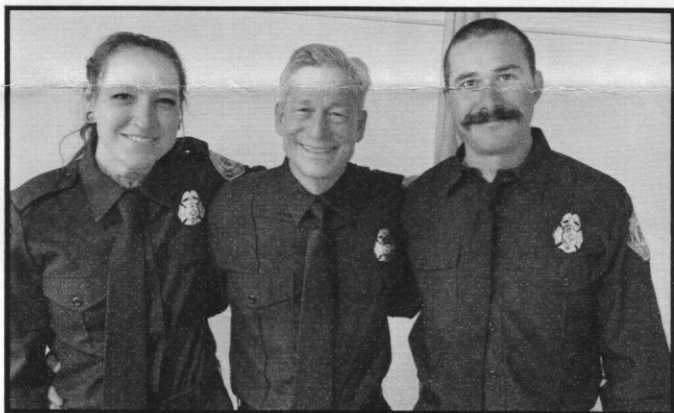


EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025



THE GVFR CELEBRATES ITS OWN

The loudest applause at the annual GVFR members' dinner (1/19 at the GCC) came when Chief Jean Moya presented badges to three new firefighters: **Kobe Jane, Steve Riemer, and Ezra Sage** (above).

All three graduated last year from the NM State Fire Academy in Socorro where they received their education as professional firefighters. United by their common desire to serve the Galisteo community, their backgrounds highlight GVFR diversity.

Michigan native Kobe Jane (35) is a wilderness guide and ranch hand with a background in health care. She had been interested in first responder training since coming to New Mexico fifteen years ago, but it took a recent move to Galisteo to make it happen. Learning new skills and practical applications has been a bonus, she says, especially in situational awareness. In January she started an EMT certification course at SFCC, which will make her a doubly valuable member of the crew, since eighty percent of GVFR calls involve medical emergencies.

Steve Riemer (58), or "Grandpa" as he was fondly known at the Fire Academy, is a retired executive chef from San Diego. Full-time kitchen work never allowed him time to be a community volunteer, but moving to Galisteo a year ago, he was determined to join the GVFR, assuming that he'd happily end up polishing trucks and sweeping floors. In December Steve held the hose and fought his first fire. So far, he most appreciates new friends ("a great group of people to hang out with") and the discipline that has helped ease him into retirement.

Ezra Sage (25) grew up in Galisteo and remembers cheering

the GVFR firetrucks in the annual rodeo parade as a kid. After college in Arizona, he returned to the village, where he works as a jeweler, blacksmith/metal fabricator, and outdoor educator. Wildland firefighting was the first attraction. Then he decided to go all in and include structural fire training. It's been a good year. Ezra has enjoyed the work and camaraderie. He hopes to pursue a professional career with the Santa Fe City Fire Department while continuing his commitment as a volunteer.

One thing all three agree on is that once the year's training is over, the GVFR weekly commitment is much less than they imagined.

Promotion badges at the dinner were awarded to **Ken Frumin** (Captain), **Kevin Smith** (Lieutenant), and **Alice Kruse** (EMS Captain). **Jessica Spring** took the oath of office as Administrative Assistant. **Ed Epping** and **Deborah Madison** were honored in their retirement. **Kevin Smith** was "Responder of the Year." **Paul Davis, Jerry Kruse, Don Truax, and Corey McGillicuddy** were singled out for exceptional service.

To learn more about joining up as a firefighter, EMT, or auxiliary staff, visit the station and talk to crew members who will be happy to explain what they do and how they trained.

VILLAGE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Calling all who would like to volunteer for the Village! After so many people asking how they can help out, the GCA has set up a new volunteer guild. We have lots of ways to serve from very small to bigger endeavors. Please email Bonnie Bufkin at GalisteoVolunteer@gmail.com or call her at 831-521-5597. More information will be coming soon at GalisteoCommunity.org. We hope to see you soon.

AN MEA EXPERIENCE

Ann Senuta

When the Saddleback ranch property was purchased a few years ago by an organization called Modern Elder Academy (MEA), few Galisteo residents understood what a "midlife wisdom school" was all about. Most of us were more concerned about increased water use upstream.

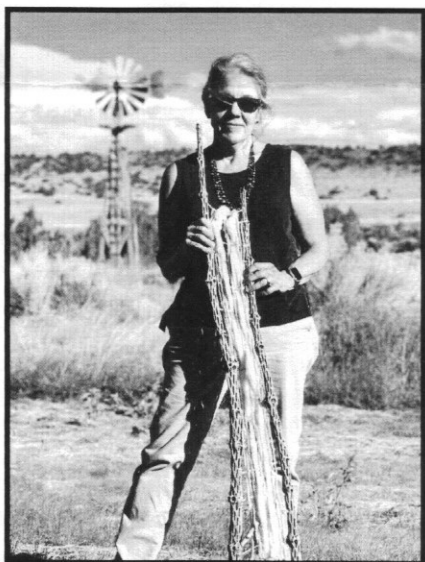
With workshops such as "Spirituality + Health in Midlife and Beyond," and "What's Next!? Strategies for a Powerful Pivot," it's clear that MEA is focusing on how a reset can redirect or inspire a person. Still, midlife is often the time of career, financial, and family stress, and an MEA workshop requires (Cont. p.2)

both personal time and thousands of dollars. I never would have attended had not MEA co-founder Chip Conley offered a few workshops last summer at no cost to Galisteo residents. Even though I'm at the far end of midlife, "Stewarding Midlife & Beyond: Nature, Rituals, Creativity" piqued my curiosity.

Yet the very first evening there was nearly my last. The 18 or so participants, including MEA leaders and two guest creativity teachers, sat in a circle in the newly built Juniper House (the building covered with white plastic last winter) and addressed the question "People would be surprised to know that I..." We had to answer in different rounds, going deeper each time, and by the third time around the room it was clear the question—and the workshop—was going to be very cathartic for some. I nearly bolted for Galisteo.

I stuck it out, though, increasingly grateful for my perspective of six decades of life experiences. Each day the workshop guided us in a sort of inner spiral as we revealed one significant aspect of ourselves that we wanted to face and strengthen. We talked about the power of vulnerability and community. We confronted limiting mindsets about ourselves, and ritualistically burned one (mine was perfectionism). We made "journey maps" of influences that shaped who we are and where we figuratively want to go. We dug into the concepts of nature and creativity by collecting dried cholla cactus branches and transforming them with plants, seeds, clay from the arroyo, and in my case, Navajo churro wool. We lay on the floor for a sound bath; we hiked up a hogback to hear how the ranch is trying to regenerate its water; and, on our last night, we got wild at the burning of Zozobra.

Admittedly I felt uncomfortably privileged many times, discomfited with the luxury of five days doing navel-gazing inner work, with the water flowing down the many new showers, and with the need for more program recognition of the peoples who lived on this land hundreds of years before. Yet MEA has created a beautiful center, hired talented chefs, and provides intelligent and compassionate leaders and teachers. I drove home exhausted and illuminated. According to Conley, Galisteo residents who wish to experience an MEA workshop and cannot afford the fee should email him, chip@chipconley.com, as I did.



Ann Senuta with weaving made of cholla cactus

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Friends of the GVFR have purchased an automated external defibrillator (AED) to be gifted to the GCC and housed at the GCC. Instructors will provide training to board members.

The New Year's Eve food bank donations reached a new height, thanks to organizer **Corey McGillicuddy** and her right hand, **Kim Gilbreath**, who has had previous experience with food banks. They dealt happily with a huge and wonderful assortment of delicious, high quality nutritious food as well as yummy treats for both pets and their humans.



FRINGE, Harmony Hammond's solo exhibition, opens at SITE Santa Fe on Friday Feb. 28. She will have public conversations with Jarrett Earnest (Saturday March 1) and Helen Molesworth (Saturday March 15).

Early in January, a neighbor sighted "a large drone in the west, maybe above Ranchitos. Flight was erratic. At one point it looked as if it were racing east toward our house, then stopped, hovered, retreated. Went south, then north, several times. Its lights were red and green, very bright. Eerie. After about an hour it just went dark and vanished about 8-9 PM." Apparently night-vision drones are used for rescues; GVFR recently participated in one in the Galisteo Basin Preserve.

On January 11th **Judy Tuwaletstiwa** spoke about her art at the El Zaguán gallery on Canyon Road. Soon after she had a seven-day residency at Tamarind in Albuquerque, working with brilliant master printer, Valpuri Remling, creating both mono prints and editions.

KUNG HAY FAT CHOY (HAPPY NEW YEAR): **May Yen, Wayland Wong, and Greg Salustro** invited everyone in the village to a Chinese New Year's Celebration of the Year of the Snake, an Asian brunch at Galisteo Community Center on February 1st. The snake symbolizes regeneration, growth, and intuition. Many wore red for the New Year. "Let's take advantage of every opportunity we have in the New Year to follow the snake: reinvent ourselves, grow mentally and spiritually, and follow the advice of our inner callings."

Jessica Spring and Julie Deery organized an open music collective at the GCC on Jan. 27th, inviting anyone to "Bring your voices, instruments, and any music you like to play!"

As "terrestrial recovery coordinator," **John Bulger** oversees transplanting white-tailed ptarmigan from Colorado into the Pecos Wilderness. He is featured in an article in *Audubon* magazine: <https://www.audubon.org/magazine/how-much-longer-can-these-cold-loving-birds-last-rapidly-warming-rockies>.

THE MOYAS IN CUBA

In December, Steve and Jean Moya joined a tour of Cuba led by Stuart Ashman and Peggy Gaustad, who promote contemporary Cuban art through their gallery, Artes De Cuba, in Santa Fe. Their holiday tours support artists on the ground in Cuba. The itinerary included museums, dance and music performances, galleries, and intimate visits to artists' studios. Ceramist José Fuster hosted lunch (fresh fish caught by his son) for the tour. He is best known for transforming over sixty buildings in his fishing village with mosaic and tile into a whimsical installation nicknamed "Fusterlandia." (Julie Deery take note!)

Much of the artwork the Moyas saw was surprisingly political. Artists have more freedom than average citizens to voice their discontent if done so through artistic expression, Steve says. There were many images of Castro and Che updated with current references. Jean came home inspired by the artists' imagination and materials, especially prints of sugarcane which reminded her of her own straw applique: "The artists make do with what they have. Printmakers start with nothing more than a piece of old linoleum and a spoon until they earn enough to buy a press." One of her favorite purchases is an intricate silver necklace made from old dinner forks and seashells.

They say that everything in Cuba had a kind of beauty and simplicity -- from vintage cars held together by bondo and wire to the peddler who sold bathroom supplies. A stylish young woman in a bustier, selling an armload of colorful brooms, toilet plungers, and scrub brushes, shouted down the street like she owned the place.

Americans are not allowed to stay in hotels run by the Cuban government. The Moyas' hotel was built and managed by Spanish developers, and the power went out only once. An emergency generator quickly brought things back to normal, which is not the case for average Cubans, who lose power regularly and for long periods. The food was excellent, and so was the medical care. Several tour members had issues requiring immediate attention. After treatment in the clinic, the doctors made house calls to the hotel.

Steve, a country boy at heart, most enjoyed Valle Viñales, a UNESCO heritage site three hours west of Havana on the National Highway -- which was a two-lane road full of potholes, hitchhikers, and downed palm trees from a recent hurricane. The tour bus slowly wound its way around horse-drawn carts to reach the lush mountains and rainforest. Wandering from the restaurant after lunch, Steve met a farmer taking a break with a cigar. The farmer invited Steve to sit and have a smoke with him, rolling a cigar from tobacco grown on his land. He then insisted on giving Steve a tour of his property, pointing out every plant and animal with only Steve's broken Spanish between them. "The Cuban people are poor, but they're proud, and hardworking. They love their country, and their faces always seemed happy," he says.

Pictures from the Moyas' trip will be in the March issue.

GALISTEO GRASS JOURNAL: PART 3

(Giant Sacaton: *Sporobolus wrightii*)

Alex Finlayson

Coming across a stand of Giant Sacaton in the wild feels a little like stumbling on a herd of wooly mammoths. It's not extinct, but it is uncommon in our basin. As much as eight times taller than most of our native grasses, Giant Sacaton is topped by feathery plumes one to two feet high which last well into winter. Roots are over ten feet deep, and a single plant can grow four feet in the first season. It's a beast.

So what is Giant Sacaton doing on a dry sunny patch by the railroad tracks? I have no idea. Great seas of it used to sweep across the southwest from Texas to Arizona and Mexico. Now it's down to five percent of its native habitat, supplanted by cattle, agriculture, and cottonwood-willow bosques. Like its cousin Alkali Sacaton (see last November *El Puente*), Giant Sacaton doesn't ask for much but it does need less alkaline soil and more water because of its size.

In the Southwest classic *Healing Herbs of the Upper Rio Grande* (1947), Leonora Curtin writes that Giant Sacaton was used to make brooms, and because brooms were associated with witches, an elaborate "witch-proofing" charm was often made from its leaves. Wootton and Standley in *Grasses and Grass-like Plants of New Mexico* (1911) casually mention that liverymen in Silver City preferred hay made of Giant Sacaton to feed buggy horses rented out for "hard service," although they had to work up a taste for it. Pima Indian women once made hairbrushes out of the roots. These days Giant Sacaton is more of a luxury item and can be found in nurseries like Plants of the Southwest. After all, it's a showy, drought-tolerant, native grass the size of a shrub.

My second sighting of Giant Sacaton was in Deborah Madison's walled garden, where a collection of New Mexico grasses grow among her herbs and flowering perennials. Here, in peaceable conditions, her tussocks of Giant Sacaton have thrived. They tower over the Blue Grama (cultivar "Blonde Ambition") at their feet and command the winter plant bed against a backdrop of cottonwoods and juniper. Deborah's father was a horticultural writer and UC Davis professor with a specialty in turf grasses. He was also a free-style gardener who didn't always practice what he preached. Perhaps, she says, her beloved native grasses are a reminder of him.



Deborah Madison with grass friend.



♥ HOW WE MET: ♥

Bonnie Bufkin and Dawn Carter

Back in 1995, Dawn and I met in the elevator at our mutual office building. We took an immediate liking to one another and very quickly became friends. My 23rd birthday party was hosted by Dawn and her then partner, in their Dallas home. With so much in common and after having such a wonderful time together, life sent us in different directions. I moved to California, married my ex-husband, had my son and ran my small business. Dawn married, moved to Eldorado and built another small business. Then, more quickly than I ever could have imagined, twenty years flew by. In 2019, I received a random phone call, only to pick it up and find Dawn's dear voice on the other end. "I've been looking for you!" she said. And in an instant the twenty years dissolved. Not a day seemed to have passed. Dawn was now living in Santa Fe -- my favorite spot from childhood. Within a few months, I came out to see her and when she came around the corner, it was love at second sight. Not expecting this at all, and sharing it only with my mother, some years passed and finally I let the cat out of the bag. The beautiful friendship changed swiftly into a love neither of us have known before. The winds of life moved us both toward one another and a life together in Galisteo, married and deeply grateful.



WHATEVER HAPPENED TO LETTERS TO THE EDITOR?

Back in the day *El Puente* received occasional letters from community members, but in recent years, *nada*. Please speak up to comment, complain, contribute, or congratulate!

EL PUENTE SPONSOR: LAS MADRES RANCH

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED:

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

FOR SALE

Corey McGillicuddy's Soup Season is upon us. If you want my menus, please send your name and email to me at 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.buttonboxaprons.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

Mare Tomaski, master bodyworker, biodynamic cranial sacral, KMI structural bodywork, trigger point work, Functional Medicine Certified Health Coach. Contact: profundus@aol.com/ 508-788-0906.

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

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

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

Linda Vista Stables: I can take care of your local horses in the comfort of their own barn. Call Maria, 466-8930.

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

Yoga Zoom classes with Julia: Every Mon., Wed., and Fri. Gentle Yin, Vinyasa Flow and Yin Yang. Contact 505-670-5478 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.

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, 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, the second Sunday of each month, free on YouTube; for info contact thelight@lightinstitute.com



+++ 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: March 5. TO SPONSOR: Check for \$100-\$150 (or more!) TO GCA, noting "for newsletter," to above.**

