EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

ISSUE #294 OCTOBER 2026

* VOTE * VOTE * VOTE * VOTE *

Best advice seems to be to vote early at Max Coll Senior Center in Eldorado or the County Clerk in SF to avoid any peculiarities or obstructions on Nov.3rd. NM allows same-day voting registration at all polling places on Election Day. Although it seems unlikely that the GCC will be hit by ICE or National Guard, better safe than sorry!

A PERFECT DAY

Michael Dyer

My God, did I enjoy voting last time in our Pueblo Chico. My wife had voted earlier that morning so I rolled onto the sacred gravel of the community center parking lot on my own, with no excuses. It was like Xmas in my heart. It was sunny, and, of course, we have this massive, universal joy that hangs over our village so that was kind of shining down on voters that day. It all brought to mind the poetic words of Patti Smith from her song "People Have the Power": *In the form of shining valleys Where the pure air recognized And my senses newly opened I awakened to the cry...*

And that cry is service to others. That cry is people coming together, through union, to make improvements to the world. To love thy neighbor through voting.

The first neighbor I greeted exiting the center that day was my favorite lesbian who had recently contributed to saving my life so that was a big hug. And then I encountered the stylish Brit who always smilingly pays tribute to the American system. There was no line, no paramilitary thugs, it was free, it was fair, and the nicest damned people were running the thing. They smiled, they were welcoming, they did their checks, and they handed me a ballot. It is truly a simple system that is the envy of the world. This is the ultimate call of community engagement. Recently, we saw 87 year old Mavis Staples give an inspiring performance at the Santa Fe Opera House. It was so amusing to see her pounding her jamming young guitar player on the back and imploring him to " bring the joy, man, bring the joy" Young, old, and in between age citizens have an obligatory voice to be heard in that way. Mavis is one of the great rhythm and blues and gospel singers of all time and a civil rights activist, so plug in, and she will "Take You There" on a voting morning.

I was about to leave, confident my values had been posted, when a car pulled up with two of our longtime residents and friends, one compromised and wobbly. Her husband had voted early, but she was determined to cross that gravel *(Cont. p.2).*



GALISTEO'S GHOSTS

Ted Alcorn

When Bonnie Bufkin told a clerk at a Santa Fe gallery that she lived in Galisteo, he asked whether she had seen any ghosts. The village, he told her, was "known for being so *ghosty*."

That view is not universally held. One long-time resident, who does not countenance tales of ghosts, wrote: "I view them as folklore, scary stories to tell around a campfire." But as the days shorten, the autumn air begins to bite, and the veil between worlds is said to wear thin, other Galisteans recalled incidents that left them unnerved, brushed by numinous presences that admit no easy explanation.

Over a lifetime in the village, Anna Cárdenas and her family have collected a few. Living beside the old cemetery and keeping the Catholic and Hispanic rites of burial and remembrance, the *velorio* and the final Mass, may have given her a peculiar intimacy with death, she said: "We get these little premonitions."

One evening her father, who had inherited a guitar passed from his brothers, said the instrument was unattended when its unmistakable sound broke the silence. "The guitar strummed all by itself." Moments later, a message reached him that one of his brothers had died.

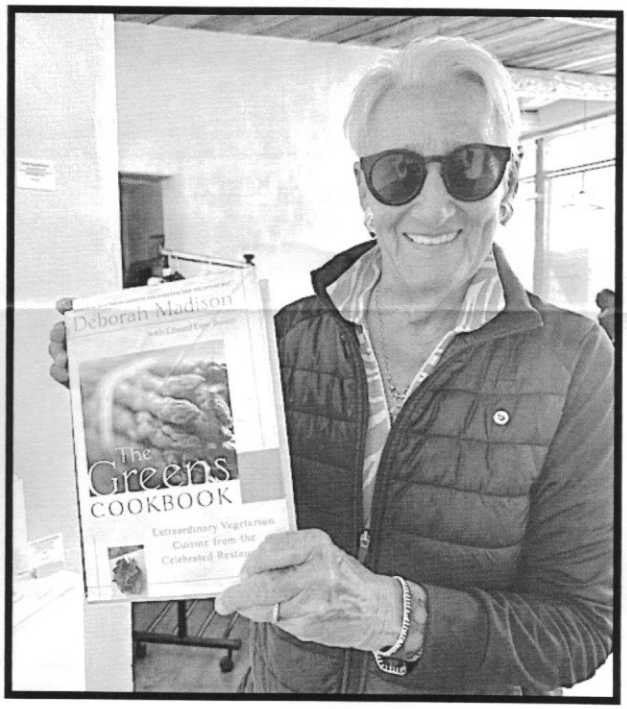
On another occasion her sister Lisa and a group of schoolchildren were waiting for the bus on the steps of the church when, unbidden, the organ inside the locked building began to play. Spooked kids scattered across the highway.

There have been run-ins around the village, too. One night, as retold by Anna's cousin Marta Anaya Delgado, a young couple driving into the village passed a cowled figure in a brown robe. Taking him for a priest, the pair stopped to offer help, *(Cont. p.2)*

DYER: and demanded a trip to the polls. We all helped her in, we all helped her register her voice. She was dripping in courage.

So if you want to get uplifted by your own proud values, the Galisteo Community Center has a place for you to vote on November 3rd. Voting is not dreaming, it is the people ruling from this vortex of land and lives. The village is not big by the numbers, but we can sure project that "center of the universe" gemstone right between the eyes of our giant country.

Democracy requires that.



Nancy Park

STUDIO TOUR: ANOTHER HEYDAY

The Studio Tour went off without a hitch, thanks to co-chairs Lesley Dyer and Shaun Gilmore and their army of contributors. Lesley was even able to arrange perfect weather and coax glorious fall foliage from the cottonwoods and chamisa. This year's firsts included a Raku firing demonstration, an interactive art stop for children, and unveiling *The Galisteo Daily*, the transformation-in-process of Quartermill Farm by new owners and Tour donors Clayton Brandt and Sofia Zubi.

Another first was the guest appearance of Nancy Park, founder of the Studio Tour. At the opening night reception she was mobbed like an A-list celebrity. "It's fantastic to be appreciated. I love meeting so many kindred spirits," Park said, flashing a beautiful smile. As manager of the Galisteo Inn in 1988, she filled it with local art work for sale but believed more could be done. She gathered a group of artists, including Barbara Holloway and Catherine Ferguson, and told them about Dixon's studio tour, the first in the state, and how the entire village pitched in to make a day of it. A natural fit for Galisteo, she said. And so it has been.

Now a Life Coach in Santa Fe, Park helps clients live lives which are "examined, expressed, and on purpose" — exactly what she offered Galisteo 37 years ago. (*For more on the early Studio Tours see El Puente #276 and #277 online at galisteocommunity.org.*)

ALCORN: but when he turned, his face was a death's-head. The young man raced to the cemetery and climbed over the wall; he'd been taught that some souls "can't cross over and they need a little help," so he recited *almas*, prayers for the *defuntos,* at every grave he could remember. When he climbed back out, the road was empty.

Anna had her own visitation, on a moonlit Halloween more than 50 years ago, when she and her cousins trailed a slender figure along Avenida Vieja toward the bridge, calling out to it. The figure never answered or let them close the gap, and at the bridge, a liminal place where the road forks, it vanished.

Newer arrivals feel something similar. In the fall of 2021, Bonnie moved into a little house that had been built recently but had sat empty for a couple of years, and quickly sensed something was amiss. The empty shower would suddenly run with water. Twice, crossing the little hall at night, Bonnie was hit by a wave that turned her stomach and passed as fast as it came: "I think I just walked through it."

Then one evening, as she and her mother, Kim Gilbreath, dressed for dinner, a crash: the thick glass top of the coffee table had flipped over, candles and books and all. A visiting friend with clairvoyant powers supplied them a name: Charles Anderson, a soldier from an army outpost in the area, killed in an ambush and earthbound ever since, who wanted a military funeral before he would go.

So later that week, standing in the front yard, flags purchased from Amazon flapping in a howling wind, Bonnie and Kim recited the requested prayers and sang a patriotic hymn, while Bonnie wondered what passing neighbors would make of them. Then the wind abruptly died to stillness. And thereafter in the house, she said, "there was never one sound, move, anything, ever again."

Kim lives in her old house behind the fire station that is, in her daughter's phrase, "dense with spirit." She greets it when she comes home — "hi, house" — but isn't scared. Her explanation, "They were here long before I was."

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Sue Auderer measured 6.29" of rain for the month of September. "Our gauge," she writes, "measures hundredths of an inch which is about all we usually get. All through August this year our total was 3.53". So we're now at 9.82" for 2026. Same period last year was 11.93".We also had about 5" of snow in January which amounts to about ¾" of water, where we got about 8" last year." *Ed note:* And now the basin is greener than a usual October and some of the plants think it's spring!

- The **blessed rain** also melted a few old adobe walls around the village, including Tim Weldon's back wall on 41 and a front wall at the home of Jeff Ruzich and Scott Canning on La Vega. And the window box, which hung on for years at the ruin on Avenida Vieja, finally dropped off.

Leveo Sanchez died 8/11 at age 95. His great grandfather **John Davis** was Galisteo's first prominent Anglo, and his great grandmother **Josefa Ortiz y Davis** the village's grande dame --beginning the Ortiz y Pino line here. Leveo followed his mother Victoria Davis Sanchez into an admired educational career in Latin America. He worked for AID and then the Peace Corps. After years of world travel and living back east, in 2006 he and his wife Patrricia returned to his home state and in 2007 he was appointed to the Board of Regents for Highlands University, later becoming Chair. *(Cont. p.3)*

Alex Finlayson reports "We saw a lone **vulture** being chased by a crow yesterday morning. Funny thing is, I had the exact same thing on my calendar from last year on the same day: "spotted a single vulture still here."

Matthew Mc Queen was presented with the Sierra Club's Ed Wayburn Award for Public Service. During his twelve years in the Legislature he successfully shepherded many key environmental bills into law. The announcement also noted that had he prevailed in the race for Land Commissioner, "he would have been one of the most experienced candidates ever to hold the office." The Sierra Club also endorsed his replacement for District 50 – Galisteo's own **Sarah Boses.** And on 9/7, the often grumpy Milan Simonich wrote a complimentary column on McQueen noting that he, "more than anyone, will be responsible for obliterating the pocket veto and the sloth and secrecy that came with it." So Vote for Amendment 1!

Rob King and **Jaime Herrell** of the Duende Gallery were featured in the *New Mexican's Legacy* magazine last summer. Rob is quoted: "I want to challenge people's perceptions of beauty." In the same issue, **Scott Diffrient's** gorgeous necklaces at Malouf on the Plaza received a full-page ad.

On Oct. 3rd the Duende Gallery hosted a packed audience for a panel within the impressive Tamarind print show. Participants **Rose B. Simpson, Judy Tuwaltetstiwa,** and **Rob King** were moderated by **Jaime Herrell.**

Village Leave-takings:**Ann Senuta** moved to Minneapolis to be close to her son and grandson. She was an active member of village life, most recently as administrator of the Community Website. Ann plans a visit back in early 2027. Chloe Harrison and Ezra Sage have bought their first home, which, sadly for us, is in Cañada de Los Alamos. A Galisteo native, Ezra has been an active village member as snake wrangler, volunteer firefighter, and member of the GCA Board. Chloe says she, Ezra, Chicharrón (puppy), Creb (cat), and Irwin (snake) are settling in and loving their new space.

Larry Romero has moved up from Alternate to Full Member of the GCA Board, taking **Ezra Sage's** place.

Birders have been visiting the Bosque to catch a glimpse of the **Eastern Blue Jay.** At least one was sighted at a bird feeder with its western cousins, the Woodhouse Scrub Jays. Climate change may be affecting its westward migration.

If you can bear it, more on those cuddly dangerous critters: Virginia Tech has analyzed 22,000 hours of bear videos and found that if the weather stays warm, thanks to climate change, **black bears** stay out of hibernation until it gets cold, as late as December. Recent backyard videos show them still active locally as of this writing.

Lets face it. Solar arrays are a lot better than Data Centers. On April 16th, The Santa Fe County Planning Commission approved San Francisco-based Linea Energy's **Globemallow** solar and battery storage project on 2000 acres near Stanley. The "target customer" is PNM. It will provide enough electricity to power some 93,000 homes – significantly larger than the also approved Rancho Viejo project. (See *El Puente #280, 3/25*). Construction is expected to begin in 2027. These huge projects always have huge environmental drawbacks, loss of wildlife habitat prime among them. (See our bear invasion…)

On July 7th, **Galisteo Arts** hosted a screening of two films from their Galisteo Legacy Project. **Blair Stocker**, videographer and editor, gave a brief introduction. The crowd enjoyed viewing the 30-minute videos of **Dennison Smith's** conversations with **Leslie Dilworth** and **Sam Sloan.** The series can be watched online at https://galisteostudiotour.org/galisteo-artists-project/

Away co-founder **Jen Rubio** and Slack co-founder **Stewart Butterfield** of Cerro Pelon Ranch are separating after six years of marriage. They say the $215 million foundation, investments, businesses, and philanthropic commitments they built together will continue. No news on the projected Sculpture Park.

Jennifer Martin reports that the GCA had a presentation on **Santa Fe County's stormwater conservation infrastructure** by Jacqueline Bream, Sustainability Manager, Community Development. Other water conservation methods and county water resources were discussed. Jennifer hopes to see a similar presentation for the village at large to further water conservation education.

A local posted in *Next Door* that **wild bird pox** is rampant this year, thanks to the drought stressing birds. Here's advice from the NM Wildlife Center: Wash your feeders and birdbaths with 1 part chlorine bleach and 9 parts water once a week. If you have questions, contact the Center--- and donate to them! https://newmexicowildlifecenter.org/ 505-753-9505.

Sorry, we missed this last year: **Eleanor Chanell** won 2nd place for non-fiction in the 2025 Pasatiempo Writing Contest for a poignant short essay titled "My Son is a Drug Addict."

Brian Moya made the front page of the *New Mexican* (10/12) as Interim City Manager, having turned down the permanent position with plans to exit City Government.

Santa Fe County uses Elon Musk-owned **Starlink satellite** internet at several of its polling places -- only for same-day voter registration, we were told. Our Community Center has its own internet and will not be connected to Starlink. If the alternative is Starlink, dying old Century Link is preferable. Especially for an election site.

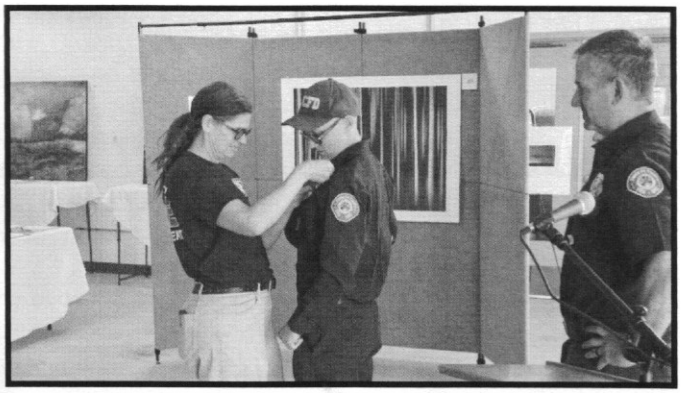
HAVE YOU BEEN READING (AND HOPEFULLY ENJOYING) EL PUENTE FOR MONTHS? YEARS? DECADES?
HAVE YOU EVER SPONSORED AN ISSUE OR DONATED?
TIME TO STEP UP! MANY THANKS!

GVFR NEWS

The **Annual GVFR Breakfast** attracted 74 community members The usual good food and good company was accompanied by an art show. As Richard and Marilyn Fenker left town, Richard donated a series of photo artworks to the GVFR, Sales and donations came to $3123. His multipartite light box mural is now installed in the station above the lockers.

Kobe Jane and **Kris Lawrence** are newlyweds. Kobe is a firefighter and EMT with GVFR. Kris works as Instructor Coordinator for Districts 2 & 4 at the NM Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Fire Training Academy. *(Cont. p.4)*

A **fire in Lamy** (on August 8th) took an entire compound; the owner lost everything. The **GVFR** was there for nine hours.



Mizu Desierto (new member of the GVFR) pinning Lindsey Fuller



Chile/Margarita winners: Alex Finlayson, (best red traditional), Ann Senuta (in photo because she's leaving and was judges coordinator), Sandy Duran (best green traditional), Kyle Bohnenstiehl (2nd best non-traditional), Stanley Perdue (best non-traditional), Jenny Stocker, (2nd Nontraditional for her Alps Chile, hence the outfit). Best margarita, Julie Deery and Paul Davis, (not pictured) and Kyle second.

Mark your calendars! Galisteo Has Talent will be held on Friday, November 20th, 5pm at The Community Center Sponsored by the Galisteo Music Collective

EL PUENTE SPONSOR:

HEATHER FRAZAR-SMITH

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED: ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Next deadline, Nov. 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

SERVICE

Tractor Work: Driveways, Culverts, Septic, Leach Fields, Excavation, Demolition, Brush Removal: Arlan Collatz: 970-901-2468.

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

Rancho Bueno: gifts, grocery bags from feed sacks, tarragon vinegar, aprons, napkins, and potholders. By appointment: Deirdre 505-670-5198

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, mcgilllicuddycorey3@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 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

THIS IS THE EARTH.
IT WILL NEVER BE HEAVEN.
– REBECCA SOLNIT

SHUT UP AND VOTE

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