

## ***Merry Christmas to all our Friends***

Here it is again, the Holiday Season. How are Kathryn and Peter doing, oh and Willy too, in their little mud house on the edge of the prairie? Not bad at all. We just had our first winter storm which delivered about four inches of snow and temperatures approaching zero (-18°C) but now the thaw is on, the wood stove is warming us, body and soul, we've ordered a couple of cords of dry red fir—we've been using up wood made redundant by the warming climate— and we each have a pile of books to while away the long winter nights as Kathryn is doing just now while Willy just lays in front of the stove dozing and dreaming of—I don't know— long loping runs through eight inches of fresh powder, one of his favorite things.



*Light Parade at the Plaza*



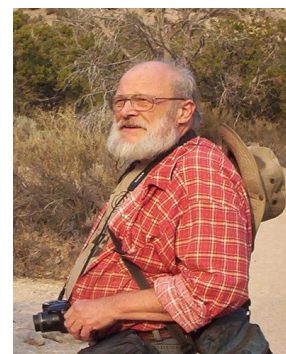
During the Spring Kathryn worked on Pueblo ceramics in Santa Fe under the tutelage of Clarence Cruz from Ohkay Owingeh pueblo. She learned to dig and prepare the clay, hand building by coiling, slipping and painting using a chewed yucca leaf to paint with and then the wood firing in an open courtyard at Pojoaque Pueblo. This happened during the time of our most productive monsoonal rains—twice the firing was rescheduled.

Peter continues his walks with Willy along the much reduced Gallinas River—in fact for the majority of the time the trickle that remains does not get out of town—photographing the flora and fauna, checking out the scents and laying down their own, meeting and greeting the regulars and tourists, sometimes stopping for for a more extensive conversation and or play session. Peter has a new project—in addition to remodeling la Casa—of photographing and cataloging all the flowering plants and birds found in Las Vegas so that when the drought reduces the area to a barren desert we can remember what was there. Most annuals did not show this year or if they did they produced little or no fruit.



*Tent Rock fantastic being*

In October Peter and our friend Hans—co- birthday celebrants with mom Wait 96 years—went on a four day trek around some nearby scenic and archaeological sites: Tent Rocks, a fascinating geological extravaganza of slot canyon, hoodoos, tipi rocks and fantastic beings; Kauau a Tiwa pueblo, once thought to be the Coronado's base in 1540—no evidence of that but they found a wonderful Kiva its walls covered with seven layers of murals—Jémez country with an imposing ruin of their first church; then over Jémez mountain, across Pajarito Plateau, past four water falls and the origin of last years Las Conchas fire—largest in NM history— and home.



We fill out our year with picnic outings with family and friends to some of our favorite river and mountain parks and Fiestas: Wagon Mound Bean Days & Bar-B-Que—we skipped the rodeo this year due to lack of bleachers— Cimarron Days, Cleveland Roller Mill Fiesta—which reminds us of some old time Marin art & music festival— Santa Fe Opera US premiere of *King Robert* by Szymanowski Las Vegas Fiestas three days of music 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade & the Christmas Light parade etc.

***Have a Blissful New Year 2013, your friends***

*Kathryn*  
*& Peter*