



THE  
Albuquerque Archaeological Society  
*Newsletter*

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## **ROADS, RELIGION, AND POWER IN THE CHACO WORLD**

**Robert Weiner**

7:30 PM, Tuesday, March 21, 2023  
Albuquerque Museum of Art and History  
2000 Mountain Road NW

For over a century, researchers in the US Southwest have noted the presence of monumental roads at Chaco Canyon and throughout its world. Roads are frequently invoked in discussions of Chaco, whether for their sheer mystery or as lines of evidence in reconstructing sociopolitical organization. Most roads research has taken place from an aerial perspective, and pioneering ground studies of roads took place before the advent of GPS and other modern mapping technologies. In this talk, Rob Weiner presents the results of five years of documenting Chacoan roads throughout the Four Corners Region in partnership with the Navajo Nation. He will offer insight into small-scale architectural features along roads; the animate entities of land, water, and sky that roads engage; evidence for what practices took place on roads; and the relevance of all of this for writing more culturally informed histories of Chaco.

Robert Weiner is the 2022-2023 Paloheimo Fellow at the School for Advanced Research, a PhD Candidate at the University of Colorado Boulder, and Resident Archaeologist at Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions in Thoreau, NM. He has published over a dozen peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on Chacoan archaeology and won grants from the National Science Foundation, American Philosophical Society, and Society for American Archaeology, among other funders. Rob has conducted fieldwork in all Four Corners states, as well as Turkey.

### **AAS DUES FOR 2023 ARE NOW PAYABLE**

If you have not already done so, please download the attached membership renewal form and fill it out to bring to the meeting or mail it with your check to Treasurer, Albuquerque Archaeological Society, PO Box 4029, Albuquerque NM 87196. Members who have not renewed by March 31 will be dropped from the mailing lists and the Directory.

## MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 2023 MEETING OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

President Ann Braswell called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. The meeting was held in person at the Albuquerque Museum and available on Zoom as well.

**NEW MEMBERS/GUESTS:** Rieka Long introduced herself as a new student member. She is working on a master's thesis in anthropology at Eastern University in Pennsylvania, but doing some of her coursework at UNM. Her topic is the field schools at Ghost Ranch led by her grandmother, Florence Hawley Ellis. She is focusing on the student experience, not the archaeology, and she would like to talk with former students. Contact her through [info@abqarchaeology.org](mailto:info@abqarchaeology.org) if you or someone you know was a field school student, and we will pass your information on to her.

**MINUTES:** As there were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the January 17, 2023 meeting, the minutes stand approved as published in the February Newsletter.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

**Tom Obenauf:** Income for the past month was \$770.00 from membership renewals and donations. Operating expenses for the month were \$885.00 for the Museum auditorium rental and security fees for the first 6 months of 2023, \$15.74 for the monthly Zoom license fee, \$12.00 for postage, \$5.30 for office supplies, and \$663.00 for the annual Directors & Officers insurance premium. There were no program expenses for the month. The checking account balance is \$7,466.88.

**VICE PRESIDENTS' REPORT:** Gretchen Obenauf reported that our speaker next month will be Rob Weiner talking about Chaco Roads.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Membership – Mary Raje:** Mary reminded the member to pay their dues if they haven't already.

**Rock Art – Carol Chamberland:** The Rock Art Team is beginning work for a different federal agency.

**Pottery Southwest – Gretchen Obenauf and Hayward Franklin:** The Fall-Winter PSW should come out in the next month.

**Maxwell Collections Crew – Karen Armstrong:** Archival "tickets" [see below] are being replaced. The crew completed reboxing the material from Davis Cave (next to Sandia Man Cave) to archival standards. The Davis Cave material had been in storage for 82 years! The overall Maxwell Collections Project has completed 5,000 boxes total. In a separate project for Karen, she has found a home for the complete set of ASNM annual volumes donated by Sheila Brewer. They have been donated to the City of Albuquerque Special Collections Branch at Edith and Central where they will be available for use in the library but not for circulation.

**Field Trips – Pat Harris:** Pat announced a field trip to the new "Indigenous Art, Cultural, and Community" exhibit at the Albuquerque Museum. The Sunday March 26 field trip will be led by member Carol Chamberland, docent extraordinaire. Signups began at the February meeting but members can still sign up at the March meeting or by emailing [trips@abqarchaeology.org](mailto:trips@abqarchaeology.org).

Pat is also working on arranging several field trips in the April to May timeframe: to Michael Bletzer's Sevilleta excavation; to the Caja del Rio pueblo, petroglyphs, and shrines; to a pueblo in the Sandia foothills different from the one visited on a previous trip.

**Webmaster – Evan Kay, Thatcher Seltzer-Rogers, and Richard Harris:** Dick Harris reported that the new webmasters now have access to the webpage, the problems with it have been resolved, and it is now fully functional.

### OLD BUSINESS

AAS had agreed to host the 2024 Archaeological Society of New Mexico annual meeting. However, the Site Steward Foundation has offered to host it, and AAS will host the 2025 meeting instead.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Gretchen Obenauf announced that a Vice President from many years ago, Jerry Williams, had passed away at the age of 82.

President Ann Braswell thanked Steve and Donna Rospopo for again completing the financial review. She also thanked Helen Crotty for providing stamps and envelopes for the February mailing, and for editing the Newsletter.

Steve Rospopo informed the group that Eric Blinman is no longer employed at the Office of Archaeological Services.

## **BICE AWARDS**

Six of our members, Mary Raje, Donna and Steve Rospopo, Diane Courney, Hayward Franklin, and Pat Harris, were winners of Bice Awards from the Archaeological Society of New Mexico during the pandemic. President of ASNM (and our speaker) Thatcher Seltzer-Rogers presented plaques to Mary, Donna and Steve, and Pat. Hayward's will be presented at a future meeting. Jan Biella (ASNM chair for Bice Awards) and Gretchen Obenauf took Diane's plaque to her the next day. Local affiliates like AAS nominate members who have gone above and beyond to contribute to the local society and/or to New Mexico archaeology. AAS thanks our latest group of awardees for all they have done!

## **ADJOURNMENT**

President Braswell adjourned the business meeting at 8:01.

## **SPEAKER**

Vice President Gretchen Obenauf introduced Thatcher Seltzer-Rogers, PhD candidate at the University of New Mexico, Research Associate with the Jornada Research Institute, and President of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico. His presentation was entitled "The Establishment of an Indigenous Borderland in the Ancient American Southwest/Mexican Northwest." No synopsis was available at press time.

Submitted by Gretchen Obenauf, Secretary pro tem.

## **"ARCHIVAL TICKETS"**

Karen Armstrong, leader of the Maxwell Collections Crew, explains that "archival tickets" used to properly identify items in collections are simply labels. "They are printed on archival quality paper and scissored out; they measure about 3 1/2 inches wide by 2 inches tall." The heading is the name of the museum; it is followed by a listing of present and old catalog numbers, the number of the site and its name, the material the artifact is made of (i.e., ceramic), its form (i.e., sherd) and a description. On the back, a member of the crew lists in pencil the original box identification and copies the location data that was entered from the site. This can be tedious work, but distributed among the eight or so members of the crew, it goes quickly.

When the new ticket is complete, it is placed in a small zip-top baggie along with the original label that was completed by the excavation team at the site and the small bag is tucked into the bigger zip-top bag containing the artifact(s).

Karen welcomes anyone who is interested in joining the Crew at the Hibben Center on Wednesday mornings. Contact her at <fybate@comcast.net>.

## **PROPOSED 2023 BUDGET TO BE VOTED AT THE MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Attached to this Newsletter are the Albuquerque Archaeological Society Financial Statement as of December 31, 2022 and the 2023 Proposed Budget prepared by Treasurer Tom Obenauf. Our Bylaws provide that the proposed budget be approved by the membership by the March meeting.

## UPCOMING AAS FIELD TRIPS IN MARCH AND APRIL

Pat Harris, AAS Field Trip Chair, announces three field trips planned for March and April. Signups will be at the March meeting or by contacting <trips@abqarchaeology.org>. All trips are limited to current AAS members and there is a \$10 fee per person. Full details about when and where to meet are emailed to members who sign up.

**Sunday, March 26: Albuquerque Museum Exhibit “Indigenous Art, Culture, and Community,”** led by Docent (and AAS member) Carol Chamberland. The exhibit consists of works from the Ruth and Sidney Schultz Collection featuring ceramics, beadwork, prints, paintings, and other artwork produced by many award-winning Native American artists, most of whom have participated in Santa Fe’s Indian Market. Tour beginning in the morning lasts one and a half hours. Limited to 12 AAS members.

**Saturday, April 15, 2023: “Foothills Pueblo” in the Sandias,** led by Sandra Arazi-Coombs of the US Forest Service. A Pueblo III site earlier than the Jaral Pueblo previously visited. Some adobe and mound distinction. Difficulty: 1 ½ mile, use trekking poles for ups and downs. Limited to 12 AAS members.

**Saturday, April 29: Caja del Rio Plateau,** leader to be announced. Los Aguajes Pueblo site, stone shrines, petroglyphs, trails, and fields. Difficulty: From flat to steep slopes and unstable basalt rock. The site is on Forest Service land. Road access is good but high clearance vehicles are necessary. Limited to 15 AAS members.

## BOOK REPORT

*Households on the Mimbres Horizon: Excavations at La Gila Encantada, Southwestern New Mexico*, by Barbara J. Roth. Tucson: University of Arizona Press. 2023. viii+84 pp., 24 figures, 23 tables, contributor biographies, appendix, bibliography, index. \$19.95 paperback (ISBN 9780816548545), \$19.95 eBook (ISBN 9780816548552).

Reviewed by Thatcher A. Seltzer-Rogers

Archaeological investigations into the famed Mimbres culture of southwestern New Mexico have a century of history, from Fewkes’s 1914 publication and the Cosgroves’ 1932 momentous Swarts Ruin monograph to the efforts in the 1970s and 1980s by the Mimbres Foundation. Most of these excavations focus on cobble masonry pueblo remnants covered with black-on-white pottery dating to the late tenth through mid-twelfth centuries AD. Less visible depressions with scatters of red slipped, plain, and corrugated pottery attest to earlier occupations throughout the Mimbres River Valley, something investigated by Emil Haury in the 1930s, Patricia Gilman in the 1990s, and others at Late Pithouse period sites. This volume, *Households on the Mimbres Horizon: Excavations at La Gila Encantada, Southwestern New Mexico*, reports the results of a 2003-2005 investigation led by renowned Mimbres archaeologist, Barbara Roth, with the help of students and volunteers from the Grant County Archaeological Society at the La Gila Encantada site, a small pithouse residential site located south of the Gila River Valley in a nonriverine context.

The first chapter establishes the background for research at La Gila Encantada by framing its cultural context and relevant major anthropological topics. These include mobility, subsistence practices, household organization, as well as regionally specific inquiries regarding the Late Pithouse period for southwestern New Mexico. Chapter 2 provides the history of previous documentation at the site, including an unreported 1998 testing project, the excavation methods for the 2003-2005 project, and descriptions of the seven sampled pithouses and nine extramural features. The third chapter summarizes the pottery collected during excavations, with a primary focus on the decorated Mimbres sherds and the reconstructible or whole vessels. Sections also discuss modified sherds such as perforated disks, ground disks, “dishes,” and possible gaming pieces. Main conclusions are that the assemblage represents fairly ordinary domestic activities, with cooking and food processing having occurred outside of the pithouses and serving inside them, extensive use of ceramics, and some weaving of textiles.

The fourth chapter evaluates the flaked and ground stone artifacts from the site and addresses their relationship to subsistence activities and mobility. The fifth chapter analyzes the ornament and mineral assemblage from the site. A key result is the limited occurrence of ornaments at the site, which contrasts with sites in riverine contexts. The final analytic chapter, Chapter 6, reports on the floral and faunal remains from excavations. These results demonstrate that despite repeated occupations spanning over 300 years, subsistence practices remained mostly stable. The concluding chapter ties all the results together to address the research questions posed in the first chapter. Importantly, results support the conclusion that La Gila Encantada shows slightly different patterns from those found at contemporaneous sites in riverine contexts such as in the Mimbres River Valley. These include an overall higher mobility rate in the population than at riverine sites, somewhat different site termination and interment practices, and household-level autonomy in activities.

*Households on the Mimbres Horizon* is an important contribution to the literature on the Late Pithouse period in southwestern New Mexico as it provides the largely missing perspective of a small residential site with over 300 years of occupation in an upland, nonriverine context. There are some minor issues with the volume that may hamper integration into synthetic analyses, such as the reporting of radiocarbon dates limited to one sigma distributions and partial reporting of the ceramic analysis and of some lithic raw material components. However, the authors provide enough summarized data to make their interpretations both broad and site specific and convincing, and they direct readers to the excavation's technical report for the detailed data. Despite this minor shortcoming, Roth and colleagues pack this brief volume with robust interpretations that I found greatly insightful. The results of excavations aptly demonstrate that archaeological reconstructions for the seventh through mid-tenth century AD Mimbres region can be partially inaccurate when relying solely on investigations at larger, more formal settlements such as those in the Mimbres River Valley. For these reasons, I highly recommend this book to archaeologists who specialize in southwestern New Mexico or in semi-sedentary societies, or who investigate other upland-riverine lifeway divisions in the archaeological record.

## **2023 ASNM ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

David Greenwald, President of host Affiliate Jornada Research Institute and Chair of the 2023 ASNM Annual Meeting, announces that plans for the meeting are nearly complete and registration is now open. The form can be downloaded from the ASNM website <archaeologicalsocietynm.org>. The meeting will be held at the Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Drive, Ruidoso, on Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6, with field trips on Sunday, May 7 and will follow much the same organizational structure as previous meetings. Arrangements have been made with the Eleganté Lodge Resort next door to the Convention Center for a block of rooms at the much-reduced price of \$139.95 per night plus tax. To reserve your room, please call them at 575-257-8743 or 575-258-5500 and mention the code "ASNM meeting" to get the discounted rate. Ruidoso offers many lodging facilities in a wide range of prices and varying distances from the Convention Center. Look online for maps, prices, amenities, and cancellation restrictions.

The focus of the program is the archaeology of southern and southeastern New Mexico. The talks will begin at 7 pm Friday evening following an optional 6 pm buffet dinner, with a presentation on the archaeology of Tularosa Canyon by Greenwald and will continue all day Saturday with invited speakers. Following the banquet dinner and presentation of awards Saturday evening, Myles Miller will deliver the Bandelier Lecture, speaking about advances in Jornada Mogollon archaeology. Four field trips are currently listed on the registration form: Petroglyphs at the Three Rivers, Willow Spring, and Rio Bonito sites and the JRI Creekside excavations. More trips may be added by actual field trip sign-up time in Ruidoso. The registration form is posted on the ASNM website <archaeologicalsocietynm.org>.

## **WOMAN'S HISTORY MONTH AT MAXWELL MUSEUM HONORS LINDA CORDELL**

In recognition of Women's History Month, on March 25 from 1 to 3 pm, the Maxwell Museum and the UNM Department of Anthropology will host an event to celebrate the life and legacy of the Linda Cordell, featuring a book signing and research presentations by current UNM students. *Linda S. Cordell: Innovating Southwest*

*Archaeology*, edited by Deborah L. Huntley and Maxine E. McBrinn and recently published by the Museum of New Mexico Press (Jacketed Hardbound \$45) is a collection of tributes to Dr. Cordell from well-known scholars of the Southwest. Chapters cover diverse topics of interest to Cordell and offer a broad view of the Southwest as seen through the influence of one extraordinary individual.

A member of the National Academy of Sciences and a leading scholar in Southwest Archaeology, Dr. Cordell was a distinguished member of the UNM Anthropology Department from 1971 through 1987. While at UNM, she directed field work (and field schools) at Tijeras and Rowe Pueblos and served as Chair of the UNM Anthropology Department from 1983-1987 before taking positions at the California Academy of Sciences (1987-1993) and University of Colorado (1993-2006). In 2006, she 'retired' to New Mexico where she helped launch our still-ongoing archaeology volunteer program with then Curator David Phillips and ASNM Trustee Karen Armstrong. The "Crew" continues to gather at the Museum every Wednesday morning to sort, re-bag and catalog the Museum's legacy archaeology collections.

## CALENDAR CHECK

### *Event*

Book signing *Linda S. Cordell: Innovating Southwest Archaeology* and research presentations by current UNM students on Saturday, March 25, 1 to 3 pm at the Maxwell Museum.

### *Conferences*

**ASNM Annual Meeting** May 5–7, 2023 at Ruidoso Convention Center. Program features the archaeology of southern New Mexico. Details on registration form posted on ASNM website <archaeologicalsocietyunm.org>.

**Pecos Conference** August 10–13, 2023 in Flagstaff, Arizona area. Preliminary notice.

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**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.

### **2022 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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

#### **Officers**

##### **President:**

Ann Braswell

##### **Vice Presidents:**

Gretchen Obenauf  
Robert Hitchcock

##### **Secretary:**

Susan King

##### **Treasurer:**

Tom Obenauf

##### **Directors-at-Large:**

Jo Lynne Fenger  
Evan Kay

#### **Standing Committee Chairs**

##### **Membership:**

Mary Raje

##### **Newsletter:**

Helen Crotty

Mailer: Ann Braswell

##### **Maxwell Museum Crew:**

Karen Armstrong

##### **Rock Art Recording:**

Carol Chamberland

##### **Greeter:**

*Vacant*

#### **Committee Chairs (continued)**

##### **Field Trips:**

Pat Harris  
Steve Rospopo

##### **Refreshments:**

Jo Lynne  
Gretchen Obenauf

##### **Pottery Southwest**

Editors: Hayward Franklin, Peter  
McKenna, Gretchen Obenauf

##### **Webmaster:**

Evan Kay  
Assts: Thatcher Seltzer-Rogers  
Richard Harris

## 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET

Approved by Board March 6, 2023

#	BEGINING BALANCE	1/1/2023	\$
1	Checking		8,277.92
2	Investments		17,508.19
	<b>Net Value</b>		<b>25,786.11</b>
	<b>ESTIMATED INCOME</b>		
3	Dues & Sustaining Memberships		3,000.00
4	Money Market Account Interest		3.60
5	Field Trips		640.00
6	PSW & AAS Books & CDs		0.00
7	Donations		2,000.00
	<b>Income total</b>		<b>5,643.60</b>
	<b>ESTIMATED OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
8	ABQ Museum		1,775.00
9	Zoom License Fee		188.88
10	Speaker Reimbursements (includes travel expenses & dinner hosting)		400.00
11	Office Supplies & Copies		150.00
12	Internet		205.00
13	Post Office Box & Postage		425.00
14	ASNM Affiliate Dues		40.00
15	Liability Insurance		1,842.00
16	NM Secretary of State AAS Annual Report Filing Fee		10.00
	<b>Operating Expenses total</b>		<b>5,035.88</b>
	<b>ESTIMATED PROGRAM EXPENSES</b>		
17	Archaeology Southwest Membership		100.00
18	ASNM Scholarship Fund Contribution		500.00
19	Potential Archaeological Conservancy NM site donations		0.00
20	Potential 50th Anniversary Volume expenses		0.00
	<b>Donation Expenses total</b>		<b>600.00</b>
	<b>ESTIMATED ENDING BALANCE</b>		
		<b>12/31/2023</b>	
21	Checking		8,285.64
22	Investments		17,511.79
	<b>Net Value</b>		<b>25,797.43</b>
23	Estimated Net Change		11.32

