“All that you touch you change. All that you change changes you. The only lasting truth is change…”
— Octavia E. Butler

And so it is with me and with the Hubbell House Alliance and the Gutiérrez-Hubbell House History and Cultural Center. In July, facing some personal and family issues, four months shy of the end of my term of office, I requested that the HHA Board accept my resignation as Chair. I will remain on the board until the end of my board term in November 2017, and, until then, will continue to actively support the board and its programs and projects. I am thankful that Diane Reese has agreed to serve as interim Chair until November when board elections occur.

Cheril Raub, editor of La Bandera, has requested that I write my last Chair’s Column as a means of documenting the many achievements that have taken place in the last four years as well as to note some of the challenges that lie ahead. I am honored to do so.

HHA has been very active, so, without writing an incredibly long article, and since I typically use this space to report on achievements and activities, I’ll stick to what I feel are the major accomplishments of the board in collaboration and cooperation with Bernallilo County Open Space and with many community partners and volunteers.

- Completion of the Master Plan and reopening of the Museum with beautiful period furnishings and artifacts, hands-on displays and interpretative signage in the house and throughout the property, as well as the beautiful ramada and adobe walls
- Being added to the National Register of Historic Places
- Augmentation of the Traditional and Heritage Gardens
- Creation of GHHHCC website
- Rejuvenation of the docent program allowing GHH to open 5 days a week
What’s Growing in Those Fields?

The gardens of the GHH have been worked hard this summer, and the hours of sweat and toil of our farmers have rewarded all of us with great beauty and bounty.

The Center for Southwest Culture’s farmer, Lorenzo, has taken acres of gnarly Johnson grass and transformed them into lush beds of chile, corn, melons, peppers and more. You can enjoy the deliciousness - come by and check out his farm stand on weekends, or find him in the fields most any day. This is as fresh as it gets, folks!

Much of the harvest from the Heritage Orchard has been donated - to the Canossian sisters, the Women’s Recovery Academy and various non-profit organizations. We are developing a friendship with the pueblos of Isleta and Laguna and share food and knowledge. We have been blessed with help from the Youth Conservation Corps, Women’s Recovery Center and community. Come out and volunteer sometime - your help is always welcome, and the field volunteers always get to go home with a little plant or something they picked!

Grow beds are being prepared for wild flowers and winter vegetables. In addition, the orchard is undergoing a major mulching project, which includes layers of cardboard, hay-straw and wood chips. Composting is a major task in the fall when all the dried up plants need to be shredded and mixed with leaves and manure and other organic matter. Join us for a FREE composting workshop on Saturday, October 1, from 9:00am-12:00pm.

Do you have leaves in the fall that get bagged and set on the curb to be picked up by the waste management trucks? Or rotting bales of hay you would like to dispose of? Bring them to the Gutiérrez-Hubbell House. I will gladly utilize them to feed my compost pile.

And finally, Sunday, October 9, from 10:00am-3:00pm we will celebrate our local food - fabulous food trucks, gardening items, access to experts like the NMSU professors and extension agents, chef demos and music. There will be lots of kids activities this year – an awesome climbing wall, face painting, pony rides and a petting zoo - all for free!

Mick Gorospe

chop wood, carry water plant seeds, keep bees
Continued from page 1

- Hosting many elementary and mid-school field trips
- Reopening the Tiendita
- Installation of new engraved brick gallery
- Actively engaging partners
  - Bernalillo County Open Space
  - Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge
  - Hubbell Trading Post
  - National Parks Service, Historic Trails
  - Las Arañas Spinning & Weaving Guild
- Receiving PNM Grant of $5000 to enhance the public’s use of the property by adding picnic tables and benches, and
- As part of a concerted effort to bring more visitors to the GHHHCC, HHA has hosted a variety of events and activities: the Fall Food Festival, Chile & Chocolate, Holiday Open House, Backyard Farming Series and Historical Series, to name a few.

The HHA Board of Directors approved a five-year strategic plan that included these goals:

- Fulfill all requirements of HHA’s contract with Bernalillo County to manage the GHHHCC
- Expand educational opportunities for youth and adults
- Generate additional revenue
- Recruit and train volunteers
- Increase membership

The board has identified needed areas of development, including a major capital improvement project: a protective sound-barrier wall along Isleta Blvd; an extension of the house to its original footprint, allowing for the addition of a kitchen and storage space; and, most importantly, a large education and meeting space.

We also face many challenges. We have struggled to add inventory and capitalize on the opportunity to make money in the Tiendita. Most critically, we have been unable to afford to pay for staff, so there is an overreliance on volunteers to carry out major responsibilities. As a result, this coming year the board will be forced to cut back on its programs and activities. The board will seek ways to enhance revenues and restructure to ensure that we are able to meet our contractual obligations with Bernalillo County.

That said, the board and its partners share a deep love of and commitment to the GHHHCC and will continue to work together to ensure that it remains the jewel of the community.

“Dripping water hollows out stone, not through force but through persistence.”
— Ovid

HHA Docents Enjoy Tour
Flora Sánchez

On September 17-18, several HHA museum guides and friends joined a group of international students from the Netherlands for a tour of the Hubbell Trading Post, a National Historic Site in Ganado, Arizona and a visit to Canyon de Chelly.

The visit to the Hubbell Trading Post included a specially arranged guided tour of the house provided by Ranger Nicole and an exceptional session in the Rug Room by Maralyn. All agreed that this visit superseded our expectations. It provided a great chance to learn more about Juliana and Santiago Hubbell’s son, Juan Lorenzo, and to see how he and his family lived. Juan Lorenzo was held in high regard by the Navajo people, and we were able to see why.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Actively Seeking Board Members

We are looking for supporters of this beautiful historic gem to join the Hubbell House Alliance Board of Directors! We need to hear from you by Thursday, October 19. For more information call (505) 244-0507.

Annual Membership Meeting

November 19, 11:00am-12:00pm

Backyard Farming Classes

October 1, 9:00am-12:00pm
Composting Basics and Improvements
Learn about compost basics and turning garden and food waste into nutritious soil to improve your garden and landscape from the ground up. Come with your toughest questions!

November 5, 9:00am-12:00pm
Seed Saving and Seed Exchange
This workshop includes a discussion on heirloom, hybrid and genetically modified seeds.

Call for registration (505) 314-0398 or online www.bernco.gov/openspace

Community Cultural Gallery

Closes at the end of October

Opening Reception November 19, 10:00am-11:00am
“Folk Healing Traditions of New Mexico: Medicinal Plants of the Middle Rio Grande” Herbalists, Dianne Rand and Dara Saville. Curated by Katherine Cordova.

Holiday Open House

December 8, 6:00pm-8:30pm
Join us for posole and Christmas music provided by a string quartet.
Join us at the
Holiday Open House
December 8th
6:00pm–8:30pm

South Valley Bloomers
Our thanks go to the South Valley Bloomers Gardening Club who has again planted the beautiful flower pots that grace our portals with blooms all summer and fall. This year, their efforts were supported by a small grant from the Rio Grande Credit Union.
The Bloomers meet at member homes and local venues on the first Saturday of each month to hear talks about gardening and related topics from cooking to decorating with plants.
Contact Irene Chávez at avcihk@msn.com for more information.

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The visit to Canyon de Chelly began with an evening rim drive to enjoy an incredible sunset and view of the rising harvest moon over Spider Woman Rock, followed the next morning by a Navajo-led tour of the canyon floor. The tour offered the opportunity to experience the beautiful and spiritual valley and learn about the history and legends of the canyon with its magnificent and ancient cliff dwellings and mysterious pictographs and petroglyphs.

We thank Hubbell Trading Post Program Manager Kari Carlisle for helping to arrange the tour and Laura Montoya of UNM’s Getaway Adventures who coordinated and arranged the itinerary and served as group leader.

Interested in having an outdoor wedding?
Our natural Open Space land is perfect for your dream wedding or special event. Rich with history and beauty, our venue will fulfill your dreams and leave you with a lifetime of special memories. Our gorgeous landscape, including the natural beauty of our cottonwood trees, will make your ceremony or reception a magical event.
Contact: Lauren (505) 835-0011
www.justlovelyweddings.com

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