

OTERO ARTS NEWS

FEB/MARCH 2026 * WWW.OTEROARTS.ORG * FB: OTERO ARTS INC



On Jan. 8, members were treated to a very interesting presentation on woodcarving by fellow OA member, Ron Baisley. Ron, who as a child learned to carve under the tutelage of his grandfather, turned to this art as a part of his therapy in the wake of a traumatic brain injury sustained in a fall. Ron's presentation was a great kickoff to the new year's Meet and Greets, now in its third year.

Monthly Meet and Greets are one of the nice benefits to membership in Otero Arts. Mostly occurring at Artspace on the first Thursday morning of every month from 10-12, the casual gatherings for coffee, cookies and conversation are an opportunity for artists and art lovers to come together, get to know each other better and learn from fellow members. Over the years, they have had the opportunity to see a broad array of demonstrations spanning such diverse arts as: pastel painting, jewelry making, authoring through StoryWorth, belly dancing, poetry, jazz singing, art journaling, mandala drawing, and most recently, woodcarving.



Barbara Hughes demonstrating the intricacies of her jewelry making at a Meet and Greet.

Next in the queue for February is painting on rocks.



"To be an artist is to believe in life", Henry Moore

Janet Amtmann giving a pastel demonstration during a Meet and Greet.



A unique, intriguing art exhibition at The Artspace in March is set to begin Friday, March 6 at the First Friday Reception @ the Artspace from 5 to 7 pm.

See more about the exhibit on the "March" page.

Example of the art in the show is by Julie Swift (lef) and is called "the Living."

MEMBERSHIP...THE LIFEBLOOD OF OTERO ARTS

We invite you to join/renew your membership in Otero Arts All of the programs presented to the community only happen through the work of member volunteers. THANK YOU to the following members who have renewed or are first time members:

WELCOME to our new members since our membership drive began in November, 2025 (A = artist, V = Volunteer):

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Docia Blalock (A) | Rand Carlson (A, V) | Kasha Williams (A, V) | Gerard Gibbs (A, V) | Deirdre Kindthistle (A, V) |
| Kade Paulsen (A, V) | Lay Powell (A, V) | Majel Powell | RB Nichols (V) | Beverly Faith |
| Bryant Fannin | | | | |
| Jerry and Jane Swanson | | Michael and Radona Wood (A,V) | | Tom and Pearl McLaughlin (A, V) |
| Julie Newberg and Jeff Trembly (A, V) | | Angela LaVere and Grant Hicok (A) | | John Davis and Jacki Holycross (A, V) |
| | | and Thank You to members renewing: | | |
| Anne Aleshire (A, V) | Nancy Apprill (A, V) | Maria Aragon (A, V) | George Atencio (V) | Annemarie Balentine (V) |
| Eve Bessier (A, V) | Paula Peters Daniel | Connie Breeding (V) | Pennie Espiritu (A, V) | Stan Ford (A) |
| George Frost | Patricia Goodwin | Chip Greenberg (A, V) | Nancy Gregory (A) | Jennie Wren Powell (A) |
| Ona Hanson Gustafson (A) | | Loren Jackson (A) | Carol Hernandez (A) | Natasha Horst de Jimenez (V) |
| Barbara Hughes (A, V) | Sara Irving (A) | Jan King (A) | Chris Jones (V) | Loynda Jones (A, V) |
| Marilyn Lane (V) | Rosemarie Lion (A) | Cynthia Lopez (A) | Philip Jones (A, V) | Cathy Jordan (A, V) |
| Arlene MacLean (A) | Debra Martinelli | Marlene Mankey (A) | Julie Ford Oliver (A,V) | Joe Parker (A, V) |
| Sue Preslar (V) | Diane Prather (A, V) | Joan Price (A) | Brigit Price | Armando Rhoades (A,V) |
| Warren Robinson | Dona Sennet | Nadia Sikes (V) | Maria Tellier | Jean Templeton (A) |
| Don Thorp (A) | Terry Tucker | Della Sue Web | Doris Webb | Lisa Yehle |
| Ron and Carolyn Peeler | | Kelly and Paul Sullivan (V) | | Kim and Glenn Melton (A, V) |
| Danielle and Nasser Alquassem (V) | | Janet and Jurgen Amtmann (A, V) | | Lydia Aspen and Manny Renteria (A, V) |
| Alvin James and Sandra Purrington (V) | | Betty and Klaus Klause | | Sue Kent and Chris Ward (A, V) |
| Doug and Carla Kerr (A) | | Karen and Dave LeComte | | Mary and James Barce (A) |
| Ann and Will Beacht (A, V) | | Larry and Dee Beck (V) | | Lucinda and Robert Berglund (A, V) |
| Gary and Collen Bond (V) | | Dawn and David Greenberg | | Joy Flack and Stephen Janny |
| Susan Anderson and Errol Niemi (V) | | Lori Arella and Albert Fairweather (A,V) | | Erald and Cheryl Matherly |

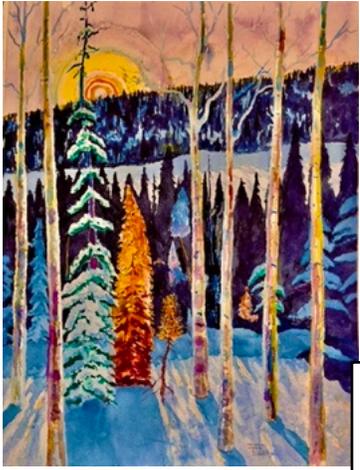
As of end of January, we have a total of 95 renewals and 24 new members for a total of 119 members.



FEBRUARY 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February Exhibition presents John Glass, watercolorist, "West to Alamogordo."

First Friday Reception is slated for the 6th @ The Artspace from 5 - 7 pm. Gallery hours for the exhibition are every Thursday through Sunday afternoon from 1 to 4 pm.



John Glass began studying art while living in Indiana; currently he lives near Deming, NM. He believes that watercolor is a great teacher of suffering the consequences of poor planning. It can also be the most spontaneous, rewarding exercise in creativity. It welcomes "mistakes".

Feb 5: MEET AND GREET, 10 to 11:30.

Join us for coffee, conversation and community.

ARTIST DEMO: Al Fairweather will demonstrate rock painting.

Feb 5: Belly dance classes every Thursday begin @ 5:30, contact Claudia Powell for more details: claudia@tularosa.net.

Feb 10: OA Board Meeting (2nd Tues) 1:30 at the Artspace. All members are welcome.

MOVIES @ The Artspace

Touted as the most extensive documentary about Caravaggio to date, offering an in-depth exploration of the life and artistry of this revolutionary Italian painter.



Inspiration of St. Matthew

Wednesday, February 11, 5:30 pm
DONATIONS WELCOME

Grant from NM Arts and NEA

CALL FOR ARTISTS TO EXHIBIT at the Artspace

We are looking for interesting artwork for our gallery space for a month-long exhibit for June, July or August. The rest of 2026 is already booked with exhibitions. Either a single artist, a group of 3 - 4, or a group show of a single media is possible for the Artspace. Applicants should go to oteroarts.org and apply. The OA Art Committee will review the work for suitability, creativity and interest. contact us at oteroarts@gmail.com for more information.



History Archaeology Natural Science



On Tuesday, Feb. 17, David Greenwald, JRI president, will present a documentary produced by the BLM called "Helluva Way to Treat a Soldier." This is a story of a man whose hunt for artifacts lead him to dig up and store the remains of a 19th century Buffalo Soldier buried in the Fort Craig Cemetery near Socorro. Archaeologists discovered the remote cemetery, thought to be empty, still contained intact graves. They also discovered evidence of looting the graves of American Buffalo Soldiers, acts prohibited by federal law.

Doors open at 6 pm



Looking for a writers' group? Monday Night's All Write started in January: 6 pm at the Artspace and meets every Monday. Contact angeladlavere@gmail.com to join.

Free Art Workshops

Saturday, February 14

Matisse Cutouts (kids) 10 - noon
Notans/Matisse (Adults) 1 - 3 pm



Contact mariaaragon64@gmail.com to reserve a spot or sign up via www.oteroarts.org

Funded by Thrive! of SoNM

Don't forget to keep up with us by checking the website: oteroartsinc.org or FB: Otero Arts



"Steampunk Uppity Women" by Karen Watts

The March Exhibition is called "Voices of Change: Art Speaks"
First Friday Reception is set for March 6 at the Artspace"
 The gallery is open weekly free to the public every Thursday through Sunday afternoon from 1 to 4 pm.

This innovative Interpretative fabric art exhibit is a collective call to the conscience, using the power of visual art to confront the urgent challenges of our time - social justice, climate change, and human rights. The artists are Karen Watts, Lea Ann Faring and Julie Swift, whose stated mission is to inspire awareness, spark dialogue and motivate action by creating a space where creativity meets advocacy and where art becomes a catalyst for a more just, sustainable and compassionate world. The exhibit will be mixed media with fiber art, paper, photography and digital art.

"Repeating History" by Karen Watts



"Border Quilt" by Lea Ann Faring

Mar 5: MEET AND GREET, 10 to 11:30. Join us for coffee, and community.

Mar 5: Belly dance classes every Thursday begin @ 5:30, contact Claudia Powell: claudia@tularosa.net. (email for

Mar 10: OA Board Meeting (2nd Tues) 1:30 at the Artspace. All members are welcome.

"Art should be something that liberates your soul, provokes the imagination and encourages people to go further" - Keith Haring

Free Art Workshops

EXTRA WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS ONLY: LARGE COLLAGE, Sat, Mar 14: Adults only from 5 to 7 pm

Sandpainting Sat, Mar 14: Kids: 10 -noon Adults: 1 - 3 pm

Contact mariaaragon64@gmail.com to reserve a spot or sign up via website: www.oteroarts.org
 Funded by Thrive! of Southern New Mexico



History Archaeology Natural Science

JRI Lecture by David Greenwald is scheduled for March 17 @ 6 pm. At this time, there has been no announcement of the lecture content. The Jornada Research Institute (JRI) has as its mission the study of the archaeological, ethnohistoric, historic and natural resources of the northern Chihuahuan Desert of Arizona, New Mexico, West Texas and adjacent regions.

Our beautiful facility, The Artspace, is available for rent for your group's meetings, events, etc. Call 575-446-3880 for more information and reservations.



MEMBERSHIP/LOCAL PARTNERS

OA has started a store online where you can order all sorts of items to show your support. The items can be ordered online and sent directly to you. A portion of the sales will go to OA to support programming. Go to www.oteroarts.org to shop.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

the column this month is being written by Rochelle Williams, Board Member and coordinator for the Reading Series of OA Event:



We are excited to announce that Anne Hillerman will be our guest for the July 17 reading at the Artspace. Anne Hillerman is the author of many bestselling mystery novels set in NM. Readers for the 4/17 and 10/26 dates are not confirmed yet, so stay tuned. Also, if you are interested in writing but don't know how to get started, we've got just the thing for you: Monday Nights All Write group welcomes writers at all levels and uses prompts to creativity flowing in a judgement free, supportive environment. Led by Angela LeVare, a new member, there will also be discussion groups to learn about publishing, editing and more. This group began in January and will meet every Monday night. Contact Angela LaVere @ angeladlavere@gmail.com for more info. If you have a writing or reading group and would like to meet in our beautiful Artspace, send an email to rwsantafe@hotmail.com.



OTERO ARTS NOTICES:

For the second year, local artists will exhibit art at the Veteran Services Offices (VSO) in Alamogordo. The January 2026 artist display is photography by OA member Al Higgins and will on display through March. The VSO staff and visitors enjoy the addition of artwork to the office and hallway. Begun in January 2025, the exhibitions are a partnership with VSO, Otero Veteran Arts Showcase and Otero Arts.

CASTING CALL for an original play: "4 Suicides Looking for a Place to Happen" by Pablo Jasso of Fiddlers Green, a 501C3 non-profit to support veterans and in collaboration with OA.

Open casting for men and women ages 19 - 55 will be held on Sat., March 7 at the Artspace, 1118 Indiana, Alamogordo from 10 am to 12:30 pm and also 4:30 to 6 pm.

In May, 2026, Jasso's group will present a second act of the play at OA as part of the month-long Women Veteran's Showcase, focusing on sexual trauma.

In September, the full production will be presented at the Flickinger Center. Rehearsals begin in March.

"Art is a line around your thoughts"
- Gustav Klimt

Otero Arts Board of Directors:

- Maria Aragon, President, mariaaragon64@yahoo.com
- Janet Amtmann, VP, janet.amtmann@gmail.com
- Sue Preslar, presllasue@yahoo.com
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- Pennie Espiritu, pennie@lespirit-design.com,
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- Chris Jones, cjones@oteroarts.org
- Kim Melton, Kimberlyreneemelton@gmail.com
- Sandra Purrington
sspurrington@aol.com
- Lucy Berglund
mamalucy2022@outlook.com

LOCAL EVENTS:



Feb 7: "Uptown, a Celebration of Motown," 7pm.

Feb 27: "Mountainfilm on Tour in Alamogordo," 7 pm (documentary on Mountainfilm Festival in Telluride)

Mar 7: "Tony Jackson" (country music), 7 pm.

ALAMOGORDO MAINSTREET



Recently, the plaza/square structure located between 10th & 9th was officially lit up. Events will use the structure for the central focal point.

No major events are planned right now by MainStreet; according to Exec. Dir Nolan Ojeda they are restructuring the organization, building greater capacity. Three new businesses will be opening in the next several months: "Pymo Bistro"- a rotating menu restaurant with full bar, "Openheimer" - a German food restaurant with beer and wine, and "RAD Retrocade" - a 80s/90s arcade with restaurant.



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The mission of Otero Arts, Inc. is to enrich the lives of the people of our community through art and culture and to foster a spirit of mutual support and cooperation.

Otero Arts is supported in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Dept. of Cultural Affairs and by the National Endowment for the Arts. Thrive of Southern NM funds the All Ages Art Workshops; Creative West funds musical performances and OCEC funds literary programs.

