

PARK PLAZAS

Community Connections

Introducing PATRICIA MARIN MIRANDA and Her Fine-Feathered Artwork

By Jane Morris



This is a story about hidden treasure and bird feathers. It centers around our neighbor Patricia Marin Miranda

(Esmeralda) and her new Canyon Road gallery. How Patty got from her native Costa Rica to Santa Fe is an adventure tale in its own right. She jokingly suggests we plan a weekend together so she can regale me with stories about growing up in San José, the Costa Rican capital city.

Believe it or not, the inspiration for Patty's gallery happened in the Joe's Dining parking lot last fall. She and her significant other, Paul Andrus, were leaving the restaurant with a couple of friends when a big black raven flew just over their heads. The woman friend said she'd love to have one of those feathers—and sure enough, before they reached their vehicle, Patty spotted a pristine black feather.

Initially, Patty was simply going to give her friend the feather. But she was inspired by the artwork called "arteplumaria," which she knew from Central America as one of the most elegant artforms of the pre-Hispanic and colonial

periods. The feathers, from the most sacred birds of the Aztecs, were gathered from the ground during the natural molting season. Patty decided she would give feather painting a try—and soon, her first piece of feather art was a reality.

Paul emphasizes that Patty is completely self-taught. Unlike the earlier arteplumaria methods, which used a mosaic technique, Patty carefully paints directly on the feathers with acrylics. She has come to use wild turkey feathers from two suppliers—and makes it clear that no birds are killed for their plumage.

Quickly, the idea for Marin Feather Art was born. Patty's initial creation, on that black feather, depicted a hummingbird, but she soon found that Santa Fe's blend of Spanish and Native American cultures provides an endless supply of Southwestern imagery. Patty has continued to experiment with her natural feather paintings, doing landscapes steeped in local history and culture.

By January, Patty and Paul had found gallery space on Canyon Road and were planning a grand opening for March 27. As you've probably guessed, the celebration they had in mind for Marin Feather Art became one more casualty of the coronavirus pandemic. Today, Santa Fe is slowly reopening for business and Patty's unique gallery—at 618 Canyon Road—stands ready to welcome visitors. If you require further temptation, follow this link to the Marin Feather Art website.

<http://www.marinfeatherart.com/index.html>.

(Continued on Page 2)





Now, we turn to hidden treasure. Again, there's a "believe it or not" component to the story. Patty explains that she and Paul really are treasure hunters—and that they first came to Santa Fe in mid-2018 while they were searching for that famous little chest Forrest Fenn claimed to have filled with precious gems and hidden. No, Patty and Paul didn't find the treasure—but they did meet Forrest Fenn and they also fell in love with Santa Fe. "We enjoyed exploring the New Mexico mountains," Paul says. "It was an easy decision to move here."

In addition to creating feather art, Patty is a multi-talented chef and baker. She even made a magnificent golden birthday cake for Fenn in 2019—almost as special as the treasure chest itself. "I love to make people happy," Patty says with a radiant smile.



Her path from Costa Rica to New Mexico ran through Colorado, Minnesota and North Dakota, where Paul has a horse ranch that he describes as being "in the middle of nowhere—not exactly an ideal home for a beautiful big-city girl with deep indigenous roots." Today, he notes, they both like living in the Estates, where "we love our neighbors as well as the mature landscaping."

Patty raised five children on her own, including her youngest daughter Vanessa, now 22, who lives with Patty and Paul in Park Plazas. Patty is also a proud grandmother who is eager to tell me about her six wonderful grandkids. Maybe we should all plan a weekend of storytelling by Patty. I can well imagine how much fun we'd have!



NEW RULES FOR DOG PARK AND TENNIS COURTS!

The week of July 13, PPCSA will be installing new keypad locks at the dog park and the tennis courts. This is in response to resident concerns about misuse and abuse of both facilities, including vandalism.

To obtain the code for each facility (which will be regularly changed), residents must complete separate registration forms indicating their willingness to observe standards of use and conduct. Forms are available at the PPCSA office weekdays during morning business hours or online on the **Documents** page of the PPCSA website: <https://www.parkplazas.com/info.php?pnum=6>. Scroll down to **Forms and Applications** to find both forms. Codes will be emailed to all residents who have submitted forms, as will future updated codes.

Thanks for your cooperation and support!



Helpful TIPS



MORE OPTIONS FOR FARMERS' MARKET SHOPPING

This summer, through September 29, the **Southside Farmers' Market** will take place every Tuesday afternoon from 3 to 6 pm in the front parking lot of Presbyterian Hospital, 4801 Beckner Road. So close and convenient!

Earlier in the day, and at the Railyard location, the Tuesday Farmers' Market will be open through Thanksgiving. The hours of operation are 7 am to 1 pm through the end of September. During October and November, the Market opens at 8 am.

In addition, the Midweek Market will operate on Wednesdays at the Railyard, from 4 to 7 pm, through September 30.

The Farmers' Market also has a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) subscription program that works in conjunction with the Midweek Market. For just \$30 a week, sold as 7-week subscriptions, you can pick up a bag filled with fresh seasonal produce.

The Market also offers Double Up Food Bucks for folks who receive SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits. Every SNAP dollar gets you \$2 at the Farmers' Market.

And, of course, the regular Saturday Farmers' Market, held at the Railyard, is open every Saturday. Through September, the hours of operation are 7 am to 1 pm; October through May, the hours are 8 am to 1 pm.

Follow the link for more information: <https://santafefarmersmarket.com/>.

Many thanks to Jonni Lu Pool (Nieve), who is Secretary of the Farmers' Market Board of Directors, for her service to the community and for providing up-to-date Market information to us at *Community Connections*.

HIGH DESERT LANDSCAPING

Outdoor watering accounts for a whopping 40 percent of Santa Fe's total water use, one more reason we must always be conscious of not wasting this increasingly scarce resource. Living in the high desert, we should be planting native and drought-tolerant plants—and it's also important that we build up our soils and adequately mulch our plantings. The American Southwest website is a comprehensive guide to national parks, national monuments and natural landscapes of the West and Southwest. As part of the site's extensive content, it has lovely photos and helpful descriptions of hundreds of wildflowers, cacti, agave and yucca that could be colorful and appropriate additions to our water-wise gardens.

<https://www.americansouthwest.net/plants/>.



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MORE GARDENS OF PARK PLAZAS

John's beautiful, sculptural xeriscape



Ruth & Arnold's flowering vignettes of shadow and light



Laurie's bottle tree - low maintenance, xeriscape, no pruning, and always in bloom!!!



Brenda's colorful front walk



LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE: A NEW PRIORITY FOR PARK PLAZAS

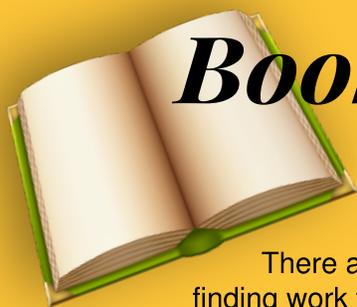
By a unanimous email vote, the Board of Directors has approved a Landscape Committee Charter. The mission of the PPCSA Landscape Committee is to preserve and maintain the common-area landscaping in accordance with generally accepted xeriscape, sustainability, safety principles and best practices for our region. Members of the Committee were appointed at the June 24 Board meeting. See Board Meeting Highlights for names and terms.

A copy of the Charter can be found on the PPCSA website:

https://www.parkplazas.com/editor_upload/File/Landscape%20Committee/PPCSA%20Landscape%20Charter%202015June2020.pdf.

There have been ongoing concerns regarding a multitude of landscaping issues throughout Park Plazas. As our community celebrates its 45th anniversary, the challenges to maintaining an aging infrastructure are increasingly evident. Taking proper care of our common-area landscaping is an important part of preserving our property values as well as our quality of life. We commend the Board for creating this Charter and are eager to start seeing results. We also applaud those individuals who have agreed to contribute their time and expertise to serve on the Committee.





Bookmakers

Life Journeys, Up Close and Personal

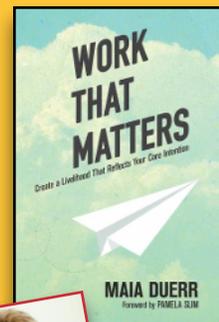
There are others, of course, but it seems to us that two of life's greatest challenges involve finding work that we truly love and coping successfully with a serious illness. Two books written by Park Plazas women deal in highly individual ways with these challenges.

Work That Matters: Create a Livelihood That Reflects Your Core Intention

Maia Duerr (Flores) is a writer, organizational consultant and coach for people going through life and career transitions. She draws on her years of Zen meditation practice and training in anthropology to create powerful tools for integrating mindfulness into the workplace and in clients' everyday lives.

Whether you're seeking guidance and inspiration for yourself—or for a young friend or loved one—Maia's book is a great place to start. In *Work That Matters*, Maia introduces a powerful process that is very different from typical approaches to career development. It is thoughtfully designed for people at both ends of the age spectrum, including the soon-to-be-retired and retired.

As one well-known career coach, Pamela Slim, puts it, "You could not have chosen a better guide for your journey than Maia. Take the time to practice her mindfulness techniques. They will wake up ideas and possibilities you never considered." Slim adds: "What waits on the other side is my wish and prayer for everyone: deeply meaningful work that lights you up, fulfills your needs, and makes the world a safer, more just, healthy, free, and equitable place."

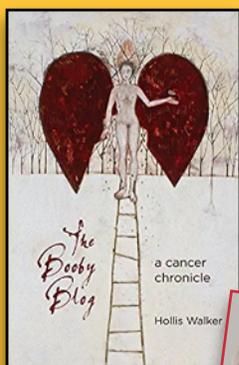


The Booby Blog: A Cancer Chronicle

Hollis Walker (Yucca) is an independent interfaith minister and veteran journalist who blogged and journaled her experience with breast cancer. A physician/reviewer called it "one of the most engaging accounts of illness I have ever read." He continues: "This beautifully written account is seasoned with hope and humor, and will uplift and inspire anyone who reads it."

Hollis herself positions her book this way: "If you have cancer or another serious illness, listen up. No one else—no doctor, no family member, no friend, no clergy member, no one but you—is going through this. You are the star of this drama, and ... you certainly should get to call a lot of the shots. Practitioners and treatments of all kinds may help, but ultimately you are responsible for yourself and your own healing."

She continues: "May you find in this little book inspiration to help you on your own path with illness. May you discover that you no longer need to place the authority for your healing in the hands of others. May you learn to trust your own inner wisdom as you make decisions about your care. May you find the strength to share your journey with others who are in need of support. May you be healed."



TIME FOR A BREAK!

It is hot outside. Indoors, despite sheltering in place for the past three months, the editors of *Community Connections* have kept busy and have individually taken on additional projects. So it's time to flatten out our workloads, and we have decided to go on summer hiatus from our *Community Connections* work.

We hope that you have enjoyed reading *Community Connections* — and that our newsletter has brought you a little closer to your neighbors and to our Park Plazas community. See you on the trails!



JUNE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Board Member(s) Absent: 0

Number of Residents in Attendance: 5

Zoom Online Meeting

- Election of Board Officers – President, Diane Graves; Vice-President, Drew Shurbet; Secretary, Deirdre Stiles; Treasurer, Richard White.
- Budget and Finance – Incoming treasurer Richard White reported an operations balance of \$151,000 and a reserve fund balance of \$910,000. He also reported that January-through-May operating budget has \$63,000 surplus and reserve fund balance has \$90,000 surplus.
- Bylaws Review – Incoming president Diane Graves stated that the committee will attempt to find ways to return to its work virtually, including getting information to Association members for feedback.
- Manager’s Report – Manager Stephanie Davis-Namm stated that locks will be installed on the dog park and tennis court gates beginning June 29. She noted that the Association had installed a new garage door at a Plaza Amarilla home after PPCSA paving work resulted in damage; that a new groundskeeping staff member, Lawrence Lucero, will begin work on July 1; and that Association member Beth Brock (Cordero) has agreed to help review the RV lot to determine ownership status of “unknown” vehicles and sheds.
- Tennis Courts – The Board authorized director Ken Coldwell to chair a committee with a minimum of five and a maximum of seven Association members to promulgate policies and procedures for utilization of tennis courts.
- Update Formal Process Regarding Non-Payment of Assessments – Outgoing treasurer Arnold Valerio stated that he had sent notes to Board members regarding his research.
- Membership in HOAleader.com and/or Other HOA Management Tool – Diane asked Stephanie to research and deliver findings to Board.
- Appointment of Landscape Committee Members – New director Mary Dolman and Association member Reid Michaels (Molino) to three-year terms; Nora Haskins (Fresa) and Carole Mathison (Paloma) to two-year terms; and Charlie Wilson (Narciso) to one-year term.
- Dog Park – The Board authorized Association member Beth Brock to chair a committee with a minimum of five and a maximum of seven Association members to promulgate policies and procedures for utilization of dog park.
- Golf Cart – The Board discussed benefits of a golf cart for Manager’s work. Director and incoming vice-president Drew Shurbet reported that he has located an appropriate cart that the Association could buy for \$3,500 (estimated value \$5,300). The Board approved the purchase.
- Resident asked for update on 2019 financial audit, and Richard responded that the draft was ready for review and an exit conference with the auditors would be scheduled to complete the audit.
- Resident requested that 2020 budget be posted on the PPCSA website.
- Resident thanked Diane for notification that work on water shut-off valves issue would become part of the External Reserve Study. Diane stated that Board would discuss this issue at its August board meeting.
- Resident asked that Board consider expanding the approved color palette for exterior paint colors. The Board discussed how it might solicit updates on this and other architectural issues.
- Resident expressed concern about the limitations on the number of votes per household.
- Director and outgoing treasurer Arnold Valerio resigned from the Board.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.



JULY
Board Meeting
Wed., July 22
Via Zoom

Details at ParkPlazas.com

OUT in the 'HOOD



Wish these fellas would practice social-distancing!

Share the Trail

And wear a mask out of courtesy to others.

Spotted by a trail near the tennis courts.



Napping in the Little Free Library.



Park Plazas Real Estate Report

Lise Knouse's second quarter 2020 report reflects a Park Plazas market that continues to be strong. **CLICK HERE** to read her report in your browser.

Brown paper grocery bags piling up?

Don't toss them in the recycling bin; save them for The Food Depot. The local non-profit distributed 836,000 meals in April as part of their Covid-19 response and they need additional brown paper grocery bags to continue their mission.



Mary Needham (Luna) is initiating a plan to collect bags throughout Park Plazas. On Wednesday evenings starting July 22, Mary will have a bin in front of 2942 Plaza Azul for bag collection. Plaza Anchors will be setting up additional collection sites. (Watch your mail slot for more details.)

So hang onto your clean paper grocery bags, then take them to a collection site near you. Email Mary at fruitlady@gmail.com or text her at 970-208-4879 for more information.

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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