

Conchita Lucero

NMHCPL



President of the New Mexican Hispanic Culture Preservation League 2004-2006 and a Founding member in 1998. This organization has address inaccurate and stereotyping of the Spanish culture and history.

NMHCPL actively worked with the New Mexico State Legislature to get two proclamations to acknowledge the achievements of our ancestors.

1. Declares First Thanksgiving when don Juan de Oñate and the settlers arrived April 30, 1598
2. Declares April as Hispanic History Month.

I arranged a meeting with Governor Bill Richardson and Department of Education to request support for House Bill 139 to make New Mexico history a required subject. I Lobbied legislators and the bill passed the House 31-2. Other groups have tried to get similar bills passed for seventeen years.

NMHCPL Committees

Designed the logo for NMHCPL

I have served as banquet: co-chair and Chair

Publicity

Special events chair.

We have been able to get media attention for the banquet and the two individuals acknowledged annually.

Executive Tricentennial Board

Appointed by City Councilor Tina Commins to the Executive Tricentennial Board in 2002. This board is the steering committee for the City of Albuquerque 300th Birthday celebration. The celebration will kick off in April of 2005 and will end October of 2006

My reasons for wanting to serve on this board are to watch out for historic accuracy, sensitivity,

and make sure that the Spanish colonial history is acknowledged.

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro CARTA Board and founding member.

This organization works in partnership with the National Parks Service and will dedicate the National Trail Interpretive Center in Socorro New Mexico.

It is important to help make decisions with portray the Spanish Colonial era in a positive light which will be presented to the public in the center. Participating on board helps to curtail negative

stereo typing and helps to avoid perpetuating the Black Legend.

Cuarto Centenario Board

Volunteer for Four years

There was massive dissension by Acoma Pueblo to stop the celebration. Which was joined by Taos Pueblo and San Juan Pueblos NONE OF WHICH PAY TAXES IN Bernalillo County. Lobbying City counselor became crucial administrations changed there for the work that had begun suffered through many changes. Mayor Jim Baca's newly appointed Cuarto Centerario Chair Arturo Sandoval was anti Spanish Colonial era. In order to celebrate our ancestors history and accomplishments meant educating others. It is at this point that my daughter designed a pin and a list of all things the early settlers brought to this area. My

husband and I personally financed making the pins and the list. We have passed these items out to many teachers, organization, and people at the parade in order to educate and to combat the negative stereo typing that was occurring because of the one side accounts of the Acoma battle. We pass out these materials at every conference we go to.

During a taped panel discussion of which the panelist except for Dr. Joseph Sanchez were anti Oñate, I asked questions and made statements which presented the other side of the story. I also talked to the Journalists accusing them of one giving one side of the story at this point they began looking into other source which broadened the material in the newspaper. This situation certainly had those of Spanish decent wanting to celebrate and have the cities tax dollar used to acknowledge our ancestors. Serving on this board meant you had to know your history to defuse situations and at times stand firm.

Many times we will spend the time talking to people making them aware of the great accomplishment during the exploration period and of the wonderful history and sites of Spain.

Cuarto Centenario Committee Parade Chair

Organized the Cuatro Centenario Parade

The letters that were sent were at my husbands and my own expense.

Sent letter to:

Albuquerque Public Schools 119 and their activity directors,

Spanish Clubs and bands

Private schools

Hispanic Round Table and all affiliates organization

Contacted Hispano Chamber of Commerce

Archbishop and every Catholic Church

Located local authority to secure copies of surname family crests which were used created

escudos.

Contacted individuals to carry 78 banners

Designed and Organized construction of New Mexican Hispanic

Research

Centers Float

My family certainly have supported and assisted in my efforts to carry banners and make the parade a success.

La Barraca member

Under the leadership of Dr. Carmen Martin Lara we made preparations to bring Victor Lopez of Valencia Spain to help us construct a float that would incorporate the items brought by our ancestors up the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro in 1598 for the Cuarto Centenario. At an expense to my husband and myself we housed Victor and his wife Marie Carmen. Our daughter Lynne Marie Marquez Lucero , her husband Michael Arendall provided material, transportation and labor during the construction of the float. When ever time allowed my husband, son and I assisted Lynne and Victor working on the float. We entered it in the State Fair and then took the float to the don Diego de Vargas Santa Fe New Mexico fiestas where it won first place.

Cuarto Centenario Art committee

Four years City councilors could not make a decision about the art requested because of the controversy. Therefore an art committee was named to mediators. The cities art board who had shown great prejudice directed the selection process for this committee. People were on this committee that did not live or pay taxes in Bernalillo County and knew nothing about the historical accounts of the Acoma battle. The Mayor of Acoma Ron Shitiva, and investigative reporter Conroy Chino led a group against the depiction of don Juan de Oñate. The meeting

would take place weekly for over nine months. The facilitators obviously had an agenda. My daughter Lynne Marquez Lucero a very soft spoken individual was chosen and myself to be on this committee. Many times the facilitator refused to record our input and we certainly had to show inner strength. What kept us going was the knowledge that Spain had some of the best human rights laws at the time and that every effort was made to make the new subjects citizens with all the rights to Spanish law. Lynne, John and I had been in contact with many well respected historians reviewing and for verification. This committee ended with a dissension report filed by myself and my daughter outlining the mediators biases. The City Councilors finally had to take a stand and voted to fund the monument that will be dedicated this year 2005.

During this period a group of us realizing the average decent of the first settlers is uninformed about the Spanish history of this area therefore we established the New Mexican Hispanic Cultural Preservation League of which John and I are founding members. I have served as First Vice President and currently President.

Genealogy Societies

Served on boards for New Mexican Hispanic Genealogical Board and the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America Board which is a National Board. This service made me aware of Southwestern history, which has developed into passion. Both John and I have been able to trace five lines of our ancestors roots to the founding settlers of Nueva Espana. My family has received the Pecos and Anton Chico land grant. My Mothers family line Garcia de Noriega traces to Alonzo Garcia de Noriega the Lt. Governor under Governor Otermín he and his sons were considered heroes during the San Lorenzo massacre of 1680 for saving many families in the Rio Abajo from the revolt. My fathers line Jerionomo Márquez was a Captain and very close to don Juan de Oñate. It is with pride that we learn about their history. For three years John, Lynne and our son Dean have designed and organized constructing a float for the City's Fiesta de Albuquerque parade (Founders Day)

National Hispanic Culture Center Torreón

Arranged a meeting with Kathryn Archuleta to view the sketches proposed for the Torreón. Objections were expressed to then Director Dr. Thomas Chavez and the Board of Directors. The Torreón had over a third dedicated to the Aztec, Myan and pre-Columbian Culture while important Spanish contributions were ignored. Insignificant status in the mural was given to Queen Isabel De Castilla y Leon and King Fernando II of Aragon,V of Spain, while other figures were emphasized. We brought this to the attend of the board and asked for more balance and inclusion of the missions, maps, coins, items brought by the Spanish and an emphases on King and Queen of Spain who opened the door to discovery and human rights laws.

Support for El Paso's don Juan de Oñate world largest equestrian statue created by John Houser and XII Twelve Travelers El Paso's.

Individuals from Acoma who had protested the Cuarto Centenario united once again to present a one sided presentation of history and to stop references to don Juan de Oñate and the Spain settlements. Letters were written to El Paso City Counsel and the newspapers.

PBS is taping background for the story of don Juan de Oñate and John Housers sculpture. Members of the PBS crew have contacted John and I to videotape

individuals who can trace their roots the families who came in with these early settlers.

My efforts to acknowledge my ancestor came about because as a child studying American History I asked my Grandmother who was a teacher didn't our ancestors do anything? When John and I started tracing our genealogy we were shocked to find out the positive side of history. We have helped to promote Dr. Thomas Chavez book Spain and the Independence of the United States. Dr. Felix D. Almaraz broadened the our education with the Tragic Cavalier, Eloy Gallegos has contributed to research on the Eastern Sea bored, and Bishop David Arias made us aware of the Spanish Roots of America.

Founder Fiesta de Alburquerque

Annul participation in Founders Day Parade carrying surname banners. Financed two escurdos: Lucero and Márquez. Organized the NMHCPL group to go to Santa Fe Fiesta and the State Fair to carry banners and bringing awareness to the families who founded the villa under Spanish rule. During this fiesta we pass out fliers about the things the Spanish brought.