

PARK PLAZAS

Community Connections

Ruth Valerio: Painting in Oil

SEEING PARK PLAZAS – and the world – WITH AN ARTIST’S EYES



After participating in our debut Artists Studio Tour last fall, painter Ruth Valerio (Cisne) was one of the first to sign up for this year’s event. We are delighted to introduce this talented artist to our *Community Connections* readers.

Born in England, Ruth grew up in a small town south of Oxford. Her father was an accountant who wrote poetry; her mother played the piano and painted. (Ruth points me to a charming little picture of two dogs that her mother did while Ruth was young.)

Ruth attended an all-girls school. At a friend’s wedding, she was introduced to a dashing U.S. Air Force officer named Arnold Valerio. He was stationed in England long enough for romance to blossom. After Arnold was posted back to the States, Ruth crossed the Atlantic to be with him. (“I was afraid to fly,” she recalls, “so I steamed into New York Harbor on the *Queen Mary*.”)

Arnold’s family lived in Corning, New York, and that’s where they were married. After a year or two based in New York and New Jersey, Arnold got orders for Shreveport, Louisiana. Ruth ticks off the Southern states where they spent time, including Georgia, Mississippi and Texas. “Living in the South was really hard for me,” she remembers with a smile. “There were many times when I couldn’t understand a single word that was being said.”

Fortunately, Arnold’s next posting was in Fairbanks, Alaska. Ruth attended the University of Alaska, taking all the art courses she could. She mentions drawing as well as oil-painting classes, (Please continue reading on Page 3)



Lise Knouse—All in the Family

In 2008, Lise Knouse moved to her first home in Park Plazas, a rented townhouse in Colina. Three of her four children lived with her at least part-time. In 2017, she bought her home in Clavel. “I felt so comfortable in Park Plazas that I didn’t look anywhere else,” Lise says. She also acquired an investment property in Paloma last year. In addition to daughters Jennifer and Vanessa and sons Arthur and Abel, Lise has two little dogs, Daisy and Myrtle, and a cat named Cougar. Raised in Chappaqua, NY, she earned her master’s degree in Dance from NYU. Her résumé includes running her own dance company in North Dakota. But for many years, her passion has been real estate. In 2018, Lise was the number-one broker at Keller Williams Santa Fe. “Most of all,” she

notes, “I’m committed to serving and supporting clients so they get what they want.” Her older son, Arthur, followed his mom into real estate in 2012. Just recently, he joined Lise’s team as the buyer’s specialist, leaving her more time to work with sellers, including pursuit of new listings. “Arthur is very smart with contracts and an excellent negotiator,” Lise says proudly. “With Arthur on the team, we’ll be able to provide even better service.”



SPOTLIGHT
on your neighbor



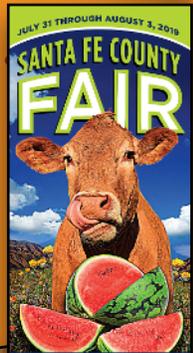
CREATING CONNECTIONS

FOURTH of JULY HIGH DESERT DESSERT SOCIAL at the RAMADA



CELEBRATE SUMMER IN SANTA FE

TIME FOR THE FAIR! Grab your family, friends and neighbors to enjoy the festivities of the Santa Fe County Fair, which takes place at the Santa Fe County Fairgrounds, 3229 Rodeo Road, from July 31 to August 3. The free family fun includes arts and crafts, music, fair food, livestock auction, shows, demos, even a watermelon-eating contest — and, of course, animals ranging from horses, cattle, mules and dairy goats to rabbits and poultry. Click on the link for a listing of all the activities: https://www.santafecountynm.gov/community_services/fair.



OPERA TOURS & TAILGATES The Santa Fe Opera is so much bigger than its world-renowned performances. Behind-the-scene tours are available Monday through Friday mornings. Extended tours of the grounds known as the Opera Ranch (on select Fridays; reservations required) include a “Meet the Artists” presentation by one of the apprentice singers. Opera Insider tours (on Saturdays) include a talk by an opera insider as well as a tour of backstage, while Prelude Talks provide a road map for the evening’s performance. And for an experience you will not soon forget, start your evening with a friends-and-family tailgating party, a Santa Fe Opera tradition that never grows old! Follow the link for further information: santafeopera.org/your-visit/your-night-at-the-opera/enhance-your-visit.

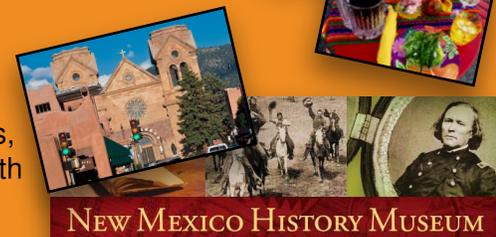


WALKING THROUGH HISTORY

Want to immerse yourself in more than 400 years of history, complex cultures, and unique architecture of America’s oldest capital? Take a Walking Tour with **Historic Downtown Santa Fe Walking Tours**.

The guides are trained at the New Mexico History Museum and will share true stories of the amazing events, colorful characters and historic locations that make Santa Fe the “City Different.” Tours depart daily at 10:15 am from the New Mexico History Museum; reservations are not required. (No tours during Spanish Market, Indian Market and Fiesta de Santa Fe.) Tour fee: \$15 for adults, children under 17 free.

Also, if you are interested in becoming a volunteer guide for the **Historic Downtown Santa Fe Walking Tours**, please contact Park Plazas resident Louise Majorey (Yucca) at 505-438-2436. It’s a great way to meet visitors, to learn about Santa Fe and New Mexico history—and to walk, walk, walk!



NEW MEXICO HISTORY MUSEUM



BE WISE, ORGANIZE!

Join your friends and neighbors on Wednesday, September 11, for the second in our **Lunch4Life** series. Karen Hyatt (Manzana) will introduce us to Estate Pros LLC and talk about the services her company provides, including property distribution, aging in place, downsizing, inventory and relocation. Her presentation focuses on relatively simple steps we can take now to make things easier down the road.

Started in 2011, Estate Pros works with families and businesses to develop a comprehensive plan—usually occurring as a result of a move, illness or death—to sort, purge, organize, package, ship, donate and sell personal possessions. These can be times of tremendous stress, which makes Karen’s creative but systematic approach even more valuable.

The **Lunch4Life** presentation will be held from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in the conference room at The Montecito Santa Fe, 500 Rodeo Road. Attendees will order from the lunch menu. Please RSVP by September 4 to Laurie Glaze at laurieglaze@gmail.com or 713-829-7276.



(Continued from Page 1)

and tells me she really enjoyed ceramics until they got to the technical aspects of mixing glazes. “The math was totally beyond me,” she laughs. Ruth had “dabbled” in painting before, but it was there in wintry Alaska that she made the commitment to being an artist. She loves painting snow scenes to this day.

Back in the lower 48, Arnold and Ruth lived in Colorado for a number of years—first in Woodland Park and for the last four years in Colorado Springs, where Ruth’s paintings were shown in a prominent gallery. (Along the way, Ruth and Arnold raised two sons, both of whom are now deceased.)

They then decided to relocate to Santa Fe—“mainly for the arts,” Ruth says—and lived in a big house on the East Side for 25 years. The property had a separate guest casita that Ruth used as her studio. There

was also a huge garden that was featured on the Botanical Garden tour one summer.

When it came time to downsize in 2016, Ruth chose Park Plazas, “mostly for the trees. It was the only place I looked,” she says. The house they bought has a large yard that they’ve transformed into a good-sized garden, including raised beds for vegetables. There are spectacular views of the Jemez Mountains, overlooking the field that now includes the pétanque piste and the community garden. Both Ruth and Arnold did a lot of the hard work it took to make the new home right for them. She talks about clambering up and down a ladder while she oiled every inch of the dark wood ceilings. “Never again!” she exclaims.

Today, Ruth paints in a bedroom that she has converted into an attractive, functional studio. She is doing smaller paintings than she did in previous years, ranging from 6x6 and 5x7 to 24x30 inches. It was a special experience to watch her put some finishing touches on a Santa Fe snow scene she had tentatively named “Winter Walk.”

Working in oils, Ruth first does small field sketches and takes photographs, which she then interprets in the studio. Her subjects include landscapes, still life, market scenes and animals. (I’m especially taken with several small paintings of chickens.) Ruth exhibits at Alexandra Stevens Gallery, 820 Canyon Road; she also has a comprehensive website, <https://www.ruthvaleriofineart.com/>

For our Park Plazas Studio Stroll on Saturday, September 14, Ruth plans to include a wide variety of subjects, sizes and prices. She is also preparing for an upcoming two-person show at the Stevens Gallery.

Her longtime husband, Arnold, is now on the PPCSA Board of Directors. He was elected Treasurer earlier this year. Arnold’s 25-plus years of experience as a commercial real estate broker—helping New Mexicans start, buy, sell and finance small businesses—gives him an ideal background for his HOA role.

As we conclude our interview, Ruth proudly shows me the peach tree she and Arnold had planted earlier this year. It’s abundantly clear that she sees the world through an artist’s eyes. Once again, I feel privileged to live here in Park Plazas and be involved in producing *Community Connections*. With any luck, come September 14, one of Ruth’s precious little chicken paintings will end up in my own collection!

— Jane Morris [3]



Par for the Course Park Plazas Exercise Equipment

by Trudy Eiron, with Jamie, Bobby & Oliver Cassutt-Sanchez

If you haven't, as yet, gotten around to experiencing the new par course then you're in for a treat.

While each individual piece of exercise equipment offers no posted instructions for use, they are simple, intuitive and straightforward. For those who may not have used these machines in the past and are unfamiliar with the various types of equipment, manufacturer's instructions for proper use are available on the PPCC website - [CLICK HERE](#).

Jamie Cassutt-Sanchez is a fan: "It's been nearly a year since I was able to get the gym thanks to this little guy. Now Oliver and I both get our workout. Mine at the convenient par course followed by a short stroll over to the kiddie park for Oliver. That's what I call a win-win."



The bars are high!
They'll be lowered soon.

1



Oliver helps his mom!

2



Caution: Hot surface!

3



You may want to hold onto center post while positioning your feet.

4

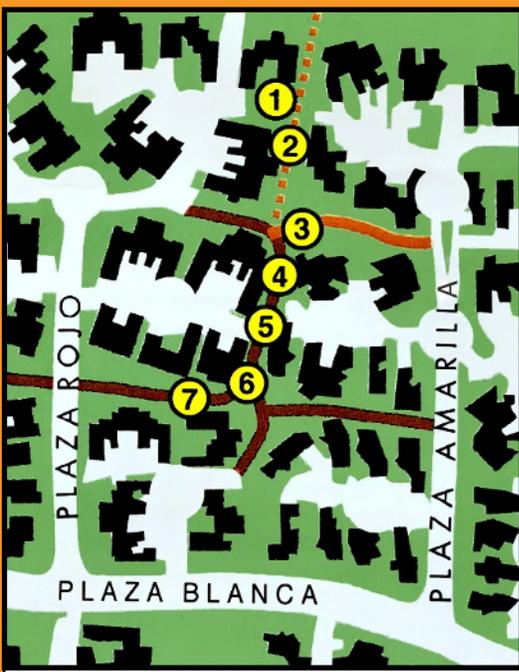


Be sure to sit first, then swivel to place feet on pedals.

5



Single Fit Rider
NOTICE
• Use with caution. Equipment is for your own use only.
• No children under the age of 13 allowed.
• For Full Fitness Institute's privacy policy, visit [www.fullfitnessinstitute.com](#)
• PPCCSA has equipment for you!
#PPCCSA



- 1 Triple Inclined Chin-Up Bars
- 2 Double Leg Press
- 3 Single Sit-Up Bench
- 4 Single Country Skier
- 5 Single Fit Rider
- 6 Single Rower Machine
- 7 Single Push-Up Bar

This may be a long reach for some users; sit further forward on the seat.



6



7

3 positions for use.



CAUTION:

1. The PPCSA has posted a notice at each equipment site disclaiming responsibility should you injure yourself. In the event you feel faint or dizzy, immediately discontinue use of this equipment.
2. Some equipment offers no shade. During peak sun hours, the surfaces may become hot to the touch. You may want to bring a towel to place on the Sit-Up Bench.

Helpful TIPS



City of Santa Fe Non-Emergency Dispatch

In an emergency, always call 911. For non-emergencies, consider using the Santa Fe Police Department Citizens Online Police Reporting System. It's a free service that allows city residents and visitors to submit non-emergency police reports online. To file by phone, call 505-428-3710. You can also file an online non-emergency report. Follow the link to learn more about the requirements and procedures for non-emergency reporting: https://www.santafenm.gov/police_online_reporting.

Services for Seniors

Santa Fe County Senior Services Program offers a wide range of quality programs and services to residents of Santa Fe County through its county-operated senior centers. You can join health and wellness classes, receive in-home meals, and get transportation to appointments. Click on the link for additional information: https://www.santafecountynm.gov/community_services/seniors.



Water – Too Precious to Waste

Watering restrictions began on May 1 and continue through October 31. Please do not water between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm.

Power Play: Beware of Latest Scam!

Public Service Company of NM has received more than 900 calls since January—30+ calls on July 1 alone—from customers reporting threats that PNM will shut off their electricity unless payments are made over the phone with prepaid gift cards. Scammers often call on Fridays and threaten to turn off power over the weekend. (PNM said that it does not disconnect power on weekends or holidays.) Report these scam calls to the FBI at www.ic3.gov and to PNM at 888-DIAL-PNM.

Save
the
date!

2nd Annual Park Plazas Studio Stroll & Book Fair

Featuring talented artists and authors who live and work in our walkable community

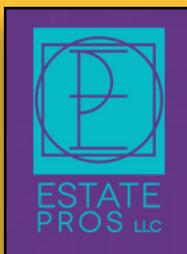
Saturday, September 14!

Submit an application online to be included as an artist or author:

<https://tinyurl.com/PP-Studio-Tour>



Lise Knouse & Associates
Park Plazas Specialist
505-501-3385
kw
KELLERWILLIAMS.



THANK YOU
to our *Community Connections* sponsors
whose support will enable us to continue
growing and enhancing outreach!

JUNE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Board Member(s) Absent: None
Number of Residents in Attendance: 7



JULY
Board Meeting
Wed., July 24
6:30 pm
Residents are encouraged to attend.

- **Common-Area Tree Damaging Residence** – Resident presented information on a “bleeding” Russian Olive tree that is potentially damaging a neighbor’s home. Discussion ensued regarding homeowners’ responsibilities and what the PPCSA might possibly be able to do.
- **Common-Area Steps** – Resident expressed concerns regarding the lack of handrail on newly rebuilt steps leading to the walking path from the parking area between Cisne and Cordero. Lengthy discussion took place, leading to Board’s commitment to review the issue.
- **Estates of Park Plazas** – Resident asked that more thought be given to amenities in the Estates section. Another extensive discussion centered around the possibility of a small park area, along with the need to establish procedures and practices that would include future maintenance.
- **Financial** – Treasurer Arnold Valerio reported that the 2018 financial audit has been completed and presented to Board. The auditors identified no deficiencies and made no recommendations for improvements. Arnold stated that the five-year reserve study has been updated and will be made available on the PPCSA website. He also stated that the Board is working on a format for a quarterly financial report to members.
- **Architectural Control Committee** – Director and ACC member Gary Lutes reported that spring inspections have been completed and letters mailed to homeowners. He noted that several houses have been out of compliance for years and that these properties must be brought into compliance, or on a schedule to get into compliance, within the next few months. Following the fall 2019 reinspection, any remaining long-term offenders will be referred to attorney for legal action.
- **Management** – Manager Mike Strijek reported that work continues on areas impacted by the big 2018 flood. He stated that signage for the new exercise equipment will be installed soon and that adjustments are being made on some of the equipment. Approximately \$7,500 has been spent on the exercise equipment.
- **Manager Job Search** – President Richard White reported that the search committee initially interviewed four candidates and will conduct second interviews with two of those. If neither of these candidates is selected, the search will re-open.
- **Governance Documents** – Richard stated that he has met with attorney on several occasions to review documents. He said that the attorney has completed drafts that are intended to ensure consistency between the bylaws and the covenants. At Richard’s request, the Board approved creation of a six-member committee, made up of himself, Laurie Glaze, Barrett Markland and three additional community members, to review the drafts and move the process forward.
- **Norms of Collaboration** – Director Deirdre Stiles presented a document that could be used to establish common vocabulary and norms for communication among board members and residents. After a brief discussion, director Diane Graves moved that the document be incorporated into practices and the motion was unanimously approved.
- **Adjournment** – 7:55 pm.

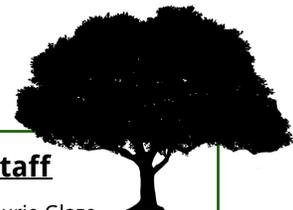
Sharing News/Creating Connections/Building Community

Mission Statement:

To produce a warm, personal, engaging and timely community-focused publication that creates and nurtures connections among all residents of Park Plazas. *Community Connections* is about people — highlighting what makes our neighbors interesting, makes them real, and makes others want to learn more about them.

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