

COMMUNITY NEWS

A lesson in board membership

Workshop to offer insight into what responsibilities come with title



VALERIE INGRAM
Caring for Santa Fe

You are talking to a good friend who works for a local nonprofit, and the conversation goes something like this: "We really need some new people on our board. I know you're interested in (agency name here)'s work. Would you come on our board?"

And before you can ask yourself, "What are my legal and fiduciary responsibilities?" or "Do I believe in this cause?" or "Can I commit the time to being a good board member?" your mouth opens and says, "Yes."

This is an intervention. You must stop yourself.

As any executive director can attest, good board members are hard to find.

We don't do our nonprofits any favors when we sit on boards without knowing how to read a financial statement or that it is our responsibility

to both make a gift and ask for gifts. Being a good board member requires even more than knowledge of one's legal responsibilities. It also requires passion for the mission the organization seeks to achieve.

Santa Fe Community Foundation's Future Santa Fe is a giving circle for people age 50 and younger. Members of this group are also our community's future board leaders — both for nonprofit and for-profit corporations. In pursuit of being better future board members, Future Santa Fe will host on workshop on March 8 titled "So You Want to be a Board Member?"

Presenters Terry Odendahl and Patrick Dolan will cover

board members' responsibilities in governing, financial management and fundraising. Board members' legal responsibilities will also be outlined.

With more than 30 years experience in the foundation and nonprofit community as a board member, CEO, critic, trainer and researcher, Odendahl is president of the New Mexico Association of Grantmakers. She is co-founder of Santa Fe's Institute for Collaborative Change. She served as executive director of the National Network of Grantmakers, where she led a campaign to increase foundation payout.

Odendahl says, "In my experience, most boards fall down in both their fundraising and their fiduciary/financial responsibilities."

Dolan is a member of the Rubin Katz Law Firm. He specializes in estate planning, business and real-estate law. He is involved with several nonprofit organizations, including serving as a director of the First Judicial District Bar Association, the

New Mexico State Bar Section of Real Property, Trust, and Estate Law, and the New Mexico State Bar Section of Taxation. He also volunteers as a member of the legal committee for the Santa Fe Community Foundation.

"People who volunteer to serve on the board of directors of a nonprofit generously give of their time, talent and treasure," Dolan said. "To ensure a positive and rewarding experience, it is important that they understand their legal duties and the protections available to them."

The workshop will run from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. March 8; to register call 988-9715, ext. 3. The cost of \$25 includes breakfast (Future Santa Fe members may attend for free). For information on Future Santa Fe, see www.santafecf.org/grants/futuresf.php.

Valerie Ingram is the development director at the Santa Fe Community Foundation and can be reached at vingram@santafecf.org or 505-988-9715, ext. 4.

Kids get to express music's meaning

By Todd Bailey
The New Mexican

What does music mean to you?

Santa Fe County children have a chance to win prizes for their answers. The Santa Fe Opera Kids Guild is hosting a video essay contest where the applicant gets three minutes to answer the question. Students may speak, perform, read an essay, sing or play musical instruments centered on the video essay's theme: What Music Means to Me.

"We'd like to have the kids come up with their own ideas on the video essay," said Jaima Jackson, a Santa Fe Opera Kids Guild chaperone. "They may decide to perform something about music or can speak about music in the form of a verbal essay, or they can play music and talk about what it means to them. They'll have to be original thinkers and come up with original content."

The Kids Guild is accepting entries from Santa Fe County elementary, middle-school, junior-high or high-school students, with the grand-prize winner receiving a \$500 grant for the music pro-

gram at his or her school. Other winners receive various gifts, like DVD players and family ticket packages to The Santa Fe Opera Youth Night performances of *Figaro* and *Falstaff*.

Entry deadline is April 23; winners will be announced May 31 at a video essay screening event at Cinema Cafe. Admission will be \$1.

The screening admission cost is part of a fundraising effort by the Kids Guild to help bring a musical student from Spain's Barcelona Opera to Santa Fe as part of Santa Fe's 400-year celebration in 2010. The Spanish student would get a week to two-week stay in Santa Fe to learn more about Santa Fe's musical and cultural history. The visit will coincide with the arrival of the king and queen of Spain.

Mail your entries to The Santa Fe Opera Guild, PO Box 2371, Santa Fe, NM, 87504. Entries must be in an audio and/or audio-visual form such as cassette, CD, DVD or MP3 format.

For more information, call the Kids Guild at 690-3729, or Kids Guild chaperones Jackson at 660-1415 or Lillian Rutledge at 747-4864.

Walls: Memorial park has encountered setbacks

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"I think there are a lot of things that people can do to memorialize people, but I don't know of too many other places to memorialize animals," Larsen said. "I think people who don't have animals, they don't understand the extent (that it affects someone). Aspen died in 2002 and I still tear up when I talk about it. People that do understand it, when you find those people, ... we tend to congregate and become a support system."

The park, a nonprofit, has had some setbacks: initial tiles cracked; vandals shattered a tile of the saint's shoulder; and the purpose of the park is often misunderstood, with many thinking it is an animal cemetery. Orders for tiles, which support the park's maintenance and generate revenue for the new walls, have slowed.

But the two women have regrouped, honed their focus, contracted with a new tile maker and plan to dedicate the park with a new Spring Tree wall this summer.

With the name change, the focus will be more on memorials, Larsen said, and the park will be a secondary aspect of the project. A third tier of the project is an emergency fund to help animals in need of veterinary care.

The new commercially customized tiles, made by Len Goodman of Arius Tile of Santa Fe, contain the animal's name, birth and death years with a generic footprint. Those can still be purchased for the park, but framed tiles will now be available for private use. There also are plans for wrought-iron frames so the tiles can be mounted and used as a marker outside.

Larger individualized St. Francis plaques will still be available for a home memorial. In addition to the memorial tiles or plaques, each purchase comes with a memorial page on the project's Web site.

Family, friends and nearby residents purchased most of the 90 tiles now on the memorial's walls. While most of the tiles memorialize dogs, cats and horses, there also are tiles of a frog, two rabbits and a parrot. The park, which the two founders hope to improve with xeric landscaping and

ALL CREATURES MEMORIALS

What: A project to honor animals, it includes a park, memorials and an emergency veterinarian fund

Where: 1406 Bishop's Lodge Road (1.1 miles north of the entrance of Bishop's Lodge)

Tile: Blue, 8 x 8 inches, installed on a park wall or framed for personal use; includes animal's name, birth and death year, and generic print in black

Plaque: 10 x 13 inches, individualized with the park's motif of St. Francis, framed in oak with the name of the animal and the birth and death year in a banner about St. Francis.

Details: Call 992-6141, or visit the Web site, www.allcreaturesmemorialpark.org

memorial benches, is a popular place for reflection.

Former Tesuque resident Rica Anderson said she found it comforting to go to the wall and remember her English sheepdog, Higgins. The 9-year-old dog stood by her through years of ups and downs, she said.

"I feel the people who find their way to this very special place, find it for a reason ... to know you honor these creatures who honored you for their time on Earth," she said. "What a beautiful setting and place to go to and be still to remember them."

Teacher Betsy Walker has two tiles at the park, one for her cat and the other for a horse.

"Both of these animals were very important to me, and as soon as I heard (about the project), I knew I wanted to memorialize these two pets with tiles," she said in an e-mail. "My cat lived with me for almost 20 years. He was very connected to me and was very responsive to my moods and emotions, and was always there when friends were not."

The horse, Walker's first, kept her safe and provided companionship as she learned the joys of trail riding. Both of the animals guided her in life, she said.

"When I first saw their tiles in place,

it warmed my heart to see their names alongside the names of other pets that have been so loved," she said. "It is comforting to know that there is a place where I can go to 'visit' when I wish."

Cerrillos resident Cindy Roper met the park's founders serendipitously through a computer store. She learned the two were looking for someone to help put a Web site together. Still grieving the loss of a beloved mare, she was hooked when she learned the nature of the park, Roper said.

Roper helped develop the Web site and recently, when her pet goat, Isaac, became sick, the project was able to help her with the veterinarian bills. Unfortunately, the goat died of an infection two weeks ago.

"They've been remarkably supportive both financially and emotionally through my journey with Isaac," she said. "As a matter of fact, their vet fund is going to be named Isaac's Fund. I think that would put a big goat grin on his cute face."

Isaac will likely be memorialized on one of the walls, Larsen said. Future walls also will be designed by Seewald Hill, the park's founders said.

The artist, who is also an animal lover, said she was excited to be asked to be part of the project. In addition to her regular artwork, she also does animal portraits.

For the first pamphlet and wall design, Seewald Hill said, she chose a simple, humble, aesthetically pleasing style that could be translated into tile. She drew inspiration from the paintings of a medieval Italian artist, Giotto di Bondone, who is said to have revolutionized Italian painting, and his teacher, Cenni di Pepo (Giovanni) Cimabue, an Italian painter and creator of mosaics.

The founders also are considering allowing tiled portraits of animals for the walls, although that is still in the developing stage.

For now, Larsen and Van Ness look to rebuild enthusiasm for the park and broaden the project's scope. "We had the vision and the inspiration," Larsen said. "Now, little by little, we're back-filling. We always knew we'd do it fairly slowly. We wanted the time to think about each wall. It's been frustrating in some ways, but the end result is the wall."

Teachers shop for free at Partners warehouse

Laptops and binders and chairs — oh my!

It may not look anything like the Land of Oz, but the Partners in Education Teacher Warehouse is still a magical place filled with items to delight public-school teachers at all grade levels.

The tall shelves of the warehouse space are filled with donated items, including desks, file cabinets, office supplies, art supplies, *National Geographic* magazines, children's books and much more. Items are donated by the public, and our public-school teachers are then invited to take whatever they need for free.

Since the early 1990s, Partners in Education has recycled nearly \$2 million worth of items through the warehouse. Warehouse manager Phyllis Roybal, a kindergarten teacher at Piñon Elementary, said the most requested items are bookshelves, letter-size hanging file folders, computers (not ancient and obsolete, however), projectors and office supplies. Always

needed are supplies such as blank copy paper, loose-leaf paper, spiral notebooks, stacking in-boxes for desks, regular markers, dry-erase markers and binders.

The most unusual items she has received are 8-track players and tapes and a wolf mask. The most valuable items donated have been electric pianos and keyboards.

Recycling-minded Santa Feans have even donated old egg cartons, yogurt containers and cardboard tubes from paper-towel rolls, which have found new life in classroom art projects.

But before you load up your car with your old discards, please note that there are some items we cannot accept. As people have upgraded to flat-screen computer monitors, we have been flooded with old, boxy, obsolete monitors that are no longer usable in our classrooms. We can take electronic items only if they are complete with plugs, cords and any necessary installation software. If you



RUTHANNE GREELEY
Partners in Education

have a question about an item, it's best to check with the warehouse manager before dropping it off.

Partners in Education's Teacher Warehouse is open from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursday. The warehouse is off Camino Carlos Rey between Siringo and Cerrillos roads. For specific directions and other information, contact warehouse manager Phyllis Roybal at 989-1209. Since she's only in the warehouse two afternoons a week, please leave a message and she'll return your call as soon as possible.

In my last column, I wrote about the No Strings Fund, a program that pays for lunches for students who cannot afford them. Thanks to the many people who opened their hearts and their checkbooks, we have already received nearly \$1,000 in donations to the fund. That is enough to cover expenses for the rest of this school year, and will likely take us well into the 2008-09 school year as well. Thank you for your generosity!

Ruthanne Greeley is executive director of the Partners in Education Foundation for the Santa Fe Public Schools. Founded in 1988, Partners in Education works to improve the quality of public-school education by linking the community with its schools, providing teachers and their students with the materials, equipment and services they need. For more information, call 474-0240 or rgreeley@sfpartersineducation.org.

In brief

Let us know who matters

The New Mexican would like to recognize men in the Santa Fe area who matter. Men Who Matter is a project to identify and celebrate men who challenge other men to recognize that they can be powerful without making others powerless — men who encourage all men to work together with women, using their collective voices and resources to end violence. To nominate an individual, please write a letter or e-mail describing the person and his accomplishments and tell us how to contact you as well as the nominee.

The letters must be received at *The New Mexican* by 5 p.m. March 14.

Please send nominations to: Men Who Matter, Attn. Bernadette Garcia, *The New Mexican*, 202 E. Marcy St., Santa Fe, NM 87501 or submit to bernadetteg@sfnemexican.com. Profiles on those honored will be published April 6.

Join raptor count in Sandias

Volunteers are needed to join the trained observers of HawkWatch International in the Sandia Mountains to monitor the migration of the raptors flying north to summer nesting grounds.

The staff will be on site daily — weather permitting — from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the next two months. The peak migration season is mid-March to mid-April and the count will end May 5.

Those who volunteer are asked to bring water, extra clothing, sunscreen, food, binoculars and a camera.

To schedule a field trip, for directions and other information, visit the Web site at www.hawkwatch.org or call 255-7622.

Cheer and Drill teams rally

The Santa Fe Independent Youth Basketball Program Cheer and Drill teams will have a year-end exhibition from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 8 at Santa Fe High School, 2100 Yucca St.

The public is invited to attend. The cost is \$3 per adult; children \$2; kids 5 and younger get in free.

No outside food or drinks will be allowed in the gym, but a concession will be open for the purchase of snacks and refreshments.

The league's Cheer/Drill

commission is taking applications for vendors interested in selling crafts or goods during the exhibition. There will be a charge of \$25 per vendor.

Proceeds from the door and the vendor fees go to support the operation budget of the league for elementary-school youth.

For more information, send an e-mail to brownioelo@msn.com or call Michelle Chavez at 505-204-9475.

Planning begins for new church

From 2:30 to 4 p.m. today and March 8, informal gatherings will be held to plan a possible new Presbyterian congregation on Santa Fe's south side. Today's gathering will be held in the community room of the Inn at Santa Fe, next to the outlet mall on Cerrillos Road.

The March 8 gathering is set for Miklo's Coffee House in Plaza Contenta on Jaguar Road across from César Chávez Elementary School.

The public is invited, including Spanish-speaking residents and children.

The regional organization of the Presbyterian Church USA is hosting the two gatherings in response to growth on the south side of the city. The meetings will include music, refreshments and children's activities.

For more information, call Bob at 670-9487, or, in Spanish, Chester at 983-8939.

Música Antigua to put on concert

At 4:30 p.m. today, Música Antigua de Albuquerque will be performing a concert of medieval music at Christ Lutheran Church, 1701 Arroyo Chamiso.

The program is called "Visions of the Gothic World" and is a concert of music from the Middle Ages, performed with voices and period instruments.

The program will incorporate both vocal and instrumental works. The instruments that will be used include recorder, shawm, medieval lute, gemshorn, vielle, rebec, kemençe, medieval harp and portable organ.

Tickets are \$16 for general admission, \$13 for seniors age 65 and older, and \$9 for full-time students. Call 505-842-9613 for information or reservations.

The 2007-2008 concert season is made possible in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Office of Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The New Mexican