



# THE MOKI MESSENGER

October 2021

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

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

## October 13 Monthly Meeting

**SJBAS meeting** – Kathryn Baustian, bioarcheologist at Skidmore College will speak on “*Violence and Conflict in the American Southwest: A Biocultural Perspective of Mimbres and Mogollon Communities.*”

Dr. Baustian has researched patterns of violence and health among ancient Mimbres and Mogollon populations from New Mexico and Arizona. Her current research assesses evidence of genetic relatedness between Mimbres communities through dental markers. For details on the speaker and joining the meeting go to [sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org).

## President’s Message

Dear SJBAS Members,

**Save the Date:** We are planning our Annual Holiday Brunch and Membership Meeting on December 4th in the Vallecito Room at Fort Lewis College. Keep an eye out for our email that will give you more information.

## Contents

October 13 Monthly Meeting .....	1
President’s Message.....	1
<b>Trip Report:</b> Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Service Day and Backcountry Tour, Sept 25-26.....	2
Field Trips, Speakers and Events for 2021 .....	3
Interns at Center of SW Studies Supported by SJBAS Grants.....	3
Trip Leader Planning Meeting for 2022 .....	4
<b>Trip Report:</b> Andy Gulliford Reveals Mysteries of Durango History, Sept 3 .....	4
Modified Field Trip Covid Policy.....	5
John Viner, an Appreciation .....	6
Bruce J. Polich, An Appreciation .....	6
Briefs.....	7
From the Stacks.....	8
SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members .....	8

In the meantime, we'd like to get an idea how many of you would be interested in attending an in-person brunch. Please email Michelle McKibben at [michellemckibben56@gmail.com](mailto:michellemckibben56@gmail.com) if you would be willing to attend (by October 15th, if possible).

I am sorry to report that we have lost more than one longtime, active SJBAS member in the recent past - Bruce Polich, John Viner and Rae Haynes. We will profile each of these members in the Moki to honor their memory. We are sad to lose members of our SJBAS family and send our sympathy to their families.

Plan on attending Lorraine's Field Trip Planning meeting on October 24th (details below). We look forward to many adventures in 2022!

Sincerely,  
Susan Hicks  
SJBAS President

## Trip Report: Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Service Day and Backcountry Tour, Sept 25-26

Fourteen SJBAS members led by Jim Shadell braved the dusty back roads of the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation for a day of service and then one of touring. On the first day we were split into teams that worked on trails, painted timbers and cleaned up a trail head. The trail crew members were fortunate to have as a backdrop a string of remarkable Ancestral Puebloan alcove villages. Remarkable because they normally can only be seen when escorted by Ute guides. Our fearless leader and topiary expert, Jim Shadell, is showing us (to the right) how to properly sculpt overgrown shrubs on the trail.



Among the many Ancestral Puebloan structures we saw were Eagle Nest (seen here), Morris Cliff Dwelling, Lion House, Tree House, Fortified House, and She House.

The evening of the first day we camped on the reservation and gathered around a campfire provided by Jim and shared appetizers, various drinks, and stories of past site visits.

Members working on the service day



were Jim Shadell, Tish Varney, Harriet Stratton, Ilyse Gold, Tom Polich, Paul Landrum, Lorraine and Hunter McCleary, Leesa and Don Gawlik, Gary Schroeder, Barbara Am Ende, and Art and Mary Rieke. A heartfelt thanks to Jim for coming out of retirement to lead this trip. And to the many new members who participated.

### Field Trips, Speakers and Events for 2021

See [SJBAS.org](http://SJBAS.org) for details on each of these field trips or events. You must be a SJBAS member to participate in field trips. All are welcome to attend speaking events.

<b>Dates</b>	SJBAS plans the field trips. Meetings will be offered through Zoom.
<b>October 13</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting, 7 PM MST</b> - Kathryn Baustian will present on “Violence and Conflict in the American Southwest: A Biocultural Perspective of Mimbres and Mogollon Communities” Zoom only; see <a href="http://sjbas.org">sjbas.org</a> for details.
<b>October 17</b>	<b>Bluff Rock Art Day. This Trip is Full.</b> After a day of rock art viewing there will be a wine and cheese reception at Andy Gulliford’s house near Bluff. For more information or to sign up contact Andy at <a href="mailto:andy@agulliford.com">andy@agulliford.com</a> . Limit of 10.
<b>October 24</b>	<b>2022 Trip Leaders Planning Meeting.</b> 2:00 at Lorraine McCleary’s house for a pizza party. RSVP to Lorraine at <a href="mailto:lorraine@bike-durango.org">lorraine@bike-durango.org</a>
<b>November 10</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> – Dr. Stephen Lekson will talk about Paquime
<b>December 4</b>	<b>SJBAS Annual Holiday Brunch</b>

### Interns at Center of SW Studies Supported by SJBAS Grants

**John W Sanders Scholarship Fund helps support two interns each year at Ft Lewis College.** *Moki Messenger* profiles this year’s interns.



**Rachel Morris** (at left) is a third-year anthropology major at Fort Lewis College. She also minors in Native American and Indigenous Studies. Rachel is originally from Brighton, Colo. She has interned with both the Center of Southwest Studies and the Denver Art Museum. She recently joined the Fort Lewis NAGPRA committee as their student representative. Rachel said she is most excited to continue learning and gaining through support of the San Juan Basin Archaeological Society. Outside of school, she loves reading and enjoying all of the outdoor opportunities Durango offers.



The second supported intern is **Kegan Roady** from Farmington, New Mexico and also a junior studying Anthropology. Kegan has spent the past four years conducting archaeological fieldwork in the private, academic, and government sectors. He has studied pre-contact and post-contact cultures across the Southwest and bordering regions. Earlier this year he was named an Alice Hamilton Scholar with the Colorado Archaeological Society. More recently he presented a poster at the 2021 Pecos Conference on San Juan College's [Totah Archaeological Project](#). He has also participated in a variety of field projects including documenting rock art panels along Nine Mile Canyon and Canyon

Pintado; served as Crew Chief of the Fort Lewis College Grandview Archaeological Project; conducted backcountry research with Montana State University in Yellowstone National Park, and interned with Southern Utah University at the Fishlake National Forest. He is currently the Teaching/Lab Assistant for Ethnographic Research Methods at Fort Lewis College and the Curatorial Assistant of the Archaeological Collections at the Center of Southwest Studies. When he finds spare time, he is exploring the vast cultural landscapes of the Colorado Plateau and Great Basin.

### Trip Leader Planning Meeting for 2022

A very big thank you to the trip leaders that stepped forward this iffy pandemic year to lead trips. Rusty Chamberlain led forth in June to Sand Canyon, Andy Gulliford rallied in with three trips; an Arboglyph trip, a Durango walking tour and Bluff petroglyphs, Lorraine McCleary to Tavaputs Ranch and Jim Shadell and Tom Polich who revived the Ute Tribal Service weekend.

Let's make next year's trips happen. Please come to the trip leader meeting and pizza party at the McCleary's outdoor patio Sunday Oct. 24 at 2:00 to plan for next years' trips. New and old leaders are welcome. Newbies can be mentored or co-lead with experienced leaders. Please RSVP to Lorraine McCleary at [lorraine@bike-durango.org](mailto:lorraine@bike-durango.org).

### Trip Report: Andy Gulliford Reveals Mysteries of Durango History, Sept 3

To the casual observer downtown Durango is a hodgepodge of architectural styles. To the trained eye it presents a smorgasbord of American architectural styles. Last month SJBAS members were treated to a walking tour by Ft Lewis College Historian Andy Gulliford.





Andy's favorite building is the Newman Block building (left) on Main Street, built in 1891. It is the only example of *Richardsonian Romanesque* architecture in Durango. Those who might recognize the style, think of the Trinity Church in downtown Boston.

Andy related the efforts of one home-owner on the corner of Third Ave and 8<sup>th</sup> St. to circumvent restrictions on changing the façade of any home on historic 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. His solution—move the front door to face 8<sup>th</sup> Street so it wasn't technically on 3<sup>rd</sup>. It worked.

We also learned that in the 19th century *ladies of the evening* were counted as "seamstress" by tax collectors? Looking back, demographers could tally the number of seamstresses in a building and decide if it was a bordello or something a little more domestic. Illuminating one of those rooms might have been a light bulb similar to one STILL working in a house on Third Ave. It may be the oldest working Edison light bulb in the country.



One thing Andy tried to convey was how to look at a building and figure out its original purpose. Take this building on the left on Main Street: Was it an early firehouse, a livery stable or maybe an early garage? In fact, it was the livery stable used often by salesmen who stayed in the Genral Palmer and rented horse-drawn transportation here to make calls.

This modest home to the right lends new meaning to the term "mobile home." It began life during the days of the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos where it served as a family home for scientists. Decades later it was moved to Durango.



One gets the impression that Andy could do this tour every day and not repeat himself.

SJBAS members on the tour were Paula Lutz, Tish Varney, Lorraine and Hunter McCleary, Michael Mohr, and Erica Tucker.

## Modified Field Trip Covid Policy

The SJBAS field trip policy remains the same as published in the [June Moki](#)

## John Viner, an Appreciation



SJBAS lost a good friend and long-time valued member on September 4, 2021, when John Viner passed away. John served as SJBAS Vice-President in 2005 and then as President from January 2006 through December 2008. In September 2007, he hosted a meeting to make SJBAS more forward-looking. Key decisions included delivering the *Moki* by email and creating the SJBAS website. After serving as President, John continued to be a frequent presence at our monthly meetings and other functions, volunteering when needed.

John was born in Washington, DC on October 17, 1937. He received a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Maryland in 1959, an MS in Structural Engineering from the University of Illinois in 1961 and undertook further studies at the U. of Maryland while he was an instructor.

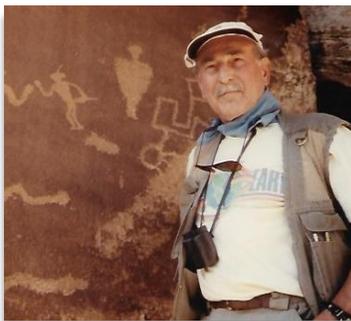
In 1963, he married Eliane Mueller-Trapp, a nursing student from Alsace. Given his love of the outdoors, their first date was a canoe trip. Many later trips featured canoeing and hiking in the U.S. and across the globe.

John worked as a research engineer for the Navy until 1967 and later as research engineer for the Federal Highway Administration. John retired from the Federal Government in 1996, earning a Superior Career Service Award. He was also recognized as a Citizen of the Year in Montgomery County, Maryland. His most important engineering achievement was developing a specific guardrail shape to improve highway safety, a design that was adopted around the world.

John and Eliane moved to Durango in 2001, where John developed a deep interest in the area's archaeology and geology. He shared these interests as a Rail Ranger on the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad and volunteered at Mesa Verde National Park with Eliane.

SJBAS members greatly enjoyed John's humor and good-natured smiles. His death came as a sad surprise. Our condolences go out to his wife Eliane. John will be missed by all.

## Bruce J. Polich, An Appreciation



Bruce J. Polich, former SJBAS president, passed away on February 1, 2021 in Denver at the age of 97. The cause was complications from Covid.

Born May 17, 1923, in Walsenburg, Colo. to a coal mining family, Bruce moved to Denver in 1930. He left high school early to help support his family during the Great Depression by working at a CCC camp in Hugo, Colo. Bruce joined the Army during World War II and served in the Radio and Signal Corp. After being

honorably discharged he obtained his GED and then a BA degree in Journalism from the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Following graduation, he worked as a reporter for the Colorado Springs Free Press and International Free Press in Denver. It was there that he met his future wife of 64 years, Emmeline Lytle. After marrying, the couple moved to San Francisco where he worked as a reporter, writer and producer for KGO Television doing mostly sports coverage but also some overseas work, including the Korean War.

Bruce and Em had four children while in California - sons David and Tom, and daughters Maria and Laurel.

The family moved to Aspen in 1959 where he worked as a freelance writer and film-maker on stories for, among others, Sports Illustrated, the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies and the Aspen Music Festival. While in Aspen he founded the Mother Lode restaurant, specializing in Italian food.

Bruce, an outdoor enthusiast, became an active environmental and political activist. He led protests against underground nuclear testing and the Vietnam War. He also served as press secretary for Roy Romer's Senatorial campaign, and later, Richard Lamm's Gubernatorial campaign.

Nineteen-seventy found the family living in Steamboat Springs where he founded another restaurant, again specializing in Italian fare.

In the '70s, Bruce was Communications Director for Federation of Rocky Mountain States, coordinating an energy and natural resources assessment for land use planning and environmental legislation for eight western states.

In the mid-80s Bruce finally settled down in Durango. He became a member of SJBAS and led dozens of field trips to Native American sites for friends and family. Known as "Uncle Bruce" to many, he had a comprehensive knowledge of Ancient Puebloan culture, artifacts, pictographs, and petroglyphs. His writing and story-telling skills, sense of humor, and ability to show a personal interest in everybody and everything, delighted listeners. Bruce Polich witnessed, participated in, and contributed to the growth of Colorado for nearly 100 years. He is missed.

## Briefs

**Smartest person in the ruin?** An article in the current *Smithsonian* reveals that the woman beside renowned SW and Durango area archaeologist Earl Morris was basically ignored by contemporary archaeology. Ann Axtel Morris (shown here painting at a site in the Yucatan around 1927) is described as an archaeology "trailblazer" in her own right. A forthcoming book and movie should help set the record straight for a woman that was clearly ahead of her time. You can read her story [here](#).



**Life was not all turkeys and macaws a millennia ago.** Mostly, but not all. *Archaeology Southwest* begins a monthly Zoom series this month on Avian Archaeology. You can learn more or register for free [here](#).

**New BLM assessment seeks to improve protections for an overrun Bears Ears.** Or will it? BLM last month released an environmental assessment for mitigating the impact of a quadrupling of visitors to Bears Ears over the past five years. The study seems to call mostly for trailhead improvements leading to *House on Fire Graneries*. There seems to be no consideration given to monitoring or managing access. You can read the report [here](#).

**Site Steward Coordinators hold online workshop.** For those interested in honing your skills or becoming a site steward check out the national workshop, Nov 2-3. The program seems to be heavily tilted toward the Southwest. You can register at [sitestewardship.org](http://sitestewardship.org).

**History Colorado Survey.** For those who watched the Sept 8 Zoom presentation by Wirt Wills on “Reconstructing the Pueblo Bonito Mounds,” History Colorado would appreciate your completing a quick online survey. You can find it [here](#).



**Enhance your wardrobe with SJBAS T-shirts.** Tish Varney is looking into placing another t-shirt order later this fall. The cost will be about \$22 each. If you are interested in ordering one, please contact her at [tishvarney@att.net](mailto:tishvarney@att.net).

**SJBAS Zoom-master, Richard Brown, has retired from engineering our Zoom meetings.** We all appreciate the seamless way he ran our monthly remote meetings during the pandemic. Thanks, Richard!

**SJBAS needs a backup Webmaster to Lyle Hancock.** If you are interested, please contact Lyle at [lylehancock54@gmail.com](mailto:lylehancock54@gmail.com).

## From the Stacks

**Ann Axtell Morris** wrote two well-received books—*Digging in the Yucatan* and *Digging in the Southwest*. Both were geared toward older children as publishers did not take seriously her archaeology credentials and experience. The two books are now out of print and hard to find but the Durango Public Library has two copies of *Digging in the Southwest* in their Southwest collection. The *Smithsonian* article describes the writing as “informative but jaunty and good-humored.”

## SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members

President	Susan Hicks	<a href="mailto:sc53hicks@gmail.com">sc53hicks@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Hunter McCleary	<a href="mailto:hunter@bike-durango.org">hunter@bike-durango.org</a>
Secretary	Mary Rieke	

Treasurer	Randy Graham	<a href="mailto:rg44@bresnan.net">rg44@bresnan.net</a>
Communications chair	Byron Kellogg	<a href="mailto:bwkellogg@charter.net">bwkellogg@charter.net</a>
Education/PAAC representative	Tish Varney	<a href="mailto:tishvarney@att.net">tishvarney@att.net</a>
Field Trip Program coordinator	Lorraine McCleary	<a href="mailto:Lorraine@bike-durango.org">Lorraine@bike-durango.org</a>
Membership chair	Denise Galley	
<i>Moki Messenger</i> editor	Hunter McCleary	<a href="mailto:Hunter@bike-durango.org">Hunter@bike-durango.org</a>
Programming chair	Janice Sheftel	<a href="mailto:janicesheftel@gmail.com">janicesheftel@gmail.com</a>
Publicity chair	Rusty Chamberlain	<a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a>
Social chair	Michelle and Mark McKibben	<a href="mailto:michellemckibben56@gmail.com">michellemckibben56@gmail.com</a>
Webmaster	Lyle Hancock	<a href="mailto:lylehancock54@gmail.com">lylehancock54@gmail.com</a>

SJBAS Membership renewals are due by January 31<sup>st</sup> each year; however, if you paid dues in 2020, these would carry over through 2021. If you need to renew a lapsed membership or join SJBAS, please complete the [SJBAS Annual Membership Form](#), make your check for \$20 (\$30 family) payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with the Annual Membership Form to: SJBAS, Attn: Randy Graham, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302.