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A publication of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society

# Roger Swain to Present Keynote at March Sandoz Conference

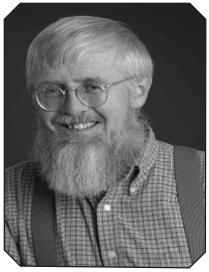
Roger Swain will lead off the 2008 Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Conference Thursday, March 27, with his presentation, "Planting Villages: How Gardens Make Good Neighbors."

Swain, biologist, gardener, writer and "the man with the red suspenders," is recognized by millions as host of "The Victory Garden," television's longest-running gardening show.

Gardens make good neighbors, he believes, because plants provide food, comfort and amusement, but their cultivation also shapes the communities in which we live. The best gardens are those that provide an opportunity for shared enjoyment. Whether you want to find out about the people next door or in the next town, plants are where conversations start, where strangers meet and become friends.

For 15 years Swain planted and pruned, harvested and chatted with PBS viewers. More recently he has been co-hosting "People, Places and Plants," a show celebrating New England gardens and gardeners on the cable network HGTV.

Swain is also the science editor of Horticulture magazine. Since 1978 readers have enjoyed his essays and articles in that magazine, as well as his five books: Earthly Pleasures, Field Days, The Practical Gardener, Saving



Roger Swain, of HGTV, crisscrosses the nation, peering into front yards, back alleys, and celebrating gardens.

Graces and Groundwork.

When he is not filming, writing or meeting with gardeners across the country, Swain can be found at work in the orchard and gardens of his farm in southern New Hampshire.

Roger Swain received the American Horticultural Society Award for Writing in 1992, and in 1996 he was awarded the Massachusetts Horticultural Society Gold Medal for his "power to inspire others."

The keynote session begins at 7 p.m. at the Chadron State College Student Center. It is open to anyone at no charge. \*\*

# Discover the High Plains of Mari Sandoz: 2008 Conference

The theme of the 2008 Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Conference is "The High Plains of Mari Sandoz," which celebrates the plains that Mari loved and the land that Old Jules settled and where he became an early horticulturist.

No matter where she lived, Mari Sandoz thought of the high plains as home. According to J.E. Lawrence of the Lincoln Journal (1948), Mari's pulse "leaped to the glory of the spring along the winding Niobrara... She seemed to actually see the stirring roots of grass, flowers and trees. Because of their awakening, Miss Sandoz never failed to rejoice in the enactment of the fine miracles of earth."

Jules and his wife, Mary, farmed and ranched, but the outstanding landuse on their first homestead was the orchard. In C. Barron McIntosh's One Man's Sequential Land Alienation on the Great Plains, "(Jules) Sandoz asserted that his orchard contained more than 6,000 fruit trees. He tested many varieties and experimented and grafted. Eventually he became a well-known member of the Nebraska State Horticultural Society." (Continued)

Discover the High Plains of Mari Sandoz Conference March 27-29, 2008

The Story Catcher 1 Winter 2008

# The Story Catcher

The Story Catcher is published three times a year by the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization.

The Sandoz Society seeks to build appreciation of Mari Sandoz's body of work, to preserve the literary works and legacy of this premier historian, and to raise funds to support these efforts.

Each year, the Society hosts a conference that celebrates and studies the works of the author, publishes the writing of scholars and students, promotes student writing contests and writing institutes; and sponsors scholarships.

Additionally, the Society provides collections on loan to the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College and supports its academic, archives and research programs.

Address changes should be mailed to 2301 NW 50th Street, Lincoln, NE 68524.

Contributions to the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society are tax-deductible. For membership information, e-mail marisandoz\_society@windstream. net, or www.marisandoz.org.

# Mari Sandoz

Mari Sandoz (1896-1966) came from the Sand Hills of Nebraska to write some of America's most enduring books on Great Plains history.

As the author of Old Jules, Cheyenne Autumn, and Crazy Horse, the Strange Man of the Oglalas, and others, she was a tireless researcher, a true storyteller, and an artist passionately dedicated to a place little known and a people largely misunderstood. As a historian and as a novelist, Sandoz stands in the front ranks of western writers and has achieved a secure place as one of the finest authors in American literature.

She created vivid stories of the last days of the American frontier, and was an internationally known chronicler of the West and one of Nebraska's most important writers.

### Discover the High Plains Conference (continued)

Blending the works of Mari and Jules Sandoz with the interest of plains horticulturists provided an intriguing premise with which to bring the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum together for the 2008 Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Conference.

Conference presentations include:

Cultural Geography in Sandoz's Cheyenne Autumn where speaker Richard Voorhees, Instructor of Sociology and Anthropology, Inver Hills Community College, Inver Grove Heights, Minn., reflects on how landscape is transformed in Native America and Euro American traditions using illustrations from Sandoz's Cheyenne Autumn.

Stop, Look and Listen: Our Home is on the Plains articulates speaker Dr. Gus van der Hoeven's work and passion to "create a sense of place" by reflecting on the beauty of the Great Plains. For more than 23 years, he has educated people about the beauty and the importance of the plains landscape. People make excuses for plains states, but van der Hoeven, an extension specialist in landscape and environmental horticultural at Kansas State University, believes you must learn to look closely at the landscape and internalize its peaceful, healing effect.

Mari's Prairie: Sand Hills at the Sandoz Center is presented by the woman who created it. Lucinda Mays, garden educator and public horticulturist at Chadron State College, will discuss the Sand Hills-honoring garden outside the Mari Sandoz Center. The garden is filled with native plants and trees generated from cuttings taken from Jules's orchard and some native wildflowers transplanted from near Mari Sandoz's gravesite. About 165 different plant species of grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees have been planted in the landscape surrounding the Sandoz Center.

Sandoz's Environment: Old Jules and the Vine. Round Table discussion of "Sandoz and the High Plains Environment. Jason Heppler, UNL graduate student; Matt Evertson, professor, Chadron State College and John Wunder, professor, University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

From Jewels of the Plains to GreatPlants® for the Great Plains: The Legacy of Claude Barr. During his lifetime (1887-1982), South Dakota cattle rancher Claude A. Barr attained international acclaim as an eminent plantsman of the plains. Through his Prairie Gem Ranch, he supplied Great Plains seeds, plants and first-hand information on Great Plains native wildflowers to the scientific and gardening world for many years. His achievements inspired formation of the Great Plains Native Plant Society in 1984 and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, as well as the Arboretum's GreatPlants® for the Great Plains program.

Speakers Jim Locklear, director, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and Ron Weedon, Ph.D., professor of Biology, Chadron State College will discuss the first horticulturist to grow many of the beautiful and hardy plants found on the Great Plains. Barr's knowledge and colorful lifework depicted in his posthumously published book, Jewels of the Plains, is the best reference to the plains wildflowers and their cultivation.

#### Reception and Sandoz Celebration Banquet

Join Sandoz Society and Nebraska Arboretum members on Friday evening, March 28, at 5 p.m. for an Artist's Reception and Nebraska wine tasting. Following the Sandoz Celebration Banquet Paul Read, Ph.D., University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor of horticulture and viticulture, will discuss Grapes and Wine in Nebraska. According to Read, head of UNL's viticulture program, grape growing promises real economic benefits for the state. The banquet will be held at the Chadron State College Student Center. Extra tickets for those not attending the conference are available for \$20 per person.\*

For conference forms and information, go to marisandoz.org.

#### Conference Notes:

The uniqueness of this joint conference highlighting plants and environmental issues related to a Mari Sandoz's works is expected to attract a large attendance. To ensure your place, please register, book lodging or join the bus trip soon.

#### Lodging information: At www.marisandoz.org.

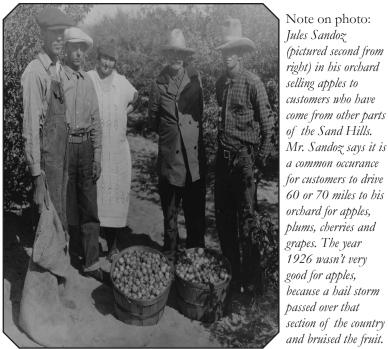
**Discounted registration:** Discounted fees are available for members of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. You may join one or both of the organizations on the registration form.

**Early registration:** Early registration rates apply until March 1. All registrations after that are at the higher rate. After March 20, registration is on-site only at Chadron State College.

#### Ride to the Conference in Comfort

A motorcoach will leave from Lincoln on Wednesday, March 26 with stops along I-80 to Ogallala. The cost of the trip includes three nights lodging and transportation. Those riding the bus will visit Mari Sandoz's gravesite on Saturday, March 29 if weather permits.

In order to make the bus trip feasible, at least 25 people will need to sign up by **FEBRUARY 15**. Contact Travel Concepts in Aurora, Neb. if you are interested in riding the bus and pre-arrranged lodging at 1-402-759-1006. All questions regarding the motorcoach and lodging, including the cost of the trip, must be directed to Travel Concepts. **You must register for the conference separately.** \*\*



And bruised the fruit.

Photo courtesy of the Nebraska State Historical Society. Photo by Condra and Manners (Conserv. & Survey Div., U of N) August 22, 1926

"Jules' orchard was becoming quite an important feature in the settlement of the country, denying the cattleman contention that nothing would grow. By crossing selected wild plums with choice tame varieties, but not quite hardy, he developed a new plum that stood the winter, was free of pests, of delicate flavor, and tender-skinned."

(From Old Jules: Portrait of a Pioneer by Mari Sandoz)

# Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Enriches Lives With Statewide Living Museum

The mission of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum is to "enrich lives through the beauty and wonder of plants." In nearly three decades of service to Nebraska, the NSA has inspired and enabled more than 200 communities to create beautiful public landscapes, making each a more attractive, healthy, vital place to live, work and visit.

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, founded in 1978, has over 80 affiliate sites (arboretums, historic landscapes and other public gardens) in nearly 50 communities in the state.

An arboretum is a living museum where a collection of trees and other plants is assembled and maintained for education, research and enjoyment.

The concept is unique in the nation.

Rather than bound to a single place, the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum is a remarkable network of arboretum sites, parks, historic properties and other public landscapes located in dozens of communities across the state. They are linked together and supported by the Arboretum office. This exceptional statewide network makes the Arboretum accessible and relevant to citizens across Nebraska.

Through many affiliate sites, along with a host of programs and membership benefits, the Arboretum aims to create successful gardeners and landscapers in Nebraska.

The GreatPlants® Program of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum makes



a variety of Nebraska-hardy trees, shrubs and other landscape plants available to consumers.

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum is a partnership between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Inc., a private nonprofit organization.

For more information, contact the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, P.O. Box 830715, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68583-0715, (402) 472-2971, jlocklear1@unl.edu, http://arboretum.unl.edu. 🗶



Representation of painting by Robin Smith. Panhandle Storm. 2007. Oil on canvas, 60"x30"

## Special Exhibits Feature Works of Keith Jacobshagen and Robin Smith

In celebration of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum's 30th Anniversary, a display "Journals of the Days: Jacobshagen Notebooks Tour Nebraska's Arboreta," will be presented at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center from February 1 to April 1, 2008.

During the conference, an artist's reception and Nebraska wine tasting will be held at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center featuring the work of Jacobshagen and artist Robin Smith. Smith is a longtime friend of Jacobshagen and fellow large format landscape painter.

The Jacobshagen exhibit, features 20 reproduced images from his field-study sketch books, including drawings, paintings and journal entries. The exhibit also features paintings from other private collections.

Jacobshagen lives in Lincoln and teaches painting at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. For 32 years, he has been painting Midwest landscapes and his work has been shown in galleries and museums throughout the United States and in 63 one-person exhibitions.

Loving what he calls the "minimal landscape" of Nebraska with its big sky and low horizon, Jacobshagen wants viewers to enter into his works and know the essence of that place where they live.

Robin Smith is an instructional design coordinator and part-time instructor at Chadron State College and has earned critical acclaim for his moving works. One of Smith's paintings is featured as the poster and conference program artwork for the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Conference. \*\*

# Pre-Conference Sessions Offer Gardening and Sandoz Archives

## Workshops for Minor and Master Gardeners

On Thursday, March 27, 2008, experts from the Nebraska ETV Network's popular "Backyard Farmer" program and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum will present sessions for gardeners on the High Plains.

Whether you are new to gardening or an old hand, these entertaining workshop sessions will be packed with useful information on everything from trees and turf to bugs and blossoms.

Both the "Backyard Farmer" and Arboretum staff are comprised of University of Nebraska Extension specialists and educators, and other professionals who specialize in horticulture, plant pathology, landscape design, turf, community programs and entomology.

In the afternoon, series host Kim Todd and other Backyard Farmer experts will hold a special question-and-answer panel session where they will suggest solutions to lawn and garden challenges. This session is free.

In its 54th season on the Nebraska ETV Network, "Backyard Farmer," a popular Nebraska-based yard and garden advice series, continues to offer great horticulture counsel.

Choose "Horticulture" pre-conference sessions on the registration form. Please note if you will be eating lunch with the group.

# Mari Sandoz Archives 101 Tour: Original Documents of Mari Sandoz

In the past, conference attendees enjoyed learning about the Mari Sandoz archives. Because of this interest, Ann Greenia, archivist for the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center, will lead a workshop demonstrating the tools and techniques of archival procedures at two separate times.

Participants will be able to view Mari Sandoz's original documents including manuscripts, short works, correspondence and research notes. Also featured in the collections are photographs and collections of "three-dimensional items," including her Native-American collection, the personal effects of her New York apartments, textiles, household goods, fine art and her infamous collection of hats.

Space is limited, so register early. Choose "Archive 101" pre-conference session on the registration form. Please note if you will be eating lunch with the group. \*\*

# Post-Conference Activities Offer Archive Tours

On Saturday morning, March 29, 2008, three exceptional tours will be offered for those interested in Mari Sandoz or the high plains' botanical natural history. Please mark your registration form if you are interested in attending one of these tours. Campus archive tours are scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

#### The Mari Sandoz Archives for Researchers

This workshop is a practical examination of the methodologies of research Mari Sandoz used and her extensive index-card catalog by Richard Voorhees, instructor of Sociology and Anthropology, Inver Hill Community College, Minn. Whether this is your first time researching Sandoz or you are in the middle of a project, Voorhees presents literary research methods through the work of historian Fred Morrow Fling, philosopher W.H. Werkmeister, and uses the Scott Greenwell Descriptive Guide to the Mari Sandoz Collection and examples from Sandoz's Cheyenne Autumn.

#### A Tour of the Herbarium and Claude Barr Archives

The Chadron State College Herbarium is the physical plant record of the flora of Western Nebraska and surrounding areas including the historic Sand Hills region.

The herbarium not only serves the scholars of botanical natural history but provides information of a practical nature for farmers, ranchers and agencies serving the environment of the region. In the last quarter of a century the Herbarium has grown to more than 42,200 specimens and three major archives. (Mari Sandoz's sister, Flora Sandoz, a trained botanist, added specimens to the collection.)

A tour of the archives will be lead by Ron Weedon, Ph.D., professor of botany at Chadron State College. If time permits, participants will also see the Pharmacognosy Collection.

#### A Tour of Mari Sandoz's Gravesite

At 8:30 a.m., a car processional will visit Mari's gravesite south of Gordon, weather permitting. \*\*



Photo courtesy of Mari Sandoz collection.

"In addition, he experimented with cherries and apples, and grew all kinds of small fruit between the trees to hold the sand and the snow. In recognition of his services, Jules's place was designated an experiment station and he was made a director of the eighth district." (From Old Jules: Portrait of a Pioneer by Mari Sandoz)

"...(he) kept up his search for crops that would withstand drouth and ripen before a frost. He planted a small orchard about his house—only a hundred plums and a hundred apples, all his credit would stand. Two plum trees he set to lean hard against the wall, as in his childhood home in Neuchâtel." (From Old Jules)



Photo courtesy of Mari Sandoz collection. *Mari Sandoz stands in her father's orchard.* 

#### Dear Friends,

Enclosed please find my 2007 Mari Sandoz Heritage Society membership contribution.

Mari and I met each other in 1953 and it was she who encouraged me to begin what has become a lifetime of writing Cheyenne history. Six volumes include: Sweet Medicine (two volumes) University of Oklahoma Press; People of the Sacred Mountain, Harper & Row (winner of the National Book Award in History, 1981); In Sin's Likeness and Power, University of Nebraska Press (two volume works).

Without Mari's encouragement and support, I would not have had the courage to begin. And her belief in my work continues to strengthen me more than a half century after our first correspondence.

So, I am delighted indeed at the accomplishments of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society.

God bless you endlessly and gloriously,
Father Peter J. Powell
St. Augustine's Center for the American Indian, Inc.

# New Archivist Hired at Sandoz Center

Ann Greenia began work as the archivist at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center in October 2007. As a graduate assistant for the Chadron State College Social Sciences and Justice Studies Departments, Ann was assigned to work at the Center with Susan Rolfsmeier, the former archivist.

"It was this experience that first opened my eyes to the canon of Mari Sandoz," Greenia said.

While working with the Sandoz Collection, she began writing her thesis, entitled "Mari Sandoz, Eleanor Hinman, and Helen Blish: Sage Hens of the Great Plains." It was completed in early 2007.

Since becoming the archivist at the Center, Greenia has attended professional archivist conferences and visited the Sandoz archives at University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"I have been overwhelmed by the welcome I have received from the Sandoz community," she said. "I look forward to continuing to learn and work with the collection as well as various individuals who are interested in Sandoz."

She will be processing the Caroline Sandoz Pifer Collection of Mari Sandoz Papers and assisting researchers as needed.

Contact Ann Greenia at 308-432-6401 or agreenia@csc.edu.

On Thursday, March 27, she will hold two workshops during the 2008 Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Conference. \*

The Mari Sandoz Heritage Center is located at Chadron State College, 1000 Main Street Chadron, NE 69337

Phone: 308-432-6401

Web site: www.csc.edu/sandoz



## Interns work to develop Center Offerings

During the 2007 fall semester, three interns worked to enhance and expand current projects at the Mari Sandoz Center as part of the endowed internship program. The internships are

made possible from endowments given to the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society.

Michelle Miller worked with Lucinda Mays, Chadron State College Garden Educator and Public Horticulturist, on



maintaining and improving the Heritage Gardens near the Center. Miller's duties included basic garden care and working with Mays to label and interpret the gardens for visitors. She was able to complete the installation of the Claude Barr garden and is currently working to put the finishing touches on the space.

Marlene Juett combined her internship experience with her Family and Consumer Science course to work on the "Between Fences" traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution. In addition to helping install and take down the exhibit, she created a companion exhibit to

enhance the Smithsonian display. Juett researched her topic, wrote all of the text, contacted lenders for artifacts not already in the collection and designed the correlating exhibit.

Matt Kuckkahn used his graphic design experience to re-design the "Circle Tour" maps. The Circle Tours were driving maps created in the 1970s to help visitors to the area lo-

cate places of interest within Northwest Nebraska.

Some readers may be familiar with the "Old Jules Country" tour on the Mari Sandoz Web site. Many of the busi-



nesses referred to on the maps are no longer in existence and other items on the maps need to be updated. Kuckkahn worked diligently to redraw the maps and prepare them for publication with the updated and expanded text.

There are three internship endowments through the Mari Sandoz
Heritage Society provided at Chadron
State College: The Mary Jane Barnes
Gottschalk Fund, the Don & Elenor
Green Endowment and the William
G. and Frances C. Lindeken Internship Fund.

Endowed interns must be current Chadron State College students and must register for at least two hours of internship credit. Interns and intern-

ships are overseen by the Center's director and the student's faculty adviser.

For more information about the endowed internships offered by the Center, please contact Sarah Polak at 308-432-6401 or at spolak@csc.edu. For information on how to create an endowment, contact

Jeanne Bishop, at 402-421-7736 or hjbishop@alltel.net. ★

# New Members Join Sandoz Heritage Society Board

#### Kimberli "Kim" Lee

Kim Lee is a visiting assistant professor in writing, rhetoric, and american cultures at Michigan State University. She is passionate about the works of Mari Sandoz and believes that Sandoz is the most fascinating person she has ever known. Lee wrote her Master's thesis on "Crazy Horse." Her Ph.D. dissertation was an edited collection of letters by Mari Sandoz that speaks to Sandoz's political activism on behalf of Northern Plains tribes.

"I've been interested in Mari Sandoz and her writings for quite some time, and I am especially interested in her 'Indian Writings,' and her advocacy of American Indian rights



and political self-determination," Lee said. "I see her work as an example of respectful and responsible non-Native scholarship about Native Americans that was rarely seen during the years she lived."

Lee has published several works on Sandoz and an online finding aide to the University of Nebraska's Mari Sandoz Collection.

Kim is presently editing a collection of Sandoz's letters from the 40s-60s as they pertain to the politics of American Indians.

She would like to see Mari's works better known not only in Nebraska, but nationally as well.

Additional areas of interest are Lakota studies and multiethnic literatures of North America, with a particular interest in American Indian rhetorics, nonfiction, and film.

Kim also has presented at numerous conferences including the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society conference.

In her spare time she enjoys beadwork, powwows, riding horses, photography, travel and rock hunting (catch and release).

#### Craig Larson

Growing up in Loomis, Nebr., Craig Larson developed a love for Sandoz and her works.

"Like most Nebraska kids, I was exposed to Mari at an early age," he said. "But, I became more familiar with the Sandoz family while in college."

While in a fraternity house in Kearney, he got to know cook, Allie and Gayle Sandoz the parents of Sandoz Society Board Member, David Sandoz. Allie Sandoz was a great nephew to Jules Sandoz.

Larson graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney with a degree in Radio & TV Broadcasting with a minor in Journalism. He later earned his Masters Degree in Public Relations and Communications from the University of Louisiana Lafayette.

As a career broadcaster, Larson worked for the Nebraska Rural Radio Association for the past 12 years, including as a program director at KRVN in Lexington and a



station manager at KTIC in West Point.

He recently moved to Scottsbluff for his new role as the station manager for radio station KNEB.

For the past 10 years, Larson has been in demand as a humorous/motivational speaker. He participates in storytelling events and has performed at conventions, banquets and at Nebraska and Kansas storytelling festivals. In October 2007, he was invited to perform at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tenn.

"I am very interested in Nebraska history," he said. "Also, as a storyteller, I understand the importance of keeping our heritage, our history and, of course, our stories alive."

Lasron enjoys writing, volunteer work and traveling. His Web site is www. funnystoryteller.com

#### Jeanne Bishop

Jeanne Bishop was born in Chadron, Nebr. and attended high school and Chadron State College there.

She met and married Bob Bishop while they were college students.

"Their family histories are firmly rooted in the Great Plains and reflected in the writings of Mari Sandoz," said Bishop.

In the 1970s, she worked for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as a publications editor, completed coursework for a bachelors and masters in Journalism, and later became the director of annual giving at the UNL Foundation. She also served as a fundraiser for Nebraska Wesleyan University and as the executive director of the Nebraska Historical Society.

In 1999, she was hired by Chadron State College to help establish the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center.

Grants and gifts from across the state and federal agencies raised more than \$4 million to construct, equip and endow the Sandoz Center with the Chicoine Atrium, the High Plains Hiking-Biking Trail and the campuswide High Plains Arboretum.

Bishop worked from 2004 through June 2007 as the Sandoz Society's part-time

director of development.

In that capacity, she completed the gift arrangements for the Pilster ranchland, establishment of the Society's more than \$1.2



million in endowments, and acquisition of grants for special projects, including funding for the Sandoz Center's archivist.

Jeanne and Bob are retired. They have a married son and daughter, four grandchildren and one step-grandson.

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## 2007 Mari Sandoz Society Board Members

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Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Membership Form

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