

# Grand Canyon Historical Society, Inc.

Promoting the study and preservation of Grand Canyon cultural and natural history.



## The Bulletin

Volume 19 Number 6

www.GrandCanyonHistory.org

November/December 2015

### Annual Board Meeting – December 6th

**Sunday, December 6, 2015, 10:30am - 3:00pm**, 255 E. Hutcheson Drive, Flagstaff, AZ. All members are welcome to attend; non-board members please RSVP to Wayne Ranney at: [wayneranney@earthlink.net](mailto:wayneranney@earthlink.net)

### Board Election Results

GCHS members have elected four new/continuing board members. They are: **Ron Brown**, **Beth Hickey** (2<sup>nd</sup> term), **Donelle Huffer**, and **Arnie Richards**. Congratulations!

Officers for 2016 will be announced in the next Bulletin after the upcoming December 6<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

Outgoing board members are **Karen Greig**, **Howard Asaki**, and **Carol Naille**. Thank you for your contributions to GCHS!

### Seeking Nominations for 2016 Pioneer Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2016 Grand Canyon Historical Society Pioneer Award. The Society wants to honor/recognize a living individual who has made a **significant contribution** to the **understanding of and knowledge about** the Grand Canyon of the Colorado.

The individual should have made a significant contribution in areas such as the natural sciences, photography, river running, backcountry hiking, history, Park Administration, art, etc. – any area that advances the knowledge of the Grand Canyon.

Past recipients of the Pioneer Award and their knowledge of the Grand Canyon can be found at the Grand Canyon Historical Society web site:

[www.grandcanyonhistory.org](http://www.grandcanyonhistory.org)

When submitting a nomination provide sufficient detail such that a non Grand Canyon enthusiast can judge those nominated:

- Does the individual nominated have a **significant understanding of and knowledge about** a specific area(s) of interest (see paragraph #2 above)?
- Is the individual nominated recognized as an "expert"?
- What credentials does the nominee have?

The Pioneer Award is presented to the individual at the Historical Society Annual picnic at the South Rim.

To make a nomination, submit the individual's name, their accomplishments, and/or contributions (submitted as an email attachment or surface mail) **by March 1, 2016** to:

Lee Albertson, Pioneer Award Chair  
12219 South 71<sup>st</sup> Street  
Tempe, Arizona 85284  
Phone: 480-838-2710  
email: [labertson2@cox.net](mailto:labertson2@cox.net)

### \*\*\*Annual Renewal Time\*\*\*

Membership is on an annual calendar year basis with dues payable on the 1st of January. **A Membership Renewal Notice is included with this Bulletin.**

Please return your renewal at your earliest convenience, or save a stamp and envelope by **renewing via PayPal** using the link at: [www.grandcanyonhistory.org/membership.html](http://www.grandcanyonhistory.org/membership.html).

New members who joined after 7/1/15 are paid up through December 2016.

### Desert View Outing

GCHS members gathered at the Desert View Watchtower Saturday, October 17th. Each present had at least a running familiarity with architect Mary Jane Coulter. Each of us had been to the iconic structure before. Starting outside with considerations of the site and setting, Ranger Adriann Partrick wrangled our tour for the next hour and a half. With her master's degree on the subject, she gamely fielded questions on everything from the shapes of the windows and grounding of the lightning rods to the fate of the owl chair? (It is in the great kiva room.)



**Desert View Watchtower** (Courtesy of NPS)

Philosophic considerations were also tendered and discussed. Most agreed that Mary Jane and Hopi artist Fred Kaboti were each extraordinarily talented people who fully embraced the Puebloan culture. How much of the Watchtower then is their 1930's public artistic rendition and how much is a "symbolism" or "prayer" to be altered or expunged? What ongoing changes should happen to the tower for special interest groups? What changes should Park Service interpretationists make? And how much should be "conserved unimpaired for future generations" just as it is, to be enjoyed and interpreted personally by each individual visitor? Would or should the Park Service put a fig leaf on a Michelangelo sculpture?



**Interior Hopi Art by Fred Kaboti** (Courtesy of NPS)

In the GCA bookstore cornered up in the Watchtower, several of us acquired a copy of the newly reprinted **Manual for Drivers and Guides Descriptive of the Indian Watchtower at Desert View and its Relation, Architecturally, to the Prehistoric Ruins of the Southwest** by Mary Jane Coulter. It is richly illustrated with wonderful photos, greatly enhancing ones understanding of all that makes the tower what it is. With scudding clouds along the rim that afternoon, canyon vistas opened and closed throughout our tour. Each corner, nook and cranny holds a personal touch, a story, a creative detail. We all left richer for the day.

*Submitted by Art Janssen*

### **A Murder At Grand Canyon?**

At a small ceremony last April, a gravestone was placed over a 91-year-old unmarked grave at the Grand Canyon Pioneer Cemetery. The person buried there was 29-year-old Elsie Reed

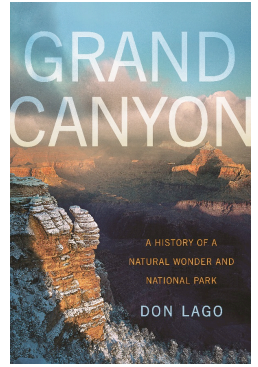
Elsie died of a gunshot wound on July 4, 1924. The death was judged a suicide, but there were no powder burns on her hands. Speculation these days holds that she was actually murdered by her jealous husband. What's more, Elsie may have been fooling around with Martin Buggeln. I wonder if Martin was haunted by that death for the rest of his life.

This information and much more will be in a book being written by Parker Anderson about the Grand Canyon Pioneer Cemetery. He has some interesting observations about the evolution of social mores about suicide and marital infidelity as well.

*Submitted by Keith Green*

## **New Grand Canyon History & December 4<sup>th</sup> First Friday Book Signing**

GCHS member and prolific O'Pioneer contributor Don Lago has produced a new Grand Canyon history, **Grand Canyon: A History of a Natural Wonder and National Park**. In this book, Don approaches Grand Canyon history from a unique perspective interweaving themes, such as geology in with tales of exploration. Other chapters cover Native Americans' long history at the canyon, exploiters, conservation, architecture, and more. It is concise, yet comprehensive, offering a "broader view of history, in which the prospector's shovel graduates into the artist's brush and the rafter's oars".



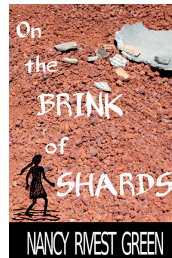
**Grand Canyon: A History of a Natural Wonder and National Park** is available in paperback or as an e-book. It can be ordered online via Amazon or from the University of Nevada Press by phone 800-621-2736 or online at [www.unpress.nevada.edu](http://www.unpress.nevada.edu). It is also available at many bookstores.

Don will be signing books at **Babbitt's Outfitters Store** in downtown Flagstaff for First Friday Art Walk on **December 4th, starting at 5 pm.**

### **More Member Book News**

Member Nancy Green's novel **On the Brink of Shards** was awarded SECOND PLACE in the [Arizona Authors Association's Published Fiction of the Year](http://www.arizonaauthors.org) contest. And

Nancy was awarded a slot in the prestigious [Tucson Festival of Books](http://www.tucsonfestivalofbooks.com), March 12 & 13, 2016. Nancy's book tour dates can be found at <http://nancyrivestgreen.com>.





# Grand Canyon Historical Society

## Membership Renewal

**PayPal option:** Renew and/or donate online at: [www.grandcanyonhistory.org/membership.html](http://www.grandcanyonhistory.org/membership.html)

**To pay by mail:** Please complete this form and prepare your check for the membership amount and any additional donation you wish to contribute. Mail your check and this form to:

**Grand Canyon Historical Society  
P.O. Box 31405  
Flagstaff AZ 86003-1405**

**Note:** If you became a new member after July 1, 2015 you are paid through December 2016. Otherwise, annual dues are payable each January.

- Renew my **MEMBERSHIP** .....\$ 25.00\*
- Donate to the **ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH FUND** to help a graduate student or researcher with expenses related to research of the Grand Canyon area ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Total enclosed to be used as indicated above ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* **US membership dues are \$25.00; Canadian membership dues are \$30.00.**

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Continue sending me a print copy of GCHS **The Bulletin**  
(If not checked, email is the default. **The Ol' Pioneer** will continue in print.)

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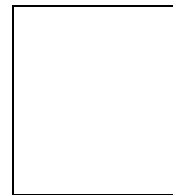
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11-15

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



### Submit Your Stories for *Ol' Pioneer*

The *Ol' Pioneer* is the Society's magazine featuring stories, photos, and letters of historical relevance to the Grand Canyon. Submit your stories, photos, etc to the editor, Mary Williams at:

**Mary Williams**  
4880 Weatherford Rd  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
Phone: 928-779-3377  
[info@marywilliamsdesign.com](mailto:info@marywilliamsdesign.com)

### Save the Date: History Symposium

November 4-6, 2016

Presentations Saturday Nov. 5

Mixer/Evening Program Fri. Nov 4

Outings/Tours Sunday Nov 6

**Outings/Programs:** If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **Outings Coordinator** Ellen Brennan at [ellen\\_brennan@nps.gov](mailto:ellen_brennan@nps.gov)

**The Bulletin** welcomes comments, stories, or reflections and remembrances.

Please send them to: [kgreig@yahoo.com](mailto:kgreig@yahoo.com)