

Story^{the}Catcher

Fall 2020 Issue

A publication of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society

2020 Virtual Pilster Great Plains Lecture Features Panel Discussion on Latino Immigration in the West

The annual Pilster Great Plains Lecture goes virtual September 16 to take a look at immigration in the American West. Pilster Lecturer **Dr. Omar Valerio-Jimenez** and a panel of experts will discuss his lecture, "Latinos, Migration and the Midwest." The 90-minute online event begins at 5:30pm Central. Registration is free, but registration to attend the virtual event is required. More information and registration can be found at www.marisandoz.org. An advance copy of his lecture is also available by link on that site.

Valerio-Jiménez is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Texas San Antonio. He 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. 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. He is a co-editor of *Major Problems in Latina/o History* (Cengage Learning, 2014), scholarly essays and primary sources on the migration and racialization experiences of various Latino populations. He is also a co-editor of *The Latina/o Midwest Reader* (University of Illinois Press, 2017) an interdisciplinary anthology that examines the history, education, literature, art, and politics of Latinas/os in the Midwest. 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. His next project explores the efforts of scholars to challenge the omissions and negative characterizations of Tejanos in the state's history and in public school textbooks during the mid-twentieth century.

He serves on the editorial board of *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies*, *Studies in Midwestern History*, *Journal of Texas Archeology and History*, and is a series editor of *Latinos in Chicago and the Midwest Series* (University of Illinois Press).

Panel member **Dr. Danielle Battisti** is 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. *Whom We Shall Welcome* was awarded the 2019 Best First Book Award from the Immigration and Ethnic History Society. Dr. Battisti 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 and the immigration

(continued on page 2)

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP! Join us in keeping the spirit and work of Mari Sandoz alive by supporting the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society. Visit our website at www.marisandoz.org and complete the online form, or download and complete the membership form and mail it to us. You can also use the membership form located on page 5 of this newsletter. We are grateful for your support!

Pilster Lecture (continued from page 1)

laws that largely facilitated Euro-Americans' efforts to adjust their status from "illegal alien" to "legal permanent resident." Her other new research examines American involvement in the creation and operations of the 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** is an Associate Professor of History at Chadron State College. He 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.

Moderator **Shannon D. Smith** is the Executive Director and CEO of the Wyoming Humanities Council. Prior to that she was an Associate Director and Research Fellow at EDUCAUSE in Boulder, Colorado and taught history and humanities for seven years at Oglala Lakota College on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. She is a historian and author of several works on women of the American West including *Give Me Eighty Men: Women and the Myth of the Fetterman Fight*, a 2009 book award winner from the Wyoming State Historical Society. She has written several articles and book chapters featuring Mari Sandoz and aspires to write a biography of Mari's amazing life. Shannon was Executive Secretary of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society from 1990-92 and has served on the board since then.

Virtual Sandoz Symposium Panelists Will Discuss Immigration and Ethnicity in Western Nebraska

Immigration and Ethnicity in Western Nebraska is the topic of the first-ever Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Virtual Symposium on Thursday September 17 at 5:30 pm Central. The 90-minute panel discussion will present online attendees the opportunity to explore who we are and where we come from. The journey will be guided by four

Nebraskans discussing the major groups who settled Sandoz Country, including but not limited to: Latina/os; Volga Deutsch; Japanese; Irish; Blacks and Native Americans. You'll learn how the traditions they brought to the area have shaped the rich cultural tapestry we enjoy today. This will be a 90-minute event.

Panelist **Broc Anderson** is the Community Engagement Director for Trails & Rails Museum in Kearney. He is an Alliance High School and Chadron State College graduate who is pursuing his Master's in history through the University of Nebraska at Kearney researching borderland histories of Gordon, Rushville, Hay Springs, and Chadron to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. He'll discuss the introduction of non-native immigrants to the region that was once traditional land of the Lakota. He will also discuss the settling of Sandoz Country by the Volga Deutsch.

Dr. Marty Ramirez is a retired Counseling Psychologist with a 38-year career at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Marty started working at UNL as a counselor for the Department of Minority Affairs in 1973. Upon receiving his Ph.D. Marty worked with UNL's Counseling Center and later worked for the Department of Counseling and Psychological Services. In 1992 Marty was a recipient of Weber State's Minority Lectureship Program in Ogden, Utah. A Scottsbluff native, Marty received his BA from Chadron State College and his MA and Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In 2013 he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Chadron State College. He is a Vietnam veteran and Purple Heart recipient. He'll discuss Latina/os in Sandoz Country.


Vickie Sakurada Schaepler is Coordinator of the Japanese Hall and History Project at the Legacy of the Plains Museum in Gering where she works to preserve the history of the Japanese on the High Plains through the Japanese Hall built in 1928 and moved to the Legacy of the Plains Museum to showcase the history. She was a member of the 2019 Japanese American Delegation to Japan sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. She spent her career working with individuals with disabilities and medical conditions. She has served as a director, manager and counselor at Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Railroads and the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. She was a trustee for History Nebraska and the Buffalo County Historical Society boards. Ms. Schaepler completed her undergraduate and master's degrees at Kearney State College.

(continued on page 3)

Sandoz Symposium (continued from page 2)

Becci Thomas has been the Director of the Knight Museum & Sandhills Center in Alliance for 26 years. She oversaw a \$5.3 million renovation, wrote an introductory film, wrote an Arcadia Alliance pictorial history book and curated the new displays. She was born and reared in Alliance and likes to think that she is sharing “her family’s history” with those who visit the museum. Her educational background is also homegrown as a graduate of Alliance High School and life in the Panhandle community. An avid history buff, she says her job is like getting paid to have fun. She just finished her term as President of the Nebraska Museum Association. The heart of the museum is the Heritage room and she says that is her specialty as a genealogist for over 30 years. It also makes immigration a strong influence for her English, Austrian, Irish heritage. She’ll discuss several immigrant groups who settled in the area.

Panel moderator **Michael J. Smith** of Lincoln served as Director/CEO of the Nebraska State Historical Society (now History Nebraska) from 2006 until his retirement in 2016. Smith’s 44-year career in history and museums included several executive leadership positions in midwestern and eastern institutions. Today, he lives with his wife Mary in Lincoln where he retains an interest in the humanities and public life.



The 2020 Virtual Pilster Lecture & Mari Sandoz Symposium is funded in part by Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. For More information visit www.humanitiesnebraska.org

Mari Sandoz Research Award Update

The Mari Sandoz Research Award committee received several applicants for the 2020 research award. The committee, including Dr. Holly Boomer, Dr. Renee Laegreid, and Dr. Jillian Wenburg, will evaluate applications this month and make a public announcement of the winner at the 2020 Virtual Mari Sandoz Symposium on September 17. 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. 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. 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 questions regarding the award, please contact Committee Chair, Dr. Jillian Wenburg, at jl@jillianwenburg.com.

The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society has a display available for loan to libraries, local museums, visitors centers, conference centers, and school classrooms. The display includes two floor stand 6-foot full-color banners, two tabletop spinner cubes with words and pictures about Sandoz and a digital photo frame as well as tabletop brochure racks. A colorful table cover and runner are also included. You provide the table. Loan can be for a matter of weeks or months depending on scheduling. Interested? Contact the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society at info@marisandoz.org

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.

Story Catcher Workshop A “Virtual” Success

It took less than a week for all available seats to fill up for the Ninth Annual Story Catcher workshop in June. The pandemic and shut down of Chadron State Park forced organizers from Chadron State College to go online using a shorter, modified event.

The workshop, sponsored by the college and the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, had plans for holding the event as usual until COVID-19 started shutting things down, said coordinator Matt Evertson, a Sandoz board member and CSC instructor. Fortunately the instructors agreed to the on-line arrangement with a promise that they will be invited back for the 10th Anniversary, hopefully in person next summer.

Of the participants, six were students, one as young as 12-years-old. They joined the free one-day event from South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, California and Anchorage, Alaska. There were 20 slots open for the free workshop, but five additional guests joined on the day of the workshop, Evertson said.

Dinty Moore’s session involved some words of wisdom and then exercises in the morning. He gave all the participants

an assignment and they returned after lunch with fully-formed flash pieces. They were really impressive for the short amount of time given to compose. Dinty gave wonderful feedback, as did the participants.

Alyson Hagey’s session had a short reading and then she also had the participants do a bit of fiction writing. Some really good stuff came out of those sessions as well.

Both Hagey and Moore told me after the workshop that they were impressed with the level of writing and the enthusiasm and support amongst the participants, and how engaged everyone was. Both said they would travel to Chadron next year for the 10th anniversary workshop scheduled for June 14 through 17, 2021.

Evertson said one day of next year’s event has been set aside to host Western Colorado University with an eye toward holding a Story Catcher workshop in the future at the WCU campus in Gunnison, CO.

Some of the sessions from this year’s workshop have been recorded and will be available soon. A link will be available on the Sandoz website, www.marisandoz.org

Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center is Open for Business!

Things are returning to nearly normal at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center on the Chadron State College campus. Center staff report that in the month of July there were more than 800 stamps issued in the Nebraska Tourism’s Passport Program which has been extended into October after a late start. Sandoz Society Archival Assistant Courtney Kouba said the stamps have been digital and in-person.

The current main exhibit is "Soldiering into Victory" which focuses on World War II. Here is a link about the exhibit to an article written by Tena L. Cook, CSC Marketing Coordinator. <https://www.csc.edu/news/story.csc?article=12335>.

The display includes objects on loan from local residents and people as far away as Lincoln and York. Also on display are some letters of Mari's regarding the war. The exhibit runs through September 25. Cook writes that Chadron State College’s ties to WWII are well documented in articles by Con Marshall. The Civilian Pilot Training on campus contributed to the war effort and is credited with keeping the college open when enrollment dipped below

100. During that time, nearly all male students were drafted or had volunteered for the military and many of the female students joined the nation’s work force. From 1939 to 1940, Chadron State was part of a national program through the Civilian Aeronautics Authority to train 11,000 civilians as pilots. After Pearl Harbor was bombed and the nation was thrust into World War II, the program took on new meaning and a new name. A Naval Aviation Training Program was established on campus in July 1942, according to Marshall. The program and others located at colleges ended in 1944 when the Navy built larger facilities to train pilots.

After "Soldiering into Victory," comes a show featuring the work of Linda Dabbs. Dabbs in an adjunct faculty member in the Communication, Music, Art, and Theatre department. The show will feature paintings and ceramic sculptures.

The Center also has a new display on Lakota women in the downstairs gallery. The small display features a buckskin dress, photos of local Lakota women, and pottery donated

(continued on page 5)

Sandoz Center (continued from page 4)

by Mari's sister Caroline Sandoz Pifer, along with a description of the role of Lakota women in their community.

The Math and Science building is undergoing remodeling so some of their displays and objects are being showcased in the Center's atrium. Among the items are pharmaceuticals and some information on Walter Reed, an Army medic who treated Old Jules broken leg and later went on to military fame. The premier Army hospital in Bethesda, Maryland, is named for Reed. A cast of a triceratops skull and the projector from the astronomy lab are also on display. A new grand piano in the atrium belongs to the music department and will be used for future choral events and piano recitals at the Center.

The Center was closed for a time due to the pandemic, the same time as the entire Chadron State College campus. It was reopened to the public on June 1st with some measures to protect our guests and staff. The college has donated masks to staff and we strive to maintain social distancing whenever possible.

The Center is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon (Mountain) and 1-4 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. to noon.

Support the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Through Membership!

Thank you for your support! Your membership is important to the Society's programs and activities. Each dollar helps us preserve and share the important work of Mari Sandoz. Members receive our newsletter, advanced notice of special events, and discounted registration for the annual Story Catcher Writer's Workshop and the annual Fall 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

The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Presents
IMMIGRATION:
Who We Are | Where We Are From

2020 Virtual Pilster Lecture & Panel Discussion
"Borderlands, Latina/o, American West, Immigration"
Wednesday, September 16, 2020 @ 5:30pm Central Time via ZOOM Webinar
Featuring the 2020 Pilster Lecturer, Dr. Omar Valerio Jimenez from the University of Texas San Antonio with panelists Dr. Danielle Battisti, University of Nebraska-Omaha and Dr. Kurt Kinbacher, Chadron State College, Moderated by Shannon Smith, Wyoming Humanities

2020 Virtual Mari Sandoz Symposium Panel Discussion
"Immigration and Ethnicity in Western Nebraska"
Thursday, September 17, 2020 @ 5:30pm Central Time via ZOOM Webinar
Featuring panelists Broc Anderson, Trails & Rails Museum in Kearney, NE, Dr. Marty Ramirez, Lincoln, NE, Vickie Sakurada Schaepler, Japanese Hall and History Project, Legacy of the Plains Museum in Gering, NE, and Becci Thomas, Knight Museum in Alliance, NE, Moderated by Michael J. Smith, Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Board Member

Please join us for this FREE Virtual Event!
For detailed information, schedule, and registration visit www.marisandoz.org

NEBRASKA

HN HUMANITIES NEBRASKA
This program is funded in part by Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment

Mari Sandoz
HERITAGE SOCIETY

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram icons

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

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>	Lincoln, 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
Shannon Smith	Laramie, WY
Heather Stauffer	Lincoln, NE
Chris Steinke	Kearney, NE
Jillian Wenburg	Kansas City, MO
John Wunder (Emeritus)	Lincoln, NE