

FACC Newsletter

Genealogical Society of Hispanic America

December 31, 2019

Volume 26, Issue 4

Speakers

Jan. 18 Kathy DeHerrera
Cochineal: new world dye
Feb. 8 Vigil Exhibit
Presentation/Tour
by FACC members
Mar. 14 Moises Gonzales
"Nacion Genizara"

FACC Meetings

8:30-10 am — Library/research
10-11 am — Meeting
11-12 pm — Speaker
Location—
Pueblo Heritage Museum
201 West B St, Pueblo, CO

BOD Meetings

First Tues. of the Month 3:30 pm
at Heritage Museum

Research

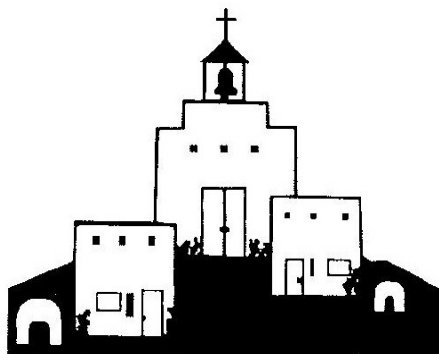
First Tues. of the Month 11-3 pm
at Heritage Museum

President — Carmen Arteaga
719-671-4921
Vice-President — John Valdez
Secretary — Kathy Pacheco
Treasurer — Bob Craig
Members-at-large
Carolyn Cordova
Tom Martinez
Phyllis Miranda
Ron Sandoval

GSHA Representative
Jessica Tidball

Newsletter Editor
Carmen Arteaga

President's Message



Edna Vargas participated in a presentation at Roselawn Chapel for Dia de los Muertos. Tom Martinez shared stories from his family tree. Phyllis continued to instruct FACC members during our Monday evening classes. Our Christmas Party was bigger and better than ever.

As everyone knows, FACC had to move out of Heritage Museum in preparation for a much needed renovation. We will move back in on Jan. 14th.

GSHA has secured a new BOD with Bob Craig leading as President and Lynda Kouba as Secretary. Congratulations.

Here's to a better year...a better decade.

Dear FACC members,

How fast the time goes! Another year has come and gone. Our organization proceeds to move along successfully and energetically.

This quarter FACC members, Carmen Arteaga, George Autobee, Mary-Ellen Burciago, Kathy Pacheco, and

Un Abrazo Fuerte,
Carmen Arteaga, FACC President

Elections in Garcia, CO by Charlene Garcia Simms

When I think back to my childhood, I realize I was, at times, part of a mixed marriage. My dad's family was Republican and my mom's family was Democrat. Both families were staunch loyalists to their political parties, and I think the marriage between Irma and Gilbert, at times, must have been the Hispano equivalent to the Hatfield's and McCoy's. Both my grandfathers held public office, although, I don't know if they ever ran against each other.

I remember that there was always politica (politics) going on in each household, and my grandma, Carlota, was someone you wanted on your side. She was influential, so here endorsement was important. She would go from house to house on foot telling people about her candidate and why they should vote for him. (Sad to say, I don't remember any women running for office). At her house, my Grandma Carlota, in a threatening whisper, would tell all the family that they needed to vote on Election Day, and it was a big family.

She must have also been very influential with her sisters. I vividly remember one of her sisters walking in her thick, black heeled shoes, about four miles to the school house from her ranch, in order to vote. Her other sister

Elections in Garcia, CO (Continued)

walked about two miles miles, in heels, as she was the fashionable one in our family. My grandma was a precinct judge so I'm sure she kept track of who, from her family voted, and who didn't. I remember there were six precinct judges, three from each political party. They watched, like hawks, that the voting was fair and honest.

As for me, I was like a fly on the wall, listening back and forth to political strategy. I could have been a very good mole, but for the fact that my age was between four and ten when all this went on. When invited to go



with one of my grandfathers to the S.P.M.D.T.U. Hall (*Sociedad Proteccion Mutual de Todos Unidos*), I sat next to my grandpa Agapito on a wooden bench hearing men in loud voices raising their fists, proclaiming something or other. I didn't really understand what was going but I knew it was serious. I also hung around with my grandpa Tranquilino outside *la estafeta* (post office) while the men walked around the adobe building following the sun to keep warm, all the while, making their political opinions known. I played with my Christopher doll or read my little Dick and Jane books, oblivious to the political maneuverings that were formulating in both groups.

Election day was one of the biggest days of the year. We children looked forward to the cancellation of school that day because our three-room school-house also served as the polling place. Each Election Day, at least one person from both my Democrat or Republican families was a precinct judge, so I was able to hang around and play all day. One year a bee stung me on the head. I learned real fast from my older cousin that a paste made of mud and spit would take care of it.

Voting was a serious matter in my little village. People didn't laugh or kid around as they came in and voted. Those were the days, when you could mark an "X" for the person you were voting for on a yellow ballot. When finished voting, the voter gave the ballot to the person in charge of inserting it in a slotted box under the voter and judges' watchful eyes. If a person did not know the English language and could not write, their signature as an "X" was acceptable. This is what my grandma, Reyesitas, did when she voted, dressed in her finest clothes, just having had her hair done for this important occasion. All this took place in the small village of Garcia, Colorado, population 250. The time frame was late 1950's and early 1960's.

**Join Us For "Research"
Every First Tuesday
of the Month at Heritage Museum
11 am - 3 pm
Heritage Museum**

FACC website:

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

FACC Facebook:

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

GSHA website:

<https://www.gshaa.org>

FACC 2019 Christmas Celebration at American Legion





Treasurer's Report
Submitted by Bob Craig
December 2019

General Fund	\$1518.51
Raffle	\$42.13
Savings	\$9057.16
Total \$	\$10,617.80

FACC Classes
Pueblo Heritage Museum
5 pm to 7 pm

Feb. 3rd - Phyllis Miranda
Publish Workspace
(Make up class)
Mar. 16th - Tom Martinez
DNA

La Cueva de Santa Ines—The Little Cave of Saint Agnes

by Deborah Ana Martinez Martinez

From “El Corazon Hispanic Culture Recovery Guide”

Above Aguilar, Colorado, is a place called Mabricio’s Canyon. Four miles up the canyon, where the road turns, three places of religious significance form a sacred triangle. On the right side of the canyon is the Morada Garcia. Across the way is the Morada Ortiz. These moradas are the meeting houses of the brotherhood of the Penitentes. The Penitentes worship god together, bury their dead together, and together with their wives, they baptize the next generation of Penitentes together. They are God’s people, and they follow the Holy example of scourging themselves in penance for their sins every year at Easter time.

The little cave that creates the third point in the triangle holds the child-like statue of the virgin-martyr Santa Inez or Saint Agnes. At any time of year, this niche that is the home of Santa Inez, may hold flowers, candles, baby shoes or perhaps some symbol of request.

Santa Inez is venerated as a child martyr of the fourth century who, at the tender age of thirteen, obtained the double crown of martyrdom and chastity. The *Book of Saints* reports that, “Failing to burn her at the stake, the Prefect of Rome under Macimian Heruleus ordered her to be beheaded in 304 A.D.”.

The people of Mabricio’s Canyon prayed to the little saint asking her to intercede on their behalf before the throne of God. The small statue was dressed in handmade clothes and her feet were covered with baby shoes. The Jesuit priests had brought the story of Santa Inez to the people of Mabricio’s Canyon and the little saint had captured the hearts of these religious people. The Jesuits discontinued serving the area around the turn of the Century. However, the veneration of the little saint continued into the twentieth century.

The people of Mabricio’s Canyon believed that Santa Inez walked the valley at night, watching over the families. Indeed, the people of the Canyon say they saw her in their homes in their hour of need or times of stress. The people say her little shoes became worn because she walked so very many miles on their behalf.

The statue of the holy saint has since disappeared. When contacted, the Catholic diocese of Pueblo, produced a book with stories of the saints and said Santa Inez might be popular in the Jesuit tradition and the priests might have removed her when they left the area. The Diocese had no record of this artifact or its whereabouts.

Even though the statue is gone, the older people who lived near the holy triangle still visit the Cueva, the little cave, and speak to their grandchildren in hushed tones about the Santa Inez of their youth.



**Note: This story is from my
Grandfather Senon Martinez
(1900-1986)**



FACC Members Make Presentation for Dia de los Muertos

Thanks to Mary Ellen Burciago who organized this event, FACC members were invited to make a presentation at Roselawn Chapel on November 2nd for Dia de los Muertos. Mary Ellen is a very important part of the Concerned Committee for Roselawn Cemetery. Carmen Arteaga explained the origin of Dia de los Muertos and the meaning behind items on the ofrenda (altar). George Autobee spoke about his ancestors and shared a very moving story about his cousin George Autobee. He shared that the Autobees ancestors originally came from the northern region of Normandy in France and that his cousin George who is from Pueblo fought on the beaches of Normandy in WWII where he died. His body was brought back to Pueblo and he is buried at Rose-lawn Cemetery. He had everyone in tears. Edna Vargas told stories about the Salt Creek neighborhood where she used to live and about her relative, Juan Bautista Archuleta, who was a member of the New Mexico Volunteer in the American Civil War. Kathy Pacheco and Carmen both displayed their Dia de los Muertos altars. It was a very educational and enjoyable event for all that attended.



Mary Ellen Burciago



George Autobee



Carmen Arteaga

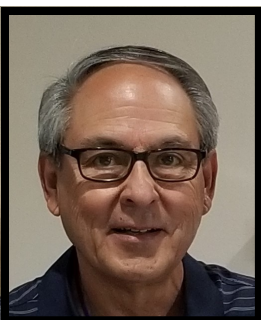


Edna Vargas



Kathy Pacheco

GRACIAS POR TODO JOHN VALDEZ



John made the decision to leave our FACC Board of Directors at the end of his two year term in December. As you all know, he was our Vice President and he did an outstanding job. He brought much energy to our BOD along with his many talents. John wore many hats but as VP he helped to organize our FACC classes, secured superb speakers to learn from and conducted elections. He helped to create an index for our GSHA Journal. He was instrumental in amending our bylaws. He donated his personal artwork to help our organization. The list goes on and on. Thank you. We will miss you on our FACC BOD.