

Winter 2009

Amado & J.B. Peña

Art Has Heart News

Student Scholarships and Other Support

We had a great year in terms of students served and amount of funds distributed. (See list on page 3.)

We had more students pursuing programs in the arts than I can remember, at least recently. We have students, literally, from coast-to-coast. It is amazing to me how far away some of these students go, geographically, to get an education. **Anselmo Martinez**, Round Rock, Texas, and **Jonathan Molina-Garcia**, Odessa, Texas, are both in New York studying theatre at the American Academy of Music/Drama and design at Parsons, respectively.

Art Has Heart has provided scholarships to a St. Pius X High School graduate each year since the late 1990s. However, in 2004, we started coordinating the scholarship through the fine arts department, allowing the art faculty to choose the recipient. Our first recipient under the new program was Ramon Lopez, who graduated from the University of New Mexico last May and received funding from the foundation for three of his four years. We still have four students studying art at UNM and our newest recipient is **Rachel Tapia**.

Four years ago, we provided a scholarship to a graduate from Amado's alma mater in Laredo-Martin High School, **Nancy Guevara**. She

will graduate from the University of Texas in May. We have funded her for all four years of her college education. She has been incredibly kind in her words about the foundation and has stayed in touch with us regularly. She has sent copies of artworks she has completed and portfolios she has presented. She is a very talented young lady and I know from speaking with her often that the foundation's support has meant a lot to her and her family.

We also have a brother and sister from a single mom family in Española, New Mexico. The mom is not able to work and lives on disability payments, primarily. **David Salazar** and **Julie Salazar** is the brother and sister tandem that we have supported through their entire higher education and each one will graduate next May. David will get his degree in Microbiology and Julie will earn hers in Criminology. These two young people are the reason that this foundation exists. They are a great story!

As a result of Lou being on the reality show and the exposure it brought, we had a lot of unsolicited scholarship requests. Unfortunately, almost all of



Rachel Tapia



Myranda Howe

Art Has Heart Foundation

Student scholarships (con't.)



Top, Bobby Hawes

Bottom, Doris Ramirez

them were from students outside of our service area. One exception to that is **Myranda Howe** from Farmington, New Mexico. She is studying studio art at the University of New Mexico. Another Native American student that the foundation funded for this year was **Sandy Belliman** from the Zuni Pueblo. Sandy is the oldest of 13 children and takes the responsibility of family leadership for her siblings very seriously.

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AHH honors Merida Red Star with IAIA Scholarship

This story may be unfamiliar to many of you so a little background is in order. Kevin Red Star, the famed Plains artist, is a longtime friend of Amado and J.B. and has been a wonderful supporter of Legacy Art Albuquerque. In 2008, Kevin lost his daughter, Merida, in a car wreck.

Amado and JB wanted to do something for Kevin that would honor Merida's memory. At last May's board meeting, the directors unanimously passed a resolution to create the Merida Red Star Memorial Scholarship.

The Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA), through their representative Jim

All our students are terrific and I could probably write a long story about many of them. Suffice it to say, the most pleasant aspect of my job is getting to tell a student who needs a financial helping hand that they will get one. Almost every student we have worked with over the years tells us that it is not the amount of the scholarship that matters to them. What matters is that they know somebody cares about them.

None of these scholarships are possible without the support those who read this newsletter. I know each of you has a degree of separation between the students and yourself but please know that every contribution you provide helps make what we do possible. I hope you can share with me in the pride I feel in doing what we are doing. On behalf of all of these students,

THANKS! ♥

Rivera, made the scholarship competitive. Forty-one students applied for the \$1000 scholarship and the school's representatives made the selection. The 2009-2010 scholarship is being awarded to Christy Vigil from Pecos, New Mexico.

I worked on a couple of projects with Merida and always found her delightful and easy to work with and be around. She helped us raise money to provide scholarships by encouraging her dad to support us. He has done that many times and was the featured artist at Legacy in 2007. I know she would be proud of the fact that scholarship is being awarded to a student at the IAIA, which is a very special place to both Kevin and Merida. ♥



Amado & J.B. Peña Art Has Heart Foundation

PO Box 57045
Albuquerque, NM 87187-7045

505-897-7172

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Art Has Heart Scholarships for 2009-2010

Student	Hometown	College/University	Yearly amount	Total Amount
Sandy Billiman	Albuquerque, NM	Central New Mexico CC	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Natalie Casraez	Nogales, AZ	U of Arizona	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500
Ashley Daniel	Guthrie, TX	Vernon College	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Anna Marie Dinallo	Albuquerque, NM	U of New Mexico	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,500
Mikelle Dorame	Albuquerque, NM	Central New Mexico CC	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Andrew Garza	Alice, TX	Texas A & M Kingsville	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Alejandra Gayton	Albuquerque, NM	U of New Mexico	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Gemma Gimmens	Santa Cruz, CA	U of California-Santa Cruz	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Nancy Guevara	Laredo, TX	U of Texas at Austin	\$ 1,000	\$ 4,000
Samantha Gurule	Albuquerque, NM	Central New Mexico CC	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Robert Hawes	San Antonio, TX	University of Incarnate Word	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Aubrey Hernandez	Albuquerque, NM	U of New Mexico	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000
Myranda Howe	Farmington, NM	U of New Mexico	\$ 700	\$ 700
Anselmo Martinez	Round Rock, TX	Amer Academy of Music/Drama	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Gabriel Martinez	Santa Fe, NM	Central New Mexico CC	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Jonathan Molina-Garcia	Odessa, TX	Parsons College	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Doris Ramirez	Albuquerque, NM	Apollo College	\$ 500	\$ 500
Jacqueline Ramirez	San Antonio, TX	U Texas San Antonio	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Roberto Reyes	Albuquerque, NM	U of New Mexico	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Ruth Riley	Albuquerque, NM	U of New Mexico	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
David Salazar	Española, NM	Northern New Mexico College	\$ 750	\$ 2,850
Julie Salazar	Española, NM	Western New Mexico U	\$ 750	\$ 3,000
Torrey Speer	Phoenix, AZ	Arizona State U	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000
Alejandro Silva, Jr.	Round Rock, TX	Texas A & M Corpus Christi	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Rachel Tapia	Albuquerque, NM	U of New Mexico	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Nekia Tharpes	Kyle, TX	Southwestern U	\$ 750	\$ 750
Christy Vigil	Pecos, NM	IAIA	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Connally High School	Austin, TX	Theatre Department Support	\$ 500	\$ 500
Total AHH Scholarships			\$ 25,050	\$ 37,300

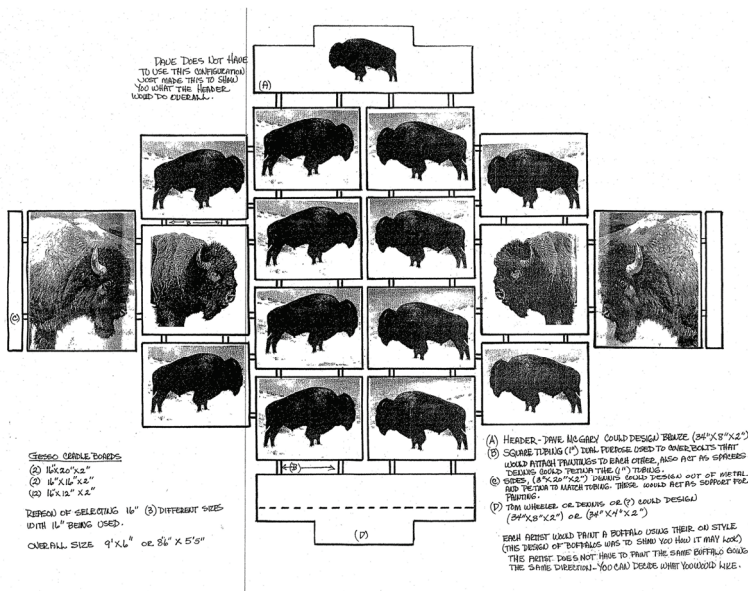
Legacy Art celebrates ten years of success!

As you know, next May, we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of Legacy Art Albuquerque. What a wonderful journey it has been. If you had been there in year one, you might be astonished as I am that we are now planning for Legacy X. We have had a great partner in St. Pius X High School and the event has allowed the foundation to stay on financial footing and help a lot of students. It has been a great ride and one that I hope continues for many more years to come.

As we did in year five, we will offer a couple of very nice art objects in addition to the art produced by our featured artist. The two unique items for Legacy X are:

♥ *The "Thundering Buffalo" composite painting*

This 9' X 5' behemoth was designed by board member, Helen Hall. This is an incredible piece of artwork and is definitely one-of-a-kind piece. A copy of the schematic is shown below. Each of the buffalos is being done by a member of the Legacy artist family. There are two 16' x 20" anchor buffalos on each wing, two 16' x 6" buffalos, and twelve 16' x 12". Each is being painted in oil or acrylic similar to the style one sees in the schematic. All the artists involved in the project were told to do the buffalo in their own unique style. This composite artwork will have a bronze sculpture effect on top.



♥ *The Artists of Legacy 2001-2010*

This project has been two years in the making. It will be a two-volume set of 40 original paintings in bound leather with the title, "**The Artists of Legacy 2001-2010**", **Volumes I and II**.

Some of the artists who will have an original painting, drawing, or sketch in one of the volumes include Amado Peña, John Axton, CJ Wells, Manuel Franco, Michael Horse, Ben Wright, Pablo Milan, Helen Hall, RT Branson, and many others. The work in these volumes is wonderful and it should be a highly sought after auction item.

♥ *The Legacy Gallery of Angels/Legacy Angels*

St. Pius X High School and Art Has Heart are very thankful for the support that Legacy has received since the first event in 2001. We are very aware that special friends made all of what has happened through Legacy possible. That is why we approached the school's administration about honoring some of the core individuals who helped make Legacy possible in the early days and have helped sustain it in recent years.

On Thursday evening May 6, the first group of Legacy Angels will be formally recognized in the school's fine arts center. This will be the first group of non-affiliated persons recognized by the school. That is, individuals who are not alumni of St. Pius. The Legacy Gallery of Angels highlight will be the unveiling of portraits done of the 25 honorees. The honorees are in three categories:

Legacy Art (con't)

artists, celebrities, and benefactors. There are 18 artists, four benefactors, and three celebrities. At the request of those planning this event, the names of the honorees will not be disclosed at this time. This event will include a reception and a formal program.

♥ *The Legacy X commemorative program*

In honor of the 10th anniversary, the planning committee has decided to do a forty-eight page commemorative booklet for this year's auction. It will be much different than the usual auction program. The goal is to raise sufficient funds from advertising space to pay for the entire booklet. We hope to be able to have numerous pages of pictures from past Legacy events and showcase the many memories created during our first 10 years. ♥

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You will soon be receiving an invitation to join in the advertising effort. As an individual, you can purchase advertising space by the line or purchase a larger share (business card, ¼ page, ½ page, or full page). You can provide a simple message such as "Congratulations on 10 years of Legacy" with your name or use your purchased space to thank the artists of legacy, recognize the sponsoring organizations, or create a sentiment that we haven't thought of yet.

We have been fortunate to have already sold a few pages of advertising. Here are a couple of examples of how the space was used:

"The Texas State Technical College congratulates Amado & JB Peña and everyone associated with the Legacy Art Albuquerque on your work in helping young men and women benefit from higher education." There is much more to the ad than this but this is an illustration of what can be done.

"The Rio Grande Gallery in Old Town Albuquerque, New Mexico features work by 2008 Legacy featured artist C.J. Wells". The ad also lists all of the other artists that are featured by the gallery. It, of course, also lists all the pertinent gallery contact information.

You should receive a letter soon and we hope you will support this effort, even if only in a small way. The individual price per line is \$25 (50 characters) so, hopefully, everyone can do that. ♥



Update from Lou Diamond's summer reality show

I don't know what order this newsletter will be in when I lay it out but this is the last section to be written because it remains a "burr in my saddle". About three weeks ago, we were notified by the Entertainment Industry Fund (EIF) that the winning proceeds for "I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here" are \$29,981.

I know how disappointed many of you will be about this news. We all worked very hard to help Lou win and the results are painful. Lou is very disappointed, also. Apparently, based on the information I received, neither NBC nor Granada Productions supplemented the funds that were raised from viewers (\$149,090). Many people were under the impression that additional funds would be added to the fund by one or both of the entities that brought the show to TV. It didn't happen that way, unfortunately.

I've been told that NBC couldn't supplement because the company was involved in a sale, which recently was consummated with Comcast. All expenses were being watched carefully and there was no give from the network. Granada claims to have lost money in this endeavor although I find that hard to believe.

I hope through your disappointment that you will always remember how much fun and craziness we had during those three weeks in June and how wonderful the feelings of pride were that Lou chose Art Has Heart. That is the perspective I will keep about this whole thing and hope you will, as well.

In the final analysis, the foundation has more funds than it had when this whole thing began and for that, we should all be grateful, at least to Lou. Now, make sure you don't watch NBC (just kidding!). ♥

Documentary to feature Amado Peña

As some of you may know, there has been casual chatter for a number of years about producing a documentary of Amado. In earlier iterations for the project, the cost was prohibitive. Having access to a first class film studio for production and editing as well as funds for all the travel required is expensive. The idea, however, never really went away.

The documentary will now be produced because we have been able to link with the vast re-

sources of both the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) System and the El Paso Community College's public television facility. These two institutions have been joined by the financial support (underwriting) of Harvey Johnson.

Having the in-kind donations of two large educational institutions has substantially reduced the costs of production and put the project in reach, financially. It, of course, could not be accom-

plished without the generous support of Art Has Heart director, Harvey Johnson.

Advisory board member, Margot Perez-Greene, has served on the staff at TSTC as a legislative liaison for a number of years and both Amado and Harvey have a long and sustaining relationship with the El Paso Community College. The largest collection of Amado's work is housed there and his only mural adorns a full wall at the entrance of the administrative building. ♥

From the director's chair

Filmmaker discusses art, life and message of Amado



Margot Perez Greene, a member of the Art Has Heart Advisory Board, is directing a documentary about Amado Peña. Amado's journey has been long and winding, and she wants to find anyone who might have something interesting to add to the film. If you know of someone she needs to talk to, she asks that you contact her at 512-924-6733.

Margot Perez-Greene will direct the documentary of Amado Peña and his life. I had the chance to ask Margot Perez-Greene five questions about the project and here are her answers:

When will the project be finished?

We will be finished with all aspects of the documentary by October 31, 2010.

How will the documentary be distributed?

Given that we have two large community college systems involved in producing the documentary, it follows that one natural audience for this documentary will be the nation's community and technical colleges. Amado has a long and proven track record of support for the two-year colleges and, given that, it makes a lot of sense to involve them in the distribution and use of this film.

I see this film as a summary of the art, life, and message of Amado. In that sense, it should be a perfect vehicle for college faculty, fund-raising, art exhibits, and messaging.

In addition, the goal is to sell the production to PBS and, of course, make the film available for direct purchase to Amado's many friends and collectors.



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 P.O. Box 57045
 Albuquerque, NM 87187-7045
 505-897-7172

Filmmaker discusses Amado documentary (con't.)

How long is the documentary and who is doing the voice narrative?

The documentary will be one hour in length although to get to that point, we will have to get a few hundred hours of film competed. I am really pleased that Lou Diamond Phillips has agreed to do the voice for the film. I know Lou will bring a lot to that aspect of the documentary and it will be a pleasure to have him involved.

Which periods of his life does the documentary cover?

Amado has had an incredible journey. Hopefully, the film will touch on most of it. As those who know him understand, the word *mestizo* is not just a word with Amado. It describes his being. He is part Mexican (his dad) and Yaqui (his mom). The documentary will explore these aspects as we follow his life from Laredo to Crystal City to Austin and on to Santa Fe.

Why did you want to do this documentary?

I know it might sound cheesy to some but I started to get to know Amado's art back in the mind 80s when I worked at Austin Community College. Then, when I worked at UT Austin, I got to know Amado more as a person. I have always loved his message about giving back and documenting his life and his art is a way to give something back to him and, at the same time, give something important to others. The story about who cares about you always resonates with me and this documentary will show a lot of that.



In time for Christmas giving

Unique gift cards from Legacy artists

I also wanted to mention that we have published blank message stationery cards using images of 12 of our Legacy artists. The cards are available now. They are divided into six vertical and six horizontal images and come boxed. Some of artists included in the set are Amado and JB Peña, John Axton, Helen Hall, Benjamin Harjo, Pablo Milan, Carla Romero, and others.

A solicitation letter is included with this newsletter. I hope everyone associated with Art Has Heart purchases a set to use and another to give as a gift. Both Art Has Heart and St. Pius X have 500 boxes of cards to sell.

This is another example of how generous are Legacy artists are because they are allowing us to use their artistic talent in this way. ♥

Final Thoughts

To say the least, this has been a strange but wonderful year for Art Has Heart. It has also been a year with some unusual peaks and valleys. I want to thank each of you for the support you have provided to us. I was thinking about the directors and advisors the other day and I think I can safely say that everyone provided some level of support during 2009. That puts a bow on a very nice present.

Executive Director Comments

I want to thank each of you for all you do to help the foundation and I surely look forward to 2010. I am old school and I still use the words Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I want to express those sentiments to each of you and your family. Stay safe over the holidays and best wishes for a wonderful 2010.

Mike R. DeVault ♥

*Merry Christmas and
 Happy New Year*

