



# THE MOKI MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society

January 2009



## The SJBAS Annual Christmas Dinner

The SJBAS annual Christmas dinner was held on December 4th. Rae Haynes reported that fifty-eight SJBAS members and guests attended the party at FLC's Student Union to celebrate the holiday season with a Southwest buffet. Those attending enjoyed fellowship, hors d'oeuvres, door prizes, and a slide show of the past year's field trips.

Treasurer Mark Gebhardt distributed name tags at the door wearing a Chinese cap complete with queue (that's a good Scrabble word!) and Eliane Viner greeted guests warmly as they entered the room.

Following dinner a tribute was given to John Sanders, who is retiring from 25 years of editing the Moki Messenger. Bruce Polich, the first speaker in this tribute event, praised John's years of service as editor and trip leader, and credited him with making SJBAS a viable organization. (Bruce also had a few choice remarks that might be considered more a "roast" than a tribute.)

Andy Gulliford presented John with a framed 1967 art poster incorporating some of John's favorite themes: a female, a Native American, an ice cream cone, and the word "LOVE." Members signed the back of the poster and included comments. Ernie Cotton, who served as SJBAS president 1994-1996, related some anecdotes involving his relationship with John, and how they managed to get an "outstanding chapter" award from CAS after a less-than-sterling beginning.

Outgoing president John Viner, in appreciation of

*(Continued on page 3)*



## New Officers To Lead SJBA Society

New officers were elected at the December Christmas Party Meeting to take office immediately. They are: Andy Gulliford, president; Gail Schulz and Bill Cagle, co-vice-presidents; Jeff Davis, secretary; Mark Gebhardt, treasurer; Bob Powell, CAS representative; and Peggy Morris, PAAC co-ordinator.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SJBAS will be held on Thursday, January 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fort Lewis Southwest Center Lyceum. Our speaker will be Linda Towle, formerly of Mesa Verde National Park, who will speak on "Pyramids, Temples, and Tombs: The Eternal Nile".

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## **Trips Planned for 2009**

The schedule of planned trips for 2009, prepared by outings chairs Richard and Linda Robinson, was distributed at the Christmas Party Meeting. It can be viewed on the organization's website: [www.SJBAS.org](http://www.SJBAS.org).



This list of trips will be updated often to reflect any subsequent changes to the schedule.

Gail Schulz reported that due to the snowy weather we experienced recently that they had to cancel their December 21 winter solstice trip to the Yucca and Mitchell Springs. Perhaps they will try to take this trip next year.

John Viner informs us that his Mexican trip is almost full, and he only has two slots still available. He will open the trip to our friends in Cortez in January if the trip is not full. See a short article and pictures on this trip inside this Moki on page 3.

## **Other Jan. Activities**

*The speaker for the Hisatsinom Chapter of the CAS will be Linda Farnsworth. The meeting will be held on January 6th. Linda will be speaking on Aspen Tree Dendroglyphs in Northern Arizona.*



## **Member Dies**

On a sad note, SJBAS member Pamela Hahl died of cancer in Durango on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Pamela and her husband moved to Durango in 2006. A memorial service was held on December 6. Flowers in

Pam's memory may be sent to Center of Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College Foundation, 1000 Rim Drive, Durango, CO 81301.

# **Happy New Year!!**

## **Membership Dues Are Needed Now**

Don't forget to send in your membership dues for 2009 to Mark Gebhardt. The membership application and fees are attached on the last page of the Moki. Please remember that we are no longer offering the option of a \$15 newsletter only. You can also access the membership application on our website: [www.sjbas.org](http://www.sjbas.org).

## **ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS: NEAR AND FAR**

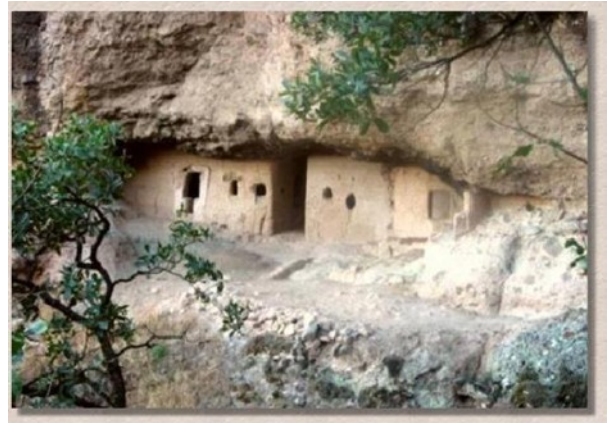
I. **Egypt.** (NOTE: January Speaker will Discuss Egypt.)

A. ***Egypt Unveils Discovery of 4,300-year-old Pyramid.*** Archaeologists have discovered a new pyramid under the sands of Saqqara, an ancient burial site that has yielded a string of unearthed pyramids in recent years, but remains largely unexplored. The pyramid was built several hundred years after the famed Great Pyramids of Giza. The 4,300-year-old monument most likely belonged to the queen mother of the founder of Egypt's 6th Dynasty, Queen Sesheshet, who is thought to have played a significant role in establishing the 6th Dynasty and uniting two branches of the feuding royal family. Her son, Teti, ruled for about a dozen years until his likely assassination, in a sign of the turbulent times. The pyramids of Teti's two wives, discovered 100 years ago and in 1994 respectively, lie next to the newly discovered pyramid, part of a burial complex alongside the collapsed pyramid of Teti himself. Robbers in antiquity looted the pyramid, as

## Chihuahua, Mexico Tour

This may be the last call for this tour. Two spaces are currently available, and the sign-up list is being opened up to the Cortez chapter. We will have a wait list for this trip.

The tour will start in Deming, NM on April 15<sup>th</sup> and will end in Deming on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Deming is a day's drive from Durango - 450 miles. Details of the tour are posted on our web-site [www.SJBAS.org](http://www.SJBAS.org). The approximate cost of the trip is expected to be about \$1300. per person. To sign-up, e-mail John & Eliane Viner at [je\\_viner@frontier.net](mailto:je_viner@frontier.net).



Cueva Grande



Paquime wall structures, suggesting complexity of site.

laws are often inadequate or non-existent. The reclamation process requires delicate cooperation among government, law enforcement, museums, and antiquities dealers. Frequently, there are gaps in the historical records. Claims are attracting increasing attention after the J. Paul Getty Museum of Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art agreed to return looted or stolen artwork or antiquities. Egypt has recovered 5,000 stolen artifacts

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his service, was awarded a small wooden box with a Native American photo on the lid to keep his "treasures" in.

### Slide Show of 2008

Lyle Hancock presented the slide show of 2008's field trips, another function that John Sanders is passing on to others.

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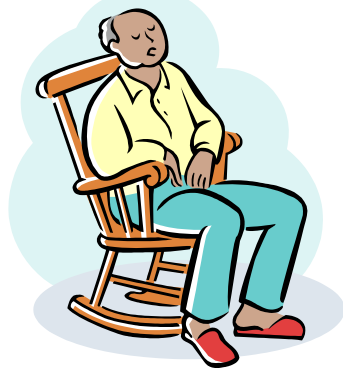
evidenced by a gaping shaft on the structure's top.

The discovery is part of the sprawling necropolis and burial site of the rulers of ancient Memphis, the capital of Egypt's Old Kingdom, about 12 miles south of Giza. All that remains of the pyramid is a 16-foot-tall structure that was buried under 65 feet of sand. A team has been excavating at the location for two years, but only determined two months ago that the structure, with sides about 72 feet long, was the base of a pyramid. The pyramid is the 118th discovered so far in Egypt, and the 12th to be found in Saqqara. Most are in ruins; only about a dozen remain intact across the country. Archaeologists also found parts of the pyramid's white limestone casing which incorporates stunning hieroglyphic details -- believed to have once covered the entire structure -- which enabled archaeologists to calculate that the complete pyramid once was 45 feet high.

***B. Egypt Faces Obstacles Recovering Antiquities.*** A 200-year-old mummy mask discovered at the Saqqara pyramids near Cairo, housed in a government warehouse, resurfaced in 1998 when the St. Louis Art Museum acquired it. It is now at the center of an acrimonious fight which underscores the complexities involved in the efforts of Egypt and other countries to reclaim looted artifacts. Local and international protection

## **JOHN'S CORNER**

The Winter 2008-09 issue of "American Archaeology," a quarterly journal of the archeological Conservancy, includes the following articles that may be of interest to SJBAS members:



"Excavating a Boom Town:" (The discovery of gold and silver brought people from all over the world to Virginia City. Archaeologists are learning how the various classes and ethnicities interacted);  
"Rethinking the Clovis:" (New research is changing conceptions of this ancient culture);  
"Examining the Mysteries of the Hopewell:" (The discovery of several strange features at the Fort Ancient site puzzle archaeologists);  
"Re-examining Conventional Wisdom:" (It's been assumed that the Anasazi migrated from the Four Corners to the northern Rio Grande region by the late 1200s. Archaeologists are now revisiting this assumption.)

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since 2002, and is pursuing dozens more. There is no record showing the mask ever left Egypt legally, but the St. Louis museum contends Egypt has not proven it was stolen. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is looking into the case.

Egyptian records show the burial cover for Ka Nefer Nefer's mummy was discovered in 1952 at the Saqqara pyramids. The mask was found in a burial site behind the unfinished Step Pyramid of King Sekhemkhef. The funerary cover was inside, dating from 1307-1196 B.C. Ka Nefer Nefer's golden burial mask was testimony to her position in the court of Pharaoh Ramses II. Her eyes are of glass, which was as valuable as gemstones at the time. In each hand she holds a wooden amulet, a symbol of strength and status. Her arms bear a relief showing her ascent into the afterlife on the boat of Osiris, Egyptian god of the underworld. The find was registered in the official ledger at the government warehouse at Saqqara. The page in the ledger book, a key document Egypt has presented to St. Louis to bolster its claim, shows a high-quality photograph of the mask, the finder's name and ID number, and a detailed description. The discovery was published in a book showing the discovery and the mask at the site, which Egyptologists view as important evidence for Egypt's claim.

li. **Marine Archaeologists Find Slave Ship Wrecked** off the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean in 1841. Some 192 Africans survived the sinking of the Spanish ship *Trovadore* off the British-ruled islands, where the slave trade was banned. After Texas-based Ships of Discovery came across a letter at

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## **Don't Forget Your Dues**



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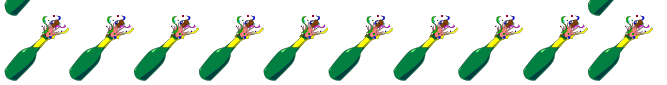
Please remember that we are no longer offering the option of a \$15 newsletter only. You can also access the membership application on our website:

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



**It's 2009.**

**Make it a good year!**



*(Continued from page 4)*

the Smithsonian Institution that referred to the sinking, they began their search for the ship. This is the only known wreck of a ship engaged in the illegal slave trade. The research team was able to determine that authorities on the islands apprenticed the surviving Africans to trades for a year and then allowed them to settle on the islands, many on Grand Turk, the ancestors of many current residents. The Spanish crew was arrested and turned over to authorities in Cuba, then a Spanish colony.

**III. Fishermen Find Ancient Canoe in Black Sea off Coast of Bulgaria.** A well-preserved, ancient wooden dugout canoe was discovered at the bottom of the Black Sea by fishermen trailing nets about 15 miles off the coast. The dugout is 2.6 meters (8.5 feet) long and 70 centimeters (27.5 inches) wide, and it is made most probably of oak. Bulgarian explorers have discovered four ancient vessels, all in remarkably good condition, in the Black Sea. The sea's oxygen-depleted deep water preserves wrecks without the worm damage and deterioration that normally affects wooden vessels in shallower waters or on land. In the Black Sea, dissolved hydrogen sulfide, below a certain depth, preserves all organic materials.

**IV. Arizona Trees Trace Back to Jesuits.** Behind the Sosa-Carrillo-Fremont house near the Tucson Convention Center, there is a large fig tree in the backyard of one of Tucson's oldest homes. There is a strong possibility that the tree is descended from the original fig trees introduced into the Sonoran Desert by Jesuit explorers more than 300 years ago. Father Kino, and later other Jesuits, introduced the exotic fruit trees -- citrus, pomegranate, grape, olive, peach, apricot, quince, apple, and fig. The cultivation of the trees added to the indigenous agriculture of native plants and fruits that included squash, corn, tepary beans, melons, and organ pipe cactus fruit known as pitaya.

The non-native trees became an integral part of the culture and agriculture of O'odham and the mestizo and the European settlers who lived in the Pimeria Alta, an area stretching from the Rio Magdalena in Mexico north to the Gila River, and from the San Pedro River in Cochise County west to the Colorado River. In an effort to restore these heirloom trees, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is recovering their offspring, with the goal of replanting the heirloom trees at the mission gardens in Tumacacori National Historic Park and in Tucson in the Rio Nuevo gardens of Origins Heritage Park. The trees, which have roots in the Mediterranean, North Africa and Middle East, helped sustain the colonial missions. Over time, seeds or offshoots from the trees were planted in the gardens of homes and ranch orchards, providing families with food and income.

**V. Construction at Cheesman Park, Denver, Unearths Frontier Cemeteries.** Cheesman Park is the final resting place for at least 4,200 of its earliest residents where a construction crew, building a parking garage at the Denver Botanic Gardens unearthed two rows of about 40 caskets, part of a frontier town cemetery laid out by city founder Gen. General William Larimer, who had acquired the land -- an Arapahoe Indian burial ground -- in 1858. The former Mount Prospect Cemetery had been subdivided into Protestant, Jewish, and Catholic cemeteries. As Denver grew in the 1880s, city officials decided to turn the cemeteries into a park. In August 1893 they gave families in the Protestant section, today's Cheesman Park, 90 days to remove the remains of their loved ones. Other remains near the Botanic Gardens and modern-day Congress Park were removed by 1923, and 8,600 remains from the Catholic cemetery were moved in 1950 to make room for the Botanic Gardens -- where the estimated 40 caskets were recently found. Nobody had a map of where the bodies really were.

Investigators combed through the caskets before determining that all remains had been recovered. The remains were shipped to another cemetery, where they will be buried in one casket since who they were is not known. Several other caskets in Cheesman Park have been found with a ground-penetrating radar.

## Moki By Mail

Most of us are connected to the Internet and communicate by e-mail regularly. **In an effort to further reduce our costs, we will be sending the Moki Messenger by e-mail to every member who provided us with his/her/their e-mail address.** If you have not provided us with that address, please do so now by contacting our treasurer, Mark Gebhardt, at [mark@vertbiz.com](mailto:mark@vertbiz.com) or 970/382-0518.

However, if you prefer to get the Moki by snail mail (USPS), please let Mark know; and we'll make that happen. It is our intent to ensure that every member receives the Moki when it is published. Any member can also access the latest edition of the Moki through our website: [www.sjbas.org](http://www.sjbas.org).

## From the Editors

While the three of us (Jill Ward, Janice Sheftel, and Beverly Stacy Dittmer) will try our best to follow the remarkable efforts of John Sanders in producing the Moki Messenger, alas we are not John, and so our product will be different. We plan to be "leaner and meaner" and will look to our members to assist us in reporting on trips, suggesting articles and books of interest, and to give us overall announcements and postings that will be of interest to all to put into our newsletter. It is our hope to have monthly features which would include a President's report, an activities report, and suggested readings which we will call "John's Corner". Sorry, no more cartoons! If you would like to submit any information or report on an event, please forward your material to either [jward@peterpattison.com](mailto:jward@peterpattison.com) or [jsheftel@mbssl1p.com](mailto:jsheftel@mbssl1p.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. You can contact Beverly at [beverlydittmer@frontier.net](mailto:beverlydittmer@frontier.net). We look forward to hearing from you.

We would also like to encourage those of you who have email to sign up to receive your Moki Messenger electronically. Most of us are con-

## NOTES ON NOVEMBER SJBAS MEETING (NOV. 13, 08)

by Jeff Davis

The lyceum at SW Center overflowed Thursday evening November 13 as Lifelong Learners joined SJBAS members to enjoy FLC President Brad Bartel's PowerPoint presentation on European Paleolithic cave art. Delayed by health until now, Bartel's Part II followed "The Venus Figurine" discussion that was given earlier. (Showing her, a short fat figure, he questioned: "Do we worship or play with her?")

Bartel said the artistic sites, over 300, raise more questions than answers. Showing many examples including the most famous, the huge Lascaux drawings of Altamira, he asked: "Were these cave residences? No. Were they cathedrals for worship or for hunting luck?" This answer he explained offered only a doubtful explanation. Because it is now believed that the Neanderthals and homo sapiens shared Europe. They did the art and some of it dates back 32,000 years before the present? He also asked why there were only two representations of man with these horses, rhinos, bulls, etc.?

The educative lecture – even including Australian aborigines, African Qumsan and Californian Chumash – posed many questions but few answers. There were many questions following. Thanks, Dr. Bartel, for a puzzling, fascinating evening.

ected to the Internet and communicate by email regularly. In an effort to further reduce our costs, we will be sending the Moki Messenger by email to every member who provides us with his/her/their email address. If you have not provided us with your email address, please do so by contacting our treasurer, Mark Gebhardt, at [mark@virtbiz.com](mailto:mark@virtbiz.com) or 382-0518. However, if you prefer to get the Moki by snail mail, please let Mark know, and we'll make that happen.

Any member can also access the latest edition of the Moki through our website located at [www.sjbas.org](http://www.sjbas.org).

**SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY – ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Membership category(check one):

- Individual (includes "Southwestern Lore")      SJBAS \$15.00+CAS \$16.00 = \$31.00
- Individual (no SWL)      SJBAS \$15.00+CAS \$ 8.00 = \$23.00
- Family (with SWL)      SJBAS \$20.00+CAS \$20.00 = \$40.00
- Family (no SWL)      SJBAS \$20.00+CAS \$10.00 = \$30.00
- SJBAS newsletter "Moki Messenger" only (no field trips)      = \$15.00

If you pay CAS dues directly or via another chapter, please specify here: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to "SJBAS" and mail with this form to Mark Gebhardt, Treasurer, SJBAS, 107 Saint Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301. (Dues are payable in January of each year.)

Name(s): Mr./Mrs./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address      City      State      ZIP

Preferred phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

SJBAS is a totally volunteer-run organization. All members are expected to participate in keeping the society going. Please indicate below all the activities with which you are willing to help.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

_____	Speakers/programs	_____
_____	Social events	_____
_____	Planning outings	_____
_____	Leading outings	_____
_____	Outreach/service	_____
_____	Chairing a committee	_____
_____	Mailing newsletters	_____
_____	Other	_____

What special skills/education/experience do you have that applies to SJBAS goals?

Education \_\_\_\_\_  
 Experience (for example, "teaching") \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special skills \_\_\_\_\_  
 Archaeological training (college or PAAC courses completed): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**BE SURE TO COMPLETE AND SIGN BELOW**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY**

- Read and sign this statement and fill out emergency contact information.
- For couples, each person must sign.

I agree to observe the By-Laws and Code of Ethics of both the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) and the San Juan Basin Archaeological Society (SJBAS), and to conduct myself in an ethical manner when participating in the activities of these groups, I understand that both groups are dedicated to the preservation of our cultural heritage and do not engage in activities such as unauthorized collecting of potsherd, arrowheads, or other prehistoric or early historic artifacts, or the desecration of burial sites. I also understand and acknowledge that there may be inherently dangerous conditions when pursuing the activities of CAS or SJBAS that may result in property damage or loss, personal injury, or death and I, my successors and any other representatives I may have do hereby release and hold harmless SJBAS and its members and CAS from any and all liability that I or we may incur.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For couples, the second person signs below.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list a person who could be contacted in case of any emergency. (This should not be your spouse or partner if you attend outings together.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society  
385 Highland Hill Drive  
Durango, Colorado 81301

FIRST CLASS

## San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

If you're not a member of our group and would like to receive our newsletter, attend our monthly meetings, join us on our outings, and participate in our many other activities and those of the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS), call our President Andy Gulliford (970-375-9417) and ask for information about our organization. Annual dues, including those for membership in the Colorado Archaeological Society, are listed below and are payable by checks made out to SJBAS and mailed to our Treasurer Mark Gebhardt, 107 Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301. Dues cover membership for the calendar year. With SWL means that the membership includes a subscription to CAS's quarterly journal "Southwestern Lore" (SWL). No SWL means that the journal is not included with your membership, hence the difference in the dues.

Individual (includes "Southwestern Lore")	SJBAS \$15.00 + CAS \$16.00 = \$31.00
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