share the story of the house and the history of the land — caretaking the yard. It totally aligned with what I always dreamed that I wanted to do (and it's in Santa Fe) to create a hub for people to come together. "*

Selling print photography in these times of "selfies" and the internet's virtual world is more challenging than it has ever been. So, Pilar is adaptive and creative, hosting events such as weddings and meetings, taking full advantage of the extraordinary grounds when weather permits, and the cozy home environment of the house for more intimate happenings.

*"At least nine out of ten people who have come here never before knew it existed and are thrilled and can't wait to come back. I have become sort of a*

*docent for the house, having borrowed a page from Teresa, telling people of the history of the house and the Borrego family who were the original family granted the land. This is an opportunity for them to get to see what old Santa Fe looks like: we are preserving a space that maintains a certain amount of history.*

*"I would love to be on a long term lease. One of the things that I loved about being at my former location (also on Canyon Road) was that it was super cozy and I loved the neighborhood. But actually, this was my original neighborhood. I grew up on Cerro Gordo Road. I went to ballet classes on the Camino (del Monte Sol) just south of the Rios' wood yard. I took saxophone classes; Gormley's was my store, my best friend lived on San Antonio Street— so this was my "hood. "*

Insuring the viability of a historic home in the new millennium, without imposing the harsh changes suffered by so many properties on Santa Fe's eastside, is a challenge that OSFA takes seriously as the landlords of the von Horvath House.

In Pilar Law, we have found a sure collaborator and partner in this effort.

View the Edition One Gallery at: [www.editiononegallery.com](http://www.editiononegallery.com)

# Voces Presents *Red Sky at Morning*

By María Montez-Skolnik

The Old Santa Fe Association and Voces de Santa Fe/Voces de New Mexico, both organizations dedicated to honoring and preserving the heritage of Santa Fe, collaborated in the showing of the movie *Red Sky at Morning* in the Fall of 2018. It was a festive and enthusiastic gathering. The audience included many Santa Fe locals, a few dignitaries, including Mayor Alan Webber and former New Mexico State Historian, Hilario Romero and several people who had participated in the making of the movie. Some even came from out of town and out of state for the event.

According to a New York Times review, *Red Sky at Morning*, set during WWII, is the classic coming-of-age story about the enduring spirit of youth and the "values in life that count." The movie was released in 1971, based on the book of the same title by Richard Bradford, published in 1968. Both the book and the movie hit a familiar chord with the young generation across the nation. However, there was an exceptional connection for Santa Fe locals. Many here too, were coming of age during that time, and had a

unique association with the characters, the themes, and the setting, as the movie includes matters of cultural identity in a location referred to as "*Corazon Sagrado*," aka Santa Fe. Locals fondly remember it as a timeless classic, portraying their lives and values then and today, although there are moments in the film that are sometimes delightfully cringe-worthy; as John Eddy, an OSFA member, said in his introduction: "This film leaves no stereotype unturned!"

Voces de Santa Fe/Voces de New Mexico was founded in 2010 by people with strong connections to the Santa Fe and northern New Mexico area. Noting the on-going changes in our community, we believed it was time to begin sharing and archiving our personal and family histories. Many of us are the children of the "Greatest Generation" and find it important, if not pressing, to speak with members of that generation who contributed greatly to the richness of our community, which today draws people from around the world. While outside historians have come to write about our culture and our heritage, we think

that personal stories of the dreams and emotions related to daily life need to be included to tell the whole story. Being part of the old community, we have both a window and a gateway to view and to gather those priceless accounts of who we are. Voces is doing this through our Oral History Project.

Over the last eight years, Voces has held many gatherings including: "The Personal Histories of Canyon Road" (a 75-guest luncheon at El Farol), with eight guest speakers, ages 90s and 80s, who were born and raised in the neighborhood. Five of the speakers are Santa Fe Living Treasures, and "The History of La Fonda" with about forty participants sharing their early memories of the hotel going back to the 1930s. Historians, artists, educators, community organizers, professors, laborers and more have participated as well as presented at our gatherings, many held at the Rancho de Chimayó.

Through our organization we have been able to make contributions of  
*(Continued on page 22)*



Photos by LeRoy Sánchez

# Las Acequias de San Francisco de Asís de la Santa Fé

By Hilario Romero (former NM State Historian, Archivist, Professor of History)

The history of the *Acequias de Santa Fé* goes back centuries before the arrival of the first Europeans. The initial diversions and ditches of Ogha'Po'Ogeh, later renamed Santa Fé, were dug by early Tano/Tewa people as early as 1150 AD and possibly earlier, based on new discoveries at *Pindí Pueblo* in *Agua Fria/Pueblo Quemado*. There are few remains of the old ditches they dug. However, it is possible that the *acequias* dug later by the Spanish followed many of the same paths downriver. The pueblos found the soil rich at *Pindí* and *Pueblo Quemado de las Cieneguitas*, six miles downriver from today's *Plaza*, with abundant springs along the river. They were able to farm at this lower elevation, raise turkeys and have access to hunting and firewood. Water was sacred. It was life giving and abundant for long periods of time. When drought came, they relied on food storage, but if drought persisted, they moved back to ancestral areas or built new pueblos near plentiful water sources.

Upon the arrival of the Spanish to this area in the early 1600s and their settlement in or around the abandoned pueblos, new methods of farming were introduced by the new culture. There is a possibility that in today's *Agua Fria* village, southwest of Santa Fe's plaza, Spanish settlers were already growing food as early as 1607. The Spanish brought a system of water management and *acequias* that continued into the 21st century. This recognized system is used today in many villages and towns throughout New Mexico. They are political subdivisions that supersede all others in the communities where the *acequias* are located.

*Acequia*, what does it mean? It is from an Arab word that describes the "bringing of water" to small canals dug on each side of a water source. *Atarques*, upper watershed diversions, (Arab origin) were built and fed by streams, rivers or lakes high in the mountains of New Mexico. Here we say: *el agua es la vida* (water is life). Our *Acequia* Associations refer to *los atarques*, diversions; *la corriente*, the flow; *las compuertas*, the sluice gates; *los estanques*, acequia ponds; *campos cultivados*, cultivated fields; *los huertos*,

the orchards and *los ejidos*, the commons. Professor Cipriano Vigil, folklore musician, explains in the first verse of one of his songs about acequias: "*Como corriente de las Acequias corre la vida*" (As the acequia flows, so does life). Mercedes, land grants in *Nuevo Mejico* gave us our "sense of place" and *Acequias* our *querencia*, love of place. It insured us a continuous, permanent, tie to the land, air, water and sky. It is what kept the Pueblos and *Nuevo Mejicanos* in our homeland.

When Governor Pedro de Peralta arrived at this site in 1610, his orders read: create a plat from *Las Ordenanzas de 1573*, include a rectangular plaza, build a headquarters and a *castrense*, a *parroquia*, and *atarques* for the *acequias*. Therefore, without the *acequias*, the settlers could not grow the food they needed to complete the monumental task of building a *Villa*. This is why the plotting and digging of the *acequias* made it first on the list. The supplies and food they brought with them could only hold them for a few months. Building the *acequias* was a feat of engineering. They had to determine the location of the *Acequia Madre* on each side of the river and proceed to dig and create two elevated streams above the agricultural fields.

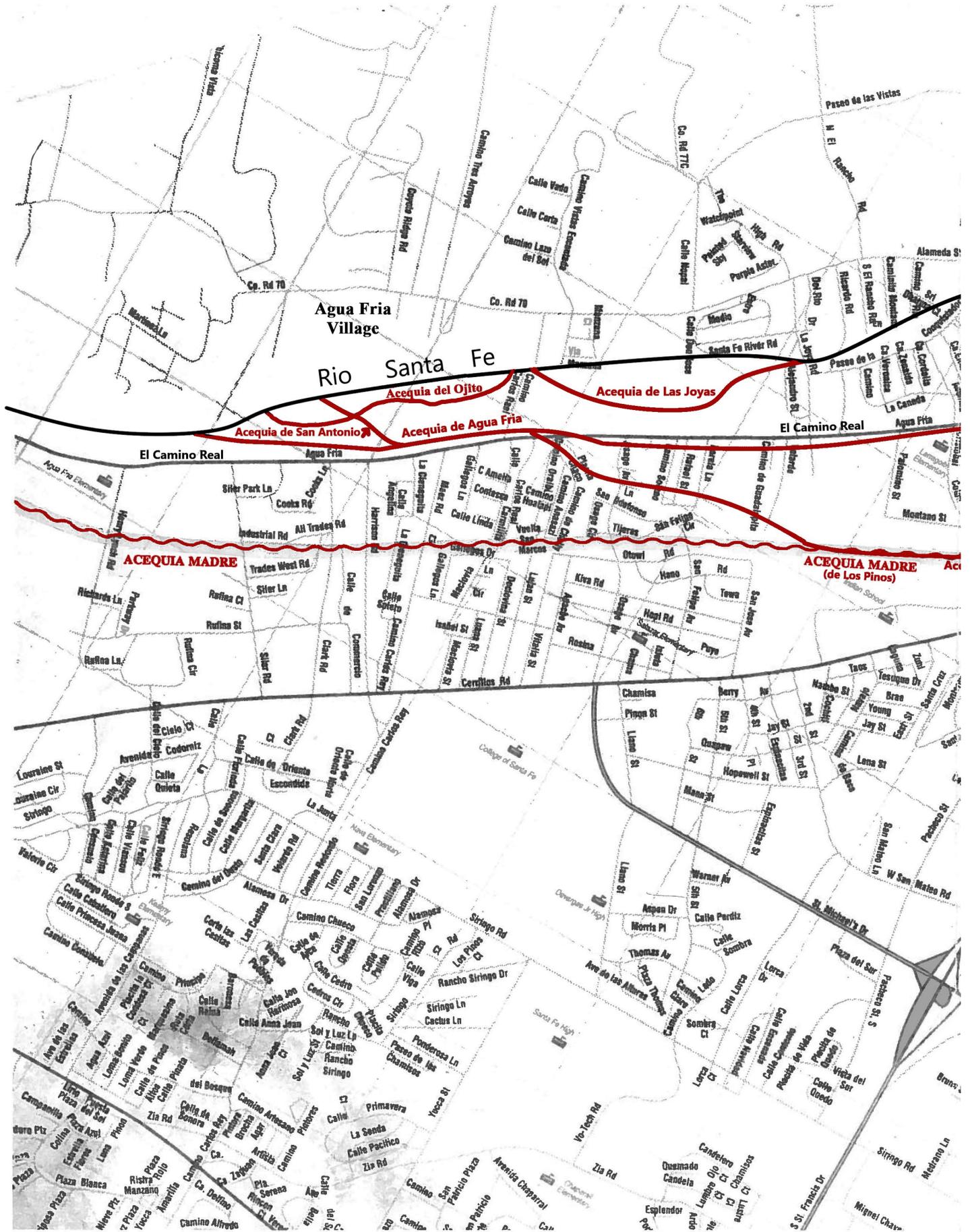
During the Spanish Colonial period the most important people living along the *acequias* were the *parciantes*, water rights holders. They voted for the father-caretaker of the *acequia* who was called the *mayordomo*. The *mayordomo* had a difficult role to fill because he had to represent each and every *parciantes* equally. He made sure that everyone with the *derecho de agua*, water rights, got their fair share of the *acequia* water based on their land holdings and how many *fanegas* of 8.1 acres they could cultivate. Having the *derecho de agua* meant one cultivated the soil, used the water sparingly and participated in the cleaning of the *acequia* in the spring. *Parciantes* had many other roles in the village toward the common good.

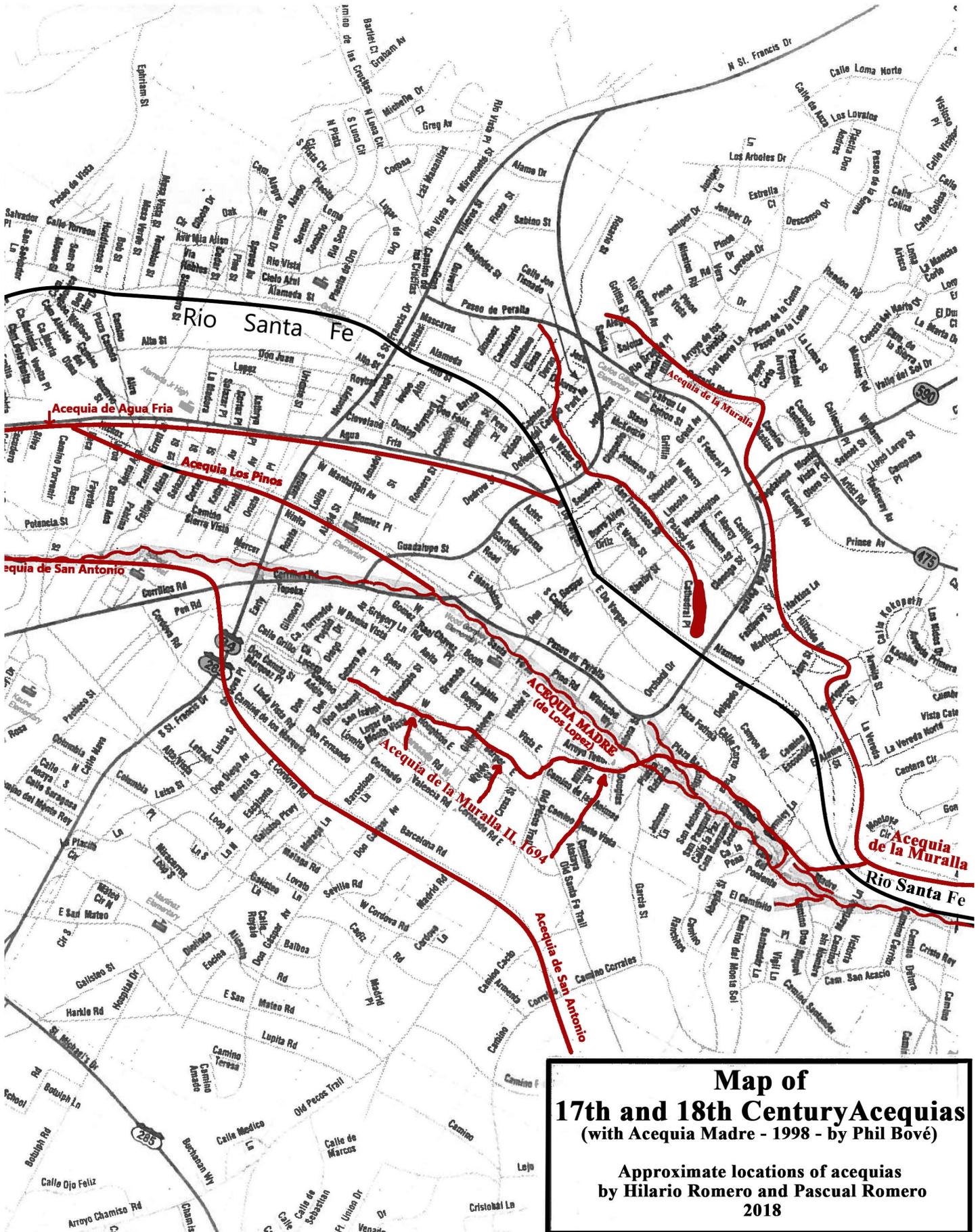
In Santa Fe, between 1694 and 1880, there were four main *acequias* and over thirty *laterales*, laterals, which are take-

outs and returns of water. They watered over 2,000 acres of farmland including orchards and about 1,000 acres of pastureland. During drought years, numerous springs fed the large pond just south of the *Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís* and were diverted through the plaza and into the *acequias*. The lower *acequias* were fed by the *Río Santa Fé* and its numerous springs along *el Camino Real* in *Agua Fria*. The map on pages 10-11 shows those *acequias* that were used during this period. The *Acequia Madre de los López* connected to the *Acequia de San Antonio* initially served the *Barrio de Analco* and *Agua Fria* on the south side of the *Río Santa Fé*. The first *Acequia de la Muralla* served the north side of the *Río* and was part of the *Acequia Madre* as indicated on the *José de Urrutia* map of *Santa Fé* in 1768.

The Santa Fe Water Company was formed in 1879 and two years later the company built the Stone Dam, cutting off the water to the *acequias*, claiming water rights for the impounded water. The community of *Agua Fria* petitioned the Territorial Legislature and the Governor to let the water flow again, citing priority rights for its use. Initially, the company had to release water to them, but for the next three decades they slowly cut the amount of water released with the help of local and state politicians. The New Mexico Territorial Water Code of 1907, created the office of the Territorial Engineer, which determined priority water rights, required documentation for the beneficial use of water; however, the code also separated *acequias* from the land where they flowed by making water a commodity that could be bought and sold. The expanded Santa Fe Water & Light Company took advantage of this code to monopolize the water for *Santa Fé* and gradually cut off many *acequias* in the capital city. The *parciantes* of Santa Fe's *acequias* petitioned the State Engineer in 1913 to perform a hydrographic survey in Santa Fe to determine who had the right to the water. Completed in 1919, the survey was sent to the Attorney General to initiate hearings on adjudication, but no further

(Continued on page 12)





**Map of  
17th and 18th Century Acequias**  
(with Acequia Madre - 1998 - by Phil Bové)

Approximate locations of acequias  
by Hilario Romero and Pascual Romero  
2018

**Acequias** (Continued from page 9)

action followed. Speculators, developers, along with city officials, had other plans for our water. Many *parciantes* lost their water rights and buildings and houses gradually covered most of the *acequias* no longer in use.

The Stone Dam was built in 1881 and replaced half a mile upstream by the Two-Mile Dam in 1893. Despite being larger, the new dam held only 400 acre feet. The great flood of 1904 rendered the Stone Dam obsolete. The hydrographic survey completed in 1919 counted 38 diversions from the main *acequias* for irrigating 1,267 acres and totaling 5,701 acre feet. The fields were located in the area where today's McClure Reservoir, the furthest upstream, and the furthest downstream were farms in La Bajada that still had water rights. As the population grew from approximately 5,000 to almost 20,000 souls in a period of three decades, city leaders shifted the use of water toward development and domestic use, while many of the *parciantes* were away fighting in World War I. When they returned, most of them had to sue to regain their water rights. During World War II, Nichols Reservoir was constructed in 1943 and Granite Point Dam was expanded and renamed McClure Reservoir after the war in 1948. As a result, the *Río*

*Santa Fé* dried out by late spring while the upper irrigated fields were condemned to make way for the new dams. Another hydrographic survey was conducted in 1977-1978, after the filing of another lawsuit, however, by this time fewer than 20% of the *parciantes* remained or were no longer using their priority rights to water.

Today, the *acequias* carry water because of a lawsuit brought by the *Acequia Madre* and *Acequia Cerro Gordo* Associations to the 1st Judicial District court against PNM (formerly Santa Fe Water & Electric Company) in 1990. The map shows the *Acequia Madres* – upper and lower - with a curvy line running from the upper watershed to the Village of *Agua Fria*. (Note: the *acequias* depicted on the map are those from the 17th and 18th centuries).

The *acequias* remaining from the complex, historical system of water management in *Santa Fé* are the *Acequia Madre de los López* in the upper river, connected to the lower part called the *Acequia Madre de Los Pinos*. Another *acequia* that runs during sufficient snow-pack is the *Acequia San Antonio* which flows through the *Barrio de Analco* and joins the *Acequia de los Pinos* at the Santa Fe Indian School and on to *Agua Fria* village where it is diverted directly back into the *Río Santa Fe*. Stretches of

the original 1610 *Acequia de la Muralla* remain as well as the *Acequia del Llano* and the original *Acequia de Analco*. Both the *Acequia Madre* and the *Acequia de la Muralla* have been put on the Historic Santa Fe Foundation's Registry, worthy of preservation.

The traditions and heritage of Spanish and Mexican *Santa Fé* continue to disappear. If we are truly the "City Different" and one of our largest economic contributors is tourism based on our heritage, why do we continue to grow and build like any other U.S. cities? The Old Santa Fe Association has tried to keep the city different since 1926 and native residents held onto their properties as long as possible, reluctantly selling their historical properties to developers. With only four *acequias* in partial use given sufficient mountain snow-pack runoff above the City of Santa Fe currently, any future use will depend on whether the City decides to begin a serious long-range plan for urban agriculture. With higher temperatures and lower than average snow-pack and rainfall for at least the past twenty-three years, today we need to allocate water for our own subsistence, not egregious development that requires more water.

In Santa Fe we must preserve our sense of place.

**David Leaves** (Continued from page 3)

the years. (Senior planner and interim supervising planner and historic preservation officer, Nicole Ramirez Thomas, left the City as of November 9, and her vacancy will also impact historic preservation in Santa Fe, until her shoes are filled as well. See *Santa Fe Reporter*, 10/31/18, "Historical Vacuum" by Julie Ann Grimm.) Working with the codes and ordinances that we have can be challenging, but they certainly point us in the right direction, although they need to be reviewed. How do we come to agreement about what is and when to use a rounded corner, which brown colors are historically accurate and/or appropriate, just exactly what does Territorial mean in translation and how do we understand the best way to preserve Santa Fe's historic sense of place? So many details, so much to consider!

David's job description at the City included informing the public about historic and archeological districts

ordinances, reviewing plans for new construction and alteration or demolition of structures, monitoring compliance with ordinances within the 5 historic districts and the 3 archeological districts, discussing project details with staff, owners, architects, archeologists, contractors and attorneys, and providing recommendations for action to the Historic Districts Review Board as well as the Governing Body. (By the way, HDRB now refers to Historic "Districts" Review Board — not "Design.")

He has presented countless lectures and papers on historic preservation, and recently he spoke at the New Mexico History Museum, about what is historic Santa Fe style and where it may be headed, referring to the "Fanta Se Conundrum." Of note, here, is that one of the more serious discussions OSFA has had with David has been in relation to his curious advocacy for incorporating modern materials into plans for new houses in historic districts, such as substituting metal for wood in traditional style vigas.

His many interests aside from historic preservation include Acoma pottery, contemporary Hispanic and Navajo weaving, and trees, about which he has said the Bristlecone Pine is his favorite conifer.

A Lifetime Member of OSFA, David confirms that he believes in its mission: "Holistic cultural preservation, with our unique sense of place at its core, has a fragile hold in Santa Fe's 21st century existence. OSFA diligently engages with a barrage of proposed threats for unsuitable changes by those who may not fully appreciate the built environment of our past."

Well, David, we sincerely consider it a grave loss for the City of Santa Fe that you and your accumulated knowledge and vast institutional memory will no longer be a part of the Historic Preservation Division. However, we are glad that you decided to stay in our sometimes challenged historic town — even though you left the City.

# Phil and Eleanor Ortiz Bové

## Caregivers of Our Acequia Madre

Santa Fe's Acequia Madre has been in continuous operation for over four centuries. For many decades Phil Bové and his wife of more than 50 years, Eleanor Ortiz Bové, have been observing overseeing and protecting the over 400-year-old Acequia Madre, Santa Fe's the "Mother Ditch", which runs next to their home in Santa Fe's historic east side, the same house where Eleanor was born. Phil has been a Commissioner of the Acequia Madre since 1983 and has served on the Santa Fe River Commission since 2009. He, and Eleanor, in her essential role as cohort, have organized work crews and projects for year-round maintenance, shared their knowledge and respect for acequias on walks, have recruited and feasted volunteers and *parciantes* for the annual cleaning of the ditch, and have dealt with officials high and low in preserving the Acequia Madre's rights. They have provided invaluable leadership in

maintaining Acequia Madre as a treasured and functional part of the heart of Santa Fe and the Village of Agua Fria.

Phil and Eleanor are an integral part of the effort to preserve Santa Fe's sense of place and the need to respect our water as a shared resource. And they enjoy doing this. As Nate Downey, OSFA member, conservationist and author of *Harvest the Rain*, has said: "It is the same sense of community building that the Bovés represent that our culture really needs today."

The Bovés have been able to help ensure that the acequia, which runs through their neighborhood on its way to Agua Fria, is cared for and will continue to do what it was designed and constructed to do: deliver irrigation water to the acequia *parciantes*.

Santa Fe thanks them.



Phil and Eleanor Ortiz Bové receive OSFA award. (Photo by John Eddy, © 2013)

# La Castrense on the Plaza

Attending the hearings of the Historic Districts Review Board (sometimes referred to as the HDRB or just the H-Board) can be interesting since often bits of Santa Fe history are revealed during a hearing, and in our city, where preserving our historic landmarks is part of the way we respect our shared heritage, this can be as true for interested newcomers and tourists as it is for the old families with their notable and enduring histories in Santa Fe.

A recent case in point is the hearing that occurred on October 23 at City Hall, held by the Historic Preservation Division's Historic Districts Review Board in the City Council

Chambers. That afternoon there were 9 scheduled hearings. Of particular interest was the hearing relating to a property on the south side of the Plaza

at 66—70 East San Francisco Street, where the owners wanted a roof deck, similar to one next door. It is a non-residential, contributing commercial building in what is known as the Downtown and Eastside Historic District.

Although there have been many changes to the building over the years, it still retains the iconic Mission Revival detail that is still part of the Plaza streetscape, and which contributes to the sense of Santa Fe history that is an important component of the attraction of the Plaza area. The north elevation, in other words, the side facing north towards the



Location of razed 18th-century La Castrense chapel. (Photo by John Eddy, © 2018)

(Continued on page 22)



# THE OLD SANTA FE ASSOCIATION

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Elaine Bergman  
Sallie Bingham  
Elspeth Bobbs  
Frank Katz and Consuelo Bokum  
Phillip and Eleanor Bove  
Drury Plaza Hotel, Santa Fe  
Deanna Einspahr  
Barbara Fix  
Dan and Terri Guy  
Kathleen Howard  
Peter Ives  
La Fonda on the Plaza  
Los Alamos National Bank  
Joanne McCarthy  
Barbara Pohlman  
David Rasch  
Alex Rochelle  
School for Advanced Research  
Kenneth Stilwell  
T, T & G Family  
Nancy Meem Wirth  
Woods Design Builders

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Mary Ellen Degnan  
Valerie Brooker and Melvin  
Duncan  
William Loeb  
New Mexico Bank & Trust (Max  
Myers)  
B.C. Rimbeaux  
Elizabeth West

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Dan Merians and Elizabeth  
Bradley  
Robert and Townley Neill  
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Arlene B. Post  
Bill and Betsy Ranck  
Mickey and Warren Thompson  
Alan (Mac) and Kristin Watson

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Valles  
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Cordelia Thomas Snow  
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Graciela Tome  
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Jerry R. West  
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David Dodge  
Nate Downey and Melissa  
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Archaeological Support Services  
(Eric Blinman)  
Building Adventures Unlimited  
(Bonafacio Armijo)  
Frameline Films, Inc. (John Eddy)  
Gayla Bechtol Architect PC (Gayla  
Bechtol)  
Journey Santa Fe (Bill Dupuy)  
La Vereda Owners Association  
(Tom Spray)  
Melanie Peters and Associates  
(Melanie Peters)  
Stephen's Consignment (Glen  
Smith)  
WH Studio, LLC (William Powell)

## New Lifetime Members

### OSFA Welcomes Three New Lifetime Memberships

**Sallie Bingham** is an acclaimed author who writes both fiction and non-fiction. Her next book is a biography of Doris Duke, called *The Silver Swan: In Search of Doris Duke*, to be published by Farrar Strauss and Giroux in the Fall of 2019. She has lived in Santa Fe since 1991. A longtime member of OSFA, Sallie is known for her generous support of many local community organizations, particularly those of the arts and theatre.

**Frank Katz and Consuelo Bokum** are a dynamic couple who adopted her native Santa Fe as their home in 1979. Having been our city attorney for years, Frank currently sits on both the County Planning Commission, and the Historic Districts Review Board for the city. Conci maintains her multi-decade commitment to New Mexico Water Dialog, with a passion of furthering our understanding and responsibilities for this precious and diminishing resource in the southwest. We thank them for their continued support of OSFA.

**Peter Ives** moved to Santa Fe in 1983, and is a lawyer who has served Santa Fe as city councilor in District 2, aiming to support sustainable practices while finding ways to encourage public participation in city government; he is Chair of the Water Conservation Committee for the city. Since 1998 he has been Senior Council for the Trust for Public Lands. He is married to multigenerational Santa Fean, attorney Patricia Salazar Ives. It is known that Peter likes to sing!

## Membership Letter

Dear Neighbor,

I was recently on vacation in another state and as I drove back through Santa Fe it was as if I were seeing it again for the first time. I was immediately struck by the light and the deep blue of the sky. I saw the beauty and uniqueness of the adobe houses. How lucky I was to be home in this very special city where its history, diversity and charm are so evident.

It is no wonder we are known as "the City Different."

As members of the Old Santa Fe Association we understand this difference, and our mission is "to preserve and maintain the ancient landmarks, historical structures and the tradition of Old Santa Fe. We work to help guide the city's growth and development in such a way as to promote a unique charm and distinction, born of age, culture, tradition and environment, which are the priceless assets and heritage of Santa Fe."

OSFA has been busy this year. Just a few of the projects we have been involved in include the remodel of the County Courthouse, proposed redevelopment of the Halpin building, the Pilot Flying J truck stop, and the Estancias del Norte development proposal. The list goes on as OSFA seeks to maintain the integrity of Santa Fe.

Won't you join us in preserving Santa Fe's sense of place? We're proud of what we've been able to do, and we hope you will join us and become a real part of our work. Please help by becoming a member or renewing your membership for 2019.

Thank you,

Ellen Dupuy  
Membership Chairman  
Old Santa Fe Association

## In Memoriam

*OSFA honors the memory of the following members who died in 2018*

Longtime member Joann Phillips(1928-2018), who with her late husband, Gifford, gave so generously to our community, including many arts and culture organizations.

Marta (Mary Martha) Weigle (1944-2018), respected author, scholar and educator, celebrated New Mexico's history, arts and culture.

# Sara Melton Said...

*One day in 2003, the Old Santa Fe Association's mission statement (see back cover) inspired one of OSFA's and Santa Fe's most ardent supporters to write the following:*

The mission statement was written 77 years ago by the founders of the Old Santa Fe Association. It is the voice of those who love their community and want to nurture its values.

Our surroundings, the built environment and the natural, affect how we feel. Pressures in this country today are toward homogenization. The individual, the unique, the different are pushed toward conformity. A personal sense of place anchored to a particular community disappears when every place looks like and operates like everywhere else. Our identity, individually and as a community, is a fragile and priceless asset. Preserving our history is more than just respecting the built

environment; it is understanding and dealing with the influences that shape the community over time.



*Sara Melton (b. 1930 - d. 2006). Photo by Jane Phillips. Copyright © The New Mexican. Reprinted with permission.*

The uniqueness and creativity of this community can enrich our lives if we insist on our own style, what we want, what works here, and refuse to follow unchallenged the trends in other places. We should take pride in the Lew Wallace observation that "Every action founded on

experience elsewhere fails in New Mexico."

Indeed our economic health is based on engaging the curiosity and fascination of those who seek a unique experience in visiting here.

Our municipal rules and regulations ought to reflect our value system, not an impersonal national standard. This means regulations for zoning, construction, design, demolition, usage, streets etc. should fit our own circumstances and grow out of our particular history and experience. To this end the City must maintain a strong planning department to provide the means of implementation for its vision.

The Old Santa Fe Association continues to take an active role in advocating appropriate city policies to maintain and strengthen the unique character of Santa Fe.

*-- Sara Melton  
May 2003*

## **Have You Written a Book about Santa Fe? Are you a Member of OSFA?**

If you can answer "yes" to those questions above, please let us know the title or titles of your book or books so that we can add it or them to our list of Suggested Reading titles on our web site. The list is an informal and, due to space constraints, necessarily incomplete compilation of Santa Fe and New Mexico titles. We would be interested in other suggestions you might have. However, we now want to feature a group of books about Santa Fe and/or NM, by our Association members, since we are a curious, talented and mission-driven collection of City Different folks. Contact Elizabeth West at: ewest@cybermesa.com and put "OSFA books" in the Subject line. Thank you!

# OSFA Reviews Proposed County Administration Building

*By John Eddy*

On August 29th of this year, the Old Santa Fe Association board members were invited to preview Santa Fe County's plans for a new County Administration building to be situated on the southwest corner of Grant and Catron Streets in downtown Santa Fe. Longtime residents will remember this as the original location of the Leah Harvey elementary school, and even further back in time...the Catron family property. We were most appreciative of such an invitation, as the actions of both the County and State have considerable impact on our downtown environment. Of special concern is this location, which is directly adjacent to the iconic First Presbyterian Church, on Grant. Also, to the west, this site borders a long established mixed-use neighborhood of eclectic Santa Fe style bungalows. On the whole, we were relieved to see that earlier feedback OSFA shared with the County had been taken

to heart, and this latest iteration of design proved to be more in sympathy with later Pueblo Revival design, with set-backs and massing potentially harmonizing better with the beautiful Santa Fe County Courthouse designed by John Gaw Meem- just down the street on the corner of Palace and Grant Avenues. Although there were concerns addressed as to the overall presence of the building on the site, and the public's understanding and ease of accessibility to the building, we saw them taking steps in the right direction.

Thankfully, our board is enhanced by the participation of Rad Acton, AIA, in such matters, and Mr. Acton's keen eye helped us to focus not only on areas of particular architectural concern, but he also was invaluable in communicating clearly and concisely potential remedies to the issues identified.

The County has adopted a "Design/Build" approach to this project in order to fast-track its completion. While this can be of some concern

to the community as it limits public participation in design decisions, we are grateful that the County has not only invited OSFA into the early phases of development on at least two occasions, they also brought their plans to the Historic Districts Review Board for early consideration. In its letter to the County Deputy Manager Tony Flores, OSFA reiterated its fundamental concern that County projects be formally submitted to the City's Historic Districts Review Board (HDRB), not just for informal comment but also for formal review and approval. On the State level, OSFA is working on draft legislation broadening the definition of State projects requiring formal HDRB review and approval (see cover story).

As their plans are more finely tuned going forward, we welcome the continuation of this spirit, because we are convinced that consultation with an informed public is one of the only ways to protect our unique architectural heritage in Santa Fe.

# The OSFA 2018 Candidate Questionnaire

In February, 2018, leading up to the municipal election, the Old Santa Fe Association offered those who ran for office a questionnaire concerning some current issues impacting our city. All 14 candidates participated in the 10-question survey. The election was also the first time that Santa Fe used Ranked Choice Voting!

Questionnaire: take the survey yourself and compare your answers with Mayor Webber’s answers, which are here, and then see the answers from Councilor Abeyta, Councilor Ives, Councilor Lindell, Councilor Romero-Wirth, Councilor Vigil Coppler and all the other candidates for both Mayor and Councilors, on the OSFA website: [www.oldsantafe.org](http://www.oldsantafe.org)

1. Please rank how each of the following contributes to the health and worldwide reputation of Santa Fe’s tourism economy. (Rank on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the greatest contribution.)

- Natural landscape and climate
- Quality of shopping and restaurants
- Cultural traditions and events
- Historic downtown and architecture
- The arts, including art galleries, music and theater arts

*Alan Webber answered:*

- 1 Cultural traditions
- 2 The arts
- 3 Natural landscape and climate
- 4 Historic downtown
- 5 Quality of shopping and restaurants

2. To what degree do you believe that a well-preserved historic downtown is important to the local Santa Fe community and economy?

- A. Critically important
- B. Very important
- C. Moderately important
- D. Marginally important
- E. Not important

*Webber and almost everyone answered:  
Critically important*

3. How effective do you believe that the City’s Historic Ordinance and Historic Design Review Board have been in protecting the historic fabric of historic districts in Santa Fe?

- A. Very effective
- B. Moderately effective
- C. Not effective enough
- D. Not effective at all

*Webber and almost everyone answered:  
Very effective*

4. How helpful would establishing certain design or preservation constraints, as the kind found in the City’s Historic Ordinance, be to the historic quality and livability of other parts of the city, such as the St. Michael’s corridor, the city’s gateways, and the Airport Road area?

- A. Extremely important, not just for the specific areas, but for the entire city

B. Specific historical spots should be identified and preserved

C. An updated land development code would be more helpful

D. The current zoning and land development code is adequate

E. No need for preservation protections outside Historic Districts

*Webber answered:*

*Specific historical spots should be identified and preserved*

5. How much importance will you place on supporting our neighborhoods-particularly historic neighborhoods — in the face of the growing need for affordable housing, expanded cellular service, and other economic and urban growth issues?

- A. Supporting neighborhoods will be my first priority
- B. Neighborhoods will be important
- C. The city’s needs will be evaluated and balanced
- D. Economic growth must be my first priority
- E. Neighborhoods must adapt and transform to meet new economic opportunities

*Webber answered:*

*Neighborhoods will be important*

6. When it comes to appointing volunteer committee and commission members, how important should their direct experience and expertise be in the selection process?

- A. Critically important
- B. Important
- C. Moderately important
- D. Direct experience minimally important
- E. Would accept a fresh approach over experience

*Webber answered:*

*Critically important*

7. How important to you is maintaining the city’s height restrictions downtown?

- A. Extremely important
- B. Important
- C. Moderately important
- D. Not as important as growth opportunities
- E. Not important

*Webber answered: Extremely important*

8. Please rank 1–5 (with 1 being the greatest) the importance of the role which each of the following plays in attracting and keeping young families in Santa Fe.

- \_\_\_ Natural and built environments
- \_\_\_ Affordable housing
- \_\_\_ Good jobs
- \_\_\_ Good public schools
- \_\_\_ Strong cultural and political traditions/connections

*Many different answers.*

*Webber answered:*

- 1 Good public schools
- 2 Good jobs
- 3 Affordable housing
- 4 Natural and built environments
- 5 Strong traditions

9. Do you believe our City should provide incentives to the city's business sector encouraging it to address our serious water, sustainability and environmental challenges?

- A. Yes, with a broad range of tax, fee and regulatory incentives
- B. Yes, with limited tax and fee incentives
- C. Yes, but with regulatory incentives not affecting City's tax revenues.

D. Moderately so, but with other types of incentives  
E. No, business sector can address such issues without government incentives.

*Webber answered:*

*Yes, but with regulatory incentives not affecting City's tax revenues*

10. Other famous historic U.S. cities recognize their historic integrity to be of vital importance to their economic and community well-being, and some, such as Charleston, S.C., have their entire city staff trained by their historic divisions to understand the necessity of preservation for their city's welfare. In your opinion, how effective would this comprehensive approach be in maintaining Santa Fe's authenticity and sense of place?

- A. Critically effective and necessary
- B. Moderately effective but necessary
- C. Moderately effective for Land Use staff only
- D. Not effective and time-consuming for Land Use staff
- E. Irrelevant to Santa Fe

*Webber and most answered:*

*Moderately effective but necessary*

## **Déjà Vu All Over Again: PNM and Its Power Plant**

*By Barbara Fix*

Across Shoofly Way in the City's Baca Railyard, viewed from the Trailhead and Opuntia Teahouse, is an odd structure: a long cement, much graffitied wall behind a chain link fence that surrounds PNM's 17 acre former industrial property. That's what remains of PNM Service Center, where PNM's trucks were fueled by above and below ground gas storage tanks and where PNM's electrical equipment, transformers, etc., were maintained.

PNM's Power Plant was fueled with coal and fuel oil brought in by the railroad that ran where the Acequia Trail now is. Nearby is the Santa Fe Well, aka the Baca Street Well. It was the first municipal water not to come out of the Santa Fe Canyon, drilled in 1951 when the drought was threatening the water supply for the City. PNM then owned the Sangre de Cristo Water Company and located that well next to its industrial activities.

In the late 1980s, petroleum and solvents were discovered in the well, contaminating the water supply. PNM did

admit that 54,000 gallons of fuel oil had leaked from a broken pipe going to the power plant. PNM installed a single GAC filter on the well, even though in meeting after meeting the Baca neighborhood demanded PNM install double filters, per industry standard with an undefined plume of likely nearby origin. PNM refused. Furthermore, PNM refused to change its practice of maximum pumping from urban wells because it was cheaper than pumping water up from the Buckman wells.

PNM and the NM Environment Department drilled monitoring wells near the well, and NMED determined PNM was the source of the well contamination. In 1992 they signed an agreement providing for testing of some of the monitoring wells and continued operation of the Santa Fe well. Due no doubt in part to PNM's apparent indifference to the public welfare, the public voted overwhelmingly to buy the water company from PNM. Once it bought the water company in 1995, the City installed a dual filter system and built the turquoise roofed building that can be seen from Opuntia. It also let other now City urban wells rest

and recharge the aquifer, with the result that those wells can be our savings account now that we are in severe drought and water supply from the canyon reservoirs is scarce and the Buckman Diversion is experiencing difficulties.

At the City's insistence, monitoring wells that hadn't been tested underwent testing, and they showed new petroleum contamination, which led to the new 2015 PNM/NMED agreement for new monitoring wells. They are now being drilled, paid for through the NMED Corrective Action Fund, which is funded by our gasoline taxes.

In addition to petroleum, there are other contaminants in the PNM land and groundwater. The Master Plan for the Railyard called for the PNM land to get a brownfields treatment and then be made into a public park.

Now that the public is drawn to the Baca Railyard and can see the PNM land, maybe it's time for that plan to be put into action.

**Truck Stop** (Continued from page 5)

with performances donated by local, world class musicians and UNM music faculty. SFGA also established a Go-Fund-Me page.

A November 2017 "facilitation meeting" (intended to provide an opportunity for dialogue between the truck stop developer and local opposition groups) was held at SFCC in accordance with the SLDC. In such meetings, the SLDC requires equal opportunities for presentations by both the applicant and residents and homeowner associations, followed by discussion among participants. But, in violation of the SLDC, the opposition was not asked, nor allowed, to make a presentation. The meeting was controlled by the truck stop developer, who again used this platform to lobby for construction. Despite SFGA protests about the conduct of the meeting, no corrective action was taken by the county.

To keep the truck-stop issue alive over the next several months, additional petition signatures were gathered and SFGA developed a Face Book presence and a website to continue to inform the public. One dedicated SFGA steering committee member went door to door collecting thousands of petition signatures.

As the truck stop opposition unfolded alongside the various county truck stop application steps, members of the SFGA realized that becoming a Registered Organization (RO) within Santa Fe County would give voice to members of the community and to many community issues. ROs are vehicles through which Santa Fe County solicits community input, while also providing information on matters of interest to county residents.

The Alliance members, along with many supporters, did their own research, including outreach to environmental scientists who studied the potential effects of 75 overnighted

semi-trucks (diesel emissions, excessive noise), light pollution counter to local night skies ordinances, traffic safety, and potential water supply and wastewater management problems. Concerned citizens studied the traffic impacts of the double diamond traffic interchange and safety concerns related to the new Exit 278 design. Traffic safety was of great concern related to PFJ/Exit 278 LLC projections of approximately 300 semi-trucks per day as well as vehicular traffic, buses for the public and school buses.

SFGA reached out to local educational entities including IAIA, SFCC, and Amy Biehl Community School, all of whom supported the opposition campaign and wrote letters. IAIA Student Government passed a student resolution opposing the truck stop. Through dozens of letters to the editor, opinion pieces, and radio and TV spots, the word of the campaign continued to spread. This media

*(Continued on page 21)*



Lisa Burns and crowd protesting the Pilot Flying J Truck Stop. See "Standing Strong Against a Giant" *The New Mexican*, Sunday, January 7, 2018. (Photo by Luis Sánchez Saturno. Copyright © 2018 The New Mexican. Reprinted with permission.)

**Truck Stop** (Continued from page 20)

attention from *The Santa Fe New Mexican* and *Albuquerque Journal North* kept the opposition to the truck stop in the public's eye.

Numerous communities, businesses, and neighborhoods in, around, and on the Turquoise Trail supported SFGA efforts, among them: Turquoise Trail Business Park, Rancho Viejo, Vista Ocaso, La Pradera, Churchhill Estates, Valle Lindo, Turquoise Trail, Oshara Village, Valle Vista. The communities of San Marcos, Los Cerrillos, and Madrid were strong opposition allies, standing together with TTRA and SFGA. Support from these Santa Fe County Registered organizations was invaluable: Turquoise Trail Regional Alliance, Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway, Rancho San Marcos Neighborhood Association, and the San Marcos Registered Organization.

Many groups and individuals from the City of Santa Fe joined the opposition as well, including the Old Santa Fe Association (OSFA). President John Pen La Farge spoke eloquently on more than one occasion, citing the discontinuity between a truck stop and Santa Fe's "sense of place," for which the city received international recognition from National Geographic Society. The Santa Fe League of Women Voters kept an eye on what was happening, too. The valuable support from our lawmakers, Senator Liz Stefanics and Speaker of the House Brian Egolf was greatly appreciated.

On March 15, 2018, Santa Fe County held a Planning Commission hearing at Santa Fe High School to accommodate all interested citizens. It was determined at the Planning Commission meeting that over 500 letters of opposition had been received. The Planning Commission concluded that the Conceptual Plan for the proposed truck stop was not in conformance with the Community College District Plan's vision and intent to promote local, environmentally sustainable businesses and to serve local residents' needs, because the proposed truck stop was intended to serve, and would predominately serve,

out of district and out of region travelers travelling the interstate. The commission concluded that a truck stop should not be permitted because it: (1) is not materially similar to a gas station, (2) is not a warehouse structure, (3) is not a light industrial facility nor a truck freight transportation facility, and (4) definitely is not an allowable use in the CCD. In a unanimous (7-0) decision, the members of the Planning Commission opposed the plan.



Continuing to fundraise, a concert and raffle were held on May 6, 2018, at The Mineshaft Tavern in Madrid. Music was provided by two local bands, one of which is a band that came together for the occasion.

In a May 8, 2018, public hearing, the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners (BCC) took final action on the PFJ truck stop conceptual plan. This was the second hearing held at Santa Fe High School because the number of attendees opposing the truck stop far exceeded available seating space in the BCC chambers. Hundreds of people poured in wearing their turquoise T-shirts, with dozens of people giving public testimony. Many spoke from prepared comments to be entered into the record.

The presidents of IAIA and the SFCC Board spoke in opposition to the proposal, and a letter of opposition was presented by the Parent Teacher Association of Amy Biehl Community School. Several business owners from the Turquoise Trail Business Park testified that this type of development across the street from their businesses would be detrimental to their survival. The final step was to turn over petitions with 2500 signatures.

After a 5-hour hearing, the BCC concluded: "The Conceptual Plan of allowing four different light industrial businesses on the 26 acre parcel would be approved, the truck stop use was removed from the conceptual plan.

The Board voted 4-1 with the only dissenting vote from Commissioner Anaya."

On August 6, 2018, before the BCC final order was written, Pilot Flying J Travel Centers and Exit 278 LLC filed a Notice of Appeal in District Court. Then, on Sept. 6, 2018, it was learned that Pilot Flying J and Exit 278 LLC had filed a Notice of Dismissal without prejudice for their appeal of the truck-stop. This meant that no additional appeal could be reintroduced.

On October 7, 2018, a celebration was held at Beer Creek Brewing Company, on the Turquoise Trail, featuring Robert McCormick, Henry Sutro and several bands. SFGA's friends, supporters and allies paused to recognize the importance of community in defending Santa Fe's "sense of place".

Santa Fe Gateway Alliance sends a big thank you to the many volunteers, technical experts, and donors whose personal dedication and generosity provided needed resources. Much work still needs to be done to realize the mission of preserving and protecting this Santa Fe gateway.

SFGA looks forward to continuing to work with Santa Fe County Growth Management and Land Use Department, the many community allies and supporters, and developers, to ensure that the spirit of the Sustainable Growth Management Plan is honored in future discussions of development on the south side.

In celebrating the success of their campaign, the Santa Fe Gateway Alliance and the people involved realize that as important as it was to stop the truck stop, another valuable outcome is the supportive community involvement that has developed.

A solid commitment has been established with a broad base of friends who want to preserve and protect the gateway to Santa Fe at the top of the Turquoise Trail.

The Santa Fe Gateway Alliance web site is: [www.santafegatewayalliance.org](http://www.santafegatewayalliance.org)

**La Castrense** (Continued from page 13)

Plaza, has status as a "primary facade on a contributing building" owing to its creation during a remodel of the site by Architect, John Gaw Meem in 1949 (re: New Mexico State Office of Historic Preservation; ID no 051610474). The building was also plaqued by Meem, a practice later adopted by the Historic Santa Fe Foundation. In his design, Meem honored the location of one of the finest of 18<sup>th</sup> century New Mexican churches, La Castrense, a military chapel used from 1760 to the mid-1800s. This was where the

remarkable, large stone *retablo*, or alter screen, carved by Bernardo de Miera y Pacheco was situated, having been commissioned by the governor and his wife when the chapel was first constructed. It remained there until the church was deconsecrated in 1859. The *retablo* was then stored safely in St Francis Cathedral until 1939 when it was moved to Cristo Rey Church, where you can see it today.

After listening to statements by members of OSFA about the history of this place, the building's sense of simplicity and the importance of the

character of the streetscape, the HDRB denied the exception request for expansion of the applicant's commercial space, with access to that area above the portal. (Portals around the Plaza are owned by the City.) The request to raise the parapet and add a railing to a primary elevation was denied along with the exception request to remove historic material and not replace in kind.

*At press time, we learned that the applicant will appeal the HDRB decision to the City Council.*

**Voces** (Continued from page 8)

rare books to the Fray Angelico Chavez Library. Also, we have ceremoniously honored members of our community, such as hosting the citywide birthday party for Connie Hernandez, proprietor of one of Santa Fe's oldest stores, Milagro on Old Santa Fe Trail. She was also a Santa Fe Living Treasure.

Today, Voces has over 1000 members. We continue with our mission of sharing and archiving our personal histories, through our Oral Histories Project. This will include all sectors of our community, as well as panel interviews.

As depicted in *Red Sky at Morning*, Voces shines a light on those "values

in life that count." We believe in honoring our heritage and supporting our community. Voces has two mottos: "We're Still Here" and "Telling Our Histories in Our Own Voces."

*Usually OSFA does not mention details about our contributors; however, in the spirit of personal histories, which Voces stands for, let's introduce OSFA member María Montez-Skolnik:*

*She was born and raised in Santa Fe. She had a long career as a Bilingual Speech and Language Pathologist in both Santa Fe and the San Francisco Bay Area. Maria's father, Ramon Montes, a santero artist, was a Santa Fe Living Treasure. Her mother, Emma Jaramillo Montes, from a family of well-known weavers, was born and raised*

*in the house now known as Rancho de Chimayo. Maria's influence and passion for the culture and heritage of northern New Mexico were born from her family background. Dedicated to honoring and preserving our heritage, Maria is one of three founders of Voces de Santa Fe/Voces de New Mexico, along with Jim Baca and Stephen Earnest. She is also a committee member of Santa Fe Living Treasures. She and her husband, Harry Martin Skolnik, have two sons, Benjamin, and Zachary.*

## Railroad History Celebration at the Railyard

The Santa Fe Railyard was busy much of September with the New Mexico Railroad History Celebration, which included railroad art displayed at El Museo Cultural de Santa Fe, docent-led railroad history tours conducted by La Fonda, a film festival hosted by Violet Crown, various "Living History" reenactment stations set up around the Railyard Park, and a panel discussion at the NM History Museum, amongst other events. The Old Santa Fe Association was part of the fun at El Museo Cultural where a selection of railroad art and photography

surrounded a large display of many model trains and layouts from the Santa Fe Model Railroad Club. OSFA's booth was nearby, within earshot of both the model trains humming, clickety clack, and the real trains outside: the Rail Runner Express and the Santa Fe Southern Railway were available to board.

Sponsors along with OSFA were: NM Rail Runner Express, La Fonda on the Plaza and Union Pacific. Other partners included: NM History Museum, El Museo Cultural de Santa Fe, Tourism

Santa Fe, Keep Santa Fe Beautiful, Violet Crown Cinema, Sky Coffee, Railyard Park Conservancy, Santa Fe Railyard Community Corporation, Santa Fe Southern Railway, Santa Fe Children's Museum, Santa Fe Conservation Trust, Santa Fe Community Foundation and the Santa Fe Model Railroad Club.

Because the event was so successful it is already being planned for next year! All aboard!

# Randall Davey House SOS

*A letter for the National Audubon Society and Audubon New Mexico*

Since 1926, Old Santa Fe Association has dedicated itself to preserving Santa Fe, the 400-plus-year, multi-cultural oldest-continuing capital city in the United States. A significant piece of that history is the historic Randall Davey House at the Santa Fe Audubon Center.

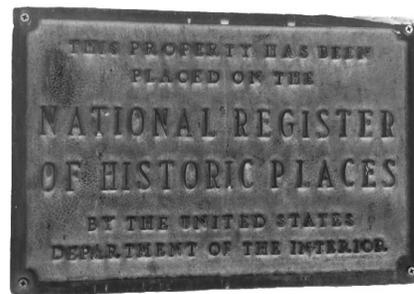
When internationally-known artist Randall Davey bought the property in 1920, it included the stone sawmill, which dated to the 1800s. He lived in the central two-story section made with hand-hewn timbers and added traditional Territorial style adobe construction, which included his studio. He lived and worked there for the next forty-four years. The Randall Davey Foundation donated the house and property to the National Audubon Society in 1983 for safekeeping and maintaining the house and studio as they were during his lifetime, with the property to be used as a sanctuary for birds and animals, and for the pleasure of visitors.

Despite the fact that the structure has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places and also registered by our sister organization, the Historic Santa Fe Foundation, as an important historic structure, it has been sadly neglected by the Audubon Society. Some efforts have been made, and the Randall Davey legacy has not been completely ignored. On the hopeful side, all the roofing on the house and studio was replaced. There was also trenching done in the back of the house to alleviate what had become a major problem of moisture. Initial funding came from the National Trust for Historic

Preservation. The acequia has now also been lined to stop the leaks that found their way to the house. The original studio door is protected and several pieces of furniture have been mended. The pantry area behind the kitchen where the floor was collapsing is being repaired. A new heating furnace is being installed. The Audubon Center has received about ten gifts of Davey art from donors, and his 'cello was given by his family. Slowly, more interest is being generated in restoration, and there is talk of creating a Friends of Davey group, but time is of the essence. We understand from the director, and other experts, that the cost of repair could be expensive, and the longer the wait the more costly the project will be.

As said, all this is hopeful, yet, it appears the Davey House is not a real priority of the National Audubon Society. A substantial amount of money has been raised by the Audubon New Mexico's current capital campaign for a new, additional building now being built on the site, the Henderson Pavilion. But funds apparently have not been earmarked to restore and protect the original, historic Davey structure until after the campaign is completed. The Davey House is built mostly of traditional adobe, a building material made of mud and straw that requires regular maintenance. What's more, interior walls and historic furnishings are rapidly deteriorating. The Randall Davey House is in danger.

It seems a significant part of Santa Fe's history is being ignored by a great national organization, which in this case, is more interested in



*National Register of Historic Places plaque at the Randall Davey House.*

new structures at the expense of the old. When we have asked the Santa Fe Audubon Chapter to hear our concerns, our arguments have fallen on deaf ears because of these new priorities.

We urgently ask you to take the request of the Old Santa Fe Association and the people of the City of Santa Fe into consideration. We take great pride in our historic sites and are disturbed by the Audubon Society's handling of its responsibility. The Davey property was given to you for your stewardship. Allowing this important historic property to degrade is not acceptable, and if not remedied, the degradation will result in irreversible damage.

We look forward to receiving a prompt response to this request, which we sincerely hope will demonstrate your recognition of your responsibility and your affirmation that you will undertake a plan to fulfill your obligation to restore and maintain this historic site.

Sincerely,

John Pen Lafarge  
President, Old Santa Fe Association

## **OSFA Annual Meeting at La Fonda**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Nancy Meem Wirth was invited to speak, and she delivered a compelling talk about "Preserving What Matters" with reminiscences from her youth, growing up in Santa Fe, the daughter

of prominent architect, John Gaw Meem. An excerpt of her talk appears in this newsletter. A film by John Eddy, OSFA board member, titled *The House That Gus Built*, showed some of the work in preserving the Gustave Baumann family home. The film, part of a work in progress, was well received. There were more guests who showed up than was

expected, which was wonderful, and several new people joined our Association that evening. Everyone had a fine time — many of us met other members who are new to us, and who share our interest in where our mission guides us to take action.





# Excerpts from Nancy Meem Wirth's Address

**Excerpts from her talk delivered at the Old Santa Fe Association Annual Meeting, October 25, 2018.**

*In 1994, I served as the founding board chair of Cornerstones, Community Partnerships, created to preserve architectural heritage and community traditions in New Mexico. We worked with communities whose churches were falling down. When they requested our help, we provided expertise and counsel about making adobes and obtaining inexpensive materials so that communities could come together to re-build their churches. Often the buildings had been stuccoed, trapping moisture and melting the adobe bricks. On Saturdays, community members, volunteers, and often groups of young people came together to work for the day. I loved to participate in those workdays. Together we would re-mud the exterior of the church to provide a breathable seal for the adobes beneath. Often the women of the village would cook up a wonderful noontime meal of beans, enchiladas, pies and lots of Kool Aid.*

*There was no attempt to take buildings back to their original design, but rather to return them to their best period—as determined by the community, not by us. Villages rebuilt their churches with our guidance, not our financial help.*

*This work affirmed for me that strengthening communities by working on their structural treasures was as much cultural preservation as*

*architectural preservation. Not only do the little churches and public buildings of rural New Mexico represent the past for their communities, they are crucibles that contain the history of families: their baptisms, weddings and burials, the very fabric of their current and future lives. The refurbished, rural buildings are not museums, but rather, I see them as living symbols of community.*



Nancy Meem Wirth spoke at OSFA's annual meeting. (Photo by Melanie West)

*The most all-consuming and exciting historic preservation project that I participated in was during my tenure on the NM Cultural Properties Review Committee, 2006-2011. I was appointed by then-Governor Richardson to serve on the Committee whose mission is to review proposals for the preservation of cultural properties, make recommendations for both the State and Federal Registers,*

*and to review state archeological permits.*

*In 2008, five pueblos and tribes (Acoma, Isleta, Laguna, Navajo and Zuni) nominated 686 square miles on Mt Taylor, near Grants, to be designated as a Traditional Cultural Property on the State Register. The Indians consider the mountain not only sacred, but for some, it is the very source of their creation. It also sits atop one of the richest known reserves of uranium ore in the country, and historically was threatened by destructive mining procedures.*

*In 2009, extensive and often divisive hearings on the nomination were held, both at the Roundhouse and in Grants. There, the local residents were angry and picketed us. They understandably wanted jobs but seemingly had forgotten how many Navajo workers had died of uranium exposure in the 1940s and '50s. After heated debate, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the nomination. It also created a review process by Native tribes for approval of all future uranium permits on Mt. Taylor.*

*Not surprisingly, the uranium industry challenged the decision. After appeals, the question went to the New Mexico Supreme Court, where six years later, our decision was unanimously upheld in 2014. To have been part of that historic process was certainly the most challenging and fulfilling act of preservation that I have experienced.*





All annual meeting photos by Melanie West. Available to view at our website: [www.oldsantafe.org/](http://www.oldsantafe.org/)

# The House that Gus Built

A Film by John Eddy

## On the Restoration of the Gustave Baumann House

At the Annual Meeting, after Nancy Wirth's talk, OSFA presented a special screening of *The House that Gus Built*, a film that was produced in 2018 by John Eddy. It is a sketch of a larger work in progress that features Gustave Baumann's Santa Fe home, and the film describes the extensive conservation efforts initiated by the Historic Santa Fe Foundation in 2009.

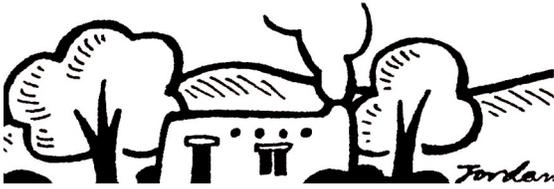
John Eddy is a native of Santa Fe with lifelong interests in local architecture, historic preservation, traditional building methods as well as filmmaking. He is also a master woodworker who has worked on various local historic properties through the years, and was supervisor of the restoration on the William Penhallow Henderson home on Camino del Monte

Sol. John leads OSFA's archival film project that seeks to preserve film material from families and organizations that reflect our cultural heritage. OSFA partners with the New Mexico History Museum/Palace of the Governors Photo Archives in this effort.

*The House that Gus Built* received additional production support from the Historic Santa Fe Foundation and the Ann Baumann Trust. It was previously presented at the New Mexico History Museum's October symposium, "Gathering for Gus" which honored Gustave Baumann, where it was also enthusiastically received. The preservation of the Baumann family home is of major value to the City of Santa Fe, and this beautiful film corroborates and champions that effort.



John Eddy (Photo by Melanie West)



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### **OSFA'S 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."

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Henry Roybal (Term 2019-2022)  
986-6200

**County District 2**

Anna Hansen (Chair) (Term 2017-2020)  
986-6200

**County District 3**

Rudy Nelson Garcia (Term 2019-2022)  
986-6200

**County District 4**

Anna T. Hamilton (Term 2017-2020)  
986-6200

**County District 5**

Ed Moreno (Term 2017-2020)  
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***Thank You for supporting the Old Santa Fe Association!***