

# santa fean

April/May 2015

25+  
locals  
we love

THE  
PEOPLE ISSUE



# city different

the buzz around town

KATERUSSELL

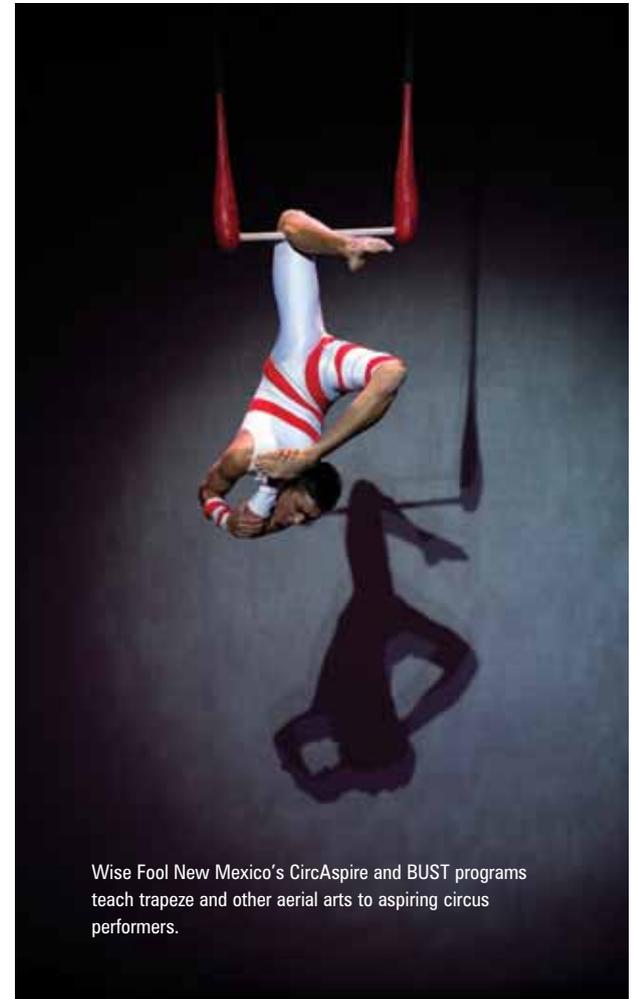
## the circus of life

**PERFORMANCE** This spring, the nearly 20-year-old physical-theater company Wise Fool New Mexico is rolling out a new annual program called CircAspire, which, according to a press release, “seeks to provide youth and adult performers the opportunity to be a part of a pre-professional show.” The first such show, *CircAspire: The Circus of Lost Dreams*, is being held at the James A. Little Theater on May 1 and 2 and will showcase performers ages seven and up who won slots clowning, juggling, stilt-walking, and more through auditions that were held in February. The show will be directed by international performer and educator Apollo Garcia and produced by Wise Fool Youth Programs Director Ilana Blankman.

Also in May, Wise Fool is holding its annual BUST Circus Intensive Workshop, which, since 2002, has aimed “to provide a safe space for women of all shapes, sizes, ages (16–90+), gender presentations, backgrounds, and ability levels to come together and explore their physical and inner strength while building trust and community.” Women attending the workshop will take classes in trapeze arts, acrobatics, and much more in the evenings and on weekends (so that they can maintain their 9 to 5 schedules) and then perform at The Armory for the Arts Theater in June.

“Both CircAspire and BUST are exemplary of Wise Fool’s desire to provide an opportunity for people . . . [from] any walk of life, really . . . to go beyond themselves in a way never experienced before,” Wise Fool Executive Director Amy Christian said in a statement. “Circus is more than just performance. There is something we see in all our students as they get to know themselves, others, and this art form that reverberates back into the community.”—Cristina Olds

*CircAspire: The Circus of Lost Dreams, May 1, 7 PM, May 2, 2 PM and 7 PM, \$5–\$15, James A. Little Theater, 1060 Cerrillos; BUST workshops, May 17–June 28; performances June 26, 7:30 PM; June 27, 2 PM and 7:30 PM, \$5–\$15, The Armory for the Arts Theater, 1050 Old Pecos Tr, wisefoolnewmexico.com*



Wise Fool New Mexico’s CircAspire and BUST programs teach trapeze and other aerial arts to aspiring circus performers.

GABRIELLA MARKS

## celebrating local treasures

**FESTIVAL** On May 23, the Native Treasures: Indian Arts Festival kicks off its 11th year of showcasing the work of top Native American artists and raising funds for Museum Hill's Museum of Indian Arts and Culture (MIAC). One of the event's annual traditions is bestowing a Living Treasure award on an artist, and this year the honor falls to two people—sisters Keri Ataumbi and Teri Greeves, who will be celebrated during a Friday night fundraising cocktail party at the Santa Fe Community Convention Center.

“Keri and Teri’s museum-quality work, although different in medium and form, represents some of the essential values of the Native Treasures: Indian Arts Festival, including the storytelling that is an intrinsic quality of their work,” MIAC director Della Warrior said in a statement.

Ataumbi creates contemporary gold and silver jewelry that she compares to small sculpture and has what she calls “a conceptual narrative exploration” at its core. Her extensive collections of earrings, belt buckles, sunglasses, and other items feature detailed imagery of animals, sea creatures, insects, and geometric shapes that give a nod to cultural and historical themes related to her Kiowa background. “Our family, our heritage, and the aesthetic our ancestors have passed down to us informs my work,” she has said.

Greeves’s beadwork also tells stories related to her Kiowa culture, and while she works on cuffs, deerskin tapestries, and cloth tepees, her most recognized pieces are her beaded tennis shoes. “Kiowa people have almost always adorned their footwear . . . [as] an expression of self, of society, of tribe, and of humanity,” Greeves notes in a statement.

Both sisters’ work can be found in the collections of notable museums, such as the Heard Museum and the Museum of Contemporary Native Arts for Ataumbi and the British Museum and the National Museum of the American Indian for Greeves. — CO



Teri Greeves,  
*Gkoy-goo  
Mah Beaded  
Shoes*

*Native Treasures: Indian Arts Festival, Friday Night Benefit, May 22, 5:30–7:30 PM, \$100; May 23, 9 AM–5 PM, \$10–\$20; May 24, 10 AM–5 PM, free, Santa Fe Community Convention Center, 201 W Marcy, [nativetreasures.org](http://nativetreasures.org)*

Keri Ataumbi,  
*Mussel Shell Necklace,*  
sterling silver and  
22-kt gold



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## Morgan Stanley

# Santa Fe rocks

talented local musicians keep  
the City Different humming

by Cristina Olds photographs by Gabriella Marks

SANTA FE ISN'T JUST a creative mecca for visual artists. Musicians performing in all genres—from rock and pop to blues and country—are drawn to the City Different, too, thanks to the number of intimate venues, both new and longstanding, and loyal, concertgoing fans. Here are just a few of our favorite local talents who entertained us during the past year.



Stephanie Hatfield has said that she loves feeling the connection with her audience when performing, and her July show at the Santa Fe Bandstand certainly demonstrated that bond. While Hatfield played her eclectic mix of country, rock, and jazz as part of the free summer concert series on the Plaza, tourists and locals alike were moved by her powerful vocals. The classically trained singer/songwriter teaches voice lessons and regularly performs on Santa Fe stages with her band, Hot Mess.

## Loop: Pojoaque

by Carol Moldaw

A restless sleeper, the Pojoaque shifts  
in its gravel bed and sighs, shrinks into itself,

secretes mud curls. I try to keep everything  
I think in my head but each former thought

a new one displaces. By the time I'm home  
I forget them all. Owl guano drips down

the arroyo's side. On the mesa, small precipices,  
out-juttings. Horsetail, tamarisk, grow

where they are blown, root in river sand—  
also the cow hoof, the plexi camper shell.

*"Loop: Pojoaque" was first published in Narrative.*

## Fault Lines

by Arthur Sze

He pours water into a cup: at room temperature,  
the cup is white, but, after he microwaves it,

and before steeping a tea bag with mint leaves,  
he notices outlines of shards have formed

above the water. As the cup cools, the lines  
disappear: now he glimpses fault lines

inside himself and feels a Siberian tiger  
pace along the bars of a cell—black, orange,

white; black, orange, white—and feels how  
the repeating notes send waves through him.

His eyes glisten, and he tries to dispel the crests,  
but *what have I done, what can I do* throbs

in his arteries and veins. Today he will  
handle plutonium at the lab and won't

consider beryllium casings. He situates the past  
in the slight aroma of mint rising in the air.

Sometimes he's an astronaut suspended  
above earth twisting on an umbilical cord;

sometimes he's in the crosshairs of a scope,  
and tiger stripes flow in waves across his body.

*"Fault Lines" is from Compass Rose (Copper Canyon Press, 2014).*



David Geist



Tiho Dimitrov



John Kurzweg

ADRIAN WILLIS

Above, left: San Diego native David Geist brings world-class piano-playing to the Southwest, charming audiences with his renditions of famous tunes. The concert pianist is also a cabaret performer, composer, conductor, and educator who draws from his vast experience working on Broadway productions. "David likes interacting with the crowd," says Steven Lemon, owner of Pranzo Italian Grill, where Geist regularly performs his cabaret act with other big-name entertainers. "People come specifically to see him and the performers he brings in."

Left: John Kurzweg cranks out original jams and classic rock covers regularly at spots like El Farol on Canyon Road. Thirty years ago, Kurzweg lit up the music scene in Tallahassee, but today he's best known as the producer of three multiplatinum albums by the post-grunge band Creed. Kurzweg also played keyboards and provided supporting vocals on Creed's first three albums. When he's not performing live, Kurzweg produces music from his home studio in Santa Fe's foothills.



Trixie Merkin



# locals we love

Opposite: Tiho Dimitrov channels Eric Clapton, Robert Clay, and Carlos Santana during his regular appearances at El Farol. The Bulgarian-born, Santa Fe-raised guitarist, who won the Best Blues Guitar Player Award for New Mexico in the Ernie Ball Guitar Center's 2012 Battle of the Blues competition and was recently recognized (for the second time) as the best in the blues genre by the New Mexico Music Awards, gets the crowds going with his rockin', dance-friendly sound. "I like the blues, but I also like mixing it up with more contemporary music," Dimitrov says. His first CD, which features all original work except one Clapton cover, was released last summer.



Zenobia, a singer-songwriter with deep roots in the music industry, performs locally at La Fonda's Fiesta Lounge and Evangelo's Cocktail Lounge and also tours nationally. This spring, she's performing with the Kansas City Repertory Theatre's concert production of the rock musical *Hair*, singing the same part she performed on Broadway more than 40 years ago. Zenobia recently won the best religious/gospel song award from the New Mexico Music Awards for "One More Night," featured on her CD *Resurrection*. Besides singing backup with numerous musicians from the 1970s through the 2000s—including The Weather Girls, on their enduring disco hit "It's Raining Men"—Zenobia is also a music producer and composer who plays keyboards, guitar, harmonium, and drums. With her band, including legendary bass guitarist Trixie Merkin (left), Zenobia performs original tunes and covers of classics by the likes of B. B. King and Bonnie Raitt.



Right: Alto Street, which comprises Steve McCormick on guitar and lead vocals; Joseph Salack on upright bass and backup vocals; and Steve Linger on slide guitar, mandolin, and backup vocals, performs a mix of blues rock, folk, alternative country, jazz, and world music. The acoustic power trio often entertains at Cowgirl BBQ, among other venues.



Steve McCormick of Alto Street



The community table in the center of Modern General welcomes visitors to linger over their food or drinks and chat with other guests.

GABRIELLA MARKS

Erin Wade



# Modern General

a fresh take on the traditional general store

by Cristina Olds

MODERN GENERAL IS a painted-brick warehouse-type structure at the north end of Cerrillos Road. Beneath high ceilings, light pours into the one-room interior through large arched windows. The items for sale, delicately hung on the walls and carefully arranged on the shelves, seem thin in number, and the furnishings seem sparse, but that's the point

"As modern consumers, we can use some editing of the mass of available options," says owner Erin Wade, who opened the shop on February 2. "We're offering a pared-down idea of what you need."

Modern General embodies the nostalgic, nationwide trend of reviving the bygone general store, in which a limited number of high-quality, functional items are easily found. Wade is smitten with many of the utilitarian garden tools she uses at her Nambé farm, where she grows much of the produce on the menu at her adjacent restaurant, Vinaigrette, so, naturally, soil blockers, axes, and pruning shears are for sale at Modern General. The store's shelves also hold hand-carved olivewood spoons, saltcellars, and books, among other meticulously curated essentials. "We're still working on the collection as we find better, more local, and more sustainable things to offer," Wade notes.

Modern General is more than just a retail store, however—it also has single-origin coffee, fresh-pressed juices, a daily specialty sandwich, and a few fresh breakfast offerings. The simple fare includes timeless favorites such as peanut butter and jelly on toast and homemade granola. Fruit-filled Czech pastries called kolaches are baked daily, using Wade's grandmother's recipe. Wade hopes to eventually grind her own flours—for baking and for bulk sale—from amaranth, einkorn, and other alternative grains using a custom-built mill imported from Austria.

When she's not traveling back and forth between Santa Fe and Austin, where construction of a third Vinaigrette restaurant is underway (the second location is in Albuquerque), Wade might be spotted at Modern General sipping coffee with whipped cream, and she invites others to join her.

"Santa Fe is a pretty progressive, awesome community," she says. "People here will get that we're offering less on purpose and doing it as an act of love and nurturing." ■

*Modern General, Monday–Saturday, 7 AM–7 PM, Sunday, 8 AM–3 PM, 637 Cerrillos, moderngeneralnm.com*

"We're trying to create a communal atmosphere in Santa Fe that's both functional and beautiful," says Modern General owner Erin Wade.



Modern General serves organic food and beverages and offers a carefully curated selection of everyday home items "We have 10 commandments for things we'd source," Wade says. "Items need to be made with a certain amount of integrity, be beautiful to behold, and be built as close to home as possible."



# Carlsbad Caverns National Park

Proof that Southeastern New Mexico was once a coastline can be readily found at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, where fossilized sea creatures and plants dating back 240–280 million years are embedded in the limestone walls. Unlike many limestone caves that are formed from water erosion, however, the 120 that make up Carlsbad Caverns were created approximately 17–20 million years ago by naturally occurring sulfuric acid that dissolved ancient inland sea reefs.

The park, located about 20 miles south of the town of Carlsbad, can be toured with or without a guide. Take an elevator 750 feet underground to see a variety of cave features along the Big Room Trail, a 1.25-mile path surrounded by limestone formations called speleothems that are described as looking like columns, draperies, soda straws, popcorn, and more. You'll also see stalactites hanging down from the ceilings and stalagmites emerging from the floors.

The caverns provide a cool and humid 57-degree respite from the southern New Mexico sun year-round, but an ideal time to visit is mid-April to late-October, when nearly 400,000 Brazilian free-tailed bats perform a nightly mass exodus from the caves. Since the caverns are a roughly 4.5-hour drive from Santa Fe, you may want to consider lodging or camping in town. For more information, visit [nps.gov/cave](http://nps.gov/cave).—*Cristina Olds*

