

# North Fourth Art Center NEWS

MAY 2013 Volume 6



RALPH GONZALES, ARTIST



North Fourth Art Center, 4904 4th NW, Albuquerque NM 87107  
[www.vsartsm.org](http://www.vsartsm.org)



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**North Fourth Art Center's BRAND SPANKING BEAUTIFUL NEW Ford Braun Ambulette 8-passenger van with wheelchair lift has arrived. MANY THANKS TO THE MID REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS.**



Adam: photo by Marcus



May 3: N4th and AMP Concerts presented African Showboyz, a tribal band from Ghana combining drum, dance and music to communicate their message of peace and unity in universal terms.

PHOTOS: MARCUS SANCHEZ



# HAPPENINGS/STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

Many Thanks to Daniel and Bridget Via for delicious food.

LINA JABRA:  
CREATOR &  
ORGANIZER



*Straight From the Heart* is a North Fourth annual Fundraiser. This year's event on April 11th raised over \$4,000.

ANY WAY  
YOU WANT IT



MY PERFECT DAY  
Cindy Brannon



OUR FRIEND REP. ED  
SANDOVAL



ZAHARA, THE VEGAN  
VAMPIRE Evita Strauss



I JUST WANNA BE  
LOVED  
Sunnie Garcia

ORLIE AND JEANETTE  
SEDILLO, PAST BOARD



PERFECT HEART Ryan  
Ruiz



A THOUGHT TO  
THINK Jabber-  
wocky

REP. SANDOVAL, ORLIE  
& SENATOR BILL  
O'NEILL



WALTZ OF THE  
SUSPICIOUS

TASIA YOUNG, BOARD



SUNFLOWER  
Joe Martinez

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE



BUTTERFLY  
Grace Chacon



RUBY LUNA  
(left) BOARD

NURY YOO  
(right), BOARD



Many Thanks to  
Nury & Aaron for  
the wine & coffee.



TASIA YOUNG, BOARD

KNIGHTS IN WHITE  
SATIN Kevin Lord



BRYN  
NARANJO  
(right) BOARD



THE CAST



## EXPLORATORY ARTS



### **Sacramento Mountain Weavers and the Exploratory Arts LOOM.**

Special Thanks! The owners of Sacramento Mountain Weavers were kind enough to share their time and expertise with us by assisting with the warping of our loom (warping a loom is an arduous and time consuming task that involves threading thousands of yards of string through the entire contraption before the fun, or the actually weaving, begins).

They were also generous with their secrets about their own techniques for producing fine and beautiful rugs made from recycled fabrics. Please visit Kelly and Keny in their shop in Old Town located in Poco a Poca Patio just north of the Plaza off of San Felipe Street.

Now that we are ready to start weaving, we will gladly accept donations of old, clean colorful sheets and fabrics.

**February Album Writing Month**, or FAWM as it is known to some musicians, is an on-line site that proposes the challenge to all to write 12 songs during the month of February. Exploratory Arts participated in the challenge.

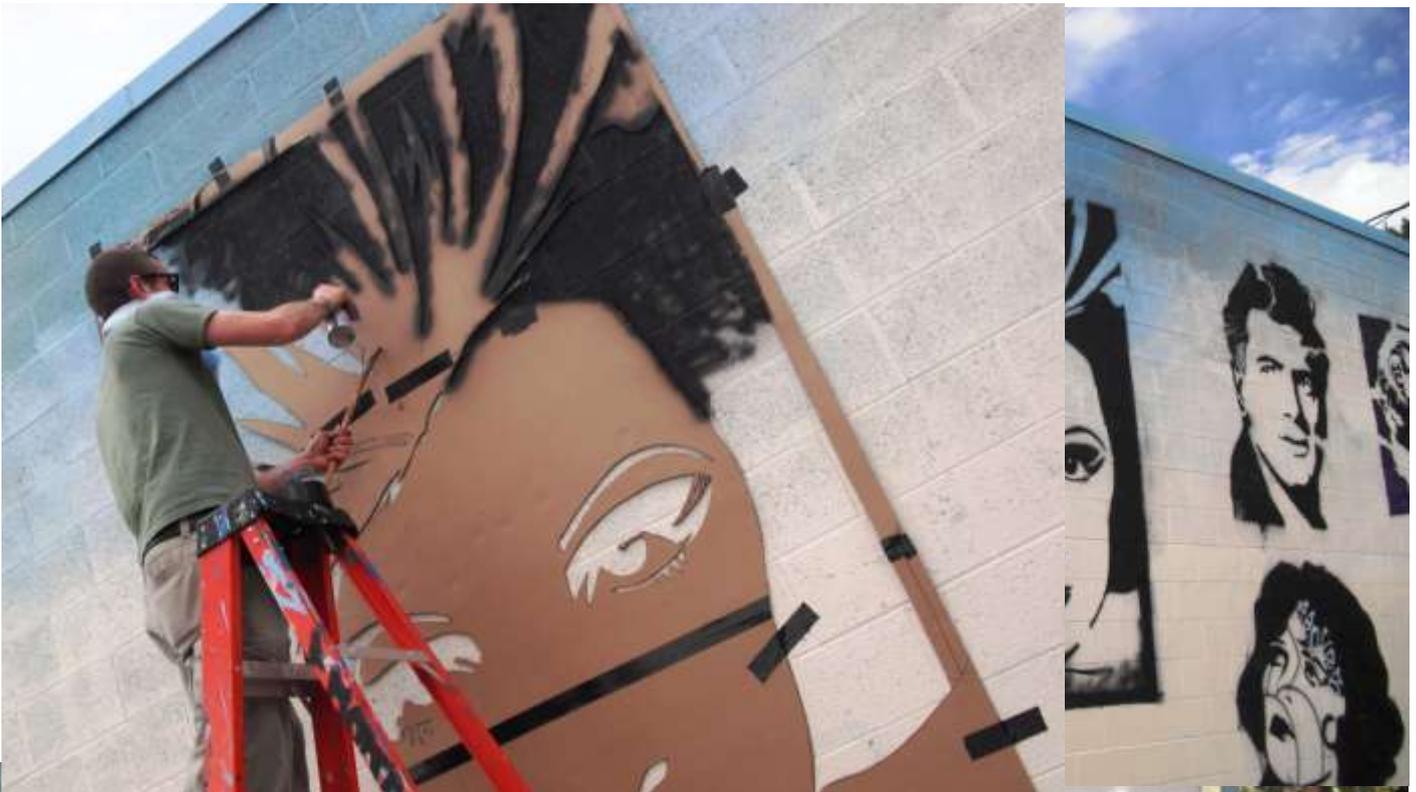
One particularly interesting aspect of the site is that participants can collaborate with each other without ever meeting face-to-face. "It's really a community of musicians and lyricists....they're really supportive and encouraging", says Robyn Ruff-Wagner/ Music Teacher at VSA. Robyn has been taking the challenge now for the past five years. If an artist submits their lyrics, other artists are free to put music to them, to record and post the final piece on the site where they can be listened to and commented on by other participants. For instance, Anthony Sanchez's lyrics "Flowers" were picked up by someone who put them to a quirky jingle. Other collaborations took place here in Robyn's class which resulted in such titles as "The Wedding Dress" and "El Conductor de Autobus"

**All of our soon-to-be hits and more can be listened to and enjoyed at [www.fawm.org/fawmers/vsaredfish](http://www.fawm.org/fawmers/vsaredfish) Visit our page and let us know what you think...**

# EXPLORATORY ARTS

## Combating Graffiti with Art

..or, is it all art? The city of Albuquerque has its own ideas about it. They've been out several times to cover the graffiti that constantly appears on our back wall with a fresh coat of paint, something taggers find irresistible. So, we've decided to quell the temptation by spray painting large stencil images of classic movie stars such as James Dean and Marilyn Monroe. Since we started, the city has been out again to spray and oddly enough they didn't cover up our work...and the taggers have let it alone as well...so far.



# ARTS ADVENTURES

## Art is Always an Adventure!

*Circle-time was nearly a disaster. More often than not, these episodes of manic child behavior have been attributed to an oncoming school break or a change in the barometric pressure, but on this particular morning it seemed to literally come out of the blue.*



*Or the blue cloth tunnels, which seemed to be the favored habitat of most of the kids today, leading to numerous territorial struggles. Oh, and the blue barrel which seems to always be popular as a thing to hide in, balance on, or be rolled around in and is highly sought after as a circle-time perch. Really, it's a wonder we use chairs at all...*

*Good, things are starting to move along and we are all singing the Code of Honor Song - the "rules" by which Arts Adventures participants live by. Most of the kids enjoy singing and listening to Jason play the guitar and we have heard a few of them singing the song to themselves later in the day, so we know it is getting through. Finally, some sort of order is achieved among these little anarchists and we thankfully move out of circle into yoga and before long Erika has them all sitting calmly, flapping butterfly wings and exhaling like*  
6 *buzzing bees...*



## MORE ARTS ADVENTURES

And so begins a Saturday in **Arts Adventures**, which has almost finished its sixth year of programming and is going strong! A BIG THANK YOU to the **Albuquerque Community Foundation** and the **Daniels Fund** for their continued faith in this program! Without the assistance of these two fine organizations, Arts Adventures would never have made it this far. Another hurra...VSA North Fourth Art Center's proposal to the NM Dept. of Health for continued and increased funding for Arts Adventures has been accepted so the future looks bright!

For the uninitiated, the **Arts Adventures Program** is a unique arts-based recreational respite program for youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) and their *neural-typical* peers. The program takes place at VSA **North Fourth Art Center** on Friday evenings and Saturdays and serves children and youth from the ages of 7 through 18.

We use a rich cross-disciplinary palette – visual arts, film, theater, creative movement and field trips to cultural locations – to support the creative, social and intellectual growth of individuals with autism in an environment that supports their unique gifts and sensitivities.

*During the Arts Adventures program last Spring [2012] and with parent permission VSA Arts Adventures submitted the art that the children created to a national contest. My son's art was submitted and accepted! As a result, my son's art was exhibited in the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial Library in Washington DC...Our family experienced an incredible opportunity to actually travel to DC to see his art exhibited. I have never seen my son so proud. It made a huge impact on his growth, maturation and self-confidence. It also gave our family an experience we will remember and cherish. (Lauriann King, Parent)*

*Wonderful program - curriculum is valuable and staff are wonderful. (Kristin Johansson, parent)*



Continued  
On  
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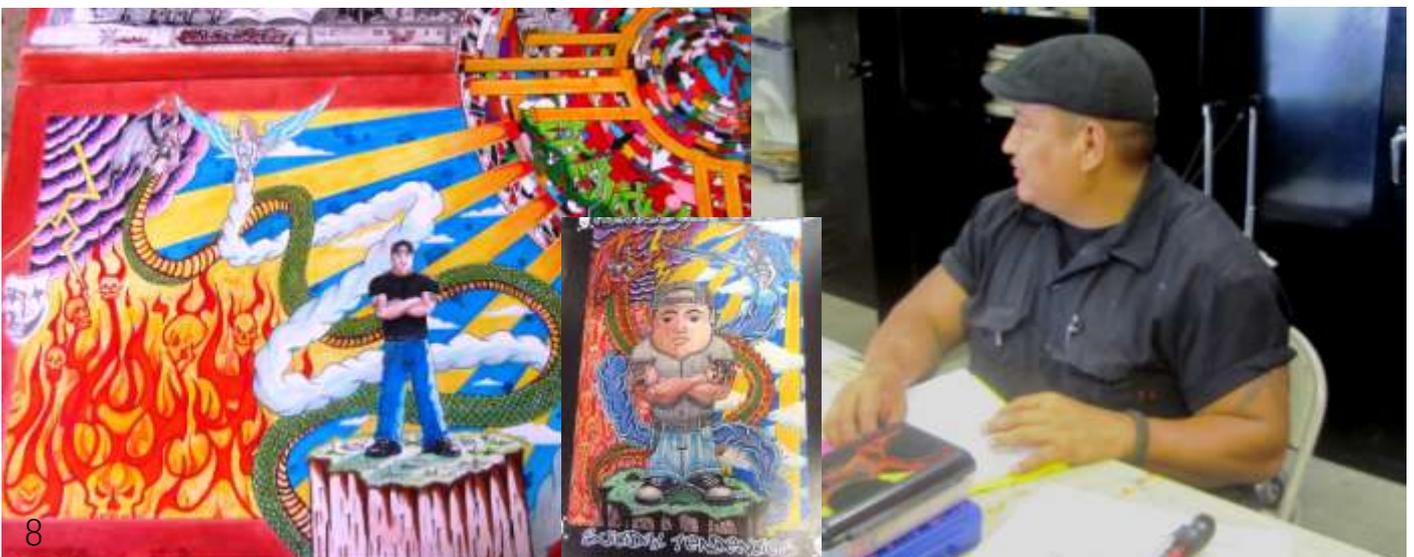
## EDDY WAUNKA “SUPER HERO!”

According to Eddy Wauneka’s students he is **Super Teacher!** Eddy teaches *Creating the Graphic Novel* to a class of 12, including Theo, Orlando, Leon, Bridgett, April, Sophia, Rudy, Aaron and Kellee who all seem to be busily having a blast—that would be from a Super Hero cosmic weapon of course. The students say Eddy is a great teacher who “makes me feel like the Incredible Hulk”; “teaches me new stuff like how to make super heroes”; and “helps me with projects but helps me keep out of trouble too!”

Eddy comes to his present assignment with excellent credentials: artist, soldier, biker, cancer survivor, and more. His appearance suggests wrestler/strongman/kindly teacher-nice guy and he calls himself a *Warrior Poet*. That feels accurate—the tough guy with a sensitive soul? However we will test it out by publishing one of his poems right here.

Eddy was born in Fort Defiance, Arizona, one of seven siblings and grew up in Farmington. He has two college degrees (Graphic arts/Fine arts) and served as a soldier in the army. When you ask him personal stuff like naming his favorite foods—like a lot of guys he says steak—but being the sensitive foodie-dude he really is he recently prepared a meal of chicken, orzo and avocados which actually sounds like it might be way healthier than steak. **Still, while he has had many occupations and pursuits, Eddy is first and foremost an artist.**

Eddy: A man of *Harmonious Contradiction*—an interesting concept! Usually we think of contradictions as causing some stress, whether it means your mom is mad at you but gives you a present or your teacher says you made the best painting ever but he/she hates it. That would make you a little confused, maybe nervous, right? But Eddy says, no, contradictions are good. For example his tough guy appearance and kind heart. Contradictions. Eddy feels the two opposites complement each other, in fact, they’re *harmonious*.



# EDDY AND HIS ART



# NEWSLETTER CLASS

## Hello again!

The Newsletter Class expanded our section to six pages, featuring a story about a new class, a movie review, and a bit about “Apprentice Artists in The News.” We started out as a class where students took pictures of and wrote about themselves, but we want to think of our job as publishing your stories and your pictures.

In the future, the Class is going to take part in editorial decisions with Publisher Marj Naset, planning the look and content of each issue from the start.

One of our first tasks is to *name* the newsletter, officially. “North Fourth Arts News” tells you that it’s news about North Fourth, but it doesn’t give you a sense of the unique personality of this place, the North Fourth Arts Center!

In our next issue, we will be offering suggestions of names with logos for the newsletter. We ask you the reader to tell us your favorite.

Happy Reading,  
The Editorial Staff

## NEWS STAFF:



**Cindy Brannon**  
*News Editor*



**Helene Valdez**  
*Features Editor*



**Mark Jones**  
*Chief Copy Editor*



**Christina Caraveo**  
*Design Editor*



**Catalina Rael**  
*Photo Editor*



**Sammy Maldonado**  
*Graphic Designer*

# NEWSLETTER CLASS



*Photo/Graphic by Catalina Rael*

## Apprentice Artists in The News:

### **Rachel Hardy: “The Big SIS”**

The Wednesday, May 1, issue of the Albuquerque Journal featured Rachel’s family in a story about the supports assessments taking place in New Mexico.



### **Cindy Brannan, Disability Blogger**

Cindy’s article “Life In a Nursing Home Versus Supported Living” was published in *Apostrophe* magazine, a magazine by and about people with disabilities. About getting out of a nursing home, she states, “My life is more my own than I ever thought it would be.” You can read the article at [www.apostrophemagazine.com](http://www.apostrophemagazine.com)

### **Christina Caraveo, “Art Heard Round The World”**

After our interview at Special Olympics NM in January, Executive Director Randy Moscarella quoted Christina on her daily blog “Randy’s Thoughts,” remarking on how art helps Christina “Get what’s on the inside... out.” Later that month, Timothy Shriver used the same words in his address to open the Special Olympics world games in PyeongChang, Korea! *You said it, Christina!*

# FOOD SHARING AT VSA...?



Green Sprouts Class Field Trips  
at Los Poblanos Community Gardens

by Christina Caraveo

Before there were trucks, supermarkets, fast food, people planted and grew most of their food. These days it's more popular to grow most of your own food and help yourself and your neighbor. The Green Sprouts Class at VSA has been helping some our neighbors by growing our garden at Los Poblanos Open Space. The class is donating the produce that we plant to the Roadrunner Foodbank. It is our first time growing food in a class at VSA. I hope it's not our last!



# NEWSLETTER CLASS



*Photos courtesy  
of Teddy Jackson*



## INTERVIEW: Annette Garcia, Top Model

Photo: Teddy Jackson

*How long have you been attending VSA ?*

Between 6-8 years.

*What is your favorite class? Hip-Hop. Bradd knows.*

*Have you made a lot of friends ?*

I have a whole bunch like you and Bridgett, lots I can remember like a hundred.

*What did you do before coming to VSA ?*

I did drawing.

*Were you drawing at home or another program ?*

Another program .

*Did you do a lot of art?*

No we did a lot of drawing.

*Do you have brothers and sisters ?*

One brother and stepdad. On my real dad's side two sisters and three brothers.



*A Top Model for years, Garcia relaxes between shoots*

*On the weekends what one of your favorite activities?*

I go to the casino.

*Do you win?*

Sometimes but not much.

*Is there anything I haven't asked there you want to tell me?*

I like to sing a lot and my voice is low.

*Is it alto?*

Yeah.

## Helene Said:

*My computer is hard to use. I have CP and use a touch pad but it makes me angry. It moves around too much.*

Photo: Marcus Sanchez



*Nick plugs in and rocks out in Guitar Class—Feature story to come!*

## MOVIE REVIEW: 42

**By Adam Smith**

Certainly before Jackie Robinson there were many great black ball players but they were not permitted in the major leagues they had to play the Negro Leagues. After World War II Branch Rickey the general manager for the Brooklyn Dodgers decided to try to end the unfairness in baseball. When he signed Jackie Robinson to a major league contract and brought him to the dodgers in 1947.

Most of the movie showed prejudice Jackie had to face. There are lots of Sports Scenes that show how excellent of a player Jackie was and how he fought back against the prejudice by being a better player than many of the whites he was playing against. After a while his own teammates figured out that they were a better team with him playing. Eventually other major league teams decided to sign black players.

Jackie Robinson is important in the history of the United States because of opportunities he helped to open up for blacks not just for baseball and sports but for jobs and for life. It is great and important sports movie and shows an important part of United States history.

## ARTS ADVENTURES...CONTINUED FROM P. 7

Enough cannot be said about the skills, dedication and enthusiasm of the Arts Adventures staff! They have helped shape an incredible community of kids, providing numerous and varied creative opportunities, support and guidance. These core instructors are artists from various backgrounds and disciplines, many of them former VSA Americorps volunteers, who are experienced in working with youth with autism and other disabilities. Thanks to the **UNM Center for Development and Disability** and **Camp Rising Sun** for the incredible trainings that they have provided over the years.

*He is not verbal, but he was smiling when brought to Arts Adventures.* (Teresa Campos, parent)

*Arts Adventures has been one of the best programs Max has enjoyed. He is always excited to go and happy when he comes home.* (Neil Elliot, parent)

*Arts Adventures embraces individual expression in a non-judgmental, accepting way...It delivers a much needed service to an under-served population.* (Andrew Stone, parent)

Finally, as well as a learning environment for children with autism, Arts Adventures is a field experience site for graduate and undergraduate university students from UNM and other New Mexico institutions. These students have the opportunity for professional development and to fulfill course requirements in Arts Adventures while serving as volunteers in the program. We LOVE our volunteers!

**For more information about Arts Adventures, to volunteer or to enroll your child, please call or email:  
Deborah Brink Arts Adventures Director**

**505-345-2872 ext 18**

**[dbrink@vsartsnm.org](mailto:dbrink@vsartsnm.org)**

