



ISSUE #33

MARCH 2000

GALISTEO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CHOOSES NEW OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: **JOETTE TROFIMUK**
VICE PRESIDENT: **BARBARA HOLLOWAY**
SECRETARY: **BARBARA COOPER**
TREASURER: **SUZI CALHOUN**
BOARD MEMBERS (one more year to serve):
MELA MONTOYA, FLORENCE SOHN
RICHARD SHUFF
NEW BOARD MEMBERS:
JANICE FELTY, VICKI SNYDER
ALTERNATE: **WENDY MONROE**

EL PUENTE is late this month because we waited to cover the annual meeting. It will appear at the end of each month through June, resuming a normal mid-month schedule in September.

GALISTEO MUTUAL DOMESTIC WATER CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION

MEETING: MARCH 29, Community Center, 7 PM. All members of the association (those with hookups) are urged to attend; if there is no quorum, nothing can be decided.

MEET LIZ STEFANICS. Discussion, refreshments with our candidate for state senator. Sunday, April 9, 1:30-3:00 pm at the Community Center.

Below: **PAYING ATTENTION:** Left to right: Barbara Holloway, Jean Moya, Maria Padilla, Valentine Riddell, Vernon Wilson, Harmony Hammond, Rod Hall and Chris Griscom at annual meeting. (Photo: Richard Shuff)



TURNOUT GOOD AT ANNUAL MEETING

Some fifty community members turned out for the annual meeting and elections at the Community Center on March 15, headed by Acting President **Wendy Monroe**. An innovative format was planned by GCA Board Secretary **Barbara Cooper**, who invited a number of people living in Galisteo to talk about what they did in and/or for the village.

The five-minute presentations ranged from the practical (Steve Moya on the Galisteo Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department) to the esoteric (Bobbi Foshay-Miller on SITE Santa Fe), demonstrating the breadth of people and interests here in Galisteo.

First, new residents introduced themselves. Then it was announced that there had been requests for the minutes of the monthly GCA Board meetings to be distributed in all mailboxes again. They are edited for coverage in EL PUENTE, but the originals might be picked up from the GCA mailbox. In the meantime, call Barbara Cooper for a copy.

Treasurer **Suzi Calhoun** offered the good news that the fund-raising letters have already garnered over \$3,000. She also made a plea for participation, observing that we all want the village to stay "quaint" and not turn into "Eldorado South." The speeding car problem will be exacerbated by the newly paved County Road 42 (now Camino los Abuelos).

Florence Sohn, who heads the Archives Committee, said that the cabinets and locks were completed and we are now ready to receive material – photos, documents, books, tapes. Hours and procedures for opening the Archives to community members are still being figured out, but they will, of course, be accessible to everyone.

A request for a local coffee hangout was met with approval. Maybe Saturday and Sunday mornings, at the Community Center?

The first presentation was by **Linda Rice** (with little daughter **Grace** commenting from the audience). She plans a children's art project (See EL PUENTE last month) that might be shown at the Community Center in conjunction with the October Studio Tour (which, by the way, is being updated next fall by the long-time organizers). She needs "good junk" and paints, paper etc., maybe for big insects/marionettes, but new ideas and help are welcome.

Munson Hunt talked about the kids' clay class, which is on hold this month while the artworks are fired and glazed. She will probably continue in a different medium and might join forces with Linda. The classes are age 3-10, ranging from basics to "really sophisticated stuff." Until now they have been held on Fridays at 1:30 at the Community Center, but the time may change when they start up again. Call her for info.

Fire Chief **Steve Moya** said the Fire Department was eight years old in April and we now have five EMTs, with two more in training. The ISO (which affects all our insurance rates) is 9 now, but by October should go down to 8 or 7 because of the proximity of the firehouse and the new hydrants (not applicable to Ranchitos because of distance). There are now paid firefighters and paramedics on fulltime call to assist the County's volunteer departments, such as ours, which Steve said was "a great comfort."

He and Assistant Fire Chief **Jean Moya** warned of the dangerous drought situation and the upcoming brush fire season, which has started prematurely. The Bosque and surrounding fields are particularly alarming this year. They urged people to clean up their yards, and to clear weeds and debris from around their houses. Wait to burn brush or dump it next to the bridge until we are notified by the fire department. It can be burned all at once, at times to be announced.

Chris Griscom talked about the Nizhoni School's programs, including meditations every Wednesday at 5:00. (She would like to see the whole community squeeze in sometime and meditate together.) Other activities include "calling for rain" and "practicing the art of radiance." Community members are welcome to all events. There is also a space where local artists could exhibit at the school.

Kaye Sandford of the Vista Clara Spa ("on pain pills, and kind of high!") remarked on the richness of Galisteo's resources. Some programs to which villagers are welcome for free: the hiking trails; an astronomer who comes every Wednesday at 7:30; Friday night art tours to Santa Fe in the limo (if there's room; the spa's white stretch limo, she noted, gets 20 miles per gallon, less of a gas guzzler than some SUVs). Among the many other programs offered is one on permaculture, a broad variety of health and fitness classes, therapy and treatments, a gym, pool and Jacuzzi; a restaurant (dinner every night but Sunday; lunch on Saturday and Sunday), and a sweat lodge.

Linda Durham talked about her contemporary art gallery, in Galisteo for 5 _ years now. (When she moved here, someone called and said "there goes the neighborhood," but she has proved them wrong by keeping a very low profile.) She opened her new building in 1998 with an exhibition of work by Harmony Hammond; next month Shaun Gilmore will have a show. Durham is also collaborating with Tom Morin (who's building "that little village across the street") on the Galisteo Press, which has published one deluxe edition and is planning a second on Galisteo's vultures. When asked if she would consider an "all Galisteo show," she said maybe, in the winter, for a week or so, if she had some help, but she had been thinking of doing a children's show. "Some artists here fit into the gallery's vision and some don't," she said realistically.

Bobbi Foshay-Miller, President of the Board of SITE Santa Fe, talked about the installation in Galisteo's Sala last summer (See EL PUENTE Summer 1999) and the pieces made in the Arroyo de los Angeles by British artist Andy Goldsworthy, who "re-organizes nature," and will show at SITE Santa Fe from April 1-May 28.

Diane Wilson summarized progress on the Vista Grande Library in Eldorado. The State gave the money for the building (ground will be broken in May next to the Eldorado Elementary School), but not a penny for books, chairs, shelves or staff (which will be all volunteer). They have raised \$17,000 since January but need a lot more: help, money, books. A literary cornerstone will be a "great collection of old western books" donated by the State Library. They are hoping to have the library open and running by December.

Valentine Riddell spoke of the possibilities for a Galisteo Community Garden (and possibly even a Farmer's Market)

behind the church. They need manure, tools, equipment, labor, and hope to involve older village kids. She also lobbied for speed bumps or more "people walking" signs, hoping that no children would meet the fate of her cat, which was run over last month. Melanie Monsour chimed in on behalf of Rudy Sena and Bebe Givaudan of the Rodeo Grounds riding operation, who are also concerned about the dangers to horses along the roads.

Richard Shuff will be bringing Galisteo to the Internet with a GCA homepage on the Web (galisteo@homestead.com). Anyone living here will be able to use it (artists on the studio tour, for example) or even have an e-mail page (galisteonm@yahoo.com). He gave a slide show on his computer of the handsome photos he had taken around the village. (More on this project in a future issue.)

Rod Hall announced the Water Board meeting (see page 1). **Lucy Lippard** solicited more input for EL PUENTE. **Goose Downs** was not represented, but **Priscilla Hoback** said their major equestrian event would be held the last weekend of June through the first weekend in July, including events for children right on through to Olympic competitors. A representative from the **Galisteo Inn** didn't show. The **Lannan Foundation** was invited but demurred; they are reluctant to involve their artist residents in the community, since they come here to work in peace and quiet, but the Foundation did make a very generous donation.

The elections were then held. Everyone was voted in by acclamation, having volunteered to serve, and the new Board was off to a good start.

GALISTEO HISTORICAL DISTRICT APPROVED

At a meeting at the State Historical Preservation Department on Feb. 18, attended by several Galisteo residents, David Kammer's historical report and inventory for Galisteo (see EL PUENTE Feb.2000) was approved. An additional few acres, historical grazing lands, have been added to the district on the east side around the Fleming home. Joe and Mike Anaya were there to be sure there were no restrictions on their Tanque Viejo project (there were not).

WALKING... by Linda Durham

I am a village walker. Sometimes, when my dog Rita and I are walking along La Vega and across the bridge and past the Fire Station and the Community Center, we pass other villagers, with and without dogs. I love having a moment to exchange greetings with others who are enjoying the beauty and peacefulness of our special neighborhood. I like to stop at the foot of my driveway and have a few words with the llamas who stare at us over the rock wall at the Galisteo Inn. (We all miss the little llama!)

From April to October I revel in the beauty of the vultures as they warm their wings before going off to work. Once I saw a white heron in the dead cottonwoods, resting for a while among the big black-feathered residents. I find it inspiring and renewing to walk beside the little river and to study the trees and rocks, the grasses and footprints.

Two aspects of our walk are not beautiful. Not inspiring. Not conducive to lofty thoughts. Not inclined to cause me to burst into song: TRASH and SPEEDING VEHICLES.

When I see the beer cans and snack-food packages and other debris strewn along our roads and under our bridge, I feel very sad. Once or twice a week I walk with a plastic bag, gathering up the garbage of various unknown, thoughtless people. Who litters our village, I wonder? Tourists? Construction workers? Surely not residents!

I know I am not the only one who picks up trash in Galisteo. Perhaps more of us could find time to stoop to keep our town beautiful. What about placing one or two community trash barrels in strategic places (under the bridge, near the Community Center)? And perhaps we could pay someone to take them to the dump on a regular basis? I'll buy a barrel, or chip in to have the offending stuff removed. Who are the people who drink and toss their drink containers into the bushes under the bridge? Would a trash barrel make a difference?

And speeding! It's getting worse! I walk in the middle of the bridge as the rushing vehicles approach. My intention is to cause them to slow down, to remember that they are in an idyllic village. Birds are singing, trees are swaying, dogs and children and others are walking. I pump my hand in a gesture to indicate "put on your brakes." I call out "slow down!" Perhaps a gentle sign would help, a sign reminding us — and those who visit us — to go slowly. I don't know.

Milan Kundera, in his book *Slowness*, asks, "Why has the pleasure of slowness disappeared? Ah, where have they gone, the amblers of yesteryear? Where have they gone, those loafing heros of folk song, those vagabonds who roam from one mill to another and bed down under the stars? Have they vanished along with footpaths, with grasslands and clearings, with nature?"

Not in Galisteo, not yet, not if we can help it!

THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF C. E. PANCOAST

(Continued from the January issue)

When we left Mr. Pancoast, a gold-seeking Quaker on his way to California in 1849, he and the wagon train and accompanying stock were camped on the edge of Galisteo. After exploring the village and meeting the Alcalde, he found his companions at "an old adobe Tavern.")

My comrade and Myron (who was already drunk) promised to go back to the Camp as soon as we took one more drink; but after striving in vain to get them out of the Tavern, and feeling that I was fast becoming drunk myself, I slipped away from them and took my way for the Camp. Just outside of Town I had to walk a plank across a Creek, which had been straight enough when we came in, but was now the crookedest plank I had ever seen. I managed to walk the devious turns successfully, and on the other side met our Preacher and his little Son, who spoke to me pleasantly and passed on. Turning to see how they would get over that crooked plank, I found the Boy looking at me grinning, and began to realize that I was staggering drunk. I wended my way along the edge of the Woods until I came to one of our Oxen, which had been hamstrung and gnawed by wolves,

but was still alive. Feeling very weak, and sympathizing with the poor Animal, I lay down beside him, and knew nothing more until about four o'clock, when by a Providential accident some of the Boys discovered me. They shot the Ox, and placed me on a Horse, still so drunk I could not raise my eyelids. Soon there came up a Thunder Storm, which appeared to sober me at once, and I was able to take my Supper and to meet the jests of the Boys...

(To be continued: next month, a Galisteo Fandango.)

A GOOD FIT by Barbara Cooper

I'd read his brochure for Ron's Fitness Studio. I'd heard about his work from several friends who are his clients. I'd met him briefly at the Christmas potluck. So I wanted to get to know Ron Helman as a friend and new neighbor.

But that morning when I drove across the road to his house and studio next to Nancy Fischer's, I suddenly felt decidedly unfit and a bit apprehensive—like going to a new dentist for the first time. My physical flaws raced through my mind, threatening to erase the excitement I had felt about my mission.

When I arrived at the end of the driveway, Pamela Markoya, Ron's wife, introduced herself to me as she fed Funi and Mia, their two handsome dogs, who are Japanese Shibas. Suddenly the door of the studio flung open and out leapt an elfin, smiling, bright-eyed person who enfolded me in his arms and welcomed me to his space.

Inside, I felt instantly at ease in the airy, open fitness studio. Ron talks easily, smiles often, looks you dead in the eye and is listening to every word you say. He is up-beat, energetic and sunny. I liked him and I felt that he liked me—physical flaws and all.

In the course of the next two hours I learned that Ron came here after more than twenty years in New York City where he ran a fitness studio catering to many celebrity models, athletes, actors, musicians and business professionals. He also ran a music management business dealing with jazz bands. Ron is a trained musician who plays the trumpet and dreams of forming a small jazz group in Galisteo.

But wait! He is also a painter, as is Pamela. One end of his fitness studio becomes his painting studio on weekends and in rare moments of free time, while Pamela works in an adjacent room. He showed me slides of a series of his paintings of jazz musicians, all of which have been sold.

Almost as an aside, Ron mentioned that the garage could readily become a perfect place to work with clay. But there wasn't time to pursue that conversation, for soon he had to leave for Santa Fe to give a lesson in a client's home. Pamela offered to give me a tour of their charming house overlooking the Bosque. We talked of how much Galisteo means to us, the freedom we feel here after past lives in the East. She told me of their plans to soften the entrance to their home with native grasses, and the help of Linda Rice.

I liked Pamela for her gentle, affirming manner. I liked her for embracing Galisteo. She and Ron have, in less than six months, made a place for themselves in the village and look forward to contributing in their own ways to the fiber of life

here. Two hours earlier I had gone apprehensively to meet and write about Ron Helman, my new neighbor. I left feeling energized, excited, charmed by my two new friends.

**EL PUENTE SPONSOR OF THE MONTH:
an anonymous donor on behalf of our own
LA TIENDA DE ANAYA: COUNTRY STORE**

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Put your ads in Box 77 (Rte.41 across the creek at Avenida Vieja) or call 466-1276 by April 7 for next issue. Please call to have ads continue or not.

FOR SALE

Tasco 58T Telescope and tripod, D=60mm, F=700mm. Three lenses and photo lense. Excellent condition, call Nancy 466-6820.

FOR RENT

House for rent in Galisteo, Great Views and Sunsets! 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, kitchen, LR, office, garden, \$1350 mo. plus utilities, lease preferred. Call Cardenas, 483-5045, for appointment.

SERVICES

Piano and Guitar Lessons for older beginners: \$25 per hour. Call Melanie Monsour (piano) or Marghreta Cordero (guitar) at 466-8319.
Native Bloom, Landscape design and maintenance. Call Linda at 466-4658.

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Galisteo Caretaking Services for your property or animals. For the Chores You Ignore! Short notice, small jobs OK. Will housesit, have truck. Call Richard, 466-1430.

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Avon Representative in Galisteo. Free brochure, call Maria 466-8930.

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+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

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