

# EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

ISSUE #252-253

MARCH/APRIL 2022

## JOHN CHAPMAN DORN (6/24/1927-2/14/2022)



John Dorn was raised on an extensive estate in Pennsylvania, the sixth child of Ruth and Forest Dorn. He suffered from polio as a boy, attended Choate School and Yale University, and in summers he worked for Barnum and Bailey/Ringling Brothers Circus, "sweeping up after the elephants and showing people to their seats." Near the end of WWII, Dorn served in the Navy and on a visit to Santa Fe in 1948 he met his future wife BLee Stringer. They settled in Midland, Texas, where they had four children. He worked at Forest Oil and then started his own company, Perm Corp, as well as ranching (horses, cattle, and goats) and serving on the boards of several institutions. His children remember him as "a man of enormous curiosities, a history lover, ... fastidious and dapper," who had baked his own bread and brewed his own beer.

BLee died of cancer after almost sixty years of marriage. Soon afterwards, John was once again in Santa Fe and "ran into Bobbie Hilliard, an old friend who had once lived in Midland -beautiful and charming, the very picture of elegant, easy-going grace." They married on April 16, 2011, and he moved to her "beautiful home in Galisteo..."

John is survived by Bobbie and his children -- Rebecca Dorn, Leslie Dorn, Stephen Dorn and Timothy Dorn, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren, as well as Bobbie's six children and thirteen grandchildren. The family is planning a memorial for late June. (*Excerpted from the New Mexican obituary with some help from the family.*)

**APRIL 30: ANNUAL ROADS CLEANUP.** Meet at Watts Park (mailboxes) at 8:45 for COFFEE and pastries supplied by John and Tanya Young, who will also sponsor Michael and Jerry Anaya for the trash pick-up. **9:00 – 9:15: GCA ELECTIONS**, and on to clean-up by 9:30. Bring work gloves, walking shoes, sunglasses, and sun hat. Trash bags, bottles of water, and community road maps (so you can select your route) will be available. Any questions contact Roger, 466-3469 or [clearskynm@gmail.com](mailto:clearskynm@gmail.com).

### Butts in the bosque

Your editor lives next to the Rio Galisteo and I get scared every time I find cigarette butts in the Bosque. If you see someone smoking, kindly ask them to abstain or be careful.

### GCA BOARD ELECTIONS

Last year, thanks to Covid, elections were postponed and existing terms were extended a year. Now conditions have improved enough to hold outdoor elections in person. The Board consists of up to 9 members (4 Officers and 5 Directors), with up to 2 additional adjunct members who can fill a position should it be vacated before that member completes his or her term. Anyone 18 years of age and a Galisteo resident for 6 months prior to March 2022 is eligible to vote or run for a position.

There are several openings. President: Roger Taylor is term limited after serving 2 consecutive 2-year terms; he will remain associated with the Board as a Project Manager handling several efforts underway. Jessica Spring remains as Treasurer. Paul Davis, Vernon Anaya, Stella Maestas, and Bjarne Slette remain as directors.

**Anna Cárdenas**, currently Vice-President, has announced her candidacy for President. If she is elected, her position will be open and **Greg Boardman**, ending his first 2-year term, is running for VP. Secretary **Deirdre Africa**, currently ending her first term, is running for re-election as Secretary. The two adjunct positions are open. This proposed slate is recommended. If these candidates are confirmed, there will be one Director position to fill; **Ann Senuta** has self-nominated with a relevant resume.

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The Board meets monthly on a regular date for several hours, and more frequently if necessary. Board members serve as project leaders and/or members of a team. Sometimes (*Cont.p.2*)

the Board reaches out to the community to form work teams. **Projects and issues the Board will be working on the next 2 years are:** 1) Completing the final USDA grant process for the architectural and engineering study on the Community Center, raising funds and acquiring grants to complete repairs and upgrades such as re-stuccoing the building, upgrading the bathrooms to ADA compliance, and a possible addition to the building dedicated to arts events and activities, replacing those at the sadly defunct La Sala. 2) Working with the County on capital funding appropriations for the parks, such as a canopy cover over the new playground equipment. 3) Managing the ongoing lawsuit between the GCA Board and a Galisteo resident over a land taking. 4) Monitoring further development along NM41 or CR42, as well as the proposed Miller developments in Lamy along 285 frontage. 5) As the pandemic hopefully wanes, planning social events such as the monthly Saturday breakfasts and Chile/Margarita fest. 6) Working with the County and Modern Elders Academy during its construction and opening. 7) Researching broadband alternatives to current area providers.

There are also several upcoming issues dependent on Board participation: Connecting with the NMDOT during highway reconstruction; coordinating arts events; and exploring the feasibility of a community solar initiative.

## WATER, MODERN ELDERS, AND THE VILLAGE

When Spanish colonists first arrived around the turn of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the grasses of the Galisteo Basin were said to be “abundant.” Apparently they still were in 1846 when the American colonists arrived and commented on the “lush grass” high on their horses. Since then it has been downhill all the way to our current patchy “grasslands,” done in by overgrazing and other mismanagement, not to mention droughts.

Regenerative practices, including grazing, was one of the hottest topics at the Modern Elders Academy’s open session on water and land use on April 7th at the Saddleback Ranch headquarters. The large room was crowded with around 40 attendees, three MEA reps, and a number of impressive eco experts who insisted this was a worthy project or they wouldn’t be working on it: **Jason Hall**, of JH Water Solutions, a Santa Fe-based hydrology consulting company, has worked in Northern NM for 22 years. **Mustafa Chudnoff** has 31 years of water resources experience in NM, in the Office of the State Engineer and elsewhere; he has worked with Rio Chama acequia groups and in Espanola, Taos, Las Vegas and Galisteo (including Goose Downs and Nizhoni). **Kenneth Francis** is the owner of Surroundings, a NM multidisciplinary design studio (architecture and landscape architecture). He designed stormwater features along the Santa Fe River. **Anna Thomas** worked on a NM cattle ranch to learn regenerative grazing strategies. **Erin English** is senior water engineer at Biohabitats, an expert in wastewater, graywater, rainwater, and water re-use. **Jan Bird** grew up on a ranch in Baja, Mexico, and is a researcher, farmer, land designer, educator etc. on holistic management for permaculture, infrastructure, and landscape design. **Genesis Purce**, CEO of Sarcon, MEA’s contractor, tells *El Puente*: “In contrast to many of my past experiences, Modern Elder Academy has decided to

prioritize sustainability with an emphasis on water stewardship as a non-negotiable element of this project. Many of these elements exceed or are not required by code and were retained despite their heavy additional expense.”

MEA leader Chip Conley opened the meeting, noting that they had inherited a bad situation from the last developers, and fending off accusations by Al Romero of involvement in a suspect Baja project for which he was only a ten-hour-a-month consultant. MEA’s Skylar Skikos continued, citing their determination to make a positive impact by going way beyond County regulations for water use and quality. MEA is “far along” on County permits for the initial expansion (adding some 40 rooms to extant structures).

Current plans are to use 5 or 6 acre feet with 4 or 5 af returning to the aquifer. Hall has tested the wells at Drogheda and Chamisa and they have “performed well... This is a small project and better organized than” what he has seen before. Chodnoff calculated drawdown assuming no rainfall at all, just storage. The OSE says about 5% of water gets back in the ground but it seems it’s much better here. Francis is aiming for 80% of water back into the ground where soil restoration can take place.

Bird was eloquent about the possibilities of regeneration. After hundreds of years of bad grazing with cattle and sheep, more than half of the 4-square-mile ranch is bare dirt. An 8” annual precipitation can infiltrate the soil if well managed. Tom Angle of Goose Downs spoke of his successful regeneration there. (More details on that in the May issue.)

Long term average rainfall here is 8-10” annually, but “you can’t predict averages.... it will probably rain enough to grow grass.” (The types of desirable grasses were not specified.) Bird cited places in NM where regeneration has worked: The Ranney Ranch near Corona and Fort Union ranch near Watrous, among others. The Audubon society is a good source, and perhaps best of all is our own Quivira Coalition, which has been promoting and modeling the Savory grazing methods and other regenerative processes across the west for many years. (I recall once visiting a Pueblo rancher with Quivira; he was raising a record number of cattle on his small property by moving them every morning, protecting the water sources; his afternoons were free.) Kevan Saunders raised issues about wildlife and was told that safe fencing for deer and pronghorns was in the plans.

MEA will not raise cattle, though Bird noted, “it’s not the cow, it’s the how.” He recommended resting the land for 1-2 years and then moving horses strategically, every 1 to 3 days; their hooves make cups for water. (Another suggestion was to make it a home for senior horses.) “This needs to be happening all around the Galisteo Basin.” (The main barrier is roads.) Ideally, the ranch can be a model for recharging the entire watershed.

As the meeting progressed, the most critical comments focused on the potential development of some 30 to 40 homes. Conley said that was another cumbersome process and was off the table for now, until 2 or 3 (or maybe 7 or 8) years. Matthew McQueen, our State Rep, who asked an unanswered question about removal of woody shrubs, comments: “The MEA developers said that they wouldn’t be moving forward with a residential subdivision ‘any time soon,’ but later said that meant as little as 2-3 years, which can be just a hiccup in the life of a real estate development. I would encourage them to explore permanent conservation of the ranch -- which (Cont. p.3)

would enhance the experience at the retreat center as well as their restoration efforts-- through a qualified conservation easement.”

At one point, Mike Dyer contended that our community isn’t anti-development, just pro-water. But several villagers have been adamant about their mistrust of any developer. Some passionately resent the wealthy taking over our open spaces (which has of course been common across NM. colonial history, from Spanish *ricos* to today’s billionaires). This has been the story of Saddleback for centuries. Until that little problem (capitalism) is solved, someone is going to develop here, and compared to many others, MEA seems like the gentler giant, at least an improvement on the previous contender.

Yet another villager writes: “The MEA project, no matter what they say, will transform this Basin and Village... Not saying it will be all bad, but ... they are the slick willies of all slickness. That’s why they have more money, more presumption, and with it, more hubris than I am willing to live with or near.”

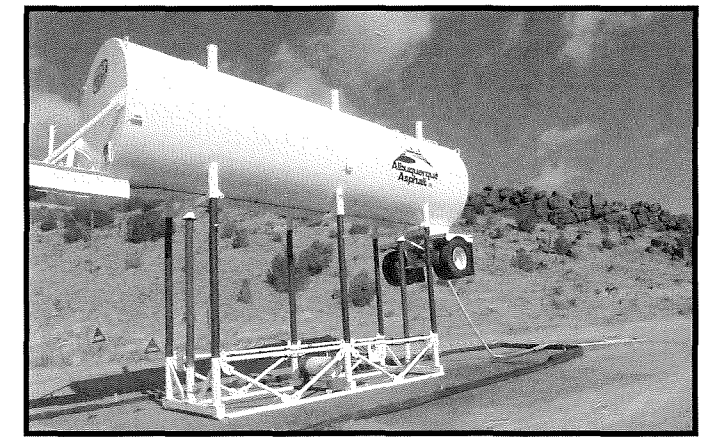
On the other side of the spectrum, Vernon and Chan Anaya told *El Puente* they had been opposed to MEA from day one, but after listening intently to the water conservation/reclamation experts, [they were] won over,” and “excited to be a part of a new way to work with mother nature on our fragile Island home.” Phil Tuwalestiwa, until recently president of our Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (and still on the Board, as is your editor), thanked MEA for their positive plans.

*El Puente* reached out to writer William deBuys, author of the recent *A Great Aridness: Climate Change and the Future of the American Southwest* (and the new edition of his iconic *Enchantment and Exploitation*) who has lived for decades in the tiny Norteño village of El Valle. He warned that whatever development occurs, we should be “very concerned about the sustainability of Galisteo’s water supply. It is a small basin with limited and climate-vulnerable recharge and with Eldorado and a lot of suburban sprawl upstream sticking straws into the drink, authorizing additional withdrawals of the size currently applied for” seems imprudent: “Groundwater modelling is iffy at best, especially in small basins where a small error estimating the configuration of the basin can mean big misstatements of yield; decisions should acknowledge a very high range of uncertainty. Even if precip does fall... increased evaporation in decades ahead will mean a steep decline in recharge.... Permits for aquifer extraction are based on how things have been, not will be.” Most thoughtful residents would agree. Hopefully some of them/us will have the energy to take on County regulations.

The day after the meeting, MEA contacted attendees to tell us that someone there had tested positive for Covid and had reached out to those they had talked to. Only some of us wore masks but windows were open and fans operating, so hopefully it was contained. MEA folks would like to be informed (at chip@chipconley.com) if there are any additional positives.

*(Ed. note: My meeting notes were sometimes pretty illegible and my dog remembers nothing; I can’t say I heard/understood everything, so please send corrections/comments on the above and I will publish in May.)*

**WHEN DONATING TO EL PUENTE (MUCH APPRECIATED!) PLEASE BE SURE TO MAKE CHECK OUT TO GCA (BUT SEND TO EDITOR LUCY LIPPARD, 14 AVENIDA VIEJA.) MIL GRACIAS.**



## MASSIVE NM 41 CONSTRUCTION

On March 22, a community meeting was held with NMDOT and other officials (including our admirable sheriff, Adan Mendoza) to inform us about the details of the re-construction of NM 41 from La Vega to the intersection with US 285, a distance of 5.5 miles. Work hours will be Monday- Friday, 6:00AM - 5:00PM.

Because this project includes removing and replacing the road’s underlying base course as well as the surface asphalt, a temporary traffic diversion will be constructed consisting of a 2-way one-lane road controlled by a stop/go light. This will be very similar to the recent roadwork on NM41 from the Galisteo bridges to Clark Hill. The lanes will remain 12’ wide with a 6’ shoulder on each side. The lanes will narrow to 11’ wide and shoulders to 4’ between Goose Downs and La Vega, with several medians placed in the center strip for traffic slowing. The speed limit on the 2-way diversion will be 25-35 mph, depending on the phase of the project -- 6 phases altogether.

During the road work, any updates or restrictions will be posted on [www.nmroads.com](http://www.nmroads.com), on the Galisteo community email, in *El Puente*, and on the community bulletin board at the mailboxes. Patrick Martinez of NMDOT and Emiliano Martinez of Albuquerque Asphalt will be managing the project. As we all know, work has already begun for a projected total of 340 work days. It will continue through Nov. 2023 with a weather suspension Nov. 2022 - April 2023.

At the meeting, community members raised questions about better roads leading to even more speeding vehicles through the village, misgivings about the effectiveness of little medians, and care of Micaela Griego’s *descanso*.

## PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, a beautiful Spring day at the Galisteo Community Center, about 100 people joined the Rural Caucus’ Statewide Contested Candidate Forum to listen to and ask questions of pre-primary Democratic candidates (Treasurer, Attorney General, Auditor). Special guests highlighted the day for a very engaged audience. Of local note, **Camilla Bustamante announced she was running for District 3 County Commissioner against Rudy Garcia.**

GVFR Firefighter-in-training **Ken Frumin** was pictured in the *New Mexican* (2/27) helping to assemble a mobile rehab unit for an evacuation drill in the La Barberia area. (Cont. p.4)

A community member offers the following comments on providing **shelter for horses**, as raised in the last issue: "Horses in large pasture areas can find shelter from wind, snow, and heat in trees or in arroyos. This is not the case when they are penned in small enclosures, an unnatural environment for range animals. Building them a shed or shelter is as important a part of their care as feed, water, grooming and medical attention. As suggested in the original article on this subject, offering reasonable comfort to our animals is an expression of our kindness and humanity." (Ed. note: El Puente welcomes, and even longs for, more responses from the community about its contents.)

**Kristin Eager Killion's** artwork is included in *The Surrealist Dreamers of New Mexico* at Fusion Forum (708 1<sup>st</sup> St, Albuquerque; 505-766-9412).

Here's a life-saving reason to **plant organic seeds**: the herbicides with which non-organic seeds are treated remain in the plant, in the flowers and fruit, and they poison pollinators like bees, other insects, and birds. Note: we now have 3% of the **insect** population that we had in the 1950s. And **birds** are in the same boat. Help!

On March 8, 1997, the *New Mexican* reported twenty-five years since Judge Steven Pfeffer ruled that El Dorado Utilities must stop pumping the **Lamy Well**, drilled without a permit 20' away from the permitted well. This was a triumph for Galisteo. **Joe Cooper** led the charge.

Jeffrey Epstein's **Zorro Ranch**, 7,588 acres, overlooking the Galisteo Basin, is selling for \$27,500,000. The 30,000' main residence boasts a large indoor pool and gym, and "exceptional kitchen." Other amenities include an airstrip, hangar and heliopad, stables, greenhouse, and the separate Ranch headquarters, which is a small village in itself.

Check out **David van Dyk's** video on La Sala on Youtube: <https://youtu.be/CdsAbKWa1nQ>.

Zip code 87540 now has had 124 Covid cases (as of 4/11).

## EL PUENTE SPONSORS: FRED & JJ MILDER

### GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

**ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. PLEASE email [flip14@centurylink.net](mailto:flip14@centurylink.net) TO UPDATE OR DELETE YOUR ADS. Next deadline: MAY 10th**

#### 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

**Quartermill Gallery**, 10 Via La Puente. Open Weekends by appt. 505-466-2255. Estate pieces and Regional collectables.

**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](mailto:info@taluswindranch.com).

**Button Box Aprons** by Deirdre Africa of Rancho Bueno: call or email if you are interested in aprons, napkins, and potholders: 505-670-5198, [www.buttonboxaprons.com](http://www.buttonboxaprons.com), or [africadeirdre@gmail.com](mailto:africadeirdre@gmail.com)

### SERVICES

**Radio Free Galisteo @** [www.radiofreegalisteo.com](http://www.radiofreegalisteo.com)

Music and Information from the Galisteo Basin. Support the Station: <https://www.patreon.com/radiofreegalisteo>.

**Dave's Auto Repair:** restoring, minor repairs, painting. Local references. Free estimates: David Montoya, 505-577-1720.

Exciting **Adventure Travel** around the world with professional wildlife photographers Jami Tarris and Theo Allofs

of Wild Focus Expeditions. For more information: 466-3640 or [www.wildfocuspeditions.com](http://www.wildfocuspeditions.com). Come with Us!

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

**Orchard Full-Service Catering:** Personal chef, experience with special needs and dietary issues. Corey McGillicuddy, 466-1831, [mcgillicuddycorey3@gmail.com](mailto:mcgillicuddycorey3@gmail.com).

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

**Intern will travel:** Need help during parties, snow shoveling, yard cleaning, housekeeping or pet sitting on weekends? Call John Garcia at 505-310-3812.

**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:** Virtual yoga with Mare! Zoom Yoga Weds. 12:30. Sunday noon. \$12.00 per class pay pal or check options.

Contact Mare at [profundus@aol.com](mailto:profundus@aol.com) for the Zoom Room Link.

**Yoga Zoom** classes with Julia: Every Mon., Wed., and Fri. Gentle Yin, Vinyasa Flow and Yin Yang. Contact 505-466-1935 or [julia.c.cairns@gmail.com](mailto:julia.c.cairns@gmail.com) for more information.

**Grow Y<sup>o</sup>wn hooped and covered raised beds** for year-round gardening! Ken 490-1849.

**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.

**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, 577-6004.

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

**Meditation & Knowings** with Chris Griscom via video Sundays, free on YouTube: 466-1975 [thelight@lightinstitute.com](mailto:thelight@lightinstitute.com)

### +++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, or [flip14@centurylink.net](mailto:flip14@centurylink.net). NEXT DEADLINE: May 10th. TO SPONSOR: Make out check for \$80-\$150 (or more!) to GCA, noting "for newsletter," and send to *El Puente* at address above.**