

# HISTORIC SANTA FE

MONTHLY E-MAGAZINE OF THE HISTORIC SANTA FE FOUNDATION MAY 2015



# INSIDE HISTORIC SANTA FE

For May 2015 we announce our Faith and John Gaw Meem Summer Intern, **Sonia Vinajeras-Gallegos**. We review the importance of **Preservation Month**, the national celebration of historic stewardship, and the state and local events that accompany it every year. We also interview **Linda Churchill**, who is gardening at El Zaguán and coordinating with the Santa Fe Master Gardener Association to continue their work from last year in bringing our beautiful space back to life. Linda is the head gardener at the Santa Fe Botanical Garden at Museum Hill and brings over twenty years of experience to our historic garden.

It is an extremely busy month at the Foundation, and we hope you can participate in some way. **Welcome.**



# UPDATES+NEWS

## SUMMER INTERN

We at the Foundation are proud to announce Sonia Vinajeras-Gallegos as our 2015 Faith and John Gaw Meem Summer Intern. Sonia begins hands-on work here on Monday, June 1, under the supervision of preservation specialist Charles Coffman.

In 2014 she was a summer intern with the NPS at Glacier National Park, where she inventoried historic structures. Sonia is a native of New Mexico, finishing her Masters of Architecture with a Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation and Regionalism at UNM.

We will let Sonia speak for herself: “With an emphasis on heritage, tradition, and culture, all of which I feel are lacking in

the general practice of architecture, historic preservation coupled with architecture provides a more integrated capacity for community building.”

Well said. Welcome, Sonia, to the Historic Santa Fe Foundation.

## ANNUAL MOTHER’S DAY TOUR IS HERE

The Historic Santa Fe Foundation’s Annual Mother’s Day Tour will be held Sunday, May 10, from 1:00-4:00 PM. Check our website for details. Members may purchase tickets ahead of time by calling or visiting the HSFF office at 545 Canyon Road (credit cards accepted). Tickets will also be available at each tour location on the day of the event.



# MAY HERITAGE PRESERVATION MONTH

May is always an incredibly busy month for the Foundation along with its partnered associations and city and state government departments. Preservation Month is a nationwide celebration established in 1973 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, supported by the National Park Service through its National Register of Historic Places Program. The New Mexico Historic Preservation Division calls our version of the national observance “Heritage Preservation Month” and the local calendar is packed.

We begin the month on Mother’s Day weekend with the 43rd annual Historic Preservation Awards, presented by the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division and the Cultural Properties Review Committee. This year’s awards will be presented at the Scottish Rite Center at 2:00 PM on May 8. HPD publishes a poster celebrating the month; copies can be obtained through the Division.

This initial celebration is followed by the Historic Santa Fe Foundation’s Annual Mother’s Day Tour, which celebrates the diverse history and architectural styles of Santa Fe. Held Sunday, May 10, from 1:00-4:00 PM, the tour will make for a pleasant way to walk off brunch and see

inside little-visited historic buildings: Scottish Rite Center (Temple), the Church of the Holy Faith, Marian Hall, and the HSFF’s Delgado House. Our event was started in 1969 and this year looks to be wonderful tour.

On Friday, May 15, the annual Heritage Preservation Awards, presented by the City of Santa Fe Historic Preservation Division, the Historic Santa Fe Foundation and the Old Santa Fe Association, will take place at the Drury Hotel’s Palace Ballroom. The awards ceremony will begin at 6:00 PM, with a reception to follow. A commemorative poster printed by the city will be available at the event. As always, the awards and reception are open to the public. These awards celebrate historic preservation, design and archaeology in the city. They provide an interesting and entertaining look at the year’s work for our cultural heritage in Santa Fe, which like New Mexico itself is a treasure of pre-history, history and culture.

Events can be found here:

<http://nmhistoricpreservation.org/assets/files/preservation-month/Calendar-of-Events-FINAL-REV.pdf>



## **INTERVIEW: LINDA CHURCHILL, 2015 GARDENER AT EL ZAGUÁN**

**Interviewed by Pete Warzel**

**Q: Please give us your background on how you became a gardener in Santa Fe. What do you care for besides El Zaguán?**

LC: My mother was a farmer's daughter and always had her hands in the dirt, so I learned about gardening from an early age. I learned to love gardening after moving to Santa Fe—it's challenging to garden here with our generally difficult soils, extreme temps (snow in May, anyone?) and low precipitation, but it's so rewarding when things go right! Gardening also gives you a good excuse to spend time outside in our beautiful part of the world.

I currently run a small design-build landscaping business called Green Forward, Landscaping Santa Fe. I also garden for some other special properties including the Santa Fe Botanical Garden on Museum Hill and a beautiful home and farm in Chupadero. I love visiting new gardens or gardens-to-be and seeing the potential in each place.

**Q: What attracted you to taking on our garden on Canyon Road?**

LC: I love that our city has this beautiful and historic garden that we invite the public to enjoy, right in the heart of the city. I believe all creatures, especially people, have a deep need for connection to the earth's beauty and bounty.

I so appreciate that the Historic Santa Fe Foundation helps foster this connection by keeping the spirit of El Zaguán garden alive, and by encouraging any and all passersby to step in and have a breath of solace and calm. We have enough high garden walls in Santa Fe; I'm happy to be part of a garden with a low picket fence and a welcoming spirit that invites folks in.

**Q: The Master Gardener Association is also working in the garden again this year. How do you interact or coordinate with them?**

LC: Over the past couple years, the Master Gardeners have done some wonderful work in soil improvement, select plant additions, and rejuvenation pruning on many of the old shrubs in the garden. We'll be working together to enhance what's best at El Zaguán—gorgeous flowers and a sense of place, framed by big old honeysuckles and other shrubs—while giving thoughtful

consideration to some more permanent plant additions and improvements in irrigation infrastructure.

I went through the Master Gardeners program years ago in order to better acquaint myself with the conditions and constraints of gardening in Santa Fe; I hope now I can both lend my own experience and learn even more myself by working with the current Master Gardeners and their ever-growing wealth of knowledge.

**Q: Is there anything that surprises you in the garden?**

LC: There are a few really interesting plants at El Zaguán that delight me. The old Beautybush (*Kolkwitzia amabilis*) is the biggest I've seen, and its structure and peeling bark are wonderful; I can't wait to see it bloom. There is also an established and lovely specimen of Mahonia—still trying to name the species—tucked in the corner between the honeysuckle and the lilac.

In addition, I'm delighted to see how many people walking up Canyon Road really stop and look at the garden—I've actually heard people gasp with delight when they first see, or step into, the garden. I love that!

**Q: Are you planning any changes to what has been structured here over the years?**

LC: I'm not planning any big changes at this time, since I'm still learning the garden and its floral inhabitants. However, I'm starting to develop a few ideas for the future ...

**Q: What would you like to see here that has not been done?**

LC: It would be nice to see a few more native plants brought into the garden ensemble over time, so we could be showcasing and helping to teach what is beautiful in our own environment as well as what has been introduced over the centuries. I'd also like to see perhaps a few more evergreens or plants with more winter or structural interest so the beauty of the garden can continue through our quietest season.

**Q: Besides El Zaguán, where are the other great gardens in Santa Fe?**

LC: Santa Fe has been a pretty small town for most of its 400-plus years, so most of the wonderful old gardens have been on private grounds. The fairly new Santa Fe Botanical Garden on Camino Lejo is of course one of our newest and brightest gems, while the gardens across the street from it also contribute a lot to visitors' experience of Museum Hill.

The Railyard Park, our largest public garden, was specifically created as a garden park, not a sports park, because the community said that's what we wanted.

And our State Capitol grounds have a quite varied and interesting collection of trees and other plants (my husband wooed me years ago with roses he picked from the Capitol grounds!).

**Q: Water is always an issue in this climate, especially in recent times.**

**What's the best way to approach a garden, given the constraints?**

LC: The best advice I can give is, garden thoughtfully! There are many, many publications and experts with lots of interesting and useful advice on how to make the most of water in our dry place and time. Take advantage of all the books, newspaper articles, workshops, and advice you can.

Meanwhile, group thirstier plants so they can share in a bit of water bounty, while other parts of the garden take advantage of the beauty of fewer and less thirsty plants. Use mulch where appropriate. Use native plants that are adapted to our wild weather and water swings; they'll do better with fewer inputs, and they'll benefit the local fauna, too.

If a smaller garden which uses less water could make you happy, don't plant a big garden! And of course, try to include some food-producing plants that will give back in more than just beauty.

I do believe that everyone deserves some time in a garden or in nature, so I'm very much in favor of spending a little of our community water budget on parks and public gardens.

**Thank you for your time, Linda.**

***To learn more about our garden and how you can help nurture it, please contact the HSFF office.***



## SPONSOR

The Historic Santa Fe Foundation sincerely thanks **Susan and Bill Banowsky**, owners of the new **Violet Crown Cinema** at the Railyard, and **Kolbe Windows and Doors**, for their support in making this month's edition of *Historic Santa Fe* eZine possible.

## E-ZINE CREDITS

Photos by Anna Yarrow, edited by John Muller and designed by Dominic Cappello—El Zaguán Residents.

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# 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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[historicsantafe.org](http://historicsantafe.org)

# MEMBERSHIP

Please share with your friends and neighbors the benefits of HSFF membership and how to support our mission.

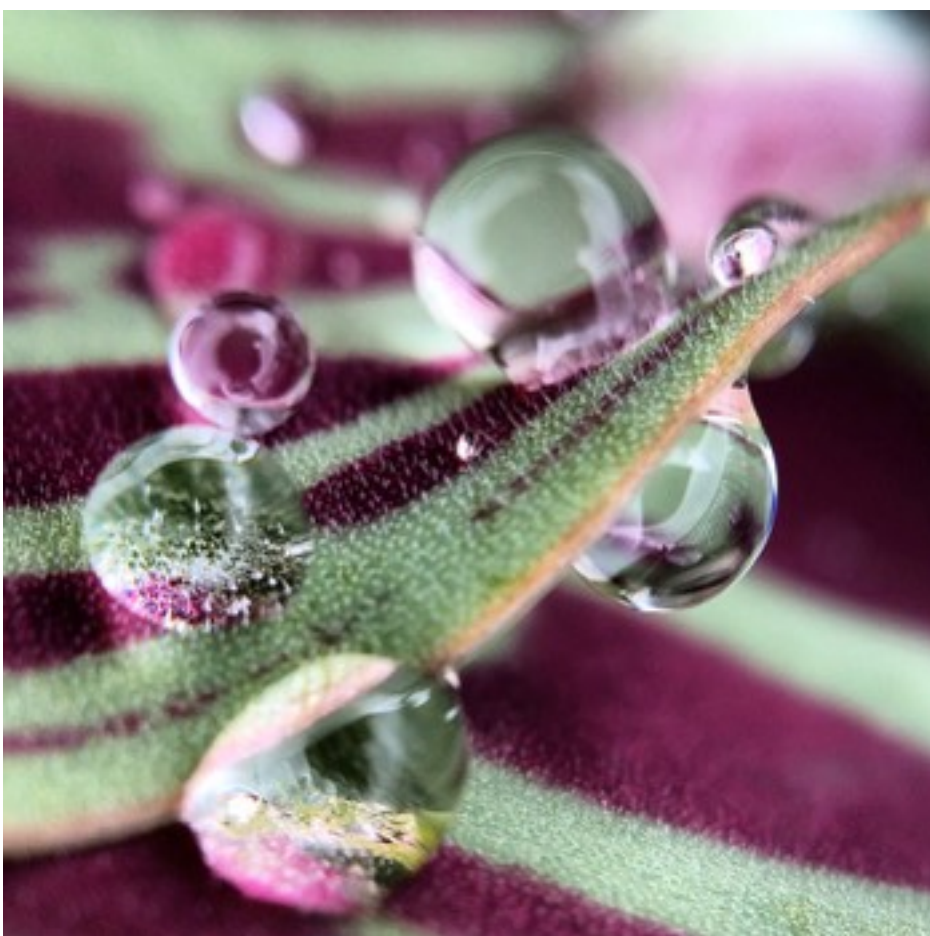
# HSFF STAFF

*Executive Director*  
Pete Warzel

*Office Manager*  
Bonney Hughes

*Administrative Assistant*  
Jacqueline Hill

*Restoration Specialists*  
Charles Coffman  
Bobby Wilson



# MAY 2015 EVENTS CALENDAR

**Now at the El Zaguán Gallery: *What If?* An exhibition anchored by resident photographer Anna Yarrow.**

Artist-in-residence Anna Yarrow presents a group show in collaboration with Edie Tsong and the Cut+Paste Society. Women visual artists and writers explore dream-space, possibility, and creative tension by asking the question: What If . . . ?

Open during regular HSFF office hours.

**May 8, 2:00 PM, at Scottish Rite Center: The 43rd Annual Historic Preservation Awards.**

Presented by New Mexico Historic Preservation Division and the Cultural Properties Review Committee.

**May 10, 2015, 1:00-4:00 PM: The Historic Santa Fe Foundation Annual Mother's Day Tour.**

Four historic downtown locations make up an elegant walking tour. Tickets are available for the general public at each location, but Members are encouraged to buy ahead of time at the HSFF office to receive special discount pricing.

**May 15, 6:00 PM, at the Drury Hotel's Palace Ballroom: Annual Heritage Preservation Awards.**

Presented by the City of Santa Fe Historic Preservation Division, the Historic Santa Fe Foundation and the Old Santa Fe Association. Open to the public. Reception with cash bar following the ceremony.

**May 19, 3:00 PM, in the Sala at El Zaguán: A Salon El Zaguán presentation: "A Forgotten Highway in New Mexico: State Road 22."**

The presentation, open to HSFF Members only, will be delivered by Michael D. Lord, a founder of Voces de Santa Fe. It covers the history of the proposed road from Santa Fe to Las Vegas, NM, and its link to the start of tourism in the early 1900s.

**May 29, 5:00-7:00 PM: Opening of the exhibition *Historic Structures of Santa Fe* at the Gallery at El Zaguán.**

A selection of works by northern New Mexico artists in watercolor and gouache of buildings, homes, and other properties on the Historic Santa Fe Foundation's Register of Resources Worthy of Preservation. Most pieces in this exceptional collection of works that present the history of our city will be for sale. The exhibition will be open during office hours until June 17, 2015.

## **QUESTIONS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP?**

To check your HSFF membership status and to renew or become a member, contact Jacqueline or Bonney at (505) 983-2567.

Please send us information about Foundation-related events in Santa Fe: [info@historicsantafe.org](mailto:info@historicsantafe.org).