We CELEBRATE the first Thanksgiving ever held in the present United States on April 30, 1598. The Spanish gave thanks for reaching a new homeland just before crossing the Rio Grande to settle what is now New Mexico, Arizona, Eastern California, Southern Nevada, Western Texas, Western Oklahoma and Southwestern Kansas.

Speaker/ Baker H. Morrow  
Topic: “What ever happened to Cabeza de Vaca”

EACH YEAR AT OUR BANQUET we honor a man and a woman who have served as role models for others and exemplified in a positive manner the attributes of New Mexico’s Hispanic culture. Like Don Juan de Oñate and Doña Eufemia. This year is no different:

Adelantado Award: ~ Dr. Joseph Sanchez, Historian, Natl Parks Superintendent

Doña Eufemia Award ~ Henrietta Martinez Christmas, Genealogist/Historian Researcher

Millie Santillanes Education Award: ~ Barbe Awalt & Paul Rhettas, Publishers LPD Press

Special Recognition Award ~ Dón Vidal Santillanes, Cultural Advocate

“Come, noble soldiers, knights of Christ, here is presented the first opportunity for you to show your mettle and courage and to prove that you are deserving of the glories in store for you.” Juan de Oñate

NOTE: Reminder that the Alburquerque Founder’s Day Festivities will be held on Sat. April 21, 2012 Call ASAP George Lopez 280-2722 to help carry banners. Noon—5pm Old Town Activities 2:30 PM line up. Meet at the Gov. Francisco Cuervo y Valdez Statue Old Town

DEADLINE For DINNER Buffet RESERVATIONS April 15, 2012
President Melvyn Montano’s Message

The NMHCPL once again is planning our annual Thanksgiving Banquet. There are so many who are worthy of recognition. It is always a difficult, but honored task to consider those awardees for selection each year. We greatly appreciate the personal sacrifices offered by those who promote and honor our story and heritage. This League is key in providing, (at least for a few) deserving individuals some recognition. We are pleased to have been able to continue through the 14 years! You as members who continue to pay your annual dues, helps to keep this organization alive! Thank you.

Other events taking place are the 17th Annual – International Conference of the Anza Society on the second week-end in March, most years, and is offered by a dedicated group based in Tucson, AZ. It is always a very fun and interesting conference.

This year the Belen Hispano Chamber of Commerce had challenges with the FDA, which they overcame. It created a delay and much added work to make sure the “Matanza” heritage continues. Members stated that though many of the Hispanic youth no longer speak Spanish, the activities of ranching and farming are still a vital part of the culture here in New Mexico. The Belen HCC will provide a “Mantanza” into the future. Hopefully a delicious and fun cultural time will be held again in January of next year. Thousands now attending, and let’s hope it continues to grow in support!

Finally, the Board of the NMHCPL encourage members to attend our upcoming First Thanksgiving Banquet Celebration. Those who attend and make the sacrifice each year to support us, are greatly appreciated. Without your continued encouragement and supports, we would not be able to continue. **We hope to see you on April 21, 6:00pm.**

Sincerely, Melvyn Montaño, President

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Prayer Requests
May this lenten season bring every opportunity for inner reflection and growth!
Feb. 22 thru April 8, 2012

The humble shamrock was originally a teaching tool. St. Patrick is said to have used the three-leaved plant to explain the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) to the pagan Irish.

Pope Benedict XVI, “through fasting, almsgiving, and prayer Lent teaches us how to live the love of Christ in an even more radical way.”
ALBURQUERQUE’S Founders Day Fiestas

This is a REMINDER that the 306th Founders Day Fiestas will be celebrated in Old Town. There is still time to plan your participation in this Fiestas. Plan to dress in 1700’s Spanish dress to honor our ancestors so to demonstrate our pride! Call George Lopez 280-2722 if you are able to carry a banner. He needs to know how many banners to have available in advance!

April 21, 2011 Old Town Alburquerque:
Noon to 5:00PM
(Meet at Gov. Cuervo Statue at 2:30)
3:00 to 3:30 pm Parade and Proclamations

The Albuquerque Founders Day, Inc (AFD) committee will meet at the Gov. Cuervo Statue to distribute the Banners for those interested in helping carry the banners and walking into the Plaza. The “parade” will include and display family name banners. So we will need to know before hand who will carry banners, children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Dress should be 1700's Era type if at all possible.

BOOK: “Trespassers on our Own Land”
By: Mike Scarborough
Armando Rendon, editor of "Somos en Escrito" Magazine says: Friends, this might just be that rare opportunity which makes many people 'stand up and take notice' of an outstanding, super book which reveals new and important details of our ancestor's times, trials and tribulations - therefore, for those so inclined to learn more, now is the opportunity to purchase this book, and ask your families and friends to do likewise. You may also pass this e-mail on to others, as the book is available on-line. Mike Scarborough, an Espanola, NM native, USAF veteran and retired attorney, is presently living in Santa Fe, NM. He assures that any book purchased, he will sign - either at: future book-signings; those purchased through him personally; or those purchased otherwise/on-line, and brought to him personally for signature. Scarborough's e-mail is: justice1o1@aol.com, and his Tel: is 505-992-2901.

The following are outlets where the book may be purchased: Rio Grande Sun, Espanola; NM History Museum Book store; Garcia Street Bookstore; and Travel Bug in Santa Fe; On-Line thru Amazon and Barnes and Noble; and a future website: trespassersonourownland.com; also thru Google search of "trespassers on our own land" one can find other sites offering the book at $19.95.

Spanish Shipwreck Treasure : “Nuestra Senora de las Mercedes” by: Asso. Press:
Mitch Stacy ~ 2/24/12. Poised to leave the US for Spain. Two Spanish military C-130 transport planes will leave out of Tampa’s MacDill Air Force Base, with the 594,000 silver coins and other artifacts to be carried to Spain in the same white plastic buckets in which the explorers with Odyssey Marine Exploration who discovered the sunken Spanish galleon five years ago, stored the treasure.

The claims on the treasure were filed in U.S. Courts, by Peru, and Odyssey Marine Exploration, but after a five year legal battle, they have been rejected. The Spanish galleon was sunk by British warships in the Atlantic while sailing back from South America in 1804. More than 200 people were aboard the galleon at the time, found off the Portuguese coast. At the time of the discovery the coins were estimated to be worth as much as $500 million to collectors, which would have made it the richest shipwreck treasure in history.

Odyssey Marine Exploration, which uses remote controlled vehicles to explore the depths and bring the tiniest of items to the surface, had argued that as the finder it was entitled to all or most of the Treasure. The Spanish government filed a claim in U.S. District Court soon after the coins were flown back to Tampa, contending that it never relinquished ownership for the ship or its contents.
A federal district court first ruled in 2009 that the U.S. courts didn’t have jurisdiction and ordered the treasure returned. Odyssey lost every round in the federal courts as it tried to hold on to the treasure, arguing that the wreck was never positively identified as the Nuestra Senora de las Mercedes. And if it was that vessel, the company contended that the ship was on a commercial trade trip—not a sovereign mission—at the time it sank, meaning Span would have no firm claim to the cargo. International treaties generally hold that warships sunk in battle are protected from treasure seekers.

In several projects since then Odyssey has worked with the British government on efforts to salvage the nations’ sunken ships, with agreements to share what it recovers.

17th Annual Anza Society World Conference
March 8-11, 2012 to be held south of Tucson in Green Valley, AZ. At Wyndham Resort Green Valley.
See Juan Bautista de Anza Society website at: www.anzasociety.org. The Conference site of the Friday, March 9. Presentations from 8AM-4:45pm, evening cocktails 6:00pm banquet at 7:00pm with speaker Jim Turner. Saturday, March 10, Vans depart Resort in Vans 8:00 for a day of tours and museum visits. dinner 6:45 departure for dinner at Wisdoms Cafe, than back to Wyndham Resort at 9:00pm. Registration Costs are as follows: $165/person for the entire conference, excluding Hotel. May register at the door! President: Sharon Myers sandjmyers@comcast.net (520) 360-5411

Hispanic Genealogical Research Center of New Mexico (HGRC of NM)
President Ronaldo Miera Monthly meeting on the first Saturday of the month. March 3 meeting to be held at the Natl. Hispanic Cultural Center, at 10:30am, Wells Fargo Auditorium SPEAKER: Henrietta Martinez Christmas– Genealogist and Historic Researcher TOPIC: “Get ready for the 1940 Census data.”

On March 17, in Chicago every year, the Plumbers Local 110 union dyes the river “Kelly” green. The dye lasts for about five hours. BLESSED St. Patricks Day!!
MARCH -  Saint Days/ (Feasts)
5  San Marcus  San Juan Jose de la Cruz
6  San Julian of Toledo
8  San Juan de Dios
17  San Patricio  (Chama)
18  San Patricio & San Jose  (Raton)
19  Mission San Jose de la Cienega  (Santa Fe)
    San Jose, (Anton Chico) (Cerrillos) (Springer)
    (Mission San Jose-San Felipe de Neri) (Los Ojos)
25th  Our Lady of the Annunciation  (ALBUQ)

MARCH- Events
7  1539  Marcos de Niza enters New Mexico
11  HCPL  Meeting 6:30pm
13  Daylight Saving Time
17  Día de San Patricio
19  Día de San José
26  1862 Battle of Glorieta

APRIL
4  San Ysidore de Seville
8  EASTER SUNDAY!
21  Alburquerque Founders Day  Noon-5:00pm
    NMHCPL  14th Annual Banquet  6:00pm

NM Historic Preservation Association~
Announcing NMHPA Conference in 2011 April 6-9 in Las Vegas, NM. _THEME: Championing Sustainability: Preserving New Mexico's Heritage._
Attendance acceptable for full conference or daily.  Go to website for details at: www.nmheritage.org or Call 505-345-9684 or email: Chavez.22@comcast.net.

Noted US Latino scholar 'forgotten' in birthplace
By Russell Contreras, Associated Press
_The Fresno Bee_ (February 11, 2012)

The name **George I. Sanchez** has been celebrated for years among Mexican Americans in Texas and California.  His book “The Forgotten People” is a classic in Educational studies.

A son of an Arizona miner, the Albuquerque-born Sanchez worked his way out of poverty as a rural public school teacher in New Mexico to become a pioneer scholar and education activist.  His 1940 classic book "Forgotten People" brought attention to the plight of poor Mexican Americans in Taos.

His writings on racial segregation attracted the attention of Thurgood Marshall, the lead NAACP attorney in the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case and later a U.S. Supreme Court justice.  But while dozens or so schools in Texas and California are named in honor of Sanchez – including the School of Education building at the University of Texas, where he taught for many years – not a single school in New Mexico bears his name.  Few New Mexico educators or activists know much about him, according to historians and educators.  No plaque exists to show his birthplace or the school where Sanchez taught.  He is not listed among the state’s notable figures in New Mexico Centennial guidebooks.

In a state obsessed with its Hispanic heritage, its most celebrated Latino civil rights leader and "dean of Mexican American studies," ironically, is seldom mentioned.  His political fallout with state lawmakers in the 1930s over education reform and a divorce with his first wife, Virginia Romero, who was from a politically connected New Mexican family, diminished his stature at the time.  Forty years after his death, few memories of him remain.

"He's a forgotten man for a forgotten people," said his granddaughter Cindy Kennedy, 48, a Santa Fe teacher.

Sanchez developed his theories on school inequalities using New Mexico's Hispanic and Navajo populations as examples.  He argued that bilingual students were discriminated against by monolingual school systems and testified in landmark court cases about the negative effects of segregation and IQ testing on Hispanic, American Indian and black children.

"It does surprise me that New Mexico doesn't honor Sanchez," said Carlos Blanton, a history professor at Texas A&M University, who is writing a book about the educator.  "Maybe it's because he left, and you just don't leave New Mexico." (to continue next month).
Have you renewed your Membership? Will you consider giving a Student Membership gift?
Dues are $35 (per family): $______
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Make checks payable (NMHCPL) PO Box 7956 (87194)
**Attention:** , Membership Chairman
New Mexican Hispanic Culture Preservation League

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May the blessings of each day
Be the blessings you need most

**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.