

HISTORIC SANTA FE

THE MONTHLY E-MAGAZINE OF THE HISTORIC SANTA FE FOUNDATION OCT. 2014



INSIDE

Welcome to *Historic Santa Fe*, the Historic Santa Fe Foundation's e-magazine. We continue to share updates on our **preservation work**. In this issue Janet Hiron, Santa Fe **Master Gardener Association Project Leader** for the Garden at El Zaguán, is interviewed by HSFF staff member Jacqueline Hill about the great goings-on in the Garden this year.

We also spotlight the first in our new series of **Salon El Zaguán** talks by Nancy Owen Lewis, former HSFF Board Chair and Scholar-In-Residence at the School for Advanced Research (SAR).

WELCOME

Autumn is now here and the Garden at El Zaguán is beginning to rest for the winter. It was spectacular this year due to the diligent work of the Santa Fe Master Gardeners Association. To that end we have focused on the Garden for the main article of this issue in our usual interview format with Master Gardener Janet Hiron. She looks at the progress made in bringing this Canyon Road landmark back to beauty and the surprises the Master Gardeners encountered along the way.

We might add that four new fruit trees have been planted behind El Zaguán in the "Orchard," and you certainly are welcome to take a walk behind and see this part of HSFF that normally visitors to 545 Canyon Road do not take time to see. It is an oasis between El Zaguán and our neighbors' homes that were once part of the compound here and are now individually owned.

—**Pete Warzel, Executive Director, HSFF**

Historic Santa Fe is designed to increase awareness of historic preservation in Santa Fe and to highlight our mission. We encourage you to share your ideas and comments at: info@historicsantafe.org



SALON EL ZAGUÁN

Nancy Owen Lewis is a long time friend of HSFF and one of our former Board Chairs. She visits us again on October 29, 2014, at 3:00 PM, with the first 2014 program of Salon El Zaguán, a series of talks that will commence in the sala at 545 Canyon Road, and expand during the next twelve months. Nancy's lecture is titled "The Bryn Mawrters: Preservation and Politics in Santa Fe."

During the 1920s, five graduates of Bryn Mawr College moved to Santa Fe and became embroiled in local politics. Influenced by Bryn Mawr's emphasis on social reform and love of pageantry, these women lobbied for the protection of Pueblo land, promoted Indian art, supported local traditions, and gave fabulous parties. Concerned about the decline of traditional architecture, Margretta Dietrich renovated El Zaguán on Canyon Road, Elizabeth Shepley Sergeant and Gertrude Ely restored a crumbling adobe in Tesuque, while Elizabeth and Martha White built an estate on Garcia Street. Their lasting impact on the art and culture of Santa Fe is examined in this illustrated presentation.

The presentation is limited to first come, first served for HSFF members and reservations are required. Please call us at 505-983-2567 to reserve a seat. Admission is free. It will be a wonderful way to spend an autumn afternoon on Canyon Road and learn the history of the remarkable women who were the heart of culture in early twentieth century Santa Fe, a time when the city was defining itself as we know it today.



INTERVIEW: **JANET HIRONS**

Project Leader, the Garden at El Zaguán, for Santa Fe Master Gardeners Association

Interviewed by Jacqueline Hill, staff member at HSFF

Jacqueline: You have been working in the Garden at El Zaguán now for two years and certainly must have been surprised at some things. Tell us what you were not expecting.

Janet: We are still learning about this garden. It takes awhile to know what is in the garden, especially when it is historic. With the removal of the one old chestnut tree two years ago, the garden went from being a shade to a sun garden and offers many more possibilities. A new perennial popped up that was not mentioned in any of the literature on the Garden. It sprouted from a dormant seed in a garden bed. A visitor told us the plant, *Nigella sativa*, was very popular in Maryland and James Johnson, who bought this house in the 1850's, was from Maryland. Nice connection. It was common for newcomers to bring seeds and roots from their homeland. The seeds (also known as black cumin amongst other things) are used in cooking and are reputed to have various healing properties. Who knows where the seeds really

came from, but we had a lively discussion while working in the garden about possible explanations!

Jacqueline: And what new endeavors did you undertake in the Garden?

Janet: We planted two new trees – Canada Red Choke Cherry – and they are thriving. They were chosen because they are food for birds, common in old gardens, great spring and fall color, and give the west end of the garden a little shade. Master Rosarians, Jack and Juanita Ortega worked with the Master Gardeners to identify, procure, and plant three new rose varieties in the garden: Rose de Rescht (deep pink), Jacques Cartier (pink), and Claire Austin (white). These particular roses were selected because they are easy to grow, have strong fragrance, and produce flowers throughout the summer (i.e., re-blooms

two or more times in a season.)

Additionally, Rose de Rescht and Jacques Cartier are classified as Old Garden or Historic Roses, which means these roses belong to a class of roses that were known before 1867. We also contacted the Santa Fe Iris Society for help in identifying historic iris varieties to add to the garden. Thanks to the help (and donation) from a member of the Historic Iris Preservation Society, several heirloom irises were planted in the garden late summer.

Jacqueline: I assume you also encountered fauna as you worked in the Garden this year?

Janet: Aside from trying to attract birds with the tree and flower plantings, there were some surprises. Earthworms were seen in the garden for the first time, and we are very excited about it. This reflects





that all of the care and watering has paid off. Taking care of the soil and proper watering are the basics for making a good garden. And the worms are a sign of soil health. On the other side of the equation a fifth gopher was trapped this morning. At least 50 years worth of gopher tunnels exist in the garden – historic rodents in an historic garden.

Jacqueline: Have there been any special programs held around the work in the Garden and what you have been finding?

Janet: There are compost bins that were built in the past by an artist-in-residence behind El Zaguán that we took on and rejuvenated. They are thriving now and will compost the garden and all of the trees into the future. In conjunction with that we held composting workshops to great public response and will do more next year. The compost bins are claimed as a work of art by compost aficionados.

Tracy Neal, a local Santa Fe horticulturist and certified arborist, lead a workshop on “How To Plant a Tree” that was extremely well received and the Master Gardeners held several Friday night “Ask a Gardener” sessions during the scheduled Canyon Road art walks, open to the public. When an art opening coincided at the Gallery at El Zaguán, the old place was really vibrant.

Jacqueline: Janet, what would you like our members to learn from your experience at El Zaguán?

Janet: That it takes two things to create a successful garden- take care of the soil with active composting, and appropriate watering on a designated watering delivery schedule.

If you have not seen the El Zaguán Garden project page on the Master Gardeners’ web site you can click here for a view: <http://sfmga.org/garden-at-el-Zaguan-2>. (If link is not clickable, you can copy the website address into your browser.)

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to preserve, protect and promote the historic properties and diverse cultural heritage of the Santa Fe area and to educate the public about Santa Fe's history and the importance of preservation.

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OCT/NOV 2014

FOUNDATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS



PHOTO: ARCHIVES

Gallery at El Zaguán

Artist Rush Cole's *Viva Santa Fe*: a 4' by 6' oil painting by Rush Cole that combines landmarks and scenes from around the city and throughout the history of this remarkable place until October 20.

Beginning October 21 and running through November 12 will be *Found Images: photographs, drawings and paintings*—literally found in the archives at HSFF. The images depict El Zaguán through the years, as well as other properties owned by HSFF in various states of restoration. We will announce a “Where’s Waldo” type of game when the show opens to engage you as you view the fascinating images.

October 18 and 19, Canyon Road Paint Out/Sculpt Out. Events each day including artists working their creative

process on the streets, marching bands, student musical performances, and a flash mob at 2:55 PM on Saturday.

October 18 and 19, the *Galisteo Studio Tour*. 10 AM to 5 PM each day, Open house at 28 artists’ studios.

Gallery at El Zaguán

October 29, 3:00PM: Salon El Zaguán: Nancy Owen Lewis presents *The Bryn Mawrers: Preservation and Politics in Santa Fe*. Free admission for HSFF members, but reservations required as seating is limited. Call our office at 505-983-2567.

November 12-14. *Building Creative Communities Conference. Revitalization through arts, culture, tourism and preservation.* Keynote speakers, presentations, discussion on the themes of: Build upon our history, Build alliances with each other, and Build our economy and sustain our culture. Registration fee for the conference. Information and link to registration at <http://nmmainstreet.org/event/building-creative-communities-conference/>

Please send us information about Foundation-related events and other events related to historic preservation in Santa Fe: info@historicsantafe.org.