

# EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

ISSUE #226

SUMMER 2019



Frank Sandoval (courtesy of Stella Maestas)

## THE RED CLAY GANG

Michaela Shelley Valencia\*

Ring! Ring! That's the last bell of the school year. It's summer vacation. Yea! My sister Terry and I are going to spend two weeks at our Gramma Lucia and Grampa Frank's house in Galisteo. I am so excited because we get to play with JoAnne, Gloria, Joe and Freddie, our aunts and uncles – who are the same age as we are.

Gramma and Grampa's old adobe house is nice and cool, and always smells of fresh tortillas, *caldito* and coffee. "HOLA, niños!" Gramma and Grampa say as they greet us with big hugs and kisses. JoAnne, Gloria, Joe and Freddie are just as excited as we are, so off we go to play.

It's morning. Time to get up, but I am so snuggly and warm under Gramma's homemade quilts. We have chores to do before we can play again so we better get moving. We chop wood so our grandparents can cook, take the chill out of the early mornings, and heat water for our baths. We draw the freshest water from the old well, chase and feed the chickens, and take their precious gift of fresh eggs in for our breakfast.

All done! It's time to play! Off we go to our special place. "I'm going to get to the store first," we say to each other as we race through the dirt roads past the few houses, the restaurant, the community center, and the old grey church. Terry, JoAnne and Joe win the race! There's Grampa with his dark grey Fedora tilted up on the right side of his head, sitting on the bench up front at the *tiendita*, waiting for customers. "Here comes the Red Clay Gang," he says. "Ready for your treat?" He always lets us pick a candy to take to our special place. (Cont. to right)

If you have a medical or fire emergency, DO NOT CALL FRIENDS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. Call 911 immediately for quicker response by the GVFR.

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*El Puente* takes an annual summer break, next issue deadline is September 5.

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**Summer Talks at La Sala:** June 27, writer Lucy R. Lippard; July 11, Deborah Madison, writer, chef, and food activist; August 17, Jean Anaya Moya, straw appliqué workshop. Plus a number of Pop Up Shows.

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**New AA Meeting**, beginning Monday, July 8, 6 PM, Galisteo Community Center. 982-8932.

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On July 11 and July 20, the Santa Fe Conservation Trust will offer **tours of the historically significant Galisteo Spring on Thornton Ranch** by Jan-Willem Jansens of Ecotone Landscape Planning (\$150 including tour, lunch, and transportation) Sign up at 989-7019 or [info@sfct.org](mailto:info@sfct.org).

"Race you to the bridge," I say. Around the corner is an old, one-lane, wooden bridge that the villagers call El Puente. I close my eyes and I see horse-driven wagons, families walking to church, horseback riders, and old and modern cars crossing the bridge throughout the many years. Thirty-foot trees growing on each side of the bridge offer shade and the most wonderful green apples ever.

Off go the shoes! Off go the socks! Our toes say ahhh! The river and the pebbles in the riverbed are so cool and fresh. This is our special place in the summer. The red clay that lines the sides of the riverbed is moist and ready for our next project. What shall we make today -- farm animals, a village with houses and people, or clay pots? The sun is so warm that it bakes our creations while we lie on the bank and eat our snacks – candy, green apples with salt, and water. We stretch out our arms and legs to dry off before we head home.

The frijoles are ready. We make fresh tortillas and red chile and wait for Grampa and Gramma to get home from work. Gramma says, "Well, my Red Clay Gang, what did you do today?" She oohs and aahs at our creations and then (Cont.p.2)

gives us a special treat. Once a week Gramma is allowed to bring home a leftover container of ice cream from the restaurant she works at. What a delicious way to end the day. Even though our prayers are said and lights are out, Gramma still has to tell us several times to stop talking and go to sleep. But we are already planning what we will do tomorrow. *Buenas noches!*

*\*Michaela Shelley Valencia is Stella Maestas's niece, daughter of her sister Connie and husband Mike Valencia; the grandparents were Stella's parents, Galisteo storekeeper Frank Sandoval and wife Lucia Sandoval. The year is around 1963.*

## PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

**Jean Anaya Moya** is showing work in the exhibition, "The Art of Adam & Eve" at the National Hispanic Cultural Center Art Museum (1701 4<sup>th</sup> St. SW in Albuquerque, Tues-Sun.10-5). This is a good time to get to the NHCC because it is also presenting "Que Chola: Celebrating Strength, Power, and Resilience."

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, **Judy Tuwaletstiwa's** major show "The Dream Life of Objects," opened at the Center for Contemporary Arts. A violin performance and discussion (July 14) and a panel (August 30) are scheduled around the show, which is up until Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Patrick McFarlin's** *Downtown Club Revival* at SITE Santa Fe was featured in *The New Mexican* (June 8) and doubled as an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. His solo exhibition of oil paintings in monotypes at Webster Collection (541/2 Lincoln Ave, above the Plaza Café) continues until July 8.

Conservation Voters of New Mexico's 2019 environmental score card just came out, and our **Rep Matthew McQueen** got a grade of 100%, up from his lifetime score of 96%.

**Sina Brush** wrote a letter to *The New Mexican* (5/20/19) questioning the wisdom of adding more Margarita drinking (and driving) on the Margarita Trail in Santa Fe.

Two articles by **Deborah Madison** appeared in *Heritage* magazine (Winter/Spring 2019) on "Chimayo's Chile Culture" and Estevan Restaurante in Santa Fe.

"Living Down Country People: **Names of the Galisteo Basin**" by Roberto H. Valdez was published in the recent issue of *Land Water People*, which also included an article on Lone Piñon, the lively conjunto band that played at La Sala last month.

**Lucy Lippard** has curated a show ("Alicia Stewart: Unfinished...") at the Harwood Museum in Taos of the remarkable paintings of a young Santa Fe artist who died at the age of eighteen. It's up until Nov. 10. (And this is a good time to go to the Harwood; the featured exhibition is Judy Chicago's *Birth Project* from New Mexico collections and there is a small show of beautiful *colchas* and amazing mega-drawings by Afton Love.)

The June issue of *The Magazine* includes a painting of **Agnes Martin's** former Galisteo home by Eleanor Ray and a discussion of **Harmony Hammond's** older work in Shane Tolbert's "West by Southwest: Considering Landscape in Contemporary Art," and a New Mexico Women feature on your editor. **Hammond's** paintings are at Art Basel in Switzerland, described as an integral part of the narrative of modernist abstraction, even as they insist on an oppositional discourse of feminist and queer content. Layering patches of fabric over

grommets, Hammond evokes a bandaged body, implying "an interruption of the narrative of the modernist grid and therefore, an interruption of utopian egalitarian order."

Former Galisteo film photographer **Bill ("Billie") Mitchell** had one of the most popular pieces in the new media exhibition *Currents*, at El Museo Cultural. *Bike Party* was a Virtual Reality experience with stationary bikes, and take it from your editor, it was exciting biking in a herd of other riders in DC, Baltimore and DC. On opening night, outside on the railyard, Bill's *Mobile Projection Platform - MPP* projected thrilling driving shots on window screens.

For all those who have suffered the bumps and grinds of **NM 41** south of the village after its \$20 million plus so-called "improvements," construction has had to recommence because, according to NMDOT, soil testing was inaccurate. Another \$4.2 million is being spent to fix the brand-new work.

And speaking of roads, a feature in *The Reporter* (6/13) and a cover story in *The New Mexican* headlined "The Fix Is In?" (6/13) reported that over the last few years, the County spent almost \$1 million in improvements for the remote B Anaya Road off NM41 in Stanley, "and crews are out there again, paving away." Named for Basilio Anaya, grandfather of Galisteo's former County Commissioners **Mike and Robert Anaya**, it leads to their ranch and dead ends at the home of Robert Martinez, the County's Deputy Public Works Director.

*The New Mexican* (6/8) reported that **Saddleback Ranch**, north of the village on NM41, was sold in 2008 for \$17.45 million, one of the highest priced local properties in this century.

Former Galisteo **Richard Shuff** recently reminded us that he has more than 10,000 digital photos of Galisteo. He photographed "just about every person in Galisteo and many varied subjects."

This from Judy Tuwaletstiwa a couple of weeks ago: "**Rattlesnakes** are out...or *in* depending on how one looks at it." A small one, c.18" long, slid in under the screen door into her kitchen. "Once we got it in a box, Jim Sloan came down to pick it up." Question: Do baby rattlers pack a bigger venom wallop because they don't yet know how to control it, or is that a myth?

And this on another potential pest from **Susie Shanklin: Nolo Bait** is an EPA-registered biological control for grasshoppers. It contains naturally occurring *Nosema locustae* spores, uniformly applied to flaky wheat bran. Grasshoppers eating it are infected with the spores. Young ones die more quickly than older ones. Infected grasshoppers are cannibalized by healthy ones and *Nosema Locust* spreads though the population. This organism provides long-term benefits to landowners without environmental damage.

On May 21, **Angie Beauchamp** won election to the University of New Mexico Staff Council Executive Committee, and will serve as Treasurer. This eight-person board leads the Staff Council, elected representatives of the more than 7000 UNM staff, to advocate with the university administration and Board of Regents. (Her campaign speech included mention of her work as Treasurer of La Sala de Galisteo.) Angie is the administrator and a lecturer in Film and Digital Arts Dept. and was elected last year to the Staff Council to represent the College of Fine Arts.

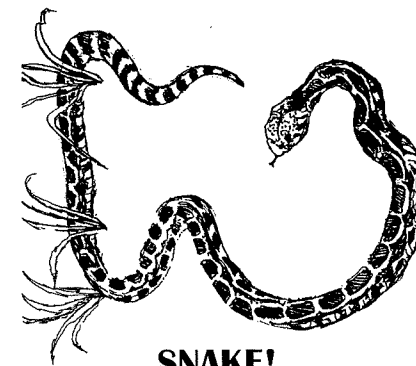
## GVFR NEWS:

### New members interviewed by Stella Maestas

**Don Truax:** My wife Jessica and I moved to Galisteo in August of last year. We became new grandparents in January. I joined the fire department to become an active member in the community. I'm currently in the 16-week Volunteer Fire Academy, with 6 1/2 weeks to go, and hope to still be standing at the end. I have a whole new appreciation for the skills and knowledge that firefighters possess.

I also like to fish and love horses. I worked at a horse shelter for 3 years prior to moving to Galisteo, and have been volunteering at The Horse Shelter in Cerrillos since October. I look forward to learning how to fly fish and exploring the lakes and rivers of New Mexico and beyond. Lastly, I love the chile, both red and green, the hotter the better.

**Deirdre Africa:** After barely getting settled in my sweet hacienda, I started wondering how to contribute to the wonderful village of Galisteo. It is important to me to be useful and to learn new skills so I volunteered for truck maintenance at our fire department. One thing led to another and now I'm a wildland fire fighter and licensed to drive fire trucks. Every week I learn something new at the training sessions and I feel like I could offer my skills in an emergency. When I'm not at the firehouse, I'm sewing aprons and digging holes at Rancho Bueno.



**Jan Saunders; drawing by Catherine Ferguson**

Plain and simple, I am fascinated by and attracted to SNAKES. I want to read about them, see them, and observe all species, venomous and non-venomous. Don't get me wrong, I respect them and prefer to keep my distance while learning their natural history. I also understand that you, the reader, might be phobic or have an aversion to scaly critters that possess venom and fangs like hypodermic needles. A bite from one of our local rattlers, serious and painful, is to be avoided at all costs.

On the other hand, a snake that comes in contact with a human usually ends up dead, and that bothers me because all snakes occupy an important niche in healthy ecosystems while at the same time providing *pro bono* rodent control. And since recent fossil discoveries indicate that snakes have slithered our earth for more than 150 million years, just maybe we should admit to their right to slither on for a long time to come. After several months wrestling with just the right tone and tack to take in writing about snakes, I happily shelved my efforts to make room for the following Best Snake Story Ever:

As has been their habit for many years, Dianne and Vernon Wilson dropped their Toyota truck off to Michael, their favorite

mechanic, to have the shocks replaced. When they returned to reclaim the truck, Michael greeted them with a big smile and the words "Your truck has a tenant." He then presented them with a large plastic, lidded bucket containing a rather beautiful Bull Snake, adding that their job was to return the snake to Galisteo where it clearly wanted to be. So, Dianne and Vernon put the bucket in the Toyota and returned to Galisteo where they released, quite near their house, all four feet of snake.

According to Michael the Mechanic, while underneath the Toyota working overhead to replace the shocks, he realized he was staring up into two round beady snake eyes. He didn't panic since he knew a thing or two about snakes, most importantly that venomous Rattle Snakes have cat eyes (vertical pupils), and therefore he must have been nose to nose with a harmless non-venomous Bull Snake. Michael carefully removed it from the wheel well (as his crew "freaked out" at the sight of the harmless snake), and carried it quite a distance away to a vacant lot filled with weeds, rock and rubble—a perfect spot for a constrictor that preys on rats and mice.

Once freed from his armload, Michael returned to the Toyota to pick up where he left off. Glancing up a short time later, Michael was surprised to see the Bull Snake slithering straight for him and the Toyota. He stopped work, gathered up the now all-too-familiar Bull Snake, and once again walked "way far away" from the Toyota -- twice as far as before—until he felt certain it was safely ensconced in a perfect Bull Snake habitat, never to return. He walked back to the Toyota, closing the garage bay door behind him.

Well, the old adage "*Never say never*," fits nicely into this story because (and I promise I am not making this up), when Michael finished the maintenance and raised the bay door, that Bull Snake was waiting right outside.

Clearly this cannot be the end of the story since the burning, unanswered question remains: *Why did the Bull snake repeatedly return to the Toyota and what was it doing in the wheel well in the first place?*

Friends and family offer the explanation that the Bull Snake must have eggs back in Galisteo, although for any snake to "think" that returning to the Toyota was the way back to Galisteo and its eggs is asking a wee bit too much of a tiny reptilian brain. Additional research reveals that Bull Snakes don't lay eggs until June or July, but they do inhabit a small territory to which they are faithful. Could it be that the Toyota is this Bull Snake's territory?

**GOOD GRANT NEWS!** On July 25, there was a public meeting with the GCA Board to discuss our USDA Grant/Loan for "equipment" (75% grant = \$30K; 25% loan = \$10K community contribution) as well as two other grant applications for construction on the Community Center. AND the \$50K grant we have received for the Galisteo Community Center Park.

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**Starting July 1, New Soups for Summer** from The Orchard (466-1831): Coconut Carrot Ginger; Sweet Potato Vichyssoise; Minted Fresh Pea; Beet with Dill; Traditional Gazpacho; Green Gazpacho; Zucchini Tarragon; Hearts of Palm. Yum. All soups, good hot or cold, are organic and vegan except hearts of palm (contains sour cream).

# EL PUENTE SPONSOR: RUBY RENSHAW

## GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. PLEASE CALL 466-1276 TO UPDATE OR DELETE YOUR ADS. Next deadline: Sept. 5th.

### WANTED

Susie Radcliffe, who has lived here for 10 years, is looking for a new **long-term rental home in Galisteo**, preferring a house or casita with 1-2 bedrooms: radula@aol.com; 466-2778

### FOR RENT

**Charming vacation casita** in the heart of Galisteo, available for rent by the night, week or month. Steve or Jean, 466-1544.

**Vacation casita** for rent by the weekend, week, or month. 900 sq.ft., open floor plan, 1BR + bath. Call Roger Taylor, 466-3469.

### FOR SALE

**Land & building in center of village.** 1.27 acres, electricity, phone, well, no plumbing. 630 sq.ft. adobe, vigas, fireplace, wood stove outlet, two entrances onto property. Call 466-8930.

**Amanecer Gallery offers oil paintings** by Freddie Cárdenas and **micaceous pottery** by Anna Cárdenas, 505-466-8967.

**Talus Wind Heritage Meats.** Local New Mexico lamb and pork. Contact info@taluswindranch.com.

**Button Box Aprons** by Deirdre Africa of Rancho Bueno in Galisteo, for sale at the Santa Fe Railyard Artisans Market most Sundays 10-4. Check out [www.buttonboxaprons.com](http://www.buttonboxaprons.com) and call 505-670-5198 or email [deirdreafrica@msn.com](mailto:deirdreafrica@msn.com).

### SERVICES

**Dave's Auto Repair:** restoring, minor repairs, painting. Local refs. Free estimates: David Montoya, 505-501-1991.

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

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

**Welding, flagstone, moss rock, fountains, plumbing, sprinkler, drip systems, plus Gopher Control.** David Maestas, cell 670-8608 or 660-9715.

**Linda Vista Stables:** Local horse owners: I can take care of your horses when you're away, in the comfort of their own barn. Call Maria, 466-8930

**Pet, House, and Garden Care.** Janet Pfeiffer, 399-9238.

**Galisteo Yoga:** Mondays 3pm, Tuesdays 9:30am @Dorothy's 466-2339 stretching & breathing. Private & Group Sessions w/Ruby 466-1961 [ruby@rubyrenshaw.com](mailto:ruby@rubyrenshaw.com) *Kundalini & free-movement based* Fridays 10-11 am @ Galisteo Community Center w/Mare profundus@aol.com *slow flow & therapeutic blend of Vinyasa & Ivengar.*

**Yoga for Everybody:** Julia Cairns and Mary Horst run yoga classes at the Eldorado Community Center, Mon-Fri. All levels welcome! See [www.yogaforeverybody.com](http://www.yogaforeverybody.com) for more information. Julia: 466-3393.

**Grow Y'own hooped and covered raised beds** for year-round gardening! Ken 490-1849.

Preparing your garden for next year? Repairing erosion? **Aged compost and mulch** available at Goose Downs Farm north of the village. Free if you load, \$15 if we do: Tom, 670-7031.

**Intern will travel:** Need help during parties, snow shoveling, yard cleaning, housekeeping or pet sitting? Call John Garcia at 505-919-8147.

**JVS will remove (live) rattlesnakes.** Call 466-1064.

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

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

**Firewood, Misc. Hauling, Odd Jobs, Humane Custom Butchery, CAD services.** Phone 466-8967 or cell: 435-3067, [adan.cardenas1@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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

**Meditation and Knowings** class with Chris Griscom, Sundays at The Light Institute:5-6:30 pm. Free to Galisteo residents. 466-1975.

**Book Writing and Marketing Services:** by Random House author with 20 yrs. experience. Also **Voice Training and Singing Lessons** for children, adults and **Angel Readings:** Connect with loved ones from the other side. Stella Togo, 714-433-6148; [www.stellatogo.com](http://www.stellatogo.com).

**Dentistry:** Specializing in Endodontics (Root Canals) Free telephone consultations: Dr. Bernie Gavron at 505-988-7356.

## +++EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

**Editor:** Lucy R. Lippard. **logo** by Cara Lee. **Printer:** Allegra. All donations welcome. **Comments, suggestions, contributions to EL PUENTE, 14 Avenida Vieja, 466-1276 or flip14@centurylink.net. NEXT DEADLINE: Sept. 5th. TO SPONSOR: Make out check for \$80-\$150 (or more!) to GCA, noting "for newsletter," and send to El Puente at address above.**

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