The Chair’s Column

Flora M. Sánchez

What a busy spring we’ve had here at the Gutierrez Hubbell House! And as always at this busy place there is much to celebrate.

In March, as part of a collaborative effort with Valle de Oro, we hosted 80 students from Van Buren Middle School. The program was such a success that the Education subcommittee is working on a plan to replicate the program next school year. Student groups from Pajarito, Harrison and Los Padillas Community Center also visited in April and May.

On May 8 HHA held an extremely successful grand opening of the Community Cultural Gallery with a gala reception for the “Faith and the Gutierrez Family,” an exhibit featuring retablos created by renowned santero Charles Carrillo based on research by historian Felipe Mirabal. Under twinkling lights, with lively music from Los Jaraneros del Valle, guests enjoyed wonderfully prepared, period-appropriate apertivos, and heard from the artist and the historian. On May 15, the feast day of San Isidro, HHA hosted a well-attended public opening for the exhibit.

With the opening of the Community Cultural Gallery, the GHH inaugurates a space for rotating exhibits. The current exhibit is the first of a series of exhibits showcasing the artistic, agricultural, and cultural achievements of New Mexico’s most brightly-shining stars. HHA is currently soliciting proposals for an exhibit to open in November 2015 to run for six months. Beautiful handmade textiles from distinguished weaver Juanita Lavadie will be featured beginning May 2016.

Charles Carrillo’s original retablos (at excellent prices I should add) are now on sale at our newly reopened store, La Tiendita. Please come in and visit. You’ll find reasonably-priced products made from reproductions of the retablos, as well as jewelry, books, and, back by popular demand, bottled products: jams, salsas and more with the GHHHCC label.

Thanks to our talented manager, Asha Baker, publicity about the GHH is paying off with more rentals (contributing to HHA’s revenues) and more visitors than ever before. Including school visits, events and program participants, the total number of visitors in March, April and May was 992.

We welcome you to come by and see the new exhibit, shop or attend one of the many summer events.

Upcoming Speakers

Henrietta Martinez Christmas

July 18, 10:30am-11:30am
“Clemente Gutierrez 1716-1785, Spaniard, Merchant & Just Plain Wealthy”

A native New Mexican, Henrietta holds a degree in Spanish and Latin Studies from New Mexico State University, Las Cruces. She currently is the president of the New Mexico Genealogical Society. In past years she was president of the Colorado Society of Hispanic Genealogy and the secretary of the Historical Society of New Mexico. She has over 25 topics that she regularly lectures on.

Francisco Uviña

August 2, 2:00pm-4:00pm
“Adobe Architecture”

Francisco is currently a lecturer at UNM’s School of Architecture and Planning. In 2003, he was Architectural Technical Manager with the Cornerstones Community Partnerships and worked on the Gutierrez Hubbell House Restoration and Preservation Project. Cornerstones partnered with Bernalillo County and the Hubbell House Alliance to conduct a conditions assessment and complete an historical structures report. Preservation included interior and exterior basal wall repair, adobe brick making, cement plaster removal, and exterior and interior mud plastering.

What programs would you like to see at GHHHCC?

Here’s your chance to make suggestions.

The Program Committee is holding a public meeting Tuesday, September 8, at 7:00pm. We need your input.

Hope to see you there!
What’s Growing in those Fields?

In the North Field this year we welcome back the Center of Southwest Culture’s (CSC) Saucillo del Norte and La Chinampa Farmers Cooperatives. Production has more than doubled over last year’s acreage. CSC was founded in 1991 as a non-profit to help develop healthy indigenous and Latino communities through economic development initiatives and educational and cultural work. The field focus this year will be on warm season crops like chilies, cantaloupe and of course, delicious New Mexico watermelon. Please support them at the Downtown Market on Saturdays and the Rail Yard Market on Sundays.

Farmers Michael, Mick and Jimmie from Erda Gardens continue their care of the historic trees and vines in the area just west of the Plaza. After pruning all 44 fruit trees (wow!) in early spring, they spread mulch and a few doses of agua and the trees are in full glory. Annual crops are going in - like corn, sweet potatoes and chia. I’ve never seen chia in the field, come over and see if you can find it!

The Demonstration Garden greets our visitors as they come into the Plaza and includes the plants that would feed the kitchen and be used medicinally. Many thanks to our “Stealth Gardeners” Geri and Amy - we may not see you but we KNOW when you’ve been here!

Have an idea for an addition to this garden? We are very open to ideas - Contact Diane at 505-507-6416 or reesedianem@aol.com.

A Field Trip to the Historic Hubbell Trading Post at Ganado, Arizona is being proposed for September 26, 2015.

A tour of the other Hubbell House will not disappoint. The rug auction is an event not to be missed.

It’s a nice day trip, or stay overnight and visit Canyon de Chelly. Take a Jeep tour and visit the White House.

For more information contact: Carol Chapman 505-463-8307.

Historically Speaking…

Did you know that I was married to the richest man in New Mexico in the 1870’s and that my father was the Governor of New Mexico shortly after Mexico gained independence from Spain?

My portrait hangs in the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Who am I?

(Answer on bottom of page 4)

Museum Guide Mary Tyler gave a slide presentation and talk to the Rio Grande Mule and Donkey Association on May 12th, with outstanding review! Quoting the RGMDA newsletter, “The preservation and restoration of the ranch (Gutierrez Hubbell House) is a great story and a unique resource we are lucky to have so close.”

The Community Cultural Gallery now plays host to a magnificent exhibit entitled “Faith and the Gutierrez Family: The Role of Devotional Art in Colonial New Mexico” which will be open through November.

The exhibit is the work of renowned santero Dr. Charles Carrillo who collaborated with noted historian Felipe Mirabal and it was curated by HHA board member Katherine Cordova.

Working in the santero tradition of his ancestors and famously known for creating art using time-honored techniques, Carrillo has created twelve original retablos that pay homage to generations of devotion of the Gutierrez family.

Carrillo, who earned a doctorate in anthropology/archaeology from UNM, started his creative journey in 1978 when he began researching the techniques, materials, and subject matter of the early santeros. Today he is recognized not only as the primary authority on this subject but also as one of the most accomplished artists practicing in this regional tradition. Known for his generosity, Dr. Carrillo offered 30% of sales of the extremely well-priced retablos to benefit HHA.

Like Carrillo, Mirabal is an accomplished and well respected individual. Felipe Mirabal has lectured at UNM and the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and has served as a curator at El Rancho de las Golondrinas. His areas of scholarly expertise include the Spanish Catholic experience in New Spain, and the art history of Spanish Colonial New Mexico.

As Flora Sánchez, Hubbell House Alliance chair, muses: “Felipe Mirabal has researched family records and historical documents to create a list of the family’s patron saints and Charles Carrillo has created their images on wood as was the tradition.”

You won’t want to miss this unique and exciting opportunity to better understand the importance of the faith and devotion of many early Hispano New Mexican families and to own one of the retablos!
Semillas Nativas: Calabazas by Brett Bakker

Calabacitas is a dish that most New Mexicans know: various combinations of summer squash, corn and green chiles. What few people -- except for los viejitos, the respected elders -- realize is that, although they’re now made with zucchini or yellow squash, it once meant a very specific squash (Cucurbita agyrosperma). In English it’s called a Cushaw Squash and is now rarely grown outside of the southwestern USA. Rarely, that is, unless you head south into the “other” Americas where it’s known as pipián. When mature, these are characterized by shells with green and white stripes slowly turning to yellow, faint orange or dark green with a distinctive pear shape.

It grows well in the longer growing seasons of central and southern New Mexico but a bit into the north as well. Once you leave the warm Espanola valley however and climb in elevation to the old Spanish villages like Vadito or Rio Lucio, you’ll find other species of calabazas (C. maxima), the sweeter hard-shelled Hubbard types.

One other species of squash was grown in New Mexico and has continued to be grown at the Eastern Pueblos and the Hopi villages of Arizona is a C. pepo similar in color to C. agyrosperma but in shape more of a teardrop. It also is known for copious amounts of seed.

All squashes were planted for fresh young eating, winter keeping, highly nutritious edible seed, or cut into strips or spirals and dried for later use (tasajos). Although gourds (Lagenaria siceraria) excelled for rattles, dippers and storage vessels, certain squash shells— if dried properly— were used in Pueblo ceremonies.

Only a few generations ago, there was no such thing as summer squash or winter squash, it was all one. In the summer you picked the young immature fruits for fresh eating and those you didn’t pick grew into large thin-skinned winter keepers. Properly speaking, any winter squash can be called a pumpkin, a term that we now deed just another type of squash.

Don’t let the Latin name intimidate you. It’s a simpler way to differentiate since most elders will just call them all pumpkins or calabazas. If separated by a little distance, these three species will not readily cross meaning that the home seed saver most elders will just call them all pumpkins or calabazas. If separated by a little distance, these three species will not readily cross meaning that the home seed saver will most elders will just call them all pumpkins or calabazas. If separated by a little distance, these three species will not readily cross meaning that the home seed saver will most.

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Only a few generations ago, there was no such thing as summer squash or winter squash, it was all one. In the summer you picked the young immature fruits for fresh eating and those you didn’t pick grew into large thin-skinned winter keepers. Properly speaking, any winter squash can be called a pumpkin, a term that we now usually associate only with Hallowe’en. The familiar orange jack o’ lantern is indeed just another type of squash.

Don’t let the Latin name intimidate you. It’s a simpler way to differentiate since most elders will just call them all pumpkins or calabazas. If separated by a little distance, these three species will not readily cross meaning that the home seed saver can grow three kinds of squash and still collect pure seed. Although it’s past planting time, the best source for these (and all other) semillas nativas is Native Seeds/SEARCH http://www.nativeseeds.org/, a southwest-specific seed bank based in Tucson, AZ but which holds many traditional crops grown in New Mexico for generations like the humble calabacita.

The Hubbell House Alliance, with sincere gratitude, would like to thank the many supporters who have donated so generously to help keep our mission alive.

Roman “Butch” Hubbell
Cynthia Gutierrez and Dimestore Cowboys
Jane and Doug Swift, Albuquerque Community Foundation
Clara Apodaca
Art DeLaCruz
Charles Dibrell Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution

Irene Kersting Chavez and Albert Chavez: for the beautiful flower pots now adorning the portals.

South Valley Bloomers: members of South Valley’s garden club who donated flowers and planted the pots now in full bloom. The festival of color provides a cheerful greeting to all who visit. The club meets once a month and welcomes new members. Contact Irene Chavez at 505-450-4433 for more information.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Backyard Farming Classes
Call for registration 505-314-0398 or online www.bernco.gov/openspace.

August 15, 9:00am-11:00am
Traditional and New Tools for the Garden.

September 18, 6:30pm-9:00pm
Chile y Chocolate

September 26, 9:00am-11:00am
History of Sheep in New Mexico and a Changing Landscape.

Community Cultural Gallery

May-November
“Faith and the Gutierrez Family: The Role of Devotional Art in Colonial New Mexico” by Dr. Charles Carrillo and Felipe Mirabal.

Field Trip

September 26, Time TBD
Interested in a field trip? We are planning a visit to the Hubbell Trading Post at Ganado, AZ to tour the house and attend the rug auction. Call Carol Chapman for more information at 505-463-8307.

Program Committee

September 8, 7:00pm-8:30pm
HHA is inviting the public to attend. What programs would you like for 2016?

Speakers

July 18, 10:30am-11:30am
“Clemente Gutierrez 1716-1785, Spaniard, Merchant & Just Plain Wealthy” by Henrietta Martinez Christmas.

August 2, 2:00pm-4:00pm
“Adobe Architecture” by Francisco Uviña.

Volunteers Needed!
Interested in volunteering?
Call 505-244-0507
Become a Member of the
Hubbell House Alliance 501 (C) (3),
the non-profit managing the
Gutierrez Hubbell House History
and Cultural Center.

Individual - $20  Family - $35
- free entrance to museum
- invitations to Members Only events
Check our website for more benefits.
www.gutierrezhubbellhouse.org

Interested in having an outdoor wedding?
Our natural Open Space land is perfect for your dream wedding or special event.
Rich with history and beauty, our venue will fulfill your dreams and leave you with a lifetime of special memories. Our gorgeous landscape, including the natural beauty of our cottonwood trees, will make your ceremony or reception a magical event.

Contact: Natalie (505) 884-0434
http://www.occasionservicesevents.com/Contact-Us.html

May 8th Opening Reception for
“Faith and the Gutierrez Family”

La Bandera Editor: Cheril Raub, Librarian and Archivist. Proofreaders Rosemary McNerney Winkler and Tonya Young

Answer to question on page 2: Maria Dolores Longina Chavez de Perea, husband Jose Leandro Perea, father Francisco Xavier Chavez.