



# Hispanic Women's Council

Spring/Summer 2019 Newsletter

## Board of Directors

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Eva Gonzales

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Major Linda C. Zamora

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The Hispanic Women's Council is a non-profit, inter-generational organization established in 1988 to promote, support, and create opportunities for Hispanic women.

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Vangie Samora, Editor

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## Un mensaje de la presidente

Dear HWC Members,

I want to thank Dr. Victoria Sánchez for her leadership as president of the HWC board for two years (2017/2018). She saw us through our thirtieth anniversary, which we celebrated in grand style. Dr. Sánchez has been a wonderful mentor as I learn the ropes of being president of this dynamic organization of women. We bring service, cultural awareness, educational opportunities, and enduring friendship to women of all ages. I am humbled to be your president for the 2019 term.



Our 2019 Board of directors includes new members of remarkable accomplishments. Take a moment to read the bios of our newest leaders (pages 4 & 5). We are fortunate to continue our organization under the leadership of women from different generations. Our mission is to a multi-generational membership and we are pleased and proud to reflect that in our board. Our future as an organization is assured as we move into our thirty-first year with a membership enriched and guided by the wisdom and experience of women of all ages.

On March 23 we enjoyed a tour of *Visions of the Hispanic World: Treasures from the Hispanic Society Museum & Library* at the Albuquerque Art Museum. We had the pleasure of Andrew Connors, Director of the Albuquerque Museum, leading the tour and regaling us with stories that linked the art of Spain with our cultural history in New Mexico. It was a fascinating tour made more special because Mr. Connors joined us for the Mitote Power Hour following his talk. Special thanks to Dr. Shelle Sánchez and Eva Gonzales for coordinating this event.

Continued on next page...

President's message, continued...

Our June Mitote Power Hour was particularly inspiring because we learned so much about how African American women used the power of their home networks and home businesses to aid all African Americans. When KKK groups formed in New Mexico, African Americans published their own small newspapers to alert the public and to publish where travelers could find safe lodging. They grew their catering businesses into restaurants to provide food for travelers who could not eat in any other establishment. Women started boarding houses when unmarried women had no safe place to live. To hear of these African American experiences of triumph over racism in New Mexico made us aware of how much we share with our African American sisters. We will continue our practice of inviting women from other organizations, cultures, and traditions to join with us as we lift up all women.

You, the members of HWC, make our organization vibrant and healthy. Come out and join in the fun. Hispanic Women's Council events are opportunities to learn, share, and grow. Join us for the August Mitote Power Hour, our September Meet and Greet (my personal favorite) where we will introduce the women who are supported by the HWC Scholarship, the Masquerade Ball in October, a tour of the architecture of the University of New Mexico in November, and the lovely, crowd-pleasing Christmas celebration in December. Whether the event is traditional or something new for HWC, I promise you a satisfying and edifying experience. I look forward to greeting you at our next event. Until then, *con cariño*,

*Carmen Samora*  
2019 HWC President

## Mitote Power Hour

Monday, August 5, 2019

5:30pm to 8:00pm

Rosemary Restaurant

4565 San Mateo Blvd NE Suite A, 87109

There is no fee to attend. Order a meal off the menu.

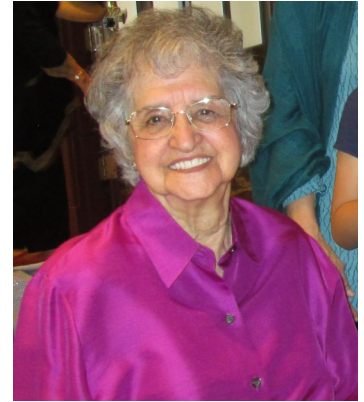
The restaurant will not be open to the public and will be solely for the enjoyment of HWC members and their guests.

RSVP: Vangie Samora: [vsamora7@gmail.com](mailto:vsamora7@gmail.com) or call 265-5021.

## Éxito y Más

The American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) presented **Dr. Mari-Luci Jaramillo** with the 2019 President's Award for a lifetime of work furthering the education of Hispanics. The AAHHE President's Award is given to an individual or organization that has provided sustained leadership and support of AAHHE's mission and goals.

"Receiving this award was a highlight for me this year. My award is a painting of an Indian woman climbing a ladder (of success)." Dr. Jaramillo has been a member and champion of HWC for many, many years. She served as U. S. Ambassador to Honduras, appointed by President Jimmy Carter. Her memoir, "Madam Ambassador, The Shoemaker's Daughter" was published in 2002. Her latest book, "Sacred Seeds," is due out this year.



Ambassador Mari-Luci Jaramillo



Theresa Cardenas & Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham

Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham signed into law the Energy Transition Act (ETA), which establishes New Mexico as a national leader in clean energy by making New Mexico 80% carbon-free by 2040 and 100% carbon free by 2040 while providing workforce training and transition assistance to coal dependent affected communities. HWC member **Theresa Cardenas** helped pass this historic piece of legislation, representing the Union of Concerned Scientists as a clean energy consultant. "This legislation is a very important pivot in the way we produce energy in the state", said Theresa. "This legislation is a promise to future generations of New Mexicans, who will benefit from both a cleaner environment and a more robust energy economy." Theresa served as president of HWC in 2002 and is co-editor of HWC's documentary book "Mujeres Valerosas."

**Teresa Leger Fernandez** has announced her candidacy for New Mexico's 3rd Congressional District seat. Her win would be historic: she would be the first woman to serve in Congress from that district and New Mexico would become the first state in the nation to be represented in Congress by an all-woman congressional delegation—all of them women of color! In 2004 she was the recipient of the HWC "Primeras" Award for being the first and only woman from NM appointed by a U. S. President to serve as White House Fellow in the country's foremost leadership program. Teresa has been a member of HWC for over 20 years and has served a term on the board. She owns a law firm, Leger Law & Strategy, LLC, located in Santa Fe, NM.



Teresa Leger Fernandez

## New Board Members



**NICKY OVITT (de Lucero y Romero)**—I am a native of Albuquerque and back in the Southeast Heights where I grew up after 23 years in the San Francisco Bay Area, the last 17 in Sonoma County. I come from an eclectic line of artists and thinkers and as a child was known as “the coyote,” the somewhat dubious distinction of being the first grandchild of half anglo heritage. After earning a Communication Arts degree at the Colorado Institute of Arts in Denver, CO I moved to San Francisco where I put my graphic design training to work in publishing, advertising, branding, product design and packaging. Some of my past clients include: Levi Strauss & Co., Speedo Swim, Smith & Hawken, Macy’s and Gloria Ferrer. Today I illustrate and produce a line of vintage-inspired, souvenir wares that I sell to fine independent shops around the country who are committed to USA-made goods. I also run a short-term rental casita on our prop-

erty. I am a grateful wife and a dedicated mother to our 15 year old daughter Ramona. Our family is happy to be back in New Mexico to enjoy the creative culture, big skies, my mom Helen, and other family near by.

**MARISSA ELIAS**—I was born in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, where both of my parents were born and raised. When I was one year old, my family immigrated to the United States and settled in Animas, NM. I attended and graduated from Animas High School (with a graduating class of 21) and received a full-ride scholarship at the University of New Mexico (UNM), where I completed my bachelor’s degree in biology. I developed an interest in the root causes of health disparities and inequalities in my community and in my state, so I applied and was accepted to the Master of Public Health Program at UNM in 2015. That same year I became a U.S. Citizen, and in the summer of 2018, I completed my MPH Program. I accepted a position as a Research Associate at the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE), where I work as part of the evaluation team to support local prevention programs that aim to address NM’s opioid and substance use problems. Outside of work I enjoy spending time with my family, playing sports and being involved in my community. I am coming up on the end of my term as a Precinct Chair for the Democratic Party State Central Committee, and am also a voter registrar. As a former HWC scholarship recipient, I have much admiration and appreciation for the women that form the HWC.



**MARY ANN GARCIA-WORD**—I was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico. My paternal grandparents, Isabel and Norberto Rios, immigrated to the United States in 1918 from Lagos de Moreno, Mexico. They settled in Santa Rita, New Mexico, where my grandfather became a miner in the Kennecott Mine. They raised 4 children, including my dad, Eugenio Reyes Rios, who was born in 1923. He learned English as a second language at seven years old. Education was always promoted in their family. My father met my mother, Therese-Marie Amiot, as a French war bride. She was born in Paris, France, where all of my maternal family still resides. I grew up with a diverse background, including language, culture, and tradition. I attended the University of New Mexico, where I earned a Bachelor



Mary Ann Garcia-Word

Degree of Arts with a double major in French and Chemistry. I also studied at the University of Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France, and the Universidad Autonoma in Guadalajara, Mexico. I earned a Master of Arts as a French major and a Spanish minor. During this time I was a Graduate Assistant and a Teaching Assistant at UNM, earning a PhD (ABD) in Romance Languages. From there I went on to UNM School of Law and practiced law for 9 years before returning to teaching French and Spanish for 13 years. I have been *jubilada* for four years. I am so fortunate to have my 96-year-old father living with my husband, Terry Word, and me. Together we have raised five children.

**MAJOR (R) LINDA C. ZAMORA**—I was born in Ruidoso, NM, but grew up across many countries and states as my father Rolland L. Zamora was a career Army man and Vietnam Veteran. I returned to New Mexico in 1988 to attend New Mexico Military Institute where I earned a degree as well as a commission in the US Army. I earned Bachelor's Degrees in Sociology and History from Eastern New Mexico University. I am a Bronze Star Medal recipient for service during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and retired June 4, 2019 from the Army after 29 years of Service. I'm currently the Supervisory Staff Administrator for a Logistics unit, the 372<sup>ND</sup> Quartermaster Battalion (PS), on Kirtland Air Force Base. I am also the co-owner of an Urban Casual, Plant Forward restaurant in Albuquerque called Rosemary. I'm the proud mother two: Miranda Zamora-Williams, who just earned her Master's Degree in Kinesiology and Health; and Caleb Affuso a highly acclaimed tattoo artist in Golden, CO.



**LUCIA LOPEZ**—I grew up in Rodarte, NM, and then moved to Albuquerque in 1972 to work on a degree in English and stayed for 20 years. I lived in Denver and Washington, DC as well. After graduating with a degree in English in 1976, I worked in government, private sector and nonprofit sector jobs until 2016, including: a two year stint in Denver working as a researcher and writer for the Latin American Researcher and Writer at the Latin American Research and Service Center, working as a staff assistant at the NM Hispanic Culture Foundation, and in volunteer roles with MANA del Norte, the NM Women's Foundation, and HWC in its early years (being one of the founding members and board member). The year 2018 was a celebratory year for me as I looked back on my innovations and contributions to the

work of volunteer organizations which have endured over the decades. Since retiring in December 2016, I am learning to take time for myself, to enjoy solitude and family, and to learn to write a memoir, still in progress. After resting for several years, I am ready for the next phase of my life, and that will include working with dynamic women. I am honored to serve on the HWC board.

## Mother Daughter Celebration, May 5, 2019

Some 70 women gathered at the Embassy Suites on May 5, 2019, to honor women in their lives who have nurtured and mentored them...mothers and daughters and grandmothers, sisters, nieces, cousins, best friends. Kudos to the Committee: Marissa Elias, Elsie Sanchez and Eva Gonzales. Thanks to Raqui Martinez and Vangie Samora for their technical support. The prayer delivered by Eva Gonzales (printed below) set the tone for the day and music by Dr. Leila Flores Duenas and Carol Vigil (Las Flores del Valle) maintained the liveliness of the event. Enjoy the photos, courtesy of Dr. Victoria Sanchez and Vangie Samora. Finally, we appreciate our sponsors and all who donated to the silent auction (listed on page 8).



President Dr. Carmen Samora welcomes attendees



Planning Committee: Eva Gonzales and co-chairs Elsie Sanchez and Marissa Elias



Christine Sharp, winner of the Hat Competition



Elaine Reyes (right) and daughter, Antoinette Aguilar (left).

### Opening Prayer by Eva Gonzales

As we bless this meal we once again gather to celebrate our womanhood. Let us reflect on the ways in which our foremothers have supported us, encouraged us, mentored us, inspired us, scolded us and prodded us to reach our goals. Let us move forward in the tradition of role models for the women who follow us for as the poet said "what is love but to open our hearts and embrace those around us in generosity."



L-r, Christina Brigance, her mother Natalie Brigance, and cousins Estella Torres & Marissa Elias



L-r: sisters, Lucia Lopez, Louella, Rodriguez, Theresa Sandlin,



Kathleen Araiza, Monica Sanchez, Maria Campos, Dr. Angelica Sanchez-Clark, Lillian Sanchez, and Angelica's mother Teresa Sanchez



Ambassador Mari-Luci Jaramillo and three generations of the Sanchez family: back row: Dr. Victoria Sanchez, Veronica Sanchez, Caydence Riley (Victoria's granddaughter) & Petra Sanchez



Sienna Mascarenas (Miss Northern NM), her mother Nanci Mascarenas; Gina Fresquez and her daughter Ashley Fresquez (Miss NM)



Diana Montoya



Four generations, l-r: Paige Aurelia Grossetete, Hilary Grossetete (standing), Lucinda Sachs, Erminda Sachs



Cousins, Sylvia Ortiz Spence and Dr. Helen Lucero



Dr. Leila Flores-Duenas & Carol Vigil



Vangie Samora & her niece Rose Lopez



Rachel Valenzuela & her sister-in-law, Ester Valenzuela



Three generations: Rebekah Pacheco, Sonya Chavez, Eileen Chavez

## ¡Muchísimas Gracias!

The Hispanic Women's Council works hard to make events enjoyable, and we are grateful that when we ask individuals and businesses to support our efforts, so many say "yes." We wish to thank all who sponsored the Mother-Daughter Celebration and all who donated items to the silent auction.

### Sponsors of the Event:

Martin & Elizabeth Miller  
Vangie Samora  
Noell Stone

### Donors to the Silent Auction:

Embassy Suites Hotel  
Osuna Nursery  
Sylvia Ortiz Spence,  
Silverado Apparel & Home  
Athlete's Edge Running Co.  
Gerri Gallegos  
Kenny Gallegos  
Kathryn Ramsey  
Vangie Samora  
Dr. Carmen Samora  
Elsie Sanchez  
Dr. Victoria Sanchez  
Terrie Sais  
Rachel Valenzuela  
Lucia Lopez  
Samia Hindi  
Richard's Mexican Restaurant  
Jill Levin, Jilipepper Co.



## June Mitote Power Hour—Learning about *Home Circles*

*"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."* – African proverb

When we were planning our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, an idea that emerged is to learn more about the experiences of women in the broader community. Our President, Dr. Carmen Samora, contacted activist and businesswoman Rita Powdrell, and from this emerged the topic of Home Circles. Ms. Powdrell accepted our invitation to meet the women of HWC and tell us about Home Circles. On June 8, some 26 HWC members and guests gathered at Powdrell's Barbeque House for HWC's June *Mitote* Power Hour.



Rita Powdrell

The Home Circle as an organization/movement developed in response to a conscious recognition of the need for survival in the late 1800s/early 20th century. African American women began gathering in their homes to support one another. The Home Circles came to New Mexico from Texas, and meetings were held from Albuquerque to Alamogordo.

The Home Circle ethos was resistance through the home. Women took it upon themselves to make the home a center of safety, a place for cultural preservation and maintenance, where Black History was preserved and taught to new generations. As the "movement" grew, it became a locus for economic development, helping to foster jobs and the creation of Black-owned businesses. Networks were developed to provide day care and boarding. Education and the mentoring of young women became a focus. Home Circles continue to this day. The Albuquerque Home Circle group offers 1-2 scholarships a year and additional monies are often provided in successive years for books, supplies, etc. Education, especially as it relates to engaging young people to explore and understand their history, is seen as vital to counter current trends that erode community cohesiveness.

Ms. Powdrell's husband, Joe Powdrell, spoke about the history of Juneteenth which commemorates the June 19, 1865, announcement of the abolition of slavery in the U.S. state of Texas, and more generally the emancipation of enslaved African Americans throughout the former Confederate States of America. At every station in his life—the high schooler, the soldier, the college student, the businessman—Mr. Powdrell has pushed for official commemoration of Juneteenth. In 2006, legislation was passed making New Mexico the 19th state to recognize Juneteenth as a holiday.

*Note: We learned a lot from both speakers who delivered compelling and comprehensive talks on these topics...so many important details to capture. Special thanks to Veronica Sánchez for her contribution to this summary.*

# SAVE THE DATE



## Meet & Greet our HWC Scholarship Recipients

September 11, 2019  
6:00pm to 8:00pm

South Broadway Cultural Center  
1025 Broadway Blvd., SE



## Masquerade Charity Ball

October 26, 2019  
6:00pm to 10:30pm

Crowne Plaza Albuquerque  
1901 University Blvd. NE

### Masquerade Ball Sponsorship Opportunities

We are seeking sponsors for the Masquerade Charity Ball. Sponsorship levels range from \$250 to \$5,000. If you would like to be a sponsor, or if you can connect us with a business in the community we can approach, please contact Kathryn Ramsey at [kathrynramsey26@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynramsey26@gmail.com) or Vangie Samora at [vsamora7@gmail.com](mailto:vsamora7@gmail.com).

The Masquerade Ball event supports the HWC Scholarship and Mentorship Program which was established in 2007. Every year since then, 20-25 women have received financial support and been partnered with a mentor—to date 238 scholarships have been awarded. You will meet the recipients for the 2019/2020 academic year at the Meet & Greet on September 11. We are proud of our legacy of “educating Hispanic women, moving them into professions, and enabling them to become valuable leaders in our community.”

**2018/2019 HWC Membership**

Clara Apodaca Former First Lady of New Mexico	Tanya Gonzales Paralegal, Law Offices of the Public Defender	Reina A. Romero Retired Educator
Jeannine Miller Barreras Vice President Miller's Inc.	María J. Gutiérrez Financial Planner	Dr. Valerie Romero-Leggott Vice Chancellor for Diversity UNM Health Sciences Center
Valerie J. Borrego, CPA	Samia Hindi Educator	Lucinda Lucero Sachs Writer
Jane Braithwaite Homemaker	Bernadette Howell Miller's Inc.	Elsie Sánchez Small Business Consultant
Theresa Cardenas Sustainability Practitioner & President, Noble Renewables Group LLC	Dr. Mari-Luci Jaramillo Former U. S. Ambassador to Honduras	Petra Sánchez Retired Educator
Sonya K. Chávez, U. S. Marshal U. S. Marshals Service	Parisa Kermani Student, UNM School of Medicine	Verónica T. Sánchez Retired UNM Administrator
Gloria Chávez-Sampson	Teresa Leger Fernández Officer, Leger Law and Strategy, LLC	Dr. Angélica Sánchez-Clark UNM Research Assistant Professor, UNM Spanish & Portuguese Dept.
Dr. Rose Díaz Library & Archives Research Historian, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center	Edna L. López President & CEO Compa Industries, Inc.	Theresa Sandlin Retired Administrator Los Alamos National Laboratory
Dr. Viola E. Flórez Professor Emeritus UNM College of Education	Rose López	Marcela Sandoval Retired Educator
Dr. Merrilee Foreman, Owner Chiropractic Lifestyle Center	Karla Barela Lucero Advance Planning Consultant FRENCH Funerals	Rose Spader Author
Margaret Gonzales Senior Operations Manager UNM Graduate Studies	Dr. Helen Lucero Retired Museum Curator/Director	Kim Trujillo Costume Designer New Mexico Film
Dr. Melissa Gonzales Associate Professor Dept. of Internal Medicine UNM School of Medicine	Stella Noriega Tax Consultant	Rachel A. Valenzuela
	Carmen M. Rodríguez President Carmen Cares Consulting	Sylvia Vigil-Raines Senior Technical Writer Clover Leaf Solutions