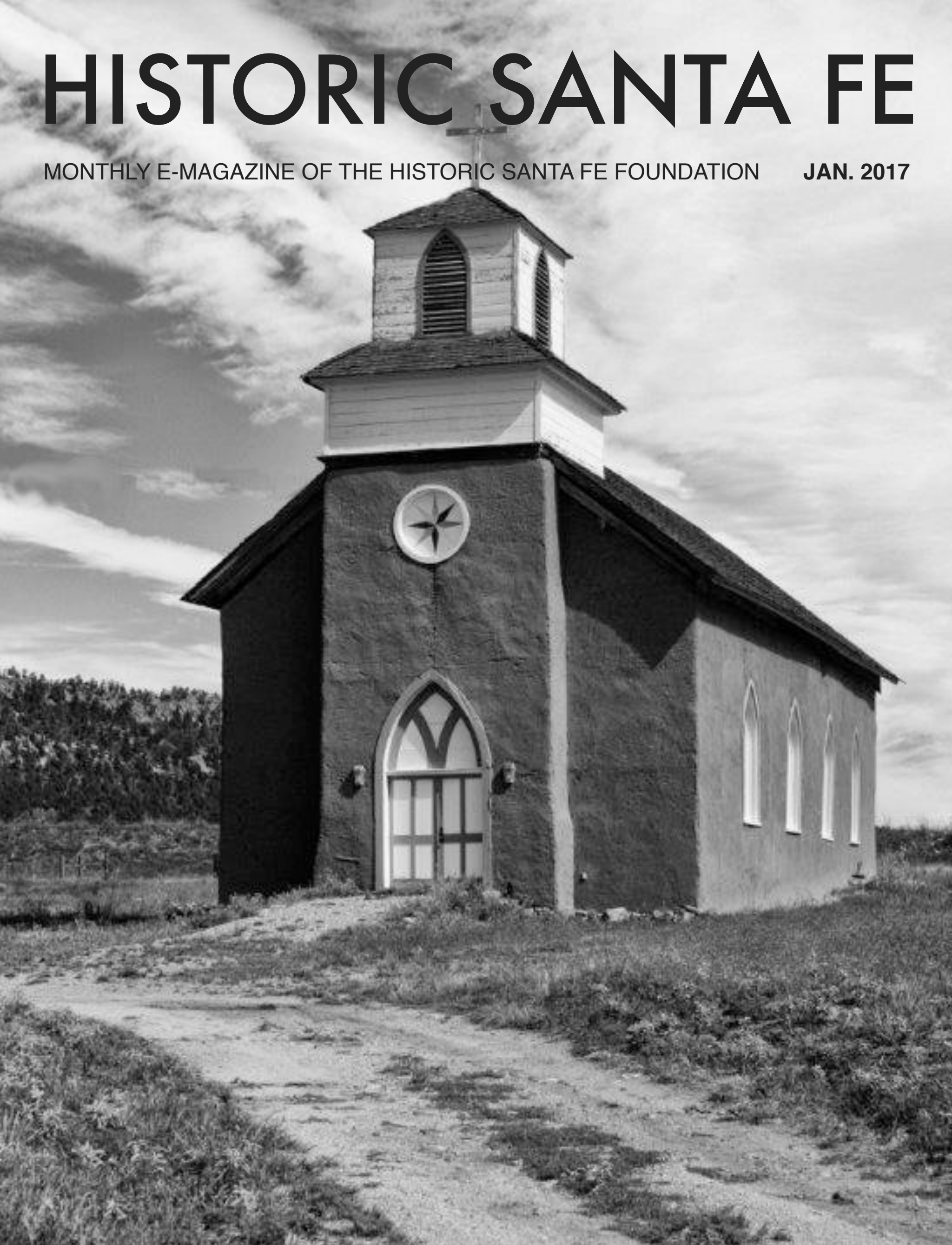


HISTORIC SANTA FE

MONTHLY E-MAGAZINE OF THE HISTORIC SANTA FE FOUNDATION

JAN. 2017



INSIDE HISTORIC SANTA FE

We have bid farewell to 2016 and thrown open our arms to welcome the new year. HSFF kicked off 2017 in fantastic form with an art exhibit opening on January 6th. *Cornerstones: Photographs by Jim Gautier* runs through January 31, 2017.

We are thrilled at this opportunity to collaborate with Cornerstones Community Partnerships and are exploring additional ways to work with other like-minded organizations and businesses in Santa Fe.

We also launched our new website! We welcome you to explore it at:
www.historicsantafe.org

Please share your feedback with us. It is appreciated.
Thank you. **Caitlin Olsen, HSFF Development Associate**



SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Not a member of HSFF yet? Join us. Your donation supports our vital historic preservation work in Santa Fe and our community education, art and cultural projects. Donate through Paypal Giving and HSFF receives the full donation with no fees.

Member Levels of Support

\$15 students
\$35 individuals
\$60 household

Benefits to members are numerous.

Benefits to Members

Members are invited to our monthly members-only salon talks and receive an invitation to our annual June membership meeting in the El Zaguán Garden, an option to purchase discounted Mother's Day Tour tickets, three printed newsletters annually, and our monthly eZine. Our members can also feel great about supporting our mission of historic preservation and education. Drop us an email to let us know you donated at **caitlin@historicsantafe.org**. For more info, visit **historicsantafe.org**.





A Brief History of Cornerstones Community Partnerships

Jake Barrow, Executive Director
Cornerstones Community Partnerships

Cornerstones Community Partnerships celebrated its thirtieth anniversary during 2016. Our mission has remained consistent throughout our history - to work in partnership with communities to restore historic structures, encourage traditional building practices and affirm cultural values. New Mexico's heritage is very unique and it is home to some of the most diverse cultures among the states. Cornerstones and our community seek to find ways to assist in sustaining this sometimes fragile legacy.

After the second world war lifeways changed in Northern New Mexico. The cohesion of village life weakened and traditional ways gave way to modern conveniences. The core of the village had

been the mission church usually surrounded by a plaza and dwellings. From the time of settlement into the twentieth century this architecture was primarily earthen, built from the ground under the buildings by the hands of the inhabitants. Hundreds of these villages shared the isolation and self-sufficiency required by the geographic realities. Routine mudding of the adobe walls accomplished by the community continued until changes began to occur. This tradition was rooted in Native American life; pueblos had sustained their architecture in similar fashion for centuries. Spanish colonial adaptations were just that, modifications to an existing tradition.

As modernity invaded the rural areas along came cement plaster, paneling, dry wall, linoleum flooring and other convenient materials. People saw these materials as inventions for improving life, representing the emergence from poverty into the modern ways. Walls and floors were covered and the yearly mudding by families was suspended to free everyone from a perceived burden. Also lost in these changes were the cohesion and values inherent in the coming together to share in a community process which amounted to helping each other help the whole.

By the 1980's the effects of these changes began to be recognized. Adobe walls were deteriorating behind their coverings. Roofs were leaking. The mission churches were deteriorating. Several churches were demolished, occurring precisely at the time during

which the cultural history of Northern New Mexico was becoming illuminated and exposed by various media and individuals. Articles in newspapers appeared and not everyone was happy with the idea of losing these unique vernacular masterpieces of simplicity.

A small but strong groundswell of interest took hold and In 1986 Susan Herter, then Chairwoman of the New Mexico Community Foundation, hired Nancy Arnon to lead an effort to save endangered northern New Mexico mission churches that were actively being lost. The initiative was named "Churches, Symbols of a Community" and functioned under the umbrella of the New Mexico Community Foundation. Early funders included Faith Meem who was dedicated to saving the small mission churches in Northern New Mexico. The mission for this initiative was as it is today - to provide assistance to those dedicated to saving their churches. Technical assistance, funding for materials, coordinating volunteers and supplying equipment were the basis for the program. It took off like wildfire and it became quickly apparent that villagers did not want to lose their ancestral churches. Their connections to the land and culture are very strong and are based on continuity of family.

The Archbishop reformed the Commission for the Preservation of Historic New Mexican Churches and the Diocese got behind the initiative. Cornerstones has a voting position on the Commission which works to provide advice and council to rural churches for their preservation.

By 1994 “Churches” had out grown the New Mexico Community Foundation and branched out to become its own 501©3 under a new name - Cornerstones Community Partnerships. The mission did not change, work proceeded at an accelerated pace and substantial progress was made restoring churches, youth were trained, training workshops were held for mayordomos and sustainable community relationships were built. Over 300 villages received assistance which resulted in historic churches and community buildings being repaired and brought back into use. As it has been from the beginning, the work was and still is based on sustaining traditions and assisting the community in their goals. Cornerstones has never taken ownership of these projects. They belong to and in the community.

In late 2008 Cornerstones suffered along with everyone in the economic disaster. By the Spring of 2009 we had reorganized and streamlined the operation. A rebuilding process was initiated and in 2010 we embarked on two major initiatives: the San Miguel Mission preservation project in Santa Fe and rehabilitation of the Santo Domingo Indian Trading Post. Work continues on core mission projects such as Las Trampas, Mora County Mission Churches and La Sala in Galisteo.

In 2016 as we celebrated our 30th birthday, we began planning for the future and have launched ourselves in 2017 with renewed energy and focus. We have seen a full cycle of work accom-

plished and found ourselves returning to places where we started, joining again with communities to do the maintenance of routine mud plastering and adobe repair. At this juncture our methods include job skill training for village/local youth to better equip them for the future but also to build a connection for them with their cultural heritage. It's working and we have a 2017 agenda that will take us into Rio Arriba, Santa Fe and Mora.

In order to achieve our current mission Cornerstones works to:

- Maintain a community-based organization in Santa Fe and the surrounding area to support the effort
- Reach out and respond to communities in Northern New Mexico, the State and throughout the greater Southwest to assist on an as-needed basis dependent on resources available
- Actively seek resources to sustain and promote the mission with a two-year goal of increasing reserves in order to meet community needs
- Partner with communities, other not-for-profits, public institutions, individuals and volunteer organizations, county, state and federal agencies to sustain and further the mission
- Actively promote and conduct training experiences for youth and professionals to sustain traditional building skills

Many individuals have served at Cornerstones over the years as staff, on the Board or as volunteers. Many local indi-

viduals and entities have provided generous funding to sustain our mission. At the base of this support is the simple idea of helping those who wish to help themselves and realizing that sometimes the greatest successes are achieved when it doesn't matter so much who gets the credit.

To date thousands of volunteers have given hundreds of thousands of hours of labor to Cornerstones' work at over 376 sites, of which 240 are religious structures and 14 are structures in Santa Fe. Our work continues today as we embark on 2017.





INTERVIEW PHOTOGRAPHER JIM GAUTIER

Q: What initially drew you to photography? What aspects of taking photographs do you most enjoy?

In high school in 1950 a classmate and I started a little photo company to develop and print photos for classmates. We had seen the process and were fascinated. Our business didn't last long but I was hooked. I began taking photos with a box camera and for graduation my mother gave me a 35 mm camera and I used that through my college years.



Jim Gautier

I enjoy seeing a scene and being able to capture it. It can be a building, a person, a place...almost anything...and to see the light, the composition and to have it come out as I intended. I get rid of more pictures that I keep.

Q: How did your long-time partnership with Cornerstones Community Partnerships begin?

In early 1988 Ed Crocker, a Santa Fe contractor who does historic preservation and was involved with Cornerstones, saw my photography. He asked if I would be interested in volunteering to document some of their projects. On Easter Sunday, 1988, my wife and I made a road trip to photograph Cornerstones projects around Las Vegas, NM. We spent the day at 8 different rural historic churches, photographing and visiting with the people of the villages. We came back with an admiration of the people and their labor of love to keep their old churches alive. We left that day to document and came back with a lifetime commitment.

Q: Please describe your most memorable experience taking photographs.

I have had many, almost all involving the people of the historic churches of New Mexico. My most memorable experience was when I was out by myself photographing petroglyphs on the top of Black Mesa, several miles north of Espanola. I slipped and fell into a large bed of prickly pears. I was stuck with needles from head to foot but was able to drive myself to the hospital in Espanola. From

there I was driven to the hospital in Los Alamos. I guess that was my most memorable experience in “not” taking a photograph.

Q: What intrigues you about the photographic subject of historic churches?

I have always had a fascination with the vision and labor it takes to create a structure, large or small. Cornerstones has given me the opportunity to document structures, mostly in rural New Mexico, that is so vital to the culture of our state.

Q: Please share some insights about your process of photography and editing.

Although photographing from the early 1950's I was not able to set up a full darkroom until 1968. I believe you can learn more about taking pictures in the darkroom than you can with the camera. I had an active darkroom for the next 36 years. The darkroom was difficult for me, mainly because of the chemicals. I was a hard sell to digital. The choice of archival papers and inks was becoming more advanced and I became a convert in 2004. I now shoot in digital and always print my images in black and white. Most of my church images are on film and I scan the negatives and edit using Photoshop Elements and Nik software.

Q: What photographers and artists inspire you?

I am basically self-taught. In 1969 while living in Northern California, I was invited to attend a workshop given by Ansel Ad-

ams at his home/studio in Carmel Valley. He stands alone as my primary influence and inspiration. Locally, I have taken some workshops and been taught and inspired in both art and photography by Angel Wynn and Teena Robinson.

Q: Why is historic preservation important?

I have always believed that in the present, if we can preserve our past, we will be much stronger in our future. With Cornerstones involvement I have seen the people, with their labor and love, save their old historic churches from becoming a pile of rubble. I hope their future

generations realize the gift they have been given.

Q: Ideally, how would you like people to engage with your photographs?

I would hope that those viewing my photographs would feel a sense of the past and the role these old churches play in the history of New Mexico.

Thank you for your time, Jim.



HSFF 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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The ezine was designed by El Zaguán resident Dominic Cappello. All photographs by Jim Gautier.

SPONSORS

The HSFF would like to thank our sponsors of the Foundation's ezine—giving us the capacity to strengthen our community voice.

January Sponsors

Jim Gautier Photography
Dave Feldt Santa Fe Properties



JAN/FEB 2017 CALENDAR

Cornerstones: Photography by Jim Gautier – through Jan, 31.

Groundhog Day: Tues, Feb 2. Will Spring arrive early this year when Punxsutawney Phil, our favorite groundhog, emerges from his den?

After Hours Art Exhibit Opening Reception - Friday, Feb. 3, 2017; El Zaguán, 545 Canyon Rd. Suite 2, from 5-7:00p.m., featuring art created by the staff of the HSFF. This event is free and open to the public. Run to Feb.28.

Salon El Zaguán Presentation on the History and Sale of the Garcia House – Thursday, February 16, 2017; Mac Watson, chair of the HSFF Board of Directors

and Mark French, Treasurer, will present a Salon El Zaguán talk about the history and recent sale of the Garcia House on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 3:00p.m. at El Zaguán, 545 Canyon Rd. Suite 2. This is a members-only event.

Historic Santa Fe Foundation Community Outreach Day at the New Mexico Capitol – Tuesday, February 21, 2017. Stop by the NM Capitol Rotunda on Tuesday, between 10-3:00p.m. to visit the HSFF booth. This is our community outreach day during the 2017 Legislative Session, and an opportunity to educate the public about what we do. This event is free and open to the public.

