



¡EL Boletín!

Winter 2017

Old Santa Fe Association • Preservation News

Preserving Santa Fe since 1926



Karen Walker at a "Members Thank You Party" at the Irene von Horvath house on Canyon Road, 2012 (page 7)

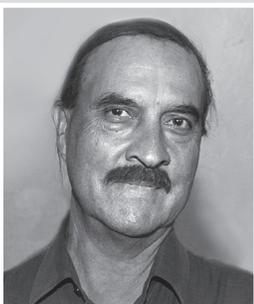


Photo: Melanie West

Hilario Romero at the Santa Fe Heritage Preservation Awards (page 11)

INSIDE

- Message from the President 2
- A Tale of Two Entities 3
- L. Bradford Prince Award 4
- Living Treasures 5
- OSFA Members 6
- Karen Walker: "I Want to Hear You" 7
- Keep Santa Fe Old 9
- A Letter on Monuments 10
- 2017 Heritage Preservation Awards 11

Santa Fe Receives the National Geographic Society Sense of Place Award



At the National Geographic World Legacy Awards ceremony in Berlin, Cynthia Delgado and Randy Randall, both of Santa Fe, accepting the award for Sense of Place, on behalf of the City of Santa Fe.



By John Pen La Farge

Most unexpectedly, in March, 2017, Santa Fe was announced as having been given the award for Sense of Place by the National Geographic Society. The award was given in Berlin, Germany, at the World Legacy Awards ceremony, and was accepted by Randy Randall on behalf of Santa Fe. Randall, head of Tourism Santa Fe, and his team, led by Cynthia Delgado, had quietly applied for the award, and, it is safe to say, astonished the city by convincing the National Geographic that our city deserved the honor.

That is, of all the cities in the world, any one of which could have been

given the award, Santa Fe was considered the most deserving. The society describes the award as, "Recognizing excellence in enhancing cultural authenticity, including using vernacular architecture and design, support for the protection of historic monuments, archeological sites, indigenous heritage, and artistic traditions."

The *Santa Fe New Mexican* reported the honor of our receiving the award this way, "The city of Santa Fe bested Adventure Canada, a family-owned outdoor experience company, and Awamaki, a Peru-based nonprofit that aids impoverished indigenous women, as decided by an international panel of more than 20 judges." This description points up the worldwide nature of the National Geographic's search for a city deserving of this award and why Santa Fe must feel honored to have been selected. I say, "must", because we have received so many awards over the years that the temptation is to become blasé. This award, however, is different.

Continued on page 5

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Message from the President

The association's business never ends. To keep you up to date here is a list of some of what we currently are keeping an eye on or are involved in, including:

- proposed re-development of the Halpin Building (the old Archives) on Montezuma Avenue into an adjunct space for the contemporary art holdings for the New Mexico Museum of Art;
- a plan to remodel the County Courthouse on the corner of Grant and West Palace Avenues, by taking it back to the original architectural integrity of architect, John Gaw Meem's vision (we will be following its ongoing status);
- the Old Pecos Trail corridor;
- activity in the Railyard district;
- proposed Flying J truck-stop at the south end of the city by I-25 and the entrance to Cerrillos Road, near Rancho Viejo Blvd;
- possible new development on the parking lot between the First National Bank and the Delgado building;
- possible new development on the parking lot west of the Lensic Theater;
- proposed county administration building (which was originally built in 1937 as Leah Harvey Junior High School) which is being planned to house offices for human resources and community services;
- Garrett's Desert Inn and its proposed re-development by the State Land Office;
- improvement plans at the Randall Davey Audubon Center;
- the Santa Fe Airport reconstruction and design;
- various proposals for what will become of the Old College of SF/SFUAD property, which is at the approximate geographical center of our city;
- "ReMike" process: the redo of St. Michael's corridor;
- a hotel development adjacent to Loretto Chapel;
- and insuring preservation of the historic St. Catherine's Indian School (perhaps the largest adobe building in the Southwest).

Naturally, we continue our long-standing interest in the Historic Districts Review Board and in attending its meetings.

All of these developments afford either hope for or danger to Santa Fe's integrity, depending on how they are handled. We hope you will support our work, join our efforts when possible, and renew your membership on the enclosed card and envelope. Many thanks!


John Pen La Farge

OSFA and Garrett's Desert Inn: A Tale of Two Entities

The coming of Garrett's Desert Inn, constructed in 1956, signaled a call to arms by Santa Fe's Old Santa Fe Association's most ardent preservationists of the time. The development proposed a "modern" (remember this was the fifties) motor lodge-style motel for the downtown entryway, along the road, which by then, was known as "Old Santa Fe Trail". Unfortunately, the design was considered to be utterly anomalous to what preservationists deemed appropriate for such an important site. While the motel development was ultimately approved, something else, perhaps more impactful, came about as a result of the controversy — Santa Fe's first Historic Preservation Code. Authored by members of the Old Santa Fe Association in 1957, the code overlay was meant to protect traditional residential and commercial buildings in the historic downtown area.

Today, sixty-one years later, the motor lodge still stands as testament of bygone trials and times, as does Santa Fe's precious, ever-evolving Historic Ordinance. With the Garrett's Desert Inn and Property now under State ownership, due to a land swap with the Cochiti Pueblo who purchased the property for just such an eventuality, the State has been looking for the right developer with whom to enter into a long-term lease. Such a lease they hope will provide the State Education Fund with a reasonable return on their investment.

Into this reconsideration of the future of Garrett's Desert Inn, OSFA has, once again, diplomatically stepped. Members of the OSFA Board have been in attendance at all of the developer information sessions conducted by the State, offering insights as to the historic sensitivity of the site and for the necessity for Santa Fe's Historic Ordinance to be respected. Aubrey Dunn, the State Land Commissioner, whose office is directly across the street from the motel site, has proved himself to be a respectful listener and appreciative of OSFA's civil advocacy of community dialogue. This was evident later, by the participation of Assistant Land Commissioner, Clyde Ward, on the panel reviewing the results of the Garrett's Desert Inn Design Charrette, held June 16



Garrett's Desert Inn. The State Land Office is left, across Old Santa Fe Trail. (photo: John Eddy)

at the Form & Concept Gallery. However, we must all realize that the State Land Use Commission will act responsibly in light of their fiduciary duty and the concerns of the Santa Fe community.

The Garrett's Desert Inn Design Charrette was one of a series 'charrettes' sponsored by Friends of Architecture (FOA) "to engage (the community) in meaningful dialogue about contemporary issues of urban development, preservation and livability in our city." FOA is a non-profit public arm of the local AIA, whose mission is "to enhance and foster awareness, knowledge and appreciation of architecture and the built environment." (Note: the term 'charrette' originated from the 'small cart' that rolled down the storied halls of L'École des Beaux Arts, picking up the unfinished drawings of its feverishly working architecture students!)

Four design schemes submitted by Santa Fe architects were presented before a standing room only audience. FOA convened a panel of architects, along with representatives from OSFA and the city's Historic Preservation Division, to review the submittals, and the plans submitted were as distinctly different in concept regarding projected "use" as they were in their architectural styles. They included vernacular affordable housing, mixed gallery and retail, offices and thankfully, even a motel. A feature common to all schemes which we were gratified to see, was the connection created to the Santa Fe River, in the form of a pathway, park or terrace area. The building styles presented ranged from classic Santa Fe style to ultra-contemporary.

The panel devoted much of its discussion to the criteria used by the State in its project selection process. Rad Acton, OSFA Board director, architect and a

member of the panel, reminded those assembled that the eventual developer would be called upon to submit their plans to the Historic Districts Review Board for comment and approval, given that they must go through the City's building permit process. As an incentive, he added that "by embarking on a broad-based schematic design review process, one including both H-Board and community feedback, the developers would avoid unnecessary delays and negative publicity over the long term. It is a process that, if undertaken early, is not the adversarial one they have been led to fear."

In part due to the success of the charrette and other discussions conducted with the State Land Office, OSFA was invited to provide a representative to sit on its six-member proposal review panel, a role which OSFA Board director, Jack Hiatt, has admirably fulfilled. On November 15, State Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn announced the selection of one of two qualifying proposals. GreenTree Hospitality Group, Inc. and project partner, Peak Hospitality will now lease and redevelop the Garrett's Desert Inn property in historic downtown Santa Fe. The plans evidently include the intention of keeping much of the basic motel structure intact.

Going forward, OSFA has established itself as having the capacity to fully engage in the constructive dialogue necessary to preserve the historic fabric of our city. This is a role which OSFA has played in numerous recent past projects throughout Santa Fe's historic areas. It is also one that has generated much discussion on the OSFA Board about the risks inherent to entering into what might appear to be a negotiation with project developers and their architects.

On May 22 of this year, a hotel development proposed adjacent to the famed Loretto Chapel, on Old Santa Fe Trail, was ultimately approved by the City's Historic Districts Review Board. OSFA members actively engaged in a design feedback process with owner Maggie Anderson, and her architect, Eric Enfield. The process did not result

Continued on page 4

The Old Santa Fe Association Receives Award for its 90th Anniversary

In April of this year, the Historical Society of New Mexico met with the Arizona Historical Society at a joint history convention, in Flagstaff, AZ, for historians, preservationists, archivists and others. The weekend provided a full and engaging mixture of panel discussions and papers

presented by both states. For our association, the highlight was the closing banquet when OSFA was presented with the L. Bradford Prince Award for significant work in the field of historic preservation and “outstanding service to the people of New Mexico as related to New Mexico history.”

The association earned this award for its ninety years of effort in protecting the integrity and welfare of Santa Fe, its history, and its citizens through our work guided by our mission.

We are proud and pleased to have been recognized for our collective efforts to guard our city’s self-respect, but, more, it is an award that goes well with the National Geographic’s Sense of Place Award, given to the city in March, written up elsewhere in this issue. (The Historical Society of NM will hold its next conference in April, 2018, in Alamogordo, NM.)



Janet Saiers, Past President, Historical Society of NM, with John Pen La Farge, President of OSFA at the joint AZ/NM History Convention, Flagstaff, April, 2017 (photo: Sherry Robinson)

OSFA and Garrett’s Desert Inn: A Tale of Two Entities

Continued from page 3

in OSFA giving its support to the project, but it did serve to encourage the owners to continue to modify the design of the building according to the specific stated concerns of the H-Board, rather than take the City to court.

It remains a hotly debated issue as to how engaged OSFA should become with developers and architects as they seek its review and comment. It is clear that a developer’s motivation behind the invitation is to gain OSFA’s public support and/or non-opposition to their project. As an authoritative body that will continue to have its opinion solicited, OSFA will need to maintain its high regard for the principles and objectives on which it was founded, and its respect for those situations presented before it. Effective engagement by OSFA in the preserving of our cherished streetscapes and buildings requires that it not shy away from opportunities so afforded. The challenge of doing so, however, requires that it stay true to its preservationist principles and valued community traditions.

OSFA Board Retreat



Above: Marilyn Bane, Frank Katz, John Pen La Farge, Wayne Nichols, Jack Hiatt, Will Powell, Rad Acton, Ellen Dupuy. (photo: E. West)

The purpose of the retreat was to have in-depth discussion of OSFA’s mission in relation to the character of our city, sense of place, threats to Santa Fe’s integrity, the geographic layout and local politics.

Date: Saturday, October 14, meeting from 9–1

Location: Irene von Horvath House, Canyon Road

Right: Jack Hiatt, Will Powell, Elizabeth West, Marilyn Bane, Frank Katz, Wayne Nichols, John Pen La Farge. (photo: Teresa Neptune)



Wirth/Egolf – SB 409

OSFA gratefully acknowledges the efforts of N.M. Senate Majority Leader Peter Wirth and N.M. House Speaker Brian Egolf, both Santa Fe natives, who sponsored Senate Bill 409, Historic Preservation on State Land Projects, in the 2017 Legislative Session. The measure, aimed at keeping the Garrett’s Desert Inn property protected (as a prime example), passed both houses of the legislature, but was vetoed by the governor, and therefore will not be affected by the Governor’s appeal, since it is dead. Fortunately, the two prime bidders for the Desert Inn have indicated that they would abide by the Santa Fe Historic Districts Ordinance.

Santa Fe Receives the National Geographic Society Sense of Place Award

Continued from page 1

The newspaper article (in *The Santa Fe New Mexican*, March 8, 2017, by Tripp Stelnicki) goes on to quote Mayor Javier González, “It is about the cultural vibrancy, the presence of people from all walks of life, the city’s commitment to preserve our historic buildings,” which is true, but which also points up how large and unending the task is of keeping Santa Fe true to itself, a task which, of course, your association tackles constantly.

John Feins, public relations manager for Tourism Santa Fe, says, “We talk about ‘the City Different,’ and we talk about ‘only in Santa Fe’ — these aren’t just marketing slogans; these are who we are... This award was 400 to 1,000 years in the making. People have been taking care of Santa Fe and carrying its traditions and stories forward for centuries and centuries.”

What Feins says is true, but causes your president to think that the flow of ideas, some worthy some unworthy, of what ought to be, built or remodeled or changed, brings with them an unending series of challenges, inasmuch as “sense of place” is so rarely considered. City staff, in its entirety, unlike Charleston, South Carolina, for example, is not trained by the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) to consider the centrality of history and integrity to every aspect of how the city is run. The HPD itself, is not given the weight it ought to have in city policy or city construction. The same must be said, also, of the county. Interestingly, the state has often been more forthcoming and understanding in considering our history.

It is an unending source of puzzlement that the qualities that make Santa Fe internationally famous, that bring visitors from thousands of miles away and that support a cultural, historical and aesthetic environment which makes for an outstanding place for its citizens, are not uppermost in every calculation of architects, businesses, civic leaders, and government agencies. Sense of place is not merely vital, but it is remarkably easy to understand and, here, to see and feel. The ancient trope of “killing the golden goose” is overused, but it has often been and unfortunately often still is applicable to Santa Fe.

What we are has been hundreds of years in the making, and the keeping of our sense of place ought not to be an endless battle; it ought to be central to the consciousness of every citizen and visitor.

For those who have lived in The City Different for a prolonged time and have watched its changes and developments, it may seem that our city’s winning this award is a bit of only partially-earned good fortune, given how much has changed and has been changed carelessly. Part of the importance of the award is what others see in us — that they see authenticity, heritage, and tradition. This is what our city, now, thrives on, and keeps us vital and economically successful. We must guard against ego, corruption, greed, continued carelessness, and foolish exploitation if we wish to deserve this award, and perhaps more importantly, if we wish to deserve a like award in 100 years.

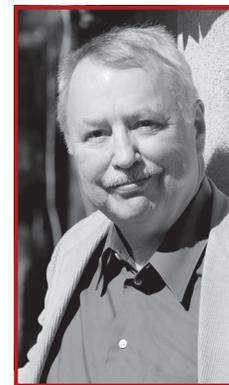
Wirth and McCord named Living Treasures

OSFA Lifetime Member Nancy Meem Wirth and Richard McCord, longtime OSFA Board member, were honored on May 7, 2017 as Santa Fe Living Treasures.



The honor lauds Wirth’s lifelong achievements in preserving the historic architecture and cultural heritage of New Mexico, including her co-founding of Cornerstones, Community

Partnerships. The only child of Faith and John Gaw Meem—esteemed architect of what became known as “Santa Fe Style,” and an OSFA founding member—Wirth has been honored by many organizations, including the Spanish Colonial Arts Society, and the UNM School of Architecture and Planning. In addition, Wirth continues to volunteer in the Dual Language Program at El Camino Real Academy.



Richard McCord, the author of books on Santa Fe and New Mexico history, is best known as the co-founder, editor and publisher of the

Santa Fe Reporter. He too, has a record of supporting historic preservation through his writings on the subject, as well as his service on the OSFA Board of Directors. A distinguished journalist, his editorials at the *Santa Fe Reporter* took top honors from the New Mexico and Albuquerque press associations, second place from the Scripps Howard Foundation, and a runner-up for a Pulitzer Prize.

Old Family Films in Your Basement?

Just a reminder, we are still on the constant lookout for those old family movies or photographs that might be cluttering up the storage areas of your home. Please let us help you consider their potential worthiness as a contribution to the preservation of our visual history in Santa Fe and Northern

New Mexico. Your materials may justly serve to enhance the collection of the Fray Angelico Chavez Photo Archives down at the New Mexico History Museum. Please contact us if you want to look into a donation to OSFA’s *Old Santa Fe Film Collection*, and we’ll see what can be done.



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 WH Studio LLC
 (William Powell)

New Lifetime Member

Ken Stilwell moved to Santa Fe in 2011 and began volunteer work at the School for Advanced Research, where he serves as Chair of the President's Council. Ken also has volunteered his time at the Historic Santa Fe Foundation on the Development Committee and eventually joined their Board. Becoming a Lifetime Member of OSFA was a logical next step!

Ken was born into a third generation Durango, Colorado banking family. He graduated from the University of Colorado with a triple major of English, Communications, and Spanish. Ken retired in 1996 following eighteen years working in military defense subcontracting, specializing in business systems trend analysis with information technology applications.

After retirement Ken devoted his life to civil rights with Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) in New England, Lambda Legal Defense in New York, Human Rights Campaign in Washington, DC, and most recently with the 5,000 member ACLU of Georgia, serving as board treasurer and president from 1998-2011.

OSFA is very pleased to welcome Ken!

“Please speak loudly. I want to hear you!”

The voice was that of Karen Walker, and it was directed toward her kitchen. There, around the dining table, sat the other five members of the Executive Committee of the Old Santa Fe Association. The meeting was set to begin, and Karen was close-by in her bedroom.

OSFA had begun meeting at her home every 2nd Monday of the month for well over a year since Karen's illness had advanced. But this was the first time she was at arm's length rather than right next to the customary popcorn or chocolate. But she was there. Very, very there.

Karen Walker: The powerhouse behind OSFA.

Whether she served as OSFA President and Board Chair, on the Executive Committee, Chair of the Membership Committee, or chair of the Finance Committee, Karen's extraordinary voice and presence in our organization can't be overstated.

Karen presided over Karen Walker Realty, which focused on real estate in our historic districts, the “old Santa Fe” part of the city that she loved. If Karen helped you buy your house, you not only got a home but with it you also learned about the Old Santa Fe Association. And chances are, you joined, too. It was hard to escape her enthusiasm for Santa Fe and for the OSFA. The outcome was the same with every business she patronized -- from the Camera Shop to the cleaners. One year we tallied who had brought in the most OSFA members from the business community. Karen was responsible for something like 97 percent.

Her own agency was one of the first Lifetime Members. At the bottom of every blue and yellow “Karen Walker Real Estate” sign was the phrase, “We support the Old Santa Fe Association” — just in case you didn't know.

In 2006 she received a city Heritage Preservation Award for her new home in, of course, the eastside historic district.

During Preservation Week of 2015, OSFA gave Karen Walker our Leadership Award, only the second time it was presented.



Karen Walker at OSFA's 80th Anniversary party, with then NM Representative Peter Wirth (now NM Senator), at La Fonda, 2006.

The first (and planned as *the only!*) was presented to New Mexico Speaker of the House Ben Lujan for his support for HB-360. This important bill recognized the fragility of the state's historic districts, and the importance of protecting them. Karen helped craft this document and deserved to be recognized for this and for all the other examples of her community and civic stewardship.

OSFA was only the half of it.

Karen Walker enjoyed an unparalleled civic career. For seven years she occupied OSFA's designated seat on Santa Fe's Historic Design Review Board (now the Historic Districts

Continued on page 8

“Please speak loudly. I want to hear you!”

Continued from page 7

Review Board.) This valuable board oversees development in the historic districts and adherence to the intricacies of the Chapter 14 Historic Ordinance, originally crafted in part by OSFA in 1957.

Karen served as chair of the city’s Planning Commission, the City of Santa Fe Charter Review Commission (giving citizens “Home Rule”), the city’s Capital Improvements Advisory Committee, and the City of Santa Fe Urban Design Plan.

She co-authored the Escarpment Ordinance, which protected our hillsides from inappropriate development. And she played a large part in protecting the entrance to Santa Fe at Old Pecos Trail and I-25 with a significant donation toward the purchase of land there. Her 2011 book, *Santa Fe Real Estate: Good Things to Know* helps explain not only the basics in real estate, but the wonderful differences and eccentricities of land use in this, our “city different.”

It was no surprise when she was named one of the *Santa Fe New Mexican’s* “10 Who Made a Difference” in 1995. For more than three decades the paper has honored community volunteers who have made a difference in Northern New Mexico. The effort honors local individuals who use their time, talents and passions to give back to the community. That was Karen.

“This city needs better government.”

Having lived here since 1970, Karen had long felt that a greater discipline and focus was needed at City Hall, particularly in the economic areas. She had attended Brown University and then went on to graduate first in her class in the Masters Program in Economics from U.C.L.A. Once in Santa Fe, she taught history and economics at Santa Fe Prep.

So, in 2005, with one phone call and only a few days of serious consideration, Karen Walker announced her run for Mayor



Mayorial candidate Karen Walker, left, discusses campaign materials with a campaign coordinator in 2006. (New Mexican file photo)

of the city of Santa Fe, the city she so passionately loved. Her positions were clear, her vision realistic; in full display were her integrity and clear focus on what is right and true. She didn’t win, but she gave a lot, and learned a lot. And the city was better for her efforts.

June 25, 1939 – April 5, 2017

Only a few months after that last executive committee meeting in her kitchen and after a long illness, Karen passed away peacefully at home. All along, she had displayed the spirit, courage, strength, humor and intelligence for which she was so well known.

And here at the Old Santa Fe Association, we haven’t missed Karen as much as you might think; in every meeting her voice still rings in our ears. We hear you, Karen, and we will for a very long time.

By Marilyn Bane

In Memoriam

OSFA honors the memory of the following members who died in 2016 and 2017.

Don Van Soelen
March 2016

Rosalie Heller
December 2016

Irwin Hoffman
May 2017

Karen Ushman
September 2017

Carmen Pert
April 2016

Karen Walker
April 2017

Norma Lumpkins
July 2017

Richard Sellars
November 2017

**The OSFA Annual Meeting was held on November 20, 2017,
at El Zaguán, 545 Canyon Road.**

Refreshments were donated by Sage Bakehouse and Tribes Coffee House
and Jack Hiatt provided home-made apple pie.

This issue of *¡El Boletín!* was edited by John Eddy and Elizabeth West with the help of Rad Acton, Marilyn Bane, Randy Bell, Barbara Harrelson, John Pen La Farge, Tim Maxwell and Dedie Snow, design/production by John Tollett, printing by AlphaGraphics.

For 80 Years, OSFA Has Fought to Keep Santa Fe Old

By Richard McCord, for the 80th anniversary of OSFA's founding (reprinted from *Eldorado Sun*, September 16, 2006)

How's this for an alternative vision of Santa Fe?

♦ In the east-side foothills, about where St. John's College is located, tall adobe walls surround many acres, on which a charming faux-Southwestern-style summer colony hosts an array of speakers and performers each year, and wealthy out-of-towners spend the season there, before going home and leaving the site virtually vacant in September.

♦ Along the route of Guadalupe Street downtown, a major six-lane U.S. highway zips tens of thousands of cars, SUVs, semitrailers and other vehicles through town all day and night! The Santuario de Guadalupe and dozens of other old buildings were knocked down long ago to make way for its construction. Several high overhead walkways enable pedestrians to get across the busy thoroughfare, which is lined on both sides by familiar big-box chain stores and fast-food restaurants.

♦ Along East De Vargas Street downtown, in the area where the Community Playhouse and numerous old houses now stand, nothing but big, square, multistory state office buildings rise, surrounded by acres of parking lots.

♦ Two or three blocks on all sides of the Plaza have carefully been preserved to create, a tourist-attraction theme park called Santa Fe Old Town, surrounded by high-rise chain-owned luxury hotels and department stores, all brightly illuminated by neon signs. Similarly preserved along Canyon Road is a strip officially designated the Old Artistic Zone. But long gone from it are the graceful El Zaguán, the old Borrego House and several other buildings, which have been replaced with more modern, efficient and profitable structures with adobe facades.

I could go on word painting this striking image of a different Santa Fe, but you get the idea. And my point is this: without the efforts of one local organization, Santa Fe likely would have turned out that way. That organization is the Old Santa Fe Association (OSFA), and it turns 80 this year. For the sake of full disclosure, let me note that I am a member of the OSFA board and have been for two or three years. I am proud to serve, to tap into OSFA's heritage, following the trail blazed by many esteemed Santa Feans.

One of them was famed architect John Gaw Meem, who was present at the creation of OSFA in 1926. In that year the City Council offered to give or sell city-owned land east of the old Sunmount Sanatorium to a group of 3,000 rich Texas women who wanted to establish a Chautauqua-style resort. Santa Fe had a population of just 11,000 then, and this project would have profoundly altered its character.

At a packed meeting called to oppose the plan, OSFA was formed and its purpose was spelled out: *"To preserve and maintain the ancient landmarks, historical structures and traditions of Old Santa Fe, to guide its growth and development in such ways as to sacrifice as little as possible of that unique charm, born of age, tradition and environment, which are the priceless assets and heritage of Old Santa Fe."*

In other words, it sought to keep Santa Fe authentic—and real. Presented with a petition from OSFA, the council withdrew its offer to the Texas women.

In 1946 the state Highway Department proposed a major route through downtown Santa Fe. Alarmed that the road would cut the city in half, OSFA opposed it and enlisted the Catholic archbishop in the cause. The plan was dropped.

In 1948 OSFA helped draft the city's first master plan, and in 1957 OSFA was instrumental in establishing the Historical Styles Ordinance, which defined a large and old part of the city in which visible architecture had to conform to traditional guidelines. It was the second such law in the country. The first was in Santa Barbara, California.

Since its inception, the Historical Styles Ordinance has been controversial, with some developers and homeowners protesting that it infringes on the rights of private property, and other critics saying it stifles creativity. But it has withstood court tests, and it has without a doubt blocked wholesale change in much of Santa Fe. The ordinance has been extended to parts of the city beyond its original downtown and east-side origin, but even now it covers just a fifth of town, leaving 80 percent open for apartment complexes, Cerrillos Road commercialization, whatever. And yet this ordinance has preserved Santa Fe's heart and soul and essence.

When in the mid-1950s the state wanted to raze the "Oldest House" and other structures along East De Vargas Street and extend the big, boxy government complex onto the property, things looked bad for OSFA because the state was not bound by any of Santa Fe's local historic rules. But in the end, OSFA trumped the state by getting the Barrio de Analco, as the area is called, placed on the National Registry of Historic Places. Then the state could no longer touch it.

The list of OSFA victories goes on, but also in the mix are some notable defeats. Despite OSFA's efforts, for example, the elegant old Nusbaum House on Washington Avenue was knocked down in 1961, at the urging of Plaza merchants, to make room for a parking lot. OSFA lost its fight to make the big, institutional downtown post office reflect Santa Fe style. The massive Eldorado Hotel was built over OSFA objections. The so-called "Ugly Building" at Washington and Marcy wiped out an old string of one-story shops.

By no means does OSFA win every struggle it enters. Nor should it. Neither this nor any other interest group deserves absolute say over the architectural course of the city. But time and time again, now for 80 years, OSFA has worked diligently to preserve Santa Fe's historical integrity. Even when it loses, OSFA often wins a partial victory, by causing projects to be altered or scaled back to a version more in keeping with the city's character.

And although after eight decades OSFA is perhaps taken for granted in some quarters, it is still very much on the job, as demonstrated by some quite recent headlines. In one case, the Catholic Archdiocese of Santa Fe withdrew its plans to erect buildings taller than Historical Styles Ordinance height restrictions on six acres it owns behind the downtown cathedral. In another, expansion plans for the Inn at Loretto were downsized and changed in order to be more compatible with traditional considerations. OSFA helped influence both outcomes.

So if you love Santa Fe the way it has turned out, flaws and all, pause and give thanks to OSFA. Without it, we'd surely be living in a different town.

A Letter to the Mayor's Task Force on Monuments:

The board of The Old Santa Fe Association has discussed some of the matters placed under your consideration. Inasmuch as the association's mandate is the welfare of Santa Fe and "to preserve and maintain the ancient landmarks, historical structures and traditions of Old Santa Fe" we decided to discuss what our position is concerning the obelisk monument at the center of the Plaza. We also discussed the Entrada event. Both the monument and the event are city-supported concerns. The Old Santa Fe Association is offering ideas and suggestions that relate to the discussion about the Plaza obelisk, but which could be extrapolated for ideas about other monuments.

All monuments, all artistic and historic expressions are expressions of their time and give their time context. By giving their time context, such expressions lend our own time context through perspective, through learning what others said, thought, and did, and thereby throwing our own time and our own beliefs into relief.

As you study what is to be done with the monuments in Santa Fe please consider the many alternatives there might be. One might be to give greater context to our social landscape through additional monuments, monuments that point out what else is of importance to our history. Another might be to add plaques to the plaza—perhaps at the corners—telling fuller or alternative versions of what is seen. New ceremonies might be created, including by the Indians to help overcome lingering resentment or lack of harmony. There might be created as acts of commemoration rather than of celebration. There are many other ideas.

We recommend enhancing the dialogue and enrichment of our history be made available to people who live in Santa Fe and in New Mexico as well as to our visitors.

To you, the association recommends keeping the Plaza obelisk where it is, keeping the wording as is on the obelisk, but adding more informative plaques nearby that are more correct, more



Photo: John Eddy

accurate than the limited comments that are on the small, explanatory plaque currently there on the south side of the obelisk. We encourage the use of education and contextual history rather than, in the case of the Plaza obelisk, removal of the monument. Leaving it where it is and basically intact as now, is preferable to destroying it or removing it, even if the removal is to a museum, in our opinion. We have the opportunity to use Santa Fe's history and its sense of place — complex, varied and rich as it is—to further communication and awareness rather than deny truths that would be forgotten if they are omitted. In a nation that is all-too-frequently ignorant of its history, our city and our state, both unusually rich in history, have much to offer. Placing Santa Fe in historical context may not be easy and must not be superficial, but it is certainly possible. Clarification of historic context and the use of varied interpretations, with explanation that encourages further discussion, is part of what could be the aim of Santa Fe's city-supported monuments and events. We have a history museum on the plaza and a rich congregation of historians and anthropologists to consult.

In the end, if we cannot overcome unhappiness and ignorance in Santa Fe, the ancient city of multiple cultures, where can such matters be overcome?

What follows is quoted from Oliver La Farge's 1966 book, *The Man With the Calabash Pipe: Some Observations*. His comments were in reaction to the debate more than fifty years ago, concerning the obelisk on the Plaza in Santa Fe:

This...is what that little monument stands for. It commemorates loyalty, courage, and victory, the first positive joint action of the English and Spanish peoples of New Mexico...the beginning...of a great tradition. Newcomers might well be confused... that the "savage Indians" referred to so sincerely on the north side of the monument [did not mean] the Pueblos...hostilities with the Pueblos ended not long after the bloody (not "bloodless" as so often advertized) reconquest of New Mexico by De Vargas. From then until the Navahos were broken and signed the Treaty of 1868... all New Mexico, including the Pueblos, were relentlessly harried, threatened with extinction...by Navahos, Apaches, Kiowas, and Comanches.

Those were the "savage Indians." No one even faintly conversant with New Mexico history could doubt...or forget that Pueblo Indians were among the "heroes"...

...we want even our history made bland, sweetened, suited for consumption without any sensation whatsoever. The plaza monument is something else again, an authentic survival...

You can decide to bury all traces of what Santa Fe once was...

The monument is authentic...it is a true record of an important passage in New Mexico history.

For heaven's sake, you who want to keep a little of the real Santa Fe, resist every move to remove these stones...

(The letter from OSFA was composed by President La Farge and was delivered to the Task Force in September.)

The 2017 Heritage Preservation Awards

By Elizabeth West

Gorgeous weather, two historic settings and an enthusiastic crowd of interested supporters of historic preservation made for a very special day of celebration for the **City of Santa Fe's 2017 Heritage Preservation Awards**, on May 18, during National Preservation Month in the United States. The event was presented and shared by the Old Santa Fe Association, the Historic Santa Fe Foundation and the city's Historic Preservation Division.

The Santa Fe event commenced at **historic San Miguel church** in the Barrio de Analco area. In the 17th century San Miguel was called the Ermita de San Miguel (neither a chapel nor a mission), and it has been restored multiple times both before and after the Pueblo Revolt (1680). It is the oldest extant church in Santa Fe.

The awards ceremony was presented to a capacity crowd inside San Miguel. President John Pen La Farge announced that since the **Old Santa Fe Association** wanted to reach beyond the usual historic districts in giving its awards this year, the OSFA Community Service award was given to Terrell and Hanneke White in recognition of their decades of careful conservation work towards enhancing **El Rey Inn** on Cerrillos Road. Professor, activist, writer and former NM State Historian, **Hilario Romero**, received the OSFA Cultural Preservation award.

The **Historic Santa Fe Foundation** gave a Stewardship award to Grey Howell, Thomas Lipps, Antonio Martinez, and Gretchen Overman.

The **Santa Fe Historic Preservation Division** recognized three buildings with awards: the Compatible New Construction Award (Cerro Gordo Road); the Compatible Remodel Award (Victoria Street); and the Architectural Preservation Award (Agua Fria Street); the Service Award was given to Gary Funkhouser, Archeological Review Committee. The Mayor's Award for Excellence in Preservation was given to Tourism Santa Fe. (See Cover article of this newsletter.)



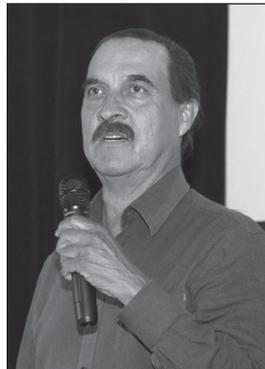
El Rey Inn, Cerrillos Road, 2017 (photo: E. West)

In other Preservation news, the **State of New Mexico's Historic Preservation Division** also held their awards in May, at the NM Museum of Art, St Francis Auditorium, where two of the awards included one for La Sociedad Colonial Español de Santa Fe, and one shared by two organizations which performed outstanding archeology and public outreach for the Agua Fria School House site, where a large 13th and 14th century pueblo site had existed: the Rio Grande Foundation for Communities and Cultural Landscapes and the Agua Fria Community Water System Association.

And in the national arena, the **National Trust for Historic Preservation**, whose headquarters is in Washington, DC, held their symposium and presentation of awards in Chicago at the Palmer House, in November, where many people and organizations were given awards. Robert G. Stanton, long-time former National Park Service employee and director, was honored with the Crowninshield Award, the Trust's highest national recognition of an individual; Stanton has emphasized the importance of diversity and the necessity to nationally address the environment as part of historic preservation. The National Park Service is part of the Department of the Interior, and is one of the beneficiaries of our Federal tax dollars.

The preservation of our local and national history, and our shared heritage, includes interpretation, as well as preservation, of our architectural inheritance, archaeology, significant objects, individual buildings, districts, and the cultural landscape. It is not too much of a stretch to say that all this affects our outlook, way of life, values and perhaps even our ethics.

After the Santa Fe awards ceremony, in San Miguel, a reception was held over on Canyon Road at **El Zaguán**, home of the Historic Santa Fe Foundation. A wonderful day!



Hilario Romero at the awards ceremony at San Miguel.



All photographs from the event are by Melanie West. More photographs are available on the OSFA web site: oldsantafe.org



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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."

Forums for the 2018 Santa Fe Municipal Election

Neighborhood Network:

Mayor, January 4

Council districts 1 and 3, January 11

Council districts 2 and 4, January 18

League of Women Voters:

Look for their announcements for
Forums in early February



Check Local News for Other Forums TBA

Vote March 6, 2018

Mayor and City Council

Mayor Javier M. Gonzales 955-6590
jmgonzales@santafenm.gov

District 1

Signe I. Lindell 955-6812

silindell@santafenm.gov

Renee Villareal 955-2345

rdvillareal@santafenm.gov

District 2

Peter Ives 955-6816

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Joseph Maestas 955-6815

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District 3

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Chris Rivera 955-6818

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District 4

Michael Harris 955-6817

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Ron Trujillo 955-6811

rstrujillo@santafenm.gov

Thank You for supporting the Old Santa Fe Association!