



OTERO ARTS NEWS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER, 2026 * WWW.OTEROARTS.ORG *

FB: OTERO ARTS INC

Members are encouraged to attend the Otero Arts Annual Meeting set for August 11 at the Artspace. The 7 pm meeting will be preceded by a potluck beginning at 6pm. The meat dish and drinks will be furnished and members are encouraged to bring a side dish, salad or dessert.

During the meeting, the Board will discuss the coming year's goals and activities. Members are encouraged to bring forward ideas and suggestions. There will be an election of new board members and officers and the next year's budget will be presented for approval.

Each membership is allotted 1 vote according to the OA Bylaws. All members are encouraged to attend. Your participation is very welcome and needed.

Here are reminders of the many events/workshops/concerts, etc. OA presented this past year:



Member Ann Aleshire participating in Plein Air workshop



Member Al Fairweather demonstrating Rock Art at recent Meet and Greet.



"Childhood Remembered", vocal recital with Ann Bagby & Holly Boyle in September



Monthly Kids & Adults free workshops held 2nd Saturday



At least 2 ticketed concerts a year brings another responsive audience to the Artspace for musical enjoyment. Lone Pinon in May, 26

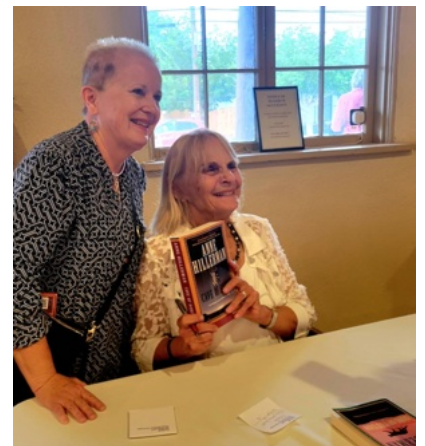


Bi-monthly Classic movies, free to the public



Della Holloway

Members Exhibition, October, 26. Monthly Exhibitions are open to the public every Thur through Sun afternoons, giving artists the opportunity to show and sell their work.



July, 26: Reading Series presented Anne Hillerman to an audience of 85+, a new record. Quarterly Reading events bring renown authors to OA appreciative audiences.

Otero Arts' main fundraiser held in June, the Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction, was a great success, netting \$4600 so far. Ice cream sales tallied 62 tickets with most tickets costing \$2. The lion's share of the proceeds came from the auction as well as a good-sized "Buy It Now" collection, largely made up of jewelry, home decor items, and some very fine clothing.

All in all, OA patrons came out with open wallets to help support and grow OA programs. The money raised will be used for operations (such as utility bills) and advertising costs. Since OA is always seeking to expand programs for our Otero County communities, the organization's fundraising committee is setting up some raffles and some fundraisers with local restaurants to generate funds, too. Whenever OA holds a program such as a book reading/author talk or a musical program, attendees often drop money into the organization's "Donation Box." We appreciate all donations to OA.

Thank you, Pennie Espiritu, Lucy Berglund & Marlena Mankey for your hard work!



OTERO ARTS is pleased to announce that SAMUEL POLLACK, will return for a concert set for September 18, at the Artspace, beginning at 7 pm.

Pollack, an Alamogordian native, is a traveling professional musician who has spent over 15 years collecting and mastering rare wind instruments, creating a repertoire that promotes relaxation and healing. Tickets are \$15. go to oteroarts.org to purchase tickets.



AUGUST 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 6: First Thursdays MEET AND GREET, 10 to 11:30 am. Join us for coffee, conversation and community. **ARTIST DEMO:** Pennie Espiritu will demonstrate rock painting.

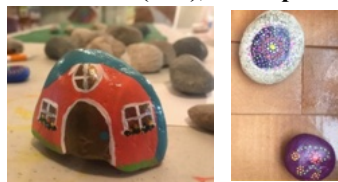
Aug 6: Belly dance classes **every Thursday** begins @ 5:30. Contact Claudia Powell, claudia@tularosa.net for details.

Aug 11: Annual Meeting: FY 25/26 Annual report to membership, and election of officers for the year. Potluck supper begins @ 6pm, meeting begins 7 pm. **ALL MEMBERS WELCOME**, join us for a fun, enlightening evening; bring a salad or dessert.



Free Art Workshops

ALL AGES WORKSHOP for August is to be held on August 8th
Rock Painting Classes
Kids (6 to 16), 10 to noon
Adults (16+), 1 to 3 pm



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

Funded by Thrive! of SoNM

Center Santa Fe Special Photography Printing Workshop

August 17, 1 to 4 pm @ the Artspace

CENTER
ADVANCING THE PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS

Ron Kellar, Asst. Professor of Photography at NMSU will lead a photography printing workshop sponsored by Center Santa Fe using Epson printers. for more information: contact: Amber@centersantafe.org.

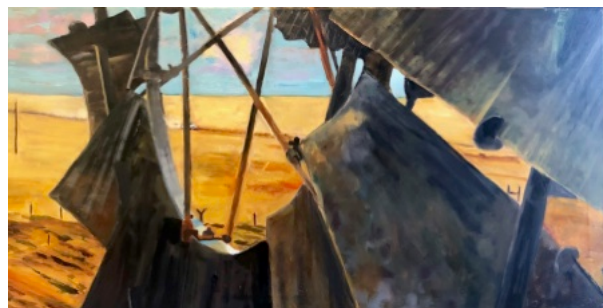


Ron and photographers at a workshop in Deming in July

Otero Arts will present "The Light of La Luz", an exhibition of paintings and stained glass by NM artist Sue Nichols, with an **Opening Reception from 5 to 7 pm on August 7th**. The show gathers 33 works in oil, watercolor and stained glass, drawn from a career spent looking closely at one corner of the world. Born in Carlsbad and raised in Alamogordo, Nichols was a young woman working at the Ruidoso Downs racetrack when she married her high school sweetheart and moved to his family's orchard ranch in the Sacramento Mountains near La Luz.

The exhibition ranges widely while holding to a single sensibility. Paintings of the working land, among them "Way of Life" and "Hell or High Water," share the room with wildlife studies, quiet still lives drawn from her own rooms and gardens and figurative work that catch ordinary people in unguarded moments.

The exhibition is open to the public every Thursdays through Sundays, from 1 to 4pm until August 29th



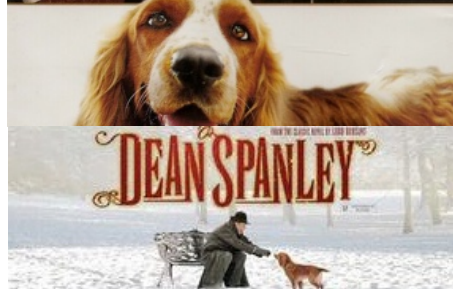
Otero Arts, in partnership with JRI, presents monthly lectures by JRI associates on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The JRI lecture for August is to be presented by Dave Greenwald, JRI President on **Aug. 18th**, beginning at 6 pm.

Dave will discuss the settlement and land-use patterns in Tularosa Canyon during the Mesilla Phase (AD 250-1030), examining the presence of irrigation systems and their associations with local settlements.

SETTLEMENT COMPLEXITY AND THE ROLE OF GREAT KIVAS IN TULAROSA CANYON: THEIR DISTRIBUTIONS, ASSOCIATIONS, AND FUNCTIONS

Dave Greenwald has been an archaeologist for over 50 years, conducting cultural resource management projects in AZ, CO, NM and west Texas. In 2001, he and his wife, Dawn, started DMG Four Corners Research in Tularosa. For 18 years, investigations of Fort Bliss, WSMR and various highway projects have led to the recognition of archaeological resources in Tularosa Canyon. Interest in the area has led to the founding of JRI.

MOVIES @ the ARTSPACE



Dean Spanley is the comedy drama film that has been called "a surreal period comedic tale of canine reincarnation", exploring the relationships between father (played by Peter O'Toole) and son (Jeremy North) and master and dog, after the family's loss of a younger son and mother.

With the influence and guidance of Dean Spanley (Sam Neill), father and son reconcile with the help of an unusual go-between.

Join us and enjoy this celebrated English comedy-drama, Friday night, Aug. 21st, 5:30 at the Artspace. *This is a free event, but donations are appreciated!*



SEPTEMBER 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept.3: First Thursdays MEET AND GREETs , 10 to 11:30 am. Join us for coffee, conversation and community.

ARTIST DEMO: Maria Aragon will demonstrate air dry clay plaque faces.

If you are an artist or creative maker of things and would like to be a featured presenter for our monthly Meet and Greet, please contact Ann Beacht at rbeacht@aol.com.

The M and G's are the first Thursday of every month from 10-11:30 and presentations usually begin around 10:30 and last about 20 minutes. We would ask you to bring a few examples of the work you would be speaking about.

Sept. 3: Belly dance classes every Thursday begins @ 5:30, contact Claudia Powell: claudia@tularosa.net. (email for details.)

Sept. 8: OA Board Meeting (2nd Tues), 1:30 at the Artspace. All members welcome.



Free Art Workshops

All Ages Workshop for September is to be held on Sept. 12. The classes will be on Air Dry Clay Plaque Faces and will be taught by Maria Aragon. Class times:

Kids (6 to 15): 10 to noon
Adults (16+): 1 - 3 pm



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

Sept 13, 1 - 3 pm: Bonus Watercolor Still Life Workshop



The class, to be taught by Janet Amtmann, will include choosing objects, designing the layout, creating a drawing and then applying watercolor. Contact mariaaragon64@gmail.com to reserve a spot or sign up via website: www.oteroarts.org.

Plein Air Exhibition in September

"Plein air painting" is a portrait of the landscape in natural light, a genre developed by painters in the 1800's who left their dark studios taking their easels and tubes of paint outdoors. Several Otero members have been meeting one day a week to paint landscapes in oil, watercolor, pastel and gouache on location in Alamogordo and neighboring towns.

Opening Reception is to be held on First Fridays, Sept. 4 from 5 to 7pm at the Artspace. The Artspace will be open to the public from 1 to 4 pm every Thursday through Sunday afternoons until Sept. 26.



"A Welcoming",
Ann Aleshire



"Abandoned in
Bent", Julie
Ford Oliver



"Cottonwood Vista White Sands", by
Janet Amtmann

"The Town
Pool",
Deirdre
Kindthistle



This exhibit is still open to plein air painters in Southern NM. It's not too late to apply to be in the show. For an application go to: Oteroarts.org. Deadline is Aug. 20th.



Otero Artspace
Indiana Ave. & 12th St.

Our historic, beautifully restored building is available to rent for private and public events. Go to oteroarts.org or call 575-446-3880 for rates and to apply. (Right now, there are several groups using the Artspace for monthly meetings: a writers group meets every Monday night, twice a month, a poetry group meets, and belly dance classes meet every Thursday evening.) Please contact us at 575-446-3880 for reservations.

"Desert Reflections & Your Creative Spark" Photography Exhibit and Workshop.

September 26, 1 to 4 pm
Discover how the serene desert landscape can unlock creativity and enhance brain health and productivity. This interactive experience combines a touch of neuroscience with vibrant local artistry to boost your wellness and creative potential.

Join us on September 26th, from 1 to 4 pm. Free admission, registration encouraged. Call 843-224-5423, Leslee Ames-Rogers, speaker

"Every art, and every science reduced to a teachable form, and in like manner every action and moral choice, aims, it is thought, at some good." – Aristotle



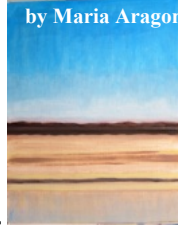
MEMBERSHIP/LOCAL PARTNERS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings to our members and friends.

Our all important Annual Meeting is this August 11th. We will hold our elections for board members and to replace our Executive Officers. Maria Aragon's term as President must end this August, according to our bylaws. Janet Amtmann plans to run for Vice President again. There are no term limits for VP. Pennie Espiritu plans to run for Secretary for another year. Sue Preslar is willing to stay on as Treasurer. Kim Melton is stepping up to run for President.

by Maria Aragon



These are important administrative and leadership positions within our organization. These positions require dedication as volunteers, but whoever holds these positions will be well supported. Everyone who serves on the Board brings tremendous talent and experience to their roles as leaders and workers in our many departments: Literary, Performance, Art Display, and so forth. And then we have many volunteers who bring their expertise in their fields to help make everything possible.

We truly need our volunteers to make Otero Arts, Inc. function and to achieve the successes we have. We have expanded so much in the services we offer for the community. We can thank everyone who volunteers with OAI for that.

If you want to help lead this organization forward or just want to help us maintain our momentum in bringing the arts to this community, consider volunteering to serve in one of our executive positions. If you want to be nominated for one of the executive positions, contact us.

We truly appreciate you all. Without your support, we couldn't do all we do. Maria Aragon, Outgoing President, Otero Arts, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP...THE LIFEBLOOD OF OTERO ARTS

All of the programs presented to the community only happen through the work of member volunteers. Thanks to the following members for joining us in June and July; we now have 166 members to date:

WELCOME our new members:

Laurel Berry, James Garcia, Reyna Espino, Nanette Gardener and Geoffrey Stone

Thank you to our renewing members:

Tanya Griffith, Melissa Grandon and Linda Barker

Come, be a part of a very satisfying project!

Otero Arts Board of Directors:

Maria Aragon, President,
aragon64@yahoo.com

Janet Amtmann, VP,
janet.amtmann@gmail.com

Sue Preslar, presllasue@yahoo.com
Treasurer

Pennie Espiritu, pennie@lespirit-design.com

Rochelle Williams, rwsantafe@hotmail.com

Chris Jones, cjones@oteroarts.org

Kim Melton Kimberlyreneemelton@gmail.com

Sandra Purrington, sspurrington@aol.com

Lucy Berglund, mamalucy2022@outlook.com



OA has started a store online where you can order all sorts of items to show your support. Go to oteroarts.org to order mug, shirt, bag, etc.

LOCAL EVENTS:



Presents "Sister Act", 8/1: 7pm, 8/2: matinee, 2 pm 8/7: 7pm, 8/8: matinee at 2pm and 7 pm.



alamogordomusictheater.org

ALAMOGORDO MAINSTREET

August 8: Hawk Launch Event, turning on the crosswalk signs, free hot dogs, dunk tank, music, food trucks, drinks. 4 to 8 pm

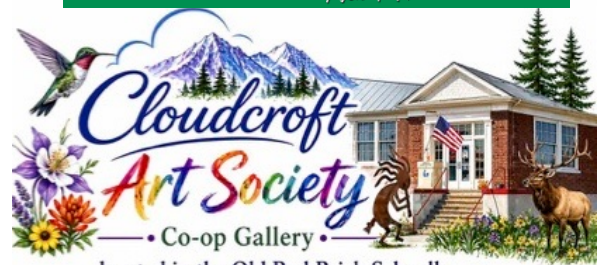


TULAROSA BASIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

La Luz Pottery Tour: 8/1, 9 am & 8/8: 11 am.
tbhsmuseum.org

The La Luz Pottery Factory was built in 1930 and operated until 1949, becoming a vital center of ceramic production in the region, roofing tiles to pottery.

CLOUDCROFT New Mexico



located in the Old Red Brick Schoolhouse.

Join us for holiday and Saturday art shows and sales.

Gallery open Saturdays, 11 - 4 through October.

ANNUAL PATIO SALE, AUG. 15, 9 TO 3 pm.
Nivision Library Bldg. Arts & Crafts, Art Supplies, and more.

CLOUDCROFT ART WORKSHOPS.

Last Classes for the summer: Aug 4 - 7: Allison Jones Hunt, instructor. Contact: caw@cloudcroftart.com



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Alamogordo, NM
Mail: PO Box 2252, 88311
575-446-3880
oteroartsinc@gmail.com
www.oteroarts.org
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. Youth Workshops are funded by the Devasthali Family Foundation with assistance from the Community Foundation of Southern NM. Thrive of Southern NM also supports and funds Otero Arts programs.



Otero County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

