

EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

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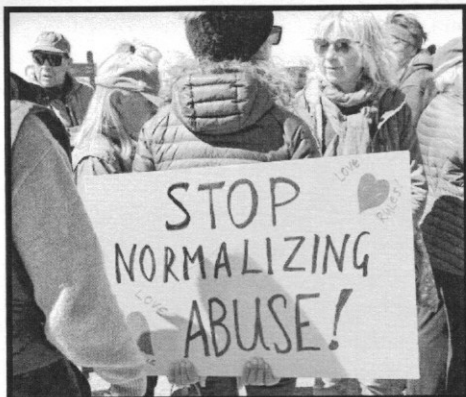
GALISTEO WRITERS READ

The second annual Galisteo writers event took place on Feb. 15th at the GCC, MCed by Paul Davis. Here are a couple of short takes (most were long, like mine). See also a contribution by Liz Rose p.4.

Dreams of Colors Keep Me Breathing

Noah Massey

There once was a young boy,
With eyes full of adventure,
His hair is a flaming toil
Of sweet Santa Fe sunsets
He relished in nature,
Colossal red barked
Sequoias are etched
In ink across his pale skin,
Forevermore.
Gentle winged monarchs,
Season after season
Spring to Summer to
Autumn to Winter
And again.
Calling for a little boy to
come home,
As a mother would stand on the porch,
Bathed in warm pools of sun.
Beckoning for her son,
Dinner is done.



The March 8th rally at Zorro. (Photo: Alex Finlayson)

APRIL 25th: GCA ANNUAL MEETING/BREAKFAST

CORRECTION: Last month's issue misspelled *Time Traveller's Gastropub*.

GOING PAPERLESS

By now, those of us addicted to hard-copy newspapers who have hung in despite the abysmal daily delivery record of the *Santa Fe New Mexican*, have received notice (often from our neighbors, not the paper) that after March 14th the paper will be delivered by mail. (Who wants the Sunday paper on Monday?) Galisteo/Lamy are the only communities being cut off from daily delivery because of "distance" and an apparent low number of subscriptions, many of which were canceled precisely because of the lousy service. The on-line version is not the same.

Please let *El Puente* know if you've got any ideas about getting the Sunday paper on Sunday morning! Many thanks.

EPSTEIN'S VICTIMS NOT FORGOTTEN

On March 8, International Women's Day, carloads of villagers (and Julie Deery on a bike) caravanned south on NM 41 to the protest at Jeffrey Epstein's former Zorro Ranch, organized by Albuquerque Women's March. Staged just north of the new Ranch gates (under construction halted for lack of permit), the rally was within view of the isolated mansion identified by some as the site of the Epstein circle's worst criminal offenses against women and children, possibly even including murder.

Protestors numbered in the hundreds and varied from elderly women in sequined hats to young men with neck tattoos. They cheered as speakers called for full investigation of the Ranch, un-redacted Epstein files, and demolition of the Zorro mansion, but there were also moments of tears and hugs. Speaker Daniel Wilson, brother of the late prominent Epstein accuser and victim, Virginia Giuffre, spoke of her love of New Mexico land despite the horror that came with it. (Giuffre died by suicide last spring.) US Representative Teresa Leger Fernández spoke about *Virginia's Law*, her proposed legislation to eliminate the statute of limitations for civil claims regarding sexual abuse and trafficking, named for Giuffre.

In an interview with a Japanese journalist, Caroline Hinkley said nothing felt comparable to the Ranch rally in her lifetime of human rights advocacy demonstrating at nuclear (cont. p 2)

sites and prisons. Ezra Sage, who remembers scary stories of Zorro Ranch from his Galisteo childhood, was quoted in *The Santa Fe New Mexican* saying he was glad Epstein's New Mexico history was finally getting attention.

25 YEARS OF ZORRO RANCH IN *EL PUENTE*

A couple of months ago I (your editor) started to write a short update on the Zorro Ranch when suddenly all hell broke loose.

It seems that the Feds had told New Mexico not to investigate here; they were taking care of it, though they never searched the Zorro ranch. Now, years later, Attorney General Raul Torrez has reclaimed the Zorro investigation from the do-nothing feds.

Two Democratic state representatives -- Andrea Romero (Santa Fe) and Marianna Anaya (Albuquerque) -- have announced a "truth commission" to investigate Epstein's activities at the ranch, six years after his alleged suicide in a New York jail on August 10, 2019. The Women's March rally on 3/8 (see p.1) provided an opening salvo.

The recent release of millions of documents relating to Epstein's crimes (with millions more to come) offers glimpses into his time overlooking the Galisteo Basin, including those men invited to Zorro Ranch, none of whom has been accused of any crime. The Department of Justice's sloppy redacting has covered up some participants while criminally disclosing the names of some victims.

I decided to look back at *El Puente's* coverage, which began innocently enough in Feb. 2001: "the huge yellow house that looms over the southern edge of the Galisteo Basin... belongs to New Yorker Jeffrey Epstein, who acquired the property from Bruce King in 1993 and named it the Zorro Ranch. Complete with airstrip, the spread is now valued at \$33 million, a figure the owner is disputing in court, since his property taxes amount to \$183,502.64. The house is thought to be the largest in New Mexico." In 2006 *El Puente* reported that the ranch was listed on the tax rolls as the "largest and highest-valued residence in the county," with a main house at 23,105 square feet. "It is appraised at a record \$16.6 million for structures alone (*New Mexican*, June 11)."

I wish I could remember the name of the guy I met ages ago who was working on building the Epstein mansion; he said that a wall was torn out so Epstein would have not only the biggest house but also the biggest kitchen in the state. I can't help wondering if this was the anonymous tipster who told Albuquerque radio journalist Eddie Aragon that there were two girls' bodies buried on the ranch.

Further *El Puente* references, thirteen of them in "Pedacitos," introduced us to Epstein the "financier." In Sept 2006: "Owner Jeffrey Epstein was just arrested for allegedly having sex with five minors in Palm Beach. Gov. Richardson and other New Mexico politicians have returned or donated his contributions to their campaigns." In Nov. 2008: "*New York Magazine* reported in July that Epstein, owner of the Zorro Ranch south of the village, has begun a prison term for soliciting sex from minors." In Feb. 2009 it was reported that he gave \$50,000 to Richardson's gubernatorial run.

A long-gone Galisteo scolded your editor for "saying bad things about a rancher"! Today Epstein's bad things are all over the news. He had petroglyphs chiseled from their sites for ranch

decoration and some of the wilder reports involve body burials and baby farming at Zorro. *The New Mexican* (2/8/26) reported a rumor that Epstein had acquired an ancient bell from the San José de Gracia church in Trampas, stolen a century ago.

In Feb. 2016: "Jeffrey Epstein, a convicted sex offender, who owns the Zorro Ranch... is the subject of ongoing litigations from at least a dozen of his then-underage victims. He is also a pal of Donald Trump, who told *New York Magazine* in 2002 that Epstein 'likes beautiful women as much as I do, and many of them are on the younger side. No doubt about it, Jeffrey enjoys his social life.'" (I don't know why this quote has not surfaced in recent discussions.)

In April 2017: "One of the names mentioned in a nefarious deal perpetrated by Trump's second Labor Secretary nominee was ...billionaire and ex-con Jeffrey Epstein, owner of the Zorro Ranch." In December of that year: "Also in the news is our neighbor to the south -- Zorro Ranch owner Jeffrey Epstein. A civil suit has been filed against him by three teenage girls. Steve Terrell (in *The New Mexican* 12/10) noted that the opposing lawyer has agreed not to refer to Epstein as a "billionaire pedophile" or "convicted child molester" and assumes that he will also refrain from calling Epstein "a creepy scumbag" or "despicable perv."

In Sept. 2021: "Looking for a haunted house? Sotheby's is advertising Jeffrey Epstein's [7,588-acre] Zorro Ranch for a mere \$27,500,000, no mention of Epstein or its lurid past. The main residence (still the biggest house in NM?) includes a large indoor pool, a gym, library, and exceptional kitchen..." In 2023 the ranch sold for only \$18,000,000 (quite a cut-rate!)

"Jeffrey Epstein's New Mexico sin den has been rebranded. The Stanley property is now known as Rancho San Rafael." We were told the new owners were "oil people." We now know, thanks to reporter Clara Bates, that the planned Christian retreat is owned by Donald Huffines -- currently the GOP candidate for Texas Controller.

On March 1st of this year, *The New York Times* reported on the re-opening of investigations into Zorro Ranch, including quotes from Mike Anaya, Kevan Saunders, and Jim Sloan, who noted he turned down a Zorro job because he refused to sign a non-disclosure document. The Internet is full of videos refuting the media's reportage. They range from detailed analyses to a glamorous mortician's analysis of Epstein's "dead" body.

What next?

Tune into *El Puente*.

* LETTER TO THE EDITOR: CHIP CONLEY

For the past five years, MEA has appreciated being a harmonious Galisteo neighbor. Some of you work with us, others have come to a workshop, and a number of you have your art exhibited at our two retreat centers. For this reason, I wanted to respond to the article in the last issue of *El Puente* that characterized MEA as a profit-maximizing developer. Here are a few facts:

In the eight years MEA has been open in Baja and New Mexico, the company has never made a profit and is aligned with a non-profit that assures that about half of our MEA midlife students are on full or partial scholarship. I've never paid myself in these eight years and I'm the sole investor so I can exert decision-making control without external investors' typical capitalistic tendencies. (cont.p.3)

In our five years of owning the 2,566-acre Rising Circle Ranch (formerly Saddleback), the only buildings we've built are additions to two existing homes, using regenerative design and construction practices to house our retreat centers. As we stated at the GCA community meeting in November, we're using less water on the ranch than is allocated, partly due to our conservation efforts.

As for our real estate activities, we've recently bought two homes in Lamy and Eldorado (which will have 5 and 3 renters each) as "Golden Girls" homes, for older women who want to age with other MEA alumni. Some of our older employees may also be housed in these homes.

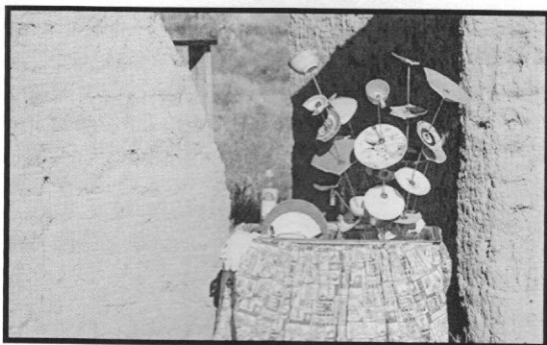
And we've applied to subdivide three lots on the ranch, ranging from 7.4 - 14.8 acres, to build homes for MEA alumni over the next five years. If we ever choose to create additional lots on the ranch, our subdivision application would be subject to BCC approval at a public hearing so we welcome your questions at that time. Please note that preserving abundant open space is a core part of our MEA ethos since nature is the best teacher.

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES



Sweet Remedy at the Lamy Station Feb. 22.

In 2009 Barbara King suggested in *El Puente* that the village/GCA form a "small garden club." It never got off (or into) the ground, but a few weeks ago Galistean May Yen announced a free six-week lecture series: "Seed to Supper," every Friday (3/6-4/17 except Good Friday, 4/3) from 10:30-12:00 at the Community Center. Participants attending at least 4 classes will receive free gardening supplies! Please email her to register belatedly: galisteocasaverde@gmail.com



Julie Deery's installation (lower left) photographed by Chris Benkert at the Avenida Vieja ruin. (And it was Julie who put the lovely roadrunner/resist sticker on *El Puente's* mailbox).

Cool Season Grasses like Needle and Thread and Indian Rice Grass are already showing green. They're the first grasses to green up (and are called Cold Season Grasses.) We've got a nice crop of them -- first signs of Spring, along with the arrival of the Say's Phoebes, which are here early this year.

Next Door recently reported a **break in and car stolen** on CR42 as "near Galisteo." Seems it was actually further out, but no less scary.

Increased Sheriff activity: Several Galisteans have been ticketed on NM41 and Old Las Vegas Highway, including Jerry Kruse and your editor.

The GCA just voted a fairly hefty sum towards an irrigation system at the Community Center to insure our six trees will receive a good water supply. Three of them were planted by volunteers in 2005, and they've been struggling ever since. The new drip system will also allow for some modest landscaping with drought tolerant plants. Thanks to Suzi Shanklin, May Yen and Alex Finlayson, who fought hard for it.

Matthew McQueen has been endorsed by JanePac (Jane Fonda's Climate Change PAC) in his run for State Land Commissioner.

Cecily Campbell is dancing in a new and daring production of Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* at The Metropolitan Opera. This is her second performance at the Met. Husband **Ted Alcorn** recently had a story ("For the World's Food Supply, Federal Funding Cuts Have Long-Term Impacts") in *The New York Times* about Trump's threat to world food sources; he even managed to find a few bright spots.

Things are heating up around the gigantic **Globemallow solar project** north of Stanley, very close to Galisteo. One hearing has taken place, the second is on April 16th.

AIR QUALITY TESTING

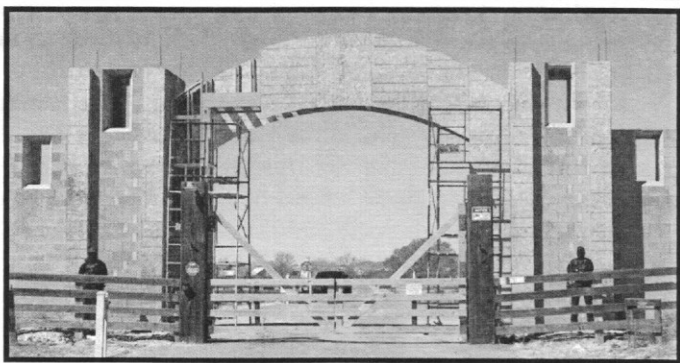
Results are in from the 2025 Galisteo road testing by the State and County which culminates almost thirty years of concern for the safety of our road materials -- first by John Benjamin and later also by Rep Matthew McQueen. Last August, Santa Fe County tested samples from seven locations in the village east of Hwy 41. Their findings show roads at five of the locations rated *Good to Excellent*, while two locations rated *Fair to Poor* with higher levels of lead and silt. All locations met EPA standards. The state's final 152-page report incorporating the County results, is unequivocal: "The data suggests. . . no measurable health risks to the Galisteo community under current conditions. No additional mitigation or monitoring is currently recommended." We have nothing to worry about?

John Benjamin still hopes to see the road in front of his house sealed and finally an end to his battle with dust, toxic or not. And for the rest of us, consider keeping your speed down to single digits when driving past your walking neighbors. The dust from our roads may not be killing us, but it is still unpleasant and guaranteed to be more so in the upcoming heat wave.

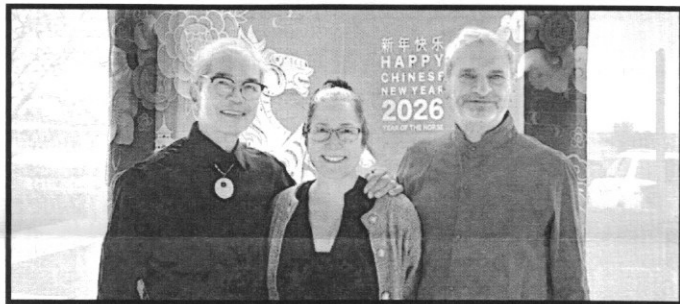
I found an arrowhead on my land today

Liz Rose

behind my house
a gate swings useless
from the broken fence post
give a little push and it gaps wide
enough for me to step through tread
dirt no different from the patch surrounding
the desert home I claim *no trespassing allowed*
the fence wire warns though coyote on his hunt for
prey derides the delineation with his scat following the
unbroken line-evidence of his nocturnal exploring I came across
a dangling papery overcoat discarded on a rock in the arroyo
by a rattler
a place where heel-toe imprints left by cottontails and leaping
jackalope
pattern the sand each day I walk the walk I walked yesterday
the walk I walked the day before jumbled footprints
prove our nomadic desert comings our daily goings mocking
ownership last night the wind blew hard erasing all
existence of mine of yours



Zorro gate, halted construction, with goons.



LUNAR NEW YEAR OF THE FIRE HORSE: Wayland Wong, May Yen, and Greg Salustro, sponsors of celebratory breakfast at the GCC Feb. 21st.

EL PUENTE SPONSOR:
ANONYMOUS

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED: ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Next deadline, April 10. 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.wildfocusexpeditions.com. Come with Us!

Orchard Full-Service Catering: Personal chef, experience with special needs and dietary issues. Corey McGillicuddy: 505 - 660-1236, 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

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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

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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: April 10. TO SPONSOR: Check to GCA for \$100-\$150 (or more!) noting "for newsletter"; send to above address.**