

Inside



Page 3
Artist of joy



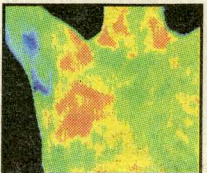
Page 9
Rammed Earth
Home Building



Page 10
Green Grannies and
Kitchen Gardens



Page 11
Guiding Light of
Catching Water



Page 14
Painless Thermal
Breast Imaging

T U C S O N

Green

M A G A Z I N E

FREE

- Health
- Good Food
- Natural Living
- Home & Garden
- Style & Arts
- Local News

SEPTEMBER 2008
August 15 - September 15

How local can you go?

*Food Conspiracy Co-op
to host an "Eat Local
America Challenge"
in September*

By Torey Ligon

Want to eat more local foods but not sure where to begin, when to start, or how to stick to it? Look no further, aspiring locavore!

Food Conspiracy Co-op is hosting an "Eat Local America" challenge this September and invites the Tucson community to consume more locally grown and produced foods. Each participant in the challenge will determine his or her own personal challenge goal, be it 80 percent local ingredients or one local food each day.

The challenge will take place September 15-30, a time when many local farms will be in harvest mode. During the month of September, the Co-op will have many local items to choose from, along with menu



Artist deepens sense of joy with whimsical clay

By Tim Hull

A totem, according to my battered old Dictionary of Anthropology, is an object, whether animal, plant, mineral or otherwise, toward which members of a kinship unit have a special mystical relationship.

All of us have them, these totems - some cat, dog, or panda bear, some specific breed of twisted cactus, some small smooth slab of found rock, something that somehow helps define us, if only to ourselves. Such totems are all wrapped up in the stories we tell ourselves and others, the unbroken narratives of our lives.

Clearly, one of artist Gail T. Roberts's totems is clay. For more than 30 years now she's been building beauty using that earthen material -- celebrating nature, color, and community with mosaics and murals through private commissions and public art projects.

She is perhaps best known these days for her beautiful butterfly-themed piece at Tucson's Brandi Fenton Memorial Park, a playful, colorful clay-tile mural in which

each butterfly can be identified according to species.

That's one of the surprises that makes the work being churned out of the Gail Roberts Studio, in a remodeled garage on the edge of her historic midtown bungalow, so interesting. At first sight the work - which is designed and completed by Roberts with help from collaborators and assistants Lori Ryder, Terri Kay, and others - exudes a folk-style all its own, fun and decorative. But look a little closer and you'll see that the plants aren't fantastic creations, but real, precise native species, only a bit stylized.

"I think we are bringing nature into people's lives," Roberts said when I visited her studio in July. "Nature sure got it right; it's so magical. I want people to feel like they are looking deep within something and celebrating beauty."

"I'm not one of these dour artists," she added. "I'm trying to make people happy."

Perhaps that's why it's difficult to look at her work without smiling. She has somehow managed to translate the abstract nature of joy into clay.

One of her most interesting pieces to date is one of her most recent: a red-clay totem pole she installed in a client's north side backyard this summer.

I stood around and watched one early morning while Roberts and Ryder installed the finished "totem pole" in a space pe-

Continued on page 6



PHOTO: Tim Hull

Artist Gail T. Roberts (on ladder) and Lori Ryder install a unique "totem pole" at the north-side home of a client. Roberts feels the earthen clay she molds gives people an opportunity to connect more deeply with nature,

WHO TO CONTACT

Gail T. Roberts

Gail Roberts Studio

(520) 906-5706

Email: gailarts@cox.net

www.gailrobertsarts.com/studio.html

Pure Alaskan Wild Salmon!

What makes our Salmon so Special?

