

# FACC Newsletter

Genealogical Society of Hispanic America Volume 25, Issue 3



## President's Message

Dear FACC Members,

Third quarter for FACC has been a busy one. Our speakers, Marcus Luna Flores helped us navigate research at the NM State Archives in Santa Fe and Anthony Garcia enlightened us on our Jewish connection. We also had a great Annual Picnic which was one of our best yet with credit going to Ruth and Victor. Monumental success was accomplished at our GSHA Conference here in Pueblo hosted by FACC. A well deserved pat on the back goes to the Conference Committee consisting of Bob Craig, Charlene Garcia Simms and Jeanette Martinez. A great big thank you also goes to all the conference volunteers that worked hard at each task.

Moving forward, much work has been done in preparation for fourth quarter. A field trip has been organized by John Valdez to go to Española and Abiquiu on Oct. 4-5. We will learn from Roberto Valdez, an instructor at New Mexico College, Mrs. Isabel Trujillo, Director of Abiquiu Library and her husband, Virgil Trujillo. Día de los Muertos will be celebrated at our October meeting. Please bring a picture of your loved one that has passed on to the other side so we can put it on our "Ofrenda."

## Speakers

Oct. 13—Día de los Muertos

Nov. 10—Sean Trujillo, Santero

Dec. —Holiday Dinner Party

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FACC Meetings

8:30-10 am – Library, research, fellowship, refreshments.

10-11 am – Meeting.

11-12 pm – Speaker.

Location: Pueblo Heritage

Museum: 201 West B St, Pueblo, CO

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President – Carmen Arteaga

Vice-President – John Valdez

Secretary – Lynda Sena Kouba

Treasurer – Bob Craig (seeking new volunteer)

Members-at-large:

Tom Martinez

Ron Sandoval

Victor Sena

Penny Garcia

GSMA Representative:

Mary Ellen Burciago

And of course, we will be celebrating “Mis Crismes” during our December meeting.

Speaking of moving forward, nominations will be the order of the day in November so that we will have our officers in place for the 2019-20 term. Penny Garcia has been appointed our new Member at Large.

An unexpected fundraiser was suggested by John Ribal to make *ristras* and encourage attendees to join FACC. It was a delightful event held at his home. Everyone left with their own ristra of their own making. We made some money and I’m pretty sure we will get new members because of this. Muchas gracias, John.

It would be thoughtless of me if I didn’t mention the loss of one of FACC’s past presidents, Rita Morales. May all our deceased loved ones rest in peace.

Un Abrazo Fuerte,  
Carmen Arteaga, FACC President

## Treasurer’s Report

By Bob Craig 7-1-2018 thru 9-30-2018

### Operating

Income	\$ 1,846.09
Expenses	<u>\$(1,718.45)</u>

### Raffle

Income	\$ 353.00
Expenses	<u>\$ (246.50)</u>

### Account Balances as of Sept. 30, -2018

Operating	\$2545.28
Raffle	\$ 139.45
Savings	<u>\$5239.22</u>
Total	<u>\$7,923.95</u>

Contact FACC Treasurer for detailed report  
or Email [akdcraig@aol.com](mailto:akdcraig@aol.com)

## Notification of Upcoming Election

by John Valdez

I have posted this important information for the purpose of providing FACC membership election By-Laws and Procedures.

### Election of Officers

#### 1. Terms of Office

A. All officers will be elected for two-year terms. The **President** and **Secretary** and **two Member-at-large** will be elected in the even numbered years whose actual term of service commences, upon formal installation of the new board members, in January of the year immediately following the election process. The remaining officers shall be elected in the odd numbered years whose actual term of service commences, upon formal installation of the new board members, in January of the Year immediately following the election process.

Procedure 2012-8A indicates that:

- The FACC President will announce the upcoming election of officers at the October meeting.
- The eligibility requirements to run for office pursuant to the ByLaws of the Chapter.
- The date that nominations close.

As the Vice-President of FACC, I will chair the Nomination Committee which includes the election process as well. If you are interested in assisting me, please e-mail me at [jvaldez03vette@hotmail.com](mailto:jvaldez03vette@hotmail.com).

## Speakers for Fourth Quarter

### October 13, 2018

Instead of a speaker, FACC will celebrate Día de los Muertos at the October meeting. Please bring photos or objects to put on the Ofrenda (offering table). Marigolds are appropriate if you have them.

### November 10, 2018

Sean Trujillo, a Denver-based Santero, will be the November speaker. His focus will be on religious art.

### December 8, 2018

We will celebrate the holidays at the December FACC meeting. Christmas will be on Tuesday this year and Chanukah begins on Dec. 2.

## Marcus Flores' Talk

By Deborah Martinez Martinez

Marcus Flores, Archivist at Santa Fe State Archives in New Mexico, spoke at the July 2018 meeting. He personalized his presentation using his search for his many times grandfather through several different archives. Under the prevue of the Santa Fe Archives are the transcribed records of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe (1690 to 1967, 68 parishes). The Fray Angelico Chavez collection contains the 'delegencias', or matrimonial investigations, patents, and loose documents.

Flores said that the most important of these are the **loose documents** because these are items not usually included elsewhere. Loose documents may include baptisms, marital documents, burial information, letters and investigations.

He mentioned other archives. The Spanish Archives (SAMNI, SANII) contain land records, civil records, some transcribed, some translated. The Mexican archives are not searchable but contain census, military and hacienda records from 1835 to 1845. Hacienda tax lists, 1836, are also valuable. Territory Archives are from 1846 to 1912 and can include military records but are microfilm only.

Then there are the County Records. These include marriages from the Justice of the Peace, land, probate, and licenses, as well as Brand Books and naturalization records.

Santa Fe Archives include penitentiary records from 1905 to 1958 and are searchable by name. These documents are NOT on [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com). Parole Board document are also included.

Other resources are the 300 or so private collections.

Marcus made access to these different archives seem easy as he demonstrated step by step how he gained information about his grandfather. He invited FACC members to visit him in Santa Fe.

## Journey to the Light with Author Anthony Garcia

by John Valdez

Noted author, Anthony Garcia took the FACC members through his research journey for his book, Portal of Light, Kabbalah, Emmanuel and the Church at the September 8, 2018 meeting.

Garcia shared a portion of his life story, his bond with his maternal grandfather, a *penitente* from Rociada, New Mexico. These memories, stories and admiration of his grandfather contributed to the author's interest in the family's history. As a child, he listened to his grandfather and other elders sing *Alabados* (hymns of praise). The lyrics and genre contain several Ladino words which led him to a lifelong study of *alabados*. He eventually authored the historic [www.Alabados.com](http://www.Alabados.com) website.

The Portal of Light is a historical, non-fiction account of the cryptic journey of the Judaic community of New Mexico and Southern Colorado. The author's study of an untitled Play (from the 1700s) which was written in Spanish and the Ladino language (a mixture of Spanish and Hebrew) is an analysis of its many language and historical elements. According to Garcia, the Play tells the story of the birth of Jesus Christ. Shepherds are led by a "Portal of Light" to the birthplace of Emmanuel-Jesus. This play is a different account of the birth of Jesus, a different version from the story written by St. Francis in the 1500s.

In the forward of the book, Lorenzo A. Trujillo, EdD, JD, writes, "This is a reading that opens doors to many portals of mysticism, spirituality and intellect. The original writing served to teach, tell and inform a small group of believers about the journey of Emmanuel." Dr. Trujillo continues, "But, Anthony interprets the meaning to the journey of the Sephardic Jews that were expelled from Spain and found their new home in a land that most replicates Jerusalem on the 33rd latitude marker."

In addition, Dr. Trujillo writes, "This work is based on a previously unreleased, secret document that constitutes a treasured artifact of our Hispanic/Judaic people of the 33rd latitude marker. The Portal of Light is a valuable study of the hidden



Hispano people of New Mexico and southern Colorado."

The second novel, Shared Lives, Twin Sun, released in the fall of 2016, is the companion book of The Portal of Light, that brings the story to the now of today. The book, a USA Silver Award winner, is a spiritual mystery of the Ladino influenced directive into the modern world.

Garcia is currently working on a non-fiction connection of the history of cryptic Jews from the Portal of Light insight to the Dead Sea Scroll discoveries in Judea written by the Essenes community prior to the first century BCE.

## Making Ristras

By Carmen Arteaga

FACC members and non members were invited to attend a "ristra" making party at the home of John Ribal on September 19. He provided all the materials including the "sandia red" chile. John gave an instructional presentation and demonstrated how to make a ristra.

John started the party by explaining that he belonged to FACC and that there were two reasons for having this "ristra" making party. He wanted to recruit more members for FACC and he wanted to raise a little money for our organization. Each participant would donate \$10 to make a ristra. What a bargain!



His wife, Linda, also cooked a delicious meal of beans, red chile and tortillas for all to share.

The evening was not only educational, it was very enjoyable.

Of interest to genealogy researchers:

Talk on Los Genizaros

On Sun., Oct. 7, Moises Gonzales of Albuquerque, NM, will speak at El Pueblo History Museum on the topic of Genizaros. The free, public presentation is part of the Dia de la Raza event from 5-8 pm sponsored by the Abolish Columbus Day

## Book Review

By Deborah Martinez Martinez

The Spanish Language of New Mexico and Southern Colorado: A Linguistic Atlas by Garland D. Bills and Neddy A. Vigil published by University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, NM, 2008.

Modern as well as historic New Mexicans are aware and protective of the type of colloquial (regional) Spanish they and their ancestors speak so when I saw the book, I was eager to give it a read. The Atlas represents the evaluation of interviews with 357 U.S.-born Spanish speakers in New Mexico and Southern Colorado. Graduate students worked under the guidance and leadership of University of New Mexico Professors Garland Bills and Neddy Vigil between 1991 and 1996 and funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

This includes a chapter on Nahuatlisms, Anglicisms, and Mexicanisms (words from Nahuatl, English, and Mexico). Some words are from the Taino language.

In Chapter Two "New Mexican Spanish: Myths and Realities," the authors list five "myths" about the New Mexican/Southern Colorado Spanish. Myth 2 is "New Mexican Spanish is the Spanish of 16th Century Spain." This myth is pervasive and is enhanced by modern media (*Milagro Beanfield War*) that repeats the romantic idea about the Castilian "purity" of the people and the language. According to the authors, New Mexicans have no more direct bloodline links to Spain than the people of Mexico or other countries

of the Americas. Juan Antonio Trujillo (1997) said that when gathering the first colonists for the trip north from Mexico City, those recruited were mestizo immigrants of modest means who already spoke a hybrid American Spanish (including some Nahuatl) that had been developing over nearly two centuries. Their ties were closer to Mexico as it changed than with Spain. Despite this, some New Mexican/Coloradans still refer to themselves and their ancestors as “Españoses.”

In the chapter on “Mexicanisms,” the authors state, “The political boundary between the United States and Mexico has made it convenient to pretend that the Spanish spoken on the two sides are very different.” However, they say, very little research supports the idea the languages are different.

The authors, both professors of Spanish, affirm that structurally New Mexico Spanish “really is” Mexican Spanish. An example is the Nahuatl word “cuates,” for “twins,” used in both New Mexico and Mexico. The standard Spanish word is “gemelos.”

In summary, the *Atlas* captured many of the delightful words once thought common only to those isolated New Mexican and Coloradan communities with roots back to the 1600s. The authors provide maps of which words were used where in Southern Colorado and New Mexico. Although it is great fun exploring these words, the base message is that if modern relatives of those antepasados want to hang onto the language, encourage the use of Spanish whether you call it “standard,” “archaic,” New Mexican or Mexican. We won’t lose those oddball words for quite some time if the academic world keeps poking at them.

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**FACC Website:** <http://facc-genealogy.weebly.com/>  
**FACC Facebook Group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/faccgsha/>  
**GSHA:** <http://www.gsha.net/>  
 FACC President Carmen Arteaga email  
[carmen.arteaaga@hotmail.com](mailto:carmen.arteaaga@hotmail.com)

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## A Moment for Members Who Have Passed....

by Penny Garcia

Rita Morales, Past President FACC  
 Alfredo Romero (father of Connie Romero)  
 John Romero (brother of Connie Romero)  
 Oralia Garcia (mother of Kathy Pacheco)

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Contact Newsletter Editor  
 Deborah Martinez Martinez, 719-561-0993  
 Email: [VanishingHorizons1@me.com](mailto:VanishingHorizons1@me.com)  
 Articles and Suggestions Welcome

Board of Directors Meetings:  
 Open to the Membership  
 First Tuesday of the Month, 5 pm at Pueblo  
 Heritage Museum, 201 W. B St., Pueblo, CO

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## A Story of Connection

by Mary Ellen Burciago

**To forget one’s ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root. – Chinese Proverb**

During the GSHA Conference held in August here in Pueblo, genealogy networking was electric. Two by two or in small groups, people could be seen in intense conversations. Much of the focus was sharing how the individuals were connected/related with one another.

One such situation was pointed out to me. It was a face to face meeting of two dedicated genealogists: one who is noted as outstanding among her peers and whose work has been published, and the other who is a friend to many of us in FACC.

**Angela Lewis’** Chavez/Gurule mother always told her they were French. By the time she became an adult, this bit of information propelled her curiosity into the field of genealogy. Since someone in her family had already done extensive research into the Lewis line, she started

investigating the Chavez/Gurule line. She soon discovered the work of Virginia Olmstead and so began her research journey.

Angela says she loves puzzles and sorting disparate pieces of information until they make sense and she achieves some semblance of order. She was able to use these traits in her work at Kirtland Air Force Base and now in her genealogy research. For example, she helped Leon Moya (who lives in Australia) build and maintain the GURULE Family web site (Gurulefamily.org). The first post on this site was in 1998. Twenty years later she is still actively involved researching this family line.

Today, Angela is retired but busier than ever working as a volunteer County Coordinator for NMGENWEB serving Bernalillo, Sandoval, and San Miguel counties. She has been a board member for four years of the NMGS, where she takes care of its Facebook page which reaches over 5,200 members as well as an extensive mailing list.

Three hundred miles away, **Theresa Maestas'** family research, like Angela Lewis', began out of curiosity. Theresa's mother regaled her with stories of her grandmother (Theresa's great grandmother). Theresa wondered how much of her mother's memory was accurate, and so began her search. She has become quite adept at using the Internet. She has relied on sacramental record books as guides then checks these sources against original documents and archival material.

For several years, Theresa was part of the GEEKS, a local group of women who met to support one another in their own family research. They would begin their sessions with lunch, and then proceeded to share research techniques and information. All of the women in this group have been very generous in sharing their knowledge with the larger FACC member group.

Theresa has filled in many branches of her family tree but continues to search for elusive birth records for her great grandmother, Maria Sara Chacon, born circa 1887.

So, back to being **connected**. As part of her inquiries, Theresa posted a query on Genforum, which was replied to by Barbara Gurule who in turn connected her to Angela Lewis. Theresa has been grateful to Angela for her research from which she

been able to add quite a lot more information on her Gurule line. The opportunity to meet her personally at the GSHA Conference was a happy one and an added bonus to a fine national conference.

**Friends come and go, but relatives tend to accumulate.** – Unknown

### **New Mexican Words from the Atlas**

The Spanish Language of New Mexico and Southern Colorado: A Linguistic Atlas by Garland D. Bills and Neddy A. Vigil.

Created by Deborah Martinez Martinez

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|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. gallina de la tierra | a. wild berries    |
| 2. dos reales           | b. purse           |
| 3. cuilta               | c. mud             |
| 4. suiche               | d. cake            |
| 5. nagua                | e. hummingbird     |
| 6. borrega*             | f. tick (insect)   |
| 7. zacate (N)           | g. turkey          |
| 8. ganso                | h. slingshot       |
| 9. fresa                | i. owl             |
| 10. chapulín (N)        | j. grass           |
| 11. queque              | k. strawberry      |
| 12. tirador             | l. skirt (Taino)   |
| 13. garrapata*          | m. peacock         |
| 14. cuates (N)          | n. lightning       |
| 15. maleta              | o. earthworm       |
| 16. lumbriz             | p. quarter (money) |
| 17. pavo                | q. sheep           |
| 18. chuparro*           | r. grasshopper     |
| 19. zoquete (N)         | s. switch          |
| 20. relámpago*          | t. twins           |
| 21. mora                | u. quilt           |
| 22. tecolote (N)        | v. goose           |

\*Used in both New Mexico and Mexico non-standard Spanish. N=Nahuatl language words

Key: 1-g, 2-p, 3-u, 4-s, 5-l, 6-q, 7-j, 8- v, 9-k, 10-r, 11-d, 12-h, 13-f, 14-t, 15-b, 16-o, 17-m, 18-e, 19-c, 20-n, 21-a, 22-i.