

The El Morro Area Arts Council News

2nd Quarter 2003



All Events are held at the Gallery unless otherwise indicated.

April Events

Tech Theater Meeting
Rocco Tripodi
Thursday, April 10th, 6:30 pm

Calling all those interested in technical theater. A meeting is being held to form a technical crew for a dramatic offering to be performed on August 7th, 8th, and 9th. This meeting will be held at the Old School Gallery. Join us for a theatrical adventure. We need volunteers interested in lighting, sound, costumes, props, a stage manager and a plant manager. Come out and help us to create quality dramatic theater to present to our community. Contact Rocco Tripodi for information: 783-4429

Casting Call
"The Chicken Prince"
and
"Cow in the House"
Thursday, April 17th, 6:30 pm

A casting call will be held at the Old School Gallery for a performance of two plays: "The Chicken Prince" and "Cow in the House", adapted from Hebrew teaching tales, to be presented on August 7th, 8th, and 9th. We are looking for adults, children and anyone in between. We need a *young Prince, King and Queen, Advisor, Teacher, Court Persons, several Doctors* of different kinds who try to cure the Prince, and a *Scruffy Little Man*, who is the hero of the tale, and cures the Prince for "The Chicken Prince". We also need a *Farmer, his Wife, Barnyard Animals, and a Rabbi* for "Cow in the House".

Come on out and try your hand at drama. No experience is necessary! The shows are comedies and will hopefully make our audiences laugh. Don't hide your talent! The rehearsal schedule is relaxed and will require two rehearsals a week until the final week before performance. See calendar for dates. For information, call Rocco Tripodi at 783-4429

April cont.

Mid School Art Opening
Friday, April 11, 12-2 pm

Join us for an exciting moment for our young artists as Zuni, Pine Hill and Ramah Middle Schools have their Art Opening. Refreshments, music and mirth at the Old School Gallery. The show will hang until April 25th. Drop by and experience this wonderful opportunity for the youth of our area.

Technoshamanic Spring Rejuvenation Workshop

Saturday Afternoon, April 26th, 1-4 pm
(\$10.00)

The highlights of this workshop include the eleven principles of technoshamanic living, planting yourself in the Garden of the Cosmos, Spring Cleaning for the Soul, Creating Good Fortune, Compassion and Courage, Hypnotic Ecstasy training, and Dancing your Mandala.

Technoshamanism Celebration and Dance
Palsating with Joy and Peace

Saturday Evening, April 26th, 7:30 pm
(\$5.00)

Come join us for live drumming and flute playing in a ceremony to invoke peace. Experience the following: rhythmic explorations with dance and computer visualizations; chanting, ranting, and storytelling; face painting, costuming, and computer fractal visualizations. Caution: these experiences are not meant as a substitute for medical treatment, psychotherapy, real life, a job, and may be unsuitable for those who wish to become more normal and well adjusted. Not valid where not prohibited, and only available in states of confusion, disorientation, chaos, and ultraharmony.

April Events cont.

Organic Gardening Workshop *at Giannangelo Farms*

Building Sustainable Soil

Sunday, April 27th, 9:30-2:30 pm
\$15.00 (bring sack lunch and drinks)

Topics include: What is sustainability? - Increasing fertility in alkaline clay and sandy soils; building and maintaining good compost, water and nutrient conservation; intercropping and companion planting; drought tolerant planting possibilities; and the importance and types of mulch. Guest Speaker: **Tim Amsden**

Please call 783-4412 for information, directions and reservations.

May Events

May Festival **and** **Art Opening "Emergence"**

Sunday, May 4th, 1:30 pm (free)

Come celebrate with us the beginning of the warm, loving, growing season. Check out the craft, plant sale and ice cream sundae booths. Walk the labyrinth. Come participate in the maypole dance, drumming circle and Tai Chi demonstration. Come watch (and dance!) with the Belly Dancers. The children will have their own arts area to make wreaths and other Spring projects. Take a walk in the Gallery and see our newest exhibit "Emergence". Food and fun for all - see you there!

Landscape Outing **With Candace Lee**

Tuesday, May 13th, 10:00 am

Join Candace as she leads us to a beautiful spot in Candy Kitchen. Bring art supplies, cameras or writing tools. Don't forget your sack lunch. Phone Candace for directions at 775-3773.

El Morro Choral Group Debut

Saturday May 17, 7:00 pm

(\$1.00 donation)

The newly formed Chorus, a mixed age group of area residents and EMMAC members, will perform a show of songs from classic and contemporary Broadway musicals. Come out and hear your neighbors and friends and put a smile on your face.

May Events cont.

Rock Workshop *at Giannangelo Farms*

Creating with Stone, Rock, and Gravel

Sunday, May 18th, 9:30-2:30 pm.
\$15.00 (bring sack lunch and drinks)

Topics covered will include: tools, materials, and techniques; stone shaping and preparation; pools, ponds, walls and paths; mixing cement and mortar; the possibilities of design; and hands-on rock wall building. Call Frank or Vicki at 783-4412 for more information, directions and reservations.

"The Theft of Fire and Light"

and

"The Wolf Prince"

Performance Art by

Johanna Hongell-Darsee

Saturday, May 31st, 7:30 pm (\$5.00)

Come see a performance of storytelling, dance, mime and music presenting two traditional tales. "The Theft of Fire and Light" is a story from the Finnish Epic Kalevala and is part of a creation myth. It tells about how the sun and the moon were stolen by Louhi, The gap-toothed hag of the dark North Land. It also tells about how they were salvaged by the old and wise Vainamoinen, who was the oldest man ever, and also the first singer of stories. "The Wolf Prince" is a Swedish folktale about a princess who married a wolf. A troll woman abducts her wolf husband, and the princess has to make a dangerous and hard journey to find and rescue him.



JUNE EVENTS

"Butterflies Fly Free" A Performance Art Program

Seanie

Starting Tuesday June 10th, the Youth Arts Program will meet each Tuesday in June and the first week of July, from 10 am until 2 pm, and work on a performance piece entitled "Butterflies Fly Free". This piece comes from a true story and will include giant puppets, costumes, dance, music, lights and magic. The date of presentation is Saturday, July 19th. Casting and contracting of participants will be on June 10th. Cast and support group will be open to all ages. A program filled with fun, adventure and magic. Call Seanie for information at 783-4002, or at the Gallery on Saturdays, 783-4710.

Summer Art Drop-in

Wednesdays from 10-2pm in June-July.

Starting June 11 and through the first week of July, once again we will be offering programs that will explore various art mediums for children and teens of all ages. Join us for a fun and creative summer. Healthy lunches will be provided, and a sliding scale of \$1-3 dollars will be asked per child. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. A jar will be provided to receive funds as you see fit. For more information please call Seanie at 783-4002 or the Gallery at 783-4710. See you this summer!

Improv Evening

with Barbara and Friends

Saturday, June 14th, 7:30 pm (\$3.00)

A night of fun-filled adventure in **Improv Theater** with Barbara Berge. The audience will participate with the performers exploring various forms of improv. For all ages and experiences, come watch - or participate!

OPEN MIC

Saturday, June 28th, 7:30 pm (\$2.00)

Once again we bring you one of our most relished events. A fun-filled evening discovering the talents of our community. Sign up early if you wish to participate by calling the Gallery at 783-4710 and performers, don't forget to arrive at 7:00 pm.

JUNE EVENTS cont.

Straw Bale Workshop "Design and Construction"

with Frank Giannangelo and Preston Bell

Sunday, June 29th, 9:30-3:30pm (\$15.00)

at Giannangelo Farms

Bring sack lunch and drinks

The topics will include: Designs, tools, techniques, and possibilities; bale wall systems and foundations; external and internal pinning; moisture protection; natural and cement plasters; shaping and customizing bales; sculpturing niches and openings; netting and wire lath; spraying and hand application of plaster and cement. Participants will share in a hands-on building of an entrance wall and a curved bench. Call Frank or Vicky at 783-4412 for information, directions, and reservations.

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Deadline for the Summer Newsletter is June 1, 2003. Please try very hard to have all the necessary information to us by this date. Thank you for your submissions.



Tai Chi Chuan Class, Old School Gallery

All Events are held at the Gallery unless otherwise indicated.

Visual Journals

Meets the 2nd Saturday of every month (April 12, May 10 and June 14) at 2:00 pm. Visual journaling is a wonderful, creative process of making art that integrates visual and written forms. Absolutely no experience necessary. Call Lisa at 783-4502.

See article on p. 9.

Tribal Dance

Meets one Sunday a month, at 10:30 am. Come and experience Ecstatic Dance with Kate Wilson on April 13, Basic Belly Dance with Jackie Rossignol-Sellier on May 25th, and the Fat Chance Belly Dance Video Tape with Candace and Lisa on June 22.

Book Club

Book Club meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm. April 15th at Pam Davis' home, 783-4679, Nothing to Declare, by Mary Morris. May 20th at Kristi Davis' home, 783-4440, A House for Mr. Biswas, by V.S. Naipal. June 17th, at Vicky Giannangelo's home, 783-4412, As I Lay Dying, by William Faulkner.

Writers' Group

This group meets the 1st Wednesdays of the month, April 2, May 7, and June 4 at Lisa de St. Croix and David Kessler's house. Anyone interested in writing is encouraged to join. We begin with writing exercises, which we then share. We may also share works written outside the group. **Note the new time of 7:30pm.**

Drumming

Come join us at the Gallery once a month on April 5 (7:00 pm), May 4, (May Festival, 4:00 pm) and June 7 at 7:00 pm, for the making of powerful music - absolutely no experience necessary! Dancers welcome! Drums available for beginners.

Artist's Group

The artist's group meets at various artists' studios to offer critique, inspiration and healthy feedback to and for each other. Come join us at Be Sargent's in Candy Kitchen, Tuesday, April 8th at 10:00 am. Call Be for directions, 775-3320.

Tai Chi Chuan

Mondays: 5pm.-Beginners and Advanced at 7:00 pm. Taught by Urs and Monika Gauderon at the Gallery. **A new beginners group is starting up, beginning April 7, 5:00 pm.** \$10.00 requested donation. Call Monika at 775-3045.

El Morro Choral Group

Sundays at 4 pm. April 6th through May 11th (except May 4th). Come and share your voice at the Gallery.

Exhibition Space Available

The Gallery Committee is collecting the names of member artists interested in a solo exhibition. Each artist will have an opportunity to use the stage area to mount a mini-exhibition of their work. The "Artist's Quarter" shows will run in conjunction with the regular gallery exhibitions. Interested artists submit your name to Pam Davis, (783-4679).

Artist Volunteer Policy

All Artists interested in receiving the 10% discount on the gallery fee for sales please stop by or call the Gallery about signing up as an artist volunteer. Artists interested in the discount must commit to 24 hours of volunteer work a year. Call the Gallery at 783-4710 and leave your name and number.

ARTISTS, PLEASE NOTE!

Upcoming Exhibits: May – July "Emergence"

August – October "Dreamscapes"

All local artists are encouraged to submit several works for each show. As with all of EMAAC's exhibitions, these themes are open to wide interpretation. Details regarding drop-off dates and opening receptions will be available in each quarterly newsletter.

BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Please call the Gallery, 783-4710, for more information and location.

EMAAC WEB SITE

Artists are encouraged to join the Member Artist section of our web site,

www.elmorroarts.org

This is a great opportunity to advertise your work beyond the gallery walls. For \$15.00 per year you will receive a web page containing some text and a small photo of your work. To see, click on www.elmorroarts.org/sample.htm. Guidelines for submission are available at the Gallery. Stop by, call 783-4710, or email emaac@nm.net.

TO JOIN EMAAC

(And get the newsletter)

To receive an application form for EMAAC membership call 505-783-4710, email emaac@nm.net or write PO Box 296, Ramah, NM 87321

The Artist's Quarter

Showing Original Paintings by

Be Sargent

Opening May 4, the show runs through
July in conjunction with the gallery
exhibition "Emergence"

New Show

"Emergence"

Call for Entries

Membership must be current!
Pick up old work and drop off new
work on April 25-27th during Gallery
hours, or call 783-4710 to make
other arrangements. Opening May
4th during May Festival.



Collestipher Chatto receives first prize in the painting
category, High School Student Art Show, February 2003.

Call for Submissions:

Here is a chance for all you photographers and graphic artists. We need **photos of interest** and **line drawings** for the newsletters. Your submissions will be put in a file and chosen at random according to subject matter and how it looks on the page. So, submit soon and please give us copies that can remain in our files. We cannot assure you that they will be returned. This is the second call for submissions. The look of the newsletter can be greatly enhanced with your help. For information call Sean at the Gallery 783-4710.

Please note:

All workshop participants please sign up by the Sunday before date of the workshop so that presenters can prepare. Call or sign up at the Gallery (783-4710), or contact the presenter. Thanks.

EMAAC Wish List

Do you have one of those small **espresso machines** (perhaps clogged?) hidden away in a closet somewhere? Consider donating it to the gallery – we'll get it working. **Demitasse cups** would also be wonderful. Also, a small dormitory type **refrigerator** would be very useful for events. Thanks for the books, CDs and videos: Keep them coming. We are still hoping that someone will come across the items above. Ask around, perhaps one of your friends is ready to let go of that stuff filling up the garage. We are also looking for **tables**.

EMAAC Notes

President's Letter

These are troubled times. It is easy to feel impotent. It is easy to block it all out. I have thought a lot about what I can do to keep contributing to this planet. Small steps perhaps..but ones over which I have some control.

We can ask ourselves each morning, "What is the most important thing that I can focus on today?" And then focus on it. Maybe it is to try to be a healing presence to everyone I encounter, maybe it is to try to be kinder to myself, maybe it is to try to be more tolerant of differences or maybe to be more appreciative. Or maybe it is to try not to live in fear or in anger.

Recently we had a Sunday afternoon High Tea Salon at the Old School Gallery. In honor of Valentine's Day, the topic was love. About 25 people attended with some bringing samples of poetry or prose to read that they found meaningful. Yes, the poetry and prose were powerful and lovely, but the atmosphere was what I remember. This diverse group was supportive and appreciative of each person's efforts. Ranking and judgment were not present that day. People felt valued. It was a gift that they gave each other.

As we enter our spring season, we will have more opportunities to be together. Please join us for our activities. Please participate in any way that is of interest to you and thank you, always, for your involvement and support. ~Dana Letts~

Board of Directors

President Dana Letts
 Vice President Jill Acheson
 Treasurer Dan Berndt
 Secretary Nita Davis
 Board members Tim Amsden, Scott Clifford, Vicky Giannangelo, David Kessler, Maqui, Harriet Lawrence

Executive Director Jackie Yeats Rossignol-Sellier 783-4440

Committees

Building
 Education
 Finance
 Fundraising
 Gallery
 Programming & Planning
 Public Relations & Membership
 Volunteers
 Newsletter

Committee Chairs

Scott Clifford 783-4113
 Dan Berndt 775-3083
 Billie Gross 783-4554
 Dan Berndt 775-3083
 Tim Amsden 783-4144
 Jill Acheson 783-4803
 Pam Davis 783-4679
 Lisa De St. Croix 783-4502
 Dana Letts 783-2448
 J.Y. Rossignol-Sellier 783-4440
 Sean Steaws 783-4002

Persons with special needs are encouraged to contact us in order to ensure that their needs be met.



Old School Gallery Hours
Friday-Sunday
11am - 5pm

P.O. Box 296, Ramah, NM 87321 ~ (505) 783-4710 ~ email Emaac@nm.net ~ Internet www.elmorroarts.org

Board Report

--- First of all, EMAAC wishes to acknowledge the departure of two highly valued Board Members – Laurie Van Grinsven and Flora Neubert. Due to changes in life circumstances, Laurie and Flora found it necessary to step down from their active participation with EMAAC. Your dedication and hard work are deeply appreciated and your departure regretted. Good luck on your continuing journeys... Two more of our exceptionally hard working Board members have stepped down from their positions. Jeff Alford fulfilled his Board obligation in October, and to our delight agreed to stay on as the EMAAC bookkeeper. Carol Casady is unable to fulfill her term as Board member, but, very fortunately, is available to continue her composing of all the EMAAC flyers. Thank you so much, Jeff and Carol, for staying the course with us.

From the Executive Director

---I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the unsung heroes of the EMAAC phenomenon – Board members, ex-officio Board members and staff who serve as official and unofficial chairs of the committees - building, business campaign, education, finance, gallery, membership, mural, programming, publicity and volunteer. It is through these committees that the real work of EMAAC gets accomplished. There is literally not enough room to mention all the acts of dedicated work performed by these EMAAC members. I apologize in advance for any glaring oversights: **On behalf of the EMAAC community** I would like to thank **Scott Clifford** for his unstinting attention to the demands of the Old School Gallery, especially during art hangings, performances and theater events. Thanks to **Tim Amsden, Lucia Amsden, and Jill Acheson** for their efforts with fund raising, especially the business campaign. Thanks to **Sean Steaws, Dan Berndt and Billie Gross** for pulling together the Education committee, and the steering the Youth Art Series into the future. Thanks to **Pam Davis, Lisa de St Croix and Jill Acheson** for hanging the art shows every year– all eight of them. Thanks to **Dana Letts** for all the personalized membership renewals. Thanks to **Pam Davis, Dana Letts and Vicky Giannangelo** for their efforts in bringing the mural project to fruition. Thanks to **Lisa de St. Croix and Davis Kessler** for researching and coordinating our complex activities and performance calendar. Thanks to **Carol Casady** for producing our flyers and to **Kate Wilson** for flyer distribution. Thanks to **Tim Amsden** for organizing our publicity distribution of the EMAAC News. And thanks to **Nita Schafer** for her single-handed development of the volunteer coordinating committee. ---
J.Y. R-S

EMAAC Thanks

Thanks to Dr. Michael Blake, Gallup Lumber & Supply, Mullarky Camera Shop, Perry Null Trading Company, and Rico Auto Complex for their generous donations.

---Thanks to Billy and Lou Gross for the generous use of their copying machine. Thanks to Jill Acheson for her generous support of the Irish Dinner Event. Thanks to the Law Office of William G. Stripp for the generous use of their copying machine.

Thanks to Jeff Alford for producing not one, but two videos, one for the New Mexico Arts application and the other for the New Mexico Community Foundation report. Thanks to Kristi Davis, Lisa de St. Croix, Maqui, Richard Martin, and Sean Steaws for their video interviews.

Thanks to Carol Casady for conducting those interviews. Thanks to Lisa de St. Croix and Sean Steaws for opening at the drummings. Thanks to Lisa de St. Croix for maintaining the Visual Journal on-going event. Thanks to Sean Steaws and Arcturus for the extra gallery cleaning sessions. Thanks to Bob Schafer for the computer upgrade and computer help in general. Thanks to Karen Olson for helping us out with the gallery when Sean was gone. Thanks to Dave Kessler for finding the beautiful gallery CD and tape decks. Thanks to Lou Gross for his attention to the plumbing. Thanks to Sean Steaws for being the membership, newsletter and Youth Art Series nanny. Thanks to Michael Johnson for maintaining our web site.

For **December Gallery sitting**: Thanks to Verny Eccles. For **December events**: Thanks to Dana Letts for Mc-ing the Open Mic Night, and to Ken Moore, Marti Moore, Jill Acheson, Pam Davis, Dan Berndt, Jo-An Barkman Berndt, Frank Giannangelo, Tim Amsden, Lucia Amsden and Vicky Giannangelo for helping out. For **January events**: Thanks to Jill Acheson for the fabulous **Irish Dinner**, also Vicky Giannangelo, Flora Neubert, Caroly Jones, Dana Letts, Maqui, and Ed Sober. Thanks to Jill for event coordinating the **Wilson & McKee Concert**, also Tim Amsden, Lucia Amsden, Dan Berndt, and Susan Morrison. Thanks to Scott Clifford for event coordinating the **David Levin Concert**, also Laurie Van Grinsven, Lisa de St. Croix, Josie Parry, Flora Neubert, and Paula Tripodi. Thanks to Pam Davis, Lisa de St. Croix, Josie Parry, Jill Acheson, and Billie Gross for hanging the **High School Art Show**. Thanks to Billy Gross for event coordinating the **Opening** for the High School Art Show, and to Jill Acheson and Joann Davis for being hostesses, also Pam Davis, Verny Eccles, Vicky Giannangelo, Rocco Tripodi, Paula Tripodi, Carlett Daniels, Anne Duffield and Debbie Homer. For **February events**: Thanks to Pam Davis for event coordinating the **Valentine's Salon** and the fabulous hors d'oeuvres, and to Tim Amsden for being the poetry MC, - also Nita Schafer, Kristi Davis and Bob Schafer. Thanks to all the poets and participants for the fabulous poetry. **Thank you every one, especially those I've forgotten - your efforts are deeply appreciated! JYR-S**

NEWS

High School Art Show

Students from Pine Hill High School and Ramah High School plus teachers, several members, and friends of EMMAC attended the Senior Art Show at the Old School Gallery on Friday, January 31. Everyone voted for their favorite artwork in the four categories of ceramics, drawing, painting and "other" –fabric, jewelry etc. Refreshments were served. Rocco and Paula entertained with love songs from the past. Several of the older members sang along. Visitors were encouraged to vote on their favorite works and after the show hung for two weeks, the ballots were counted and the following winners were pronounced **Best of Show** in their categories:

- Painting - **"La Boheme"** by *Collestipher Chatto* for Pine Hill High
- Ceramics - **"Bird Design"** by *Avery Yatsattie* from Twin Buttes
- Weaving - **"Sash Belt"** by *Jessie Eriacho* from Zuni High
- Drawing - **"Basketball Player"** by *Kyle Shirleson* for Pine Hill High

The next student art show opening will feature mid-school artists and will be held April 11, 12-2 pm, at the Old School Gallery.

~Billie Gross~

Gallup Arts Crawl

Although it is better known as a center for Indian crafts, Gallup has quite a burgeoning art scene, and the first Saturday of every month is when to see it best. On that day from 7-9pm., galleries and many other places throw open their doors, serve treats, and invite you in. Some places have music, and many introduce a new show.

Coal Avenue is the most active street, with four galleries and several other venues (the Coffee Shop, for instance, always has new art and music, and other places such as Coyote Books and even Desert Rose Fashions and the House of Hair join in the festivities). There are also activities elsewhere – on Hwy 66 see the new hallway mural in the Lexington Hotel and the new exhibits at the Gallup Cultural Center. The Red Mesa Art Center on West Hill Ave. always has goodies and a new exhibit.

If you are looking for something fun to do, go into Gallup the first Saturday of each month. Have a little supper at your favorite place (see Special Bulletin) and join the other folk wandering up and down Coal Street, enjoying the art and treats and music. It's our own little monthly art festival. *~Tim Amsden~*

This is a **Special Bulletin** for those of you who do your shopping in Gallup, and needed to stop and get a bite to eat. There is an exciting new restaurant in town!

Oasis (and its name practically says it all) is located on the corner of First Street and Highway 66. The Oasis Mediterranean Restaurant is an epiphany for Gallup, a true restaurant experience. We discovered Oasis by accident, on Monday March 3rd, on what turned out to be its opening day. Warmly greeted by owner Jamal Jawad and his brother Kamil, it was in this moment we knew something was going to be different.

The entrees, imported from the Mediterranean, are cooked in traditional spices, and include the familiar shish kabob and the not so familiar shish taouk (grilled, marinated chicken) and shawarma chicken (thin, spiced, marinated chicken). Beef and seafood entrees are also offered. Appetizers included both Hot and Cold starters. Hot Starters included falafel, and new discoveries makanek (spicy homemade sausages) and fried kebbi (ground meat with crushed wheat, stuffed with mince meat, onions and pine nuts). Cold Starters included an old favorite, hummos, as well as the enticing marlabal (baked eggplant) and habra nayek (blended raw fresh meat with onions and spices). Also available is an assortment of salads, soup, and sandwiches served on pita bread.

After adventuring through this new treasure of a menu, we selected the shish kabob and the shawarma chicken. Presentation was beautiful –it was like eating a work of art! – and portions were generous. The beef of the shish kabob was unbelievably tender, melding perfectly with grilled quarter tomatoes and onions. The shawarma chicken blossomed with spices foreign to Gallup, massaging the pallet until the last bite. A traditional julienne style pickle, a provocative vinegared cabbage, hummos and pita bread accompanied both meals.

The service was attentive and professional. The highest price on the menu is \$8.95, and lunch prices are half that - it gave one the feeling the dollar still has value - a high quality meal for the price paid. The hours are 10am to 10pm daily, closed on Sunday. Call 722-6272 for reservations. Surrounded by local Native American art in a clean, well-lighted space, I believe **Oasis** will bring you back for seconds. I can't wait to try it again. *~Daniel Sellier~*

From the Youth Arts Program

Thought I would take a moment here and let you know what will be happening this summer with the Youth Arts Program. We will be meeting again in June and through the first week of July on Tuesday and Wednesdays. The Tuesday program is a rehearsal and creation of a theater piece. Children will be asked to sign a contract that will state that they will be available for all rehearsals during this period. If they need to be gone for vacation and it means only missing one rehearsal then they can still participate. The show will be performed on July 19th. The Wednesday program will be a drop-in arts exploratorium and is open to children of all ages. We will be working again in Ramah for the Pioneer Day Celebration. We could use all kinds of volunteers for these programs so if you got a little time, call me and let's set something up. Thank you. Seanie

On Going-Event – Visual Journals

After an exciting workshop three years ago taught by Juliana Coles, several of the people who had attended decided they wanted to form an ongoing group. We decided to rotate the leader each month, with that person coming up with a theme. We all bring and share a variety of materials such as magazines to be cut and collaged, rubber stamps, paint, pens and markers, glitter, joss and other decorative papers, tickets, stamps, taro cards and odds and ends of all kinds. For a year we used the 'Artist Way', taking the theme from a chapter each month such as 'recovering a sense of strength', or 'champions and critics', and we would make a piece about combining written journaling and creative visuals.

At least half the people in the group are not artists, and they find that this technique doesn't require any special talents. It's just a lot of fun with some soul searching thrown in for good measure. This year we have been sharing techniques: Carol Casady taught wax resist on paper, and Jane Chilton showed us how to make a book which could be used for a visual journal. Another technique we have been exploring is to use a printed book that has interesting illustrations and then paint, collage and write around or over the text – these are called 'altered books'.

Over the years people have come and gone and come again. It's the kind of relaxed space where drop-ins are always welcome. Children love the medium and have come up with some inspired themes. We welcome people to come and experience our group. All you really need is a blank sketchbook, glue, scissors, a pen, and a couple of magazines or catalogs with images that appeal to you. *~Lisa de St. Croix~*

Visual Journals meets the second Saturday of every month, at the Gallery.

Call For Entries

EMMAC wishes to thank Karen Olson for creating the writer's forum. Thank you, Karen, for your hard work and support in this endeavor. The new name for this part of the newsletter will be **The Writers' Circle**. We invite you to submit a poem, short story or creative writing piece to EMAAC News. The Writers' Circle will have topics that will be announced in each issue for the next publication. "Dreams" will be the next topic. Your membership must be current to be published. The subject is broad and all your ideas are welcome. We cannot promise that everyone will be printed. Send your items to EMAAC, P.O. Box 296, Ramah, New Mexico, 87321. To those of you who submitted literary work for publication, your efforts are greatly appreciated. Submitting your work is not only an opportunity to be published, it is a chance to be heard. If your work does not appear in The Writer's Circle in this issue of the Newsletter, it may be used in a future issue.

Correction: The editors made an unfortunate mistake in the last newsletter by inserting the word 'late' in front of Mr. Douglas Bloomfield's name. We regret the error and apologize.

The Writers' Circle

Poems in this issue's Writers' Circle were read by their authors at our Valentine's Day Salon.

~Dana Letts~

After my mother died at the age of 94, I often thought of questions I wished I had asked her. I learned that her uncle was a 15-year-old bugler in the Civil War. And I read with horror that there had been lynchings in her small Iowa community in the early 1900's.

In the hours preceding death, she was coherent, yet moving towards transition. During that time, she conversed with my father who had died 23 years before. Her voice and laughter were that of the young girl who had first fallen in love with him at the age of 25.

She always loved to travel. Below is the first of a three-verse poem by Edna St. Vincent Millay. I found it copied into the diary that she kept as a young 22-year-old girl.

*How shall I know unless I go
to Cairo and Cathay
Whether or not this blessed spot
is blessed in every way?*

Edna St. Vincent Millay

Questions I Never Asked

By Dana Letts

So much I never asked you.
I kept turned away
Afraid each of us could see inside too deeply.

Did your father hug you often?
Did his binges shut you down?

Did you see a black man hung
on the outskirts of your town?

When women clawed their way to voting
was it primal or just news?

When your uncle talked of bugling
Did he feel he'd paid his dues?

Did your young son's death destroy you?
Was it motions from then on?

And when Daddy's death stormed through you
was there not another dawn?

Twenty-three more years though,
uneasy truce, waiting with grace.

And then your voice became that
of a young girl in love,
A voice I'd not heard till that day.

You laughed and you smiled
conversed, still alert
"Oh, my dear Bryan", you'd say.

He was there – waiting.

So you bid me adieu

Embarking, at last, for Cathay.

"Our Place in the World"

By Tim Amsden

Bundled in a rough circle beneath the pinions,
we reach into the gunnysack of time
for Christmas fruit.

With the sharp blade of intent
we peel away anger and sorrow
and drop the dark rinds into the fire.

We bite into the fruit's white flesh and taste
pale cream and bright snow, juice of sweet memories,
of family and caroling and Christmas mornings
reflected in the silver of an ornament.

Above our heads our hearts twirl
into a tiny goldfinch which rises through the swirling snow
and joins the circle of birds
made in their ways by Maoris and Masai and Zunis
and all the other families of man.

The birds spin about the earth
until the earth ceases to wobble
and clarifies its voice into
the high ting of a rung goblet,
and the angels pause in their work
to cry the perfected note.

*Although it is not the Christmas season, I offer this poem because
the sentiment is what I think we need most in the world right now.
~Tim Amsden~*

Words of Wisdom

I imagine myself in a place where the sights and sounds of
nature feed my soul. I feel Mother Nature's comforting arms
wrapped around me, giving me all I need in this moment.

from Heartlines, by Lucia Amsden



May Day Festival, 2001

"Without You"

By Tim Amsden

Perhaps while walking beside an Irish bog
I falter,

fall face down, sink slowly and
slowly die and rest until found
millennia later,
mahoganied by tannin.

They probe my plumbing for Wheaties
and the DNA of extinct chickens,
sift the powder of my black blood
for shells of ancient microbes, and
glass me in vacuum,
a wooden Cinderello for all to see; yet
their subtle instruments fail to find

You, a scattering of atoms
in the southwest,
or the flutters of my heart,
now only vague bumps of energy
circling out at light speed
toward the Andromeda Galaxy.

LOVE

By David Kessler

Love is for the masses,
and you are one of them.
And so am I.

Love is for everyone,
even for plants.

Love is in the body,
and in the mind,
and in the heart.

I love my life,
I love my wife.
I love my new shoes,
I love the blues.

Love is our goal.
How deeply we
long for love,
as if indeed it is,
a basic, human need.

Love is in the air, and
Love is in the seas.
Love is for the birds, and
Love is for the trees.

Love is for you and
Love is for me.