



THE MOKI MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2019

SAN JUAN BASIN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

www.sibas.org

Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch – December 7th

Our Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch will take place on Saturday, December 7th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Vallecito Room at the Fort Lewis College Student Union.

The Annual Meeting will include the election of SJBAS officers for 2020 and table discussions to gather member input about the future of our society. So that participants can be prepared for the discussions, the Board has developed this [Membership Survey](#). For those members who cannot attend the Annual Meeting, you can provide your input to the Board by printing the survey, offering your answers and other feedback, and mailing it to SJBAS, c/o Tish Varney, 1615 Forest Avenue, Durango, CO 81301 or you may scan it and email it to Tish at tishvarney@att.net.

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Other activities will feature a review of 2019 SJBAS field trips; a preview of tentative 2020 field trips; introduction of new members; door prizes; a silent auction; and good holiday cheer.

The brunch will be buffet style with fruit, eggs, diced potatoes, ham, bacon, bagels, banana bread, juice, coffee, tea, and water. The cost is \$25. The reservation deadline was Saturday, November 30th. However, if you have not made reservations and wish to attend, please contact Susan at sc53hicks@gmail.com to see if there is still room.

The Silent Auction will benefit the John W. Sanders Education and Internship Fund. Last year we made \$400 for the Fund and this year we hope to do even better. If you have any lightly used items you would like to contribute, please come to the Brunch a little early and bring the items and a pen or pencil to fill out a silent auction sheet which SJBAS will provide. Note, in the unlikely event that your item doesn't sell, it will be yours to take home. In addition, if you would like to contribute an item as a door prize, please bring it wrapped.

Bring cash or checks to pay for silent auction items and to pay your 2020 SJBAS dues.

Come join your friends for this popular event; see you there!

President's Letter

Dear SJBAS Members:

I hope to get together with lots of you at our Annual Meeting and brunch on December 7th at the Fort Lewis College Student Union at 10:00 a.m. I'm looking forward to great food, comradery, a review of 2019 field trips and preview of tentative 2020 field trips, and fruitful discussions about the future of SJBAS. Remember to bring slightly used items for the silent auction to benefit the John W. Sanders Internship and Education Fund.

The slate of SJBAS Elected Officers nominated for 2020 includes: President, Rege Leach; Vice President, Susan Hicks; Treasurer, Randy Graham and Secretary, Paula Lutz. Other Board members volunteering for 2020 include Education Chair, Tish Varney; Program Chair, Janice Sheftel; Publicity Chair, Jill Tripp; and Field Trip Program Coordinator, Webmaster, and *Moki Messenger* Editor, Lyle Hancock. SJBAS is looking for a volunteer Membership Chair.

Kudos to retiring SJBAS Vice President, Foxie Mason. We all appreciate her contribution of innovative ideas to improve SJBAS and her many years of hard work to prepare for our annual and semiannual membership meetings and events.

Our thanks go to Tish Varney for organizing the latest PAAC class, Colorado Archaeology, held in Durango. There were 37 participants – the most for any PAAC class we have ever held.

NEW Education in the Schools Program

SJBAS will be sponsoring a new program to train FLC archaeology/anthropology student volunteers to present lessons from the Project Archaeology curriculum in La Plata County 3rd - 6th grade classes. The classes will be taught by Kirsten Bowen, SJBAS member, Bureau of Reclamation Archaeologist and Project Archaeology master teacher. Kirsten will be assisted by SJBAS members Janice Sheftel and Catherine Larkins. Kirsten, Janice and Catherine will also be investigating a Project Archaeology Teacher Training program to enhance archaeological education in the La Plata County schools. Project Archaeology, a program sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management, is an educational organization dedicated to teaching scientific and historical inquiry, cultural understanding, and the importance of protecting our nation's rich cultural resources. It is a national network of archaeologists, educators, and concerned citizens working to make archaeology education accessible to students and teachers nationwide through high-quality educational materials and professional development. Project Archaeology gives students a basic understanding of how archaeology works and teaches them to respect and protect our nation's rich cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Janice Sheftel, President

Highlights from November 20th Board Meeting

1. We have a President-Nominee, Rege Leach, who will be nominated at the Annual Meeting on December 7th. Rege has been a member of SJBAS for several years; he has been active in activities and field trips. Rege will provide great leadership to SJBAS as we establish our long-range plan as an independent organization and identify the steps we need to take to fulfill the goals that the membership will outline at the Annual Meeting.
2. We are looking for a gregarious, organized, and motivated person (or couple) to fulfill the position of Membership Chair. Membership Chair is a vital position to SJBAS, as our organization is member driven. The Membership Chair has one vote on the Board of Directors. If you are interested, please contact Susan Hicks, sc53hicks@gmail.com
3. The Board approved the following expenditures from the Internship/Education account to the Fort Lewis College Education Fund:
 - a. Two CSWS Internships at \$500 each, one in Spring, and one in Fall of 2020.
 - b. Two Archaeology Field School Scholarships at \$500 each for summer 2020.
4. The Board approved an updated and revised Site Visitation Etiquette at Archaeological, Cultural and Historical Sites and Photographic Policies at Sensitive Sites that addresses concerns about the use of social media for distribution of photos and videos taken on SJBAS Field Trips that occur on Tribal lands and other sensitive sites. It is part of the revised [Membership Application Form](#) for 2020.
5. The Board approved that 2020 dues shall remain the same as 2019.

SJBAS Board Connections - November 23rd

1. This is your LAST CHANCE to make your reservation for the SJBAS Holiday Brunch and Annual Meeting on December 7th. It will begin at 10:00 a.m. at FLC in the Vallecito Room of the Student Union. The cost is \$25 per person. We encourage you to bring a guest and introduce them to SJBAS. Follow this link to the [Brunch Reservation and Reply Form](#) and mail it ASAP!! Reservations must be received by November 30th.
2. The Board will conduct a Long-Range Planning Meeting in January, based upon input from the 2019 Annual Membership Survey. This survey is available by following this link, [Membership Survey](#). It will also be in the December *Moki* and be distributed at the Annual Meeting where it will be used for "Round Table Discussions." Your input is critical. Please respond to and return your [Membership Survey](#) or bring it to the Annual Meeting.
3. **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!** SJBAS is a Colorado Nonprofit Corporation and its Mission is: to advocate for and promote public awareness and preservation of the cultural, historical, and archaeological resources, primarily of the Four Corners region of the American Southwest (Four Corners).

We do great things! Your Membership supports our efforts to bring the archaeology, history and culture of the Four Corners to each one of you and our community through lectures, classes, field trips, and social gatherings throughout the year. We also provide four Internships and Scholarships to Fort Lewis College students every year. Renew today at last year's prices: Family \$30, Individual \$20, and Student \$10. Sweet

deal for your Holidays and an investment in the future! See the *Moki* or the SJBAS website at www.sjbass.org for renewal information and Membership forms or just follow this link, <http://www.sjbass.org/Application-2020.pdf>.

4. SJBAS is 40 years old! (or young!) SJBAS 40th Year Commemorative T-Shirts are available to order by December 8th. See below for design, color, and ordering information. Your order must be received by December 8th. Shirts will be ready before Christmas.

SJBAS 40th Year Commemorative T-Shirts

The color is a reddish-brown sandstone; follow this link to view the design: [T-Shirt design](#). Our Kokopelli logo is embroidered on the front; the spiral hand and our name is on the back. Shirts are high quality Gildan Ultra Cotton and available in short sleeve and/or long sleeve; the sizing is Unisex Adult and Youth. Shirt orders may be mailed to Paula or given to Paula at the Holiday Brunch. Short Sleeve is \$23; Long Sleeve is \$27; if XXL please add \$2. Your check should be made payable to SJBAS and may be mailed to Paula Lutz, 2715 Delwood Avenue, Durango, CO 81301. Orders MUST be received by *December 8th*, and shirts will be available before Christmas. Please include your email address with order so Paula can contact you. If you have questions, please contact Paula at paula@durango.net.

Sonoran Archaeology

Dr. Randall McGuire presented "Sonoran Archaeology" at our November 13th monthly meeting. This link will take you to the Archaeology Southwest Magazine issue on Sonoran Archaeology, <https://www.archaeologysouthwest.org/product/asw30-3/>.

National Geographic Channel's "Chasing the Equinox"

Hello SJBAS members,

Below is the link to National Geographic's "Chasing the Equinox". This past March, David Valentine, my wife Marit, and I were in Chaco Canyon and were fortunate enough to be behind the camera of the Geographic's film crew while interviewing our friend Anna Sofaer. Anna was featured in the films segment about Chaco Canyon and along with her interviews, the Channel used our footage which included stills, landscape cinematography and time lapse of Bonito, Casa Rinconada, and Hungo Pavi.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/tv/movies-and-specials/chasing-the-equinox>

We hope you will take some time to enjoy this great documentary.

Warm Regards,
Larry Ruiz
larryr@mydurango.net
970-759-9244

<p style="text-align: center;">Dates</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Upcoming SJBAS Field Trips and Activities - 2019</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Updates are in red.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please contact trip leaders by phone or email for more information or to sign up.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">December 7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SJBAS annual meeting and holiday brunch – FLC Vallecito Room</p>

Regional Archaeology News

U.S. House passes bill to protect Chaco Canyon from new oil and gas leasing

By Liz Weber

Thursday, Oct. 31, 2019

FARMINGTON – The New Mexico delegation, led by U.S. House Assistant Speaker Congressman Ben Ray Luján, celebrated the passage of a bill Wednesday in the U.S. House protecting federal lands around Chaco Canyon from new oil and gas development.

The Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act (House Resolution 2181), introduced in April, would establish a roughly 10-mile buffer area from oil and gas leasing around Chaco Culture National Historical Park, land sacred to many tribes throughout the Southwest and home to the Navajo Nation.

Luján, and fellow U.S. Reps. Deb Haaland and Xochitl Torres Small, voted in favor of the bill, while U.S. Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich also expressed support for the measure. The bill passed 245-174, with bipartisan support.

Luján called the bill’s passage “a major victory for New Mexico and significant progress toward establishing permanent protections for Chaco Canyon,” in a written statement. “For at least a decade, drilling and extraction have threatened the sacred, ancestral homelands of the greater Chaco region, putting this treasured landscape at risk of desecration,” he said in a written statement.

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez said, in a written statement, “The bill aims to protect the land, structures and environment from any unanticipated adverse effects associated with unchecked oil and gas development in the region.”

Heinrich, who introduced the bill in the Senate with Udall, said in a written statement, “This is about listening to tribal leaders and all of New Mexicans who are calling on us to preserve the integrity of Chaco’s irreplaceable resources.”

Heinrich also invited U.S. Department of Interior Secretary David Bernhardt to visit the region in May. Shortly after his visit, Bernhardt placed a one-year moratorium on new oil and gas drilling within the 10-mile protection area. It is this statewide support that has been encouraging to many supporters and conservation leaders.

“The state of New Mexico is behind protecting Chaco,” said Mario Atencio, board member for Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment, which was part of a lawsuit in a federal appeals court earlier this year against the Interior Department’s Bureau of Land Management for illegally approving oil and gas permits in the Greater Chaco region. WildEarth Guardians, the Western Environmental Law Center, the San Juan Citizens Alliance and the Natural Resources Defense Council were also included in the lawsuit.

Included in the bill’s provisions is an acknowledgment of the need for health studies focused on the public health impacts of oil and gas drilling throughout the region. Atencio said there have been local efforts to conduct health studies with the support of community organizations following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention requirements, but a federally funded study would be a huge benefit. He said it would “fulfill a huge need in the community.”

While the bill will now head to the U.S. Senate, Atencio said there is more work to do locally. He said his organization and others working locally are still listening to community members and presenting a “holistic look at what oil and gas has done to the community.” lweber@durangoherald.com

Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act of 2019 Passes

The bill has passed the U.S. House of Representatives and is headed to the Senate. Archaeology Southwest joins a host of conservation organizations in strongly supporting this legislation. [More»](#)

Commentary: It Will Be a Fight

Protecting Chaco—despite the show of support from the House—will be a fight. The bill’s main sponsor, Representative Ben Ray Luján, is committed to the uphill battle. “We do need a vote out of the Senate,” Luján told me by phone, the day before the House vote. “We need to sign into law to make sure that we are able to protect Chaco in perpetuity, for the Pueblo people and the Navajo people and the significance of what it means to us, not just in New Mexico or America, but the significant site that it is even globally.” – The New Republic ([Read article](#))

Commentary: America’s Public Lands

Discounting such individual, non-commercial, even notional uses of public lands could eventually lead to their loss. When the Trump administration drastically shrank Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, it represented a win not for regular people, who protested the change by the millions, but for big business. The monument’s revised boundaries conveniently stripped protection from areas containing uranium, coal and oil deposits. The cuts also overturned a process that had specifically empowered local Native American nations, the original owners and stewards of all of America’s land, public and private. – Antonia Malchik in the Los Angeles Times ([Read editorial](#))

Bandelier Legislation Would Establish Tribal Commission

U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) a member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, introduced legislation today to establish Bandelier National Park and Preserve. Senator Heinrich's legislation seeks to protect in statute a strong relationship between the National Park Service and pueblos whose history and culture lies in Bandelier. The bill would establish a tribal commission, which would provide guidance for park management that reflects traditional and historical knowledge and values. – Los Alamos Daily Post ([Read article](#))

SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members - 2019

President	Janice Sheftel	janicesheftel@gmail.com
Vice President	Florence (Foxy) Mason	fmason@frontier.net
Vice President	Susan Hicks	sc53hicks@gmail.com
Secretary	Paula Lutz	paula@durango.net
Treasurer	Randy Graham	rg44@bresnan.net

Field Trip Program coordinator	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock54@gmail.com
Education/PAAC representative	Tish Varney	tishvarney@att.net
<i>Moki Messenger</i> editor	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock54@gmail.com
Programming chair	Janice Sheftel	janicesheftel@gmail.com
Publicity chair	Jill Tripp	jtripp51@yahoo.com
Webmaster and email coordinator	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock54@gmail.com

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society – Membership Renewal

Membership renewals are due by January 31st each year. Please complete the [SJBAS Annual Membership Form](#), make your check payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with the Annual Membership Form to: **SJBAS, Attn: Randy Graham, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302.**