

# HISTORIC SANTA FE

The Historic Santa Fe Foundation Monthly Journal **JUNE 2018**



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*Image above: Chima, Don Usner. Usner will be our featured speaker for Salon El Zaguán on June 14, 2018 at 3pm. His talk will discuss the preservation efforts on Chimayó's Plaza del Cerro.*

RSVP is required to [info@historicsantafe.org](mailto:info@historicsantafe.org) or 505-983-2567. No admission for members and \$5 drop-in admission for non-members. More information at [historicsantafe.org/events](http://historicsantafe.org/events).

eZine cover: *Bhumisparsa*, Kuzana Ogg, one of HSFF's El Zaguán artists-in-residence

## Inside Historic Santa Fe

In the last printed newsletter that was mailed to members of Historic Santa Fe Foundation in May 2018, Executive Director Pete Warzel defined the long-range plan that the Board and staff labored over for months. This vision for HSFF includes an expanded offering of educational programs, and increased efforts at preservation including preservation easements and adding more properties to the Register of Properties Worthy of Preservation. For this issue of the eZine, Warzel tells of our recent efforts to establish and fund a program focused on including more properties and resources on the Register in collaboration with University of New Mexico and valuable oversight provided by members of New Mexico Historic Preservation Division. We are pleased to present this idea to our members and other readers of this monthly publication.

We are very excited about this issue of the eZine and offer, in addition to the information about the Register, an interview with Don Usner. Usner is our June 14 Salon El Zaguán speaker and his photographs are featured in the current exhibition on display in the sala gallery. Usner is a member of Chimayó Cultural Preservation Association and will talk about the organization's efforts to preserve Plaza del Cerro. We also present the work of Jim Gautier and Kuzana Ogg – Gautier is a photographer who has been a supporter of HSFF through his artwork sales and Ogg is a painter and current resident artist of HSFF. We hope you enjoy this issue of the monthly eZine.

To receive a copy of the Spring 2018 Printed Newsletter that includes the long-range plan, please become a HSFF Member. Sign up for membership online at [historicsantafe.org/join-give](http://historicsantafe.org/join-give) or call us at 505-983-2567 to find out about member rates and benefits.

Thanks for your generous support.

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# INTERVIEW

## *Don Usner: Photographer, Writer, Chimayó Resident, Activist and Lay Historian*

Interviewed by Melanie McWhorter, HSFF Development Coordinator

**Don Usner** has spent decades documenting the history of Chimayó in words and in photographs. When he began work on his Master's thesis on the Plaza del Cerro in Chimayó, he realized that studying the plaza's historic buildings without also portraying the people who inhabited them would produce nothing more than a discussion of "lifeless shells."

Usner is the featured speaker for this month's HSFF Salon El Zaguán on June 14, 2018 at 3pm. RSVP is required and there is no admission for members and \$5 admission for non-members.

*Portraits of Chimayosos by Don Usner, from the Chimayó Museum Collection.* will also be on exhibit in the sala. The exhibition continues through June 30, 2018.

**Melanie McWhorter:** Some of Chimayó's residents have developed an organization, Chimayó Cultural Preservation Association, that founded the museum and started preservation work on the Plaza del Cerro. Will you tell us how this organization was started, its mission and focus? What is your role in the organization?

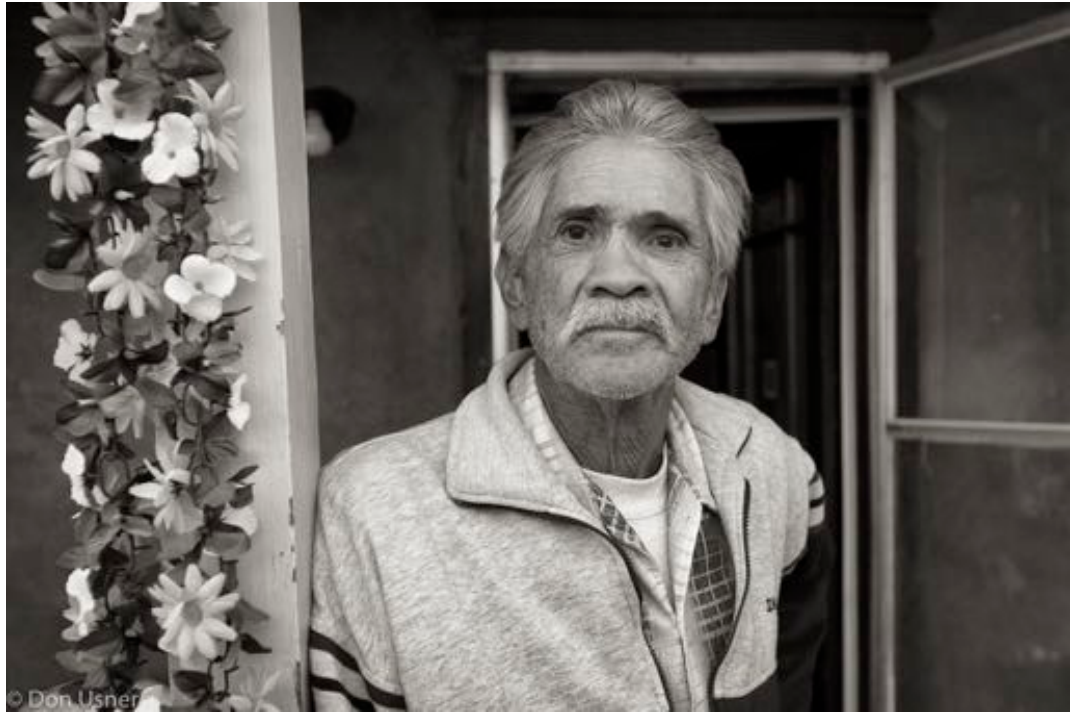
**Don Usner:** A group of people from Chimayó, including me, founded the CCPA in 1995 "to promote historical research about Chimayó; to preserve and protect historic buildings and properties essential to the cultural heritage of

Chimayó; to protect and preserve the historic record; to establish and maintain a Chimayó History Museum and an archive relating to Chimayó's history; and to foster community pride and encourage community members to preserve and respect Chimayó's cultural heritage." In other words, we all had a deep connection to Chimayó





and its history and wanted to preserve, protect, and celebrate that culture and history. I have been on the board, with a few-year hiatus in the early 2000s, since the organization began. Perhaps not coincidentally, my first book on Chimayó, *Sabino's Map*, was released at the same time and in fact the initial book signing took place at the grand opening of the museum.



**MM:** What are some of CCPA's current and upcoming projects? How much work is involved in these projects and what is your projected timeline? Who are your partners? How are you looking to fund these preservation projects?

**DU:** The CCPA created and maintains the Chimayó Museum; runs an arts education program for children that teaches traditional Spanish Colonial arts; puts on a summer lecture and event series, including an annual fiesta; and is working to acquire, restore and maintain structures on the Plaza del Cerro in Chimayó. Our partners include Cornerstones Community Partnerships, Historic Santa Fe Foundation, the Chimayó Hotel, and numerous residents of Chimayó and elsewhere.

**MM:** Where is the museum in Chimayó and when might one visit? What are the hours and what is the focus of the institution?

**DU:** The Chimayó Museum is located on the Plaza del Cerro in Chimayó, near the intersection of State Road 76 and Juan Medina Road (Santa Fe County Road 98)—just behind the Ortega's Weaving Shop. The museum is open in the summers Wednesday through Sunday, 10-4 p.m. The museum hosts a permanent collection of historic photographs and numerous historic artifacts, including an exhibit on the history of weaving in the community.

The Historic Santa Fe Foundation

**MM:** Your family has lived in Chimayó for generations. How did your family originally arrive in the area? Do you find that most of the inhabitants are long-term and multi-generational residents? Have you seen a change in Chimayó and the residents, how many people live there or a shift in age during your life?

**DU:** I am an eighth-generation Chimayoso. The original settlers of the community arrived in the 1600s and were forced out in the Pueblo Revolt of 1680. Some returned in 1693, among them my earliest ancestors in the valley. The population remained scattered in isolated farms, or *ranchos*, until the mid-1700s, when the people gathered together in defensive plazas. Much has changed since then, but the Plaza del Cerro remains remarkably well preserved. In my lifetime, however, I have seen that old plaza decline dramatically, with many buildings falling into ruin and the interior space filling up with weeds and trees. Throughout Chimayó, there has been a marked decline in the number of old adobe buildings, with most of the other small plazas of the valley almost entirely losing their form. Chimayó as we know it today comprises several of

these small plaza neighborhoods, collectively housing about 3,000 people. The Plaza del Cerro is the most intact of the plazas and has been recognized for many years as a historical gem. It is on the National Register of Historic Places.

**MM:** You have an exhibition currently on display at HSFF through June 27, 2018, that includes portraits from Chimayó. Many of these were produced years ago in the village. Have you photographed some of those people again or looked for more portraits of villagers? Do you think that the project needs to be revisited or was it a snapshot of a time in Chimayó?

**DU:** I am constantly taking photographs of Chimayó people. The collection at HSFF represents a small sampling of an ongoing project that I've been engaged in for almost 30 years. That said, I have printed and showed mostly portraits of elderly people and would like to expand my printed collection to include a broader cross section of the populace.

**MM:** What do you see as the future of Chimayó? Do you think preservation and the subsequent tourist interest in the village are good for the community? How is the work being received by the residents?

**DU:** I think the time has come for Chimayó to shine as a historic treasure of New Mexico. A number of recent developments have encouraged me in this view, including the remarkable restoration of one building on the plaza and a great increase in interest in Chimayó history, including a renewed



demand for my books on Chimayó, especially the one dealing with the history of the plaza.





Illustrations for this interview:  
Pages 3, 4, and 5  
Don Usner, Portraits of Chimayosos  
Page 5  
Chimayó Museum sign  
Page 6  
Don Usner giving a tour of Plaza del Cerro, repairs  
to Casita Martina, Casita Martina during repairs





# THE REGISTER OF PROPERTIES WORTHY OF PRESERVATION AN UPDATE ON PROGRAMS

The Spring 2018 Historic Santa Fe Foundation printed newsletter, sent to members of the Foundation several weeks ago, advised that as part of the Long-Range Plan we would inform you of new endeavors as approved and ready to bring to fruition. It is our pleasure to announce a new approach to our Register of Properties Worthy of Preservation as a major step forward with the new plan.

You might be aware that the Register was the first concern and program established by HSFF at its founding in 1961. In the minutes of the first Board of Directors meeting of the Foundation on September 12, 1961, "The Board received a report from JOHN GAW MEEM as to the desirability of undertaking the design and production of plaques to be placed on landmarks determined by the Foundation." In effect, the establishment of what we now know as the Register was the first public act of HSFF.

Today there are 99 buildings, structures, homes and cultural landscapes on our Register.

HSFF intends to actively add properties worthy of preservation to this Register, and in so doing seek out buildings, homes, areas of town and environs, that may be overshadowed by the Historic Districts of the City.

To accomplish this, we will be working with the University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning to source graduate students who have an interest in preservation, specifically those who have participated in the Certificate Program for Historic Preservation and Planning. We will also be working with Jeff Pappas, the New Mexico Historic Preservation Officer and Director, and Steven Moffson, the New Mexico State and National Register Coordinator who volunteer their time to mentor and vet the work product of the students engaged by HSFF. Both gentlemen teach at UNM in the Certificate Program, and know the students and their abilities first hand.

Engagement by the students will be to research and write reports and nominations for specific properties for consideration of addition to the HSFF Register. Students will be paid for their work on a fee basis per property. The HSFF Education, Research, and Archives Committee will review the final product and determine whether to add the property to the Register by making a recommendation to the entire Board for approval.

Our intent is to expand the Register in a meaningful manner, collaborate with UNM and New Mexico HPD in the process, and engage exceptional students in significant hands-on work with the Foundation and in preservation. The hope, for all of



us involved, is to excite graduates to stay in New Mexico and further work in preservation for their careers.

We believe this is an optimal situation for all involved and look to start in late June with our first property and first student in this revitalization of the Register. It is a very meaningful step for your Foundation and we hope at some point you will get to meet the students involved. This first project has been funded by a very generous donor and we welcome you all to consider funding for this collaborative venture as we move forward to more properties. It will ensure the continued expansion of the Register properties and the knowledge and history discovered in the research that underlie each.



HSFF Register Properties:  
Acequia Madre (page 7)  
Gustave Baumann House  
(Top, page 8)  
Director's Residence,  
Laboratory of Anthropology  
– now the Museum of  
Spanish Colonial Arts  
(Bottom Page 8)





# IN EL ZAGUÁN

After 50 years of fine art black and white photography, **Jim Gautier** took his images to another artistic level. He started hand-coloring some of his black-and-white prints with Pan Pastels and later he began adding

Prismacolor oil pencils to the pieces. He spent years honing these skills with pastels and oils, he discovered the encaustic technique and decided to apply this to his hand-colored works. This process uses a mixture of heated beeswax and damar resin that he added to the surface of the photograph. He manipulates the wax to create different, and sometimes unpredictable, effects and to add depth to the image.

Gautier uses his images captured on black-and-white and infrared film with analog cameras, digital cameras, pinhole devices, and Polaroids. He worked with Santa Fe artists Teena Robinson and Angel Wynn to learn encaustic. He now teaches workshops on the hands-on process of photo encaustic. He finishes each piece by applying an oil

stick coating to give an antique look and then fuses the oil to the wax with a heat source. All pieces are framed without glass to allow the viewer to engage with the depth and texture of the piece.

Jim Gautier has displayed his work at Historic Santa Fe Foundation in two exhibitions and he generously donates all sales to the Foundation. We have a few pieces from his churches and photo encaustic series in the El Zaguán gift shop. Please stop by Historic Santa Fe Foundation at 545 Canyon Road, Monday through Friday, 9am-5pm to view his photographs and other local artists' works of affordable art. His website is <http://jimgautier.com/>.





**Kuzana Ogg** is a current artist-in-residence at Historic Santa Fe Foundation’s El Zaguán. She is in her second year in her apartment at the Foundation’s Canyon Road location and fully utilizes the space as a true artist’s studio creating her large-scale paintings in one room of the apartment. Ogg grew up in India and has traveled at length in Asia. Her works are influenced by the aesthetics of Asian arts, utilizing geometry and rigid lines in contrast to flowing amorphous cloud-like formations within an oversized and vibrantly colored canvas. Ogg’s work illustrates the cover of this eZine and more work is available on her website <https://www.kuzanaogg.com/>.





# HISTORIC SANTA FE FOUNDATION

historicsantafe.org

**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.

## 2018 SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 5 • Adobe brick making with Cornerstones, Palace of the Governors
- May 12 • Adobe brick making with Cornerstones, Palace of the Governors
- May 17 • Heritage Preservation Awards, San Miguel Chapel with after-reception at El Zaguán
- May 18 • Exhibition opening: Portraits of Chimayosos by Don Usner, from the Chimayó Museum Collection
- May 19 • Adobe brick making with Cornerstones, San Miguel Chapel
- May 20 • Stewards Membership Event at Plaza Balentine ([historicsantafe.org/stewards](http://historicsantafe.org/stewards))
- May 21 • Salon El Zaguán talk, Frank Graziano: Native Catholicism at the Pueblos & Mescalero Apache Nation
- May 26 • Adobe brick making with Cornerstones, San Miguel Chapel
- June 14 • Salon El Zaguán talk by Don Usner: Chimayó and Plaza Cerro
- June 25 • Stewards Membership Event at Carlos Vierra House ([historicsantafe.org/stewards](http://historicsantafe.org/stewards))
- June 25 • Stewards Membership Event at Carlos Vierra House ([historicsantafe.org/stewards](http://historicsantafe.org/stewards))
- June 28 • Annual Garden Party and Member's Meeting with guest speaker (TBA)
- July 12 • Salon El Zaguán talk by Nancy Owen Lewis: El Delirio and Dogs for Defense
- August 4 • Exhibition opening: Acequia Show

Salon El Zaguán talks are general members events with \$5 admission for non-members. Stewards group is a special membership. For more info, see [historicsantafe.org/stewards](http://historicsantafe.org/stewards). For all events & to sign up for our newsletters, visit [historicsantafe.org/events](http://historicsantafe.org/events).

## MEMBER BENEFITS

- Free admission to monthly Salon El Zaguán talks
- Special invitation to Annual Garden Party and Member's Meeting
- Three complimentary printed newsletters annually
- Priority access to Foundation special tours and events
- Contribute to preservation & education about Santa Fe and its historic properties

**Sign up for Historic Santa Fe Foundaiton Membership now.**

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 Paid with Check  Credit Card  Cash   
 Individual  Family  Student  Business  Steward Membership  Donation

(Please inquire about the Steward membership that includes a year's opportunity to tour four homes or historic properties.)

Historic Santa Fe Foundation, 545 Canyon Road, Ste 2, Santa Fe NM 87501 505.983.2567 [info@historicsantafe.org](mailto:info@historicsantafe.org)

Donations are welcome. You will receive a tax-exempt letter in the mail. Thanks for your support!

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# 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.

Contact: The Historic Santa Fe Foundation 545 Canyon Road, Suite 2, Santa Fe, NM 87501  
505-983-2567 [historicsantafe.org](http://historicsantafe.org)

# HSFF STAFF

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<i>Office Manager</i>	Jacqueline Hill
<i>Restoration Specialists</i>	Mara Saxer and Bobby Wilson
<i>Development Coordinator</i>	Melanie McWhorter

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