

LA BANDERA

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www.gutierrezhubbellhouse.org HUBBELL HOUSE ALLIANCE (505) 244-0507

DE LA CASA GUTIERREZ-HUBBELL

New Mexico Fermentation Festival



Under partly cloudy skies, nearly a thousand visitors enjoyed the first ever **New Mexico Fermentation Festival**. Some drove, but a big crowd made the trek down on bicycles - thanks to BikeAbq for the free valet service!

Talks included “The History of Fermentation and Cocktails,” “Healing Your Body with the Magic of Cluttered Foods,” “Root Beer or Bust” and “The Kraft of Kombucha.”

Our fabulous vendors provided tastes of their treats - balsamic vinegars, cheeses, microbrew beers and distilled spirits, out of this world - breads, chocolates and pickled everything! Particularly fun was the Kraut Mob, led by Bernalillo County Extension; the participants had a hands-on chance



to learn how to make their own unique vegetable ferments - ready in just 3 days.

Music filled the air as Zoltan and the Fortune Tellers had our toes tapping!

Our deepest thanks go to our organizing partner, *edible Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Taos* for their expertise, energy and generosity. And to our very special sponsors: Whole Foods, Bernalillo County and Delicious New Mexico - you guys rock!

Please join us next year: June 24, 2017!
nmfermentationfest.com

The Chair's Column

Flora M. Sánchez

Wow – what a spring we’ve had – and the summer promises to be even bigger!

The Historical Series, Villages Along the Río Grande: Albuquerque to Isleta, which continues through September, has been wonderfully successful. Each presentation has drawn nearly sixty people, many who had never been out to visit the GHH. We look forward to upcoming talks on the villages of Pajarito, Los Padillas and Isleta. **The Backyard Farming Spring Series** has also drawn big audiences and brought many new visitors to GHH.

In May, **The Hubbell Trading Post provided an informative talk on Navajo jewelry**, and HHA hosted the grand opening of our new exhibit, “**Ciboleros, Comancheros and the People Back Home: Buffalo Hunters, Explorers and Community Life in the Spanish and Mexican Period.**” The exhibit, which runs through October, features the work of Taos textile artist Juanita Lavadie. We are very grateful to our partners, the National Parks Historic Trails System, Las Arañas Spinning and Weaving Guild, and for demonstrations by Mr. Tom Chavez and George Meeks and to Bill Porter who filled in last minute with his wonderful BBQ food truck.

Also in May, we welcomed visits by **nearly 350 students from Polk and Harrison middle schools** who spent a half day each at GHH and Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge. Their teachers gave us great reviews and are excited to make the trip an annual tradition. We will seek funding to make this a reality.

We are also celebrating receiving a **PowerUp Grant from Public Service Company of New Mexico**. The funds will be used to enhance our Traditional Garden and will provide for more picnic tables so our visitors can enjoy our beautiful property. Mick Gorospe spends most of every day working in our gardens and does a great job of organizing volunteer help from many, including the women from our neighbor, the Women’s Recovery Center.

Lastly, I want to celebrate a young lady from Polk Middle School who, after her school’s field trip to GHH, committed to spend twelve hours a week volunteering. She is being trained to serve as our first Junior Museum Guide and will help us develop a program to train other students in coming years. Thank you, Litzzy Flores!

Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers. GHHHCC is what it is because of the many who generously offer their time and talents.

Maria's View

Wedding season is well under way, and to date, there have been eight events. The weddings have been beautiful!

With the weather getting warmer, we have seen an increase in visitors.

Our Tiendita has been receiving attention. We have some wonderful new items, including postcards and new jewelry, but what we are really excited about is the new venture with Valley Gurlz Goodz. They offer gourmet specialty pickled products that are hand packed. Valley Gurlz are local to Albuquerque, and by next year the produce in the jar will be from our fields. How cool is that?

If you have Facebook, please make sure you "like" the Hubbell House Alliance page. We are trying to make it to 625 likes, and we are so close! We post all of our events on Facebook and on our website, so don't forget to check that out as well.

Also, if you stop by, please make sure you come and "check out my view."

How I Became a Museum Guide by Ronn Perea



It's amazing how time flies when you enjoy what you are doing... Imagine driving north on Carlisle from Menaul. You pass the New Mexico State Police Headquarters, and there is a state police cruiser preparing to turn onto Carlisle. Within seconds, you see flashing red lights in your review mirror. That's what happened to me. You now ask, "What does this have to do with the Gutierrez-Hubbell House?" Read on.

The trooper gave me two tickets. One for not pulling over immediately, and a second for not wearing a seatbelt. I was guilty as sin. The judge threw out the first ticket, but gave me community service for the second. I was provided a list of places to contact. I called the whole page, but none needed me or wanted to stick me in a 3:00pm shift.

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What's Growing in Those Fields?

If you haven't been for a visit lately, you have got to come out and enjoy the beauty! Mick, our caretaker, has put his volunteers (as well as himself!) to work, and it is just gorgeous. The seeding done in the hoop house back in March produced many tiny plants that have now taken hold in the grow beds in the Heritage Orchard. We have vegetables beginning to bloom like tomatoes, squash, beans and peppers, and the sweet potatoes are really getting bushy. Thanks to Juan Carrillo, our neighbor, we also have white, yellow, red and blue corn. The sunflowers, hollyhocks, mexican hat, penstemon and maximillian daisies are flowering. The fruit trees and blackberries are doing well - in spite of the late frosts we had. And our big elms and cottonwoods provide shade to our perimeter path for a refreshing walk even in the heat of day.



The farmers have been busy in the larger fields. Lorenzo, the head gardener with the Center for Southwest Cultures has (mostly) beaten down the johnson grass and has melons, beans, corn, and many varieties of chile thriving. We are happy to see youth farming, too - we welcome RFK Charter School this year in the field just south of the New Mexico Dahl sheep. They have planted chard, kale, carrots, beets, cucumber and watermelon. Rafael de la Rosa has, along with other things, lettuce and eggplant in the ground. And speaking of sheep, a little dose of composted manure side dressing is a great idea right about now!

We received a donation of seven chickens to the GHH by Kelly White. We call them our Hollywood chickens because they were extras in a movie that involved earth ships and farm life! The

chickens have been busy keeping the grasshopper population down in the Heritage Orchard.

So, please come by, stop and talk with Mick about what's growing, and consider spending a few hours with us - we can sure use your help!



Historically Speaking...

Did you know that J. Felipe Hubbell, the son of James L. Hubbell and Juliana Gutierrez, was interviewed on 9 August 1906 by The Albuquerque Mourning Journal? The headline read "Uses Chickens To Kill Off Grasshoppers." Mr. Hubbell told the reporter that he just turned the chickens loose (about six hundred of them!), and by directing their movements, the chickens ate the grasshoppers by the bushel.

The article went on to say that Mr. Hubbell had one of the finest fruit ranches in the valley, with at least four thousand trees, which were groaning under the load of luscious fruit. Fruits mentioned were nectarines, pears, plums, and some of the biggest apples and peaches in the valley. The reporter said a visit to the ranch would convince the most skeptical of the fruit-raising possibilities of the Río Grande Valley under irrigation.



Semillas Nativas: Punche by Brett Bakker



It's sad that the well-deserved reputation of commercial cigarettes has tarnished the true value of Southwestern native tobacco, known in Spanish as *punche* or *punche mexicano* and botanically as *Nicotiana rustica*.

Its stereotypical use in "peace pipes" in dozens of Westerns notwithstanding, tobacco continues to be used by Native Americans in prayer. Speaking broadly, smoking in conjunction with sacred ceremony means that the smoke carries prayers aloft. *Punche* is still used ceremonially at most New Mexico pueblos but rarely in the view of outsiders, one exception being the *Día de todos los Santos* (All Saints Day) when bowls of tobacco and corn husk "rolling papers" are

left out for use by family and their visitors. Out of respect for its powerful and sacred nature, garden tobacco patches were typically also kept out of public view.

Like any powerful medicine, it can be abused if used injudiciously. Generally, smoking for pleasure was discouraged except by elders that might take comfort in its pain-killing and relaxing properties. As medicine, tobacco use has declined as much as that of other medicinal herbs, but its bad reputation has contributed to keeping it further off limits. In a poultice, leaves were applied for sore joints, swelling and skin disorders while small pinches were used for ear and toothaches.

The modern industrial method of curing smoking tobacco is more involved than the casual grower would care to undertake, but raising it is fairly simple once past the germination stage. Tobacco plants produce thousands of seeds, not much different in size than poppy seeds. Successfully germinating such tiny seeds can be tricky: planted too deep, they may not emerge; planted too shallow, the sprouting seed may dry out. The best results are usually had by planting as you would tomatoes (indoors or in a greenhouse) and then transplanting outdoors when the danger of frost has passed. However, if you fail to collect all the seed in the fall (which you surely will with such staggering numbers produced), you will be certain to see the tiny pinpoint sprouts all over your garden come spring. Once up a few inches, it is positively a weed in the best sense of the word: tough and resilient.

There are many methods to cure tobacco, some involved and others simple. One simple northern New Mexico tradition was (in the words of an elder I once asked) "Let it freeze." A few days of alternate freezing at night and drying in the sun "cures" enough for ceremonial use but renders it mostly too harsh for idle use, being quite similar to crisp autumn leaves.

Besides ceremonial and medicinal purposes, *Nicotiana rustica* produces small but unusual green to yellow trumpet flowers. Other non-southwestern species such as *N. tabacum*, produce larger striking pink to purple blossoms that draw hummingbirds.

Whatever one's opinion, tobacco itself is only as helpful or harmful to humanity as we allow it, but *punche* certainly has a deep and lasting place in New Mexico's agricultural heritage.

Spanish Colonial Textiles Along the Camino Real

A series of historical classes in spinning, knitting socks, weaving and colcha embroidery.

Free to the Public

**Session #2 from 10:00am-2:00pm
July 18 through July 20**

To enroll call Myra at (505)864-0876 or mchangt@yahoo.com

Instructors: Becky Arnold - Spinning Myra Chang Thompson - Weaving
Anne Szklarz - Sock Knitting Annette Gutierrez-Turk - Colcha Embroidery

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Backyard Farming Classes

August 13, 9:00am-12:00pm

Weeds of the West

This workshop will cover identification, medicinal uses and ways to cook weeds of the west.

August 20, 9:00am-12:00pm

Chickens and Bees

This two-part workshop will cover the basics to keeping chickens for nutritious and delicious eggs as well as how to start and manage backyard beehives.

September 10, 9:00am-12:00pm

Garden Journaling

This workshop will present observation skills, mapping, and reading catalogs.

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

Community Cultural Gallery

May 21-Oct 30

"Ciboleros, Comancheros and the People Back Home: Buffalo Hunters, Explorers and Community Life in the Spanish and Mexican Period" Artist, Juanita J. Lavadie. Curated by Katherine Cordova.

Historical Presentations

**Villages Along the Río Grande:
Albuquerque to Isleta**

July 23, 10:30am

Elaine Luján - History of the Pajari-to neighborhood

August 27, 10:30am

Francelle Alexander - History of the Los Padillas neighborhood

September 24, 10:30am

Richard Garcia - Isleta Pueblo since time immemorial to the 21st century

See the GHH website and our monthly flyers for more details.

Hubbell House Alliance



6029 Isleta Blvd SW Albuquerque, NM 87105



Become a Member of the **Hubbell House Alliance 501 (C) (3)**, the non-profit managing the **Gutierrez Hubbell House History and Cultural Center**.

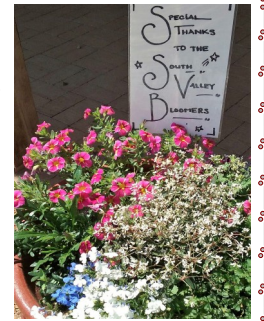
With a \$25 Membership Fee you can help support HHA's educational initiatives!

South Valley Bloomers

Our thanks go to the **South Valley Bloomers Gardening Club** who has again planted the beautiful flower pots that grace our portals with blooms all summer and fall. This year, their efforts were supported by a small grant from the **Rio Grande Credit Union**.

The Bloomers meet at member homes and local venues on the first Saturday of each month to hear talks about gardening and related topics from cooking to decorating with plants.

Contact Irene Chavez at avcihk@msn.com for more information.



From page 2

Until...a lovely lady called to say, "We need someone to pull weeds." I looked at the calendar and I only had a week to comply with the judge's deadline, so I agreed. She told me to come to the Gutierrez-Hubbell House. I asked, "What's a Gutierrez-Hubbell House?" After she educated me, I asked where the house was located. She gave me directions, and I immediately lost it. Way down there? In the South Valley? What did I get myself into? At the time, I was living and working in Placitas. Again, I checked my calendar. I went mute; after all, I only had a week to make the judge happy.

So Saturday, there I was with gloves on, pulling weeds, and the lovely lady who was also the manager came out to help me. We enjoyed a nice conversation. She must have been impressed with my verbal skills because she invited me back the next Wednesday to do telemarketing. She learned that I had always been a student of history and invited me to attend several seminars presented at the GHH.

It was a no-brainer! Now it's three years later, and I would love to give you a tour on Saturdays, 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Are you interested in New Mexico history?

Would you like to learn more about gardening?

The Gutierrez-Hubbell House is actively seeking museum guides and volunteers for the gardens.

Also, if you would like to receive our monthly flyer and quarterly newsletter

Contact us at (505) 244-0507 or gutierrezhubbellhouse@gmail.com



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.occasionserviceevents.com/Contact-Us.html>