A Century of Masters
Cultural Center Gets New Director
Checkmate!
The Way We Were
Some Great New Mexico Books

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Compilation of essays from the New Mexico State University Domenici Policy Institute on the legacy of Senator Pete Domenici on energy, national security, health, the federal budget, and nuclear non-proliferation.

AWARDS
Winner, 2009 NM Book Awards
48 pages
$19.95 (978-1-890689-43-8/PB)

This exhibit catalogue honours folk artists, storytellers, performers, and musicians from New Mexico who received the NEA National Heritage Award, numbering 15. The exhibit, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Museum of New Mexico, opens at the Museum of International Folk Art on July 19.

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“A humorous look at life experiences” — Cibola Beacon

“Whimsical...lightweight telling of misbehavior with a hint of the Navajo coyote-trickster making it a New Mexico piece all the way around.” — Gallup Independent

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228 pages 32 photographs
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The glamour and fascination of the Old West is brought to life in a new way in this interesting collection of facts and figures.

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The result is an intimate view of the territory, from the status of the roads to the clash between the Spanish and Pueblo cultures. — New Mexico Magazine

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The book is important because it places the role of Martineztown in Albuquerque’s broader historical context, which apparently no book had done. — Albuquerque Journal

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Publishers’ Message

In our 15th year we are making a big change. As of the Spring, 2010, we and TR are going electronic. It is very sad that a few of our readers can’t continue to enjoy TR because of no computer, no internet, or they just liked the magazine as a magazine. But things have changed. Printing on paper keeps going up, mail is un-pendable and expensive, and frankly all magazines and papers are going greener and electronic. Libraries and schools love the electronic format.

If you want a test magazine to see if you can read it and print it out call us, 505/344-9382. If we can help we will. We have changed a lot of minds and it is cheaper this way and we will be back to four times a year. More info and less money - a win-win.

Contrasts in Spanish Market

The two Previews were at the new Santa Fe Community Convention Center - formerly Sweeney Center. So may differences. First Contemporary Market had a free Preview and Traditional charged for theirs. Traditional Market had over 300 artists while Contemporary Market had over 140 artists. Traditional artists could enter in the Preview two pieces and a collaboration while Contemporary artists could enter one pieces in the Preview unless they were juried in more than one category. Contemporary Market had a fancy four color magazine that they gave out at Preview and the Market while Traditional Market had a smaller black & white listing that was handed out at Preview. Both had posters though Contemporary Market’s poster was bigger. Traditional Market had more awards at Preview but the judging still had some rough spots. Contemporary Market judging was smoother and was done in an hour versus the all day event at Traditional Market. We should know, Barbe was one of the judges at Contemporary Market. The Santa Fe New Mexican Spanish Market Supplement covers both Markets but Traditional Market is covered more.

Why is the mass on Sunday for Traditional Market artists? Aren’t Contemporary artists religious too? This is the whole problem. In Indian Market they are all together and in Spanish Market they are separated. We have learned that together you make more impact.

Dumb

SCAS dropped the ball of the Spanish Market Book Tent. So thanks to John Stafford and the New Mexico History Museum they hosted a smaller signing that went well. SCAS lost $40,000 of income. For an organization that has major money problems it is a mystery why they would shoot themselves in the foot but they did. This is probably an indication of how everything at SCAS is done.

Rumor?

SCAS head Bill Field was asked to resign by the SCAS Board. Maybe or finally some changes can be made at SCAS? Finally an artist is a voting member of the SCAS Board though “certain” artists were not wanted. Also the Santa Fe Community Center has pushed back Winter Market for Traditional Market one week. They are charging them $30,000 and giving them the shaft at the same time. Negotiations in action.

Web Problems

This is not the first time we have ranted about websites that are not kept up. We were invited to the re-opening of Saints of The Pueblos at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. We had to check the website for something and a day before the show opened there was not a mention or anything about the show. In fact, some of the entries had expired.

San Felipe Santo Market was held in the Old Town Albuquerque Plaza during Balloon Fiesta. Thousands of people attended.
months ago. When you make the effort to send out a classy postcard about the event why not update your website?

Spanish Colonial Art Society hadn't updated major parts of their website since 2007. If you wanted to see awards for this year forget it. We complained and this year's awards were put on. And the New Mexico Archives website said Estevan Rael-Gálvez was still the State Historian though he was appointed as Executive Director of the National Hispanic Cultural Center in the summer. After we complained again it was changed. There are excuses on why changes can’t be made but the bottom line is if you can’t hire a kid to make the changes then take the website down. Bad or wrong information is not needed by anyone.

**Stupidest Thing We Heard**

It was in the Albuquerque Journal that after 20 years, The Georgia O’Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe told the Georgia O’Keeffe Elementary in Albuquerque that they did not have permission to use the name. Where was the Museum for 20 years? Are they not aware that Georgia is a public figure? Was the Elementary School a brothel and the name going to be disgraced? Are we supposed to ask their permission everytime we use the name and take her name out of every history book? Simply clueless and arrogant. They deserve every bit of bad press they get.

*NOTE: After a public outcry or bad press they said OK. DUH!*

Rivaling that is the last minute order of *Saints of the Pueblos* books for the show opening and signing at Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. The books were ordered by a distributor in Tucson while we were ten minutes away. Naturally the books couldn’t get to IPCC so we had to make an emergency delivery the day before. So theoretically the books were to go to Tucson and then back to Albuquerque—round trip! And the cost was doubled for shipping. You can’t make this stuff up. To be fair, and we try, the IPCC has advertised *Saints of the Pueblos* and the new exhibit extensively and that is real good. Do see the new *Saints of the Pueblos* at IPCC because they did do a great job on the exhibit.

**Larry D. Miller**

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of one of our authors, Larry D. Miller. The news came on the same day that we read the great review by Nasario Garcia on Larry’s book with Joseph Sanchez—Martineztown 1823-1950. We send our prayers to Lolly Martin and his entire family. It is sad when one of the family passes.

**Congrats!**

John T. Denne and Claude Stevenson, among many other photographers, have photos in the the Treasures of New Mexico Calendar put out by the State of New Mexico Cultural Affairs. The Best of the Best!

The Buckhorn Tavern in San Antonio, New Mexico, and owner Bobby Olguin beat the Food Network’s Bobby Flay for the Best Green Chile Cheeseburger on Throwdown. The Buckhorn was rated #7 Burger in America by Gentleman’s Quarterly. Yum!!!!! And as a result of this victory, Governor Richardson decided to have a Green Chile Cheeseburger event at the New Mexico State Fair. The winner was Badlands Burgers in Grants, New Mexico. The winner is now on the New Mexico Tourism Chile Cheeseburger Trail. We all need this kind of fun in hard times.

We are off to the Heard and will be at both Winter Markets. We are now going electronic so we will see you on the web!

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**Charity Chairs**

Charity Chairs is the 4th Annual El Rito Library Auction to benefit the Library and its activities. This chair was donated by Nick Herrera with tin by Carmen Campos on the chair. Many other chairs and fun items are also available. On-line bidding goes until December 5, 2009. For information or to bid go to erlcharitychairs@gmail.com.
Century of Masters, the National Endowment for the Arts awardees from New Mexico was a long-awaited show at the Museum of International Folk Art. Despite money short falls and time problems, curator Nicolasa Chavez managed to pull it together even after the death of her ex in a motorcycle accident. She had the support from MOIFA Director Marsha Bol and Secretary of Cultural Affairs Director Stuart Ashman and many other staff people. It was a show with all the right stuff—fifteen outstanding artists honored by the National Endowment for the Arts, a plucky curator, and tons of people who gave it their all to make sure the show happened.

On Thursday, June 25, we were emailed that the show had been postponed until September 27. As lenders we were required to be told there was a major change—the show was supposed to open July 19. The reason we were given as to the change was a “construction problem”. Since this reason was so bizarre, I thought the real reason the show was moved was the delay caused by the death in Nicolasa’s family. MOIFA just couldn’t pull it together. You don’t have construction problems three weeks before a major show that was supposed to stay open until 2011.

The publicity and stories had gone out. A TV commercial was made. I wrote two stories. We were passionate that this project be done. The dates were on websites and even after the change was made to September the old date was on the Cultural Affairs website. The book on the show was being shipped with the wrong date.

All artists were not told of the change. I told one artist in the show about the change after we had been emailed. He had not been told. I told another family member (the parents were dead who are in the show) the next day assuming she knew. She didn’t. Family, friends, and lenders were flying in and they paid for their own tickets and accommodations. They were not subsidized. It was a mess.

The show originally was scheduled to open the weekend before Spanish Market and before Indian Market. It was a primo time so tourists could see the mega show. Now it moved to September 27—a not great time and a weekend when lots was going on.

At 4pm that same Thursday, I heard from a source that MOIFA was “red tagged” by the State for an electrical box that didn’t pass inspection. The next day I heard that the fire suppression system failed from the Fire Marshall and walls for the exhibit did not have a permit and the lighting system was not up to specs. It wasn’t just one thing.

Gilbert Gallegos, Director of Communications for Governor Richardson, got a few calls and emails from me. He never gave any information and was very unhelpful. It was quite obvious that he didn’t want to be involved. He sent me an email saying not to call or email him again. Let’s understand that his phone numbers and email are on the Governor’s website. He is a public servant or maybe he thinks he is a private one that just does what he wants. He did send me some very interesting memos from Stuart Ashman and Doug Svetnika (Ashman’s pr/communication guru) about the MOIFA problem. I don’t think he knew what he sent but those memos were given to many other people. The memos were filled with certifiable errors. Doug has since apologized for his cluelessness but the fact remains that he said some really stupid things that are just wrong. He should know better.

A smart politician with guts could have fixed this problem in relatively no time. I am not advocating breaking the law. We have had too many politicians who think they are above the law and do what they want. But if the Governor said “make this happen now” people would jump. He obviously didn’t want to do that. It is not sexy enough for him. It isn’t freeing hostages around the
world. It might cost some extra money but considering the extra money the museum had to pay for changing the show and hiring new designers/hangers because the contracted ones are spoken for elsewhere probably is a net savings. New Mexico might save thousands in the long run but who cares?

It is sad that New Mexico employees of any level are scared that they will not have a job if they make waves. In these economic times I can relate but it is sad to work every day with an ax over your head. It would be refreshing if someone stood up and said we will not tolerate shoddy, bad, or non-code construction work. It would also be refreshing to see someone say we will not treat these fifteen National Endowment for the Arts awardees like a second thought. They should be celebrated and instead are an afterthought. Since New Mexico is doing so little for the Statehood celebration this would be something we could all get behind.

These people have been honored by the entire country for things that we will never achieve. But we in New Mexico just can’t seem to get it right and honor them when we say we are going to do it. We deserve the ranking we get on so many things - dead last. Almost nothing in New Mexico is done right the first time or on schedule. This is one of them. One of these days we will expect things to open on time, up to code, and that politicians will stand up and demand that things be done right. Until then we get what we pay for.

The Opening

The bad start was eclipsed by a exhibit that inspired, made New Mexicans proud, and showed a range of art that is great. There were retablos, straw, tin, wood carvings, weavings, colcha, books, storytelling, and sculptures at the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe. Some pieces we fifty years old and borrowed from many institutions and collectors. The artists and NEA National Heritage Fellows are: George Lopez, Margaret Tafoya,
Demonstrating for the Sunday, September 27, opening were: Maria Fernández Graves, José Floyd Lucero, Vicki Rodriguez, Nicholas Otero, with performances by Los Reyes de Albuquerque. The exhibit was funded in part by the Cotsen Family Foundation, International Folk Art Foundation, and the Museum of New Mexico Foundation.

For the opening, artists Charlie Carrillo, Irvin Trujillo, Ramon José Lopez, Lorenzo Martinez, and Roberto Martinez were in attendance. The families of the other artists no longer with us were also proud to see the work on display and the individuals honored.

Also at the reception were many notables including: artists Felix Lopez and Nick Herrera, Dr. Tom Chavez, Secretary of Cultural Affairs Stuart Ashman, Albuquerque Museum Director Cathy Wright, SCAS Market Director Bud Redding, and Dr. Helen Lucero who curated the first Familia y Fé exhibit in that same space. MOIFA Director Marsha Bol was obviously very proud of the effort her staff made for these artists and New Mexico, but she was especially proud of Nicholas Chavez who curated the show.

Though not a part of the show, Catalina Delgado Truck was present with her breathtaking cut paper mural that was outside the new space. The mural represented all of the Spanish-speaking world and eventually will be transferred to a laser cut metal.

The Century of Masters exhibit is open until May 22, 2011 and a book by the same name can be bought in the MOIFA stores. There is art by some of the artists featured also in the MOIFA stores. The exhibit is free to New Mexican residents on Sundays.
New Executive Director at National Hispanic Cultural Center

Estevan Rael-Gálvez
by Barbe Awalt

Estevan Rael-Gálvez became the Executive Director of the National Hispanic Cultural Center July 25, 2009. He was appointed June 11, 2009. Rael-Gálvez was the New Mexico State Historian since 2001 and he has a doctorate from the University of Michigan. Rael-Gálvez replaces Eduardo Diaz who resigned in December, 2008, to become Director of the Smithsonian Latino Center in Washington, DC. The search for a new Director was long and involved with many interviews.

The National Hispanic Cultural Center is located in the South Valley, at 1701 4th Street SW. It is a huge campus with performing classrooms, auditoriums, restaurant, store, gallery, dance practice rooms, research library, offices, and much more. The Center hosts art shows, lectures, dance productions, musical programs, fairs, research, competitions, and book signings. The NHCC has a Foundation headed by Clare Apodaca. The Center has a history of Executive Directors who have been lack lustre and have failed to mesh with New Mexico and the community.

Estevan Rael-Gálvez wanted to come to the National Hispanic Cultural Center because he was excited about the possibilities at the Center. He viewed a change to the NHCC as a creative challenge even though he loved his job as the State Historian. He is especially proud of the Fellowship Program at the State Archives giving grants to over sixty people. The Archives and Rael-Gálvez won a prestigious award for the New Mexico Digital History Project.

But he thinks movement is important and the NHCC is a very different place in a different city - Albuquerque. Estevan commutes on the Rail Runner from Santa Fe, now with a sprained ankle. He does think the schedule for the Rail Runner could have a later return to Santa Fe than the last train at 6pm because he wants Santa Feans to come to events at the Center.

The National Hispanic Cultural Center has been plagued lately with a drop in attendance though some programs have had good attendance. Estevan wants to assess everything at the NHCC for a year and find out what works, who is coming, what they need to do to be a part of the community, and find out if the attendance is local or outside of Albuquerque. He uses his model, Luis Ubiñas, at the head of the Ford Foundation who took time off when he was appointed to assess and evaluate the organization.

To fix things that are wrong would be a “knee jerk reaction” and Estevan does not want to do that. He has been impressed with the “amazing talents and commitment of the staff”. The Center is now nine years old and “they should know better” about what works. But the Center does not have the support it needs or wants.

The National Hispanic Cultural Center has an identity problem. Has it a national or even an international cliental or is it a local museum with a local focus? The show that had the biggest impact in publicity and attendance was Arte Latino, the Cheech Marin show sponsored by Target. The shows that have had a long-lasting effect and good attendance have been New Mexico santos and art. The shows that have had a dull thud have been obscure Hispanic art outside the United States.
The Center has also been criticized by Anglos that they don’t feel welcome in the Hispanic institution. They have dropped their memberships and don’t give money or their support. Even Kirtland Air Force Base had to ask if their visitors were welcome. Can an institution be too Hispanic? Or is the Center alienating non-Hispanics and reducing its base? Is the Center by being strident causing New Mexicans to write the Center off and for New Mexican outside of Albuquerque even aware of its existence?

Rael-Gálvez wants their to be collaboration among institutions. He is tired of the disconnect between Santa Fe based museums and Albuquerque museums. And of course the rest of New Mexico falls far behind. If institutions collaborate then they can also share expenses which may be important in the day and age of a decreased economy.

Estevan Rael-Gálvez names his grandmother who he grew up with in Questa as his hero. She was born in 1890 in Arroyo Seco of mixed identity and died in 1986. He now owns the home in Questa he grew up in and knows she would be proud of him. She told him stories and inspired him to do better things. He recently met with the organizer of the Chile Festival that is held at the National Hispanic Cultural Center and wants to continue the community based event. He sees these types of events as important to community pride and cultural awareness. He sees the Festival as a growth opportunity.

On August 1, 2009, Estevan took part in a conversation and signing at Collected Works in Santa Fe with Sandra Cisneros. She celebrated the 25th anniversary of her book, The House on Mango Street. The more than ten year friendship brought out her readings, his poetry, and questions from the audience in a packed crowd.

He would love to have research residents at NHCC to talk to artists and the community and to foster conversations. He would like a fellowship or scholarship to do just that. An art school located at NHCC would also bring the community into the Center. He sees that Barelas needs to feel a sense of ownership in the Center.

In Estevan Rael-Gálvez’ email letter to everyone saying goodbye and hello, he states, “I am proud to take on this new challenge, working with a professional, dedicated staff and all of the stakeholders in order to inform, instruct, and inspire every student and visitor, including those who do not yet know about the history, experience, creative expression and capacity of this unique and deeply complex community”. That sums it all up. The National Hispanic Cultural Center has a lot of potential that has not been realized and maybe with this new Director it can be. The jury is out.
echadas, kudos, and news from the art world

Art Updates

Landesman to Head NEA
With a new administration there is a new head of the National Endowment For the Arts - Rocco Landesman. Landesman stated his term on August 11, 2009 after being appointed and confirmed on August 7, 2009. He is the tenth chairman of the NEA. Prior to joining the NEA Landesman was a Broadway theater producer. He was born on July 20, 1847, in St. Louis, Missouri. He has a doctorate at Yale School of Drama. In 1977 he left Yale to start a private investment firm and ran it until 1987. In 1987 he was appointed president of Jujamcyn, a company that owns and runs five New York City theaters. He has produced Big River, Angels in America, The Producers, and others.

He also owned three minor baseball teams and racehorses. He has written and spoken on arts policy and has been active on many boards. He has also taught drama at Yale.

The National Endowment for the Arts is dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established, bringing the arts to all Americans: and providing leadership in arts education.

New Chairman at NEH
The National Endowment for the Humanities also has a new Chairman. Jim Leach began his term on August 12, 2009. Leach previously served 30 years representing southeastern Iowa in the U.S. House of Representatives.

After leaving Congress in 2007, Leach joined the faculty of Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School. Leach has a Master of Arts degree from Johns Hopkins and eight honorary degrees in International studies and economics.

Best at Indian Market
Husband and wife, Daryl and Rebecca Begay won Best of Show in Indian Market for a silver concha belt, Return from the Long Walk. The belt also took top honors in the jewelry division. The 15 figures on the belt signifies significant figures in the history of the Navajo Nation and to them. The belt is a timeline and shows a group of Tribal members returning to Mt. Taylor after the Long Walk. There is a warrior, a code talker, a silversmith, a cowboy, sports players, and symbolizing the next generation is a mother with cradleboard. The Begays also included their grandfather and grandmother who was known as the Navajo Mother Theresa for her giving ways to the Navajo Nations people.

1,100 pieces of artwork in a variety of media was entered by 500 artists to 50 judges. Prize money was $87,000.

Historical Society Formed
It is about time but Rio Rancho has formed a new Historical Society. Author and historian Don Bullis was the keynote speaker at the first meeting at the Rio Rancho Library in September. The Rio Rancho Library has a local history room that has collected in addition to books, Rio Rancho artifacts and oral histories. As Don Bullis said, “They have an unusual opportunity to collect things from the whole formation of Rio Rancho.”

Corrales Groundbreaking
The Albuquerque Museum’s historic Casa San Ysidro in Corrales hosted a groundbreaking in August of its new Visitors Center. Mayor Martin Chavez of Albuquerque and Mayor Philip Gasteyer of the Village of Corrales, invited everyone to come cut the ribbon and take part in a reception afterwards. The Visitor’s Center will provide visitors services, parking, exhibits, and educational programs.

Ground has been broken for a new Visitor’s Center for Casa San Isidro in Albuquerque.
New License Plate for New Mexico 100 Anniversary

New Mexico released the centennial plate to mark New Mexico’s 100 years of Statehood. It replaces the balloon plate from 1999. It is a retro design with a yellow Zia.

Tribute to Dean Daniel Jett

Ten former students of NMSU Dean of Engineering Daniel Jett attended the recent tribute at the NMSU Library.

New Mexico State University Library celebrated the book The Whole Damned World by Martha Shipman Andrews and Richard Melzer with Remembrances & Readings on October 22. Dean Jett, who is celebrated in the book, wrote and received letters from all of the NMSU students who served in WWII. The letters are part of the NMSU Archives. The selected letters were read by service members while family and vets participated.

NMSU Library Dean Dr. Elizabeth Titus and author/archivist Martha Shipman Andrews caught a moment just before the tribute began.

NMHC Launches Map Site

The New Mexico Humanities Council launched their Centennial Online Atlas of Historic New Mexico Maps on Thursday, October 29, at the Pete Domenici Education Center at the National Hispanic Cultural Center. The gala reception was followed by a presentation by NMHC Executive Director Craig Newbill and by author Dr. Petter Eidenbach of New Mexico State University—Alamagordo. The book on the project is slated to come out by UNM Press. Tuffakind designed and implemented the site containing over 20 historic maps. The atlas is located on the NMHC website, www.nmhum.org. Teachers of 4th, 7th, and 9th graders will find the maps especially useful with their classes.

Gallery Opening

Galería Tepín opens in Mesilla, New Mexico, with a show honoring Guadalupe. The Gallery is named after a small berry—a cousin to a piquin or a term of endearment in Nahuati. The Gallery is started by Denise Chavez, the noted author and founder of the Border Book Festival.

Colcha at Farm & Ranch Museum

Colcha Embroidered Connections opens at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Museum Traditions Gallery November 20 with a free reception on December 3 from 6-8 pm. Colcha traces back to the 1700s an is an exclusion New Mexico stitchery.
Charlie Carrillo

Santo by Charlie Carrillo
and
Pottery by Debbie Carrillo

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in the art world – current exhibitions and shows

Exhibitions & Events

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January 20-22, 2009
SANTA FE INDIAN MARKET
Reception, 11am – 6pm at Colores Galleria, Old Town. 505/246-9257.

DENVER, CO
November 13-December 31, 2009
EXHIBITION SCULPTURE

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Through December 31, 2009
INTERACTIVE STAGECOACH EXHIBIT

LOS ANGELES, CA
Through December 31, 2009
INTERACTIVE STAGECOACH EXHIBIT

MORRISON, CO
November 29, 2009
PAROLITOS LIGHTING
The Fort at Morrison. 303/839-1671.

NEW YORK, NY
Through March 31, 2010
BEAUTY SURROWS US!
George Gustav Heye Center, 212/514-3700.

PHOENIX, AZ
December 26-31, 2009
HOLIDAYS AT THE HEARD MUSEUM
Heard Museum. 602/252-8848.

February 6-7, 2010
HORSE DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Heard Museum. 602/252-8848.

March 6-7, 2010
INDIAN MARKET
Heard Museum. 602/252-8848.

MUSEUM OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK ART
Through February 21, 2010
NAVE DE LA CIUDAD
Museum of Indian Art/Culture. 505/476-5072.

Through October 10, 2010
CULTURE OF THE WISE
Museum of Indian Art/Culture. 505/476-5072.

November 11-December 31, 2010
THE HISTORY OF THE HISPANIC IN MEXICO
Museum of Spanish Colonial Art. 505/476-5100.

NUEVO MEXICO: THE WELFARE OF THE NATION
Museum of International Folk Art. 505/476-1200.

NUEVO MEXICO: THE WELFARE OF THE NATION
Museum of International Folk Art. 505/476-1200.

NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Through April 10, 2010
PEOPLE OF THE ANTELOPE HIDE
Museum of the American West. 505/476-5100.

Through April 10, 2010
THE WAY OF THE ANTELOPE HIDE
Museum of the American West. 505/476-5100.

November 11-December 31, 2010
THE HISTORY OF THE HISPANIC IN MEXICO
Museum of International Folk Art. 505/476-5072.

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF MEXICO
Through February 24, 2010
THE ART OF THE INDIANS OF NEW MEXICO
Museum of the American West. 505/476-5100.

Through April 10, 2010
THE HISTORY OF THE HISPANIC IN MEXICO
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About 3 dozen artists participated in the San Felipe Santo Market in Old Town Albuquerque. Above, Jerry Montoya displays his Best of Show award.
Harvest Festival at Casa San Ysidro

About 2 dozen artists participated in the Harvest Festival at Casa San Ysidro. Left middle, Joe Hayes gave a storytelling presentation to visitors. Right bottom, Debbie Carrillo shows her pottery to a young potential buyer.
Old cars and trucks by Charlie Carrillo were featured at a show and exhibit at Scarlett’s Gallery on Canyon Road in Santa Fe. Each retablo features a saint: (top to bottom) Santa Barbara, San José, Guardian Angel, and Santa Cecilia. Photographs courtesy of Terry Dudding, Scarlett’s Gallery.
Recently we had the privilege to add to our collection, the first “santo de palo” chess game that we are aware of that has been made in Puerto Rico and perhaps the world. This magnificent work is a great example of the creativity, dexterity and passionate devotion of woodcarving from the miniature sculptors Jose A. and Luis A. Roman Ramos from the town of Quebradillas, Puerto Rico.

Jose made the dark brown base pieces and his brother Luis the light yellowish base pieces. Although their styles are similar, there are subtle differences that permit to tell them apart. The board stand was designed and carved by Jose.

Their work (carving and polychrome) is just breathtaking. How they can master the details in each one of their pieces shows their dedication to their art and meticulous drive for perfection. The drapery on the figures, the movement and realism of the horses, the facial expressions and the decorative details of each of the “santos” are great examples of the capacity of these young “santeros” and their brotherly love to the tradition of woodcarving “santos” in the Island.

The pawns are represented by Santa Lucia, Santa Rosa de Lima, Santa Clara de Asis, Santa Ines, St. Peter, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Martin de Porres, St. Judas Thaddeus which are 2 ¼” in height.

The rooks, bishops, knights, king and queen are represented by chapels, St. George, St. James the Moor-slayer Matamoros, the Archangels Raphael, Michel, Gabriel and Uriel and Our Lord and the Virgin Mary which are 2 ¾” in height.

Francisco Toste Santana is a collector and avid historian of the “santos de palo” of Puerto Rico.
To document the effects of the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl and farm mechanization, the Farm Security Administration (FSA), a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, commissioned a special photographic survey of towns, farms, people and the countryside from 1935 until 1942. Some 77,000 photographs were taken as a part of this survey. Although most of the photographs depict various North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota locations, many were taken in New Mexico as well. The following photographic layout includes photographs taken by Russell Lee in Pie Town in 1940. These photographs are courtesy of the Library of Congress American Memory Project.
Pie Town, New Mexico, 1940.
Top: Lee Thomas; bottom: Bill Stagg turning up pinto beans; Top right: Gathering corn; Middle right: Mr. Leatherman tying up cauliflower; Bottom right: Harvesting corn.
Pie Town, New Mexico, 1940.
Top left: Pie Town Rodeo; Middle left: Pie Town Fair; Bottom left: Crowd eating free barbeque. Top: Fruit wagon at Pie Town Fair; Bottom: Crop exhibit at Pie Town Fair.
New Mexico, like all states and territories in the American West, has had its share of violence over the years, particularly between the time of the American Occupation in 1846 and statehood in 1912. It didn’t end then, of course, and these pages record violent events that occurred as recently as the beginning of the 20th century’s third quarter. Too often, fights resulting in death were nugatory in nature: a dispute over a flock of turkeys, a drunken revelry, one man’s personal dislike of another, petty theft. Other fights were far more important: peace officers killed as they performed their duties, criminals shot down as they assaulted society in one way or another. Here are a few examples:

- Train robbers outgun lawmen and kill three peace officers in one fight

- A deputy sheriff, drunk, picks a fight with the wrong store clerk; shot dead in the street

- One gang of cattle thieves attacks another outlaw gang and kills three men in the fight

- One man’s shooting spree results in the death of a deputy, a judge and two others: lynched

- A State Police officer murdered from ambush, for no good reason

- A husband and wife go for their guns, and both end up dead

There is nothing glorious or romantic about any of this: violence is ugly and unpleasant in every case. These were real people, sometimes cowardly in their demeanor, sometimes brave, and even heroic. Some died with their boots on; others did not. The common denominator was that more often than not, once the gun smoke cleared away, it became clear that someone was badly wounded, dying, or dead. Violence, it is said, results when attempts at civility have failed, but the fact is that more often than not, the attempt is not made.

by Don Bullis

224 pages  33 photographs; 6 x 9  ISBN 978-1-890689-63-6 ($16.95) (Trade paper)

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WINNER 2009 NM BOOK AWARDS

We are so glad this book was reissued by Sunstone! The new version is better paper, more information, and a great resource for kids and adults. If you are starting out learning about New Mexican santos, identifying the saints is made easier by the drawings (that you can color!) and the text. There is also text about Marie which is fabulous. A great gift for kid or adult, to combine with a Marie santo, crayons, and you are now a collector!


Basically these are archival/historic photos of the Mesilla Valley that have been identified and an extended caption written on each. The book has a brief history of the Valley. Do you know how good this is to historians, tourists who want to take something home, libraries, and schools? This is putting the photo collections of New Mexico in hands to enjoy and use. For our tastes the pictures could have been reproduced a little better but if you really need a crisp version you can go to the source. This is a great statehood book with hopefully more photos from other places in New Mexico to come.


FINALIST 2009 NM BOOK AWARDS

This is the perfect book to go on a trip or in a hotel. This book has short stories that are funny but really show a side of Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico by Marie Cash who grew

Books make GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS!!
up there. The book isn’t heavy or involved but a glimpse into life in New Mexico. Congrats to Marie for another winner! This book is great as a gift for a person who wants to know more about Marie or New Mexico.


FINALIST 2009 NM BOOK AWARDS
Again we have to say it, every community should document their early history and frankly everybody who lives in Los Alamos should have this book. This is a very good view into Los Alamos and why it is there and looks like it does today. The archival photos are fantastic and fun to look at. The one thing we are tired of is “Of” titles but that is picky. A great gift for someone who has moved away from Los Alamos, a history buff, or someone who lives or works in Los Alamos now. If you have trouble finding it, they publisher forgot their phone number or website but try calling Fuller Lodge Gift Shop.


WINNER 2009 NM BOOK AWARDS
This is an outgrowth of their Breakfast Santa Fe Style. The book has over 100 librarian endorsed places to have breakfast all over New Mexico with a twist—recommended reading for each place visited. There are also places to go near the restaurant for sight seeing. This is a fun book to give as a gift to New Mexicans or tourists. Throw in some muffins and you are good to go. The one criticism we had was that some of the photos were kind of muddy. But that doesn’t detract from the reviews.


We have said it before, every little town, village, exhibit, and event needs to be documented for posterity. This is a good example. Arcadia does a wonderful job documenting historic photos that might not be seen. We know Jemez Springs and it was fun to see it then and now. The photos are wonderful. Please go on their website and get for a holiday present a book for little communities that you can give as a gift. Arcadia does a bunch of books!


This bilingual book would be great for a boy or girl who gets a new dog. The illustrations of Diego, Gabriela, and the new dog Sofie and clay figures which means more time working in clay or Playdough after the book is read. The story takes place in Picacho, New Mexico, 50 miles north of the border between
Mexico and New Mexico. It is a cute book and do put a package of tortillas with it!


This is a beautiful book and would be good to give to house guests who enjoyed a day visit to the living history museum. It tells the history of the ranch and how the Curtins came to buy it, the volunteers, the art, the festivals, and much more. It will remind visitors of their trip to New Mexico but will also be something that natives will want after they enjoy las Golondrinas—the Ranch of the Swallows. It is important to document these pieces of New Mexico History and this book does a fine job.


Let’s get right to it, Dave DeWitt is one of our authors and a friend. We didn’t do this book but we wish we had. It is a beautiful book that tells you how to grow chiles, processing, recipes, and a glossary of terms. It even tells you what chiles are good for the garden. Truly this book is a great gift for a chilehead. It just might be the be all and the end all of chiles!


The usual 12 days of Christmas are replaced with a fun, Latin-flavored list of items like: burritos bailando, lunitas cantando, and piñatas. This really bright book would make a perfect gift for any child or a person learning Spanish. There is a glossary and the new Piñata in a Pine Tree music. Totally fun for the whole family during the holidays!


Moving to New Mexico from the East has a steep learning curve. New Mexico can be a joke to people in other parts of the USA. This is a collection of stories and correspondence to friends about New Mexico, Albuquerque, and the West and how things are done differently here. The rules for driving are funny. This would make a great gift for someone who just moved to New Mexico or for someone new here who wants to send a very humorous gift to the people who have missed out by not living in New Mexico.


Long & short, face & tail, open & closed, the word opposites are explained with Oaxaca figures. This bright book would be perfect for a child just beginning to read and spell or someone learning Spanish. A great holiday gift for any child.

Dinosaur Highway: A History of Dinosaur Valley State Park by Laurie E. Jasinski.
Dinosaur State Park is in North Texas along the Paluxy River. This is a history book and how the Somerville residents and officials fought to have the Valley declared a state park. Today dino tracks are evidence of the herds that went lumbering over one hundred million years ago. A great gift for dino and Texas lovers.


This book was made possible by personal contributions by Stephen L. Feinberg and commemorates the 400th Anniversary of Santa Fe. It is a collection of essays by John Kessel, Marc Simmons, Joseph Sánchez, Fran Levine, Stan Hordes, and many others. It is a good overview of the City Different. The book is a little academic but good for any high school or college student of history and the archival pictures are great. Worth having for a souvenir of a momentous occasion that has had set backs in the celebration.
The story of Julianita and the Santo Niño is an expression of the fabric of northern New Mexico, its culture and its traditions. Stories like this have been told literally thousands of times in homes all across the Southwest.

Venerated since the eighth century, the Santo Niño is an important part of both the Native American and the Hispanic traditions. People pray to the Santo Niño for healing, mainly of children, and devoted pilgrims frequently leave children’s shoes at his shrines. Many believe that he wears the shoes out at night when he goes walking secretly visiting children while they are asleep in order to heal them. The most famous shrines to the Santo Niño are in Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico and Chimayó, New Mexico.

This story was written in the 1930s by famed New Mexico author Peggy Pond Church and lost for almost seven decades. Re-discovered, it is now brought back to life with full-color illustrations by award-winning Santa Fe artist Charlie Carrillo.

mmm! Cantaloupe! Great for breakfast or a snack…at least they are now. But there was a time when wild pronghorned cantaloupe roamed the land and you had to get past sharp, ripping horns to get one if you wanted that sweet treat. Follow Andy and his boy as they grow up together in the time of the great cantaloupe roundups. You’ll never look at breakfast the same again.

Sabra Brown Steinsiek is a life-long librarian turned author. She has written award-winning romance novels for adults and a book of haiku poetry. The Tale of the Pronghorned Cantaloupe is her first children’s book. She lives in Albuquerque with her husband and son, two cats, an insatiable curiosity, and an overactive imagination. Steinsiek is the founder of ReadingNewMexico.com, the only website devoted to reviewing New Mexico books.

Noel Chilton migrates with the butterflies between the American Southwest and Southern Mexico. She never flies without her two boys and her colored pencil set. Both bundles keep her busy and inspired. She illustrated Pop Flop’s Great Balloon Ride and several other bilingual books.

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