



# Sandoval County Historical Society and Museum

## *El Cronicón*

The official publication of the Sandoval County Historical Society

Volume 26, No. 1

[www.sandovalhistory.org](http://www.sandovalhistory.org)

May, 2023

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### WORDS OF WISDOM

***"Don't let the fear of the time it will take to accomplish something stand in the way of your doing it. The time will pass anyway; we might just as well put that passing time to the best possible use." ~ Earl Nightingale.***

This quote seems so fitting for 45-years of volunteerism from our number one historian, Martha Liebert at her young age of 93 and still leading the charge. Many other volunteers continue to contribute their talents to help keep our office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays open, archive, research, setting up, organizing, grounds, and building maintenance.

Our Veteran's Pictorial 2nd Phase is almost complete, and unveiling will be announced soon. Great progress, sometimes not without frustration or contacting someone more qualified, has been made in upgrading our website [Sandovalhistory.org](http://Sandovalhistory.org), creating a new email address ([schs&museum@gmail.com](mailto:schs&museum@gmail.com)), a Facebook profile. Keeping up with internet technology, cloud storage, Wi-Fi, social media and so many applications, which seem to change daily, needed to be addressed to reach a different audience. However, we still prefer still pictures and exhibits that are available for viewing. I appreciate the efforts of all our volunteers who bring new ideas, positive energy, and make our events possible and successful. Truly grateful to all of you.

By our full house attendance, the major task of planning, developing & advertising our monthly programs have proven to be successful. In January, Jon Ghahate did his presentation on "Southwest History", in February we heard from Paul Secord and his research on "The Ghost Town of Hagan", in March we heard from Dr. James Gonzales speak on "Las Huertas Land Grant" and his Placitas connection and in April the "Bernalillo Wine Families and Industry" with the Rinaldi, Gros, Mallett, Alary, Sena, and

Street families sharing the evolution, their vine cuttings and wine. See photos from past programs on the SCHS website, [www.sandovalhistory.org](http://www.sandovalhistory.org).

Please check our calendar below for all scheduled programs through December 2023. Hope you can attend some of them.

Also, if some of you have time to volunteer your talent, please contact us at 505-867-2777 or 505-377-8395.

Best wishes & keep in mind that for every minute you are angry you lose sixty seconds of happiness. Let all go and be happy.

Lorraine Dominguez Stubblefield, President



## 2023 SCHS PROGRAMS:

[typically held on second Sundays, 2 PM, DeLavy House]

### **MAY 21** (\*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday to accommodate Mother's Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday.)

Honoring WWII Hero Arturo B. Jaramillo and Purple Heart Recipient Jesse Lucero

### **JUNE 11**

Growing your drip system with your plants – Dawn Foster, SCHS member and Sandoval Extension Master Gardener

Film, Acequias: The Legacy Lives on, directed by Arcie Chapa. Center for Regional Studies/The University of New Mexico

### **JULY – AUGUST – CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER**

### **SEPTEMBER 10**

Native American Healing Remedies & Healing – Joy Kincaid Herrera and Local Herbs & Remedios (Remedies) Lorraine Dominguez Stubblefield, SCHS President



**OCTOBER 8**

Son of an Indian Trader – Growing up on the Navajo Reservation – Roger Zimmerman

**NOVEMBER 12**

Villancicos Flamencos – Celebrating the Holidays in Spain with Guitarist Luis Campo and Nicolasa Chavez – Sponsored by New Mexico Humanities Council

**DECEMBER 10 - Members and Invited Guests Potluck**

**All programs are FREE and open to the PUBLIC!!**

County News Sandoval Signpost

## Liebert Recognition is of Historical Significance

By T.S. Last

While Sandoval County was celebrating its history during a Founders Day event on March 10, it also took time to recognize an important historian in advance of her own birthday.

Longtime Bernalillo resident Martha Leibert was presented with a plaque recognizing her for her work with the Sandoval County Historical Society, a non-profit organization she founded in 1977.

"It's been fun," Liebert said, keeping her remarks short.

County Commission Chairman David Heil said Liebert was first honored with the award two days earlier during the March 8 county commission meeting, but no one thought to take a picture.

Heil read from the plaque, which refers to Liebert as the "backbone and historian" for the county for more than 46 years. The proclamation cites several of her accomplishments, including authoring a book titled "Bernalillo: Between the River and a Hard Place."

She also led a committee that in 1965 established the library in Bernalillo that now bears her name.

In 1977, Liebert founded the Sandoval County Historical Society to "identify, preserve and bring before the public the history of Sandoval County," according to the proclamation.

The document states that Liebert is "a person of total dedication and untiring efforts; personifies the true meaning of a lifetime public servant who gives of herself so that her community might flourish."

In a brief interview after the ceremony, Liebert said she was proud to play a part in recognizing others who make up the county's rich history.

"Our mission is to serve the people of Sandoval County and honor people who have worked their lifetime to make it a viable community. It's all about the people," she said.

Liebert, who married Joseph Liebert in 1957, moved to Bernalillo and raised three sons, will turn 90 on March 25.

*Sandoval Signpost, March 17, 2023*



Sandoval County Commission Chair, David Heil, Bernalillo Economic and Community Director, Mike Kloeppel, and our own Martha Liebert (photo by Sandoval Signpost)

## Sandoval County School Teachers

by Manuel "Roanie" Aragon

The intent of this article is to recognize and appreciate some of the early schoolteachers in Sandoval County Public Schools. Since one of the teachers was my mother, Ida Miller-Aragon, I am firsthand witness to some of her experiences. She moved to Bernalillo from the Cerrillos-Madrid, NM area to complete her high school education. She graduated in 1933.

At that time high-school graduates were encouraged to teach at outlying schools while working on their college education. Her first assignment was at Mesa Portales, which is between Cuba and the Navajo Reservation. She lived a good distance from the one-room schoolhouse with a local family. She had to walk to and from the schoolhouse. Her next assignment was to Porter, a town in the Jemez Mountains, incidentally, where she met my father, Manuel L Aragon. Next, she taught in Corrales, followed by the Catholic Elementary School in Bernalillo. Her last teaching gig was at Roosevelt Elementary School in the Bernalillo Public School System. She taught a total of 43 years in Sandoval County.

Here is a list of some other teachers at Roosevelt Elementary School in Bernalillo:

Mrs. Jesusita "Shusha" Rinaldi, Miss Sophie Lucero, Mrs. Elena Gallegos, Mr. Aaron Duran, Mrs. Dolores Duran, Ms. Erlinda Baca, Mrs. Ortiz, Mrs. Cora Atencio, Mr. Leonard Gurule, Mr. Albert Gurule, Mr. Ernest Gurule, Mr. Benito Baca, Miss Lucy Lucero, Mrs. Consuelo Torres, Mrs. Paula DeLong, Marcelino Baca, Mrs. Billie Carroll Nurse Amalia "Molly" (Montoya) Andrews. In addition, Elmo Lovato, Maintenance/Custodian, was indispensable in the operation of the school.

In Placitas were Mr. Benito Baca, Ms. Frances Baca.

In Algodones was Bertille Baca.

In the Cuba School system, Epifanio Gutierrez, Angelita Olivas, Henry Archuleta, Eva Montoya, Lillian Madrid, plus others. *[The author thanks Frances Santillanes and Abenicio Casaus for provided the Cuba teacher names.]*



### Bernalillo Teachers 1939-40

Back L - R: Elmo Lovato, Aron Duran, Erlinda Baca, Adelaide Ortiz, Ida Aragon, Dolores Duran, Jesucita Rinaldi, Ernest Gurule

Front L-R: Paula DeLong, Barbara Abousleman, Consuelo Torres, Sophie Lucero, Elena Gallegos, Billie Carroll (photo courtesy of Ernest Gurule)

## **Book Review by John Rogers**

***Living the Ancient Southwest***, ed. David Grant Noble  
A School for Advanced Research Popular Archeology Book,  
SAR Press, Santa Fe, 2014

[Available from SAR Press ([www.sarpress.org](http://www.sarpress.org)) and at many National Park Service bookstores]

*Living the Ancient Southwest* is a collection of eighteen essays by scholars and specialists affiliated with the School for Advanced Research intended to share knowledge with a broad, interested, non-specialist audience. The goal is to introduce the general reader to the Southwest's archeological and anthropological heritage.

As the title suggests, the focus of the book is on practical living matters that faced Native Americans in the region, with an emphasis on how indigenous peoples met the challenge of living in the desert. Several chapters are also devoted to their artistic creativity, describing and analyzing such cultural expressions as architecture, ceramics, rock art, and farming strategies. Native American insights into history, places, religion and philosophy are also explored.

The geographical areas covered in the volume include the Fremont cultural area (central Nevada), Ancestral Pueblo (the Colorado Plateau, San Juan Basin, and Grand Canyon), and the Hohokam cultural area (Tonto Basin and Sonoran Desert).

Chapter titles early in the book reflect its concerns: "Making a Living in the Desert Southwest;" "Pueblo Farmers of the Chacoan World;" and "The Environment of the Ancient Mesa Verdeans." Of particular interest to New Mexicans are essays about cavate pueblos in Frijoles Canyon, ancient trail systems on the Pajarito Plateau, the architecture of Chaco Canyon, Zuni religion and philosophy, Mimbres pottery, and Hopi accounts about the origins of Chaco. Other essays address ancient violence in the Mesa Verde region, Canyon de Chelly rock art and its relationship to the rock art of Ancestral Puebloans, and Fremont and Hohokam cultures.

A synopsis of one essay illustrate the type of content a reader may expect. Alexa Roberts writes about the area around an Ancestral Puebloan site, Wupatki Pueblo, located in north-central Arizona between Flagstaff and Tuba City. "The Wupatki Navajos: An Historical Sketch" recounts the story of Peshlakai Etsidi, one of the first Navajo to live in the Wupatki area following the return of Navajos in 1868 from Bosque Redondo at Fort Sumner. Simultaneously, a protestant missionary, the Reverend William R. Johnston and his family arrived in the area,

and a friendship was struck up between the two men. Local Anglo ranchers and farmers, coveting the fertile land and water resources near Wupatki and the Little Colorado River, imposed an arbitrary tax on sheep, threatened violence when Etsidi and others were unable to pay it, and forced many Navajo to flee the region. Reverend Johnston decided to advocate on behalf of the tribe, accompanying Etsidi and two other headmen to Washington, D.C., where they presented their case to President Theodore Roosevelt. Johnston's young son, Philip, who had grown up with the Navajo language and was fluent, acted as the interpreter for the meeting, which was successful: Roosevelt "instituted an immediate program of reservation boundary extension and Indian allotments in the western territory," stabilizing the Wupatki Navajos' grazing lands. The looting of archeological sites also prompted Roosevelt to send the National Park Service to the area to oversee cultural assets. By the time Peshlakai Etsidi died in 1939, Wupatki National Monument had grown from approximately 2,200 acres to nearly 35,000 acres, with Philip Johnston and his sister, Bernice, continuing to advocate for the preservation of historical and cultural assets in the area. In 1942, forty years after acting as an interpreter for Etsidi's meeting with Teddy Roosevelt, Philip recognized the potential of the Navajo language to aid the American effort in the Pacific during World War II, and organized the Navajo Code Talkers. "The Wupatki Navajos fought in the war as well, and many young men enlisted in the army to serve the nation, less than eighty years after the US Army had imprisoned their grandparents at Fort Sumner."

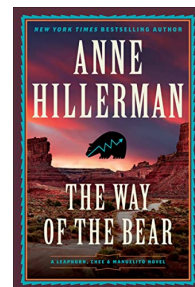
Living the Ancient Southwest is filled with exciting, insightful essays about our region's first inhabitants and their strategies for adapting to the environment of our area. Maps, illustrations, and color plates clarify and augment the prose. Taken as a whole, the book is an excellent introduction to the early history and culture of the land that we share today.

## PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY (PCL) - 2023 ADULT PROGRAM

(held at 2 PM, PCL; free to the public)

**MAY 6** - *The Way of The Bear* - Anne Hillerman has a special place in her heart for our little Library and with this title, she has been able to include us right up front in her book tour.

**MAY 27** - Sound Bath with Regina Turner



**Editor's note:** Additional info. can be found at <https://placitaslibrary.com/programs/adult-programs/>



## USDA People's Garden Initiative

Maybe you have seen this sign outside the lecture hall entrance? Our gardens are now registered with the United States Agricultural Department (USDA) under the People's Garden Initiative.



“The People’s Garden Initiative is part of USDA’s broader efforts to advance equity, support local and regional food systems and access to food, and encourage use of conservation and climate-smart practices.”

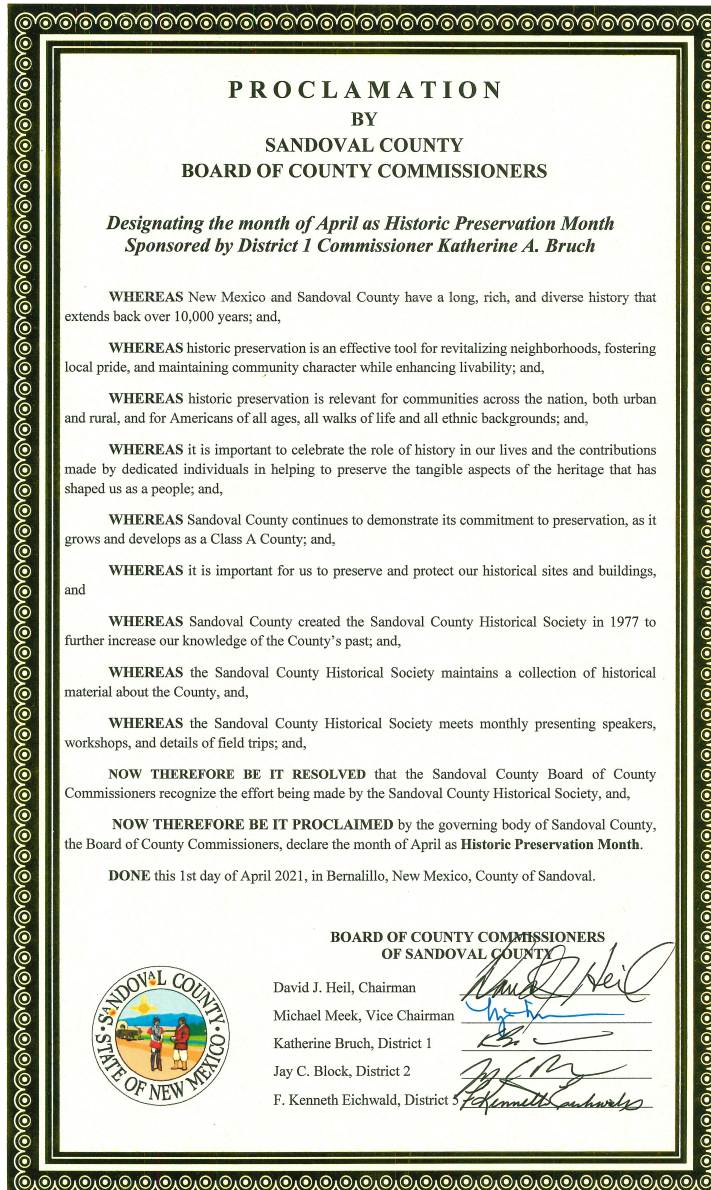
“USDA originally launched the People’s Garden Initiative in 2009. It’s named for the “People’s Department,” former President Abraham Lincoln’s nickname for USDA, which was established during his presidency in 1862.” You may be hearing more about this renewed program, since Albuquerque, through the City’s Parks and Recreation and Aviation Departments, is one of USDA’s flagship gardens located in one of its’ 17 “urban hubs”.

“People’s Gardens grow fresh, healthy food and support a resilient, local food system; teach people how to garden using sustainable practices; and nurture habitat for pollinators and wildlife, and greenspace for neighbors to gather and enjoy. People’s Gardens all:

- benefit the community by providing food, beautification, arts, wildlife habitat, education, green space, tree canopy, recreation, volunteer opportunities;
- are a collaborative effort involving neighbors, co-workers, food pantries, master gardeners, conservation districts, USDA agencies, veterans, youth organizations, seniors, faith-based groups, or others;
- incorporate sustainable practices such as rain barrels or micro-irrigation, composting, cover crops, pest management, bat houses or insect hotels, and/or native plants; and/or
- educate the public about sustainable practices and the benefit of local food systems through signage, classes, events, outreach materials, websites, and youth field trips.”

*To learn more about The People’s Garden Initiative, visit [usda.gov](https://usda.gov).*

**Were you aware that the Sandoval County Commissioners designated April  
Historic Preservation Month?**



**SCHS Notices**

Contact Ernie Jaskolski, Membership Chair if you have questions regarding your current membership status - (505) 828.2514 or jaskolskijean@aol.com

Historical Society archives and library are open every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 AM til noon, except during the months of July and August, Thanksgiving and around Christmas when it is closed. Questions? Contact Martha Liebert (505) 867.2755 or Cynthia Spence (505) 377.8395.