



# Noticias de Nuestras Raices

*Genealogical Society of Hispanic America Newsletter*



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## Exciting things happening at GSHA in 2016 and 2017

### Dear Members:

The holidays are almost upon us so I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As we end 2015 we have many successes within our organization to share. Financially we are doing well as you can see by our financial report on page six. You can also see by our membership report we are at an all time high of 500 members since our society was reorganized in 1998. We continue to publish our very popular journal, *Nuestras Raices*, and in June we had a wonderful conference in Santa Fe at the Drury Plaza Hotel. In 2016 we will once again have the conference there. See page 3 for details from the conference chair, Doug Daniels.

Plans for the 2017 GSHA Annual Meeting & Genealogical Conference are being set. Doug Daniels, Charlene Garcia Simms and Jeanette Fisher were appointed as tri-chairs and they are doing some investigative work on the logistics, cost, and benefits of having the conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. Stay tuned for more information.

We are, however, facing one of our biggest challenges and that is getting more young people to join our organization and then take on leadership positions and take an interest in their own family research. Please think about inviting young people from your family when you attend our gatherings and the conference in August. It's time to get GSHA ready for a new generation. The Duran Youth Initiative Program has started the ball rolling in this direction. Read more about it on page four of this newsletter. Thank you for all your support this last year.

Charlene Garcia Simms, Editor

### DNA Testing

"The genetic genealogy community has traditionally been independent of the greater genealogy community in many ways. Bringing these two communities together is beneficial to us all. Currently we are seeing greater synergy between genetic genealogy and traditional genealogy with increased interest and acceptance of DNA testing for genealogical purposes. With the genealogical institutes adding genetic genealogy courses to their rosters and NGSQ encouraging the inclusion of DNA as part of the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) for articles submitted for publication, genetic genealogy is enjoying a level of acceptance and interest that is unparalleled since the field's creation in 2000." *Ce Ce Moore, Genetic Genealogist from Roots/Tech/FGS conference February 2015, Salt Lake City, Utah*

**Remember that December is the month that DNA testing companies such as Family Tree DNA offer really good discounts. Go to their websites for any discounts or coupons.**

### Sympathy

Sad to report that Leo Cervantes, father of Angel Cervantes, New Mexico DNA Project Coordinator, passed away last month in Baja California, Mexico in an auto accident. Angel has been having to go back and forth to settle his father's affairs. Friends at work have set up a webpage to help defray the costs. Anyone wanting to donate to this fund can do so by going to the following website: <https://www.youcaring.com/search/go?w+angelo+cervantes>

Thank you!

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members:

I hope you had a happy and productive summer, and as we look forward to holiday gatherings featuring the warmth of family and friends, as well as all the food that celebrates the season, I am proud to announce that the 2016 GSHA Annual Meeting & Genealogical Conference will return to the Drury Plaza Hotel in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on August 5 thru 7, 2016. This change to the month of August will, hopefully, avoid conflict with weddings, Father's Day, graduations and California's annual Genealogical Jamboree and will encourage more of our California *primos & primas* to attend the conference.

Our immediate past president, Doug Daniels, is the 2016 GSHA Genealogical Conference chairperson and the theme will be *The Spanish in North America: Soldiers & Settlers (Los Españoles en América del Norte: Los Soldados y los Colonos)*. Topics will be drawn from our rich history in North America beginning in 1519 with the conquest of Mexico and ending in 1919 with the confrontations between Pancho Villa and General Pershing. This 400 year period covers the 1680 Pueblo Revolt, the Villasur Expedition in 1720, The Mexican War of Independence, the Mexican-American War, the French Intervention, the Spanish-American War and the Mexican Revolution. However, the conference focus will not be totally on the military, each conflict also brought changes to the common people, the settlers of Mexico and the Southwest United States.

In addition, here's a surprise, we are already planning the 2017 GSHA Annual Meeting & Genealogical Conference to hopefully be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, the mecca of genealogists around the world. Helming the conference will be seasoned veterans Doug Daniels, Jeanette Martinez Fisher and Charlene Garcia Simms. The committee is in the preliminary planning stages with the primary focus on research at the Salt Lake City Family History Library and less on speakers and presentations.

In the past three months, our two chapters have produced their qualifying events for the Duran Youth Initiative program, which both were given grants totaling \$2000 for the purpose of recruiting "younger members." The Southern California Chapter held a panel discussion symposium in August with a live feed of the event available to members and the public from their home computers. President Paul Gomez was very encouraged. A report on SC efforts with the Duran Initiative is included in this newsletter from the *Huellas Del Pasado* August newsletter.

In early October, the Fray Angelico Chavez Chapter, in collaboration with Colorado State University-Pueblo, hosted a presentation by Angel Cervantes of the New Mexico DNA Project on the importance of DNA in genealogical research. Mary Ellen Burciago, Chairperson, reports in this newsletter on this event.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of GSHA-SC President Paul Gomez ([pgomez177@roadrunner.com](mailto:pgomez177@roadrunner.com)) as the new chairperson of the Duran Youth Initiative program and the newly formed GSHA Youth Initiative program. Paul brings a lifetime of executive experience and enthusiasm to encourage Hispanic youth on the importance of tracing their history and continuing the research of those before them. Thank you, Paul, and continued success.

Bob Craig, 2015-2016 GSHA President

Email: [gsha2015@aol.com](mailto:gsha2015@aol.com)

## New Society Officers for 2016

The 2015 Nominations Committee, composed of board members Mary Ellen Burciago and Paul Gomez, presented nominees for one of the two vacancies on the board of directors for a two-year term beginning January 1 2016. With only one candidate for the office, the board of directors is authorized by the Society's bylaws (Article VIII-A-3) to waive an election by ballot and to declare the candidate elected by acclamation.

Elected by acclamation is Frank Dominguez, who will serve as the Society's Vice-President and Membership Chair until December 31, 2017. Frank has served as interim VP since June 2015 due to the illness of Gloria Cordova. The Board of Directors lauded Gloria's contributions and commitment to the success of GSHA since she joined the board as VP in 2011. The position of Society Secretary for 2016 and 2017 is still vacant and the committee is seeking a candidate. Janice Crane is the current Secretary and her term ends December 31, 2015. Her competence and efficiency in serving in this key position is recognized.

David Torres, who was elected by acclamation to serve a two year term as Treasurer beginning January 1, 2015, has resigned to devote more time to his duties as the Society's Webmaster. In the interim, the Treasurer duties were assumed by President Bob Craig, who will be relieved by Ken Gardner. Ken has been appointed by the Board of Directors as the Society's Treasurer and will serve until December 31, 2016. Ken is a new member of GSHA-FACC and long-time genealogist. He is the author of *The Family of Donaciana Manchego Eames Trujillo*. Donaciana was born 16 September 1846 in Abiquiu, New Mexico and died 30 October 1948 in San Pedro, Colorado, her home was in Turkey Creek, Colorado.

The addition of Dominguez and Gardner leaves only the positions of Secretary and the Member-at-Large Representative to be filled. Also serving on the 2016 Board of Directors will be President Bob Craig and the representatives of the GSHA-FACC and GSHA-SC chapters.

## 2016 GSHA 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Conference



Theme: The Spanish in North America: Soldiers and Settlers

Dates: Friday, August 5, 2016 thru Sunday August 7, 2016

Location: Drury Plaza Hotel, 228 E. Palace Avenue, Santa Fe, NM

Consistently ranked in the "Top 3" of guest satisfaction on trip advisor. Drury Hotel received record-setting 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive JD Power Awards for guest satisfaction; Chef is famed Los Angeles chef, John Sedlar, Hotel's Eloisa Restaurant [www.druryplazasantafe.com](http://www.druryplazasantafe.com)

Room reservations: Reserve your room now to lock in our special rate. Limited number of rooms available. Reservations can be made by reserving online, go to [www.druryhotels.com](http://www.druryhotels.com), then enter Group number of 2258489. Reservations may also be made by calling 1-800-325-0720, specify GROUP RESERVATIONS, and refer to the group number 2258489.

Room rates: Single and Double \$129 a night (includes one king bed or two queen beds)

Special questions regarding reservations: call Leandra Chavez at 844-323-0798

Hotel Guest Amenities: Complimentary hot breakfast, evening reception with 3 cocktails, soda and popcorn, and free parking. (Non-guest overnight parking \$14 and non-guest day parking \$7) If you have a room reservation you are considered guests and don't have to pay the \$14.

Communications: free long distance calling and wireless internet access

Conference Registration information will be released soon.

For further information contact: Doug Daniels [doug2222@earthlink.net](mailto:doug2222@earthlink.net)

## The Duran Youth Initiative Program and the GSHA Youth Initiative Program

### **Timeline History of the Duran Youth Initiative Program**

**June 7, 2014**—Tara Sharkey, Canadian resident and 2014 annual conference attendee donates \$5000 to GSHA. Tara is the niece of our GSHA secretary, Janice Crane and the daughter of Elaine Morton, a GSHA member from Arizona, and niece of Diane Duran, also a member and cousin to Phil Duran, past GSHA treasurer. Such is the conversation when genealogists meet. The full story is in our June 2014 *Noticias de Nuestras Raices* newsletter. To make a long story short, Tara approached then GSHA president, Doug Daniels, about her love of storytelling by her aunts when she was a child and her concern about the lack of young people at the conference. She had attended the 2013 conference and was very impressed. Then the night before (June 6) she was deeply moved by the spoken word of Bobby LeFebre, and the Native American blessing that Tonio LeFebre gave, (both young men are in their late 30s.) Tara felt she needed to do something to attract younger people to GSHA. This is why she made her pledge. It was now up to the GSHA board and some members to figure out how to best do this outreach to youth. The first problem was defining youth.

**November 2014**—A committee was appointed made up of Doug Daniels, Chairman, Paul Gomez (SC member), Phil Duran (SC member) and Charlene Garcia Simms (FACC member) to make suggestions to the board on the best way to distribute the money that had been donated. It was first called the Vanguard Foundation Program but changed to the Duran Youth Initiative Program in honor of Tara Sharkey's family.

**January 2015**—The committee met twice and on January 25 at the GSHA board meeting they made the following recommendations: That \$1500 be set aside for each chapter, (SC and FACC), and each chapter be given \$1000 in 2015 and be given the opportunity to make a proposal to be approved by the GSHA board to promote youth involvement in the organization and gain new members using this money. Both chapters created proposals and they were approved by the GSHA board. The updates on the progress of what each chapter did is on page 7 of this newsletter.

The other recommendation made by the committee was that the balance of \$2000 be used by GSHA at the national conference to encourage youth to attend the conference and implement a youth initiative. The definition of youth was defined as between the ages of 20—40 because experience has taught us that people under 20 are still in school and not many are experienced in taking on leadership roles. An essay contest was designed with an incentive of \$200 to the top three winners, a free registration to the 2015 conference and a free 2016 GSHA membership. The essay was to be a two-page typed paper telling a story about one of their female ancestors in keeping with the 2015 conference theme, *Mujeres Memorables del Mundo Hispano*. A scoring rubric was designed and the deadline was set for May 1, 2015.

**June 2015**—The winners, in order of their scores, were: John Delano Edward Montoya with his paper titled, "Butterflies;" Melissa Barbara with her paper titled "Grand Mary;" and Carmella Scorcio with her paper titled, "La Mujer de mi Vida." All essays exceeded the committee's expectations and each winner read their essay at the conference on Sunday afternoon. The presenters received a standing ovation. Their papers were published in the 2015 fall issue of *Nuestras Raices*, V. 27, Issue 3.

Now that the chapters have followed through on their proposals they will evaluate the strengths of what was done and if their efforts met the goals set forth. An evaluation will also be made by the national committee regarding the essay contest. These evaluations will serve us well as we initiate more programs toward the goal of getting more young people involved with GSHA. Each chapter may receive an additional \$500 after the evaluation process is completed. The evaluation committee will recommend to the board of directors how to best utilize the balance of the grant by the end of 2016 to further promote the goals of the Duran Initiative Program.

**The GSHA Youth Initiative Program**—The Duran Youth Initiative Program met with such good response that at the 2015 annual conference Doug Daniels started another initiative. The new initiative is being called the GSHA-Youth Initiative Program and eight members have already donated \$100 each. So, we have a total of \$800 already earmarked to continue this initiative once the Duran Youth Initiative Program is depleted. Paul Gomez is the newly appointed chair of both initiatives. If any of you have ideas on how to attract and recruit younger members to continue the research of their Hispanic ancestors and invigorate the leadership of the society please contact President Bob Craig or Paul Gomez, chair of both initiatives. Thank you for your continued support.

CGS



## The Future of GSHA is in our member's hands

### This is Serious! We need your help and input!

By Charlene Garcia Simms, and Donie Nelson, Editors, *Noticias de Nuestras Raices* and *Nuestras Raices Journal*

As we mark the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, we are reminded of his January 20, 1961 inaugural address in which he posed the following challenge: "...ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." If we substitute GSHA for 'country' in this challenge, what will your answer be? Our Society faces many challenges and our leaders cannot solve our problems without the assistance and support of all our members. Foremost—and this is not limited only to GSHA, but is a challenge facing all genealogical societies—is our aging membership. Few genealogists join our ranks as teenagers, twenty-somethings or even the mid-life thirty-year olds. Sure, we have members in their forties and fifties, but over two-thirds of our current members are over the age of 62. The genealogy bug usually bites us in our "golden years," often after retirement.

Many of our members are no longer able to attend meetings or conferences because of age-related issues. Many of our most productive and reliable volunteers are no longer serving on our boards or committees. Yes, we attract new members, but are they being recruited, mentored and encouraged to volunteer their time on committees or urged on a path to leadership? Personally recruiting new volunteers is one of the most effective methods used to produce new leaders, but it is time-consuming. However, if each GSHA member spent two minutes to ponder: "...ask not what GSHA can do for you—ask what you can do for GSHA," perhaps we could expect 500 members to do the following:

- volunteer for one small task or assignment at the chapter level
- donate one-hour of your time at each chapter or outreach meeting
- write a check for \$5 or more and send it to your chapter
- volunteer to assist Hispanic researchers at your local library
- distribute GSHA brochures or flyers to your local library, adult school, or senior center
- carpool one or more members to a meeting
- use your imagination!

And if you get a call requesting your help, can you say, "Yes" to all or part of the request?

In the meantime, if you have ideas on how to involve more of our members in carrying out our mission at the chapter level or the national level, please let us hear your suggestions. Our annual conferences need volunteers, our publications need volunteers, and our outreach programs need volunteers. We need members willing to notify members without email about meetings and other events to attend meetings, and many members need a ride to these meetings. Without your assistance these members will be disconnected from long-time friends and our valuable programs. If you connect with them, you may discover a new friend or even another relative!

What we do now benefits the historical narrative of our ancestors and the future of our descendants. Become a volunteer, be a mentor. Heed our call for your help.



Lets have many more images of our youth like those shown here at the next conference in August! Thank you Aguilar, Scorcia and Dominguez families for producing our future Genealogists.

## Interim Treasurer and Interim Vice-President Reports

### Treasurer's Report by Bob Craig, GSHA President & Interim Treasurer

#### Cash flow Statement, General Fund, 3rd Quarter July 1—September 30, 2015

##### Inflows:

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Membership (1)                         | \$ 75.00          |
| GSHA 2015 Conference Registration      | \$ 80.00          |
| 60% obligation Chapter memberships (2) | \$1358.00         |
| Journal purchases                      | \$ 41.68          |
| Conference Ad Program                  | \$ 75.00          |
| GSHA Youth Initiative Program          | <u>\$ 300.00</u>  |
| Total Inflows                          | <b>\$1,930.08</b> |

##### Outflows

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Media Equipment (3) Conference | \$ 3,088.06        |
| Catering (Conference) (4)      | \$ 8,681.60        |
| Journal mailing                | \$ 336.50          |
| Journal Printing               | \$ 755.37          |
| Office supplies                | \$ 128.17          |
| Printing                       | \$ 258.84          |
| Reimbursement (5)              | \$ 6.99            |
| Profit Sharing (6)             | \$ 2,216.58        |
| Rent (7)                       | <u>\$ 164.00</u>   |
| <b>Total Outflow</b>           | <b>\$15,698.11</b> |

- 1 Pueblo Library, NM State Library, Mid-Continent Library
- 2 FACC \$1296.60, SC \$61.80
- 3 GSHA 2015 conference
- 4 GSHA 2015 conference
- 5 D. Torres (\$19.99 mailing, C. Simms \$49.00 stamps-newsletter mailing)
- 6 GSHA 2015 conference profit sharing for chapters; SC \$1108.29, FACC 1108.29
- 7 P. O. Box rent

Bank account statement balance as of 9/30/2015 - **\$16,068.52**

### Interim VP report for NOV 2015 by Frank Dominguez

Master membership rosters sent out on 29 JUL, 30 JUL, 31 JUL, 11 AUG, 08 SEP, 09 SEP, 26 SEP. Updates are sent out when I receive new/corrected information from the chapter membership chairs, from Donie Nelson and from other sources.

As of 26 SEP we were at:

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Total GSHA member count  | 473 |
| Total GSHA journal count | 364 |
| SC member count          | 177 |
| SC journal count         | 137 |
| MAL member count         | 42  |
| MAL journal count        | 38  |
| FAC member count         | 254 |
| FAC journal count        | 189 |

I am currently working on an updated roster and collaborating with Steven Cruz from the FACC chapter and Marie Velazco from the SC chapter, Membership Chairs.

## Updates on Duran Youth Initiative Program

GSHA-FACC—The always enthusiastic and entertaining anthropological genetic genealogist, Angel de Cervantes, presented two talks on DNA at Colorado State University-Pueblo. The GSHA-FACC Duran Youth Initiative committee in collaboration with CSU-Pueblo hosted the two day event. The primary goal was to attract younger persons to learn about DNA and how this understanding can enhance their personal genealogy research as well as to attract memberships to FACC/GSHA.

On Friday morning, October 9<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Cervantes visited two university classes to invite students to the upcoming events. The evening began with a reception for Mr. Cervantes, followed by his talk entitled: **The Search for Y-DNA Adam**. The capacity filled auditorium held 125 people (32 students). Saturday morning Angel welcomed guests to **The DNA of Columbus (The Controversy)**. Saturday's group numbered 80 people (10 students). The evidence presented was compelling that Columbus was Catalan, not Italian.

Mr. Cervantes answered questions about DNA for a lengthy amount of time after each of the presentations. Attendees asked many thoughtful questions. The majority of the feedback received by the committee was positive. A wrap-up meeting with focus on what went right and what we need to improve for the next presentation in the spring of 2016 will be held in the near future. This fulfills the proposal submitted to GSHA by FACC. *Mary Ellen Burciago*

GSHA-Southern California Chapter —GSHA-Southern California hosted a panel discussion program on August 1, 2015 in fulfillment of their proposal to promote youth involvement in the organization. Entitled "Putting Youth in the Driver's Seat to Preserve Their Family Legacy: A Discussion on Creating Changes in Genealogy Organizations." Panelists were Anthony Ray, Youth Representative, Cynthia Liu, Webmaster and Social Media Technician, Paul Gomez, President and Moderator, and Rita Vega Acevedo, VP Programs and Education.

The questions asked and discussed were: What will it take for genealogy groups to survive aging members and the digital age. The panel's focus was on the future of genealogy groups by promoting changes, such as recruiting younger members and incorporating social media. Cynthia Liu discussed how the digital age has changed the way we communicate and how social media will drive recruitment and retention in the 21st century. Can social media entice the next generation to preserve their family legacy? Can or will Genealogy organizations implement changes quickly enough? (Condensed from the newsletter *Huellas del Pasado*, V. 23, Issues 3 & 4, August & October 2015.)

## Sharing Historical Moments with our Grandchildren



Where were you when you heard JFK had been assassinated? my eight-year old grandson asked. This was an assignment for him at school. I shared with him that I was in junior high school in San Luis. I had gone into town with my two best friends to buy some gum at the Salazar store on Main Street. We did not have permission to leave the school grounds but we went anyway. On the way back trying to sneak back into the school grounds we met up with Gene Sanchez, an upper classman. He looked at us and as if in a daze he told us President Kennedy had just been shot in Dallas and he died. As young as we were, we still knew the enormity of this as we waited for the punchline and none came. If I had to describe a defining moment of my youth this was one of them. All of a sudden it didn't matter that we had left the school grounds without permission. No one cared because every adult was in shock with disbelief on their faces. Somehow they gathered us all up and we marched to the Catholic church a few blocks away and we prayed. I still remember the funeral on TV and John-John saluting his dad's coffin; Jackie being very stoic wearing a black hat with a veil and you could hear a pin drop as the "riderless horse" trotted gracefully alone. I was really glad to share this memory with my grandson. It was endearing to me to answer his questions and see him write my answers down. Lucas got an "A." CGS

*Note: As we think of how we can get our youth involved, I think that storytelling is one way. I don't think my eight year old grandson is ready for a leadership role in GSHA but as Tara Sharkey told us this is what she remembers fondly about her childhood, the storytelling.*

We're on the web!

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



## 2015 Officers

**Bob Craig, *President***

**Gloria Cordova, *Vice-president (Frank Dominguez, Interim)***

**Janice Crane, *Secretary***

**Bob Craig, *Interim Treasurer***

**Frank Dominguez, *Member-at-Large Representative***

**Paul Gomez, *Southern California Representative and Chapter President***

**Mary Ellen Burciago, *Fray Angelico Chavez Chapter Representative***

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

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



Photos on the front page courtesy of Denver Public Library.

Photo to the left is the Lucero family on the White Mountain Ranch in Costilla County.

Photo to the right is the S.P. M.D.T.U. building on Main Street in Antonito, Colorado. S.P.M.D.T.U. stands for *Sociedad Proteccion Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos (Society for the Mutual Protection of United Workers)* and was first organized in the San Luis Valley to fight racism and protect civil rights of members.



## Mark your Calendars

The 2016 GSHA 27th Annual Meeting and Genealogical Conference will be held at the Drury Plaza Hotel, 228 E. Palace Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Friday August 5, through Sunday August 7, 2016. The theme is *The Spanish in North America: Soldiers and Settlers*. See page 3 in this newsletter for more details.

We are seeking digital photographs of our GSHA family veterans. If you want to share a photo please send to Doug Daniels at [danielsgsha@gmail.com](mailto:danielsgsha@gmail.com). Please include veteran's name, War served, and dates of service. We will be including these photographs in a slide presentation at the 2016 conference. This is limited to the first 100 photographs received. Please take a few moments to honor your family/ancestors Thank you for participating in the 2016 Conference, "The Spanish in North America: Soldiers and Settlers."

**Contact us if you have had a change of address!  
We cannot get your journal to you otherwise!**

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**