



STARRY STARRY NIGHT

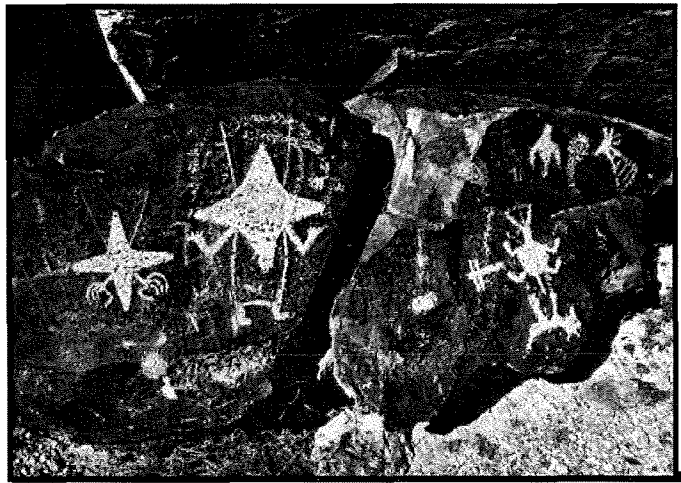
Jan Saunders

Humankind has long loved and celebrated the night sky. Vincent Van Gogh, Don McLean and Carl Sagan, all legendary sky watchers, implore us with their art, science and music to revere the heavenly cosmos whirling overhead.

The musical sound track from my patio on this May Day is the trill of a Saye's Phoebe and the flute of a White-throated Sparrow. These and many other species found their way to Galisteo this spring by winging tirelessly through the dark sky using its *billions and billions of stars* and the earth's magnetic field to map-quest their journeys from latitudes as far away as 2,000 miles. By flying at night, even the tiniest sparrow travels safe from hawks and other diurnal raptors. Even so, millions of migrating birds are killed each year by windmills, cell phone towers, and high power lines. One of the biggest challenges birds face is the disorienting glare from outdoor lighting -- mine and yours.

The Earth Week editorial in *The New Mexican* tells me that too much light at night damages humans as well as animals. More than one-fifth of humanity can no longer see the Milky Way. While the loss of inky dark nights disrupts migration and breeding cycles in wildlife, for humans it means an interruption of sleep patterns and ancient body rhythms. We need dark nights. Unnecessary night-time lighting adds to the demand on coal-burning power plants, thus contributing to air pollution and global warming.

Here in the Galisteo Basin, our precious Dark Sky is fading.



FIRE DANGER: NO BURNING

NO BURN PERMITS for 90 days after May 1st

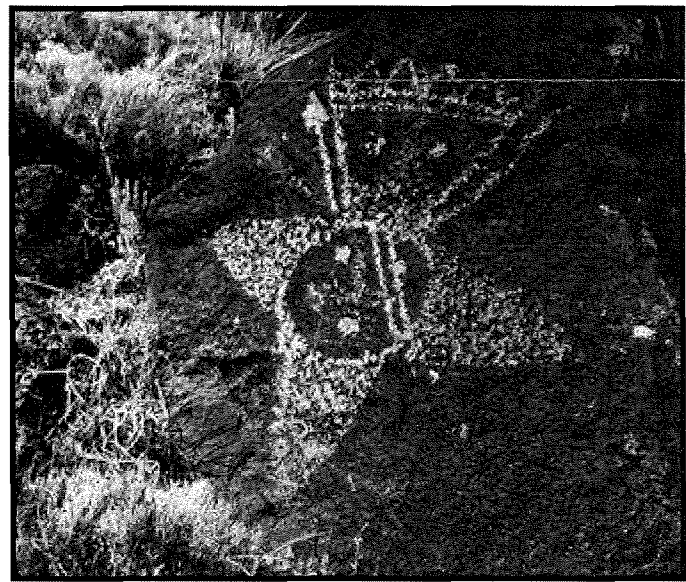
Fri. May 17 at 7:30: Screening of the film *Land, Water, People* on the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area, a benefit for Cornerstones Community Partnership and the La Sala restoration building fund. Popcorn and cold drinks. **Bring a folding chair or pillow for seating. Donation at door.**

Sat. May 18: 9AM to 3PM at La Sala: Adobe making demonstration with Cornerstones. **Cornerstones is hiring kids to work this summer and the GVFR may also be hiring.**

Sat. June 1, Coffee at Community Center sponsored by Judy Tuwaletsiwa, Deborah Madison, and Julia Moore.

Light bleeds into the night from Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and our own exterior lighting to dim the once velvet dark of the night sky and pick clean the diamond-field of stars I marveled at as little as twenty years ago.

Tonight, turn out the lights. Ask your neighbors to turn out theirs. Sit outside. Watch the stars wink on. Wait for the moon. Listen for the chirping of songbirds migrating safely overhead in our precious darkness.



Morning Star petroglyphs (Photos: Polly Schaafsma)

WATER ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Galisteo Mutual Domestic Water Users Association met on March 28 and managed (with last-minute phone calls) to achieve a quorum of 15. A unanimous vote changed the requirement to 12 members for next year. Joe Cooper and Rod Hall will try to reconcile the articles of incorporation and the by-laws.

Elections were held: **Rod Hall** remains President and **Scott Diffrient** Vice President; **Janice Felty Griscom** was elected Secretary. **Wayne King** (Treasurer) and **Joette Trofimuk** were reelected. **Phillip Tuwaletsiwa** was elected a new Board member (replacing Tom Morin). He joins **Matthew McQueen**, **Richard Patton** and **Antonio Chavez**. (**Romona Scholder** continues as Bookkeeper and **Florence Sohn** keeps the records.) Meters are read quarterly -- by Antonio until someone can be hired.

Few of us are aware of, or appreciate, the incredibly complex and time-consuming job these people perform on a volunteer basis. THANKS!

The old red tank (still full of water for fire department use) has been disconnected and the old silver tank has gone to the Rodeo Grounds. The current tank holds 55,000 gallons. A new tank would cost \$104,000 and the Board is looking into grants. The distribution line runs under NM41 and the Board will try to tie in with the upcoming State roadwork to improve the pipe.

(Thanks to former Secretary Joette Trofimuk for her minutes.)

CITIZEN RIGHTS IN GALISTEO (PART II)

Sina Brush

My article on Galisteo citizen rights in the previous issue of *El Puente* outlined what may be done to stop heavy traffic through the village. Widening shoulders will not only reduce room for people riding their horses, walking their dogs, taking their children for an outing or just living on either side. The "safety" work will promote careless drivers' false sense of security; they already pass on hills, speed, tailgate and generally risk their lives and ours.

Highway 41 between Clark Hill and Moriarty, already widened and straightened for "safety," so far has suffered three fatal accidents, two involving tankers. Between Clark Hill and Lamy, several fatal accidents have occurred. Speeders heading south and hitting the north curve into Galisteo roll their vehicles.

The latest serious accident was March 3. Friends coming to my home for a birthday lunch were hit through no fault of their own and almost killed. They missed County Rd. 38B (Frank Anaya Ranch Road) by a few yards, turned around, and approached going north, signal on, slowing down. A speeding driver behind them decided to "beat them," as he later said. He appeared so quickly my friends never even saw him. He hit the hinge section of the front door of their little truck, spinning them around and off the highway totaling both vehicles. The speeder was unharmed. My friends were badly hurt. One had a black eye the size of an apple and torn ligaments in her shoulder. My 82-year-old friend suffered a blow to her leg from the console of the gear shift; in a mere ten minutes, her leg was swollen to twice normal size from knee to ankle. If they had been hit directly on the door it would likely have killed them.

The Galisteo Fire Department arrived within minutes and did a fine job. Thank you so much, Corey McGillicuddy and Jon Stern. Once NM41 is widened, accidents will certainly increase, as will heavy traffic through the village with no provision for real safety or patrols by the police. There is still time to gather together and deal with this in a way to protect village inhabitants and drivers on NM41 north and south of Galisteo. Once the road is widened, there will be no recourse.

GCA ANNUAL MEETING

Twenty two people and a dog attended the annual Galisteo Community Association meeting (fulfilling the quorum, though not a great turnout for a village of 250... And where were all those other dogs?) Matthew McQueen reported on the Saddleback subdivision, which is being foreclosed, though if the bank sells it to another developer, nothing will change. Commonweal Conservancy has suffered from the recession and is selling more large lots from its former open space but the Preserve will remain at 3000-4000 acres.

Believe it or not, the "land grab lawsuit" (led by Galisteo Morgan Gafford, with Peirce Clayton) is still dragging on under its third judge.

A gazebo and picnic table in the Bosque will be dedicated to Richard Griscom; timing and funding still being determined.

And finally, elections: **Anna Cárdenas** remains President, and **Corinne Anaya** Treasurer; **Roger Taylor** is Vice President; **Janice Griscom** will be Secretary. Thanks to departing Board members Frank Hirsch, Amber Haskell, Muriel Fariello, and Joette Trofimuk. **Matthew McQueen** is joined by new Board members **Wayne King**, **Eric Thomas**, and **David Van Dyk**, with **Judy Tuwaletsiwa** as Alternate. Then -- a new tradition -- margaritas were served.

BCC UPDATES

On April 30th, after two hours of discussion and amendments on a "Resolution to Appoint a Water Policy Advisory Committee," sponsored by Kathy Holian and Robert Anaya, the Board of County Commissioners approved a panel on water and wastewater issues, a project that our own Roger Taylor, President of the Santa Fe Basin Water Association, has long been advocating. (Taylor was quoted on *The New Mexican* website (3/29) on evidence that suggests expanded pumping at the Santa Fe City "northwest well" could reduce the lives of local domestic wells by more than a decade.)

The Committee will consist of 12 members representing mutual domestic water associations, soil and water conservation districts, acequia associations, the Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee and the Buckman Direct Diversion Board, as well as representatives from central and northern water planning areas. Five members will be selected by the commissioners. Nominations are under way and will close in two months.

This citizen's committee will make recommendations to strengthen sections of the draft County Code that relate to water conservation and protection; research and recommend on a possible Regional Water Authority; and look at planned water storage and recovery efforts by the County. (Cont. p.3)

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Joe Miller returned to the BCC on April 9th to request (and receive) final approval for his Spirit Wind West Subdivision: a "39-Lot Residential Subdivision On 133.73 Acres; Phase 1, Which Will Consist Of 16 Lots. The Property Is Located South Of Eldorado, On The East Side Of US 85, Off Old Lamy Trail (County Road 33)" -- at the curve by the railroad tracks. Recently Miller told a community meeting that he was moving ahead with his developments before the new County Code takes effect so that he can put in modular homes (not mobile homes, but "stick houses") and avoid open space and trails provisions, as well as placing different sized and priced homes on different sized lots. The County also compromised on the affordable housing requirement. Other developers are using the same strategies and getting three-year extensions so they will be grandfathered into the old code. If they all succeed, the area will resemble a congested Albuquerque or Phoenix suburb. And the water will come from where?

In response, a "285 South Sustainability Alliance" is being formed to protect the area from over-development, with a steering committee of representatives from Eldorado, Lamy, Galisteo and several subdivisions. Roger Taylor will represent Galisteo. Asking for "no growth" is apparently illegal, but asking for "sustainability" isn't ...yet.

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

The January 2003 cover of *El Puente* showed a mob of the 200 goats grazing Galisteo fields under the auspices of the Earth Works Institute. Now they're back (temporarily joining our permanent residents Dooley and Ted at Janice Griscom's). **Jennifer Hogan** and **Dorothy Van Ark** have hired fifty goats from Horned Locus Goat Scaping to graze on their overgrowth for three days. They note it's a good way to safeguard our properties from potential fires in this terrible drought. If you are interested, call Amanita Thorp at 505-917-9885 to get prices and schedule grazing, or call Jennifer at 466-1518 for more information.

Christine Mackenzie will attend the Frankfurt (Germany) Book Fair to introduce the German translation (which she did herself) of her science fiction novel, *Lisa Bennett Visits Utopia*. English versions are available on Amazon and at The Ark bookstore in Santa Fe, where a signing will take place in the future. In Frankfurt, she will be reading a chapter to a "huge audience -- terrifying and exciting!"

Catherine Ferguson read her poetry in a multi-media presentation -- "Questions on the Wall"-- with other poets at the performance space at Eldorado on March 17.

Liz Rose launches her new book *Poet Under a Soldier's Hat* on May 10-12 at the Southwest Book Fiesta in Albuquerque. Excerpts from the book are also being read weekly on the KSFR webstream at 8AM and 3PM. It is still available as a podcast in iTunes and information is also on the new website: galisteoliz.com.

Several cars of a coal train on a side track derailed in Lamy, dumping mounds of coal on the main rail line and causing long delays for Amtrak passengers. Steel rails were ripped from the ground and warped; wooden ties were crushed and strewn

about the scene. The cause had not been determined when this was published in *The New Mexican* on May 1, 1988.

Two TV pilots are being filmed at **Cerro Pelon Ranch** in April and May.

La Sala renovation work is moving along: major work on corner wall replacement will commence soon. There was a good work day a few weeks ago for grounds clean-up, re-set of nail heads in floor boards, and a second exit door was installed.

The Museum of New Mexico Press just published *Time and Time Again: History, Rephotography and Preservation in the Chaco World* by photographer Peter Goin and writer **Lucy R. Lippard**. There will be a signing (6/20) at Collected Works.

SPRING CLEANING: VILLAGE YARD SALE

Cindy Lux

Garages and storage lockers and the backs of closets -- Oh My! These places seem to grow junk, so "why not clean them out once a year?" Because it's a pain, *that's* why. But La Sala gave us all an excuse on May 4th to make it worth our while to do just that. The weather was good, considering what had blown through the week before, and the yard sale was on. Twenty nine households at fourteen stops decided to try this money-making venture and, well... at least it gave us an excuse to get rid of stuff. The crowds were a bit thin, but most stops made a least a bit of \$\$\$. Most of us bought from each other. "One man's trash is another [wo]man's treasure" held true.

A giant thank you to all who participated, and tithed to La Sala's building fund more than their meager sales would have warranted. We hope to do this again next May Day and get Santa Fe accustomed to making an annual spring trip to Galisteo.

LAST STOP FOR LEGAL TENDER?

Just as the Legal Tender restaurant is being threatened with closure over the details of an agreement with the Railroad Museum (see their website for updates), Amtrak is considering abandonment of the Lamy to Colorado line because of deteriorating maintenance. The State has dissolved its agreement with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad for this stretch, gaining millions of dollars but forfeiting a north/south connection that could prove vital in the future. The Lamy to Chicago line would not be affected.

PET BULLETIN

Denice Pruett warns us that the County is cracking down on pet licenses and even going door to door. It's only \$8 but there is some question about where they are getting their database; veterinarians will not give out clients' information. Call Denice -- 466-3601 -- if you get a notice in the mail. It will be interesting to see how far they will go with this.



GVFR UPDATE

In late March, the Fire Department sponsored an important meeting with speaker Captain Mike Feulner on protecting our buildings from wildfires and the fire danger in the Bosque. (We should all be patrolling as we walk there. Birders and picnickers are frequent and some ignore the trash can.)

Gwen Feisst and Alex Trovato graduated from the Volunteer Fire Academy and Dorothy Van Ark is attending now. She also received her EMT Basic, spending a whole semester at SFCC. This is a major commitment and we thank them all.

Galisteña Lisa Lamanna, former member of the GVFR, was awarded a National Park Service internship and will be traveling to several states.

EL PUENTE SPONSORS: BOB HARTE & VICTORIA PREWITT

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. CALL 466-1276 TO UPDATE OR DELETE YOUR ADS. Next deadline: June 15.

FOR RENT

Adobe Home & sep. artist's studio in village; fireplace, deck, 1 brm, yard, fruit trees: \$1000 mo. + util. Deposit & refs. required: Call 466-2255 or priscillahoback@mac.com).

FOR SALE

40 ten-foot 'vigas', \$400.00 for all: Sina, 577-4045.

Western saddle in excellent condition. Denver Saddle Co.16" seat with breast plate. \$800. **1982 Honda 250R motorcycle for trail or road.** In excellent shape, hardly any miles. \$1800. Call Wayne 466-1002 or 690-1771.

Talus Wind Heritage Meats. Local New Mexico lamb, beef and turkey available. Please contact Ryan, 505-982-7782 or Ryan@taluswindranch.com, or <http://taluswindranch.com>.

SERVICES

Maria's Personal Assistant Services: Elder assistance, errands, office support, organizing, housesitting, petsitting, wrapping, packing and shipping: 466-8930.

Meditation and Knowings class with Chris Griscom, Sundays at The Light Institute, 4:00-5:30 pm. Free to Galisteo residents. 466-1975.

We build and repair coyote fences; haul trash; yard work & other odd jobs. Fair prices, local references, Michael J. Anaya, 660-2275.

Dave's Auto Repair: restoring, minor repairs, painting. Local refs. Free estimates: David Montoya, 466-2097.

Dream Interpretation: Learn about the message from your Inner Self in your dreams applied to your daily life - Veronique Cartier- 466-0803.

The Orchard: Full service catering, personal chef, and Care Network. Corey McGillicuddy (aka Dragon Lady), 466-1831.

Pet and housesitting, watering plants, feeding animals, etc. Call Linda Jones, 310-2904 or 466-3102.

Common sense, gentle dog-training: house manners, management problem-solving at your home, and limited boarding. 20 yrs. experience. Call Evelyn, 466-1875.

Call Adan Cárdenas for **Firewood, Misc. Hauling, Odd Jobs, Humane Custom Butchery, CAD services.** Phone 466-8967 or cell: 435-3067, adan.cardenas1@gmail.com.

Barbara Holloway Fine Handweaving scarves, shawls, vests, jackets, handwoven of luxurious chenille. 466- 2118.

Carpentry: Custom closets, hand-carved tables, benches, gates, doors; also electrical work. Ted Montoya, 231-3671.

Barbara King Pottery: functional and decorative, handcrafted with a variety of glazes on white stoneware. 466-3219.

Rocky Mountain Handyman. Can do anything! Call Mark Lyons, 629-9323.

MacTech Support and Tutoring, photo digitizing and organizing, and Photoshop lessons: Tom Martinelli, 466-1020.

Beth is available for **petsitting in Galisteo**, 470-7606.

White Dog Cyclery: Your family's certified bicycle maintenance/repair service. All bikes. Frank, 466-2121.

Linda Vista Stables: Beginner western riding for children and adults; 1-2 hr. trail rides; short-term boarding. 466-8930.

Passive Solar Builders: Locally owned general contractor since 1980. Quality home construction, renovations: 466-2118.

Like things done right? Welding, flagstone, moss rock, fountains, plumbing, sprinkler, drip systems, plus Gopher Control. David Maestas, cell 670-8608 or 660-9715.

Need a permit? Computer Aided Drafting Support for architects, engineers, contractors etc. Adan Cárdenas, 466-8967.

Galisteo Woodworks: for your custom woodworking needs. Furniture and furniture repair. Antonio Chavez, 466-3601.

+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

Editor: Lucy R. Lippard. **EL PUENTE logo:** Cara Lee. **Printer:** Allegra. **Comments, suggestions, contributions to EL PUENTE, 14 Avenida Vieja, 466-1276 or flip14@wildblue.net. NEXT DEADLINE: June 15. TO SPONSOR: make out \$75 check to GCA "for newsletter."**

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