

Story^{the} Catcher

A publication of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society

Annual Pilster Lecture Goes Virtual as a Panel Discussion and Draws An International Audience

The annual Pilster Great Plains Lecture took a new turn this year with the first-ever virtual presentation via Zoom webinar. The keynote speaker, Dr. Omar Valerio-Jimenez spoke from Texas on “Borderlands, Latina/o, American West, Immigration.”

He was joined in the 90-minute online event September 16 by panelists in Chadron and Omaha and a moderator in Gordon. Registration for the event was free and an advance copy of his lecture was available on the marisandoz.org website. Nearly 200 people signed up for the event which is traditionally held on the campus of Chadron State College.

Valerio-Jiménez, an Associate Professor of History at the University of Texas San Antonio, was born in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, and grew up in Taft, Corpus Christi, and Edinburg, Texas. After graduating from MIT, he worked as an engineer for five years before attending UCLA, where he obtained his master’s and doctorate degrees. He has taught courses on borderlands, Latinas/os, immigration, race/ethnicity, and the American West at universities in California, New York, Texas, and Iowa. A noted author, his first book, *River of Hope: Forging Identity and Nation in the Rio Grande Borderlands* (Duke University Press, 2013), explores state formation and cultural change along the

Mexico-United States border during the 18th and 19th Centuries. His current book project, *Remembering Conquest: Mexican Americans, Memory, and Citizenship*, analyzes the ways in which memories of the U.S.-Mexico War have shaped Mexican Americans’ civil rights struggles, writing, oral discourse, and public rituals.

He was joined in his discussion by Dr. Danielle Battisti, an associate professor of U.S. History at the University of Nebraska at Omaha where she specializes in immigration and ethnic history. Her book, *Whom We Shall Welcome: Italian Americans and Immigration Reform* (Fordham University Press, 2019) examines both the liberal and conservative elements of Italian American efforts to influence American

immigration policies in the 1950s and 1960s. She is currently engaged in two new research projects. The first seeks to address gaps in political discourse, the academy, and popular memory about the history of “illegal” European migration to the United States by looking at unauthorized Italian immigration from the 1920s to 1950s. Her other new research examines American involvement in the creation and operations of the

(continued on page 2)



Virtual Pilster (continued from page 1)

Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration, a postwar NGO created in 1952 and charged with resettling European Displaced Persons to the Americas and Oceania.

Panelist Dr. Kurt E. Kinbacher, an Associate Professor of History at Chadron State College, has served on the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Board since 2013 and has chaired the Pilster Lecture and Sandoz Symposium Committee since 2016. He completed his PhD at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2006. He is author of *Urban Villages and Local Identities: Germans from Russia, Omaha Indians, and Vietnamese in Lincoln Nebraska*; co-editor of *Reconfigurations of Native North America*; and author of several articles and book chapters that focus on identity construction, human migrations, and region.

Valerio-Jiminez emphasized that Latinos are not recent immigrants. They have lived and worked in America since the late 19th Century. The Midwest has pockets of minority populations and is no longer the homogenous white heartland. Residents are not recognized by class, but by country of origin.

He said the Mexican revolution pushed more immigrants to the U.S. where they replaced the Europeans in the agricultural fields. Mexico was viewed as an abundant source of labor and by the early 1920s immigrant families started crossing the border. Great Western Sugar and the Santa Fe Railroad used to hire single men. But they changed that practice when they realized family men were more stable and less likely to go on strike or job hop. Workers understood if they learned more skills they could get higher wages. They also liked the rural pace of life which reflected their rural homeland and family values, Valerio-Jiminez said. Unfortunately, these big employers racialized ethnic Mexicans as non-whites so they could only be temporary workers and couldn't become U.S. citizens. They were classified as non-white, non-black and foreign workers.

Labor law changes established employer sanctions and led to regional disbursement in the 1960s. Yet, many workers decided to stay in this country and the labor force shifted to include women as well. Latinos of mixed nationalities began arriving in the 1970s with new identities such as

Cuban-ricans. The number of Latina/o people grew by 43 percent, with more than 73 percent of them in eight very Midwestern states. That led to cultural and political changes for the Midwest.

Battiste outlined a long historical context of the immigrants. The question was to what extent do we talk about the special geographic and political/trade issues. Immigrants originally would stay in the country for a finite time to build their financial base so they could one day go back and change things in their homeland. World War I encouraged more immigration because European immigrants had joined the military. She said the Latina/o names are absent in the historical files in Douglas County (Omaha). We tend to see more German and Czech names.

Kinbacher addressed community and residential segregation and racialization. Immigrants tended to live in neighborhoods that coincided with the countries from whence they came. He said he mined a number of Sandoz works and discovered that she was historically opposed to this racialization. It's all reflected in the ways we think, talk and act toward Latina/o people and the "dirty foreigners" of literature. He said Sandoz' book *Capital City* illustrates how people talked about the pols and the dirty reds to refer to people from Poland, Russia and Germany. In the city it was all about the Russian Bottoms. In Central and Western Nebraska it was the sugar beet fields and the Volga-Deutsch laborers encountered the Mexicans and later the Japanese. These immigrants came and stayed in the area.

Valerio-Jiminez said circular migration between Mexico and the U.S. thrived until 1986 when militarization ramped up and closed the border. Mexican immigrants have had really low levels of naturalization as a result. They have long held the dream of returning home, but many said they favor the Midwest because there is less discrimination than exists in the border states. Likewise, the small towns remind them of home.

The lecture panel was moderated by Sandoz Board member Shannon D. Smith who is the Executive Director and CEO Emeritus of the Wyoming Humanities Council.

The 2020 Virtual Pilster Great Plains Lecture and Mari Sandoz Symposium Panel discussions were recorded and are available to watch on the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society website https://www.marisandoz.org/events_activities/2020-virtual-pilster-lecture-sandoz-symposium/2020-virtual-pilster-lecture-sandoz-symposium-proceedings.html. On this webpage you can also download and read the paper from the 2020 Pilster Lecturer Dr. Omar Valerio-Jimenez as well as look through the archives of past lectures and symposiums.

Immigration, Who We Are and Where We Are From

"Immigration in the American West, Sandoz Country" was the theme of the 2020 Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Pilster Great Plains Lecture and Sandoz Symposium held in two 90-minute on-line sessions in September. Given the Coronavirus pandemic, plans for the annual event at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Center on the campus of Chadron State College were scuttled in lieu of virtual presentations. The annual Pilster Lecture was presented September 16 and a four-member panel discussion on Immigration in the American West, Sandoz Country, was presented September 17.

One of the largest audiences ever for the annual 2-day event (190 people registered), with participants from coast to coast in the United States and three foreign countries, logged in to the free Zoom webinars which were conveniently held in the late afternoon to increase participation. With technical help and video editing capabilities provided by Southeast Community College in Lincoln, the presentations with speakers in Scottsbluff, Alliance, Kearney and Lincoln went smoothly.

The actual symposium, Immigration and Ethnicity in Western Nebraska, was presented by: Broc Anderson of the Trails and Rails Museum in Kearney; Dr. Marty Ramirez in Lincoln; Vickie Sakurada Schaepler of the Japanese Hall and History Project at Legacy of the Plains Museum in Gering and Becci Thomas of the Knight Museum in Alliance. Sandoz Society Board member Mike Smith of Lincoln moderated. Broc Anderson, a graduate student, spoke about the areas between the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota and Dawes and Sheridan County in Nebraska. He addressed the dynamic of the settling of the area and how well-traveled people really are. He also spoke of the Wounded Knee massacre and its impact on the racialization and the tension between the federal government and the Lakota people.

There were two Wounded Knee events. The first, the Wounded Knee Massacre, happened in December 1890 with the slaughter of 150 to 300 Lakota by United States Army troops in the area of Wounded Knee Creek in southwestern South Dakota. The second, on February 27, 1973, happened when a team of 200 Oglala Lakota activists and members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) seized control of the tiny town for 71 days. There was a lot of immigration happening between the two wounded knees, mainly involving Fort Robinson and Camp Sheridan. Most of the soldiers at Fort Robinson were African American. Rushville, Gordon, Hay Springs and Chadron were inhabited by large numbers of Natives and other immigrant populations. By 1885, most of these settlements were established and later became the population backbone of the area. Anderson said many of the Blacks stayed on after their service and were joined by the Volga Deutsch (Germans from Russia) who came to flee persecution from Alexander the Second. Many Scandinavians came for the economy.

Marty Ramirez, PhD, is a retired psychologist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. A Scottsbluff native, he attended Chadron State College, served in Vietnam and returned to Lincoln for his further education. He was the last of 11 children in his family which had immigrated to the area in 1927. His great grandfather fought with Pancho Villa in the Mexican civil war. Ramirez said his parents paid a penny to cross the border from Mexico in 1910. They were part of the fabric of immigrant history which is actually stories of freedom and equality. He shared some thoughts on the topic from the late Robert Manley, a noted Nebraska historian. Manley said

(continued on page 4)

The StoryCatcher

The "StoryCatcher" is the title of a book by Mari Sandoz and it is the title of Helen Winter Stauffer's biography of Mari, *Mari Sandoz: The Story Catcher of the Plains*. The StoryCatcher is published four times a year by the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, a 501©(3) non-profit organization. The vision of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society is to perpetuate and foster an understanding of the literary and historical works of Mari Sandoz and to honor the land and the people about which she wrote; Native Americans, ranchers, farmers, and the people who settled the High Plains country. The Society hosts an annual conference, the Pilster Great Plains Lecture Series, and a writer's workshop. Additionally, the Society provides collections on loan to the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College in Chadron, Nebraska.

Address Changes

Address changes should be mailed to:
P.O. Box 6808, Lincoln, NE 68506

Contributions to the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society are tax-deductible. To join the Society contact visit our website at www.marisandoz.org



Mari Sandoz

The feats, the passions, and the distinctive speech of the West come alive in the writings of Mari Sandoz (1896-1966). As the author of 23 books, including *Old Jules*, *Cheyenne Autumn*, and *Crazy Horse, the Strange Man of the Oglalas*, Sandoz was a tireless researcher, a true storyteller and artist passionately dedicated to the land. With her vivid stories of the last days of the American frontier, Mari Sandoz has achieved a secure place as one of the finest authors in American literature and one of Nebraska's most important writers. As a historian and as a novelist, Sandoz was inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame in 1976 and posthumously received the coveted Wrangler Award from the Hall of Great Westerners.

Immigration (continued from page 3)

the main reason people came to Nebraska was “we wanted them and they came.”

So, in the mid 1800’s, economics was a major factor in immigrant growth. Along with this came the draw of the Homestead Act and, in western Nebraska, the sugar beet industry was a major draw for immigrants, Ramirez said. Through promotions, railroad agents, family letters, and word of mouth, Europeans from England, Scandinavia, Ireland, Germany and later Poland, Italy, and other southern European countries came.

The first Europeans to set foot on the Great Plains were the Spanish soldiers under Francis Vasquez de Coronado in 1540. No other European culture has been in this country longer than the Hispanic. Spaniards and their descendants were already in the Southeast and Southwest by the late 16th century.

Not until the first part of the 20th century did the Spanish-speaking migrate to the Central Plains as Mexicans (mestizos-mixed Spanish/Indian blood) and Mexican Americans. Those from Mexico were members of the Mexican working class. In Nebraska, Mexican immigrants increased from 300 in 1910 to 6,321 in 1930.

Ramirez did his share of work in the fields, from an early age. It was, he remembered, back-breaking work with long and short hoes. All of his family graduated from high school. With the Mexican population growing, racism and poverty also grew. The boundaries of language, culture and education were also a factor. Ramirez said it was difficult to give up cultural traditions and that led to confusion and exclusion.

Becci Thomas, director of the Knight Museum in Alliance, said “We all come from immigrants.” She has traced the development of many diverse populations in the area, beyond the Natives and the Latino/Latina and the blacks. The Bohemians came from Moravia, now Czechoslovakia. Joseph Francl was a typical Czech immigrant, she said. He was on his way to the California Gold Rush. He died in 1911 in Crete, a community known world-wide as Nebraska’s Czech Capital. He was a musician who toured with an orchestra in Bohemia. Like Francl, many of the immigrants were older family men. By 1920 there were 400 Czechs in Box Butte County.

Thomas said the Czech’s banded together to help one another. One group, all Catholics, settled near Hemingford while a group further east was all protestant. Many formed the ZCBI, a social and life insurance lodge that

encompassed three or four generations. The standing joke among locals was that the acronym stood for Zebras, Cows, Bulls and Jackasses. Acceptance was difficult at first, but many families have relatives who stayed in the area and prospered as farmers and businessmen, she said.

Vickie Sakurada Schaepler, Director of the Japanese Hall at the Legacy of the Plains Museum in Gering explained the history of the 90-year-old social hall which was recently moved to the Gering site. An even bigger move for the Japanese living in America was the shift from a feudal system to an industrial system.

Many got railroad jobs and the Great Western Sugar Company with factories in Mitchell, Scottsbluff, Gering and Bayard hired 300 Japanese workers. They thrived in the plains area where they could escape the segregated schools of San Francisco where many first came. Some families became successful business owners, one such being the Eagle Café which operated from 1912 until 1967 in downtown Scottsbluff.

Through the influence of the Reverend Thomas Osborne, Hiram Kano came to America from Japan and helped establish Japanese schools in Scottsbluff, North Platte and Morrill. Baseball teams, social clubs and other activities allowed for the necessary camaraderie among the people but also allowed them to meet others and integrate into the community.

Some were shipped to prison camps after the World War II attack on Pearl Harbor, but came back to the area after the war. Schaepler’s own father was interred for more than two years. Many Japanese became members of the American military. She said her parents never talked about the war and they never insisted that their children speak Japanese. The family moved to Kearney when she was in junior high school.

Ramirez and Schaepler agreed that the ethnic backgrounds have been lost in the history of western Nebraska. “We had Black and Japanese and Mexicans and “Rooshins” (Volga Deutsch) in class with us and we never knew they were any different,” Ramirez said.

Talking Points from Dr. Marty Ramirez Presentation

Because of audio difficulties, many participants in the virtual Sandoz Symposium Panel discussion on Thursday September 17, 2020, requested more information from the talk by Dr. Marty Ramirez of Lincoln. He has graciously shared this list of main points from which he spoke extemporaneously.

“Good evening and a special thanks to the Mari Sandoz Society for tonight’s program and the opportunity to speak on an issue that has been long forgotten in the annals of western Nebraska history. Tonight I will concentrate on how Mexicans/Mexican Americans came to settle in Western Nebraska, particularly Scottsbluff and surrounding communities.”

“I first became aware of how immigrants came to Nebraska in two articles by Mary Garbacz published in a newspaper, *Prairie Fire* in 2007. The articles were an interview with Robert Manley on Immigration History in Nebraska. Dr. Manley basically addressed the question of why did people come to Nebraska and concluded that ‘we wanted them and they came.’ So, in the mid 1800’s, economics was now a major factor in the immigrant growth. Along with this came the draw of the Homestead Act and their stating their intent to become a citizen, and they had a right to vote. Also, the sugar beet industry in western Nebraska was now a major draw for immigrants. Through promotions, Railroad agents, family letters, and word of mouth, Europeans from England, Scandanavia, Ireland, Germany and later to Poland, Italy, and other southern European countries ‘they came’.”

“The first Europeans to set foot on the Great Plains were the Spanish soldiers under Francis Vasquez de Coronado in 1540. No other European culture has been in this country longer than the Hispanic. Spaniards and their descendants were already in the Southeast and Southwest by the late 16th century. Not until the first part of the 20th century did the Spanish-speaking again migrated to the Central Plains as Mexicans (mestizos-mixed Spanish/Indian blood) and Mexican Americans. Those from Mexico were members of the disposed Mexican working class.”

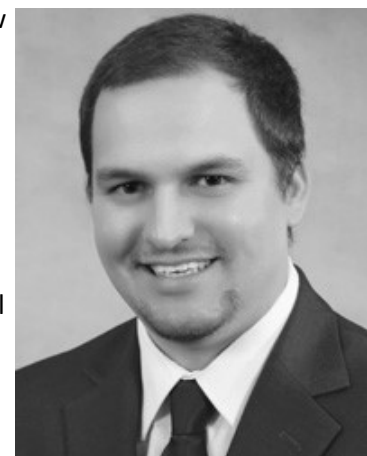
“In Nebraska, Mexican immigrants increased from 300 in 1910 to 6,321 in 1930.”

Broc Anderson Named 2020-2021 Sandoz Scholar

The Mari Sandoz Research Award committee has announced University of Nebraska-Kearney student Broc Anderson as the 2020-2021 Sandoz Scholar.

Committee members Dr. Holly Boomer, Dr. Renee Laegreid, and Dr. Jillian Wenburg, made the announcement in conjunction with the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society’s fall symposium.

Anderson is researching how the Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890 shaped “future interracial interactions in Sheridan and Dawes county communities.” He will also examine “the early twentieth century interracial relationships in these Nebraska border towns.”



He plans to utilize primary sources from the Nebraska State Historical Society, Sheridan County courthouse, Sheridan County Historical Society, and Mari Sandoz Heritage High Plains Center. He will also be examining the archives from the Coffee and Don Green files at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center in Chadron. Anderson will present his research at the 2021 Sandoz Symposium. The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society encourages research on Mari Sandoz and her work by offering an annual research award of \$1,000 for proposals that emphasize new insights on Sandoz or new approaches to her life and work. The award recipient presents this research at the Mari Sandoz Symposium.

Applicants interested in applying for next year’s research award are welcome to access https://www.marisandoz.org/events_activities/mari-sandoz-research-award/ for more information. Applications for the 2021 cycle are due July 31, 2021.

Additional financial assistance is available for award winners through the Voorhees Endowment, which provides stipends in the form of Voorhees Grants for researchers using the archival resources of the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center.

For any questions regarding the award, please contact Committee Chair, Dr. Jillian Wenburg, at jl@jillianwenburg.com.

A Beautiful Gift to Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Members

Mari Sandoz Society Board Member Dan Kusek of Alliance is also the unofficial keeper of the notes from the Sandoz gravesite south of Gordon. For years there have been spiral notebooks at the site and a note encouraging visitors to write something. Here are some excerpts from these short notes left behind.

July 13, 2015: "Trimmed a little around your marker today Mari. Beautiful summer afternoon." – Dan Kusek.

"Nice view! Haven't been up here in years – beautiful, peaceful area. Geocaching with friends up Hwy. 27." -- Ed and Nancy from Hemingford, Dale and Jenet from Lakeside.

"Love her words. Honor her memory. I can see why she wrote so of the beauty." –Joan and Clark Ewalt from Omaha.

"Raised in PA, MN is a second home to me. I've made it my job to educate easterners about the heartland. Nebraska is now part of that story." – Andrew, Harrisburg, PA.

"Glad we came to your windy hill Mari. Thanks you for your words that caught the essence of this landscape. -- Peg and Larry, Lincoln, NE.

"Had always wanted to visit the marker along the Ellsworth Road. Didn't realize the grave was here. A beautiful, sunny day, warm for December. Having read some of her books really make this day a memorable day – getting to feel what Mari felt for this specific spot in the Sandhills. I always love the drive through the Sandhills and God created one of His greatest miracles in their creation." – Bill Bandett, Cairo, NE.

"We can feel how special this place is. Thank you." –Tristan from Portland, Maine and Lexey from Bakersfield, CA.

"This is the fourth time I have visited you Mari. I've eaten your apples and read your thoughts. You are the Sand Hills." – Gary Stickney.

"My grandfather was a Sheridan County pioneer, contemporary of Old Jules. I have an autographed volume of Old Jules that my Dad obtained from Mari. This is my roots." – Jerry and Linda-Woods, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

"What a beautiful place. I wish we could just sit here for hours and enjoy the birdsong and beauty of the area." – Russ and Dana, Kansas City.

"Wanted to get here for 30 years since I read Cheyenne Autumn. Reading it again now. Wish I could have met her. Thank you whoever maintains this." – Mark Preuss, St. Louis, MO.



"Heard many great stories from my aunt Grace. Her maiden name was Grace Macumber. She married in 1941 and moved to Underwood, Iowa. Their ranch was north and east in Cherry County (NE) on the Snake River. One story was they came to the orchard and Old Jules was showing them his apple orchard. He picked an apple with a worm in it and squeezed the apple until the juice was dripping from his elbow." – Ben and Beth Johnsen, Underwood, Iowa.

"A truly appropriate burial site. I'm grateful to Mari Sandoz for so eloquently documenting a people, a place, a time. Thank You." – Alan and Dana Perry, Kansas City, MO.

"I am a recently retired teacher from Pennsylvania and have traveled North America extensively. I visit the Sandhills every few years and love the spiritual power of the land. This is my first visit to Mari's grave site – such a beautiful and powerful spot. Thank you to the people who preserve the Sandoz history here and allow us to visit. I have read all Mari's books, I think. No one captured the essence of the pioneer life and the prairie any better. Blessings to the kindred spirits who love this place." – Jeff Kuhn, Wrightsville, PA.

"What a beautiful place, bringing Peace to me with the beauty. Most meaningful, however, is my consciousness of what happened here, what character it took to survive and prosper, and what values were accordingly passed along for the benefit of our generation today. As life has become easier, however, many such values have waned. How I admire my forebearers. With love to all who lived here." – Howie Souce, Virginia.

"I taught for 35 years (literature, drama, history) and I shared those stories over and over in discussion and reflection. Thank you Mari for making my life fuller and for preserving the memories we must in order to grow and survive as a culture and community." – Ted Menke, Greybull, Wyoming.

"Thank you for maintaining this wonderful place and allowing us to visit. And thank you Mari Sandoz for allowing me to meet and get to know Old Jules and Crazy Horse." – Bill Bolger, Mount Holly, NJ.

"What a gift. What a moment. What a joy. To sit quietly and listen to the many voices of the Sandhills beside the woman who helped me to see more fully the beauty of this place. To see her speaking now in flowers and life beyond life." – Andrew Bohn, Ft. Collins, CO.

"Seeing the wide valley stretch before us, listening to the whistling wind and birds, feeling the warm breeze on our skin, we can understand why you could never leave this land behind you, Mari. And why you chose it as your final resting place. So glad you continued to pursue your gift and craft after destroying those manuscripts. And such a beautiful spot here, amongst the Sandhills and Great Plains under this enormous sky. Thank you for your vivid and engaging prose." – Tonja and Mike Button, Colorado Springs, CO.

Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center Happenings

The Mari Sandoz High Plains Center on the campus of Chadron State College is currently closed to the general public for the foreseeable future due to COVID-19.

The facility is still open to students, faculty, and staff of the college. To accommodate public interest the latest exhibit, "From the Walls of Mari," is currently on display and can be viewed in 20 photos on the Sandoz Center Facebook page.

It features artwork and other decorative items from Mari Sandoz Greenwich Village apartment in New York City, including her diverse collection of paintings, ceramics, and knick knacks. The display remains up until the end of the year when the Center opens a new exhibit on Mari's works and their connection to the region.



Staff is keeping the Facebook page current so guests can still see what is on display. There are images of the current show on Facebook and will likely be photos of the next one. Staff is also available via phone if there are questions or requests that can be filled.

Watch the Sandoz Center's Facebook page for notification when the Center will again open to the public. You can find them at <https://www.facebook.com/search/marisandozhighplainsheritagecenter>

Renew Your Membership Today!

Thank you for your support! Your membership is valuable in helping us carry out the Society's mission and programs. Each dollar helps us preserve and share the important work of Mari Sandoz. Members receive our newsletter, advanced notice of special events, and reduced registration fees for the annual Story Catcher Writer's Workshop and the annual Sandoz Symposium.

Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Phone

E-mail Address

- Join
- Renew
- Gift Membership

Please indicate your level of support:

- Student \$20
- Member \$50
- Sustaining Member \$100
- Sustaining Member \$300
- Sustaining Member \$500

To join using a secure online form, please visit our website at www.marisandoz.org

The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society is a 501c3 non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Membership is annual.

MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT TO:

Mari Sandoz Heritage Society
P.O. Box 6808
Lincoln, NE 68506

Mari Sandoz Heritage Society
PO Box 6808
Lincoln, NE 68506-0808

www.marisandoz.org



NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
LINCOLN, NE
PERMIT NO. 140

Mari Sandoz

HERITAGE SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Lynn Roper , <i>President</i>	Lincoln, NE
Dan Kusek , <i>Vice President</i>	Alliance, NE
Brian Rockey , <i>Treasurer</i>	Lincoln, NE
Karen Kelley , <i>Secretary</i>	Denver, CO
Christy Chamberlin , <i>Finance & Awards Chair</i>	Custer, SD
Michael Smith , <i>Member-at-large</i>	Overland Park, KS
Shannon Smith , <i>Member-at-large</i>	Gordon, NE
Jamison Wyatt , <i>Member-at-large</i>	Lincoln, NE
Ron Hull , <i>President Emeritus</i>	Lincoln, NE

STAFF

Elizabeth Chase	<i>Executive Secretary</i>
J.L. Schmidt	<i>Public Relations Coordinator</i>
Courtney Kouba	<i>Archival Assistant</i>

BOARD MEMBERS

Sybil Berndt (Emeritus)	Chadron, NE
Holly Boomer	Martin, SD
Leisl Carr-Childers	Fort Collins, CO
Steven Coughlin	Gunnison, CO
Matt Evertson	Chadron, NE
Bob Finegan	Bingham, NE
Kurt Kinbacher	Chadron, NE
Renee M. Laegreid	Laramie, WY
Dan McGlynn	Omaha, NE
Elaine Marie Nelson	Lawrence, KS
David Nesheim	Chadron, NE
Heather Stauffer	Lincoln, NE
Chris Steinke	Kearney, NE
Jillian Wenburg	Kansas City, MO
John Wunder (Emeritus)	Lincoln, NE