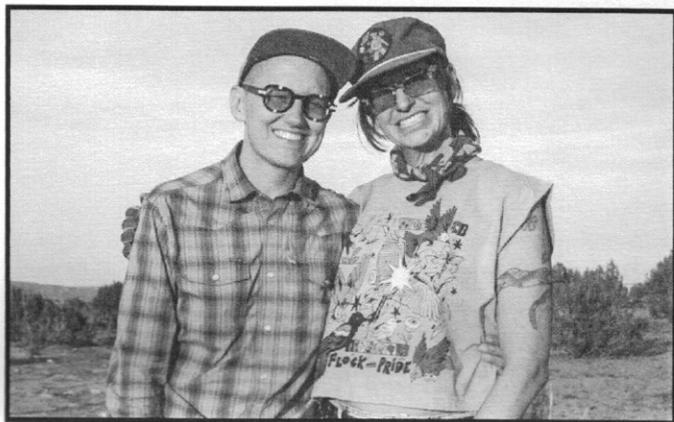




HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY: HOW WE MET

Rob King & Jaime Herrell

Jaime and I met in a very modern way, online. I was immediately drawn to her after seeing a photo of her high up on a ladder, installing an exhibition. I remember thinking how sexy and cool she looked. I reached out and she laid out the terms plainly: I could meet her tomorrow, or in three months, since she was about to leave for the summer to work at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. I didn't hesitate and we met the next night and just completely clicked, proof that ladders, deadlines, and a little decisiveness is the perfect recipe for love :)



Mizu Desierto & Lindsay Fuller

Our horses brought us together. Or more specifically, their shared pathology of hooves. Lindsay made coffee. I brought sweet rolls. We exchanged hoof boots and mineral balancing equations for best equine diets. We both shared a dream of giving our horses a better life....and eventually they led us here.

Blair & Peter Stocker

Peter and I met while smoking cigarettes with FBI agents when we worked for a French jeans-wear company in North Carolina. Allow me to explain...It was 1992. Life was work and work was life. When he came to work at the corporate offices of *Marithé & François Girbaud*, I only knew him as the new marketing guy who had the plastic Santa light at his desk. The best first date — Italian food and Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. We married two years later. I'm still the lucky one. (Oh! And there was an actual FBI office in our building. And we all smoked.)

CALENDAR:

David Robinson's duo "Provocateurs" celebrates the release of their new CD at a *free release party at the GCC on Sat. Feb. 14, 6 PM*, with other contributing Galisteo musicians: Kevin Smith, Julie Deery, Jessica Spring, Lorraine Weiss, and former resident José Downes. Enjoying local music? Join Galisteo's Music Collective every third Monday at 6PM at the GCC.

*

On Sun. Feb. 15th at 2PM: Galisteo writers take the GCC stage again for a new batch of readings.

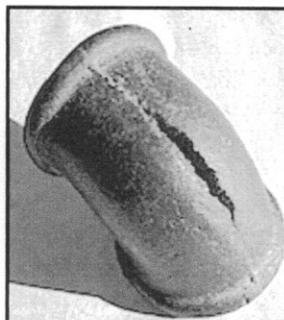
Ted Alcorn & Cecily Campbell

Each week of Hummingbird Music Camp in the Jemez Mountains ends with the moonlight hike. Ted, then about twelve years old, was learning alto sax, and Cecily, not yet eleven, the flute. She was the first girl he had ever asked out. Among the other boisterous campers they walked together along the trail, quietly and single-file, until it ended at the foot of the falls. Flashlights doused, the stars came out, and just maybe, they held hands.

Dorothy Victor & Sam Sloan

Throughout the winter/spring of 1987, Sam and his sister, coming from out of state, and I collaborated on cleaning out and turning their grandparents' home over to a Rochester N.Y. preservation society. I had just moved to Rochester from Texas to work for the society and was also caretaking the house.

After everything was completed, Sam and I reluctantly said out final goodbye, never expecting to see each other again, and I went off to work. A few minutes later, as Sam was leaving the house, water began raining through an upstairs ceiling, down the stairs to the front hall. Sam called me to return and together we managed to turn off the water and end the flood, but in those moments, we realized that we really wanted to continue to be together.



As it turned out, a brass elbow in the upstairs plumbing had frozen and split. We still wonder if family ghosts may have had a hand (so to speak) in the timing of the flood. Our beloved brass elbow resides on my bedside table.

LETTER FROM MINNEAPOLIS

Ann Senuta

Ann Senuta has been in Minneapolis caring for her grandson and helping out her son, who is in the thick of emergency coordination for the city during the ICE occupation.

The weather is astonishing, minus 21 one morning. Worst of all was the morning Alex Pretti was murdered just over a mile from here; my son flew into work for the next 16 hours, and little Remy and I gave comfort and coffee to the doctor—a friend of my son’s—who had tried to render aid to Alex and found the ICE agents were more interested in counting his bullet holes than CPR. When tear gas came into the doctor’s apartment, they ended up at my son’s in a panic attack. Eventually they were able to travel on to a family place a half hour away; I locked the doors and listened to police helicopters all evening.

Despite the arctic cold, this is an amazing city. Churches and community organizations are providing food and supplies to over 25,000 immigrant families who are hiding in their homes and apartments. People are protesting over and over in sub-zero temperatures and showing up on street corners and gathering on frozen lakes with candles and song. Most importantly they are tracking, following and videotaping ICE thugs, despite the risk. They are determined, resilient and utterly outraged, because everyone knows this has nothing to do with illegal immigrants; it is harassment against a blue city in a blue state governed by Tim Walz and that never voted for Trump. I am so frightened for our country, but Pretti’s murder has begun to shift things; when the NRA says, well, hold on a minute, you know you’ve crossed the Rubicon.

THORNTON RANCH TRAILS: LONG TIME ACOMIN’

Ted Alcorn

In Nov. 2017, El Puente celebrated the BCC’s approval of the management plan for the Thornton Ranch Open Space, And now, finally....

A massive public open space with a dozen miles of recreational trails is inching towards realization, right in Galisteo’s backyard. Santa Fe County has begun finalizing the design for the Thornton Ranch Open Space, a 2,200-acre swath of county, state and federal land just west of Galisteo, adjoining the railroad line and south of County Road 42. Adeline Murthy, who leads the County’s planning, said in an interview that she expects the project will break ground as early as summer of 2027, and the public may begin using the trails as early as January 2029.

Three years might seem like a long time to wait, but that is nearing the finish line for a project that has been in the works for decades. In 1998 and 2000, Santa Fe County voters approved a combined \$20 million for purchasing open spaces, and Thornton Ranch was the largest parcel acquired. In 2016, voters approved another \$4.6 million bond, a share of which was specifically designated for developing Thornton Ranch, as was a share of a \$5 million bond approved in 2022. As described in planning documents published in 2017, the parcel incorporated small inholdings of federal and state land. But Murthy said the project “took an unfortunate turn” during the pandemic after a champion in the Bureau of Land Management’s Taos office departed, and the agency withdrew from a proposed co-management

agreement: “Once all the dust settled, they told us that they were no longer interested in participating in this project and that all the trail alignment should avoid BLM land entirely.

Now the County is revising the trail design to comply, and Murthy is confident it will soon begin gathering the necessary construction documents: “There’s ample funding at this point to at least get the project off the ground.” Even after the anticipated revisions, which will eliminate a southern trail alongside the railroad tracks, the plan will create a dozen miles of trails for joint use by hikers, cyclists, and equestrians, along with an accessible loop suitable for strollers and people with limited mobility. Murthy says Thornton Ranch is one of the most significant open spaces under development, alongside the San Pedro Open Space near Golden, new trails at Bobcat Crossing Ranch, and improvement of public access to the Rio en Medio Open Space.

Developing the Thornton Ranch Open Space master plan involved consultation with some twenty tribes with ties to the Galisteo Basin -- perhaps the most densely populated area in New Mexico before the Spanish conquest. In an effort to better protect the archaeological sites on the parcel, Murthy says the County discontinued regular visits it led to Petroglyph Hill, one of the most important sites, considered sacred by several local tribes and no longer listed by that name. The anticipated trail network is designed to keep people away from that area. Over the next year, Murthy says, as the County finalizes construction documents, it will continue to work with the state’s Historic Preservation Division, which needs to approve the final design.

Construction will take place in two phases, beginning with mechanical work on the parking area, entrance road, and accessible trail, followed by manual work on single-track trails. It would be Murthy’s preference to rely on volunteers for the latter phase, and she welcomed Galisteans interested in participating to contact her: amurthy@santafecountynm.gov; 505-995-2774.

BACK TO THE BOSQUE

On January 16th, a group of Galisteo residents braved mud and muck to accompany Jan Willem Jansens on a tour of the Bosque. It’s been almost a decade since Jansens’ company, Ecotone LLC, completed the two-year restoration, and since then residents’ complaints have grown as thick as the underbrush. Mosquitoes, mud, impassable and vanished pathways, and bank erosion top the list of grievances, which many believe are a result of the 2016-17 restoration, disregarding the role of climate change.

• Margaret Wrinkle, leader of the Bosque Green Team, guided the group through the south end to inspect a swampy channel beneath her house and then north of the old bridge to a newly-formed giant bog below the former Galisteo Inn. The trek was so treacherous only two group members wearing rubber boots made it upstream.

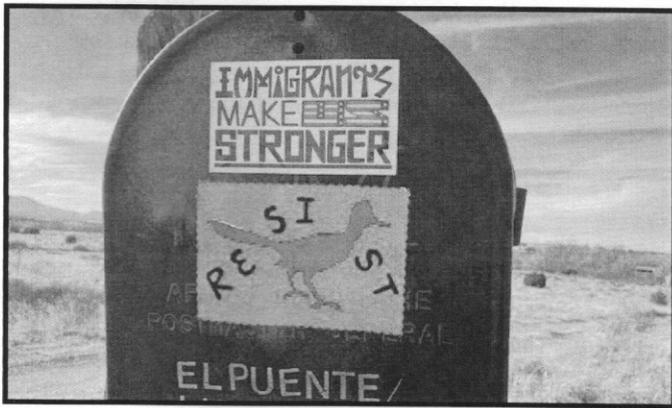
In direct contrast to the residents’ unhappiness, Jansens was pleased with the Bosque’s condition. For him, the restoration work has exceeded expectations. Standing water indicates the spread of the creek’s flow and saturation of its banks, all of which is intentional for the health of the water table and to stop the deep carving of the creek channel. (In 2017 *El Puente* stated this objective as “increasing overbank flow and improving wetland conditions.”)

Jansens was concerned about conditions north of (*Cont.p.3*)

the bridge. He theorizes that clay deposits from flooding may be slowing water infiltration and causing swampland. He explained that the health of the Bosque has led to the overgrowth of both native and invasive species, which has slowed the water current. The dry creek bed below the Agnes Martin house -- formerly fed by upriver springs -- was confounding.

In a follow-up letter to the GCA (which sponsored the walk), Jansens conceded there was an issue between "natural values and people values." Clearing vegetation may speed water flow, hopefully "scouring" out standing water and accumulated clay sediment. Reinstating volunteer workdays will help clear Russian olive trees, excess vegetation, and woody debris. Jansens also floated the idea of a higher Bosque path, outside the flood plain, perhaps augmented with boardwalks.

It seems that what is healthy for the Bosque may not be what Galisteo residents imagined. In Jansens' original proposals, he was always clear about the difference between a wild, wet creek bed and recreational park land. One resident remembers hearing his presentation in 2017 and realizing she might lose her daily walks in the Bosque as a result of the restoration. [ed note: we didn't.] At this point, nature clearly has the upper hand. The GCA intends more assessment of the situation and is pursuing funding sources for further research and work



El Puente's mailbox on Avenida Vieja. Who donated the lovely roadrunner sticker?

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

The **GCA Welcome Wagon** women visit new residents with a swag bag of useful items and information. Contact Kim Gilbreath or Liz Rose if you know of someone who has just moved in.

Kim Gilbreath invites anyone who is interested to visit and walk her **labyrinth**. If the front gate is open at 43 Avenida Vieja, enter and you'll see the stone spiral path to your right. Labyrinth walking is an active meditation dating from the Middle Ages. Believers find that repeating the spiral pathway helps calm the mind and reduce stress.

The **Galisteo Artists' Project** is up and running, thanks to Galisteo Arts and the Galisteo Studio Tour. Produced by videographer Blair Stocker, profiles of Patrick McFarlin, Jim Sloan, and Liz Rose can be viewed on the Galisteo Studio Tour website. The Project's goal is to record a new form of village history in the voices of celebrated artist heroes. Future plans include oral histories, written memoirs, archival footage, and more video profiles to be available online and in print.

Matthew McQueen has revived his proposed amendment

to the state constitution to get rid of the alternate 30 and 60 day legislative sessions in favor of an annual 45 day session. With Republican Rod Montoya, he is also proposing that any legislation can be considered any year, which would end the governor's power to limit the legislative agenda. (*New Mexican* 2/2).

Janice Wall interviewed Matthew Chase Daniel on his KTRC program, *Coffee and Culture*, where he interviews creative change makers of all types. As a switch, she turned the focus to him as a community change maker. Go to chasedaniel.com or santafe.com/shows/coffee-and-culture to hear the podcast.

Looking to keep your **food scraps out of the landfill**? Reunity Resources, from the eco-based Santa Fe farm, has an Eldorado drop off at La Tienda, northeast corner, between ATM and dog park. For a \$15 per month handling fee, you receive a gate code for 24/7 access to the drop-off area for all your food scraps. It is easy, convenient, and saves the landfill from methane-producing material.

Billionaire Stan Kroenke, owner of the LA Rams and other teams, became the largest private landowner in the US (2.7 million acres) having just acquired 937,000 acres including all of the Singleton properties *except* for the **San Cristobal Ranch** bordering the village on the east.

The too short public comment period on **Project Jupiter**, a monstrous data center, electricity and water gobbler in Dona Ana County, has sparked outrage. According to Annie Ersinghaus in the *New Mexican* (1/24), it will emit some 25 billion pounds of CO2 per year -- twice the yearly emissions of NM's entire power grid and over twelve times as much as the entire city of Las Cruces. It's far from Galisteo but will clearly affect the future of the entire state, nation, world.

As everyone lucky enough to attend the GVFR's annual holiday dinner found out, Craig Moya's **Time Traveler Gastropod** features a dessert called **posset**, an eggless custard, touted by chef Johnny Vee in *Pasatiempo* (1/9) as a "standout dish."

DEVELOPERS/DEVELOPMENTS

Our commercial neighbors upstream on Galisteo Creek are exploring their options as landlords and housing developers. The Chi Center, aka The Sanctuary, has listed short- and long-term rentals for several years on Airbnb and VRBO, unrelated to their retreats. Tourist comments praise the serenity of the location but lament the presence of mosquitoes.

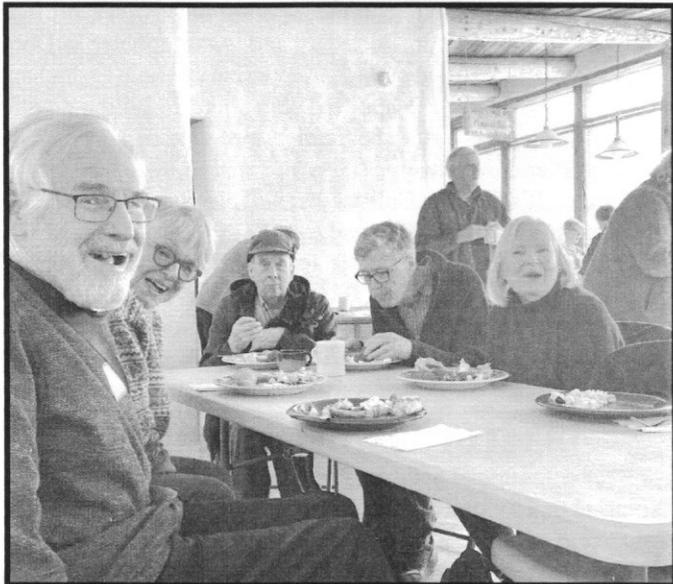
This year Modern Elder Academy, true to its word (See *El Puente* Nov. 2024 and April 2022), is diving into the upscale housing market with rental properties in Eldorado and Lamy. The Academy is offering "Golden Girls" (think TV show) workshops which promote the rentals. "MEA Homes" advertises communal living in all-women homes for permanent residence and for women who want a temporary landing pad or a care-free second home: "Neighbors become companions, and where shared meals, sunset walks, and spontaneous laughter are part of the daily rhythm." According to their website, MEA Homes is also floating ideas of "fractional" residences where a group of owners buy into one home and alternate residency; privately owned tiny homes connected by common spaces; and custom-built homes built to an owner's specifications. The goal is to build approximately twenty homes, communal or (*Cont.p.4*) otherwise,

over the next dozen years. According to the yellow permit sign at the MEA front gate, they are in process with the County for a "minor subdivision" of approximately two acres divided into four residential lots. No info on whether those residences will be single or group owners.

No matter how it's branded, putting six adults in one house, whether tourists or residents, is a surefire way to maximize profit and increase water usage, which should be a concern for anyone downstream.

GCA BREAKFAST

The January 3rd Community Breakfast was as usual delish, and *very* well attended. Jennifer Martin announced that she will be stepping down as President but will stay on the Board. The annual meeting will be in April. \$20,000 has been raised this year. We were encouraged to check the website (galisteocommunity.org) for upcoming events. A petition was on hand in favor of reopening the "mall" at the Eldorado dump. The Board voted not to make any changes to the Overlay (See copy on the website). Mizu Desierto has donated a projector and Caroline Hinkley/Angie Beauchamp donate a screen, so movie nights upcoming! More on community open space and ever-hoped-for coffee shop in next issue.



Community Breakfast, left to right: Walter Wright, Caroline Hinkley, Max Ray, David Robinson, Janice Wall. (Photo: Alex Finlayson)

EL PUENTE SPONSORS: ETHAN SMITH & HEATHER FRAZAR-SMITH

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

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.

SERVICES

Native Land Reparation Pledge Project: give back 1% 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.

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. Come with Us!

Orchard Full-Service Catering: Personal chef, experience with special needs and dietary issues. Corey McGillicuddy, 466-1831, mcgillicuddycorey3@gmail.com. New soups change with the seasons, plus the old favorites. Let me know if you would like to receive email updates on my menus. 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, etc. 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 to GCA for \$100-\$150 (or more!) noting "for newsletter"; send to above address.