



THE
Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Newsletter

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December 2019

ANNUAL HOLIDAY MEETING AND POTLUCK

6:30 PM, Tuesday, December 17, 2019

Albuquerque Museum of Art and History

2000 Mountain Road NW

Note that the meeting time is one hour earlier than usual.

For the potluck, bring a ready-to-serve “finger food” appetizer or dessert for about 10. The doors open and setup starts at 6:00 pm. Beverages, eating utensils, and plates are provided. The meeting will be in the Ventana Room off the main lobby, which has very limited kitchen facilities. Please bring your contribution ready to serve, including whatever serving utensils may be needed.

After appetizers, we will have our business meeting and program. The main item of business will be the election of Officers and Directors for the coming year. The current Officers and Directors – Evan Kay, President; Gretchen Obenauf, First Vice President; Ann Braswell, Second Vice President; Susan King, Secretary; Tom Obenauf, Treasurer, John Guth, Director; and Cindy Carson, Director – are all willing to serve again, but additional nominations from the floor will be entertained.

The program, as usual, will feature short talks by AAS members about their archaeology-related travels and/or activities during the year. John Guth’s topic is “Rabbit Mountain Obsidian Source in the Jemez Mountains;” Steve Rospopo will report on the “Highlights of Work with Linda Wheelbarger at the Point Site near Farmington;” Stephani Talley will relate her experiences on “A Visit to Pompeii;” and Carol Chamberland will talk about the “Rock Art of Australia.” Dessert will follow the presentations.

AAS DUES FOR 2020 ARE NOW PAYABLE

If you have not already done so, please fill out the attached membership renewal form and mail it with your check to Treasurer, Albuquerque Archaeological Society, PO Box 4029, Albuquerque NM 87196, or bring both to the meeting. Don’t be shy about showing interest in working with a committee or serving on the Board. Wider membership participation is needed and encouraged.

MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

November 19, 2019

In President Evan Kay's absence, Vice President Gretchen Obenauf convened the meeting at 7:32 pm. There were no new members, and two visitors, as well as several of speaker Tom Windes's "Wood Rat" volunteers. Gretchen thanked Ann Carson for bringing the refreshments this evening; John Richardson provided the cookies.

Minutes: As there were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the November meeting, they stand as published in the Newsletter.

REPORTS

Vice President – Gretchen Obenauf: December's meeting will be preceded by a holiday potluck in the Ventana Room of the museum. The museum doors open at 6:00 pm, the potluck begins at 6:30, and the business meeting begins around 7, a bit earlier than usual. The program will consist of short talks by members about archaeological sites they visited this year.

Treasurer – Tom Obenauf: AAS is now operating in the black, with the field trips fees in November completing reimbursement for the Society's liability insurance premiums. Tom thanked Pat Harris for her coordinating of the field trips. Tom reported a current balance of \$13,367 in the checking account. Gretchen noted that AAS has been using its surplus funds for donations to The Archaeological Conservancy or other worthy archaeology-related organizations. One year the Society paid for plastic boxes for the Hibben Center archiving.

Membership – Mary Raje: The membership form has been revised to reflect the change in annual dues for family memberships. Mary urged people to pay their dues as soon as possible to make things easier for the Treasurer and herself.

Laboratory – Karen Armstrong: See Karen if you would like to volunteer to work in the laboratory on Wednesday mornings.

Rock Art – Carol Chamberland: John Richardson filled in to lead the fieldwork while Carol was away.

Field Trips – Pat Harris: The November 2 field trip to Cerro Indio Pueblo that Ann Braswell led was a super trip, and there are good trips ahead in the new year.

Pottery Southwest – Gretchen Obenauf: They are looking for good articles, and would like to feature interesting pots. Some articles have been promised for the next edition but are not in as yet.

Seminars – Carol Chamberland: There are upcoming seminars in the works, with one likely to occur in January. Seminars are free to members and are typically held on Saturday mornings at the Hibben Center.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Robin Wakeland is doing research on ceramics in the Southwest, and is taking a survey to collect opinions on ceramic typology and taxonomy. Survey forms will be available for interested folks in the foyer following the meeting.

SPEAKER

Tom Windes gave a presentation on "Hard Times and Mobility in Thirteenth Century Southeastern Utah." A synopsis will be published in the January Newsletter.

Respectfully submitted by Susan King, Secretary

BOOK REVIEW

Forging Communities in Colonial Alta California, edited by Kathleen L. Hull and John G. Douglass. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2018, 304 pp. \$60 hardcover (ISBN 9780816537365), \$60 Ebook (ISBN 9780816538928).

Reviewed by Matthew J. Barbour

During the period from roughly 1769 to 1834, life in Alta California changed dramatically. A flood of Spanish, Russian, and American colonists moved into the area. Indigenous peoples had the opportunity to join a mission, work at a ranch, or maintain their traditional lifeways. Often these choices were fluid and led to the establishment and disintegration of many different types of communities based upon shared religious, economic, political, or everyday cultural practices.

This topic is at heart of *Forging Communities in Colonial Alta California*. The “Introduction,” written by the editors, begins with an anthropological and archaeological definition and discourse of communities followed by a brief history on the colonization of Alta California. This is followed by nine individual case studies broken into three thematic sections.

“Part I. Religious Beliefs and Practices” consists of three articles: “The Creation of Community in the Colonial Era Los Angeles Basin” by John Douglass, Kathleen L. Hull and Seetha N. Reddy; “A Mourning Dirge was Sung: Community and Remembrance at Mission San Gabriel” by John Dietler, Heather Gibson and Benjamin Vargas; and “Making and Unmaking Native Communities in Mission and Post-Mission Era Marin County, California” by Tsim D. Schneider. As the title of the section would suggest, the three papers focus on the shared religious practice, specifically the remembrance of the dead, as a means of community building and persistence. These examples look at activities, such as mourning and feasting, as a means to bring the multi-ethnic communities together.

“Part II. Economic or Political Ties” contains “Contingent Communities in a Region of Refuge” by Julienne Bernard and David W. Robinson; “Mission Recruitment and Community Transformation: An Ethnohistorical Study of the Cuyama Chumash” by John R. Johnson; and “Marriage and Death in the Neophyte Village at Mission Santa Clara: Preservation of Ancestral and Elite Communities” by Sarah Peelo, Lee M. Panich, Christina Spellman, John Ellison, and Stella D’Oro. Key to the section discourse is the notion that missions were not only the means for religious conversion, but also had a major role in creating and defining Spanish Colonial settlements and in making indigenous peoples dependent on agriculture. This isn’t a new concept, but some of the perspectives portrayed in the chapter are. Bernard and Robinson, for example, flip the coin and look at how those who fled mission life coalesced to form their own multi-ethnic communities with the goal of maintaining political autonomy.

“Part III. Quotidian Practice in Shared Space” examines day to day life in these multi-ethnic communities. The section contains “Archaeological Insights into the Persistence of Multiscalar Native Communities at Mission Santa Clara de Asis” by Lee M. Panich, Sarah Peelo and Linda Hylkema; “Communities of Persistence: The Study of Colonial Neighborhoods in the Fort Ross Region of Northern California” by Kent G. Lightfoot; and “The Diverse Community of the Pueblo of San Diego in the Mexican Period in California, 1821–1846” by Glenn Farris. Lightfoot’s study on Fort Ross is particularly noteworthy as the Russian colonization of North America is underrepresented within the historical literature. In the article, he examines the Russian, Native Alaskan and Native Californian neighborhoods of the colony where Native California women prove pivotal in both tying the neighborhoods together and developing positive interactions with settlements further inland. However, all of the chapters in this section are absolute gems.

Forging Communities in Colonial Alta California ends with “Epilogue. Proximal Mirrors: Colonial California and Colonial New Mexico” by James F. Brooks, which both attempts to synthesize the individual studies and compare them with similar experiences in New Mexico. This is perhaps the most unconventional and surprising read of the book. While not necessarily inaccurate, characterization of the ethnogenesis of the Navajo from a multilingual set of communities occupying the Dinetah in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries

can be viewed as highly controversial. Brooks does an excellent job of using the narrative as a means of discussing the examples presented from California, but realistically his assertions could (and should) be the topic of another volume.

The value of the book is dependent upon your research interests. Alta California was colonized rather late in time and was, at the time of contact, characterized by an almost dizzying degree of indigenous linguistic and cultural variability. As a result, the communities which developed were relatively unique and do not necessarily reflect the typical colonial experience found elsewhere in the Americas. This said, *Forging Communities in Colonial Alta California* is an excellent read for those focused on the region or in the overall theoretical framework of community development.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

Grant Supports Study of Perishable Artifacts from Sites in the Guadalupe Mountains. Sandals and baskets will be among the perishable artifacts analyzed by a team of scientists looking to learn more about a corner of the southwestern United States that was first excavated decades ago. Depending on what they uncover, officials are hopeful that the \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management will lead to more research opportunities in the Guadalupe Mountains, which straddle the New Mexico-Texas line and are situated within one of the nation's busiest oil and gas basins. The project is spearheaded by Robert Dello-Russo and Alexander Kurota of the University of New Mexico's Office of Contract Archaeology. <https://abcn.ws/2Rh80Pn> – ABC News. [Adapted from Southwest Archaeology Today, a service of Archaeology Southwest.]

CALENDAR CHECK

Conference

Archeological Society of New Mexico Annual Meeting “Taos at the Crossroads of Trade” May 8–10 at the Sagebrush Inn, Taos. Visit the TAS website taosarch.org for full details or to register online or download a registration form. Reduced rates for registration or hotel rooms end April 15.

ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
PO Box 4029, Albuquerque, NM 87196
www.abqarchaeology.org and www.facebook.com/abqarchsoc

Annual Dues: For emailed Newsletter: Student, no charge (provide copy of current ID); Basic Individual \$25; Basic Family \$30. Print Newsletter by First Class Mail: Basic Individual \$30; Basic Family \$35; Institutions/Libraries: \$10 for print Newsletter by First Class Mail, emailed Newsletter at no charge.

2019 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

To contact officers or committee chairs, or to change mailing or email address, email info@abqarchaeology.org or consult Membership Directory. Current members can sign up for field trips at meetings or by emailing trips@abqarchaeology.org.

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2020

ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

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I/We would be interested in working with the following committees:

- Greeters (name tags & guest signup at meetings);
- Membership (keep track of membership lists and send renewal notices);
- Assist Membership chair with display and signups at archaeological events;
- Field Trips (arrange for trip or assist chair with signups and follow up);
- Laboratory (assist with Hibben Center archival work);
- AAS *Newsletter* editorial assistant/trainee;
- AAS 50th Anniversary Volume Editor, assistant, researcher;
- Board of Directors (and position desired);
- Other (describe on back).

Mail the completed form and your membership dues check (payable to Albuquerque Archaeological Society or AAS) to:

**Treasurer, Albuquerque Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 4029
Albuquerque, NM 87196-4029**

Questions about Membership? (address or email changes, current dues verification, etc.): Email info@abqarchaeology.org

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