



# Noticias de Nuestras Raices

Genealogical Society of Hispanic America Newsletter

President's Message	2
Update on Conference	3
Down Memory Lane	4
2014 Conference	5
Winter Organizing	6
New Webmaster	7
Board Members	8

## Our Spanish Roots, Mexican Trunk, and American Branches

**Dear Members:**

Mark your calendars for the first weekend in June for our national conference to be held in the Denver Metro suburb of Westminster, Colorado where we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of GSHA.

This year's theme is *Our Spanish Roots, Mexican Trunk and American Branches*. Most of us in our research have done a backward migration from the U. S. to Mexico to Spain. In honor of our 25th anniversary we want to come full circle with a forward migration from Spain to Mexico to the United States. The history of that journey is rich, and the genealogy that we are compiling through our paper trail and most recent DNA trail make for a vibrant and intertwining mosaic.

In addition to this celebration, you can look forward to progressing in your genealogy by the many people with whom you meet or reunite and share new research. I can already see those networking wires connecting. You will also listen to various stimulating topics and workshops that teach and motivate you to continue what you are doing. I know each time I have attended a conference it inspires me to try different avenues in my research and not give up because that illusive ancestor can't hide forever. The laughter and the conversations are music to my ears, and the hugs nurture my soul. See you in Denver!

*Charlene Garcia Simms, Editor  
Noticias de Nuestras Raices*

**We Need Your Memories!**

In a few months GSHA will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its first Annual Meeting and Genealogical Conference. Were you there? Did you take pictures? If you were, please send copies of those photos and jot down those memories and send them to me.

Were you a member of GSHA between 1988 & 1997? Did you attend meetings in Denver? Did you volunteer for the board or any committees? If you did, we need your memories.

We are preparing a special *Nuestras Raices* issue to coincide with the 2014 conference, but it cannot be written without your photos and memories. So please send them to me as soon as possible. Our editors will shape the material into a cohesive article and you will have the satisfaction of being a part of this historic event. I don't know about you, but I doubt that I will be here for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It may only take a few minutes to jot down your memories—and if something humorous or dramatic took place, all the better. Let's bring those first nine years back to life. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Donie Nelson  
Editor-in-Chief, Nuestras Raices Journal*



Our Spanish Roots



Mexican Trunk



U. S. Branches

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Happy New Year,**

I started off the New Year at the top of Aspen Trail in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It was so beautiful with the crisp, white, barren bark of the aspen, the crystal blue shimmer from the snow, and a brilliant “tidy bowl” blue sky in the background. My aspirations for a great New Year were quickly turned upside down with a single phone call that my father had been hospitalized in Nevada. He has since been released and has a long road to recovery ahead of him. It just goes to show you how you must live each day to the fullest because none of us know what the future has in store.

My focus has once again turned to GSHA and the planning involved to assure our members benefit from the many perks of membership. We are in the midst of planning our 2014 conference, *Our Spanish Roots, Mexican Trunk, and American Branches*, in Denver, Colorado. It is looking to be one of the biggest and best conferences we have ever had. We are returning to the city where GSHA was founded over 25 years ago. We are also inviting several other genealogical groups in the Denver area to participate along with us. This will surely be a great networking opportunity for all who attend. Please go to our website at [gsha.net](http://gsha.net) for a registration form.

If you have not yet done so, please take a moment to join us on Facebook where we have a growing presence. Also, go to our website, [gsha.net](http://gsha.net) to check out our new research opportunity whereby you can order our past journals, *Nuestras Raices*, dating back to 1989.

This year I would like to encourage new members to get involved. The future of GSHA depends heavily on your involvement. We appreciate volunteers in all capacities both big and small. And of course, monetary donations are always appreciated.

Your Board of Directors is here to serve you, as always. Please join us in welcoming our new Secretary, Janice Crane. We count on our Chapter Representatives to keep the chapters informed of the National business, and also to act as a voice for our members to continually let us know what our members want from GSHA. This year your representatives are as follows: FACC - Rita Morales, GSHA-SC - Paul Gomez, and MAL - Frank Dominguez.

We are an organization in progress and are always evolving to better meet the members’ needs. Our Bylaws allow members to have input on amendments as needed. The bylaws also state that such requests for amendments are submitted to the Board of Directors no later than March 31, 2014. I anticipate there will be changes made this year, so start to review the existing bylaws and submit your recommendations at your earliest convenience. Our current by-laws are available for review on our website.

I am also in the process of planning a trip to the South Pacific for March where several medical and dental professionals will be volunteering our time to treat local islanders in that remote part of the world. Please keep me in your thoughts as I embark on this calling and opportunity in my life.

Very truly yours,  
*Doug Daniels*

## CONFERENCE UPDATE



Update by Jeanette Fisher—January 31, 2014

**Conference Registration Form:** We thank you for your patience as the conference committee finalizes costs for meals, speakers, printing, etc., in order to set the cost of the conference registration. Our goal is to have the registration form ready and on line by the time you get this newsletter, if not sooner.

**Pre-Conference Tour:** If you plan to arrive in Denver early, you may want to participate in a guided tour of the History Colorado Center. The tour will begin at 10:00 am on Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. The cost is only \$12 or \$10 for seniors. There are several restaurants nearby for lunch. In the morning you'll have a guided tour of the Center.

After lunch, a curator will display and talk about some of the Hispanic-related artifacts housed in the Center's storage area. Then a presentation on searchable records which pertain to Hispanic genealogy will be presented. Cost for the afternoon session is \$5. Email [jsmf1925@hotmail.com](mailto:jsmf1925@hotmail.com) or call Jeanette at 520-490-9449 to reserve your space now.

**Westin Westminister Hotel:** Check out the virtual tour of the Westin Hotel, the official conference hotel at: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1308200446&key=5E90E>

On that site you can:

Obtain the address and phone number of the hotel.

Book, change, or cancel your guestroom reservations online.

View photos of the hotel lobby, meeting rooms, guest rooms, restaurant, pool and other areas.

View a list of guest room amenities.

View a list of hotel amenities.

View a list of local hospitals, schools, businesses, recreation and shopping.

View driving directions to the hotel.

**Networking:** This year you can thank Charlene Garcia Simms for this great idea. Tell us about your most "notorious ancestor". Get started now thinking about your ancestor. During the conference you will share your story with your tablemates. They will vote on the "most notorious" and those winners will be asked to share their stories with everyone. We can really have fun with this one!

**Local Area Research Facilities:** Conference Committee member, Frank Dominguez, has been kind enough to research the names and addresses of some of the best places to do your research while you're in the Denver metro area. Look for the links on the GSHA website and they will appear in the March newsletter. Frank's advice to anyone planning to research at these facilities is: Do your homework beforehand and have specific questions ready before going to the facility.

**Vendor Registration:** We are looking for vendors to participate in the conference. If you know of anyone you think might be interested, please give them the GSHA website URL or ask them to contact Jeanette Fisher for more information.

**Other Colorado Genealogical Societies:** If you know someone who is not a member of GSHA, but may be a member of either the Colorado Society of Hispanic Genealogy (CSHG) or the Olibama Lopez Tushar Hispanic Legacy Research Center (OLTHLRC), please help us spread the word that for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference we will extend to them our GSHA member registration cost.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE



Our volunteers have always been the heart and impetus of our organization. If you are currently or have been at one time a volunteer, thank you. You make the cog of our GSHA wheel turn

The following appeared in the Volume 3, No. 1 Quarterly of *Nuestras Raices* in January 1991. The second column of this page went on to thank the following members and organizations. How many of you who were members back then remember these people or have met them along the way. Sad to say those with asterisks next to their names are people we know have passed on, but we hope those who are still with us will respond to our invitation to join us in celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### Acknowledgments 1990:

**Volunteers, the Heart and Soul of our Society:** GSHA depends on the members who contribute their time and talents to ensure that the society runs smoothly and that the work of the society is carried out in a productive and proficient way. The Society would not function as an organization if it were not for its volunteers:

Marty Aragon-Project Coordinator and *Alabados*; Denise Baca-Hispanic Research Group; Mike Baca-Pueblo Branch President; Dr. Irene Blea-Book and Donations; Louis Caulboy-Annual Meeting; Regina Caulboy-Annual Meeting; Everett Chavez-Historian; \*Shirley Clayton-Membership Drive; Contributor to *Nuestras Raices*; Coors-Use of Computer and Printer; Denver Public Library-*Nuestras Raices* Workshop Conference Room, Exhibit, Hispanic Collections; Denver SER-Computer and Printer; Deborah Espinosa-El Pueblo Museum Liason; Vera Estrada-Pueblo Branch; Friends of the Library-Speaker Fees; \*Lucy Garcia, Pueblo Branch; Tony Garcia, Pueblo Branch; Mark Gardiner-Baca House Museum Liason; Ida Gonzales-Mailings; Bill Gurule-Book Donation; Holy Trinity Church-Tables and Chairs; James Jeffrey-DPL Liason; \*Procopio Jiron-Mailings; LDS Church-Microfilm and Microfilm Readers; Pauline Lopez-Parliamentarian and Book Donations: \*Olibama Lopez Tushar-Mailings and Callings; Mrs. Eugene Lujan-*Nuestras Raices* Indexing; Cynthia Mares-Float Coordinator; Joseph Marquez-*Nuestras Raices* Editor; Evangeline Marston and \*Harold Marston-LDS Liason; Alonzo Martinez-Board Member; Reynaldo Martinez-Translations; \*Cordelia Martinez-Corresponding Secretary; George Martinez-Church Extractions; Joe Martinez-Mailings; Dr. Lyman Platt-IGHLLiason; Evangeline Saavedra-Program Coordinator; Mary Salazar-*Nuestras Raices*, Refreshments and Recording Secretary; Oliver Salazar-Picnic Help; Steven And Michael Salazar, GSHA Booth; Eileen Sandoval-Member-at-Large; Lloyd Sandoval-Car Pooling; Donna Santistevan-GSHA Forms; Trudie Souter-Denver Public Library; \*Al Sedillo-Meeting Room Setup; Carmen Teufel-Board Member; Dr. Eugene Torres-Hispanic Heritage Book and Board Member; \*Ampora Torres-Board Meeting; Margaret Turner-Treasurer; Mike Turner-GSHA Booth and U. S. West Community Meeting Room; Margaret Valdez-Refreshments; Epifanio Valdez-Mailings; Emma Valdez-Mailings and Registration; Willie Vasquez-GSHA Booth and Float; Pat Vichek-Tables and Chairs; Rosemarie Weisse-Project Coordinator; Felix Zamora-GSHA Cookbook and Board member.

**Thanks for a Job Well Done!**

## 2014 conference

### Our Spanish Roots, Mexican Trunk and American Branches

In celebration of GSHA's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the 2014 conference committee has chosen to highlight Our Spanish Roots... Our Mexican Trunk... and Our American Branches. Most of us have ancestors whose beginnings were in or near Spain. Some believed the earth to be flat; others questioned that belief and set out to distant lands, traveling to and discovering there were other islands and continents.

Some chose to settle in what is now known as the Caribbean, South America, Central America and Mexico and became our great-great-great-grandparents, building stable, strong, close-knit families and communities.

Descendants continued to travel north into what is now known as the United States. But what happened then? They branched off... As the different waves came in between 1598 and the early 1900s they first went to New Mexico and then branched off to California, Arizona, Texas and other parts of the United States.

In memory of their fortitude and bravery, their sense of adventure and their curiosity, we celebrate where we started – our roots. We celebrate our landing and migration on this continent – our trunk, and we celebrate where we find ourselves today – our branches. Join us as we travel back in time to celebrate what our ancestors contributed to make us who we are today!

### Our Conference Agenda

The 2014 conference planning committee is made up of Jeanette Fisher, Charlene Garcia Simms, Donie Nelson, Frank Dominguez, Catherine Romero and Doug Daniels. We are busily getting speakers and entertainment confirmed, meals planned, information printed, volunteers lined up and everything else that goes into the planning of a conference. The committee will meet on February 9 and we will post confirmed speakers and entertainment on the website, [gsha.net](http://gsha.net) and continue doing so as we have new information. The agenda thus far is as follows:

**Friday:** A tour of History Colorado in downtown Denver. See page 3 of this newsletter for more information and cost. Conference registration will start at 3 p.m. at the Westin Hotel. The reception is planned to start at 6:00 p.m. We are still confirming our speakers and entertainment. One thing for certain is our ice-breaker which will allow our members to start networking early. We want you to share your most notorious ancestor and see who else in the room shares that ancestor. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes will be given. Vendor tables will be open for business.

**Saturday:** We will start with some networking at 8:00 a.m. and vendor tables will be open. We will have two main speakers in the morning with lunch on your own. We will have two tracks in the afternoon with four speakers. Topics to be announced after February 9<sup>th</sup>. Our annual meeting will start at 3:15 p.m. Our wonderful banquet will start at 7:00 p.m. with a cash bar at 6:30.

**Sunday:** We will start again with some networking at 8:00 a.m. with vendor tables open. Again, we will have two main speakers with two afternoon tracks of four speakers. Our closing ceremony will be at 3 p.m. The Denver Public Library will give a tour of their genealogy collection on Monday. There will be a sign-up sheet at the registration table.

Confirmed speakers so far are: Renowned storyteller, Angel Vigil, Angel Cervantez, *Hilos Culturales* from Alamosa. We have a wonderful line-up but are in the process of finalizing cost and availability. We appreciate your patience. Imagine a great conference like every year and going home with more information on your family tree than when you arrived.





## What's Next by James Doubthat, Mountain Press



As we start a New Year, it is time to think about what is next in our genealogy search. For many of us, the snow, rain and fog sets in daily and we are "house bound", at least in our minds. I personally just don't want to get out in all of that stuff and track down parts of my family tree. Then it hits me, "I have so many brick walls!" Don't we all!! What do we do with it all?

At this time of the year, I just sit back and review all my notes. I even pull out all of those scraps of paper, backs of envelopes where I have jotted down a date or a name and even those index cards with notes on them. It is time to look over them and do something with them. Please don't leave these to someone else to sort them out.

Several years ago, I was an executor of a friend's estate who had been researching for over 75 years. Delivered to my home were two, 20-foot box trunks filled with all of her stuff from the nursing home. Inside these materials were a number of boxes of scraps of paper she had hoarded over the years — a name on one — a date on another or a note on a cemetery plot. Nothing was connected or referenced, just a scrap of paper. After several days of sorting these and getting nowhere, I just sent them all to recycle. There was nothing more I could do with them. Such a shame, all those years and efforts down the drain. Some sort of organization could have saved all her genealogy knowledge.

During this time of the year, take the time to sort through your notes. You might just find one of those missing links you needed or the direction that you need to go with your research. I always go back on my own family and review all of the information that I have collected through the years. Even if they do not all fit anywhere after fifty years or more, I still hang on to them — "Some day!!!" I keep saying.

In doing all of this there are a few points of good research that you still have to keep in mind. Never forget the need to be accurate. Each one of these tidbits came from somewhere. Do you remember where you got it? If not, remember that you still have to verify the information and where it came from. We can never pull information out of thin air and call it correct without some sort of reference. Not all Smiths are related to all other Smiths. I became aware of this in my early beginnings when I discovered three different Robert Douthats in Augusta County, Virginia at the same time in the late 18th century. Each one came from a totally different background. Now I know that maybe back in Europe they might have a connection, but we cannot prove it even down to today. It took years to separate them completely, but they and their off spring were not a part of our clan.

The major source of our accuracy begins with the original material. I know that we do not always have access to those records, but when you can view them, do it. We all have to understand that even the original records can be questioned, but at least we are aware of those that are correct and those that are not. I was helping a friend several years ago to learn more about his family. I told him on the way to the court house that we would look for various spellings of the name. He said that the name is spelled one way and only one way. I certainly did not argue with him at the moment. At the court house, we found a deed of his grandfather's and he knew the property and the names and agreed that this was his grandfather's deed. I hated to do it, but then I pointed out to him that the clerk had spelled his grandfather's name three different ways in that one single document.

We all are responsible for the work we are doing with accuracy and references, but there is still just a little more that has to be done. We have to educate ourselves to the time and place that our ancestors lived. They did not all live to the 21st century, but most lived in centuries past. Where were they? What were the living conditions at the time? What was going on in the world around them during this time period? How much did a loaf of bread cost? This may sound silly, but there were many centuries when bread had to be made and bought. You need to study old maps, old newspapers, old histories and anything else that gives you a clue to the time in which your ancestors lived. Immerse yourself in their lives and you will discover many sides of them in a very real way.

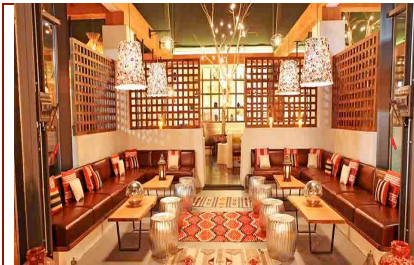
Take time this winter to fully understand what you have on hand and where you are going in the future.

### Welcome to our New Webmaster

Please help us welcome our new volunteer webmaster, David Torres. David is a life-time resident of Santa Fe, NM, and a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. After studying electronics and computer maintenance at Trinidad State Junior College, he was employed in several different jobs. Eventually he began working with the State of New Mexico where his work was all related to information technology, internet telephones, computers and all the equipment in between. The State required 25 years for retirement and recently David met all the requirements. He is now six months into retirement which he is enjoying very much and recommends to anyone. Upon joining GSHA David says, "I'm looking forward to new and better experiences that life has to offer."

### Thank you Abel Santistevan

Thanks to Abel Santistevan for maintaining our website for the last two years. Abel was also the GSHA Treasurer for eight years and the FACC board representative for the last year. He has served many volunteer positions in various capacities. We applaud both Abel and his wife, Virginia, for their unrelenting service to GSHA.



**Kachina Southwestern Grill at the Westin**

Just to whet your appetite a little with what the Westin's Kachina grill serves:

**Lunch:** Colorado bison empanada, scallop ceviche, calabacitas, posole, Elsa's tamale, New Mexico Chicken Enchilada—can be served Christmas style, seven kinds of Navajo tacos. They also serve breakfast. **Dinner:** Colorado Striped Bass, Three sisters-calabacitas, stuffed ancho relleno, huitlacoche tamale with blue cheese and chipotle cream, filetes a la plancha, chicharrones, Chipotle shrimp and waffles with Chipotle shrimp with blue corn waffle. Plus much more from the grill such as pork tenderloin, boneless Texas quail with poblano pesto, house margaritas, white and red sangria. For early morning risers and coffee fans there is a Starbucks and for those who like to snack there is a Snack and Go.

### Conference Registration Form

Donie Nelson is sending a registration form via her GSHA network. You may also go to our website at [gsha.net](http://gsha.net) to download a conference registration form.



Can you identify this event?  
 Can you identify the people in this event?  
 Can you identify the year in this event?

Send an email to [charlenegsimms@yahoo.com](mailto:charlenegsimms@yahoo.com) and if you are the first one who is correct on all three questions you will get a free book bag.

We're on the web!

[gsha.net](http://gsha.net)



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**Charlene Garcia Simms, *Editor, Noticias de Nuestras Raices Newsletter***

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**Please notify us if you have had a change of address or email.**

## **GSHA Annual Meeting and Conference**

**Date: June 6-8, 2014**

**Location: Westminster, Colorado, Westin Hotel**

**Registration Fee: \$120**

**Room Cost: \$99 for a double; \$109 for four people staying in one room; \$119 for a suite**

**Contact Information: Westin hotel: <http://www.westinDenverBoulder.com/> Phone: 1-888-627-8448**

**Help: We need one or two people to run our raffle and another two people to sell tickets. Children and grandchildren are great sales people as well as some of our members who can seal the deal. Contact Charlene at: [charlenegsimms@yahoo.com](mailto:charlenegsimms@yahoo.com) If your interested in being a sponsor or know of a corporation please contact Jeanette at: [jsmf1925@hotmail.com](mailto:jsmf1925@hotmail.com)**

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**