



# HISTORIC SANTA FE

The Historic Santa Fe Foundation Monthly Journal **APRIL 2019**



# INSIDE HISTORIC SANTA FE FOUNDATION

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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.

In the April 2019 eZine, Historic Santa Fe Foundation presents two book reviews by HSFF's Executive Director Pete Warzel of Jim Sagel's novel *Some Are Born under a Star: A Northern New Mexico Novel* and Doug Lynam's *From Monk to Money Manager: A Former Monk's Financial Guide to Becoming a Little Bit Wealthy and Why That's Okay*. Finally, Melanie McWhorter speaks about a recent visit to Los Luceros Historic Site before our upcoming HSFF Stewards membership event at this historic location in May 2019. More info on the Stewards membership can be found at [historicsantafe.org/stewards](https://historicsantafe.org/stewards).

Other upcoming events, include **Don Usner: Lowriders** Salon El Zaguán talk at 3pm and opening from 5-7pm on **May 10**. The exhibition continues through May 31. On **May 16**, The City of Santa Fe's Historic Preservation Division, Old Santa Fe Association, and HSFF honor some noted members of the community with the **Heritage Preservation Awards** at San Miguel Chapel at 5:30pm on Old Santa Fe Trail with a reception following the event at HSFF's El Zaguán located at 545 Canyon Road. Find out about our events and sign up for our email newsletter at [historicsantafe.org/events](https://historicsantafe.org/events).

Cover image by Los Luceros Historic Site chapel

Image above, Los Luceros Historic Site Visitor's Center plaza and gathering space.

Photos by Melanie McWhorter, April 2019.

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# BOOK REVIEW

## *Some Are Born under a Star: A Northern New Mexico Novel*

By Jim Sagel

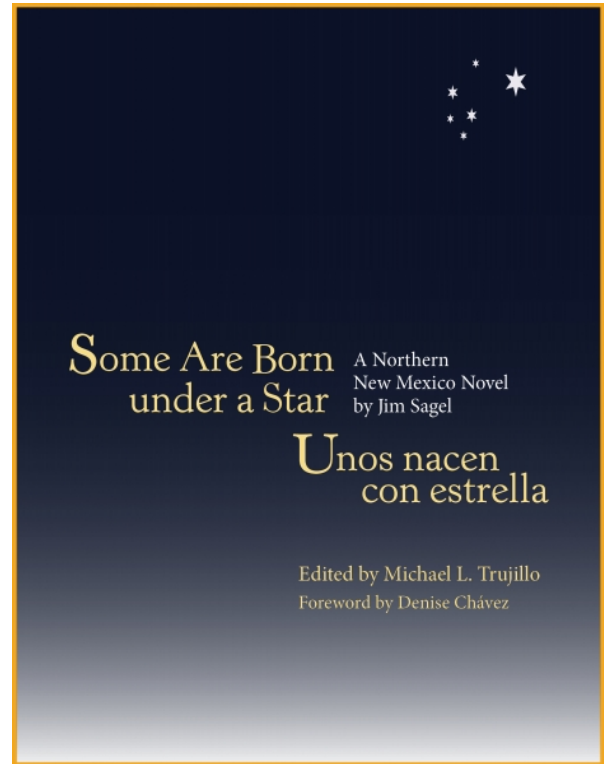
Reviewed by Pete Warzel

The Museum of New Mexico Press has a growing catalogue of extremely well made, elegantly designed books. This novel by Jim Sagel is no exception and is presented in both an English and a Spanish text, one following the other in entirety.

The book is published posthumously, some twenty years after Sagel's death. It is his only novel, and quite compact, though complex with multiple storylines and numerous characters. There is much going on in a short ninety-five pages in either translation. Its tone reminds me of the John Nichols New Mexico Trilogy or Stanley Crawford's *Village*, where the seriousness of life in the villages and towns of Northern New Mexico is portrayed with affection, and uproarious humor deflates the tribulations of the everyday. Sagel, like the other two writers, was an Anglo, though completely immersed in the Spanish traditions of his adopted home and his wife's family, eventually winning the Cuban Premio Casa de las Américas prize for *Tunomás Honey*, a short story collection written wholly in Spanish,

And it is tradition that is the unifying theme of the novel whether in the central conceit of the story as the annual reenactment of *Los pastores*, or in the family customs and beliefs that we glimpse through the fine descriptions of each character. (The editors have included a roster of characters in the back of the book, which is very convenient as it is really astounding how many populate this short book.) Essentially what we have is a reenactment of the traditional Christmas play by not all, but most of the characters in the book – the Chacon family. Yet it is so much more. It is a short glimpse into the long history of family and village, San Buenaventura, so much like our very non-fictional Chimayo, where people sit on "...the hard and exceedingly Catholic pews of the Santuario."

Although the characters are all well-drawn and the storylines emotional or amusing, there is one scene that



is a stand out in parallel to the local re-enactment of the traditional Christmas folk play, *Los pastores*. Francisco, husband of the central character, María Elena, the axis of the family Chacon, is invited by his friend Vernon Red Wing, to attend a Bean Dance at Hopi Pueblo. The tradition of the dance there strikes home, illuminating the need for cultural continuity, and the pure sense of being that comes as a result. The Hopi dance is solemn, but not without its own clowns who terrorize unsuspecting watchers. The play in the *Santuario* is also serious, but played out with an amateurish "hamming it up" that is a comedy of errors, as only family productions can be. The parallel traditions tie this fictional New Mexico together quite simply and effectively.

You know some of the folks who inhabit this novel. We all do. Sagel knows them also and adores them all, recreating them in a fiction that draws all the meanderings, shortcomings, loves and losses, together in an extremely powerful ending that takes the tradition of the star of Bethlehem to a new understanding of the human condition. "*Unos nacern con estrella, y otros nacern estrellados.*"

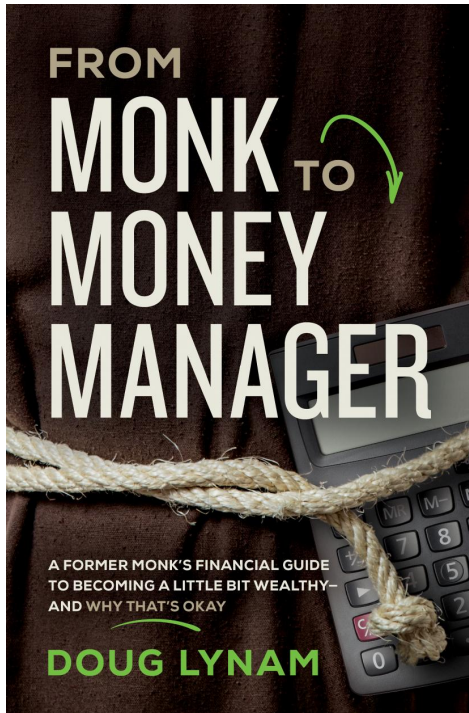
*Some Are Born Under a Star/Unos nacen con estrella: A Northern New Mexico Novel* by Jim Sagel. Edited by Michael L Trujillo. Foreword by Denise Chavez. Museum of New Mexico Press. Hardcover, 200 pages. Bilingual: English, Spanish, \$16.95

# BOOK REVIEW

## *From Monk to Money Manager: A Former Monk's Financial Guide to Becoming a Little Bit Wealthy and Why That's Okay*

By Doug Lynam. Reviewed by Pete Warzel

So, this is a bit out of our wheelhouse here, but there is a reason.



Doug Lynam lives and works in Santa Fe. He was a Benedictine monk and a teacher at Santa Fe Prep who found another calling in money management while immersed in trying to save the monastery from bankruptcy. His logic and lessons, both regarding money and

faith, are irrefutable, and the humor in this book is engaging. It is a personal money book that looks down on the plague of self-help books that have obliterated culture for the promised land. It is very well done.

The book begins with a startling confession from a money manager: “I procrastinate on laying my bills and balancing my checkbook each month. I get it done (and do it well), but sometimes I need to reward myself by pouring a stiff drink afterward – one of the few times when I drink. It settles my nerves and gives me the courage to face my own personal finances.” That is a gutsy beginning. But what would you expect from a former monk?

The book proper is a sermon on the goodness of building wealth with a balance of spiritual well-being. Lynam quotes the Bible at length but not to preach the need for conversion, except to becoming a good capitalist. “Jesus commands us to love our neighbors, and so does macroeconomics!” So, in his opinion, that requires a balance of social consciousness and informed activism. “Spending, receiving, and giving money is never morally neutral.” To do so he advises on learning the language of money – the hows and whys of investment and markets. He lists resources for this education, including how to build a viable budget and live by it, faithfully. “Rich people make lots of money. Wealthy people save lots of money.” That is the type of simple, lucid logic that Lynam excels at in this book.

He advises on a plan and how to build and enforce it, including the need for estate planning and the means to do most of it yourself. In the process, he always shows the wit that makes the juxtaposition of a Benedictine monk and financial advisor so different in the confines of a self-help book. “Traditional burial is usually expensive, and if we all insist on embalming our bodies, we’ll turn the planet into a toxic cemetery. I want a cheap and cheerful funeral. Cremate or compost me and then throw a party, I’ll have moved on, and I hope everyone else will too.” Surprised at the tone of this in a book about financial education? Me too.

Which is why this work intrigues me. It is honest, fresh, and very to the point. You will enjoy it and perhaps learn something valuable in the process of reading.

A monk and an investment advisor walk into a bar....

From Monk to Money Manager by Doug Lynam. W Publishing Group. Paperback, 288 pages. \$17.99



# LOS LUCEROS HISTORIC SITE & HSFF STEWARDS EVENT

May 2019 brings an opportunity for a Stewards Members special event  
by Melanie McWhorter

During the 2019 legislative session, the elected bodies for the State of New Mexico voted to include Los Luceros, a 148-acre historic old home and working ranch property, to its list of historic sites bringing this list to nine sites under the guidance of the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA). Historic Santa Fe Foundation's Pete Warzel and Melanie McWhorter met with New Mexico's DCA Historic Site Director Patrick Moore and Los Luceros' Site Manager Susann Mikkelson at the state capitol building, the Roundhouse, just before the vote to discuss a potential partnership. They were excited about the pending bill and expected the vote to pass, as it did. Now this team and the small staff at the site are managing the grounds with plans to hire more staff in the upcoming months. Moore and Mikkelson have offered Los Luceros to us as a site for HSFF's Stewards event in May 2019. As a preview, Mikkelson took us for a tour of the grounds and discussed upcoming plans for renovations and interpretation.

When driving onto the site, we were in awe of the lush grounds with vast orchards and the enormous cottonwood trees. The long driveway is surrounded by trees that are hundreds of years old and watered by their acequia madre that runs through the grounds resulting in a seemingly unending field of kelly green, even in the

winter and early spring months. The apple orchard still hosts hundreds of plants with an annual harvest that is open to the public in the fall. Walking along the road to the main house, we see cattle grazing in the alfalfa fields, a means to sustainable maintenance of the fields with limited grazing and rotating fields that leaves behind a rich fertilizer for the ground. The historic site continues its legacy as a working ranch with not only the cows, but chickens, goats, sheep, and an old mule named Jenny. Sheep shearing is another annual activity and the staff and volunteers help celebrate this year on April 28 with their educational program *History and Nature Series: Sheep Shearing and Fiber Arts with Wool*.

Before reaching the main house, we entered the chapel with its thick adobe walls and a newly stuccoed exterior. The interior is reminiscent of many New Mexico family chapels—wooden pews and the stations of the cross running along the walls. The altar is a new addition with the carvings and painted santos by a local artist. As we exit the chapel, we move along to the two-story Hacienda, parts of which were constructed in the mid-1700s. The house is staged with some historical objects associated with the property and other antique pieces that are timely and relevant. The interior is presented to offer a feeling of the daily life of some of the last



inhabitants. Mikkelson noted some of the changes to the building since it was originally constructed including the interior stairway and indoor plumbing. We reach the top floor and entered the room of former owner and American anthropologist and museum founder Mary Cabot Wheelwright, and discovered the Olive Rush murals that grace Cabot's kiva fire place and the wall of the other bedroom. Touring the home prompts questions about difference in high doorways along the hallway in contrast to the lower double entryway to the upstairs sala, and, also, how they moved the grand piano to the upper floor, a musical instrument that was transported across the United States to find a home in this living room in Northern New Mexico, among other curiosities.

Outside the Hacienda are structures that included an old tack room, carriage house, meat locker, and, garden. The garden grounds were renovated last year by a volunteer and Los Luceros staff hopes to have others maintain the garden this year. Many of these locations will be open to the public in the future after remodeling and they will be spots for future interpretation. Los Luceros welcomes volunteers and their efforts are being coordinated by the Amigos group, a new support organization for the

historic site. For more information on the Amigos group, contact Los Luceros Site Manager Susann Mikkelson at [Susann.Mikkelson@state.nm.us](mailto:Susann.Mikkelson@state.nm.us) and she will share your information with the Amigos for contact.

The State has more events in store for the spring of 2019 including an open house, a corn-planting event, an introduction to bee-keeping, and a history of the property with Roxanne Swentzell, and, HSFF's Stewards event. Many are open to the public, with access to the HSFF event through Steward membership with the foundation.

Historic Santa Fe Foundation is partnering with the State of New Mexico and Los Luceros Historic Site for the first Stewards event of 2019. Our group will receive a special docent tour that includes exterior access to the River House and a peek into structures that are not open to the public including future renovation sites; a lecture and opportunity for discussion with one of the former residents who is intimately acquainted with Los Luceros and; a reception including a wine tasting from Black Mesa Winery.

Since 2015, Historic Santa Fe Foundation has hosted events for our membership group, the Stewards. The Stewards are composed of supporters who receive the opportunity to visit four homes or properties with respective tours and lectures at the venues during a calendar year. Members can join at any time during the year and the membership donation includes a visit to the locations for two people. Members can also allow others to use their membership if they cannot attend. Membership for two people is \$750 per year. If you are interested, please contact Melanie McWhorter at [melanie@historicsantafe.org](mailto:melanie@historicsantafe.org) or 505.983.2567. You may also visit, [historicsantafe.org/stewards](http://historicsantafe.org/stewards) to find a list of past and upcoming venues and speakers.

Images this article from Los Luceros: Page 5, outside the back of Hacienda; Page 6, exterior of chapel and Olive Rush mural on kiva fireplace; Page 7 below, cottonwood along the acequia, indoor plumbing, and Jenny the mule. Los Luceros Hacienda panorama, page 8. Photos by Melanie McWhorter, April 2019.





## HSFF MISSION

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Events Calendar: [historicsantafe.org/events](http://historicsantafe.org/events)

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*Office Manager*- Jacqueline Hill  
*Restoration Specialist* - Mara Saxer  
*Development Coordinator* - Melanie McWhorter

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