



ISSUE #227

SEPTEMBER 2019

EDITORIAL

I returned from a working vacation a couple of weeks ago to fall into a local controversy around the coming improvements to our Community Center. At the heart of the disagreement was some people's perceptions that the GCA Board was acting above and beyond the community without proper transparency. This group feels that plans for upgrades at the Community Center were crystallized long before the March meeting to inform the community, and that suggestions for a different plan proposed by a long-time Galisteian with expertise in green building were ignored, although his objections were heard over a series of two meetings. While some of his suggestions were convincing, the Board finally chose to confirm the original plan. Hard feelings ensued.

It is of course the Board's responsibility to present a fully considered plan and as far as I can tell, it had met the required steps for transparency after the hard work of jumping through all the bureaucratic hoops necessary to receive the lucrative grant from the USDA. (I spoke at an event at the GCC on Sept. 8th, when the audience was practically fainting from the heat, which convinced me that a cooling system was necessary; heating rarely is, because the passive solar system set up some forty years ago is still effective.) Questions have been raised about whether agenda and minutes of Board meetings have been regularly posted on the mailbox bulletin board; they have admittedly been irregular, corrected in the last three months.

The main protagonists have shaken hands, but the issues remain contested. Rumors and misunderstandings spread fast in our *pueblo chico*. Check them out before reacting. At the core of these problems is the fact that too many of us do not attend the meetings that make these major decisions. (And, in my case, I fail to understand many technical issues.) It would be great if there were a system by which people unable to attend meetings could engage with the issues... but nothing can take the place of open dialogue. If we cannot serve or attend meetings, for whatever valid reasons, we can contact a Board member with questions. Letters to *El Puente* are another public forum (c.150 words max).

It is difficult to criticize those good souls who volunteer for the GCA Board and other responsible positions on our entirely volunteer-run village. And thanks as well to those who don't have the time away from work to serve or even make it to many meetings, but are concerned enough to enter the fray. So here's a hearty *Gracias* to them and to those on the GCA Board, the Fire Department, The Water Board, La Sala, and the Studio Tour. Where would we be without you?

NEWCOMERS: HIGH ON ALTITUDE

Julie Deery

You may have noticed some new *corredores locos* in Galisteo this summer. My husband Paul Davis and I (*photo at below*) moved from Philadelphia into our home on La Otra Vanda in the late Spring. We both have enjoyed running on the east coast near where we lived and raised our children. When we sold our home we decided to travel in our van while looking for a new place to settle. Running as we move around helps us explore and connect more intimately with our surroundings. Santa Fe was a pleasure to find so we parked our van and ran trails both in town and in the mountain ranges.

After deciding to stay and buying our new home we thought it might be nice to sign up for a race to keep us motivated. We settled on Pikes Peak Ultra on July 27th, in Colorado Springs. This gave us close to three months to train. Many mornings we would enjoy running in the Galisteo neighborhood, combining streets and trails. The Galisteo Basin Preserve and rail trail were perfect for longer runs and the mountain trails helped with our altitude adjustment. Moving from sea level to 6,500' had already been difficult and our first attempt at Mt. Atalaya was not pretty. Many stops and starts with gasps for air. We knew it could only get better. By the end of July we were feeling confident with our training.

Thankfully we both survived the race in Colorado. It was a beautiful day with only one epic hail storm at the top of Mt. Rosa. Paul has since hiked the Cape Wrath Trail in Scotland with his brother in August. Julie stayed home and did the Santa Fe Endurance trail run, where she met some fast Tarahumara Indians.

Now we are back in Galisteo with a home and community to settle into and probably more races to run. Let us know if you want to join us. When we're not running, Paul continues to develop his software for recording, editing and mixing sound (ardour.org) while I mix up my roles as a mosaic artist (often in residence), licensed massage therapist, and short-term rental host.



SEASONS AND MEMORIES

Stella Maestas

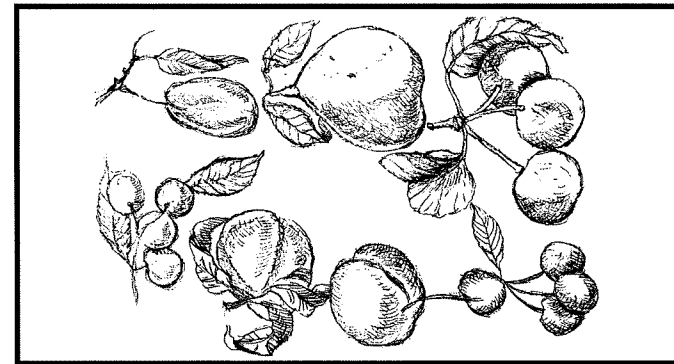
I guess some individuals prefer cooler weather, but I can't wait for spring. There are many signs of spring. When the seasons are changing there is something in the air that is a sure indication that we are about to change our wardrobe, maybe get our barbecue grill ready for outdoor cooking, or that annoying urge to begin spring cleaning. For me, it has always been the fragrance of new blooms on the fruit trees, those lovely lilacs, and even the new, tiny vegetation peeking through the ground which is our natural landscape.

It is amazing how different aromas can trigger a memory from the past. As a youngster, I can recall walking to school. If we had extra time we would look for *chimaja*, an herb that we used to pick for tea. It grew in the early spring and served as a medicine for stomach ailments. It had a very distinct fragrance, pleasant tasting, and we ate it fresh right after picking it. My mother would let it dry, then save it in jars for future use.

We were still a little ways from the school, and I caught the smell of alcohol coming from the school house. Well, to me this meant that the school nurse was there. It was vaccination time once again. I hesitated for a moment because I was not very fond of needles, and I knew that I would be at the other end of that needle. Ouch!!! To this day I still cringe when I have to get a flu shot. I'm not alone. I had to get my flu shot recently, and an individual waiting there asked the pharmacist about the size of the needle.

Each season brings a special memory for me, with a certain fragrance. I've always had a strong sense of smell. In the winter, there is a chill in the air accompanied by the strong smell of firewood. I can remember staying under the blankets until someone else built a fire in our potbellied wood stove.

Springtime has that wonderful aroma of little tiny wildflowers, and cool mornings filled with that the damp smell of an approaching rain storm, or someone has recently mowed their lawn. For me, springtime reminds me of my Mom transplanting her favorite petunias, and how I need to get started with my flowers. I always have petunias in my flower garden because they were my mother's favorites. Early summer brought the wonderful aroma of lilacs. Warmer air carries the smells of tree blossoms, strawberries ripening on the vine, my mother baking fresh bread, and our white sheets hanging on the clothesline to dry. We must not forget those sounds of summer, after thunderstorms, when the tadpoles came into the puddles, and later tiny frogs hopped around the yard. Let's give those crickets some credit too. As a child I can remember searching under furniture for that annoying cricket that kept me awake. What triggers your memories?



CLAFOUTIS, CICADAS, AND CHABLIS

Jan Saunders, drawing by Catherine Ferguson (left)

At times Mother Nature can be a *Mean Mother*; but this past summer she lovingly nurtured Galisteo with copious showers of nitrogen-rich rain. The basin vistas greened-up as blooming wildflowers, yucca and cholla created a virtual garden of Eden. Galisteoans greeted each other saying *Isn't this rain wonderful? Have you ever seen a summer so green? Don't you just love it?*

The rains came down, the river overflowed its banks, and the Spade Foot Toads croaked out their annual invitation to females to show up for the mating party. A covey of Scaled Quail was sighted crossing the highway just north of town. An errant Prairie Rattler that slithered under the screen door into Judy and Phillip's kitchen was bravely corralled in a cardboard box until it was whisked away by Sloan's Live Rattlesnake Removal Service. Early one quiet morning, a beautiful Red Racer, looking for all the world like a Sea Serpent, swam 'round and 'round in my bird bath. The blooms on Scott and Florence's Century Plants shot skyward like Jack's Beanstalk. Corey's garden that Grow Y'Own built flourished with herbs and greens as she "grew her own" soup. Maria's hens produced eggs through the summer.

For me, the bounty was first evident in the ample fields of Needle and Thread grass flashing silver, waving in the wind. On my walks with Grappa through damp, sandy arroyos, I found things growing and blooming I had never noticed before, like Mormon Tea. Coming upon hidden gardens of blooming mounds of pure white Loco Weed was a pleasant surprise.

By July, Catherine's orchard, snuggled behind brick walls, was a smorgasbord of fruit – cherries, apricots, pears, peaches, plums and finally apples. Friends came to pick, and still the boughs hung heavy. Picking cherries one day, Maria declared that she had never in all her life in Galisteo seen such a harvest. Bears and coyotes tempted by fallen fruit came at night to leave their sign to be found in the morning. Butterflies and hummingbirds gorged on the nectar generously offered by wide-open blooms. Abundant proof of Persephone's presence was everywhere. It was a delicious time.

I loved the days when turquoise skies billowed with enormous cotton-white clouds swollen with moisture. Clear nights flaunted both Blue Moons and a Blood Moon. In August a super-bright full moon threw shade on the Perseus meteor shower. Common Night Hawks circled low in evening skies scooping up insects in their gaping mouths.

I reveled in time spent outside walking Grappa or tending my garden. When I could, I found my way to the porch swing to read Craig Childs' *House of Rain* about the importance of rain to the Early Puebloans. Looking up from my book, out across the long fetch of the lush Galisteo Basin resting beneath dark monsoon clouds heavy with moisture, I understood the blessings of this summer of rain.

And so, as the summer ends, Catherine and I savor the last Cherry Clafoutis, prepared with cherries from her orchard frozen in July. The rhythmic droning of Cicadas calling from the proud old cottonwoods along the Galisteo river provides the perfect soundtrack. We raise glasses of Chablis in a toast to the summer that was.

GALISTEO STUDIO TOUR OCTOBER 12TH - 13TH

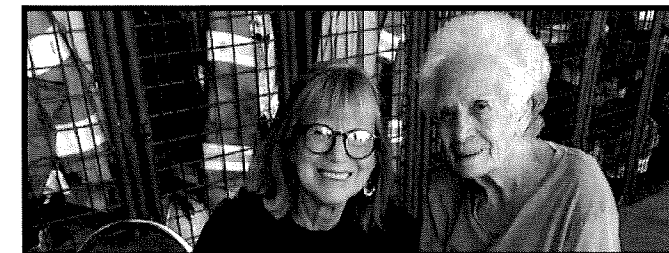
GVFR NEWS

At the end of July, **Steve Moya** retired as Asst. Chief of Finance, the Santa Fe County Fire Dept. after 37 years of government service. Members celebrated his freedom with a party.

August 13, GVFR members **Don Truax** and **Alex Amend** conquered the grueling Fire Academy Fire Fighter One course and graduated along with the few other survivors. They were "pinned" by their respective wives, Jessica and Annika, and cheered on by GVFR members. (Photos below by Alice Kruse.)



The GVFR Breakfast on September 7th was a great community affair with good food, good company, free smoke alarms, a bargain in fire extinguishers, free blood pressure tests, cut rates for chimney cleaning, plus *snakes!* (More on them in the next issue.) A perfect way to understand the workings of the GVFR. (Photo: *Deirdre Africa and Mary Alice Anaya, who just turned 91 years and we wish her many more.*)



PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Romona Scholder generously donated several Fritz Scholder posters for a special one-day Flash Sale on Sept. 14th at La Sala; all proceeds went to ongoing building renovation.

A *bulto* by **Jean Anaya Moya** was in the *New Mexican's* frontpage coverage of Spanish Market (7/22), where she won first place for a relief carving of Saint Francis. At the State Fair she received second place for a carving of Our Lady of Guadalupe and **Craig Moya** won first place and honorable mention for a straw applique cross and box.

On August 24th, **Harmony Hammond** was at SITE Santa Fe in conversation with *New York Times* art critic Holland Cotter and hosted a private studio visit in Galisteo. She also spoke at Tamarind in July, was the subject of two admiring write-ups in *Pasatiempo*, and a book has been published in conjunction with her Aldrich retrospective.

Woody Gwyn's *Next to Nature* exhibition at the LewAllen Gallery in August was accompanied by a handsome brochure

with a text by Alex Gill, who notes that these extraordinarily detailed paintings are "part of a search for the truth of the land."

Judy Tuwaletsiwa's show at CCA continued impressive public programming throughout its run. A major article by Michael Abatemarco ran in *Pasatiempo* (7/19).

Christie O'Connor's dog Robbie got his picture in the paper (6/27) as he celebrated his 17th (!) birthday.

Yet another historical fantasy about **Galisteo** appeared several years ago in a letter to the editor from Bill Lyme of Lamy, stating that he has "irrefutable proof that ancient Egyptians, Minoans, Libyans, and Galesteans" (named after the Cycladic island of Santorini, originally called 'Galeste') founded a colony in the Galisteo Basin c.1626 BC.

Bear scat has been sighted in the bosque. Happy dry fall!

IN OUR OWN BACK YARD

National news has been having a field day with the saga of Jeffrey Epstein, the billionaire financier and convicted sex offender accused of trafficking and abusing teenaged girls in Florida and elsewhere, who committed suicide in jail last month. This is close to home for Galisteans, several of whom had interactions (no, not that kind) with Epstein when he visited his 7,559-acre Zorro Ranch on the top of Clark Hill, some of which extends down into the Basin. At least one Galisteoan has been interviewed by the media since Epstein's suicide in a New York jail. Although *El Puento* had reported on his earlier conviction, your editor once received a call from him bragging that he had bought more copies of her book *Down Country* than anyone else. (I demurred on an invitation, and refrained from saying I was probably a bit old for his tastes.)

A local real estate appraiser remarked that Zorro "is not big enough to be an actual working ranch. Nobody would build a house that big on land used for a cattle ranch. This was not an investment property" (*New Mexican* 8/13). There is a ranch manager and "nominal cattle," as well as a stable and airstrip. State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard has now terminated two grazing leases dating back to 1993 (renewed in 2017). New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas noted that the acreage meant for cattle grazing should not have been granted, and accused Epstein of leasing state land simply to build privacy around his multimillion-dollar estate. Balderas is continuing to investigate whether girls were trafficked or abused there. Several female names were listed in his "little black book" under "Massage—New Mexico." No news on that so far, although one of Epstein's accusers has alleged that former governor Bill Richardson, among others, enjoyed "privileged" visits to the ranch, which he denies.

Zorro land was acquired from former governor Bruce King. Epstein's name was on County records in 2012 but in 2013 (or 2016?) it was transferred to Cypress, Inc., based in the U.S. Virgin Islands, a notorious tax shelter where Epstein owns an island. (Tax evasion and huge political contributions in NM are also known.) The house is 33,000 sq.' (or merely 26,700' in another report), intended as the biggest house in New Mexico, to surpass that of another local rancher. (I once talked to a contractor working there who said when Epstein found out the kitchen wasn't the biggest in NM, he tore down a wall to add 1,000 feet.) The fate of the ranch (valued in the recent trust at \$17.2 million) is unknown. Selling it may not be easy. Tom Ford's ranch has been for sale since 2016; first listed as \$75 million, it has since come down to \$48 million. (See photo p.4)



Aerial view of Zorro Ranch

EL PUENTE SPONSOR: LIZ ROSE

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

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

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

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FOR SALE

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 and call 505-670-5198 or email deirdreafrica@msn.com.

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

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

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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 *Kundalini & free-movement based* Fridays 10-11 am @ Galisteo Community Center w/Mare profundus@aol.com *slow flow & therapeutic blend of Vinyasa & Iyengar.*

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 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.

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

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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: Oct. 5th. TO SPONSOR: Make out check for \$80-\$150 (or more!) to GCA, noting "for newsletter," and send to El Puente.**

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