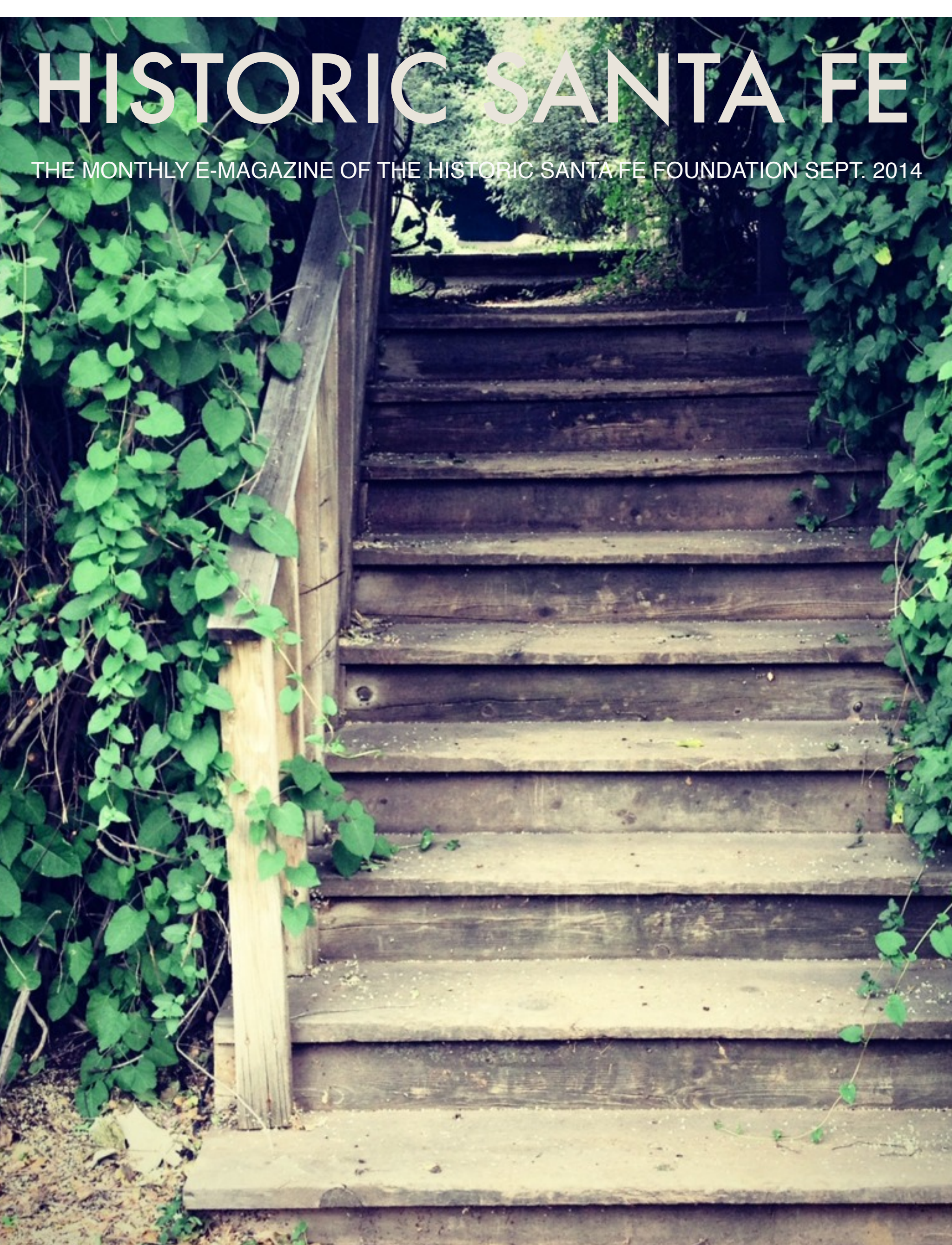


HISTORIC SANTA FE

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



INSIDE

Welcome to *Historic Santa Fe*, the Historic Santa Fe Foundation's e-magazine. We continue to share updates on our our preservation projects, historic register development, archiving, research, and public outreach. In this issue **Aaron Mahr**, Superintendent of the National Park Service National Trails Intermountain Region, is interviewed by Deborah and Jon Lawrence, editors of *Desert Tracks: A Publication of the Southern Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association* and volunteers at HSFF. We spotlight artist **Rush Cole** and her monumental painting "Viva Santa Fe," now showing in the Gallery at El Zaguán in honor of the just concluded Fiesta. We also introduce our new resident, photographer **Anna Yarrow**.

WELCOME

Autumn is coming fast and we are working at the Historic Santa Fe Foundation to be ready for the change in weather. We have determined the mix of lime plaster finish for the façade of El Zaguán after extensive testing of finishes and color, following the agonizing work of blasting and scraping off the old finish that was so badly in need of repair. Drainage issues were also encountered on the south and east walls that required labor intensive remedies. We believe the new skin will enhance the integrity of this very old building. The printed newsletter is also in the mail this week. We have gone to a trimester schedule of Spring, Summer/Autumn and Winter and hope you enjoy the new issue.

Our main article in this issue of our e-zine is focused on the iconic National Park Service Building familiarly known as the Old Santa Fe Trail Building in Santa Fe. The building recently celebrated its 75th anniversary and is in process of a decision about its future. We have excerpted some of the interview done by Deborah and Jon Lawrence from the full interview to be published in *Desert Tracks*, December 2014 issue. Thanks to Deborah, Jon and Aaron Mahr for lending us their timely interview. Enjoy reading.—**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



INTERVIEW **AARON MAHR**

Superintendent, National Parks Service Intermountain Trails System

Interviewed + written by Deborah and Jon Lawrence: (DJL)

DJL: We are very interested in old buildings in the Santa Fe area. Our understanding is that the Old Santa Fe Trail Building (OSFT), which houses the NPS offices, was built by the CCC in the 1930s, that it is an outstanding example of Pueblo Revival style architecture, and that it contains much art and craftwork from the WPA era. What can you tell us about the history of the building and its furniture, artwork, and landscaping?

AM: The building's history is well known. The community, I believe, is very aware of the structure here and its contribution to the significance of Santa Fe as a cultural center in the Southwest. It was first built as the administrative center for Region III of the National Park Service. The region was established primarily because of its cultural attributes.

It is rare in the National Park Service to have an entire region established because of its cultural identity, its cultural uniqueness in American history. I think this building here is a great representation of that. When you see the building, you get that sense of place and identity and culture. And it still exists as one of the prime examples of Pueblo Revival style.

There are multiple stories that can be told here. There is the CCC story here, a wonderful part of American history, and the New Deal recovery programs that were designed to help the United States get out of the economic depression. Many of those are manifest in this building.

There is the history of the building's architecture, which is representative of that time period in the Southwest. As you know, the building was made of local materials. It was made by local artisans, many of whom worked in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) or in the Works Progress Administration (WPA). All of this reflects that time period and those design elements of that time period.

Along with all that is the history of the National Park Service. This was a regional office for many, many years. A lot of the important decisions that affected public

conservation in the National Park Service were made in this building. So it is an opportunity to tell the history of the National Park Service and do it in a way that really does hearken to the cultural significance of the area.

DJL: And the structure has been altered very little. It maintains its historical integrity.

AM: Yes. There have been some updates over time, but nothing to significantly impact the original structure of the building. There have been some modifications to make it functional in the late 20th and 21st century. Those were really needed to maintain its use as an administrative structure. But, as you see from walking the halls and the patio, the original design and placement is still very much part of what you experience here. We work with the New Mexico Historic Preservation Office to make sure that we're being as faithful as possible to the original design.

Although this is no longer a regional office, it still serves as a National Park Service administration office. Consequently, there is still that continuity of public conservation played out in this building.

DJL: Do you think Denver (the regional office of the NPS) intends to keep this structure as it is, as a build-

ing for the National Park Service with 70 employees working here?

AM: Some people seem to believe that the Park Service intends to close this building and abandon it, but that is certainly not the case. The Park Service is committed to maintaining this structure as an administrative building. The issue at hand is whether the building should remain closed to public access and visitation.

In the past, we developed plans for public access that included an interpretive plan for the building and a general management plan. However, these plans are on hold right now because of financial considerations. Also, there are security issues for the safety of the staff and of the collections. All those types of things play into decisions about what level of public access we can have. Currently we are undergoing a process of evaluating whether and how we can provide public access.

I think there is a strong sense, particularly among the people who have been here a long time and have a great love for the building, that it is part of the community—it's part of what makes Santa Fe special. But we need to balance that off against the realities of security, of funding, and of our administrative task. Peo-

ple work here. How do you balance the need to conduct business against the desire for public access? All of these things are under review right now.

DJL: What can interested citizens of Santa Fe who care about this building and organizations such as the Historic Santa Fe Foundation (HSFF) do to help the NPS to save this wonderful building and to keep it available as an asset to the community?

AM: I think the building has always suffered from a lack of exposure to the general community. A lot of the neighbors know that the building is here, but they don't really understand its significance and aren't aware of what happens here at the building.

The greatest need right now is for preserving the structure, for maintenance and general care of the building. As you walk around the building, you can see that it is an old structure that needs love and care. We have invested a lot in restuccoing, in improving the envelope of the building. I would suggest that the community can play a role in raising awareness, in advocating for the structure itself.

If you do have a strong feeling about access to the building, let us know. Input

from the public is very important. In the future the situation may be different, and there might be full access to the building. But what we need to do today is to help preserve it.



EL ZAGUÁN WELCOMES NEW ARTIST RESIDENT

Anna Yarrow is a writer, photographer, submissions editor for *Hip Mama* magazine, world traveler, and "Mom!" to a splendidiferous 9-year-old girl.

Her essays, poetry, and images have been published in the anthology *Monday Coffee and Other Stories of Mothering Children with Special Needs*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Santa Fe Reporter*, and online at *The Equals Record*, *Literary Kitchen*, *Heart Gallery of New Mexico*, and *National Geographic.com*.

Before moving to Santa Fe in 2010, she lived overseas for twelve years, during which time she worked as a nanny in three countries, taught typing in Guyana, sang in nightclubs in South Africa, photographed royal weddings, and directed art exhibitions in the Sultanate of Oman.

She also teaches online classes "The Unveiled Eye: Creative Photography" and "Sleeping Ink: Artistic Expression for Parents of Special Needs Kids."

Pete Warzel, HSFF Executive Director, says, "We are delighted to have Anna with us at El Zagan, along with her daughter, who brings youthful energy and an always welcome young perspective to historic preservation."

You can learn more about Anna Yarrow at www.annayarrow.com

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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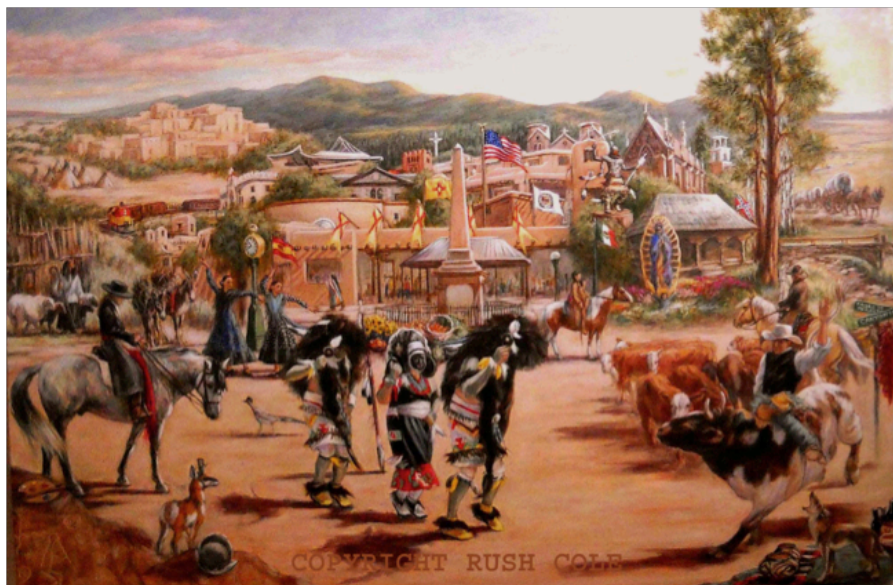
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SEPT/OCT 2014

FOUNDATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS



September until October 6, 2014 **Gallery at El Zaguán**

“Viva Santa Fe,” a 4’ x 6’ oil painting by Rush Cole combines landmarks and scenes from around the city and throughout the history of this remarkable place. The painting depicts time in one space from the area’s prehistoric period through today. This is not the first time that Rush Cole has painted a portrait of an entire city and its history. In 1982 she won a competition to create a definitive image of the city of Corpus Christi, Texas. Her 2’ x 5’ prototype garnered her the prize and the right to reproduce it as an 8’ x 20’ acrylic-on-canvas painting, now on permanent display in the city’s American Bank Building. Rush was also the poster artist for the 65th annual Rodeo de Santa Fe in 2014.

September 18, Thursday **HSSF Office**

Mailing of the Summer/Autumn HSFF Newsletter.

REGIONAL EVENTS

September 20-21, 27-28

High Road to Taos Artisans Art Tour: Studio Tours.

Help sustain the rural economy of this deeply-rooted community

September 27-28

Pecos Studio Tour 2014: 15 studios open with artists of all media.

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