



THE MOKI MESSENGER

December 2023

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

sjbas.org

President's Letter

Dear SJBAS Members:

It's hard to believe this year is almost over. In 2023, SJBAS held outstanding field trips, excellent in-person monthly programs, a fun summer picnic and, Dec 2nd, we will be getting together for our Holiday Brunch and Annual Meeting.

It's time to renew your membership. It is easy to renew or join SJBAS – just print and complete the [Annual Membership Form](#); sign the membership form, Liability Waiver and Proper Etiquette forms; write a check to SJBAS for the appropriate amount; and mail the one-page Annual Membership Form and your check to SJBAS, Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302. Please keep your signed Liability Waiver and Proper Etiquette forms for your records.

During the Annual Meeting on December 2nd, members will vote for the SJBAS 2024 officers. The following members have volunteered to fill these positions: President - Paul Landrum, Vice-President - Tom Polich, Secretary - Susan Hicks, and Treasurer - Mary Moorehead. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted before the vote.

Other Board members volunteering for 2024 include Michelle and Mark McKibben, Social Co-

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Chairs; Education Chair, Betsy Moore; Program Chair, Janice Sheftel; Membership Chair, Tish Varney; Publicity Chair and Field Trip Program Coordinator, Rusty Chamberlain; Communications Chair, Byron Kellogg; Webmaster, Lyle Hancock; and Moki Messenger Editor and Technology, Hunter McCleary.

I would like to thank our departing Board member, Mary Rieke. She has been our Secretary for 2 years. We all appreciate her contribution to the SJBAS Board. Thank you, Mary, for your service and we look forward to seeing you on field trips and other activities.

The next SJBAS Board meeting will be held Thursday, January 13, 2024 at the Center of Southwest Studies Conference Room 271. All SJBAS members are welcome to attend. Please email me at sc53hicks@gmail.com and I will send you an agenda. If you can't attend the meeting, please email ideas, questions, and comments by January 4th and I can add them to the agenda.

Happy Holidays!
Susan Hicks
SJBAS President

Member Profile: Janice Sheftel

Something old. Something new. From past President of SJBAS for five years, *Moki* Editor for four years, and current Program chair [with over 15 years in that position], to the spark plug for the Great Decisions International Affairs discussion group and the treasurer of the San Juan Symphony Board, Janice Sheftel's work has been important for Durango nonprofit organizations for many years.



Janice grew up in Washington, D.C. thinking she wanted to be a lawyer, but events got in the way for a while. She met her future husband in a folk-dance group in high school. She graduated with a BA from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. She was married in 1962 and moved to Rochester, New York while her husband was completing his BA.

She and her husband moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he began work on a PhD in Japanese History at the U. of Michigan. She considered studying for a PhD in Political Science, but deferred the idea to work as a computer programmer at the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research. She and her husband lived in Tokyo for a year, while he studied advanced Japanese and she taught English and studied beginning Japanese. Upon returning to Ann Arbor, Janice studied at the U of M School of Library Science for her MALS, which would turn out to be the nexus for a number of future interests.

From there, Janice and her husband moved to Columbus, Ohio, where she worked for a year at a special survey institute studying responses to the Kent State shootings. The two then moved to Bakersfield, California, where she worked as the Librarian of the Baker Branch of the Kern County Library System. She recalls that job fondly. At that time of Cesar Chavez and his efforts to improve the lot of migrant workers, the Branch Library served the Chicano area of Bakersfield. Janice, therefore, focused on making the library into a community Center.

In 1975, her husband took a position teaching Japanese History at Fort Lewis Collee. For the next few years Janice served as the librarian at Park Elementary School and media specialist for District 9-R schools. Her emphasis at Park was on fostering reading enjoyment. She then taught for a year in the gifted and Talented program at Park, Florida and Mason Elementary Schools and Smiley and Miller Junior High Schools.

Following her divorce in 1979, Janice enrolled at the University of Toledo College of Law but clerked during her law school summers back in Durango for the firm she joined after passing the bar and in which she soon became a partner. She specialized in water rights issues.

Her interest in SJBAS began in 1979 with reading about a new archaeology group in the *Durango Herald*. She initially knew nothing about Southwest archaeology, but she soon enrolled in various PAAC classes and caught the avocational archaeologist bug. As the weekend classes then were in-person, as were all monthly meetings, she quickly developed friendships with SJBAS members and began adventuring on numerous weekend field trips. car camping trip excursions and back packs.

When asked how SJBAS has changed over the years, she said the group previously had several members who were extremely knowledgeable about Southwest archaeology and who planned and led numerous field trips, including multi-day trips. Although work prevented her from attending an SJBAS trip to Guatemala. That trip had extra excitement-- a near bus hijacking.

Janice began attending Great Decisions discussions about twelve years ago. As the original Great Decisions organizers retired, Janice volunteered with others, including SJBAS member Lyle Hancock, to keep the organization going. Because so many people in Durango are knowledgeable about international affairs, the programs were too vital to discontinue. Not only does she obtain speakers for SJBAS she obtains the facilitators for the Great Decisions discussions.

Her key to getting good SJBAS speakers is requesting speaker recommendations from others and then asking those recommended to present lectures well in advance even if she doesn't know the people she is inviting. She is often nervous about contacting unknown parties, but she generally gets up her courage to ask people she doesn't know to volunteer: all they can say is "no". This attitude us also a good lesson for succeeding in life.

Trip Report: Cedar Mesa Backcountry Sites, October 16-18

On Monday morning our group of twelve SJBAS members met at the BLM Comb Wash dispersed campsite. After setting up camp and having lunch, we carpoled to a trailhead, registered, paid the day use fees, and spent the afternoon exploring.

On Tuesday we explored several great house sites, a cliff dwelling, and a petroglyph panel. One highlight of the trip was Lyle's explanation of how to interpret the landscape around a collapsed great house and great kiva (see picture below). Wonderful insights.



On Wednesday we broke camp and carpoled to a developed interpretive site along Highway 95. This site is a good example of the typical Ancestral Puebloan habitation sites found on Cedar Mesa in the 11th, 12th, and 13th centuries. Then we drove to a remote trailhead and hiked along the rim of a canyon to view defensive cliff dwellings.

Participants: Lisa and Rick Stockwell, Mary and Jack Irby, Lorraine and Hunter McCleary, Ruth Guarino, Chris Anderson, Lorie Hansen, Mike Mays, Richard Brown, Lyle Hancock.

Trip Report: Historic Graffiti on Beams at Aztec NM Serve as Visitor Log, 15 November

SJBAS members were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the century-old inscriptions at Aztec National Monument. The tour was led by noted Southwest Historian and author, Fred Blackburn. Blackburn and his colleagues have conducted a years-long effort to document inscriptions left on the beams at Aztec National Monument; the



earliest date to the 1880s. So far Blackburn and his colleagues have counted over 1,800 distinct inscriptions. Their effort recently gained momentum with a community meeting in Aztec seeking input from descendants of 19th century settlers who might help identify the historic “taggers” and their messages.

SJBAS members participating in the tour included Jill and Bill Tripp, Lorraine and Hunter McCleary, Rusty and Kathy Chamberlain, Lisa Coash, Betsy and Phil Moore, Art and Mary Rieke, Jean Walter and Steve Harris.

Moki at a Glance

With the new year *Moki* will have a new look; actually, two new looks. Acknowledging that our members have less time to keep current SJBAS will offer a blog-type format on our Web site. It will be updated several times a month with briefs and a calendar that covers events relevant to the Four Corners not just SJBAS; and looks out only a month or two. You may check regularly and know it takes but a minute to gather the latest info. The traditional *Moki* will still be posted on the Web site but it will basically be an archive of the President’s message, raw trip reports, and board matters. Look for the new feature on the SJBAS home page in January.

Additional SJBAS Volunteer Opportunities

Program Co-Chair: We are looking for a volunteer to work with our Program Chair, Janice Sheftel. The Program Chair secures speakers for regular membership meetings and works with other SJBAS members to organize other lectures, such as the John W. Sanders Lecture. This is a Board position. Please contact Janice at janicesheftel@gmail.com for more information.

Membership Co-Chair: The co-chair will work with Tish Varney and, eventually, move into the chair position. The Membership Chair is responsible for organizing recruitment of new SJBAS members and supporting Board members in encouraging active participation by members. This is a Board position. Please contact Tish Varney (tishvarney@att.net) for more information.

Webmaster Assistant: If you know your way around a computer, please consider volunteering to assist our Webmaster, Lyle Hancock, when he is unable to access a computer. The Webmaster is responsible for maintaining and updating the SJBAS website- www.sjbas.org. Please contact Lyle for more information, lylehancock99@gmail.com. Training and support will be provided for all positions.

We look forward to working with you!

SJBAS Elected Officers and Board Members

President	Susan Hicks
Vice President	Paul Landrum
Secretary	Mary Rieke
Treasurer	Mary Moorehead
Communications chair	Byron Kellogg
Membership chair	Tish Varney
Field Trip Program coordinator	Rusty Chamberlain
Education/PAAC representative	Betsy Moore
<i>Moki Messenger</i> editor	Hunter McCleary
Programming chair	Janice Sheftel
Publicity chair	Rusty Chamberlain

Social chair	Michelle and Mark McKibben
Webmaster	Lyle Hancock

SJBAS Membership renewals are due by January 31st each year. Individual dues drop to \$15 after June 30. If you need to renew a lapsed membership or join SJBAS, please complete the [SJBAS Annual Membership Form](#), make your check for \$25 (\$50 family, \$10 student) payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with the Annual Membership Form to: SJBAS, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302.