



*New Mexican Hispanic Culture Preservation League*

LA VERDAD CON ORGULLO

Volume 10, No. 12 [www.nmhcp.org](http://www.nmhcp.org)

**AND THE WINNERS ARE !**

**Doña Eufemia 2008** – Patricia Black Easterly, Genealogical researcher and webmaster for the New Mexico Genealogical Society

**El Adelantado-2008** - Ron Miera, President, New Mexican Hispanic Genealogical Research Center and researcher

**Millie Santillanes Education Award** Dolores Valdez de Pong teacher and author

Additional detailed information will follow in future newsletters. John Lucero, Honors Committee Chairman

**Thanksgiving Banquet**

Mark your calendar for the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2008. The event will be at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center  
1000 Woodward Pl. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
North of Lomas Blvd NE & West of I-25

The keynote speaker is *don Jerónimo R. Padilla* who is Director of the Bataan Military Museum. Annually La Orden Militar de los Primeros Soldados Pobladores have graciously been our color guard under the direction of don Jerónimo. Los Soldados have never failed NMHCPL and are always willing to help us. Los Primeros Soldados Pobladores will bring their patron Nuestra Señora de la Macana. Mr. Padilla will give a talk about his research regarding the Pueblo Revolt and the families who died. Please make plans to join us!

**Could Jean de Béthencourt be your relative?**

By Conchita Lucero



Photo Jean de Béthencourt a Norman-French explorer and conqueror of Tenerife of the Canary Islands.

Did you know you have a Saint in your family if you connect to Pedro de San Jose Betancur?

Recently I had the honor to review a manuscript by don Martin Valdez y de Herrera. His genealogy shed light on the connection with the Norman-

French explorer, Jean de Béthencourt known as the conqueror of the Canary Islands. He belonged to a noble family of Normandy and held an important office at King Charles VI court in France.

He raised money by pledging his Norman estates and sailed in a joint expedition with **Gadifer de La Salle**). They departed from La Rochelle, France in May 1402 and landed on the north side of Lanzarote. There was Mutiny off the coast of Spain which hampered the conquest but after their arrival on Lanzarote in June, Béthencourt, by agreement with Gadifer, departed for Spain to seek help. King Henry III of Castile Spain provided men and provisions to Béthencourt. King Henry III also bestowed the title of King of the Canaries on Béthencourt, who returned to the Canaries after 18 months.

Returning to the Canaries in 1404 he found that Gadifer de la Salle had conquered Lanzarote and Fuerteventura, and explored other islands. La Salle, unwilling to accept a position of inferiority, left the Canaries and appealed unsuccessfully for redress at the court of Castile. Betancur was unable to complete his work of conquest and exploration. In 1405 he visited Normandy, and returned with fresh colonists who occupied Hierro.

To this day, Betancourt and other forms (Betancur) of his surname are common among Canary Islanders and people of Canary Islander descent, thanks to the practice of baptizing the natives with his surname and to the offspring of his nephew Maciot de Béthencourt who succeeded him as lord of the islands. Information from <http://en.wikipedia.org> and <http://encyclopedia.jrank.org>

**I didn't know that !**

Bananas came from the Canary Islands to the New World

## Presidents Message

I participated in a Corpus Christi procession in Santa Fe a few months ago. As we filed out of the Cathedral, friends and strangers joined together in song. I knew a few people in the choir, and introduced myself to others. One was a lady that commented that she moved from California to New Mexico to be more Catholic. I welcomed her to join us in Rosario Chapel for the service. It is interesting that she would move to a new state with no friends or relatives looking for what was missing from her life, kind of lost, and that she would find it here. It reminds me of Joseph and Mary looking for someone to take them in. As we go rushing about this Christmas season, think of Joseph and Mary and others looking to find their way. Merry Christmas.

P.S. Don Ricardo Quintana has taken very ill and needs your thoughts and prayers. He has filled many positions for NMHCPL; President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and numerous committees. I am filling in as President and Conchita Lucero is now Editor while our friend regains his health. His presence will be missed but he will be in our thoughts. Signed Francisco Osuna

## Calendar for December

- 5<sup>th</sup> Board and membership meeting
- 9<sup>th</sup> Death of Manuel Armijo 1853
- 11 Spanish soldiers Massacred at Ácoma 1598
- 12 Día de NSD Guadalupe (Patron of New Mexico)
- 16 Don Diego de Vargas enters Santa Fe - reconquista complete 1693
- 19 Death of Don Juan Bautista de Anza at Arispe, Sonora, Mexico 1788
- 20 Dead line for Newsletter articles**
- 24 Las Casas colonists arrive in New Mexico 1600
- 25 Día de Navidad o Pascuas Nevadas
- 25 United States ~Mexican War Battle of Brazitos 1846**



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## News letter staff

Editor Conchita Márquez de Lucero  
Corine Garcia Márquez

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER(S)

Aaron Diaz of Chicago Ill. who is a student at Loyola University in Chicago.

Maria Anaya Rutkowsky Native New Mexican Bilingual & ESL 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Santera and New Mexico artist

## Prayers Requested for:

Dn. Ricardo Quintana  
Soldiers in peril  
Dn. Santiago Márquez Special Forces  
Dn. Miguel Márquez Correspondent  
Canonization of Ven Isabel la Catolica  
Doña Emma Madrid Jaramillo  
Doña Patryka Duran y Chavez  
Doña Josephine Márquez  
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Dn. Jeff y Evangeline Romero  
Doña Eva Torrez Aschenbrener

## Articles wanted



Have you read a good book? Have you researched your family line? Have you learned something new and want to share? We could use help with articles. If your article is about history please cite references. If it is about a book let us know if you recommend it or feel it is biased. Events should be submitted with adequate time to help publicize the event. . Please check your spelling and accuracy. Send your submission by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month by Email to [jrlmcl@msn.com](mailto:jrlmcl@msn.com).



**The New Mexican Hispanic Culture  
Preservation League Board wishes  
you  
*Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año  
Nuevo***

***Farolitos the light of love***

As we commemorate the tradition of lighting the way for the Christ child may we reflect on our ancestors and their love and the strong faith they held so dear. Hopefully we pass on the tradition and love to the next generation.

Farolitos began with the Spanish commerce in China. The Spaniards appreciated the beauty of the Chinese custom of lighting colorful festive lanterns. These traders took the lanterns back to the Philippines and then to Mexico. Mexican artisans made the lanterns into elaborate and delicate art. The delicate lanterns were too fragile and expensive so when paper bags became available over the Santa Fe Trail it did not take much imagination, to use these crude materials to create a way to light up the night for the Christ Child.

Excerpts were taken from “Christmas in Old Santa Fe” by Adelantado don Pedro Ribera Ortega whose book gives a more detailed and historic look into New Mexican customs, introduced into the new world by the adventurous Spaniards.

***Spanish Christmas Celebrations***

Information below is taken from *Christmas in Spain* published by World Book Encyclopedia.

The Christmas holiday includes three celebrations Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the Feast of los Reyes Magos. Who were the three kings and can you name them? The celebrations vary considerably from region to region. Spaniards from the northern regions use holly and mistletoe. Spaniards from southern regions use geraniums and heliotrope. The plaza mayores are set up with stalls selling Christmas decorations made of sheets of cork to make nacimientos or belenes and crèches.

Cuisine in Spain also has its regional influences from paella with saffron to flan. Garlic soup is popular in the region from Córdoba to Bilbao. Catalans are fond of sweets with meat, Estremadurans like a peppery food. There are some foods that are customarily served in almost every part of Spain such as roast turkey which made its debut in the sixteenth century, courtesy of the conquistadors who brought them from Mexico. In Seville it is a custom for turkey farmers to drive flocks through the streets.

Greetings of *Felices Pascuas* (Happy Holiday) or *Felices Pascuas de Navidad* (Happy Holiday of the Nativity) can be heard all around. Store banners express sentiment such as Paz en la Tierra a los Hombres de Buena Voluntad (Peace on Earth to People of Good Will).

Marzipan is an Arabic delicacy made of crushed almonds and sugar and eggs. Toledo is mazapán capital of Spain made by the loving hands of the convent of Jesus y Maria.

**The Regal Gifts**

The Magi’s gifts brought to the Christ child are symbolic. First **Gold** not only is a precious metal but stands for virtue of love and symbolizes Christ as the King of the World. The brilliance is associated with the sun and the divine. Gold has from an ancient time to the present symbolizes royalty and is used for crowns. Gold is incorruptible and many cultures connect this with immortality and thought it possessed healing powers.

**Frankincense** is identified with prayer and Christ as the King of Heaven and it is a spice with a sweet odor. Both Frankincense and Myrrh come from a tree and are found only in a few deserts in southern Arabia and northeastern Africa. Their resins were high in demand and highly valued throughout the ancient world. The golden resin of Frankincense was believed to be divine.

**Myrrh** signifies the suffering and sacrifices that Christ made on the cross. “The dried drops of myrrh are known as tears and the resin has been associated with sorrow. Its name comes from an Arabic word meaning bitter; yet though it bitter in taste, myrrh has a rich sweet scent.” According to Carolyn Vaughn in “The Gifts of the MAGI”

**Luminaries**

Luminaries ‘little fires’ came first and date back to Belén, Noche Buena and the shepherd who used the fires to warm themselves and keep away the wolves and thieves. It was to these shepherds that the angel of the Lord appeared and said, “*Fear not, for behold I bring you tidings of great joy, that shall be to all the people; for this day is born to you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, in the City of David*”

## Betrayed

I was given a copy of the DVD "The Last Conquistador" directed and filmed by John J. Valadez and Christina Ibarra and have found these two individuals to be frauds, charming their way into my confidence and saying anything it took, to get us involved. When I first met with the pair I asked out right, if this was going to be biased and portrayal of our ancestors once again as villains, as assigned by the Black Legend. They assured me that because of their Spanish Roots, they would do a fair job. As far as I was concerned when a person gives their word it's their bond; unfortunately I was not dealing with people of honor. **I apologize to the members of NMHCPL and those especially who donated funds to help produce the "documentary"** I use the term documentary loosely because it is far from a documentary, it shows great editing skills with deliberate attempts to bias. A letter has been sent to these two cons asking for a refund and to have the NMHCPL removed from the sponsors listed. As one would expect neither of the two had the decency to respond. The Judas money received from well intended people was used to denigrate the very people who gave valuable time, money, support and advocacy. I was lead to believe that the film was going to be strength based and would show the intense labor and human spirit it took to create such a fabulous sculptor. Shamefully, even John Sherrill Houser was used and cheated out of his so deserved recognition and honors, for his years of labor and sacrifice. El Paso Twelve Travelers was horrified by the DVD. My final comments to John J. Valadez is: "There was a beautiful story here, sorry you lost your way and hurt a lot of nice people who worked hard to help you and Mr. Houser." This end product shows your deliberate taking from well intentioned people, who worked hard and gave so much to help you. Now I understand why you were vague in talking about the end results. Even Mr. Houser is victimized. You have succeeded in cheated the public of a "documentary" that could have also shown an artists talents and heart, but instead of showing human strengths, we have another protest by revisionist, that have little to do with equitable truth. Conchita

New Mexican Hispanic Culture  
Preservation League  
Old Town Station, P. O. Box 7956  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87194  
Non Profit 501 ( c )(3) organization



Located in El Paso, Texas



*"The Equestrian" don Juan de Oñate* Funded by XII Travelers sculptor John Sherrill Houser and son Ethan Taliesin Houser Associate Sculptor

Dolores Márquez, CTC DS  
Cruise and Tour Consultants  
Handling your travel needs  
(505) 293-3540  
Email dmarquez 33@msn.com