

ART ON THE HILL

December 2011, Issue 7



Have you ever found the perfect gift for a loved one, only to be crushed when you look at the price tag?

At Fuller Lodge Art Center's Affordable Arts you'll be able to turn the tag with the confidence of someone who can afford it.

Special Thanks to Fuller Lodge Art Center for sponsoring this issue of *Art on the Hill*.

Mandy Marksteiner, Editor
www.mandymarksteiner.com

Home for the Holidays

Fuller Lodge Art Center's Affordable Arts

For Affordable Arts 2011, Fuller Lodge Art Center has been transformed into a giant gift-filled living room. Many of the gift items are displayed on furniture borrowed from different homes. The faux-fireplace mantle is hung with serving spoons rather than stockings, and four or five wreaths hang above it radiating holiday spirit to the max. Multiple trees display art glass and stained glass ornaments, painted gourds, and angels.

The Art Center walls explode with art, from watercolor botany to adobe oils. Curious hairy faces carved out of wood peer from the wall above their counterpart lamps, whose inner human spirits have been extracted from branches.

Affordable Arts has gifts for everyone, from cards and pens to baskets, boxes and raku sculpture to texting gloves, scarves, shawls and sweaters. If you can't figure out the perfect gift, let yourself spend some time looking through the Art Center and you're sure to find inspiration.



A Visual Feast



Los Alamos offers a whirl-wind of activities on the first Saturday in December, and the Art Center is the perfect place to come and catch your breath. Have some warm cider and cookies to feed your body while you feed your soul with a visual feast of hundreds of finely crafted items, prices ranging from \$1 to \$250. The Art Center will open at 10 a.m. and stay open until the Parade of Lights begins on Central Avenue. For a preview of some of the gifts available, visit their website at fullerlodgeartcenter.com and open the "Current Exhibit Affordable Arts" page.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, December 1

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

"Art for the Holidays" Opening

Karen Wray Fine Art Gallery

December 2, 3 and 4

The Nutcracker

Presented by Dance Arts Los Alamos
at Duane Smith Auditorium

December 3

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Fuller Lodge Art Center Open
House Celebration.

Hot apple cider and cookies.

December 3

7:30 p.m.

Tree lighting followed by a
performance by

The Best Brass of Christmas

At the Crossroads Bible Church.

December 7

12:00 p.m.

Performance by pianist Frances
Meier

Presented by LA Arts Council Brown
Bag Performance Series
Fuller Lodge

Saturday, December 17

7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Blue Window Bistro's Jazz Night
featuring The John Trentacosta
Jazz Quartet.

\$15 per person, dinner reservations
required.

Call 662-6305.

ART ON THE HILL

A Christmas Carol

Review by Kelly Dolejsi

As a former company member, I was completely predisposed to adore New Mexico Dance Theater Performance Company's current production of *A Christmas Carol*, so it's no surprise that I did. But this is a ballet nearly anyone would enjoy because it has a great story, fantastic performances and that foxy emotional edge that Director Susan Baker-Dillingham always manages to bring out.

A Christmas Carol is based on Dickens' novella by the same name, the classic tale of Scrooge, Marley and the three Christmas ghosts that convince the old penny-pincher to love his fellow man more than his own net worth. It's a timeless message and one of which we can all use the occasional reminding. Also, while the Ghost of the Future is a little scary, the story is absolutely family-friendly. I think the scene with the Ghost of the Future was actually my 1-year-old's favorite part. It was certainly mine.

The hulking Chris Jeffery is the perfect Grim Reaper. He's a strong, commanding, imposing figure. But best of all, he's an impeccable partner. In *A Christmas Carol*, he partners with Frank Macias, who dances the part of Scrooge. And while it is challenging to lift a lithe female ballerina, it is amazing to lift another man. Macias himself is a masterful dancer, quick-footed, musical, and eloquent. Other standouts include Alicia Bowyer as the Ghost of the Past and Alice Veirs as the Ghost of the Present. Andrew Jeffery is the perfect, somber Tiny Tim.

Despite many spectacular moments, I keep going back to the scene with the Ghost of the Future. Jeffery and the corps dancers each wear black veils over their faces while they dance, and the effect of the veils combined with the choreography is chilling. As I sat, engrossed in the movement, it occurred to me how horrifying Dickens' story really is -- how many people die before even realizing their lives have no meaning. Baker-Dillingham always seems to find that emotional hard-spot in the stories she chooses, and to exploit it quite poignantly. This quality is what makes her ballets reverberate in the mind, what makes them unforgettable.

I loved dancing in NMDT's *Dracula*, *Snow White*, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, *Cinderella*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *Alice*. Each of Baker-Dillingham's productions is an all-out, magical, beautiful, original tour de force, and I always felt ridiculously lucky to be involved. *A Christmas Carol* is just as absorbing and triumphant as her previous works. The only thing I didn't like is that I couldn't be onstage.

Bernadette Naranjo

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Pat Soran

Master Woodworker



"Though I am an engineer at heart, I find that designing graceful, creative wooden objects has brought out a new side of me that I did not know existed," said Pat Soran, whose beautiful wooden desk is one of the first things people see when they walk into Fuller Lodge Art Center.

Soran first became interested in woodworking many years ago when he needed a relaxing hobby to help him unwind from his stressful job as a nuclear engineer. He started making furniture for his family: a bed as a wedding gift for his daughter, a rocking cradle when the couple had their first baby, and reclining white oak chairs with big arms and cushions for all of his children.

After retirement he completed a two-year woodworking course at the Northwestern Woodworking Studio in Portland, Oregon, where he became an accredited Master Woodworker. Gary Rogowski, a regular contributor to *Fine Woodworking* magazine, taught the course. "It really opened my eyes to the artistic side of woodworking," said Soran. "We were encouraged to see the lines and angles of the wood and to stretch our imaginations to the beauty of the finished product."



You can see his beautiful finished products at the Affordable Arts Show at Fuller Lodge. His extended catalogue of custom furniture will be available at Fuller Lodge Art Center.

▲ www.hayranunlimited.com.

Rebecca Titus-Taylor

Warped Album Artist



Portal Gallery artist Rebecca Titus-Taylor got the idea for her warped album art when she was leading a hands on workshop for children at the Community Arts Party at New Mexico Tech in Socorro, NM.

"Last year I was looking for a way to use recycled materials. I got the idea of using albums. My husband and I warped the albums in the oven and the kids decorated them."

She now turns unwanted albums into bowls, clocks, chimes, "bugs", and "33 1/3 L-People."

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DALA's *Nutcracker*

Fresh creativity in a Los Alamos holiday tradition



After 16 years performing *The Nutcracker*, Dance Arts Los Alamos offers a fresh interpretation of a timeless and cherished tale.

"Every year is special," said Dance Arts Los Alamos Director Valerie Silks, "But this year there will be a secret twist to how the Nutcracker Prince will be portrayed."

Shannon Elliot will bring another layer of fresh creativity. This is Elliot's first year as a choreographer with DALA's *Nutcracker* production, and she has transformed the Arabian Dance variation into a contemporary piece.

"We are dedicated to providing very advanced pre-professional dancers a chance to play principal roles," said Silks. This will be the third year DALA has invited students

from the Ellison Ballet, a professional training program in New York City. Laura DeLorenzo, 16, and Ariel Breitman, 18, are two of NYC's most talented ballet students on the brink of their professional careers. They will be appearing as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier.

"We have been so impressed with Mr. Ellison and his program," said Silks. "The dancers always turn out to be fantastic role models for our students."


DALA will present its 16th production of *The Nutcracker* Ballet as part of Los Alamos' Winterfest Weekend. Performances will be at the Duane Smith Auditorium at 7 p.m. Friday December 2nd; 2 p.m. Saturday December 3rd; and 2 p.m. Sunday December 4th.




Tickets are on sale at CB Fox in Los Alamos, Smith's Food and Drug in White Rock, or at the door. Prices are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children ages 2-18.

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