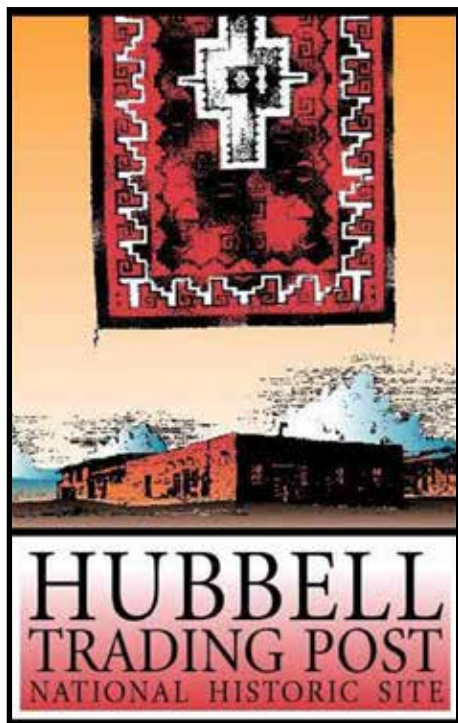


Friends of Hubbell Trading Post Newsletter

Issue No. 26 Winter 2025



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I would like to thank the artists, buyers, donors, traders and volunteers that championed Friends of Hubbell in 2024. We cannot express our appreciation of your support enough. Without each of you, we would not be able to fund the eighteen scholarships awarded last year. At each auction, several of the winners outlined what the scholarship meant to them and their academic endeavors.

Having said that, sales in 2024 were not at the levels achieved in previous years. To help address that challenge, we recently added online bidding to the auctions to reach a wider audience. This was done at the May and September auctions as well monthly online auctions that were listed on our website – www.friendsofhubbell.org and will be in 2025. If you are unable to attend an auction in person, this would be a good way for you to obtain quality Native American arts and support the goals of FoH.

We were also fortunate to have two large collections donated in 2024 with all of the proceeds going to the scholarship fund. If you, or someone you know has items or a collection they no longer need, please have them contact us – friendsofhubbellauction@gmail.com. We issue donation letters for sales generated by any donation that support an IRS deduction.

In 2025, our goal is to award even a higher number of scholarships. To achieve this, we will need the support of the buying community. Please put May 3rd and September 27th on your 2025 calendar so you can be in Gallup for the auctions.

Although we mention the scholarships we award with some regularity, we also do not want to lose sight of one of our other primary goals; the perpetuation of Native American arts. Through your support over three and a half million dollars has flowed back to the artists from auction sales. This has not only supported their living expenses, but encouraged new artists to hone their skills and enter items in the auctions.

Friends of Hubbell also stands ready to support the educational programs offered at the Trading Post. National Park Service representatives are invited to attend Board meetings to present their needs and a proposed budget.

We appreciate your support in the past and look forward to seeing you at a future auction either in person or online.

Patrick Blackwell
Chairman FoH



Patrick Blackwell
Chairman FoH



FRIENDS OF HUBBELL ANNOUNCES MONTHLY ONLINE RUG AUCTIONS

The Friends of Hubbell is planning to conduct monthly online rug auctions throughout 2025. The team, led by Hubbell Board Member Mary Walker and her Gallup business *Weaving in Beauty*, conducted online auctions in November and December 2024 and January 2025 with sales proceeds going directly to the Diné weavers. A small portion of returns went to Friends of Hubbell and our scholarships fund.

Online auctions in 2025 are slated to take place on the second Saturday of the month, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Mountain Time. Information on our upcoming online auctions, registration, viewing, and participation can be found on our website: www.friendsofhubbell.org and selecting the Online Auctions Menu tab. If you are in the Gallup area, bidders are also welcome to participate in person at Mary's shop located at 213 W. Coal Ave. in Gallup.

This past November, some 20 rugs were up for auction with 14 finding new homes with winning bidders. The weavers of the rugs sold received \$3,493 of the \$4,926 total sales. Friends of Hubbell netted \$971 that goes to support our operations and Native American Scholarships Program. The December online auction took place on December 23rd with weavers garnering some \$1,930 in profits. Overall, 12 rugs were sold at the December auction, with Friends of Hubbell earning \$845 for our Scholarships Program.



Verna Begay – Eye Dazzler 5'x8'



SPOTLIGHTING OUR FRIENDS OF HUBBELL 2024-2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS – PART 2

Editor's Note: Over the next several issues we will spotlight all 18 of our 2024-2025 scholarship recipients. FoH awarded almost \$50,000 in scholarships to deserving Native American college and graduate students.



Kristin Harrison - \$2,500 Friends of Hubbell Scholarship

Kristin originally hails from Farmington, NM, and is a member of the Navajo Nation. She attended and earned her associates degree of Applied Science for Physical Therapist Assistant at Pima

Medical Institute in Albuquerque. She has worked in the physical therapy field for the past 10 years, specifically in skilled nursing facilities. Taking actions to pursue her greater goals for herself and the Diné, Kristin recently earned her associates of arts degree in Psychology from San Juan College and is currently attending the University of Arizona, working toward graduating with a bachelor's degree in Psychology in the summer of 2025. She then plans to work to earn a master's of science degree in Psychology.

With her grandmother as inspiration, Kristin is working to better understand dementia and other neurological disorders. "I want to be able to identify the different behaviors and attempt to understand what my patients, including my grandmother, are feeling."

"In our Navajo tradition, it is common for the younger generation to help take care of our elders. With my experience, I not only get to help our elders increase their level of independence, but I also will have the opportunity to educate and train my own family members to aid and assist our grandmother and offer support to other members of the Diné caring for others suffering from neurological diseases."

Ariel Devine Freddie - \$2,500 Kai Family Foundation Scholarship

Raised in an extremely harsh home environment on the Navajo Reservation, Ariel experienced first-hand the devastating realities of drug and alcohol addiction, poverty, domestic abuse, high unemployment, and despair that destroyed so many lives around her, including her mother, father and uncle. Raised primarily by her grandmother, Ariel realized that her only way out of this horrible cycle of life was education. "I am immensely grateful for being raised, along with my sister, by my single grandmother. This is the sole reason for the person I am today."

Ariel is earning her nursing degree at the University of Arizona. "My pursuit in becoming a nurse stem from the vast need of healthcare workers on tribal reservations where there exist systemic healthcare disparities, including limited access to quality healthcare services, inadequate infrastructure, and healthcare workforce shortages."

Ariel hopes to pursue her goal of improving healthcare not only in her community and on the reservation, but in other areas that lack the necessary resources to adequately serve the people. "I can work to address the underlying social determinants of health and eliminate the barriers of access while advocating for my patients. With this scholarship, I can dedicate myself to my studies without the burden of financial worry, allowing me to immerse myself in learning and personal growth."



Megan Russell - \$2,500 Amy Nuernberg & Owen O'Fallon Scholarship

A senior accounting major at California Baptist University, Megan grew up with her siblings in Southern California. It was there she learned of the hardships and challenges her Diné grandmother

endured to help make a better life and provide greater opportunities for her children and now her grandchildren. This knowledge of her grandmother and how she was forced to leave her family and culture on the reservation and go away to boarding school inspired Megan to research more on her Diné family and how they worked hard to make a better life for their children. She also uncovered and gained a greater appreciation of her Diné family history.

"I am unsure of what I can do for Native community," she notes. "I feel like an outsider, and I lack my own experiences such as my Diné grandmother endured. Perhaps, I can help spread awareness to those around me and hopefully, influence others to learn more about their heritage, as I am now doing."

Megan wants to give back to the Native American community that has helped her through her college studies. "When I establish myself after completing my schooling, I do hope to donate to indigenous scholarships, or even fund others myself to help students like me."

Everett Thomas - \$2,500 Richard and Bonnie Else Scholarship

A member of the Navajo Nation from Montezuma Creek, UT, Everett is continuing his education at Utah State University with his ultimate educational goal to become a lawyer. "I am currently working toward my bachelor's degree in Sociology, with an emphasis on Criminal Justice, and minoring in Business. I am also studying for the LSATs, and looking to enroll, upon acceptance, into a good law school," he states.

Everett feels that the Native American justice system differs from other judicial systems in the United States and wants to use both his experience and education to uncover flaws within the judicial system, especially within the Navajo Nation. He believes that judicial prejudice and ethnic bias still exist. "The system is not perfect, which is why I choose to make my career path toward becoming an attorney and advocating for the Navajo communities of the Four Corners area."

And there are other issues he wants to address. "It is my dream to bring back the Navajo language and also bring our traditional customs into present day application." Additionally, he believes that both technology and other aspects of modern society poison the minds of Navajo youth and ignite and feed negative issues such as gang violence. This is a battle he wants to fight for his people.

"I hope that when I complete my bachelor's degree and move onto law school to earn my law degree, I will cultivate a professional image as a Native American lawyer. I will then pursue political stature with the goal of bringing my people along to achieve ethnic common ground."



Shawnewa Redwing Dahozy - \$2,500 Dr. Jim and Marcia Sherman Scholarship

Shawnewa is keenly aware of the Hopi translation of her name – 'woman who brings the sun.'

Pursuing a degree in Biomedical Sciences at Missouri State University, Shawnewa's professional goal is to become a pediatrician and returning to serve her people on the Navajo Nation. "I would like to return to the Navajo Nation and serve my community. I specifically would like to advocate for children and teens," she added.

She has had to overcome multiple barriers to attend and succeed in advancing her education. "I few barriers I've

experienced were no parental support, lack of mentors, and little to no funds to attend college. I would also like to encourage and support Native youth to attend college and help them apply."

Since arriving at Missouri State, Shawnewa has joined multiple clubs and societies and participates in study groups to help her navigate the tough curriculum and hone her time-management skills. "I refuse to become an unsuccessful Native American stereotype and my dream of becoming a college graduate will help break the cycle of poverty in my family and influence my cousins and brothers to attend college in the future. "When I return to my people to help them, I will fulfill the prophecy of my name – I will be Shawnewa, 'a woman who brings the sun.'"



Traivian Denetso - \$2,500 Friends of Hubbell Scholarship

Attending his senior year at Adams State University in Alamosa, CO, Traivian will complete his pursuit of his bachelor of science degree in Kinesiology in May of 2025. A four-year defensive starter

for the Adams State football team, Traivian wants to coach high school football on the Navajo reservation and has already begun networking with coaches on the reservation to get a head start on his coaching career after his graduation. He strongly believes that his experience and education at Adams State will provide the knowledge, comprehension and application to successfully tackle his career goal of becoming a coach.

"I want to begin my coaching career on the Navajo Nation and believe the experience of coaching on the reservation will give me a sense of pride and honor." Traivian did not go to school on the Navajo Nation, but his parents made sure that he spent summers and winter breaks there. "I want to help other Native American athletes succeed in college and serve as a role model for them."

"There are not very many Native American athletes that succeed in becoming successful college student-athletes. I firmly believe that if I can make it, so can they."

KILLER BLIZZARDS OF 1931 & 1932 WREAK HAVOC ON SOUTHWEST TRIBES

SERIES OF SNOW, WIND AND ICE STORMS TURN THE GREAT SOUTHWEST
INTO AN ARCTIC LANDSCAPE

By Tom Surface

Starting in mid-October of 1931 and continuing in rapid secession into late January 1932, snowstorms of “biblical” proportion hit the American Southwest, paralyzing residents throughout the region. The heavy snows crystallized, drifted over roads and trails, and froze solid, rendering routes to and from many of the reservations completely impassable for long periods.

Particularly hard hit were Native Americans living on the remote and sparsely populated vast expanses of their reservations. The Navajo, Zuni, Hopi and Utes, were stranded for weeks without food and with no way to save or feed their flocks of sheep, cattle and horses.

The first storm that hit the region in the third week of October caught the residents totally unprepared. Remember, all the modern forecasting tools and instant communications we enjoy today, did not exist in the 1930s. Reservation residents were caught unaware and not ready for the weeks of brutal condition that ensued. Drifts of more than 15 feet blocked the roads, cutting off the reservations and their trading posts from their fragile supply lifelines.

When the series of storms hit, herds of sheep (more than half a million head) and cattle were smothered and froze to death under mounds of drifting snow. Those that survived starved to death with their food source of grass and vegetation covered in ice and snow. Some Navajos even reported seeing starving crows fly into herds of sheep to pick out the eyes of sheep, even those that were alive. It also forced the wolf population in southern Utah down from the mountains to the lower expanses of Arizona to seek food by preying on the Indians’ livestock herds.

Stories of Survival

The Indian Agency at Keams Canyon, Arizona, reported that some Hopi men and women walked more than 25 miles into the trading post for non-perishable canned goods before supplies were exhausted. Then, they would turn right around and



trek back to their homes with their rations in packs on their backs.

Gladwell “Toney” Richardson, whose family ran several trading posts on the reservations, recounted a harrowing experience he survived during one of the storms. He was returning from a trip to get the mail from the post office at Redlake (Arizona) some 28 miles from his trading post at Inscription House near the Utah border. The roads were impassable, so he decided to walk. Some 11 miles into his trek, he injured his leg falling over a sharp ridge of ice and realized he was in real trouble. A storm was blowing in that afternoon, and he knew he was not going to get back. Cold and exhausted, he came upon an abandoned “travelers” hogan mostly buried in the snow. Richardson dug his way into the dilapidated structure. He was able to start a fire but was soon visited by a pack of - supposedly eradicated - hungry gray wolves. A wolf fell through the roof’s smoke hole and raced out the door. Later that night, several more wolves appeared on the roof, so he built a bigger fire to keep them at bay. When several finally broke through, the growling pack, teeth showing, were looking at him for their next meal. One wolf was injured and bleeding from the fall and the pack immediately pounced, ripping it apart for the fresh meat. Richardson seized the opportunity and climbed through the roof hole to escape. Sitting on top of the structure for the rest of the night in sub-zero

conditions, Richardson said he heard the crunching of teeth on bone for hours. The next morning, after the wolves had eaten two of their own and departed, Toney met up with a couple of Navajos who sent word to his Inscription House Trading Post that sent a horse for him to ride home.

Philip Johnston, the son of a reservation missionary, was on a hunting trip along the Mogollon Rim with a group of 14 Navajos. They were ill prepared for the storm. Johnston, who later became an Army Lt. Col. and was the catalyst behind the Navajo Code Talkers program during World War II, told his story a few years later to the *Los Angeles Times Magazine*. They were buried under the cascade of snow that fell overnight and woke up barely alive - quivering and shaking. None of them were dressed for brutal winter conditions. Some were practically nude – wearing only their traditional loincloths. Forty miles of snow lay between the campsite and their homes near the Little Colorado River. They had only five days of food that they soon consumed in two. The deer they were hunting had fled to the lower canyons and they survived for nine days on jackrabbits and wild piñon nuts dug from nests of wood rats.

Even the Black Mountain Navajos living near the Utah border - who had escaped round up and capture by Kit Carson's troops in the 1860s and still lived as government resisters - sent a runner to Fort Defiance, New Mexico, to seek help. Just surviving was becoming increasingly difficult as the days rolled on. A 1931 newsreel – "Indians Trapped in New Mexico Blizzard" – shows cowboys on horseback and horse drawn wagons south of Gallup forging through deep snowbanks. The video records them rescuing stranded Zunis and Navajos and recovering bodies near Thunder Mountain and taking them to the McKinley County Trading Post.

As the calendar turned to 1932, conditions did not improve. Temperatures plunged to 30 degrees below zero with continuous wicked winds. And the snows continued. In New Mexico, the Zuni Indians became increasingly angry, blaming the horrible storms on a decision of their elders to let Zuni dancers attend the Hopi rain dances in October. "Now some of our Zunis say this was too much of a slam at the inadequacy of our Zuni rain gods, so the latter brought about this storm to teach the Zunis a lesson," noted an article in *Christian Indian* magazine.

"Operation Bread" – The Army's First Supply Air Drop

A major catastrophe was taking place throughout Indian Country. Food supplies were exhausted, livestock starving and dead, and there was no end in sight to the brutal winter conditions. Chances of rescue and re-supply lessened each passing day. As hope waned, Commissioner of Indian Affairs C.J. Rhodes wangled food supplies and sent an urgent request for U.S. Army Air Corps support. On January 16, 1932, his request was answered with the deployment of six Curtiss B-2 Condor bombers from the 11th Bomber Squadron out of California's March Field to Barrigan Airport in Winslow, Arizona.

Unofficially dubbed "Operation Bread," the planes were dispatched over a four-day period, covering an operational area from 50 miles east of the Arizona-New Mexico border west to the Grand Canyon, and from the Utah border in the north to Holbrook, Arizona, along Route 66 to the south. The planes carried 1,000 pounds of supplies on each flight along with an Indian guide to serve as assistant navigator. The big bi-planes circled hogans and trading posts dropping bags of flour, dried fruit and beans, coffee, sugar, sow belly, salt and canned goods. Many drops were less than successful, either missing their targets badly or packages exploding on impact, scattering their contents over wide distances and rendering the supply useless. After the initial drops, the supply personnel adjusted the packaging to lessen the loss upon impact.

Still, the Indians did not know what to make of these monsters in the sky and the gifts they dropped. Some had never seen an airplane before, much less flying low-level and directly overhead. The lack





A Curtiss B-2 Condor, serial number 28-399, 11th Bombardment Squadron, in flight near Rockwell Field, San Diego, California. (U.S. Air Force)



At the lower left corner of this image, the shadow of a Curtiss B-2 Condor can be seen as it prepares to drop supplies at the Navajo reservation near Winslow, Arizona, 17 January 1932. (Davis-Monthan Aviation Field Register)

of communications on the reservations only made matters worse. Some thought it was a trick from the Great White Father in Washington and the food was poisoned. A few opted to continue to eat the remains of their frozen sheep. Still others wanted to know why there was no candy! The *Winslow Daily Mail* newspaper reported that the dropped provisions were usually left alone until one Indian, probably an elder, tiptoed out to inspect the packages. He would then wave back to the hogans, and the Indians would make a wild dash to the packages, hauling them back to their homes. Word quickly spread of “food from the sky” and residents began sending up smoke signals to direct the planes to their locations. After four days and 32 sorties, dropping some 15 tons of food over the reservations, the *Gallup Independent* declared the 11th Bomber Squadron “victors in their battle to push back the hoary hand of winter.” The Army Air Corps history records the event as, “an unique act of humanitarianism – machines designed to destroy an enemy, were saving Native Americans.”

But the Army’s “flying bread line” came toward the end of the long battle of winter survival, arriving too late to save many Indians and most of their treasured livestock. According to an article in *Arizona Highways* magazine, “Many thousands of sheep and other stock, staples of Navajo life, died from starvation. The effects of the Blizzards of 1931 and 1932 continued to ripple through the southwest Native American community for a very long time.”

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR INDIAN AFFAIRS – 200-YEAR-OLD

By Tom Surface

Indian Affairs is the oldest bureau of the United States Department of the Interior. Established some 200 years ago, this organization currently provides services (directly or through contracts, grants, or compacts) to approximately 2.5 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. Currently, there are 574 federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives in the United States.



Indian Affairs is comprised of two bureaus – The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) – and supports 12 regional offices across the nation. The Bureau of Indian Affairs is responsible for the administration and management of 55 million surface acres and 57 million acres of subsurface minerals estates held in trust by the United States for American Indian, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives. In addition, the Bureau of Indian Education oversees an education system consisting of 183 schools and dormitories educating approximately 46,000 elementary and secondary students and supports tribal colleges and universities and operates two post-secondary schools.



Laura Gachupin in September 2024 with a drawing of her from the 1970s

KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

At the September auction, Friends of Hubbell was fortunate to receive an extensive collection from the Gay Family from San Diego, California.

One of the items received was a pencil drawing of Laura Gachupin, a Jemez potter from many years ago. Several of the Friends of Hubbell team thought we should find Laura and give her this portrait created of her many years ago. With the assistance of Allan Miller of Andrea Fisher Gallery, we were able to unite Laura with a bit of her past.

Laura was elated to receive the drawing and share the excitement with her son and grandson.



Mrs. Gay poses with Laura and her pot, circa 1980s

MARTIN LINK, FRIENDS OF HUBBELL HONORARY TRUSTEE AND HISTORIAN, WALKS ON

By Tom Surface

Martin Link, a long-time fixture at Friends of Hubbell events and vigorous supporter of the Diné, walked on from this life on December 5, 2024. He was also an Honorary Trustee of the Friends of Hubbell.

A driving force in Gallup ceremonials and historic events, Mr. Link was an expert on New Mexico Route 66 history and was a renowned expert in Navajo culture and history. Mr. Link went on to publish multiple books on local and Native subjects and was the original owner/publisher of the monthly Indian Trader newspaper that was distributed internationally and throughout the United States for more than 50 years.

While serving as the first director of the Navajo Nation Museum, Mr. Link was a strong advocate of the Navajo Code Talkers Association and was made an honorary Code Talker by the Association. He was also an ardent promoter of the Diné culture, arts and crafts. He fought hard to make Fort Wingate, New Mexico, a National Historic Place. It served as the collection and departure point of the Code Talkers in World War II and played significant roles in American history from the Indian Wars through World War II and Vietnam.

According to long-time friend and colleague Patrick Moore, "Martin had a great sense of history of this area. He had a good memory of Gallup and early New Mexico. As an historian and as a collector, he was very influential in preserving the history of Gallup and the artwork and development of Native American artists."

Martin Link will be sorely missed by the Friends of Hubbell, but we thank him for his years of support to our mission and for all his contributions to the history of New Mexico and to his advocacy for Native American culture and art.



Martin at the FoH Board Meeting, May 2024

ABOUT FRIENDS OF HUBBELL TRADING POST

As a federally recognized non-profit organization incorporated in 1990 [Arizona reg.# 02261435], the Friends of Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site, Inc. contributes to the management objectives of the National Park Service at Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site. Related goals include revitalizing Native American arts and crafts, perpetuating John Lorenzo Hubbell's legacy, providing college scholarships to Native American students, and increasing public awareness of the Park. We invite you to assist us in these efforts by becoming a member. More information can be found on our on the Friends of Hubbell website.

"Everything that is good; the concepts in Navajo of beauty, perfection, harmony, goodness, normality, success, well-being, blessedness, order, and ideal."

Handbook of North American Indians Vol. 10 Southwest, Gary Witherspoon, Language and Reality in Navajo World View.

Mark your calendar for the **Saturday May 3, 2025 Auction in Gallup**

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Please visit our Facebook page where we will share more about artists, events, and happenings about Friends of Hubbell. We encourage you to visit the page and contribute images and articles about the wonderful art of weavings, pottery, carvings, and much, much more.

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Again, thank you for your support.
We could not do this without you.

