



NEW MEXICAN HISPANIC CULTURE PRESERVATION  
LEAGUE  
**LA VERDAD CON ORGULLO**  
*December 2011*



**LAS POSADAS** is a New Mexico cherished tradition in preparation for the celebration of Christmas. This custom is said to have been introduced into New Mexico 400 years ago by Fray Diego de Soria, an Augustinian missionary. He wanted a ritual that would counteract those practiced at the time by the native American that honored the gods of war. He obtained permission from the Vatican to use the idea of St. Ignatius Loyola to say a prayer on nine successive days (a novena) that would recall the journey of Mary and Joseph. The custom of the Novena, or nine days' prayer, is one of the very oldest Christian devotions, beginning with the apostles themselves "preserving in prayer" the nine days between the Ascension and Pentecost. This Spanish custom, transplanted to the new world in the early days, and is a novena has been made more dramatic. Action has been added to prayer and the result is both interesting and devotional. Yet this devotional pageant, with prayers, interspersed with hymns sung in Spanish, music and procession is a re-enactment of the holy pilgrims seeking lodging and one that is unique to various communities. Participation in Las Posadas, is always a devotional way to celebrate the season with our heritage and customs.

**LOS PASTORES**, are religious folk plays dating from medieval times. These centuries-old mystery dramas were brought from Spain by the Franciscan Friars, as a means to explain the story of Christmas, and were performed throughout the territory until the early twentieth century. Now *Los Pastores* are staged in only a few places around the State. Still, time has not dimmed their charm, and their spiritual wonder remains.

The story is a simple one—originally designed so that people could understand the message. Traditionally, *Los Pastores* were not written, but verbally handed down from one generation to another. The Christmas play usually opens with the devil angry at Isaiah's prophecy of the coming of a savior, a group of shepherds tend their flocks. They see a brilliant winter star announcing the birth of Christ.

The shepherds embark on their journey to "Belen" Taking a resistant and intoxicated shepherd, Bartolo, who upon casting his eyes on baby Jesus, casts off his life of sin and debauchery and offers his life to the service of Christ.

Everyone rejoices and the players sing "Noche Buena, Noche Santa", as the audience joins in as the play comes to an end. Afterwards, members of the cast and audience gather for refreshments. Also one of the basic ingredients of *Los Pastores* are the annunciation by Archangel Gabriel of the Messiah's birth, where singing the "Gloria" is included.

The clash between good and evil, the costuming, humor, singing, camaraderie, good food and bood cheer all go to make *Los Pastores* an unforgettable part of New Mexican holiday season.

**National Hispanic Cultural Center's Instituto Cervantes and Literary Arts Department** presents ***BICENTENARIOS***. A roundtable discussion on the 200th anniversary of the Independence from Spain. Perspectives from New Mexico, Venezuela and Spain.

- \* Juan Carlos Chiniros Writer, (Venezuela)
- \* Dr. Rick Hendricks, NM State Historian
- Fernando Martinez, Journalist and Writer (Spain)

**Presented in Spanish, Dec. 6, 2011 at 6:30 pm in the Wells Fargo Auditorium. Free admission and open to the public.**

**San Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin (the talking Eagle) (1474-1548) Of the Chichimeca People, living in the Anahuac Valley. At 50 years old he was Baptized. It was on Dec. 9, 1531, Our Lady of Guadalupe first appeared to him.**



**Holy SEASONS GREETINGS!**  
**Christmas and New Year 2012 Blessings!**

This Christmas message is to fortify the fact that Christmas is the season of the birth of Jesus Christ and to remind all, that our Birth mission is to provide care one to another!



The mission of Hispanic expansion, besides looking for trade routes, etc. was to introduce Catholicism to the world. You might say we were the first Evangelists. In all our daily responsibilities we tend to lose sight of the message of the Angel and heavenly hosts in Bethlehem on Christmas night "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, & good will toward men." How, in any stretch of the imagination, can anyone deny what Christmas represents? "Seasons Greetings" doesn't cut it! It's "Merry Christmas". Please answer anyone who wishes you "Season's Greetings" with "Merry Christmas". Let's not deny our Savior!

November's NMHCPL Board meeting we reviewed projects in work and discussed of future ones. Too, the project to implement the American Council on Education Report of 1944 is under way with a letter from our NMHCPL, undersigned by several of our New Mexico Spanish Colonial Historians (the number and names are still being solicited but we have some verbal commitments) to urge reprinting of the report with a mandate to implement it's recommendations. This is a big deal!

Look for the December issue of the Santa Fe Archdiocese "People of God" featuring the interview of young people of St Alice's Parish in Mountainair, NM, who attended the World Youth Conference in Madrid, Spain, with Pope Benedict XVI. What these young people did to be able to attend is amazing, and what they took for Pope Benedict XVI to consider, is a Crusade.

The NMHCPL Board has started plans for our annual April Thanksgiving Banquet. We need more involvement, membership and participation! **Send nominations for awards to the Board.**

Our work in October with St. Charles School was such a pleasure. To see the excitement in the youth at school, when we spoke about who settled here centuries ago, brought, a new view. They too were impressed with the artifacts of the era. The teachers inform me that the students keep asking when are we coming back to tell them more. Come help us! **Blessings and Joy to All!**

*Sincerely,* **Mel Montaño, President NMHCPL**

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**Prayer Requests**

NMHCPL Members, our youth and military, and all most in need of healing. *Blessed Christmas Season!*

JOIN US in our mission



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**NOMINATIONS for the 2012 NMHCPL Awards** are being requested. Banquet is now being planned for sometime in April. Please contact any board member to submit your nominations.

### “La Serpiente En La Cueva”

Por: Pauline Chavez Bent, copyright 2008

Cuando yo estaba joven, me gustaba escuchar las platicas de los mayores--tias, tios, primos y abuelos cuando se juntaban en las tardesitas del invierno, para beber cafe o chocolate y comer biscochitos y pastel de calabaza, y embeces pinon. En sus platicas contaban cuentos del pasado--cuentos de brujas, de hechiceras y tambien de enanos. Pero habia otros asuntos que no podian discutir--con el achaque que no se acordaban quien les habia conta el cuento. Decian,"no se quien my dijo ese cuento, muy facil mi primo o mi compdre, o puede que un vagamundo, no me acuerdo".

Uno de los cuentos que discutian en voces muy quietas era el de *la serpiente en la cueva*, el cuento esta localizado en el pueblo de Zuni donde vive el tribo de Indios. En Nuevo Mexico hay como catorce de estos pueblos, mas o menos.

Mi hermanita y mi prima se riean de mi porque me dava miedo cuando platicaban de la serpiente,y me decian, "Scaredy cat, scaredy cat!"

En mil treientos treinta y cinco, mi tia Biviana nesisitava trabajo malamente, pero en el lugar donde ella vivia no habia trabajo para mujeres. Desesperadamente fue pa' el pueblo de Zuni haber si podia hallar trabajo. Dios y la guena suerte fueron con ella. Un senior en el pueblo tenia una tienda y una posada, y le dio trabajo. Su tarea era assiater en la tienda por cuatro horas, y en la posada por otras cuatro. Totalmente 8 horas al dia 6 dias de la semana; el Domingo era dia de descanso. Biviana rento un cuarto en el pueblo que era parte de otras casas, toditas pegadas pared a pared. El cuarto tenia muebles; cama, mesa,bancos y todo lo necesario para viver muy comodo. En la casa de enfrente, vivia una familia que tenia un chamaco como de tres anos, y las senora estava esperando otro nino, parecia que prontito.

Una noche Biviana estava dormida, y como a las tres de la manana despierto y se levanto pa' echarle un leno al fogon--era diciembre y estava mucho frio.

Se puso a escuchar y parecia que alguin estava llorando, el llanto parecia que originava de la casa de enfrente. El llanto siguio como por media hora y espues todo quedo silencio.

En la manana cuando Biviana salio de su cuarto pa' hirse a su trabajo encontro a una vecina y le dio los buenos dias, y le pregunto si habia oido el llanto en la madrugada. La senora voltio su cara y no le respondio. La segunda noche la misma cosa paso. Llanto, tres, cuatro, cinco, seis, siete, ocho noches, el mismo llanto--y despues todo silencio. En el pueblo durante el dia naiden hablaba.

A los ocho dias muy de manana la senora de enfrente salio de su casa con su chamaco. El nino tenia una pelota y jugaron por unos minutos. La senora se via muy palida y delgadita y se conocia que ya no estava embarazada.

Cuando vio a Biviana se metio a su casa sin saludarla. A Biviana le dio un escalofrio por todo su cuerpo y comenzo a temblar, acordandose del cuento de la "Serpiente en la cueva" que habia oido de los ancianos: La serpiente vive en una cueva cerca del pueblo de Zuni, localizada en la mesa sagrada "Towaya'lane." La serpiente no sale de la oscuridad--siempre se esta en la cueva. En la cueva no hay nada pa' comer. Cuando llega el mes de diciembre la serpiente se esta muriendo de hambre--y el primer nino que nace en diciembre los Indios lo llevan pa' la cueva para que no se muera la serpiente.

Book: “*To The Inland Empire*,” by Stewart Udall.

A photo of the sacred mountain is between page 94 & 98.

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**NM Historic Preservation and the Cultural Properties Review Committee** will hold a general session meeting on December 9, 2011, 1:00 P.M. State Capitol, Room 311 490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico (505) 827-6320 Nominations on agenda are: Apache Mesa Segment of the Old Santa Fe Trail and the Casa Vieja in Corrales, NM.

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ADVENT, has begun which marks the new Liturgical year, as we Christians wait and prepare for the Mystery of the Incarnation of our Savior.

**The Department of the Interior** initiative on the American Latino Heritage was launched in early 2011 and consists of several projects under the direction of the National Park Service, one of the bureaus within the Interior Department. The purpose of the initiative is to increase the opportunities for the American people to learn more about the important role of Latinos in the development of the nation. As you may know, the National Park Service administers 395 national parks, some of which address the early Spanish exploration and settlement of the North American continent. The National Park Service also administers a number of programs, such as the National Historic Landmarks program that provides official recognition to historic properties of national significance. The bureau also administers National Historic Trails and National Heritage Areas, among others that assist communities with the preservation of historic places.

The National Park Service is seeking public input on a number of projects that it has developed to address the need to increase the public's understanding of American Latino heritage, including an American Latino Theme Study and an increased number of National Historic Landmark nominations associated with American Latino history. The website below provides information on these projects and additional ones. As these projects develop, the website will be updated.

**<http://www.nps.gov/history/crdi/latino.html>**

Additional nominations for nationally significant American Latino historic properties will assist with their recognition, preservation, and interpretation. Our inputs and assistance can help with the mission of the NMHCPL, check out the website. The National Park Service states they appreciate your interest in this important aspect of U.S. history and invite your comments.

Please send your comments via e-mail to [American\\_Latino\\_Heritage@nps.gov](mailto:American_Latino_Heritage@nps.gov)

**ANNUAL U.N.M's Popejoy Hall presents on Sunday** Dec. 12, 2011 at 2pm.  
**"MARIACHI CHRISTMAS"**

Call or visit website for tickets on this joyful event. The music, the celebrations, the holiness of this season is highlighted at this event! Feliz Navidad!!!

**La Noche Buena**, describes also an attitude New Mexicans regard the day before Christmas, highly regarded day when our Savior finally arrived. Most looked forward to attend "La Misa del Gallo" a tradition of the family going to midnight mass to celebrate the birth of Christ. Folklore has it that on the night Jesus was born, the animals around the manger were dismayed because there were no human visitors to the site to observe this momentous happening. The donkey and the ox did their part to celebrate the occasion by supplying warmth to the infant with their breath.

Outside, an aging rooster flew to a high point near the manger and in his own way announced the birth of the Christ child. It then seems another rooster joined in. Thus, Spanish speaking peoples passing this tale down through the ages, began to call the mass "la Misa del Gallo" in honor of the first announcers of the coming of the Messiah. Having introduced domesticated animals to the new world, and establishing the ranching/farming way of life, the Spanish were all too familiar with the first and early call of a new day, by the rooster!

**National Hispanic Cultural Center (N.H.C.C.)**

**Free Event : Saturday, Dec. 10. at 2pm**

**Salon Ortega: Resolana "The Work of Fray Antonio Margil de Jesus"**

A roundtable discussion on the work of Franciscans and Spanish missions in the Southwest and Northern Mexico and its affect on the Hispanic population of the Southwest. Fray Margil was responsible for many of the establishment of missions in northern Mexico, Texas and even impacted many of those in New Mexico. As the harbingers of Western culture in the American Southwest the Franciscan Order will be the subject of this panel who will share some of the latest research into the role of this man and his mendicant order in many facets of Western U.S. history and religion.

**RECIPES: Check out our NMHCPL website .**

**Biscochitos:**

1 cup sugar                      1 Tbsp. Baking Powder

1 lb lard                            1 Tbsp. Anise seed

2 Eggs                                1/3 cup Orange Juice

1 tsp. vinegar                    1/3 cup Sugar

1 tsp. salt

Yields about 12 dozen. Celebrate the Season!!



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**DECEMBER** Saint/Feast Days

- 3 St Francis Xavier, Albuquerque, and Clayton,
- 8 Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Lavang, Albuquerque, Las Vegas, and Tóme
- 9 San Juan Diego
- 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Clovis, Pena Blanca, Peralta, Pojoaque, Taos, Villanueva
- 16 Las Posadas Novena's Begin various churches
- 25 CHRISTMAS/ NAVIDAD, Prince of Peace- Albuquerque, Church of Incarnation, Rio Rancho,

**DECEMBER** Events

- 11 1598 Zaldivar Massacre at Ácoma
- 12 Dia de Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe
- 16 1693 deVargas enters Santa Fe-Reconquista complete
- 25 Día de Navidad (Blessed Christmas to All)
- 26 1846 Battle of Brazitos- U.S./Mexican War
- 31 New Years Eve

**WINTER SPANISH MARKET** week end  
Santa Fe Convention Center, Dec. 3-4.

**Las MANANITAS Mass San Felipe Church**  
**Plaza Vieja Feast of Guadalupe:** Dec. 12, 6:30AM

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**YOU ARE INVITED TO** Join Us  
Hispanic Culture Preservation League, Wednesday,  
December 7, 6:30pm monthly meetings, for info and  
directions call: 239-4335, Pauline.

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**N.H.C.C. Santa Fe Opera "SHOES FOR THE SANTO Niño" FREE event: Dec 16-18 Fri.-Sat. 7pm. Sat-Sun 2 & 7pm**

This joyous piece by the Santa Fe Opera depicts the important role of the Santo Niño de Atocha as part of the traditional cultural fabric of northern New Mexico in both Hispanic and Native American families. The tale of Julianita and the Santo Niño, passed down from generation to generation. The Santo Niño is known as an advocate for healing, primarily of children, and many believe that he wears the shoes left by pilgrims who visit his shrines to walk abroad and heal sick children while they sleep.

**N.H.C.C. Film Premiere: Free Event on Dec. 17, 2011**  
10 AM "The Connected Baby" Miracle of Brain Development.

Created by Scotland's Dr. Suzanne Zeedyk, the connected baby is an inspiring film on the miracle of brain development and how early childhood education is key to our future. The Western U.S. premiere of the 70-minute film features a personal appearance by Dr. Zeedyk, and is followed by a discussion session.

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**PEOPLE of GOD Publication, Nov. 2011 Issue**  
**www.archdiosf.org. (Archdiocese of Santa Fe.**  
On Oct 14, 2011, St Charles Borromeo Catholic School, held a celebration as a means to teach and learn of the contributions and achievements of the Hispanic people, during National Hispanic Heritage Month. Members of the NMHCPL, President, Ret. General Melvyn Montañó, Orae Dominguez and Ricardo Quintana contributed much to this effort. Mrs. Roach's 6A classroom organized the effort. The pictures of students, NMHCPL Treasurer, Ricardo Quintana, Principal Vivian LaValley and others showing many happy faces was an excellent feature in the AoSF monthly publication. An excellent contribution to our youth community was made.

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**St. Francis of Assisi is credited with creating the first nativity scene in 1223**

(Wikipedia) The scene was a living one, intending thereby to cultivate the worship of Christ. The scenes popularity inspired communities throughout Christendom to stage similar pantomimes and eventually to create elaborate and even more elaborate scenes.

The Pope has for many years blessed the mangers of children assembled in St. Peter's Square for a special ceremony

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**NM Heritage Preservation State Organization**

Needs Board of Director Volunteers.  
If you are interested in working with on Preservation, they are looking for board members members who are willing to meet 4 times a year around the state, and work between meetings to keep our organization viable and useful in the pursuit of preserving our unique cultural heritage! They need your energy! [www.nmheritage.org](http://www.nmheritage.org)

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**Hispanic Genealogical Reserch Center of NMMeets the first Saturday of the Month.**

The December 3, 2011 meeting is the Annual Member Guest Christmas Party **Pot Luck with a Show & Tell Open House.** (Lourdes Hall on Pius X H.S. Campus Rm. 134 -136.)LOCATION: HGRC Office, 4060 St. Joseph Pl. NW Albuquerque, NM 87120:



**Have you renewed your Membership? Will you consider giving a Student Membership gift?**

Dues are \$35 (per family): \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Students \$20: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Student Membership Gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
Make checks payable (NMHCPL) PO Box 7956 (87194)  
**Attention:** Membership Chair  
New Mexican Hispanic Culture Preservation League

Name: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

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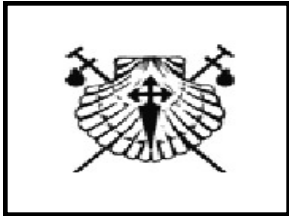
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Banquet \_\_\_\_\_ Silent auction \_\_\_\_\_ Lobbying \_\_\_\_\_ Submit articles \_\_\_\_\_

Other Areas of interest \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment \_\_\_\_\_

**www.nmcpl.org**



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

**Mission Statement :**  
The mission of the New Mexican Hispanic Culture Preservation League it to Preserve the heritage, Spanish language and the history of Hispanic New Mexico, to promote the education and understanding of the contributions of Hispanics to the development of New Mexico and the nation, to protect the history of the New Mexican Hispanic heritage and culture. To achieve this mission, we will seek the TRUTH of our heritage and history, and re-store the TRUTH and PRIDE of our New Mexican Hispanic Culture.

