



New Mexican Hispanic Culture Preservation League  
LA VERDAD CON ORGULLO  
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Bernardo Miera Y Pacheco-Valle de Carriedo, Burgos, España

Bernardo was a Captain of the Cavalry of Cantabria and his father don Luis de Miera served under the Conde de Aguilar in the Army of Philip V. His grandfather don Antonio Pacheco, Governor of Navarra and Colonel of the "Terzio" of Lombardy died in the battle of Mantua. His mother was Isabel Ana Pacheco. He was born August 4, 1713 and died in Santa Fe, Nueva España April 4, 1785 at age 71.

Bernardo was in Santa Fe in 1756 when was Alcalde Mayor and War Captain of Galisteo and Pecos. He participated in as many as five campaigns.

He is considered as the first known Spanish artist (santero) in New Mexico and carved the wooden statue of St. Philip the Apostle still to be seen on the high altar at San Felipe Pueblo. He also carved an image of San Rafael in 1780 and was famous for the Castrense (Santa Fe Plaza military chapel) altar screen now located at the Cristo Rey Church. He was also a charter officer and first secretary of the Confraternity of Our Lady of light.



Palacio de Soñanes Hotel, Villacarriedo, España

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A skilled map maker, he accompanied Fathers Dominguez and Veléz Escalante as guard commander and explorer on their famous tour of exploration of the Great Basin, from which noteworthy maps from his hand came into being, including a detailed map of New Mexico in 1779. He also mapped the Rio Grande from El Paso to its junction with the *Rio Conchos* in Northern Mexico.

Valle de Carriedo was his birthplace and is located approximately 60 miles south of Santander in the Cantabrian area in "Green Spain". Spain is the most mountainous country in Spain next to

Switzerland and this area is no exception. As you can see from the pictures of El Molino de Rubionzo and the Palacio de Soñanes (now a hotel) the area is very beautiful and picturesque.



El Molino de Rubionzo

The area is known for nine valleys including Miera and the Miera River. There are countless medieval villages, casonas and palaces once owned by Spanish nobility. Cuevas de Altamira is located near Santillana del Mar and contains some of the most significant prehistoric wall paintings in the world and date to 14,000 BC. The paintings still retain their colors and reveal unmistakable shapes of wild boar, deer, and bison among others. As you can see this is an area with an ancient history and is worth a visit.



President Francisco Osuna, message in progress?

*Valentine's Day message*

Originally Saint Valentine was named to commemorate several Christian martyrs of ancient Rome. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia one of these martyrs was named Valentinus, who lived in the third century. Pope Gelasius I, decreed in 496 to include Valentine among those "... whose names are justly revered among men, but whose acts are known only to God." As Gelasius implied, nothing is known about the lives of any of these martyrs.

The day soon became associated with love and the tradition to courtly love flourished. Here are a few traditions from different parts of the world. In Brazil it is celebrated June 12 and is called Dia dos Namorados( this is a correct spelling for Brazil) the day of the enamored. Possibly the day was chosen because it is the day before Saint Anthony of Padua , who is celebrated as the Saint whose help is implored or simpatias to help find a good husband or boyfriend, it is a popular ritual of single women.

In Colombia it is celebrated as el Dia del amor y la amistad or love and friendship, the third weekend in September. They also celebrate a secret friend or Amigo secreto which involves anonymous gifts.

Elegant greeting cards with tender messages called cartes d'amities are exchange by lovers in France. In Germany lovers purchase red roses and create circles of hearts for their parents or classmates. A spring festival is held in Scotland and on Valentines day young singles write their name on a piece of paper, the ladies draw a piece of paper out of the hat and get their Valentine.



In Spain, Belgium, or in Luxembourg on Valentine's Day people give poems and candy and nice flowers, in Denmark the flowers are usually snowdrops. A big festival dedicated to celebrating love and romance is held in Portugal, couples spend the entire day in each other's company and exchange gift baskets. In Greece the ritual is for couples to celebrate the sacred marriage of Zeus and Hera.

**Feburary events and New Mexico's Hispanic History dates**

- 2 Día de la Candelaria (do not wash clothes lest your house burns)
- 3 Battle of Taos with U.S. troops 1847
- 6 NMHCPL meeting at Mr. Mrs. Jeff Romero's  
3318 La SalaDel Este NE 6:15 p.m. (call Frank Osuna 235-9869)  
**Ash Wednesday**
- 11 Presidents Day Observed
- 12 Legislature's Hispanic Day
- 13 Ecuera capa Signed by Juan Bautista de Anza 1786  
[www.anzasociety.org/](http://www.anzasociety.org/)  
Death comes for Archbishop Lamy 1888
- 18 Lincoln County War begins 1878
- 21 Civil War Battle of Valverde 1862  
[www.nmculturenet.org/heritage/civil\\_war/sketches/chacon.html](http://www.nmculturenet.org/heritage/civil_war/sketches/chacon.html)
- 27 Élfego Baca Birthday 1865
- 28 Comanche Peace Treaty

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- Dn. Ricardo Quintana
- Soldiers in peril
- Santiago Márquez Special Forces
- Miguel Márquez Correspondent
- Canonization of Ven Isabel la Catolica
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## EL ADELANTADO 2008 RONALDO MIERA



Ronaldo Miera is a native New Mexican who was born in San Antonio, NM. He graduated from St Mary's High School and then joined the Army and served in Germany.

He began a career with the US Postal service and rose to the position of Denver Regional National Business Agent, Maintenance Division.

In 1994 Ron was elected to his first term as President of the Hispanic Genealogical Research Center of New Mexico. He is now in his seventh term. During his tenure the HGRC has published 57 Herencias, the organization's quarterly journal, and 61 books of extracted sacramental records. The HGRC has a monthly speakers program focusing on the history, culture and genealogy of New Mexico. In 1997 the HGRC added the Great New Mexico Pedigree Database to its web site, which has grown to 100,000 names. In addition the HGRC opened its research office on the west side of the city on the campus of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

During the quartocentenario year of 1998 Mr. Miera lobbied the New Mexico State Legislature and was able to obtain a grant to publish the seminal book "The Spanish Re-colonization of New Mexico" authored by Jose Antonio Esquibel and John Colligan. Also in 1998 Mr. Miera learned that the book "Origins of New Mexico Families" by Fray Angelico Chavez would not be reprinted and available for the quartocentenario. The Museum of New Mexico Press, a division of the Office of Cultural Affairs, holds the copyright and publishing rights to the book, and has been reluctant to reprint. On behalf of the HGRC membership President Miera was able to talk then Governor Gary Johnson and Governor Bill Richardson to get the book reprinted.

In 1999 Mr. Miera was instrumental in persuading Bishop Donald Pelotte, Bishop of the Gallup Diocese, into microfilming the sacramental records of the Gallup Diocese from 1777 to 1922. With a grant, help and training from the New Mexico State Records Center, HGRC volunteers were able to complete the project in the fall of 2000.

As you can see Ronaldo Miera has been involved in many issues that promote and protect the Spanish Culture of New Mexico and we are pleased to recognize his accomplishments with the 2008 El Adelantado Award.

### **Anza conference**

Anza conference is to be held at the Santa Barbara Presidio Chapel in California beginning March 6-8, 2008. The conference will include presentation of papers, talks, a guided tour of the Presidio by **Mike Imwalle**, the Presidio Archaeologist and a bus tour to the Santa Barbara Mission considered "The Queen of the Missions. Registration Cost for the Conference is \$75 per person; and Mission tour is \$5.00 per person.

[www.anzasociety.org](http://www.anzasociety.org). Contact **Sharon Myers, Treasurer, 12250 N. Tall Grass Drive, Oro Valley, AZ 85755**

The conference Hotel is **El Prado Inn** and includes Continental Breakfast. Call Rowena (805) 966-0807 for the Anza Conference Room Rates (\$75-\$100 Double Occupancy). Santa Barbara is often referred to as the "American Riviera" because of its Mediterranean climate. The Santa Ynez Mountains, an east-west trending range, rise dramatically behind the city, with several peaks exceeding 4,000 feet. In 1925 the city sustained heavy earthquake damage, rebuilding was in the style of Mission revival architecture, it has many Victorian and Spanish style red tile roof homes.



## FROM THE TORAH TO THE CROSS AND INTO THE KIVA.

(Secret Jews in New Mexico?  
verdad o fantasia?)

by Pauline Chavez Bent (copyright 2007)



New Mexico is unique. For more than 20,000 years it has attracted some very interesting people; from the first migrations across the Bering Straits to those that filtered up from the southern hemisphere. During the 1500's New Mexico was visited by the likes of Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, Marcos de Niza, Antonio de Espejo, Gaspar Castano de Sosa, Francisco Sanchez Chamuscado and others. But it was the Juan de Onate (1598) and Diego de Vargas (1693) colonization that gave New Mexico a European flavor—some of which is evident to this day. When the French trappers entered the area, the Americans were not far behind, thus infusing New Mexico with still another difference; culturally, religiously and politically. However, we cannot ignore the continued migration from Mexico that became more pronounced during and after the 1910 revolution and from Central America and points south, nor the infusion of Asians settling in the southwest in the past fifty years. So is it any wonder that some New Mexicans suffer from an identity crisis? In any given newspaper/magazine article but notably Hispanic Magazines the words Chicano, Mexican-American and Latino are used interchangeably" and in some works by New Mexico writers, we see Hispano, Nuevo Mejicano and Indo-Hispano to describe New Mexicans. Strangely enough, the word 'American' is seldom used, even though the area was populated by Pueblo Indians and Europeans prior to the founding of Jamestown in the Eastern seaboard.

In recent years new identity awareness has found fertile soil in the southwestern milieu, not only among New Mexicans, but also by Spanish-surnamed persons in Texas, California and Arizona. The buzz words are, 'Crypto Jews, conversos, and Sephardics.' This interest became popular due to the publicity that was generated by several scholars prior to, and since 'El Quinto Centenario, Scholars and genealogy buffs in the southwest and California flooded the media with books, magazine articles presentations, newspaper interviews and conferences on the subject of New Mexico's hidden Jews in particular, and conversos in general. At least one national society has been organized to study the subject that so many find fascinating. After years of collecting and studying data on the hidden Jews of New Mexico as well as of the Pueblo cultures, I have found that in many cases those customs that are believed to be of Sephardic origin may in reality be customs of the Pueblo Indians and other tribes. So a question one may ask is: Did the early colonizers of New Mexico become acculturated by the established culture or vice-versa?

Did the Jews find America? Cyrus H. Gordon a Brandies University professor says that the reassessment of an inscription found in a burial site in Tennessee in 1835 provides evidence that Jews fleeing from the Romans in the Middle East discovered America 1,000 years before Columbus. Who is a Jew, one may ask? Is it spirituality, culture, nationality, or religion? For the purpose of this essay the question is: Who are the Crypto Jews of New Mexico, and why do some descendants of the first colonizers, having been established in the southwest for four centuries, believe that their religious culture and/or heritage is Jewish? One can rationalize that those 'early founders' of America that professor Gordon has studied in Tennessee migrated to New Mexico and taught the Pueblo Indians the customs. ¿Qué no?

Clues that many are using to establish descent from Jews are interesting; from a grandfather that always wore a hat indoors to one that always wore a hat outdoors, from a grandfather that always washed his hands and arms up to the elbow, to one that always wore a long sleeved shirt , from one that went down to the cellar to chant in a strange language to one that butchered an animal kosher

style NOTE; Ritual butchering of an animal has been a Pueblo tradition from time eternal; the Kiva is an underground area where Pueblo men pray and chant Grandmothers and aunts are said to have lit candles on Friday evenings in secret rooms of their adobe houses, and in the bathrooms of more modern homes Some grandmas have supposedly revealed being Jewish at their death bed by whispering, 'Semos Judios, pero no le digan a nadien.'

Some say there are organized Crypto Jewish communities in Northern New Mexico and others have revealed information about a secret Synagogue located twenty miles south of Albuquerque and of a Torah that has been found at some undisclosed place and is being kept in a yet-to-be revealed location One man 'knows' he is Jewish because his grandmother always wore a babushka also, because his father was anti-Semitic, strange clue, verdad? Another man suggested at a 1992 conference in Santa Fe, that the statue of Mary, known as La Conquistadora, brought to New Mexico in the early 1600s hides the evidence in her wooden self. One clue that convinces a California woman that her family was indeed Jewish is because her grandmother cooked food in separate pans; this writer's mother was puzzled by that clue, commenting that it would indeed be strange to cook all food in one pan--chile, papas, frijoles?

Reclaiming their Jewish heritage is a goal for many: and statements have been made to the press such as, 'I feel very proud to share this missing link in Judaic history. We are dispersed Jews, the fact that my ancestors were raped of their religion is something I'd like to correct.' Another young man stated, 'We attended Mass but always; on Saturday', apparently his clue to being a Jew. (Jews customarily attend services on Friday evening, the beginning of the Sabbath). After Vatican II, the attendance of Saturday Mass for Catholics was sanctioned by the Roman Catholic Church. This same fellow tells that his mother had a list of families that were not proper for choosing a bride. In my study of the clan system within the Zuni and Navajo tribe(s), we can see that the system need not be only Jewish but also the customs of these tribes. Another clue is the fact that Crypto-Jews bury their dead facing east; many Native American tribes adhere to that practice. Putting small pebbles on graves, still another clue---some Indian tribes have a similar custom when passing by a gravesite, the list goes on.

Biblical names are also being studied for clues in the search for Jewish roots; names such as David, Elias, Abran, Solomon, Ezequiel, Jeremias, Melquiades, Ester, Rebecca and Sarah. The surname Rael many insist is the short version of Israel, thus some believe that the family must be Jewish. A study of names in New Mexico reveals that some of these names became popular after the Presbyterian Church and other Protestant religious were established in New Mexico after the American takeover.

According to statements made by some New Mexico researchers, male circumcision was rampant, especially in northern part of the state--even describing how a (Rabbi?) made his way through the hinterlands plying his trade. Yet, it is common knowledge that even into the 1950's many parents shied away from circumcising their baby boys even though the procedure was recommended by their doctors. Finding a skeleton of a chicken (during an archaeological dig in 1967) in a corner of the Royal Chapel at the Presidio in Santa Barbara, California, has led at least one person to believe that the 'find' represents vestiges of the Jewish Kapparrah rite, implying that it is a clue and that some founders of California were of Sephardic origin. The list goes on.

In retrospect, I am satisfied with recent news of the breakthrough theory relating to the male chromosome study which states that Homo sapiens originated in Africa 150,000 years ago and dispersed worldwide or the most recent DNA testing that is presently being perfected. Through blood sampling, a marker will alert the researcher where one's roots are, however the marker will not reveal

religious beliefs. And the theory that the Jewish religion being 'alive and well' in New Mexico after four centuries? No mas Dios sabe

**Excerpt**

Now an excerpt from a book I have on my shelf: Sephardim in the Americas (studies in culture and history) edited by Martin Cohen & Abraham J. Peck. Published by The University of Alabama, 1993.

The essay on pages 433 & 434 "The Secret Jews of the Southwest" was written by Frances Hernandez. She writes, "No Hebrew has survived from the early period except fragmentary inscriptions on pottery shards and on a large stone that could have been a door lintel found in San Miguel County. The Jews of New Spain suffered from lack of Hebrew texts. One scriptural scroll has been found: the "Little Torah," with sixteenth-century Spanish comments inscribed inside its ark now residing at Temple Albert. It was discovered in a tin box, buried somewhere near Los Lunas, a community south of Albuquerque on the Rio Grande that was colonized by New Christians. The circumstances of its discovery and delivery are a secret guarded by the congregation. It is known to have been dated by the department of anthropology at the University of New Mexico as pertaining to the late seventeenth h or eighteenth century."

*Julia Mace*, Clergy Assistant, Congregation Albert responds to questions by Pauline Chavez Bent. "I have spoken with both our Cantor and Rabbi and they both confirm that the "Little Torah" resides here at Congregation Albert. However, the Rabbi states that there are no Spanish notes/markings on it that he has ever seen in his 10 years at this congregation. Additional information [www.congregationalbert.org](http://www.congregationalbert.org) and click on the "Other Committees" on the right and contact the Archives Committee. They may have more detailed information."



**From the Editor Conchita Márquez y Lucero**

La Fiesta de Albuquerque is working to commemorate our ancestors and Millie on Founder Day April 19, 2008. They need your help to carry banners, **please ask your families to help!** The City has cut funds, parade route and the event. Lack of participation could spell the end! Do you think City Councilors are demonstrating that they feel the Spanish history and the cities birthday is important? Pride in your historic ties, your heritage and history need to be demonstrated with a big showing. The celebration is scheduled to begin at the Francisco Curervo y Valdez statue in Old Town at 10:00 a.m. A reading of the

proclamation establishing the Villa will be reenacted followed by a procession to the Gazebo signing La Mananitas. Events of the day will be a proclamation dedicating the day to Millie Santillanes and the founding families, followed by a brief history of Albuquerque and music representing various eras. Plan to eat in Old Town and let the merchants know how important you think the Cities birthday is.

Annually I try to make sure the two events, La Fiesta and the First Thanksgiving Banquet, are not scheduled on the same day. The hotel contracted had to cancel because renovation will be in process.

The Santillanes education award will go to Dolores Valdez de Pong of Santa Fe who has written a play, books and engaged her students in these efforts.

The silent auction items are looking interesting, if you have anything to donate contact Pauline Anaya (505) 242-6582. We will also have a few books for sale: "Spanish Roots of America" by Bishop David Arias of Spain and "Queen Isabel". These are definitely two books that are worth reading over and

over again. I especially enjoyed connecting with towns in Spain and historical significances that we have visited relived in this book.

I hope you are looking forward to having dinner with good friends and celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and hearing Dn. Jerónimo Padilla Director of the Bataan Military Museum shed some light on 1680 history, the other side of the story as told with the Spanish perspective. The Embassy Suites is planning a great meal for us. We are honored to acknowledge Dona Patricia Black Esterely and Don Ronaldo Miera for their years of dedication in the field of genealogy. Both have advanced the information available to high levels.

### **Welcome New Member**

Santiago Romero, Jr. is the owner of S.R. & Associates, Inc. Engineers-Surveyors. He has an interest in History and has developed expertise in the DNA information while tracing his New Mexico Ancestors. He is an active member of NMHGRC and has provided a DNA Presentation to the group.

#### ***DOLORES' TRAVEL TIPS*** Cruises, Tours, and Hotels

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- ✓ If you like doing your own air reservations, check the airline pricing verses deal makers  
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