



# THE MOKI MESSENGER

February 2024

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

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

## There is Still Time to Renew Your SJBAS Membership

SJBAS annual membership at \$25 per person is still a good deal. Almost all of the dues support Ft Lewis interns and their field school plus our speaker program. It's really a worthy cause. And when you add in the amazing trip program we've put together you cannot go wrong. Please renew today. Our dedicated group of board volunteers and trip leaders really need your support. Go to our Web page [here](#) to renew

## SJBAS Monthly Meeting: Feb 14

Our next monthly meeting will be held in person and on Zoom on Wednesday, February 14th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. After a brief business meeting, Bonnie Clark will present: "Finding Solace in the Soil: The Archaeology of Gardens and Gardeners at Amache, Colorado's Japanese American Incarceration Camp." A reception will start things off at 6:30 p.m. in the foyer of the Center of Southwest Studies. You will find much more information on the talk, the speaker and a Zoom link on our Web site at [sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org).

## President's Message

The board met on Jan 19th after postponement due to a number of members having scheduling conflicts. A full agenda on various issues was completed, including the proposed 2024 budget, which will be finalized and approved at the next meeting, Feb. 22nd. Priorities for the coming year include expanding the membership and establishing a more public presence in the region through educational outreach and promotion.

Additionally, we would like to participate in the development of management plans for public lands containing archaeological resources. Tom Polich will attend a BLM meeting in Bluff this spring to advocate for SJBAS access to Bears Ears and Cedar Mesa.

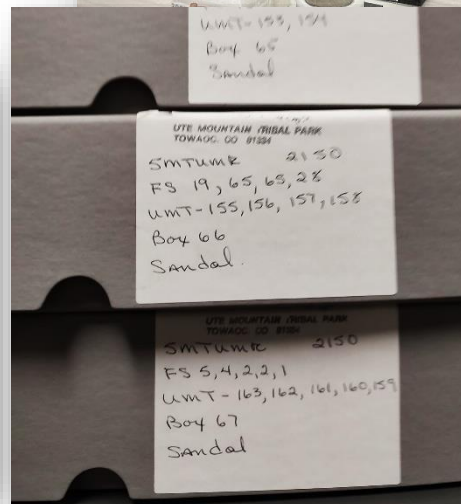
There are plans for presentations to various groups in the region on archaeological practices compared to popular notions promoted by the media, (e.g. Indiana Jones). Emphasis will be placed on local publicly known sites and proper site visitation etiquette. Hunter has already made a number of these.

### Annual New Member Orientation

New and returning members are invited to learn about the workings of SJBAS, our mission and practices prior to our February 14 meeting at the Center of SW Studies. The orientation will begin at 6:15 pm in the small meeting room adjacent to the lobby. Speakers will clue you in on procedures and goals of our society. The orientation will end at 6:45 pm in plenty of time before our program speaker. Please come and enjoy learning about SJBAS and have a cookie, too! --  
*Tish Varney, Membership Chair*

### First Field Trip of 2024: Backroom tour of Canyon of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum

As a follow-up to the fall field trip to the Cannonball Ruins, a trip was undertaken to view the recovered artifacts housed at the Canyon of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum. Blythe Morrison, curator for the collections, led 12 of us on an in-depth backroom tour. The museum and curation facility were built to house the artifacts discovered during the construction of the



McPhee Reservoir and the Dolores Lateral Canals. This is a federal facility owned by the Bureau of Land Management, one of only three such BLM facilities in the country. It houses artifacts from permitted excavation sites in western Colorado. Its's mission is to share with the public and host researchers.

Blythe explained how the artifacts are processed (after being accepted at the facility), as she led us deeper and deeper into a maze of rooms under the museum. Currently the facility houses over 4 million artifacts. Cannonball Ruins were inhabited from 1140 AD until 1300 AD. The architectural and construction methods resemble the Hovenweep style. This site also exemplifies the trend in the McElmo drainage of building settlements on canyon rims. The site was first excavated by Sylvanus Morley in 1908. His report is available online. Blythe had pulled several examples of artifacts from storage to show us, as well as pointing out artifacts on display in the museum. See photos below. Upon conclusion of the tour, we headed to the Columbine Bar and Grill in Mancos for lunch. -- *Lorie Hansen*

## Briefs

**Students from Ignacio High School Zoom into January SJBAS Lucy Talk.** Gifted and Talented instructor Crystal Redman alerted her class to the SJBAS talk on Lucy. She told Moki that her class is currently working through a six-week evolution unit. She said, “Last week, we were looking at evolutionary history and relationships and the fossil record.” The talk was so intriguing and appropriate that she made the presentation required for the "gifted and talented" students to attend and produce two-page summaries of their learnings.

Redman added that she “enjoyed the presentation very much and didn't really think about this kind of evidence being available by looking at a fossil. It certainly humanized Lucy for me. Now that I know about your organization, I hope to incorporate future presentations into my curriculum.”

**SJBAS Trip opportunity?** Last year President Biden created Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument. The designation protects 900,000 acres of canyons, plateaus and indigenous culture near Grand Canyon National Park. It includes more than 3,000 historic and cultural sites. The Monument will be co-managed by the National Forest Service, the BLM and in consultation with area tribes. Visiting the new monument easily classifies as roughing it as there is no visitors center yet or even pit toilets. You'll see just a lot of uncrowded, astonishing landscape and pre-contact indigenous cultural sites.

## Upcoming Events for 2024

[Contact trip organizers for details.  
See [sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org) for the latest version of the full-year calendar.]

<b>February 14</b>	<b>Annual New Member Orientation</b> at the Center of Southwest Studies, 6:15 PM. Just before the monthly meeting.
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<b>February 14</b>	<b>SJBAS Monthly Meeting at Center of SW Studies. 7 PM</b> “The Gardens of Amache Nat’l Historic Site: Japanese Internment Camp” by Bonnie Clark, Prof at Univ of Colorado.
<b>February 22</b>	<b>SJBAS Boarding Meeting--</b> 1:30 at the Center of Southwest Studies conference room. All members are welcome.
<b>Mid-February, date TBA</b>	<b>SJBAS Field Trip</b> See the Ohkay Owingeh Deer Dance; plus visit Fort Marcy, Tsankawi Prehistoric Site and more – Difficulty: Easy-Active. Contact Rusty Chamberlain at <a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a> . Sign-up began Jan. 1st
<b>March 13</b>	<b>SJBAS Monthly Meeting at Center of SW Studies. 7 PM</b> “Archeoastronomy at Chaco Canyon” by David and Chloe Valentine and GB Cornucopia. David is associated with Cloudy Ridge film production. GB is an interpreter at Chaco Canyon.

### Trip Signup Opening Dates

Note: The dates below are when you may first get on the trip list. We have instituted signup dates to minimize last-minute drop-outs. Many of these trips fill up so get your name in with the organizer. See the Master Calendar at [sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org) for details

<b>January 1</b>	<b>Ohkay Owingeh Deer Dance</b> – Fort Marcy, Tsankawi Prehistoric Site and more. Difficulty: Easy-Active. Contact Rusty Chamberlain at <a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a> .  <b>Day trip to Salmon Ruins</b> – “Colors of the past: A Guided tour of Salmon Ruins and Museum,” by Kelsey Hansen, University of Arizona. Difficulty: Easy-Active. Contact Janice Sheftel at <a href="mailto:janicesheftel@gmail.com">janicesheftel@gmail.com</a> .
<b>February 1</b>	<b>Bluff, Utah 3-day camping trip</b> – Exploring Bluff area via car camping with Andy Gulliford. Difficulty: Moderate. Contact <a href="mailto:andy@agulliford.com">andy@agulliford.com</a>

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.sjbass.org](http://www.sjbass.org). Please contact Lyle for more information, [lylehancock99@gmail.com](mailto: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	Paul Landrum
Vice President	Thomas Polich
Secretary	Susan Hicks
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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.