

# FACC Newsletter

Genealogical Society of Hispanic America Volume 25, Issue 4 11

## President's Message

Dear FACC Members,

The last quarter of the year has come and gone. It's amazing how fast the time goes when you're having fun. We had a couple of great parties; one for Halloween/Dia de los Muertos and one for Christmas. Also, two of our members, John Ribal and his wife, Linda, hosted a "ristra making party" at their home. John Valdez, FACC Program Chair, organized a two day field trip to Northern New Mexico College where we listened to a presentation by Roberto Valdez on the history of the Rio Chama area and the next day went to the Abiquiu Library where Isabel and Virgil Trujillo shared info on the Abiquiu history of landgrants and genizaro families.

FACC has had a great year and we are looking forward to a super 2019 working with new Heritage Museum Curator, Spencer Little.

Un Abrazo Fuerte,  
Carmen Arteaga, FACC President

## Sean Trujillo, Santero

by John Valdez

Sean calls himself a student to his ancestry and faith, an artist, and most of all Santero. His story began from a small catholic School in North Denver, to his education at the Denver School of the Arts as well as Metropolitan State University of Denver and Sean is now pursuing his career as an artist, educator and Santero as the Education Director at CHAC Gallery in Denver's Santa Fe Arts District.

In his early adulthood, Sean researched, studied and recognized the true meaning and roots of his Spanish Colonial ancestry, and the art of retablo making. He listens to the stories, carries on the traditions and deeply relate to the gifts his ancestors have given him. He is forever grateful to the Santeros who paved the way before, as well as those who create today's examples of this unique Spanish Colonial art form.

He has been painting religious icons since

## Speakers

Oct. 13—"Origins of La Llorona"

Nov. 10—Sean Trujillo, Santero

Dec. 15—XMAS 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 Kouba

Treasurer — Bob Craig (acting Treasurer)

Members-at-large:

Tom Martinez

Ron Sandoval

Victor Sena

Penny Garcia

GSHA Representative:

Mary Ellen Burciago



childhood and as he grows older, Sean is starting to have a stronger connection with his ancestry and the images he paints. He believes through each image of these saints, there is a story to be told, an example to follow, a remembrance to bring forth in a humble embodiment of religious and historical storytelling in pigment and wood. Each retablo produced is a physical manifestation of his spiritual energies, a devotion and embodiment of who he is.

The art of retablo making is one very dear to Sean and as a student to his ancestry, he finds it important to carry on traditional methods, techniques and materials used in retablo making. His uses of all natural pigments are native to Colorado

and New Mexico. His wood carvings, natural pinon varnishes, and techniques are purposely utilized to create his vision of bringing life to each piece and each story in his effort to stay true to the pure devotion of the divine as well as the Spanish Colonial style of the retablo.

Sean is deeply rooted in the history behind this Spanish Colonial style of art as a part of his blood line. He is a Denver, Colorado native whose ancestors hailed from Valladolid, Spain and colonized in Queretaro, New Spain or modern day Mexico - then migrated north and settled in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico before eventually settling in Colorado. His family's journey began long ago and he strives to continue that journey in every way possible through learning, creating and sharing.

## El Pueblo 1854 Tragedy

By Deborah Martinez Martinez

In December 1998, the Fray Angelico Chavez Chapter of the GSHA set in place the commemoration for those people who died at the El Pueblo Trading Post on Christmas Eve 1854. The FACC members and others funded the bronze plaque that remains on exhibit at El Pueblo History Museum.

On Dec. 18, 2018, FACC, in conjunction with El Pueblo History Museum staff, held a Candlelight vigil - remembrance of this 1854 Christmas Tragedy. Roberto Martinez opened the event with some guitar music. Charlene Garcia Simms and Tamara Trujillo introduced the program and read the names of those killed.



## Serendipity

by Mary Ellen Burciaga

**Serendipity** – the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way.

On September 8, 2018, author Anthony Garcia, author of *The Portal of Light* was the guest speaker at the FACC general membership meeting. He shared

with us that he listened to *Alabados* as a child. The lyrics of the alabados intrigued him, creating a lifelong study, culminating in his creation of the historic [www.alabados.com](http://www.alabados.com) website.

After his talk, he was approached by FACC member, Barbara Archuleta Trujillo. She told Garcia that

based on his talk, she thought she possessed a hand scribed Alabados notebook that belonged to one of her ancestors. Garcia asked permission from Barbara to see it and she agreed to show him the notebook.

Yes, indeed, the humble small black notebook is the real thing, according to Garcia who has seen his share of authentic notebooks. Inscribed in the front of the notebook is: **Dec 26 de 1913, Ricardo Archuleta, Cerro N. Mexico.** The pages are filled with dozens of alabados in what can only be described as flawless Palmer script. Each page is a work of art, obviously written with love and devotion by a Penitente to assist him with his devotions.

Interestingly, Barbara does not know how Ricardo Archuleta fits in her family tree. Her father, Joseph Anthony Archuleta (b1912) grew up in Los Mogotes, Colorado. Joseph Anthony's father, Barbara's grandfather was Jose Emmanuel Archuleta (b 1888) in Questa, New Mexico. Barbara speculates that the author of the alabados notebook is most likely Jose Emmanuel's brother or son.

Joseph Anthony Archuleta married Marcella Simonita Vigil who is descendant of the original Vigils that settled the San Luis Valley. Simonita's father was Victor Vigil Sr, a judge in San Luis. Barbara said a family story involves her grandmother Simonita making bootleg alcohol. With the revenuers nearing, they fed the mash to the pigs that were later observed to be quite drunk.

Now that the notebook has been verified as authentic, Barbara is left with a big decision of what to do with the notebook, that is, how to best care for it and secure it as an historic document. She will make a copy of the notebook for use by FACC members.

The serendipitous meeting of Garcia and Barbara has created a wonderful piece of history for Barbara and a rare gift to all of her FACC family.

Enrique Lamadrid defines alabados. Alabados - from the Spanish alabar, literally hymns of praise, from a repertory practiced by the Penitente Brotherhood, used generically to refer to all hymns, but specifically to the hymns on the topic of the Passion of Jesus Christ and the suffering of his Mother.



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Barbara Archuleta Trujillo with the notebook containing the Alabados.

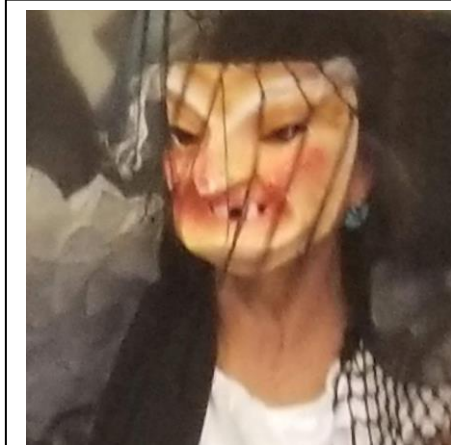
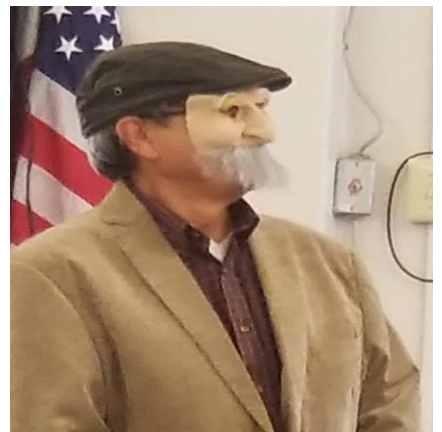
## Halloween/Dia de los Muertos Party 2018

by Carmen Arteaga

FACC celebrated Halloween/Dia de los Muertos at their October 2018 meeting. Prizes were given for best costume to Bob Craig who came as one of the Knights Templar and Jessica Tidball who dressed as La Catrina. During our Dia de los Muertos celebration a theatrical production on the Origins of La Llorona was portrayed by Virginia Ortiz and Carmen Arteaga. Folktales/legends/historical accounts have been passed down about a weeping woman which had its roots in precolumbian times. One was Cihuacoatl who was one of the omens predicting the fall of the Aztec empire. She wept through the streets of Tenochtitlan. The historical account of Malinalli, Dona Marina and Malinche were also reenacted because it also represents a connection to a weeping woman that was betrayed during precolumbian times. A dramatization of one La Llorona story in the southwest was presented. This entire adaptation was meant to be taken as a teaching moment on a popular folktale that has been passed down through generations to our gente. Thanks to all who helped in this event.



## Halloween/Dia de los Muertos Pics





## Christmas Party by Deborah Martinez Martinez

Ruth Martinez coordinated the food. Victor secured the venue. Virginia Ortiz and Ben Guerrero performed some fancy stepping and got the group up and moving with la marcha, la escova, la varsovianna, and many other dances from colonial Hispanic times.





## FACC Fieldtrip to Northern New Mexico College and Abiquiu By John Valdez

On October 4 and 5, thirty members of FACC/GSHA enjoyed a field trip to Northern New Mexico College and to Abiquiu. Attending members were from Santa Fe, NM; Pueblo, Colorado Springs and Florence, Colorado.

The presenter at Northern New Mexico College was Roberto Valdez an instructor in the Departments of History and Humanities. Mr. Valdez, a product of the Rio Chama area whose ancestral roots go back to the 18th century in the area provided a historical and geographical perspective of the area from both the Spanish and Native American points of view. He identified the villages chronologically as they were founded by the Spanish and the place names in the Pueblo Natives language. In addition, Mr. Valdez provided the following links which can be found on You Tube:

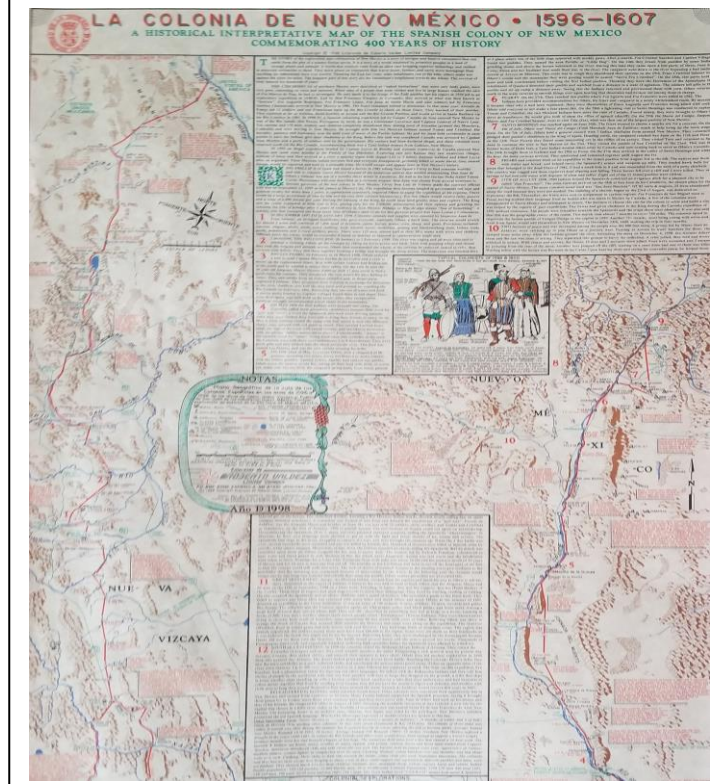
Some Homelands and Place Names of New Mexico

La Provincia de Navajo

New Mexico Emergence Myths AD 1024 to 1519

Agueda Martinez: Nuestra Vida, Nuestra Gente--Subtitulado

On Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, we were greeted in the Abiquiu Library by Isabel Trujillo, Director and her husband, Virgil Trujillo. The presentation was an historical account of Abiquiu. Covered was the history of the Pueblo de Moqui, the Abiquiu Land Grant of 1751 to the present. We were given a tour and historical account of "Santo Tomas el Apostol de Abiquiu" Church.



### Treasurer's Report

Submitted By Bob Craig, Treasurer

10-1-2018 thru 12-31-2018

#### Operating

Income \$ 1,846.09  
Expenses \$ (1,718.45)

#### Raffle

Income \$ 353.00  
Expenses \$ (246.50)

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

Operating \$2545.28  
Raffle \$ 139.45  
Savings \$5239.22  
Total \$7,923.95

Contact FACC Treasurer for detailed report or Email  
akdcraig@aol.com

FACC Website: <http://facc-genealogy.weebly.com/>

FACC Facebook

Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/faccgsha/>

GSHA: <http://www.gshaa.org/>

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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