

# OTERO ARTS NEWS

DEC 2025/JAN 2026 \* WWW.OTEROARTS.ORG \* FB: OTERO ARTS INC

2025 has been a busy year, although every year gets busier. Created in 2019, Otero Arts has built a comprehensive events program with wide range appeal to Otero County residents, fulfilling the Mission Statement to "enrich the lives of the people of our community through art and culture and to foster a spirit of mutual support and cooperation."

Many member volunteers make these events possible with their dedicated support and work. An active grant committee, headed by the founder of OA, Chris Jones, enables many of the events to take place due to an arduous, painstaking grant applications process. With approximately 175 members, the organization is entering its 6th year of existence with many plans for the future. We are now in the midst of our membership drive for 2026. Won't you join us and help us to continue our Mission? Go to [www.oteroarts.org](http://www.oteroarts.org) to join us in this self-fulfilling adventure.

Here is a review of some 2025 events that we hope you were able to participate in!



A partnership with Rebel Music Theater, a new theater group began with their first production, "A Night of Broadway Revue" (Jan) and 2 more in June and Sept to sold-out appreciative audiences.

Ice Cream Social & Silent Auction



In June, OA held a Ice Cream Social and Auction fundraiser adding \$3500 to the coffers!

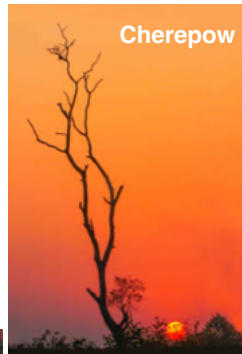


October's Plein Air Workshop with Anita Louise West was a 3-day festival of artistic joy for all 12 students/artists.



Melton

Kim Melton/Linda Cherepow Photography Exhibition for Feb/25



Cherepow



Amtmann

Still Life Exhibit, Mar/25



June's inspiring Exhibition Artist Deborah Wenzel exhibited vibrant work despite being visually impaired.



A real treat In September with a vocal music concert presented by member Ann Bagby and Holly Boyle.

Oct/Nov Exhibition was the 5th Members' Exhibition, always a popular show.



Delia Holloway

OA Classic Movie Series ended this year with a tribute to Robert Redford, director of The Milagro Beanfield War. Every other month, on Sunday afternoons, audiences have enjoyed "The Man Who Wasn't There" (Jan), "Norma Rae" (Mar) and "Cezanne" (Sept).



3rd annual Student Art Exhibit in April, with over 300 entries from many schools in the county. First Friday Reception saw a crowd of over 500 attendees!



OA partnered with Lori Arella in month-long exhibitions/events to celebrate our veterans in May, including a Veteran Arts Showcase.



Meet and Greet: member get-togethers 1st Thursday mornings of each month. Artist members demonstrate artistic processes: mandala construction (Rochelle Williams), poetry/author/songstress (Eve Bessier) gelli printing (Shari Adkisson), working with epoxy (Christina Martinez), busted canvas process (Pennie Espiritu) and belly dancing (Claudia Powell).



OA Reading Series culminates in December with the return of Alamogordo native author, Josh Wheeler on Dec. 7 at 2 pm. Audiences have enjoyed the work of Kathy Roark's 6-week journal writing workshops, Santa Fe poet Nachee Momaday Grey in April, and Open Mic Night for local authors in Oct. The Reading Series is funded in part by Creative West and OCEC.



Santiago Perez



Lin Turnbow

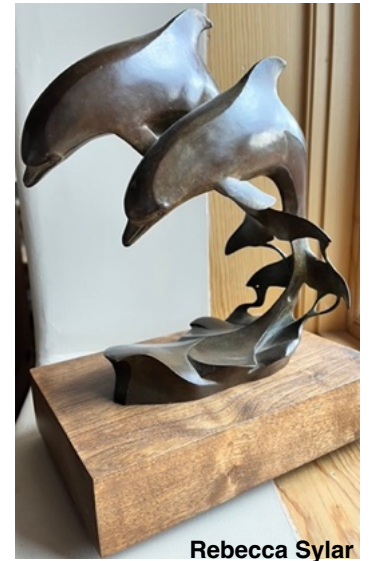
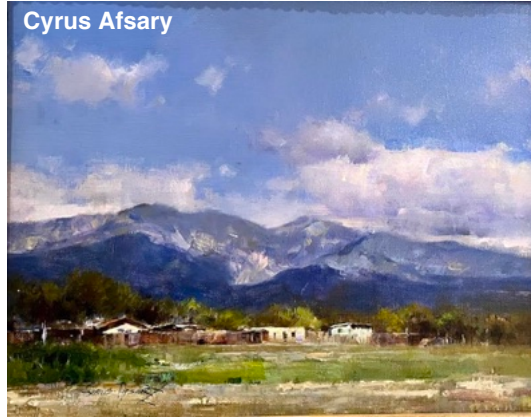


## Collectors "Our Favorite Art" Exhibition.

First Friday Reception on December 5, from 5 to 7 pm.  
Holiday party/potluck! Bring a veggie or dessert dish and let's give ourselves a party!

GALLERY HOURS are every Friday and Saturday, 1 - 4, pm, at the Artspace until 12/21/25.

Cyrus Afsary



Rebecca Sylar

There is no Meet and Greet or Board meeting in December. Have a Merry Christmas! See you in January!

**Joshua Wheeler**  
reading & signing  
*The High Heaven*

**December 7  
2pm**

Funded in part by a grant from Creative West and the National Endowment for the Arts




## Free Art Workshops

December 13: ALL AGES WORKSHOPS  
free with materials included.

Kids (8+), 10 to noon: Acrylic Pour  
Adults (16 and up), 1 to 3 pm, Still life drawing/watercolor.

Contact [mariaaragon64@gmail.com](mailto:mariaaragon64@gmail.com) to reserve a spot or sign up via website: [www.oteroarts.org](http://www.oteroarts.org)

**A MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS VILLAGE**  
IMMERSIVE CHRISTMAS WALK-THROUGH  
UNDER A CANOPY OF LIGHTS  
NO MATTER THE WEATHER

DECEMBER 12, 13, 19 & 20  
STARTING AT 5 PM  
COMPLIMENTARY HOT COCOA  
\$2.00 S'MORES KIT TO BENEFIT CLOUDCROFT CHAMBER SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
ZENITH PARK • CLOUDCROFT



## Christmas Events in Otero County

**FREE ENTRY** **STUNNING NEW TREE!**

CITY of ALAMOGORDO  
**Christmas Tree LIGHTING**  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025  
5 PM - 9 PM  
WASHINGTON PARK

Snow Slide  
Skating Rink  
Cookies & Hot Cocoa  
S'mores & Kids' Crafts  
Food Trucks

**TREE LIGHTING & SANTA'S ARRIVAL  
6:30 PM**



Tues, December 16, 6 pm. LECTURE BY DAVE GREENWALD, JRI President.



History Archaeology Natural Science

Otero Arts

in coordination with presents JORNADA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

**BENEATH ANCIENT SKIES**  
by David Greenwald

PRESENTED BY ALAMOGORDO MAINSTREET

**CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD**  
DECEMBER 6TH • 2025  
4-9PM




## THE FLICKINGER PRESENTS:

"A Mariachi Christmas", Dec. 16, 7 pm  
A favorite annual tradition, Mariachi Christmas returns to usher the bright and beautiful holiday season. The cheery music and charming dances, based in faith and traditions across Mexico, has lifted spirits of Flickinger audiences since 1999.  
Get your tickets @ [flickingercenter.com](http://flickingercenter.com).





# JANUARY 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

In January, Otero Arts will hold a Juried Photography Exhibition. **The deadline for submitting photography for the show is December 15th.** Photographers already submitted as of Dec. 1st are: Angela Lavere, Diane Prather, Edward Fiore, Chip Greenberg, Nahomi Martinez, Jean Templeton, Al Higgins, Nancy Gregory and D. Turning. Judge for the show is Sherry Haymes of Carrizozo.

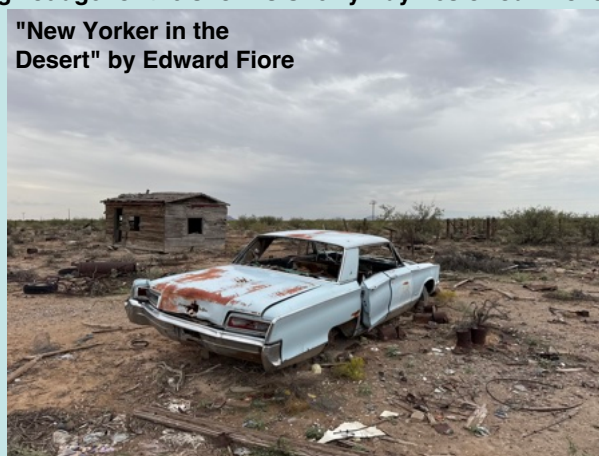


Native Boy Dancer by Jean Templeton

These are examples of submissions already received for jurying.

Submissions for the show are welcome before deadline of Dec. 15 by sending 3 jpg images of no more than 5MB and 300dpi to [oteroartsinc@gmail.com](mailto:oteroartsinc@gmail.com) with "Submission for Photography Exhibition" in the title.

"New Yorker in the Desert" by Edward Fiore



"Helios" by D. Prather

The month-long show will open with the First Friday Reception on Jan 2nd from 5 - 7 pm and will continue to run until Jan. 31st. Exhibition is open free to the public every Thursday through Sunday afternoons, from 1 to 4 pm.

**Jan 8: MEET AND GREET, 10 to 11:30.** Join us for coffee, conversation and community. Ron Baisley will discuss his woodworking process.

**Jan 8:** Belly dance classes every Thursday begins @ **5:30**, contact Claudia Powell: [claudia@tularosa.net](mailto:claudia@tularosa.net). (email for details.)

**Jan 13: OA Board Meeting** (2nd Tues) **1:30** at the Artspace. All members are welcome.



The historic 1937 Otero Artspace is rentable for family celebrations, meetings, retirement parties, etc. for a fee of \$250. (A very competitive fee compared to other venues in Alamogordo.) The restored Artspace has ample space to host gatherings for non-profits for \$50 per event.

Contact [mariaaragon64@gmail.com](mailto:mariaaragon64@gmail.com) to discuss your next planned event to schedule the space.



The lecture scheduled for Jan. 20 has not been decided yet. For more information about the lecture, go to [www.oteroartsinc@gmail.com](mailto:www.oteroartsinc@gmail.com) for the evening's talk set for Tuesday, January 20, 6 pm.

Don't forget to keep up with us by checking the website: [oteroartsinc.org](http://oteroartsinc.org) or FB: Otero Arts





# MEMBERSHIP/LOCAL PARTNERS

## MEMBERSHIP...THE LIFEBLOOD OF OTERO ARTS

We are now in the midst of our Membership Drive. Please consider joining us or renewing your current membership. All of the programs presented to the community only happens through the work of member volunteers. Thanks to the following new and renewal members joining us in October and November to date:

### WELCOME to our new members:

Docia Blalock  
John Davis  
Deirdre Kindthistle  
Lay Powell  
Kasha Williams

Rand Carlson  
Gerard Gibbs  
Kade Paulsen  
Majel Powell

### and Thank You to members renewing:

Janet & Jurgen Amtmann Maria Aragon  
Lydia Aspen & Manny Renteria  
Ann & Will Beacht George Frost  
Lucy & Robert Berglund Marlene Mankey  
Sue Kent & Chris Ward Joe Parker  
Kim & Glenn Melton Della Sue Web  
Debra Martinelli Barbara Hughes  
Jennie Wren Powell Sara Irving  
Dori Webb Paul Duran

*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](http://www.oteroarts.org) to shop.*



Welcome to the Dec/Jan Newsletter.

We're streaming along with all sorts of exhibitions, special events, workshops, and bonus events in 2026.

We will be open on a reduced schedule in December: Fridays and Saturdays only, from 1 to 4 pm. The Exhibition is "Our Favorite Art". In January, we are holding a juried photography show beginning on First Friday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for all your continuing support, whether in donations or in volunteer hours, which is how we pay our rent.

And, please, consider our art space for your upcoming rental needs.

Thank you, Maria Aragon, President

by Maria Aragon



### Otero Arts Board of Directors:

Maria Aragon, President,

[mariaaragon64@yahoo.com](mailto:mariaaragon64@yahoo.com)

Janet Amtmann, VP,

[janet.amtmann@gmail.com](mailto:janet.amtmann@gmail.com)

Sue Preslar, [preslasue@yahoo.com](mailto:preslasue@yahoo.com)

Treasurer

Pennie Espiritu, [pennie@lespirit-design.com](mailto:pennie@lespirit-design.com)

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Kim Melton [Kimberlyreneemelton@gmail.com](mailto:Kimberlyreneemelton@gmail.com)

Sandra Purrington

[sspurrington@aol.com](mailto:sspurrington@aol.com)

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Lucy Berglund

[mamalucy2022@outlook.com](mailto:mamalucy2022@outlook.com)

## ALAMOGORDO MAINSTREET

MainStreet is open for business!

The grand opening of MainStreet (New York Ave) was November 29th with music, circus acts and wine tasting that heralded a long-awaited return to normalcy for many of the businesses. They have been very limited due to lack of access during needed infrastructure reconstruction. The \$1.9M makeover is part of the "Great Blocks on MainStreet Program" through the State of NM Economic Development. Work began in October, 2024 with planned updated infrastructure and street scape including compliant sidewalks, new public art, lamp posts and benches on the 800 and 900 blocks of New York Avenue.

The grand opening celebrated Shop Small, Shop Local! And MainStreet steps right into action with "Christmas Around the World" from 4 to 9 pm on December 6 with singing choirs, hot cocoa & cider, ugly sweater contest, Christmas pet costume contest, and Little Miss and Mister Christmas pageant.



here we go!



Finished

Janet Amtmann will be teaching "Beginning Painting" at the Alamogordo Senior Center starting on Wednesday February 4th from 9 - 11 for 8 weeks. You'll learn color theory, perspective and composition. Classes are free. Class is limited to 10 students. Sign up at the front desk at the Sr. Ctr. beginning January 14th.



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FB: Otero Arts Inc

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.

