

# FACC NEWSLETTER

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF HISPANIC AMERICA

MAR 31, 2024

VOLUME 31 ISSUE 1

#### **Presentations**

Apr - Ron Sandoval and Sylvia Brandl

Topic: Cow & Coal Camps of Southern Colorado

May - Virginia Sanchez

Topic: TBD

Jun-Robert J. Torrez

Topic: The Santa Fe Presidio: Spanish & Mexican Military Garrison in New Mexico

**FACC Meetings on Zoom** 

10:00 - FACC General Membership Meeting

11:00-Speaker Intro and Presentation

#### In Person

8:30 am - Library/Research
10 am - General Membership Meeting
11 am - Speaker Presentation
Pueblo Heritage Museum
201 West B St., Pueblo, CO

#### **Board of Directors**

President-Daniel Romero Vice President- Lynda Martin-Serrano

Secretary-Kathy Pacheco Treasurer-Mary Lou Duran

Acting GSHA Representative Charlene Garcia Simms

### **Newsletter Editor**

Christina Quintana chrismq@pacbell.net

#### **Board of Directors Meetings**

Open to the Membership
First Tuesday of the Month
5 PM at Pueblo Heritage Museum
201 West B Street, Pueblo, CO

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Our first quarter of 2024 has been eventful. We started with the renewal of memberships. We want to remind members that dues for each year are to be paid in January of the year when the new year starts. Dues are considered delinquent after the end of February. Note that dues paid after the last day of February are for the entire year and are not prorated. Our calendar year is January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> each year.

February was a great month, and we had a great Valentine's day General Membership meeting. The entertainment committee did a fantastic job of putting items together including items donated by members. Flowers were given to all the women who attended the meeting. Judge Joe Ulibarri conducted the installation of officers due to the changes in our schedule and inclement weather. His Honor also gave a great presentation on Wills, Probate and Your Legacy."

March was another great month as we had a St. Patrick's Day celebration at the General Membership meeting thanks to the Entertainment Committee and members who donated treats for all to enjoy. Please remember to sign up to bring treats or donate funds to the Entertainment Committee. We had a great speaker with Mr. Robert Torrez, presenting on Genizaros. It was enjoyed by all, and we look forward to having him return in June 2024. Members were also reminded that our contest for recruiting new members ends on March 31, 2024, a prize will be given to the member who recruits the most members from December 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024. Results will be presented in April as to how many new members we have and the efforts of recruitment.

As we move into the Spring time, our Board Meetings will commence at 5 PM as we transition from the Winter Schedule. Members are welcome to participate in the Board Meetings which are held on the First Tuesday of each month. We are hoping to have some great events in the coming months including April which will be a live presentation on the Cow & Coal Camps in Southern Colorado presented by Ron Sandoval and Sylvia Brandl.

We hope to see many members in attendance at the meeting and any events that we hold in early Spring into Summer. Please invite your family and friends to join the organization as we are seeking to increase our membership. Dues are \$25 annually and the benefits are pretty good including a Summer Picnic and a Christmas Party. I appreciate all the members and contributions whether they are financial or your labor to keep the organization going.

Sincerely,

Daniel of Comero

Daniel J. Romero President - FACC/GSHA





# Fray Angelico Chavez Chapter Income Statement General Fund

### 02/01/2024 - 02/29/2024

		Feb 2024	
Revenue	Savings interest	\$	-
	Transfer to Savings (1)	\$	30.00
	Membership Dues (2024)	\$	453.26
	Membership Donations (2024)	\$	260.00
	GSHA Conference - Bucket Fund	\$	21.00
	Administration (2)	\$	100.00
	Entertainment (3)	\$	51.10
	Library	\$	16.00
		\$	931.36
<u>Expenses</u>	Membership Dues	\$	-
	Entertainment	\$	-
	Administration	\$	-
	Office Expense (4)	\$	24.45
	GSHA - 60% Obligation	\$	-
		\$	24.45

- (1) Set up new Savings Account at ENT Credit Union
- (2) Set up new Checking Account at ENT Credit Union
- (3) Refreshment Contributions for January & February 2024
- (4) Order Checks for new Checking Account at ENT

<u>Library Fund</u>	02/01/2024	\$ 544.00
Library user fees		\$ 16.00
Fines		\$ -
Donations		\$ -
Purchases	_	\$ -
	02/29/2024	\$ 560.00

Per February 2012 BOD and Membership vote, Library fund shall begin with a budget of \$500.00 each new calendar year.

### Bank Balance as of 02/29/2024

	Total	\$ 10,073.89
Savings		\$ 6,734.92
Checking		\$ 3,338.97

Mary Lou Duran, FACC Treasurer 02/29/2024

# FRAY ANGELICO CHAVEZ CHAPTER (FACC)/

### **GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF HISPANIC AMERICA (GSHA)**

### MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING CONTEST DECEMBER 1, 2023, TO MARCH 31, 2024

FACC has been in existence for about 34 years, and it is vital to FACC that we continue to grow by recruiting new members.

We should try to recruit young people to join our chapter. The younger generation needs to understand the importance of their ancestor's role in America and in our communities. Learning about our ancestors and how we all came together as family and friends is what makes a community better.

Therefore, FACC is having a recruitment contest to recruit new members for 2024. <u>The contest starts December 1, 2023, and ends March 31, 2024.</u>

So, put your thinking caps on and figure out a way to recruit new members to our chapter. Start with your family members and expand your reach to your church, friends, social media, and other organizations you may be involved with.

We only exist by all our efforts to make our community aware of our existence, the key role they play in our communities, and our Hispanic culture and history.

Contest recruitment winners will receive the following prizes:

First-place winner will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate.

Second-place winner will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate or a paid FACC membership for 2024 of their choice.

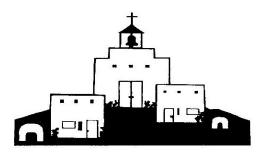
Members, be sure to inform the people you recruit to state your name as the recruiter on the form.

This organization exists because of you, so jump in and become an ambassador for FACC.

Remember, "You Matter, Your Story Matters."

Lynda Martin-Serrano FACC, Vice-President

vpfacc@gshaa.org



The Pueblo Heritage Museum staff has been busy during this past year streamlining and reorganizing the museum. They are excited about our new display and look forward to visitors seeing the new exhibit.

As you may know, to support the Pueblo Heritage Museum and to have a reduced rate for the meeting room, the museum requires that we provide 7.75 hours of sweat equity per month. Meral Jones, Director is working on new projects and she may need some help. You can also help with changing light bulbs, cleaning, dusting, cleaning glass on displays and other general help with upkeep.

Please call Meral for details about her projects and for scheduling a time to volunteer to meet our 7.75-hour sweat equity responsibility at 719-295-1517.

Thank you for your continued support.

Committee members Tom Martinez (tomjmartinez@gmail.com, 816-886-8629), Claudine Riccillo (criccill@utep.edu, 719.676.2650), Mary Ellen Burciago (mburciago@gmail.com, 719-330-0704), and Connie Romero (cromero618@aol.com, 505.670.8844) will be prepared to hear any input/comments you would like to offer via email or phone calls. We are pleased with the new exhibit which was installed in January 2023.

FACC ZOOM PRESENTATIONS

2nd Saturday each month...10 AM

Click on link in your email

FREE for members

FACC LIBRARY
MAKE APPOINTMENT
CALL
TOM MARTINEZ
816-886-8629

**FACC Website:** 

https://facc-genealogy.weebly.com

FACC Facebook:

https://facebook.com/groups/faccgsha

**GSHA** website:

https://gshaa.org

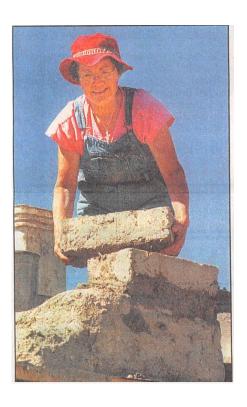
# LA CAPILLA DE SAN FRANCISCO DE ASSISI BOONE, COLORADO



This special chapel was built almost entirely by the late Toni Valdez, starting in the summer of 1997 and completing 3 years later. She was in her mid-sixties at the time. She had received an inspiration to do this a few years earlier and the thought would simply not leave her. Her husband, the late George Valdez, and youngest son, the late Anthony Valdez, initially dug and poured a concrete foundation to support the heavy walls. From there Toni took over, forming hundreds of adobe blocks and drying them in the sun. She made approximately 1,000 adobe blocks, each one weighing about 38 pounds. Roof beams (vigas) were purchased in Westcliff, Colorado. Roofing for an adobe building takes special care and Toni's and George's Godson, Anthony Soto from Avondale, provided his assistance and expertise. Note that she had no plans, or even sketches. It was all in her head, and certainly divinely inspired.

People began to take notice as the building began to rise. Early in the process, Toni received a visit from the Pueblo County Building Department, telling her she needed a permit to build what she intended. She politely disagreed and went about her work, and word of this encounter spread but the building inspector never returned. It is believed that someone in authority told him to leave her alone.

Later and as the chapel construction progressed, Toni's chapel was featured in the The Denver Post, The Pueblo Chieftain and other local publications and various newspapers across the country. She was also interviewed by the Henry Reyes with the local Spanish language radio station.





Toni's scaffolding consisted of two 55 gallon drums with a thick piece of lumber between. She was advised against the glass cross on the back wall because it might weaken the structure but she was determined to have this feature and went ahead with it anyway. Over twenty years have now passed and the glass cross has proven to be the correct decision.

Completion of the chapel occurred in July of 2000 and a blessing and dedication mass took place officiated by Bishop Arthur Tafoya of the Diocese of Pueblo, Father Maurice Gallagher of the Sacred Heart and St. Williams parishes of Avondale and Boone, Colorado. Retired Bishop Charles Buswell also participated in the chapel blessing; in fact one of his favorite photographs was taken of him praying in the chapel with the glass cross in the background.

The chapel was dedicated to the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, to whom Toni was devoted through her participation and longstanding association with the Sisters of Saint Francis.



**Retired Bishop Charles Buswell** 



Interior of La Capilla de San Francisco de Assisi













From the beginning and over the years various visitors have brought holy water to the chapel font from Assisi, Our Lady of Guadalupe Cathedral in Mexico City, The Vatican, Lourdes and other holy places around the world. Most visitors to the chapel feel the presence and peace of God and many feel compelled to leave cherished mementoes and remembrances of departed loved ones. Toni wanted La Capilla de San Francisco de Assisi to always be open and available to everyone and anyone as a place of quiet peace, prayer and faith.

Visitors are welcomed and encouraged



Toni Valdez (May 24, 1933 – April 8, 2012)

### A Blast from the Past By Charlene Garcia Simms



This year FACC celebrates our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We hope to have a small celebration later this year. Following is an article I wrote right after our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009.

## FACC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration a Success by Charlene Garcia Simms

Abrazos, Gritos y Risa could be seen and heard all over the Ryals room at the Rawlings Library for the FACC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Genealogists are early risers and we had almost everyone registered by 8:30 a.m. and by 9:00 a.m. Dolores Valdez de Pong was telling us the story of Fray Angelico Chavez. Someone asked me why we had named the chapter after him, and I told them the story about Mike Baca, our first FACC president suggesting this. At one of our general membership meetings, it was voted unanimously to do so because this great man was very interesting as well as a scholar who makes our genealogy research easier with his publication, *Origins of New Mexico Families* among others. Thanks to Dolores for her wonderful PowerPoint presentation where she gave us much insight into Fray Chavez. How many of you knew he was an artist? How many of you knew he was a military man? How many of you knew he left the priesthood for a short time?

By 10:00 a.m. people were situated either in a beginning genealogy session with Pat Sanchez Rau or a presentation by Teresa Vigil on natural herbs. Pat had a good crowd and motivated several members and newcomers to either start or offered suggestions to get over roadblocks that often discourage us from going forward. Teresa, a rural herbal practitioner from the San Luis Valley, uses natural healing methods traditional to the upper Rio Grande bioregion. As you entered the room, you could smell the fragrances of your grand-mother's house and as she shared her experience and knowledge of medicinal herbs and natural remedies, one could see most people nodding their heads remembering the days when there were no doctors readily available, only *medicas*, and absolutely no HMO's. Mothers had to use their instincts and herbal medicinal knowledge that had been passed on from generation to generation. Teresa will be back in Pueblo on October 16 at the Rawlings Main Library to make another presentation.

There were several informational tables and vendors. Clara Martinez was there with her delicious *capulin* and *champe* jellies, and she had some *PIÑON* which was gone before I could even get in line. Christina Lefebre had a room full of people who listened to her short presentation on *How to Organize your information*. At some point we need to bring her back for a full day workshop. Lunch was served and Angel Cervantes arrived with his wife, Anna, and immediately became surrounded with people asking questions about the New Mexico DNA project. Angel was our presenter in the afternoon and was knowledgeable, funny and intriguing. He got several people to join the project. This was followed by Sendi Pergrino with a reading of *Walt Whiteman Strides the Llano of New Mexico by Rudolfo Anaya*. Juan and Deborah Espinosa introduced everyone to the *Song of Pueblo*, a musical about Pueblo history.

With the help of retired Judge, Joe Ulibarri, we then recognized our founders, charter members, past presidents and members who have gone beyond the call of duty in what they have done for the chapter. They were presented with anniversary pins. The following charter members were present: Eloy and Socorro Arellano, Betty Duran, Tony Garcia, Lucy Gettler, Marty Hill, Deborah Martinez-Martinez, John Medina, Lydia Montoya, Deborah Espinosa, Margaret Turner, Charlene Garcia Simms, Anastacio and Eleanor Valdez. For those who were not present, the pins will be presented at the September meeting and mailed out for those not attending. The pins will go on sale in October for all to buy.

The finale included a beautiful cake and lemonade to commemorate the event, more *abrazos*, this time saying good-by, and the *gritos* came from *tres caballeros*, Ernie Charlifu, Angel Cervantes, and Elmer Espinosa as they sang acapella several of Jose Jimenez' songs. How many of you knew Angel could hit all those musical notes?

Thanks to Vickie Arellano and her committee, Rita, Richard, Gladys, Eleanor, and Arnie for planning and executing a wonderful day. Special thanks to the library for allowing me the time to help the planning committee, donating the facilities, marketing materials and part of the presenter fees. Thanks also to all the raffle drawing donors. The winner of the Fray Angelico Chavez quilt was Patricia Salazar from Denver who is a non-member. During the day, she met a new *prima*, Juanita Ulibarri. Pat felt the quilt should stay with a member from the chapter and gave it to her new found cousin.



John and Clorinda Medina by Charlene Garcia Simms

John and Clorinda Medina were charter members of FACC, meaning they were with the chapter from the beginning since 1989. Over the years they gave and gave of their time, resources and love of genealogy. They were both from Huerfano County. Clorinda was related to me through my Manchego line through her King line. John and Clorinda were inseparable. I don't' remember ever seeing them apart and why I have this need to write about both of them.

Maria Clorinda Medina was born in Del Carbon, Colorado. She passed away on February 14, 2024, at the age of 86. She was preceded in death by her husband, John Ignacio Medina; and her parents, Emma King Gomez and Seledon Gomez. She is survived by her daughter, Diane and granddaughter Tiana. Clorinda and John were married in May 1960 in Walsenburg, Colorado and moved to Pueblo, to start their married life. In 2010, they had a beautiful 50th wedding anniversary and renewed their wedding vows. Maria enjoyed working in her flower beds, painting, coloring and loved the color green. Maria and John enjoyed traveling, genealogy, and their Pomeranian dogs who I remember vividly.

Johnny Ignacio Medina, died on January 30. 2016 at the age of 83. John and Clorinda were married for 56 years. John retired as an ammunition inspector from Pueblo Army Depot after 36 years of service at 55 years old, October 31, 1987. He enjoyed traveling, carpentry, genealogy, music, movies, but especially James Bond movies. John's biggest joy was his granddaughter "Tiana", they shared a special bond as they spent a lot of quality time together.

I never called John Medina, John. I always called him Mr. Medina, as well as did most of our members. I don't know why. He was so kind and respectful to everyone. It seems he deserved that title as an elder. John and Clorinda were with us since the beginning of the FACC chapter and it is because of people like them, with integrity, and generosity, and curiosity that has brought us to our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is very sad for me to lose people like Clorinda, John and Ruben who I feel are "Salt of the Earth" people from the greatest generation. John and Clorinda Medina Presente!



Ruben Joe Rodriguez was born on September 13, 1931, and passed away on February 28 at the age of 93. Ruben was preceded in death by his first wife, Marcella of 25 years and his second wife, Dolores of 29 years. He is survived by his sons Marcos and Daniel and daughters, Hazel, Veronica, Rebecca and Bonnie, all by his first wife, daughters-in-law, Irene Rodriguez and Anita Guerra, and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, many relatives, and friends.

Ruben grew up in Huerfano County and joined the army in August 1952 at the age of 19. He fought in the Korean War in 1953. He retired from the Pueblo Army Depot after 36 years. During his retirement, Ruben wrote a wonderful book, "The Conflict in Korea, 1953, Last Stand for Pork Chop Hill," of which we have a copy in the FACC library, as well as several copies at the Rawlings library, special collections. According to his family, Fishing with his kids and grandkids was one of the special things he loved to do, and we are told he was usually the one that would catch the fish!

Ruben loved sharing his stories from his past and was an avid genealogist. He was a member of FACC for over 25 years. When he joined, I was president of FACC, and he immediately told me he was ready to help in any way he could and that he was a good bookkeeper. We immediately took him up on his readiness to help and voted him in as treasurer, a position he would hold for almost twenty years. Ruben is the one who helped us get our raffle license and kept us legal, filing all the proper documents in a timely manner. He was one of the most dependable people I ever met. At every monthly meeting it was Ruben who would bring out the red rolling box where people put their raffle tickets and I can still remember him calling the numbers of the winners. We made several hundreds of dollars with the raffle each year, and who can forget the 50/50. Later, Richard Arellano would start helping him with this big task. He also managed the raffle for the national GSHA conferences held in Colorado.

He loved to go to Cripple Creek with his family and for the FACC fundraisers. He was a big winner and his daughter shared that he always shared his winnings with his children. His second wife, Dolores, a lovely person, did not share in Ruben's love of genealogy but she supported his research efforts and all the time he gave to the chapter. She always attended our parties with him and was a lovely woman. I agree with his daughter who stated that he was such a kind man with a big heart and loving soul, if he could help you he would. He had so many friends no matter where he was. If someone saw him, they wouldn't hesitate to come up and say hi and have a lengthy conversation. This picture of Ruben was taken at the Vail Hotel in the early late 1990s at our Christmas party. Ruben Joe Rodriguez Presente!

Submitted by Charlene Garcia Simms





### How to Attend our Zoom Meetings

1. Go to https://zoom.us



- 2. Then download the Zoom app to your device. Here is a link to a video showing you how to download the Zoom app: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsy2Ph6kSf8&feature=emb\_rel\_end
- 3. Here is a video showing you how to join a meeting: https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=9isp3qPeQ0E

You will receive an invitation to our FACC meeting through an email. A few minutes before the meeting, go to the email and click on the link to the meeting and follow the instructions, however, ignore the message that tells you to download the Zoom app if you already have it downloaded. Once you get in you will be placed in a Waiting Room. We will see who is in the Waiting Room and let you in to the meeting.

IMPORTANT: We will set up the meeting with your microphone muted, so please do not unmute your microphone. Muting everyone except the administrators and the presenter will keep background talk from ruining the presentation. At the end of the meeting you can use the Chat button to write in any questions you may have for the presenter.

One last thing. Some desktop computers do not have a camera and/or a microphone, which may not allow you to set up the program. Other than that, it's really pretty easy. Let's see if we can have a lot more people join our next Zoom meeting.

## Speakers for 2024



- Apr- Ron Sandoval and Sylvia Brandl Huerfano County Hispano Families
- May Virginia Sanchez TBD
- Jun Robert J. Torrez The Santa Fe Presidio: Spanish & Mexican Military Garrison in New Mexico
- July Michael A. Espinoza -Trail of the Espinoza Outlaws: Reign of Terror 1857-1863
- Aug Picnic
- Sept TBD
- Oct TBD
- Nov TBD
- Dec Annual Christmas Party

Ángel de Cervantes is offering zoom lectures over the coming weeks. If you enjoy learning about history and DNA, and the impact events made on the lives of our ancestors, please join these very informative lectures from the comfort of your own homes.

Here are a few of the topics that will be scheduled in the coming months. For information, please contact Ángel de Cervantes at <a href="mailto:angelrcervantes@gmail.com">angelrcervantes@gmail.com</a> for dates and times. It will be well worth your time.

The Spanish in the American Revolution

The New Mexico Revolt of 1847

The Politics of Genetic Genealogy & the Impact on Identity

Anthropological Genetic Genealogy: The New Mexico DNA Project

The Search for Y-DNA Adam

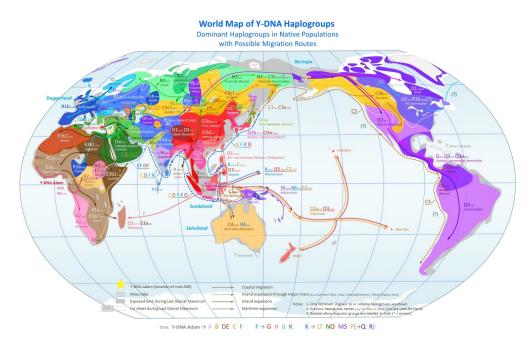
The Journey of Man (Genetic Migrations & Orgins)

The Basque Connection to New Mexican Families (Haplogroup R1b1)

The Indo-European Connection to the Celts (DNA & Language Origin)

Tartessos, the first great Ancient Civilization of the Iberian Peninsula

The Celt-Iberian Connection to New Mexican Families (Haplogroup R1b1)



In human genetics, the haplogroups most commonly studied are Y-chromosome (Y-DNA) haplogroups and mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) haplogroups, each of which can be used to define genetic populations. Y-DNA is passed solely along the patrilineal line, from father to son.

Updated 03/31/2024



# In Memoria

Clorinda Medina Ruben J Rodriguez Leonard Romero Ben Córdova February 14, 2024 February 18, 2024 March 19, 2024 March 19, 2024

Leave Me in Peace

When I am dead, cry for me a little,

Think of me sometimes—but not too much.

Think of me now and again—as I was in life,

At some moments it is pleasant to recall,

But not for too long.

Leave me in peace, and I will leave you in peace.

And while you live, let your thoughts

Be for the living.





# From my desk



How do you say goodbye? With a smile, a hug or a tear? On February 18th, I woke up to a text from my cousin, Veronica, giving the cousins the sad news that our beloved Ruben had left us. He was my sweet gentle Maternal Uncle who was there throughout my life. He was instrumental in the journey to bring to life all the stories and journals he had from his father, Toribio de Jesus Rodriguez. He made sure I had the original writings in Spanish and the translated text. He also gave me a membership to FACC in 2011 along with a membership to his sister, Dora, my Mom.

I knew his wife, Marcela, who was a meticulous home maker and all my little cousins when we went to visit. Now we are all heavy of heart with his loss. He was there when my widowed Mom took a tumble and needed help. He was a joy to listen to when he called me and recounted stories and information on my relations. We laughed together when he told me about his winnings and his trips to Cripple Creek. Now I will never have another call from him and that makes me sad. I was not able to go see him when he was beginning his homeward journey and now I will have to wait to see him again.



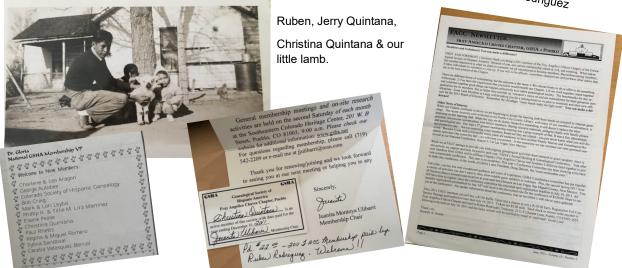
Ruben with his family and sister, Dora Quintana



Dora Quintana & Ruben Rodriguez



Ruben Rodriguez



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