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1988: THE GALISTEO STUDIO TOUR IS BORN

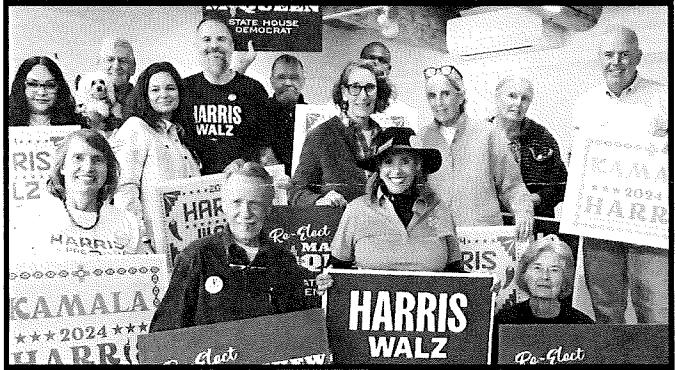
Word is that this year's Studio Tour was the most relaxed and the preview party the most elegant ever, thanks to the artists, sponsors, and organizational skills of Lesley Dyer and crew. Their hard work marks another notch in the belt of one of New Mexico's oldest studio tours, celebrating a tradition that defines Galisteo to itself and to the outside world, as a place where art lives.

So it can be hard to imagine—or remember if you were lucky enough to be there—how the Studio Tour began thirty-six years ago. In 1988 Agnes Martin was still painting in her Galisteo adobe. The village had a gas station, pawn shop, practicing *brujo*, and no fire department. Outside of church, the only annual event was Rudy Sena's rodeo. When a meeting was called at the Galisteo Inn, painter Catherine Ferguson was one of a handful of artists there. Under discussion was the idea of selling artwork by opening studios to strangers. “A few other places were doing it, but the idea of everybody in Galisteo going in together sounded crazy. I didn’t even have a studio,” she recalls.

It wasn’t crazy at all to the person who proposed the idea—Nancy Park, then-manager of the Galisteo Inn. An artist herself, Park (who has gone by her last name since seventh grade) had first visited Galisteo in 1978. Eventually she moved to a yellow house with a round window on The Hill from the Bay Area, where impromptu art shows were set up in private homes. She’d also heard about the studio tour in Dixon. Part of her job as Inn manager was helping curate monthly art shows. She was proud that local artists could show and sell their work to guests from all over the world. “My neighbor on one side was the person who invented Science Diet dogfood. The other side neighbor had never even been into Santa Fe.” For all their differences, she felt the villagers cared about one another. Galisteo was a magically “transactional place, animated by an assortment of people,” which included both residents and those who visited to make films, study at the Light Institute, and vacation at the Inn.

Galisteo artists often used their studios as showrooms from time to time, but a collective Studio Tour was something else. At that first meeting, Park told the group, “We’re a natural for this. We can do it and really have some fun. And everyone just said, ‘Let’s do it!’” And they did. “You couldn’t have found a better bunch of people,” says photographer Nick Trofimuk, who was at the first meeting with his late wife Joette. (*Cont. p. 2*)

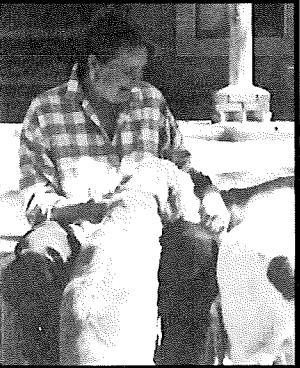
Sat.-Sun. Dec. 7-8, 10am-4pm: Third Annual Galisteo Holiday Market at the Galisteo Community Center, Perfect for gifts! Aprons & napkins, jewelry, specialty foods, hand-crafted soaps and lotions, original art & prints, mosaics, notecards, ornaments, handmade crafts for the home, traditional New Mexico herbal remedies and healing products, hand-knit shawls and felted toys, retablos, and more! Free coffee and cider.



Top: British street art. US elections were scarier than Halloween.

Middle: Democrats meet pre-election at GCC.

Right: Studio Tour founder Park and friends.



"We didn't know what we were doing, but we all just did different jobs." Park produced radio commercials; a small notice ran in *The New Mexican*. Word spread fast. Then, as now, everyone in the village was invited to participate. Thirty artists and craftspeople volunteered to open their doors and show work, which ranged from multimedia sculpture to handsewn tortilla warmers. Pies were baked, cider pressed, jellies and jams preserved. Quilts, notecards, and retablos were readied.

The Tour was fully walkable, starting at the Inn, where cider was served and maps were passed out. "There were these horrible little signs on sticks to mark the stops," Nick laughs. On a crisp, clear Saturday in mid-November, Galisteo roadways filled with strolling outsiders, who came as much to experience the village as they did to buy art. While some studios were grand, others were simple sitting rooms and kitchen tables. At the end of the day, handweaver Barbara Holloway was beyond giddy. "The money! I couldn't believe all these people had come all the way out here and spent so much money in our little town." The feeling of success was so widespread, there was never a question that there wouldn't be a second Tour.

Park now lives in Santa Fe and works as a life coach. She follows the growth of the Studio Tour with pleasure, saying that while she may have birthed the idea, the village raised it. Both she and Trofimuk are clear about the profound feeling of community when so many pitched in to make the first Tour happen. Not since the attempt to revive the *Fiesta de Santiago* in 1974 had an event been equally supported by old families and new. Trofimuk hasn't been a part of the tour for some time and has plans to move near his daughter in California. Original tour members Catherine Ferguson and Barbara Holloway participated in this year's tour and have no plans to stop.

If you have memories of the early studio tours or additions/ corrections to this story, please write a Letter to the Editor; or contact Alex Finlayson: alxnm@proton.me.

CARING FOR OUR BELOVED BOSQUE

On Nov. 11th, Rich Schrader of RiverSource and Jan Willem Jansens of Ecotone spoke at the Community Center in response to our anxiety about the bone-dry Rio Galisteo in early Fall, a phenomenon not seen in current lifetimes. Although after heavy rains and snow there is now a dribble in the stream bed, the springs (*ojitos*) seem to have disappeared.

When Rich led a group of 7th and 8th graders to the bosque on Oct. 28th, they found "excellent water quality but not much of it." With Russian Olives partially to blame for the crisis, it is recommended that while we probably can't eliminate them we need to manage them. Three or four doses of loppers and vinegar is necessary, which means we will need a "green team" to keep at it. (More on the unbeatable Russian Olives next issue).

Jan Willem, a former landscape architect who has worked globally, and in Galisteo since 1998, noted that "our living environment is changing all the time." And "we need to understand what we love." But we also need to think in terms of the larger landscape — the 467,000 acres of the Galisteo Watershed (originating at Thompson Peak, and the even larger San Cristobal watershed, which could irrigate east, west, and south of the village when farming was its focus). Lindbergh's photos from the 1920s show a treeless arroyo except by the old bridge. In the 1950s, Helen Hover (Phillip McKee's then-mother

in law) planted cottonwoods, which accrue sediment. Flood debris also blocks creek.

Creek water coming from upstream has a deep threshold by the northern hogback, which can be hard in drought and is probably why the Galisteo Pueblo was sited north of the volcanic dike. The Rio Galisteo is a major wildlife corridor and one wonders how much critters and birds are suffering from the lack of water.

More on the subject from this highly informative talk in the next issue.

HOT STUFF: CHILE MARGARITA FEST



Galisteo fan club at Fest, T-shirts by Tanya Young: Ken and Michelle Frumin, Deborah Madison, Patrick McFarlin, Tanya, Lesley Dyer and visitor Krystina.

After a long hiatus thanks to COVID, the Chile and Margarita Fest (the best party in town) was resurrected October 26th at the Community Center. As usual, a royal spread was contributed by locals while prizes in the Chile Margarita Cookoff were announced: **Best Traditional Chile: Sandy Duran; second, Alex Finlayson. Best Non-traditional Chile: Paul Davis. Best Margarita: Mae Yen.** (There were no entries for the vegetarian chile.) The Chile contest judges were **Mary Alice and Arlan Collatz and Ann Senuta**; Margarita judges were **Kim Gilbreath and Ann Nye**.

Thanks to everyone for chipping in and making this a super event: to all who attended, and to the Galisteo Community Association board (Sandy Duran, Greg Salustro, Ann Nye, Paul Davis, Ann Senuta, Kim Gilbreath, Caroline Hinkley and Rob King). *[Sorry, no picture of the winners this year!]*



GALISTEO GRASS JOURNAL: PART 1

Alex Finlayson (Drawings by Catherine Ferguson)

I hadn't been here long when I noticed the grasslands along Avenida Vieja appeared to be dominated by one particular native grass, which made these fields wave differently in the wind and reflect light in a brighter way. I must say, the effect of (*Cont.p.3*)

this grass made me, well, a bit obsessive. Fall came, and the fields were more dazzling than ever. The dry grass still shone, and edges of the fields still shimmered. It drove me crazy not to have a name.

Neighbors didn't know. Matching a photo to a million other photos of grassy plants was impossible. Plant ID apps failed me. Grass identification, I quickly learned, is not for the faint-hearted. Then fate brought Catherine Ferguson. (Need I note that somewhere in Galisteo there is always someone who knows whatever it is you absolutely must know?) Catherine arrived with a basket of beautiful notebooks full of grass specimens, annotated and handmade with her late partner, Bill Isaacs, a master horticulturist. They had planned to publish a book of their grass work with his notes and her illustrations before Bill's untimely death in 1997.

I showed Catherine the mystery grass. She studied her notebooks and conjured Bill's spirit. *Sporobolus airoides*, she said. Alkali Sacaton. The name alone explains its presence in our salty basin. With a preference for saline-alkaline soils, Alkali Sacaton has long been an important range and pasture grass in New Mexico. The word "Sacaton" is believed to descend from the oatheads currently cluttering my garden.

Also known as Bunch Grass or Salt Grass, Alkali Sacaton is pretty good summer feed, "palatable to horses and cattle only when it is fresh and green," according to E. O. Wooton. New Mexico's pioneer botanist in 1911: *zacatl*, the Aztec/Nahuatl word for grass. *Sporobolus* (seed-thrower) and *airoides* (air-borne) perfectly describe the winter seed. He went on to say the grass may be detrimental to sheep and cause them bloat.

A dandy for regenerating grasslands and erosion control, Alkali Sacaton tolerates flood, fire, drought, inhospitable soil, and the seeds last as long as seven years. It is also an important browse and food source for deer, small mammals (especially jack rabbits), and birds.

Should this kind of thing interest you, take a walk down Avenida Vieja. Look for the taller grasses, the ones growing in clumps with many stems shooting up from a wide base, which is almost circular and ruffled around the bottom with bended leaves and may even retain a slight hint of green. The shiny stems taper to delicate seed heads shaped like little airy Christmas trees, which by November, are mostly stripped of their wee seeds. This is Alkali Sacaton.

It can be found almost anywhere (I spotted it at the bottom of a great kiva in Chaco Canyon.) Here on Avenida Vieja, conditions are ideal. We're lucky to see it en masse, in full effect, begrudging space to a few Saltbush and Cholla, outshining compatriots Blue Grama, Purple Three Awn, Sand Dropseed, and many more grasses I have yet to learn from Catherine.

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Matthew McQueen was handily re-elected to the State House. But his big sign facing NM 41 south has disappeared. Not clear if it was friend or foe.

Lorraine Weiss is coming out from her 20 underground years in Galisteo: "Most people here just know that I play nightly sunset concerts for my neighbor's horses, which is actually the coolest gig anywhere." But she has been a working musician for 50 years, playing/recording in LA with live shows in the U.S. and Europe, most recently with east forest on the Ram Dass

project and the Arcosanti FORM festival in Arizona — "a huge honor..." Now, as she plans to play out more again, she hopes that Galisteans will follow her.

The New Mexican's *Winterlife* magazine features the history of Santa Fe's Pink Adobe, founded in 1944 by **Denise Lynch**'s grandmother, Rosalea Murphy.

Richard Fenker was honored on Oct. 12th by the Men's Golf Association at the Marty Sanchez Links de Santa Fe with an MGA 2-man scramble tournament in his name. Acknowledging his art as well as his golf, they announced: "We appreciate you and you will always hold a special place in our hearts even when you continue to beat us by ten strokes."

The 2024 New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards included two Galisteñas: *The Long the Short and the Tall* by **Liz Rose** won for Biography; *The Huacas*, photographs by Edward Ranney and text by **Lucy R. Lippard** won for Anthropology/Archaeology. **Catherine Ferguson** showed her installation for The Children of Gaza at El Museo in a Dia de los Muertos show (*below*).



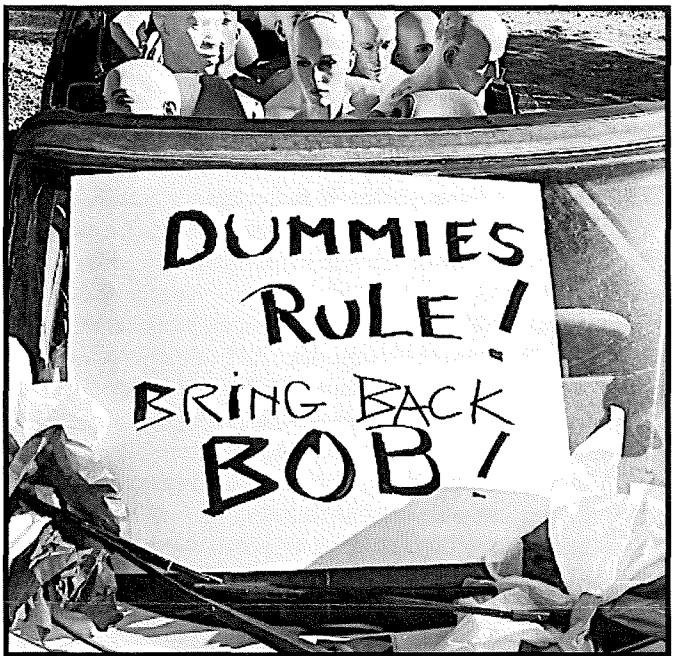
FROM THE DOT COMMITTEE

Jennifer Martin, chair of the GCA's Committee on NM 41 and the DOT, reports two recent road kills: a deer and a raccoon. The GVFR responded; a car and passengers were involved.

Night-time traffic is increasing. Noise and speeding are issues. One truck tore through the village at 80 mph. It looks like drivers are getting really irritated with the 35 mph limit being imposed so far out, at Goose Downs, so they speed up in anger. We are still exploring the best ways to acquire and deploy speed cameras and to bring the speed limit down to 30 mph.

The medians are certainly not working to slow traffic down and they are being hit, shown by a downed sign. Pedestrians are increasingly in danger crossing the road.

At the committee's most recent meeting (11/17) it was decided to raise money to contract our own vibration study, before and after central Galisteo construction (not happening for a couple of years). Given previous experience, we don't feel we can trust DOT's results. Contesting weight limits and proving that huge trucks are doing the damage to old adobes may be our best bet to achieve the re-routing that we hope for as the final solution. Jennifer Martin, Greg Salustro (and maybe Judy Tuwaletstiwa) will try to make an appointment with the governor to discuss our issues. (*See Image on p.4*)



From the Rodeo parade: Bob was the dummy cop in an old police car who fooled speeding drivers in Galisteo for months a few years ago.

CONDOLENCES to Cecile and Kevin Smith

Em Marie Carr (they/them), age 28, who also went by “Scout,” died unexpectedly at home on September 7, 2024. They were born on September 27, 1995, the proud child of Cécile Smith (Fouqueray) and John Mark Carr (Mark), and the loving sibling of Juliette (Juju) A. and Samuel (Sam) J. Carr.

Growing up in Massachusetts, Em was blessed with dear friends met through ballet, theater, and summer camp. After graduating from Oberlin College in 2017, Em began a year-long AmeriCorps position in Sitka, Alaska, where they provided career and college counseling to at-risk high schoolers and got their EMT certification. This sparked a career of service to others.

Em was revered in their many communities as a friend, an activist, and a leader.

EL PUENTE SPONSOR: JOHN WATSON-JONES, ANGIE HEATH

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED:

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Next deadline, Dec. 5. PLEASE email flip14@centurylink.net TO UPDATE OR DELETE YOUR AD IN A TIMELY FASHION.

FOR SALE

Corey McGillicuddy’s Soup Season: Menus will be ready by December 1st. If you would like to receive them please send your name and email to mcgillicuddycorey3@gmail.com

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, napkins, and potholders by Deirdre Africa of Rancho Bueno: 505-670-5198, www.buttonboxaprongs.com; africadeirdre@gmail.com.

Wild Focus Expeditions: Join us on exciting wildlife and/or cultural adventures around the world. Contact us: Visit www.wildfocusexpeditions.com, email: jami@wildfocusexpeditions.com or call 466.3640.

SERVICES

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Native Land Reparation Pledge Project: give back 1 percent of the sale of your home to indigenous people. Contact Mare at marenlp@gmail.com

Radio Free Galisteo @ 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.wildfocusexpeditions.com. Come with Us!

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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 for more information.

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

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

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

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Carpentry: Custom closets, hand-carved tables, benches, gates, doors; also electrical work. Ted Montoya, 505-470-0562; “text and I will call you back.”

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

Meditation & Knowings with Chris Griscom via video Sundays, free on YouTube: [466-1975 thelight@lightinstitute.com](https://www.youtube.com/@thelightinstitute)

+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

Editor: Lucy R. Lippard. **Stringer:** Alex Finlayson. **Logo:** Cara Lee. **Printer:** Allegra. **Changes, comments, suggestions, contributions to:** **El Puente**, 14 Avenida Vieja, or flip14@centurylink.net. **NEXT DEADLINE:** Dec. 5. **TO SPONSOR:** Check for \$100-\$150 (or more!) TO GCA, noting “for newsletter,” to above.