

# North Fourth Art Center NEWS

November/December 2012 Volume 4



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## MISSION

To encourage, develop and present the creative and entrepreneurial endeavors of New Mexicans with disabilities and other unique needs and to engage our community in global awareness, social action and cultural diversity.

## NOTE:

This is the fourth in the Newsletter series; it was intended to have additional pages and more holiday cheer. Since we did not get that done, hopefully seeing the cheerful faces of some of North Fourth's fantastic teachers, training instructors and artists will make up for the missing pages. This edition focuses on the classes and artists which involve two of our teachers and two of our training instructors. Also the imaginative adventures of Exploratory Arts are featured on the last page. The photos on the cover (Kate) and on page 7 (Marcus) make this edition doubly interesting.

In 2013, we hope EVERYONE, in and out of classes, will be involved with producing a bigger and better version of NORTH FOURTH NEWS. Please share input and ideas to make this happen.

## ABOUT CLASSES

Students have excitedly picked their favorite classes and are eagerly anticipating the start of a new semester. Classes change three times a year and VSA: March, July and November with the three favorite days of the year being class signups each semester. Several weeks prior to the start of the upcoming semester students and teachers assemble in the theater where new classes are presented and old standbys such as Painting and Drawing, Clay, and Sewing are cheered. After the assembly, teachers meet individually with each student to help them select their choices. The hard work begins as teachers meet to make sure that classes and students are evenly distributed throughout all of the studios and that no student has missed making their selections. The week prior to the new semester, students receive their new schedules while teachers work behind the scenes

## PHOTOS BY THE TOP MODEL CLASS



## GLORIA PADILLA, TRAINING INSTRUCTOR



**Gloria Padilla** is all about holidays and family celebrations whether

Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, Easter, Fourth of July or Halloween.



**Gloria & sister, Ana**

And the Labor Day Bean Parade in Wagon



You can practically hear “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” or “Feliz Navidad” in the air when talking to Gloria about the holidays—she sparkles like a favorite Christmas tree ornament. Preparation begins right after Thanksgiving (and Gloria has a rule that she cannot start listening to Christmas music until then) when baking plans, pans and ingredients start appearing for cookie week and the big pie bake-off. Cookie Week involves massive numbers of one kind of cookie baked each day until there is variety and quantity enough for all friends and family. And then the pies...well, there’s apple and rhubarb and cherry and pumpkin...and that’s probably just for starters.

Of course to accompany all of the goodies there will be red and green chili pork, turkey and other traditional fare AND crafty Christmas pretties everywhere. This year Gloria’s mom wants a tree of white and silver so Gloria is making a special angel to reflect the theme.

At North Fourth Gloria works three days a week in Sewing Class. One of the artists with whom she works is **Jane Lueras** who, Gloria will tell you, is a dedicated seamstress, assisting others in the class when they need a needle threaded or something ironed.

## JANE LUERAS, ARTIST



Jane is very detailed and precise with her sewing and her colorful and intricately patterned quilts reflect her commitment to her art and her patience in making it perfect.

Gloria says that working in sewing class with artists like Jane has given her a better sense of the basics of patterns and colors and how they work together, each enhancing the other.





**LINDA ERVIN, ARTIST TEACHER:** Linda's life revolves around a number of imaginative pursuits although, at this time, teaching at North Fourth Art Center is taking the lead role. Linda teaches painting and drawing, dances with Buen Viaje Dance and conducts a Land Art class that meets every Tuesday, sometimes to go on walks and hikes to collect



materials, sometimes making the pieces. In other words Linda is a very busy teacher, enjoying her students and always impressed with the results of their art making.

**BRYAN MARTINEZ, ARTIST** who studies drawing and painting with Linda, has good drawing skills, works quickly and especially enjoys drawing and painting dogs, wolves, trees. Brian is also a talented musician and music lover. He loves rock music such as Kiss, Motley Crew and Dio and plays the guitar, drums and sings.



Linda, in her 4 1/2 years at North Fourth has learned so much from the students she says because, while she can offer them formal instruction in the how-to-do aspects of art, they inspire her to be more spontaneous. Linda says the students' work seems to flow naturally—straight from the heart. "The class could be more structured but I'd rather encourage students to use their own creative impulses and then offer the guidance they want to make a finished work."

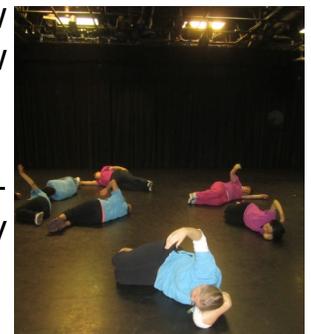


Linda's personal endeavors are equally inventive. Although she loves to draw and paint she is more engaged in other pursuits in her free time right now. While her hiking takes her outdoors, working on her house—a major creative project in her life—takes much of her time. Selecting colors and materials for walls and floors and figuring out how to make the whole house a work of art, then implementing her vision will keep her safe from boredom long into the future.



Linda did build her own backyard fort, teaching herself how to build a house out of sticks, but after it blew over in a wild New Mexico wind she is now limiting her building efforts to indoors.

Just to make life even more interesting, Linda is revisiting a childhood love—dancing—by becoming a Buen Viaje dancer. Usually upright but occasionally prone—as in this photo!



## VICENTE VILLEGAS, TRAINING INSTRUCTOR

Vicente enjoys bantering, cajoling, teasing and encouraging the artists with whom he works—always trying to lighten the mood if the moment seems to call for that or encouraging someone to move on to their class or next activity. The training instructor position calls for understanding and patience but also for imagination and skill in supporting each artist as they seek to express



their own creativity. Vicente is good at his job which makes him a natural for his responsibilities as the “Handle with Care” instructor. This class is held for all teachers and training instructors to ensure that their interactions with artists in personal stress are kind, calming and effective.



## JACOB ROYBAL, ARTIST

Jacob Roybal is one of the artists with whom Vicente especially enjoys working. Jacob is most enthusiastic about a recent car and train trip to Disneyland. Here at North Fourth Jacob has a good time in all of his classes but his favorite is definitely Hip Hop.



Vicente and Jacob share a love of music although Vicente’s takes a slightly different direction. In fact music is where Vicente shines as an artist. He plays guitar and piano, sings and writes music—leaning toward blues, alternative rock and country. Vicente and/or his band, “Blood Bought,” perform for a variety of public events, including concerts the first three Saturdays of every month at The Potters House, just down the street from North Fourth Art Center. The band has also performed in Farmington and Denver.



Although we don’t usually mention staff kids in the newsletter—concentrating more on our teachers’ and trainers’ creative activities, Vicente pointed out that being a father is a pretty creative endeavor and wanted to mention the “creations.” They are Caleb (the new baby), Ezekiel, and AliciaRae. It is easy to imagine that someone as full of jokes, patient and imaginative as Vicente is a really good dad.

## ANDIE RIGLER, ARTIST TEACHER

Andie, actor/musician/teacher/creator opens the discussion by claiming she is not a creative person—it is the North Fourth artists she works with each day who are the creative people around here. Actually the teachers who are imaginative and intuitive enough to inspire our wonderful Day Arts artists to sing, dance, draw, paint, sculpt and write as freely, proudly and skillfully as they do are the most creative of all! And Andie is one of those teachers. She teaches classes as varied as women's group, journaling, singing and acting. This semester she is "Dancing Through the Decades" with song, dance, fashion and culture (from the Charleston to Gagnam style) all taught in a multi-media format. In structuring her classes, Andie designs agendas that are flexible enough to include playfulness, spontaneity and the free exchange of opinions and ideas.



Andie is interested in North Fourth's mission of using the arts to achieve social justice. Empowering people with disabilities to express their personal creativity and develop the skills to share their artwork with friends, colleagues and the public is a big step toward equality and respect.

Although Andie the actor isn't currently acting outside of her work with North Fourth's Equilibrium Theater Company (which she says is the easiest company with which she has ever worked because there's seldom diva-like behavior to deal with), she is children's music director at the First Unitarian Church and sings with the church's band "Spare Parts." Andie practices Loving Kindness Meditation, a Buddhist tradition that helps her maintain her sunny, strong, positive and very energetic presence here at North Fourth.



## MARK JONES, ARTIST

In the words of his biggest fan, teacher Andie, "Mark is a phenomenal actor" with a lively spirit and strong acting skills learned in the four Equilibrium Theater Company (ETC) plays he has been in since 2008. Mark says he likes acting because "it's challenging" and gives you the ability to do all kinds of other things.

Mark also has an in-depth, almost computer-like repertory of musical knowledge. The class worked with "Lean on Me" during this past semester, learning to sing the song with passion and power. One of Mark's goals was to learn to use his acting skills to better connect the performance of this song to the audience during his solo. He definitely achieved this goal at an end-of-semester performance for Day Arts peers.



**CONTINUED:**

Mark's personally favorite artist is Burt Bacharach and he may know the name and year of every single Bacharach tune—and can sing more than a few of them.



Mark is a fan of Andie as well; he says that one of the reasons she is such a good teacher is that she reminds him of his sister, Marya. Mark shared some information about his life outside of North Fourth...that his favorite trip is to Barnes and Noble and favorite current movie is "Rock of Ages" but that his all-time favorite is Forrest Gump."

Mark is a great presence at North Fourth—kind, gentle, funny and a fine artist.



**A DAY IN THE LIFE OF NORTH FOURTH ART CENTER**



## EXPLORATORY ARTS



The Exploratory Artists had a very active month participating in the New Mexico State Fair Arts Exhibition and celebrating the Balloon Fiesta, Halloween and Dia de los Muertos.

Jimmy Holmes, Sarah Gomez and Eric Vescovi all had their artwork on display at the New Mexico State Fair and each one received a ribbon for their participation. Special thanks goes to Yvonne Flores for making it happen.



The work of Louise Cervantes is currently on exhibition and the OT Circus Gallery. Visit the gallery at 709 Central Ave. NW (on Central between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> )

Artists celebrated Dia de los Muertos and created an altar for those who have passed.



During Balloon Fiesta, artists created their own hot-air balloons out of tissue paper. (yes..they actually fly).

Exploratory Arts would like to welcome Kaitlyn Gancarz and Chelcie Hammond to our team.



**Announcements: Please join us for our Holiday Art Sale and Open House on Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 6-9:00. Enjoy live music and refreshments and have the opportunity to purchase artwork by Exploratory Artists.**