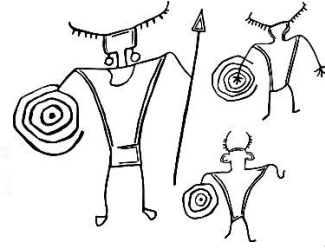


# VESTIGES



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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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## From the Prez

Diana Acerson

As the symposium gets closer, we hope you have the dates on your calendar and have booked your hotels, campgrounds, etc. Again, the workshops are on Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup>, Field Trips will take place on Friday and Monday, the presentations Saturday and Sunday. We anticipate great speakers, presentations, and activities for you during the five days. Registration for the events will open August 15<sup>th</sup>, so get that date on your Calendar as well. If you would like to give a presentation at this year’s symposium, please contact Dennis DeVore, [ddv48@mac.com](mailto:ddv48@mac.com) before July 1<sup>st</sup>. Details on p. 3.

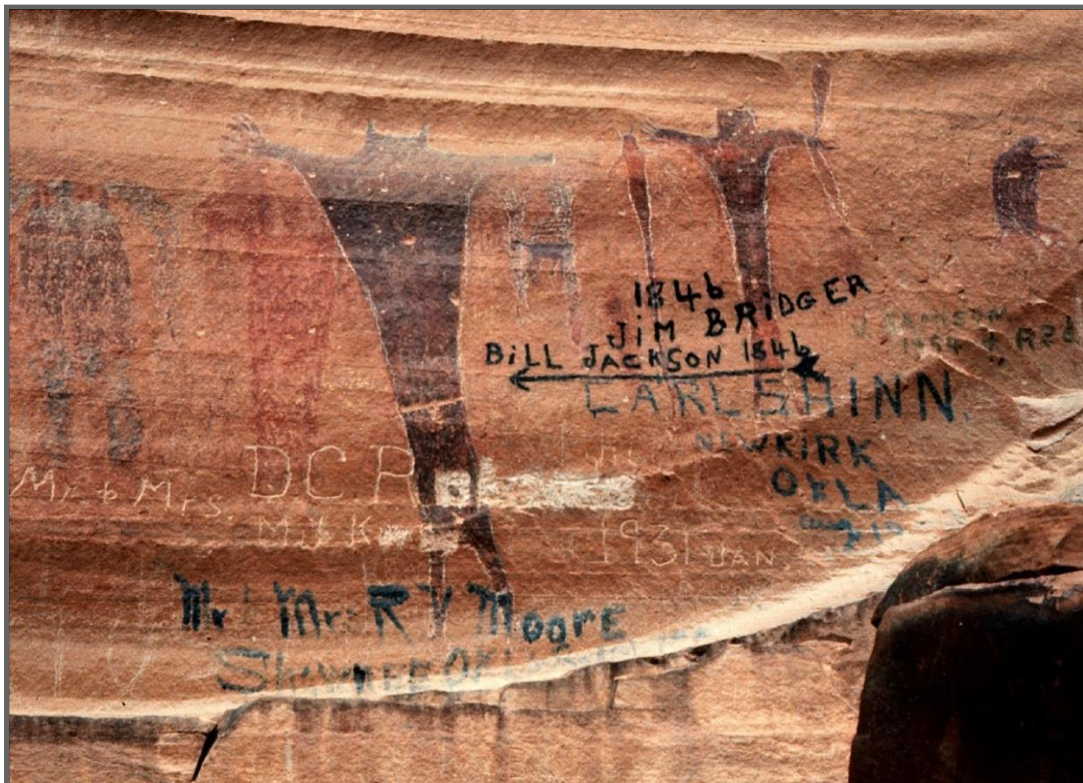
**Vandalism** – As you all should be aware, there has been a lot of news coverage by the National Park Service, and emails, about a couple being caught vandalizing a culture site in Canyonlands National Park. I would like to take this opportunity to again encourage everyone to help stop vandalism of rock art and other cultural resources, which are unique and fragile parts of our nation’s heritage.

There is a simple thing you can do - Share with your friends and family how to behave at cultural sites to protect them. And especially share why protecting rock art sites is so important:

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- “ Thank you for not touching rock imagery at any time, or applying **any** substance or material, do not enhance or clean rock art surfaces, or use water. Oil from your hands and other substances and materials can all cause permanent damage.
- “ Please do not camp or build fires near a rock art site. The rock surfaces and other cultural resources can be severely damaged or destroyed by negligent camping practices.
- “ Thank you for keeping pets on a leash. Please clean up after them. Animals unintentionally can destroy or damage archeological sites, including rock art sites, by digging, urinating, and defecating on them.
- “ Please do not disturb or collect artifacts or features at rock art sites. Take photos to your hearts content. Appreciate and feel the spirit of the sites, but leave everything in place.
- “ Refrain from disturbing soil to expose subsurface rock art or archeology, do not cut vegetation, move boulders, or participate in disruptive activities or behaviors that may cause damage to sites or loss of the story associated with the site.
- “ Minimize the number of vehicles going to a site. For your own safety as well the preservation of the petroglyphs and pictographs, stay on existing roads and trails. Avoid driving on rocks, vegetation, or microbiotic soil crusts.
- “ Report new rock art destruction, graffiti, or activity near the site, or site vandalism to the land managers and/or local law enforcement.
- “ **It’s important to respect the sacredness of these sites, still very much recognized and visited by todays Native People.”**

✂-----



*Buckhorn Wash site*

## Symposium Call for Papers

Dennis DeVore, Speaker Coordinator

The symposium committee is seeking speakers for the 2024 URARA symposium to be held October 11-14 in Beaver, Utah. The presentations will be on Saturday October 12th and Sunday October 13th. Speakers will receive free symposium registration and an expense reimbursement allowance.

Proposals should have a title and brief abstract of the topic. A wide range of ideas and subjects are acceptable provided they relate to rock art in Utah and the western states.

The deadline for proposals is July 1, 2024. Please email Dennis DeVore at [ddv48@mac.com](mailto:ddv48@mac.com) or send to 353 Dakota Circle, Grand Junction, CO 81507.

## Conservation and Preservation Report

Troy Scotter

We have been working on the San Rafael Swell Travel Management Plan for the past year. You can read our public comments on the first draft [here](#). As part of our work on this travel management plan we have been walking a lot of the proposed roads in the area and redocumenting nearby sites with our new Survey123 app. This gives us a much better record of sites and the ability to provide substantive comments on whether routes/roads really exist and implications on nearby sites. In addition to those comments we had sixteen pages of site specific private comments that we sent to the BLM. We appreciate the work of Jonathan Bailey on those private comments. We have now entered the second round of travel management proposals and comments. SUWA sued the BLM over the first round proposal and won that case which removed a lot of proposed roads in the area. We've reviewed the new proposals and none of them exactly meet our "perfect" outcome. We will respond with our preferred alternative and provide detailed comments on the other alternatives in case they are chosen. New travel management plans keep popping up so if you have concerns about one in your area please let [Kent Williams](#) know.

The new Survey123 app we are using to improve our documentation of sites has been really useful. URARA has an earlier database of sites that we call our "red dots" that give a location reference, but we don't really know what is there. In addition to actual sites, we have found that some of our red dots are parking locations or important route locations (for example "get through the rim rock here"). Now we have much more information including photos of the site. This has already proved useful. There was vandalism at the "Big Snake" site on the Moore Cutoff road recently. Because we used the Survey123 app there last fall we were able to provide recent photos of the panel prior to the vandalism.

Our main purpose in developing the Survey123 app was to provide sufficient information to land management agencies that they would be willing to officially recognize the site within their records with what is known as a Smithsonian Trinomial. We've had discussions with the BLM about this process. Initially we were told that the BLM only had the capability to accept 30 sites per year. That was frustrating to us since last year, during our testing phase, we had recorded over 300 sites. So, it would take BLM 10 years to deal with the few sites we recorded during our initial testing. Fortunately, we got a "let us do some more thinking about this" note from the BLM when we said we would back out of the program. Right now, all of the state BLM archeology positions are in flux so we are waiting until everyone moves into their new positions before we re-open discussions.

A few weeks ago, the BLM Price Field Office sponsored a photogrammetry workshop and invited several URARA members to participate. Their hope is to be able to get high resolution photos of prominent sites within the field office to assist with identification of vandalism. If you have interest or skill in photogrammetry let [Kent](#) know.

The Utah site stewardship program is discussing the possibility of using URARA site stewards along with professional archeologists to document sites. That would be a wonderful thing for the sites and for our site steward members.

## Needles District Vandalism

The National Park Service experienced vandalism in the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park at Cave Springs Cowboy Camp on March 23, 2024. Pictures of the people involved were taken by a remote camera. The Parks Service is seeking assistance in identifying the people involved. Pictures are below. If you happen to know these people or may have been in the area and saw anything that might assist the NPS they would appreciate your help.



Tips can be anonymous:

- Call or text the National Park Service-wide Tip Line 888-653-0009
- Online, go to <https://www.nps.gov/SubmitATip>
- [Email us](#)

Images obtained from NPS trail camera video March 23, 2024

# Outdoor Safety

April Gray, M.D.



## Snakebite



Utah has seven venomous snakes: sidewinder, speckled rattlesnake, Mojave rattlesnake, Western Rattlesnake, Hopi rattlesnake, midget-faded rattlesnake, and the Great Basin rattlesnake.

Colorado has three venomous snakes: the western massasauga rattlesnake, the midget faded rattlesnake and the prairie rattlesnake. Coral snakes (in the Cobra family) are not reported from Utah and Colorado, but are endemic to our neighboring states to the south.

Identifying a snake in the grass can be quite difficult. If you can see its head, the rattlesnake has a triangular head and distinct vertical pupils or slitted eyes. Rattlesnakes are “pit vipers” having a depression containing infrared heat sensors, below and back of the eye. They also have rattles on the tail although they may lose these periodically.

No matter the size of a venomous snake it still may have enough venom to cause significant problems. Even a dead snake may envenomate a person. So, if someone in your group gets bitten, stay calm. Not all bites result in significant envenomation.

### Signs and Symptoms:

There may be 1-3 puncture wounds. There will be local burning pain immediately after the bite, and swelling at the site of the bite which usually occurs in 5-20 minutes. It will spread slowly over 6-12 hours. The faster the swelling the worse the envenomation. There will be bruising and blister formation at the bite site. There may be twitching of the muscles around the eyes and mouth. Also, numbness and tingling of the lips and face in 10-60 minutes after the bite.

### Treatment:

Rinse the area around the bite site and cover with a sterile dressing. Remove any rings, jewelry, or watches. The definitive treatment is antivenom. If you have cell service you should contact the nearest hospital to find where the nearest antivenom is located. The antivenom is in short supply so many hospitals do not have it. If you are in a remote area, I would recommend helicopter evacuation. The Sawyer extractor pump is not recommended. If you use it, it must be applied within 3 minutes and in place for 30 minutes.

### Prevention:

When hiking, high topped boots and long pants offer protection. If you are hiking in high grass, you may want snake-proof gaiters. Be cautious when reaching into crevices or climbing over ledges, as rock-arters tend to do. Most snake bites actually occur when a person is harassing the snake.

# Shovel Bums Complete Spring Stewardship

**John McHugh**

The “Shovel Bums” at Blessed Sacrament School Archaeology Club in Sandy, Utah have completed their spring, stewardship field season. Students had Archaeology Club class every Tuesday, learning something new and interesting about Native American culture, especially as it relates to rock art. Then, on Fridays, they stewarded rock art in the Lake Mountain region of Utah Lake.



**5<sup>th</sup> grade “Shovel Bum,” Caleb Corcoran, completes a complicated rock art image during Archaeology Club.**

One of the most intriguing topics during class time has been the shift from a hunter-gatherer lifestyle to an agricultural one. What would it be like if, during their seasonal round, nomadic hunter-foragers encountered groups who had adopted agriculture and envisioned the land to be “theirs”? Many Shovel Bums noted that “warfare” does not appear to be a subject depicted in Archaic Barrier Canyon Style rock art, but is present after the adoption of agriculture. Does this mean that aggression and the concept of land ownership go hand in hand? So many ideas to explore!

**Shovel Bums (continued)**

This year's Shovel Bums have displayed the greatest age-span since the Club's existence. Six 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have partaken in Archaeology Club, shown great interest, paid terrific attention, and done a great job.



**In an effort to hunt like a Paleoindian, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Shovel Bums prepare to throw atlatl spears under the tutelage of 8<sup>th</sup> grader, Chris Sasa.**

On May 10<sup>th</sup> KUER reporter Tilda Wilson joined the Shovel Bums on a stewardship mission. She learned a great deal from them about American Indian rock art at Lake Mountain, and interviewed several of the Shovel Bums. Tilda's online article is linked below.

<https://www.kuer.org/education/2024-05-14/these-junior-archeologists-are-keeping-tabs-on-utah-lakes-bounty-of-ancient-rock-art>

This month's "Shovel Bums Spotlight" highlights 8<sup>th</sup> grader, Chris Sasa. Chris has been in Archaeology Club for two years and has been on almost every field trip. He has a deep interest in Native American culture and especially loves to interpret the meaning of the images pecked and painted on the cliffs of the American West. He is kind and patient with the younger Shovel Bums, lovingly showing them how to hold their atlatls, complete a craft project, or fill out the IMACS Rock Art Attachment forms. He had a great time documenting and surveying rock art with BLM archaeologist David Christensen in October 2023, and looks forward to doing it again this autumn.

# Peekaboo-Indian Creek Trip Report

Robert VanOrden

Eighteen enthusiastic rock art lovers gathered together at the campsite which Margo kindly reserved for us. Then it promptly rained, with huge night-to-day flashes of lightning. Some folks were spotted snuggling together (allegedly to stay warm, lol). The next day, by a stroke of genius, we agreed to start an hour late to avoid the rain. It never rains on Rob's party, so the Peekaboo group stayed dry. Margo's Indian Creek group had less luck.

The 5.4 mile Peekaboo hike was beautiful beyond all description!!! We did plenty of botanizing along the way. All went well until Rob forgot the location of the Flying Carpet Panel, lol! After a few minutes of panic, he remembered to use his GPS App.

Day two. URARA Field Trips only go to places we have been to before. So, don't tell anyone that we made an expedition to the 13-Faces (actually 10) Panel. Then the 9-Faces Panel. While some folks visited the White Bird Panel, others visited the 5-Faces Panel.

We chased rock art for ten hours a day, with no complaints. As always, it was an absolute joy to spend time with old and new friends!





# Close-up Photogrammetry Workshop

**Bob Crifasi**

In May, several URARA members were fortunate to attend a field workshop sponsored by archaeologist Natalie Fewings of the BLM Price Field Office to learn close-range photogrammetry recording techniques for rock art. Kent Williams served as the liaison between URARA and BLM to help make this happen.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with photogrammetry, it is a process that uses multiple overlapping photographs to obtain precise mathematical measurements and three-dimensional (3D) data on varied subjects such as the earth's surface, sculptures, and rock art.

Perhaps the best-known photogrammetry product is all those handy topo maps that the USGS made back in the 20th Century. To create those, government surveyors attached cameras to the underbellies of aircraft. They then flew the planes in grid-like, sometimes called lawn mower, patterns over the landscape to capture overlapping images of the ground. Then, using stereoscopic equipment, cartography technicians drew the popular topo sheets that so many of us have used over the years.

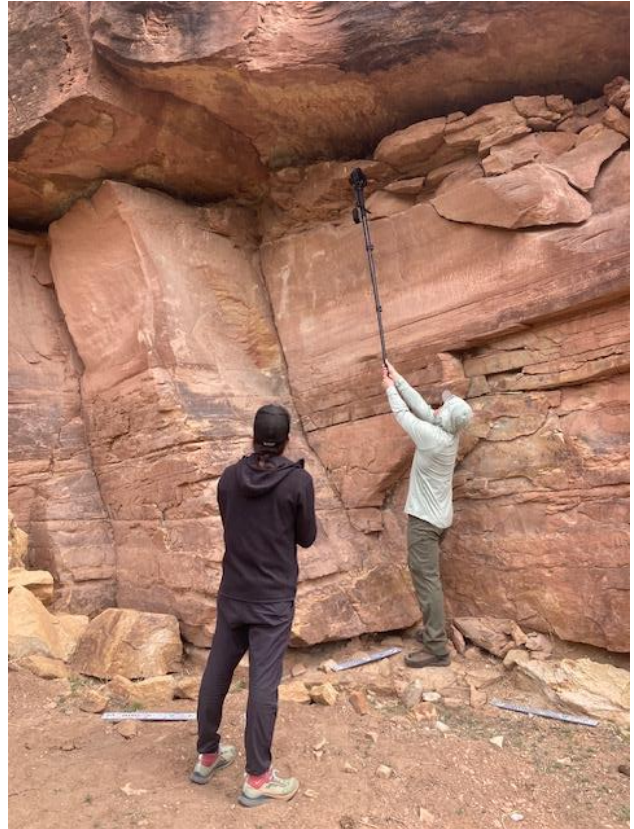
With the advent of digital photography, high-speed computers, and very sophisticated software, archaeologists have started making computer "models" of rock art panels that allow us to visualize sites in three dimensions. These site models also enable folks to create 3D maps of rock surfaces and perform enhancements to better see hard-to-discern petroglyphs. Once someone records a rock art site using photogrammetry, a future survey allows quantitative calculations of change resulting from events like rock falls, erosion, and vandalism. The BLM has posted some examples of these 3D models from various sites in the west at <https://sketchfab.com/oc534>.

Natalie Fewings reached out to Kent Williams to include a small number URARA members in the workshop that was held in Nine Mile Canyon on May 14 through 16. Kent, Diana and Steve Acerson, and I joined several BLM staff to learn the field techniques for collecting photogrammetric data. Leading the workshop were Mark Gapinski and Chris Harris of BLM's National Operations Center Photogrammetry Group. Natalie's ultimate goal is to create a comprehensive rock art site database for detailed site recording, to assist with BLM's law enforcement efforts, and to improve site preservation.

While in the field, we captured hundreds of overlapping photographs at several Nine Mile Canyon sites. These photos allowed the BLM folks to produce the first-ever 3D site models in Nine Mile Canyon for the Owl, Big Buffalo, Pregnant Buffalo, Family Scene, and several sites at the mouth of Daddy Canyon.

If the BLM deems the results successful, we can look forward to the possibility of the BLM offering more workshops to larger groups in the coming years.

Photos by Diana Acerson



## Native Tribes Near Beaver, Utah

### Utah.com via Steve Acerson

#### **Newe | Goshute, Western Utah**

Under the blue sky of the west desert in the Great Basin, the Newe paid close attention to the changing seasons. To survive in one of the most arid places on the continent took skill and ancestral knowledge. They knew how to collect tiny seeds from grasses, catch crickets and chase pronghorns through desolate valleys. When the rabbit brush turned yellow in the early fall, it was time to harvest pine nuts. Families met up for a few weeks to collect the buttery seeds from pinyon trees. They were then processed with hot coals and winnowing baskets until finally ground into meal.

Adoption of the horse wasn't possible for the Goshute. If horses ate their grass seeds, the Goshute would starve. This became a problem anyway when white settlers brought horses and cattle into their territory in 1855. They had little contact with non-natives until this point as their lands were considered uninhabitable. But slowly ranchers and farmers took what little water there was. Fighting broke out and the Goshutes paid dearly with their lives and their traditional way of life. The U.S. government tried forcing them onto the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, but the Goshute refused. Eventually, the Confederated Band of Goshutes reservation was established in 1912 near the Deep Creek mountains, along with the Skull Valley Reservation near Tooele.

The Goshute host an intertribal Powwow every August in Ibapah, near the border of Nevada.

#### **Nuwivi | Southern Paiute, Southwestern Utah**

The Paiute people, or "water Ute" lived along the Virgin and Santa Clara rivers of southwestern Utah. They were expert gatherers of bitterroot, berries, and, of course, yucca – the everything plant. Nearly every part of the yucca was used. Its heart was roasted and eaten like a cabbage. The root was mashed and used for soap. Its sharp leaves were split and rolled into cordage. The cordage was used for tying willow poles together for winter homes. Yucca was woven into baskets, although red willow was the preferred material. Storage baskets made it possible for them to spend summer in the cool high country collecting berries and pinyon nuts, then returning to the canyons for winter.

By the 1800s life was hard. As one of the last tribes in Utah to acquire horses, the vulnerable Paiutes were terrorized by raiding bands of Ute and Navajo. They had been farming corn and squash in the river bottoms for centuries, but when white settlers came for the water, the Paiutes began to lose their ancestral lands. With no government assistance or land of their own they were completely disenfranchised by the 1950s.

After many years of not being recognized as a tribe by the federal government, they finally had some of their land restored to them in 1980. The annual Restoration Gathering and Powwow celebrates the return of their rights and the unification of the Shivwits, Koosharam, Kanosh, Indian Peaks and Cedar bands into the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah.



Photo: Steve Acerson

# Lunar Major Standstill

**Ben Everitt**

For you archaeoastronomers, this year the moon is in its once-in-18-years major standstill. If you are out watching the sun's solstice apparition, don't forget to check the moon also. On June 21, the full moon rises about as far south as it ever gets. Two weeks later, the new moon, if you can catch it at twilight, sets as far north as it ever gets, with the crescent tilted north, horns pointed away from the sun. Evidence at both Chimney Rock and Parowan Gap suggests that native Americans have been watching the perambulations of the moon as well as the sun. There's a good discussion in the University of Massachusetts astronomy page:

<https://www.umass.edu/sunwheel/pages/moonteaching.html>

## Calendar and URARA Events

June 21-22	URARA Summer Solstice field trip Vernal Utah
July 18	URARA Quarterly Board mtg, Zoom, 6:30 MDT
August 8-11	URARA Summer Picnic, Westwater
October 10-14	URARA Symposium, Beaver

URARA symposia and field trips are available to members only. All members receive an email notification when a field trip opens for registration. Notifications go out between 45 and 14 days before a trip. You can register for a field trip when you get the notification. If a trip is full when you try to register, your name is added to a wait list. You will get another notification if and when someone drops out and you can be added to the trip.

American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) is hosting on-line events. Free access is granted to URARA members. Registration at: <https://arara.wildapricot.org/Lectures>

Desert Archaeological Society (DAS), St George, meets on the second Wednesday of the month, Saturday field trips once a month.

San Diego Rock Art Association (SDRAA) meets on line until further notice.  
<https://sandiegorockart.org/meetings>

Colorado Rock Art Association (CRAA) will continue to present occasional webinars on Zoom  
<https://coloradorockart.org/>

Utah Humanities Public Events, <https://utahhumanities.org/index.php> > What we do > Public Events

## URARA Board and Officers

Utah Rock Art Research Association: Box 511324, Salt Lake City, UT 84151-1324.

[www.utahrockart.org](http://www.utahrockart.org) . Contact information - [utahrockartresearchassoc@gmail.com](mailto:utahrockartresearchassoc@gmail.com)

### 2024 URARA Board and Officers

President	Diana Acerson
Vice President	Pat Sullivan
Treasurer	Carol Duecker
Secretary	Roger Cook
	John McHugh
	Rick Matthews
	Kent Williams
	Keith Fessenden
	Tina Tan

### Committee Chairs and Appointees

Archives/Historian	Keith Fessenden
Conservation/Preservation	Kent Williams
Documentation/Research	Darlene Koerner
Education	John McHugh
Field Trips	Steve Acerson
Funding/Grants Manager	Pat Sullivan
Membership Coordinator	Deb Mitchell
Publications Editor	Dennis DeVore
Vestiges Editor	Ben Everitt
Volunteer Coordinator	Susan McDowell
Website	Troy Scotter

### URARA Conservation Coordinators

<u>BLM District</u>	<u>Field Office</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
Coordinator Lead		Kent Williams
Canyon Country	Moab	Pam & Quent Baker
Canyon Country	Monticello	Werner Duecker, Carol Duecker
Paria River	Kanab	Jeff Frey
Color Country	Cedar City	Diana Acerson
Color Country	St. George	Nina Bowen
Color Country	Richfield	Jeff Roberts
Green River	Vernal	Tim Sweeney, Darlene Koerner
Green River	Price	Layne Miller
West Desert	Fillmore	Steve Acerson
West Desert	Salt Lake	Don & Adele Leavitt