



# Hispanic Women's Council

Summer/Fall 2016 Newsletter

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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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Albuquerque, NM 87125  
[www.nmhwc.com](http://www.nmhwc.com)



## Un mensaje de la presidente

*Estimadas Amigas,*

Over the past months, HWC has been busy creating events, comraderies, and memories. We have sponsored monthly events, with great success, thanks to the Committee Chairs and their teams who worked diligently and made the end results appear effortless.

HWC has set precedent for having had the honor of hosting and presenting Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and Ambassador Mari-Luci Jaramillo to the community at large, in April and August respectively.

At the *Peña Femenina* we featured a flamenco performance by Adriana Maresma Fois and at the March *Mitote* Power Hour we honored the Director and cast of *Real Women Have Curves*. At our annual Mother-Daughter Social we introduced and were entertained by UNM student ballet dancers.

In June we motored to Santa Fe to honor Elizabeth Cárdenas who is featured in an exhibit at the Museum of International Folk Art, and in July we welcomed our new members at a *Mitote* Power Hour. This year, 25 new members have joined HWC.

As I was writing this, I started to reflect on the diversity of the women and fields involved in these events, and of the strength and power these women possess. Each one made a choice early in life that played to her strength, worked passionately even when no one was looking, and waited patiently until the right time came. I know you will enjoy reading about these immensely talented and accomplished women in the pages of this beautiful newsletter.

As I continue my own journey to meet my HWC goals for 2016, I have had the pleasure of meeting with Diana Rael, President of MANA de Albuquerque, and Diana Montoya, President of *Las Mujeres* to begin a dialogue on possible collaborative projects or activities. I look forward to a great working relationship with these organizations.

Coming up is our "Meet & Greet" the scholarship recipients event on September 9 and our super Masquerade Gala scholarship fundraiser on October 22. We are soliciting sponsors for the Gala, so please let us know if you can sponsor the event or know a business interested in supporting our educational program. For more details, visit our website.

As always, *mil gracias* for your assistance and dedication to HWC.



*Elsie Sánchez*

**2016 Membership**

Dr. Teresita E. Aguilar

Marianna Anaya  
Communications Dir.,  
Albuquerque Teachers  
Federation

Clara Apodaca, Former  
First Lady of New Mexico

Lillian Apodaca  
Partner, Bingham, Hurst  
& Apodaca, PC

Lorraine Baca  
Retired Teacher, APS

Dr. Marlene Ballejos  
Assistant Dean for  
Admissions, UNM School  
of Medicine

Andrea Blea  
Retired, UNM

Marge Blue

Valerie J. Borrego, CPA

Jane Braithwaite  
Homemaker

Elizabeth Cárdenas  
Retired Dance Teacher

Theresa Cárdenas  
Climate and Energy Con-  
sultant

Philly Carrasco, Retired

Kay Carrico, Owner  
Experts in Exports

Margaret J. Chavez  
Retired Accountant

Kathy Coffey, Educational  
Diagnostician, APS

Dr. Trinidad de Jesus  
Arguello, Health Care  
Professional

Maria Estela de Rios  
Retired

Dr. Rose T. Díaz  
Research Historian  
Indian Pueblo Cultural  
Center

Rosario Fiallos, Retired  
Bilingual Educ. Teacher

## Peña Femenina 2016: ABQ Noche Flamenca

The 9th Annual *Peña Femenina* was held on March 15 and featured flamenco by Adriana Maresma Fois. Although Adriana is on the international stage, this was a homecoming performance because she is from Albuquerque. The standing-room-only audience included family members and many friends. Special thanks to Carol Vigil and Dr. Leila Flores-Dueñas who hosted the event at *Las Amapolas*. *Peña Femenina* is produced in partnership with Women and Creativity, an annual month-long series that celebrates women's creativity across the disciplines with exhibitions, performances, workshops and other presentations throughout Women's History Month.



Photo by Vangie Samora

## Mitote Power Hour Honors Director & Cast of "Real Women Have Curves"

On March 20, 2016, HWC members and guests attended a performance of the play "Real Women Have Curves" directed by Salomé Martínez-Lutz at the National Hispanic Cultural Center. Afterwards everyone made their way to the home of Vangie Samora to welcome the cast, celebrate their success on the stage, and enjoy a meal. Each of the cast members and the director shared their personal perspectives on the production and their respective characters. The 35 people who attended had plenty of time to visit one-on-one. New member, María Gallegos, had the following to say about the event: *I am reflecting on the whole experience and wanted to share a quick observation. I am really moved that the Mitote Power Hour was in great company, energizing conversations and what struck me the most was that no one was sitting around scrolling on their electronic devices. We sat around, talked and shared a meal. That is truly beautiful and really set the tone for my week.*



L-R: Michelle Allred, Julia Romero, Monica Rodriguez, Salome Martinez-Lutz, Erica Tenorio and Maria Herrera

## National Guest Speaker

On April 5, 2016, HWC was honored to host **Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor**. She met with the HWC board of directors, then greeted a room-full of HWC members one-on-one. Finally, she delivered an inspiring message to over 600 guests who attended the public event. A detailed account of her visit is captured in a special edition of the HWC newsletter (posted on our website).



Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor

## *Exito y Más*



**Elba L. Saavedra, Ph.D.** is featured in the UNM College of Education's Newsletter titled "Educating New Mexico." The article focuses on the fact that "Hispanic/Latina women in New Mexico are more likely to develop breast cancer than any other kind of cancer" and they are also "more likely than non-Hispanic women to die from breast cancer." The reasons cited include "cultural and language barriers, transportation issues, financial limitations, and inadequate access to breast care education and screening." To address these concerns, Dr. Saavedra "joined with other breast cancer survivors in 2003 to create the *Comadre a Comadre* Program to provide women with "education about breast care, emotional support, accessing healthcare, assistance with navigating the healthcare system, and information about financial resources.

The Santa Fe School Board has contracted with **Dr. Veronica García** to serve as the district's interim superintendent. Dr. García served as New Mexico's first Cabinet Secretary of Education from 2003-2010. Most recently she was Executive Director of New Mexico Voices for Children.



**Dr. Marelene Salas-Provance** is now Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs at the University of Texas Medical Branch, School of Health Professions, in Galveston, Texas. Previously, she was Department Head of Special Education and Communication Disorders at New Mexico State University. Dr. Salas-Provance is featured in HWC's book, "Mujeres Valerosas."



### 2016 membership...cont'd

*Dr. Leila Flores-Dueñas*  
Associate Professor, UNM  
College of Education

*Dr. Viola E. Flórez*, Professor  
UNM College of Education

*María Gallegos*, NM Health  
Equity Partnership

*Dr. Verónica García*  
Interim Superintendent, Santa  
Fe Public Schools

*Eva Gonzales*, Retired Customer  
Service Manager

*Margaret Gonzales*, UNM  
Graduate School

*Tanya Gonzales*, Paralegal

*Maria J. Gutiérrez*  
Financial Planner

*Samia Hindi*, Educator

*Martha E. Janssen*, COO  
Wealth Mgmt. Group LLC

*Dr. Mari-Luci Jaramillo*  
Former U. S. Ambassador to  
Honduras

*Viola M. Johnston*  
Retired Accountant

*Teresa Leger de Fernández*  
Officer, Leger Law and  
Strategy, LLC

*Edna L. López*, Pres. & CEO  
Compa Industries, Inc.

*Letitia López*, Retired

*Karla Barela Lucero*  
Advance Planning Consultant  
FRENCH Funerals

*Patricia Madrid*, Former NM  
State Attorney General

*Margie Maestas*  
Retired College Educator

*Esther M. Márquez*, Retired  
Education Administrator

*Josephine Martínez*  
Retired, FAA

*Salomé Martínez-Lutz*  
Artistic Director/Producer  
Teatro Nuevo México



**2016 membership...cont'd**

*Linda López McAlister  
Marketing Asst., National  
Hispanic Cultural Center*

*Andrea Medina, Teacher  
Seven Bar Elem. School*

*Angelina Medina  
Student, 8th Grade*

*Rosalee Montoya  
Writer; Retired, UNM CRTS*

*Saydra Alvarez Moreno  
Student, HWC Scholarship  
Recipient*

*Melita Ortega, Retired*

*Ana Pacheco, Santa Fe City  
Historian/Author*

*Kathryn Ramsey  
APS Instructional Coach*

*Carmen Rodríguez, Pres.  
Carmen Cares Consulting*

*Monica Rodríguez  
Deputy CEO, 2nd Judicial  
District Court*

*Dr. Valerie Romero-Leggott  
Vice Chancellor for  
Diversity, UNM Health  
Sciences Center*

*Christina Rosado  
Attorney at Law*

*Dr. Elba L. Saavedra, UNM  
College of Education*

*Terrie Sais  
Retired Economist*

*Dr. Carmen Samora  
Director, Julian Samora  
Legacy Project*

*Anita M. Sánchez, Owner  
Sanchez & Pinon, LLC*

*Anna M. Sánchez  
Exec. Dir., National Hispanic  
Cultural Center Foundation*

*Petra Sánchez, Retired  
Public School Educator*

*Verónica T. Sánchez  
Unit Administrator, UNM  
Extended Learning*

## Mother-Daughter Social

This popular annual event was held at The Cooperage on May 1, 2016. The live music by "Son Veracruz" got many of the attendees on their feet dancing. The soup and salad bar was a hit, and after our meal we enjoyed a ballet performance titled "Las Soldaderas." As always, the silent auction added to the fun. This event provides an opportunity for us to honor women who have enriched our lives...mothers, grandmothers, Godmothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, or best friends.

Photos taken by Vangie Samora



L-r: Mary Martinez, Philly Carrasco, Diana Sisneros



Photo left: Dominic Guerra (center) choreographed the ballet performed by dancers Christo McMaster & Kiera Johnson.



L-r, Viola Johnston, Martha Tierney & her daughter Citlali Tierney



Marisa Stanford & Marcela Sandoval



L-r: Paula LeSueur Sandoval, Marina Guzman & her mother Francela Valdez





Yvonne Sanchez and daughter Brittany Sanchez



Alicia Samora and her mother Carmen Samora



Mari-Luci Jaramillo & her daughter Carla Ulibarri



Victoria Sanchez, Veronica Sanchez and their mother Petra Sanchez



Front: Eva Gonzales & Rosella Trujillo; (back, l-r) Gina & Theresa Trujillo (Rosella's daughters)



Elsi Sanchez & Vangie Samora (standing), Maria Sedillo and her daughter Rose Lopez (seated).





L-R: Rosalie Romero, Nicolasa Chavez, Theresa Cardenas, Rosella Trujillo, Veronica Sanchez, Mari-Luci Jaramillo, Stephanie Gonzales, Petra Sanchez, Salome Martinez-Lutz.



L-R: Elsi Sanchez, Nicolasa Chavez, Theresa Cardenas, Vangie Samora (photo taken by Victoria Sanchez)

***Mitote Power Hour***  
**in Santa Fe, New Mexico, at the**  
**Museum of International Folk Art**  
**June 11, 2016**

A tour of the Flamenco Exhibit led by Nicolasa Chávez, Curator of Spanish Colonial and Contemporary Hispano/Latino Collections

A tribute to **Elizabeth Cardenas**

followed by lunch and networking



L-R: Stephanie Gonzales, Salome Martinez-Lutz, Veronica Sanchez, Victoria Sanchez



L-R: Sally Skinner, Lorraine Baca, Carmen Rodriguez  
(photo taken by Victoria Sanchez)





Elizabeth Serna Cárdenas was born in Santa Fe, NM, and began studying tap dance at the age of 10 with Elsie Hake then began Spanish dance lessons with Marie Wilson, known as "La Gitana" (the Gypsy). In 1949 she moved to San Francisco to study classical Spanish dance under Guillermo Del Oro and study Flamenco under Elisa Cansino. She returned to Santa Fe in 1952, opened a dance studio and introduced Flamenco to a new generation of New Mexicans. Her legacy of expanding Flamenco

in New Mexico is documented in the exhibit titled "The Spirit of Flamenco From Spain to New Mexico" curated by Nicolasa Chávez at the Museum of International Folk Art. Elizabeth is also featured in the book that accompanies the exhibit, authored by Nicolasa.

A group of 20 HWC members and guests met at the Museum where Nicolasa gave us a private tour of the Flamenco exhibit. When we arrived at the section of the exhibit that featured Elizabeth Cárdenas, we saw a re-creation of her childhood bedroom filled with memorabilia, including costumes, castanets, her original record player, records and musical catalogs. Her daughter, Theresa Cárdenas, added a more personal perspective: "My mother's family saw the talent in her and supported her pursuit of a career in Spanish dance. Elizabeth's mother, Frances López Serna, sewed her costumes, and her brother, Dr. Ven Serna advocated she further her education at the San Francisco School of Ballet where they had a Spanish dance program. Her dance studio in Santa Fe was known to be the first in New Mexico to solely teach flamenco and classical Spanish dance."

After the tour, the group walked to the Museum Hill Café where Nicolasa signed her book, and we enjoyed lunch and spirits and news in an outdoor setting. Our visit to Santa Fe was a perfect outing. Special thanks to Carmen Rodríguez who provided several passes for free admission to the museum.



Elizabeth Serna Cardenas 1949

Photo right: Cousins, Michelle Montano & Theresa Cardenas. Behind them is a section of the exhibit featuring Elizabeth Cardenas' memorabilia. Michelle is Elizabeth's last living niece who resides in Santa Fe. Unfortunately, Elizabeth was not able to join us, but she was with us in spirit.



*Yvonne Sánchez, Teacher  
Seven Bar Elem. School*

*Beva Sánchez-Padilla  
Southwest Organizing Project*

*Paula LeSueur Sandoval  
Retired Nurse Practitioner*

*Mary Frances Santistevan  
Retired, APS*

*María Samora Sedillo  
Retired, UNM*

*Antoinette Silva, Owner  
Rose's Pottery House*

*Rose Silva, Rose's Pottery  
House*

*Edwina Diana Sisneros*

*Sally Skinner*

*Lucy Sosaya, Retired*

*Rose Montano Stein, Retired*

*Christina Termini  
UNM Graduate Student  
HWC Scholarship Recipient*

*Citlali Tierney, Co-owner  
Marti Services, LLC*

*Martha Tierney, Co-owner  
Marti Services, LLC*

*Marisa Trujillo  
Cobb Fendley & Associates*

*Mary Lou Trujillo, Retired  
NM Health & Environment  
Dept.*

*Rosella Peña Trujillo, Docent  
National Hispanic Cultural  
Center*

*Theresa L. Trujillo, Director  
Presbyterian Health Plan*

*Martha Twiggs*

*Francela Valdez, Trainer*

*Deborah Valerio-Vanderhee  
UNM College of Pharmacy*

*Irma Vázquez, Student  
HWC Scholarship Recipient*

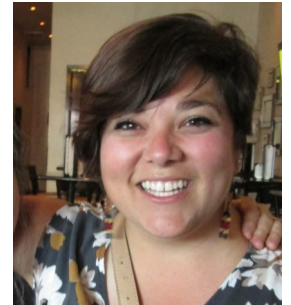
*Carol Vigil, Entrepreneur*

*Sylvia Vigil-Raines*

*Victoria Silva Wilger*



## NEW MEMBERS



New Members Welcomed at *Mitote* Power Hour

A record number of new members joined HWC this year, and, on July 14, 2016, we welcomed many of them at our signature networking event held at Yanni's Lemoni Lounge. Above, L-r: Kathryn Ramsey, Kay Carrico, Dr. Marlene Ballejos, Christina Rosado, Martha Janssen, and Beva Sanchez-Padilla. Inset lower right: Marianna Anaya.



Ambassador Mari-Luci Jaramillo

"In the spring semester of 1977, I was busily preparing for my next class in my tiny [UNM] campus office when the phone rang...the caller identified himself as Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Warren Christopher, and he was calling on behalf of President Carter. Mr. Christopher said President Carter wanted me to be his Ambassador to Honduras...he was looking for someone to match his unfolding agenda for expanding democracy internationally and promoting human rights across the world. "

The journey that followed is captured in her memoir *Madame Ambassador, The Shoemaker's Daughter*. However, we had a rare opportunity to hear, first-hand, what an ambassadorship entails at a public lecture co-hosted by the Hispanic Women's Council and the National Hispanic Cultural Center on August 6, 2016. The standing-room-only lecture both enlightened and delighted the audience. Highlights appear at right.



# “Memories From Thirty Nine Years Ago”

Highlights from a Lecture by Ambassador Mari-Luci Jaramillo

In accepting the call from President Carter to serve her country, the new Ambassador set two main goals: (1) to help Honduras and El Salvador move to a resolution of their border issue, and (2) to help Honduras move toward a democracy. Ambassador Jaramillo took a patient but tenacious approach to these issues applying her skills of soft-spoken persuasion. At every opportunity presented at a meeting or a reception or a formal dinner, she talked one-on-one with those in a position to effect change or lead in a new direction. The seeds she planted gave fruit soon after the conclusion of her tenure. Honduras and El Salvador signed a Peace Treaty and President Carter asked her to represent him at the ceremonies. And, when elections and installation of a civilian President and officials took place about a year after she left Honduras, she was invited by the newly elected Honduran government as a guest of honor to all the events.

Ambassador Jaramillo also decided she was “going to be the American Ambassador to everyone she possibly could” so she proceeded to make friends at every turn. She made friends with all levels of the military, “not just the ranking ones.” The wealthy civilians who had always been friends of the embassy became “dear friends” and she courted the poor wherever she went, including in the plantation fields when she would “stop the limo and get down to talk with the workers” (she even invited the rural labor leadership to a reception at the Ambassador’s residence). She became friends with church officials and she “went to a different church each Sunday just to meet more people.”

When the Ambassador was saying her public good-byes at the end of her term there was an outpouring of people. “People came in cars, in trucks, in wagons, by horseback, by buses, and even walking several miles.” As the head labor person in the Embassy put it, “Madam Ambassador, I have been in the foreign service for almost thirty years and I never recall a gathering like this for an American Ambassador...you have won the hearts of the people.” In Ambassador Jaramillo’s own words “That day I had made more friends for the good old USA. And these included the masses of poor people. I had met my personal goal.”

Ambassador Jaramillo also recounted “fun moments” she shared with the Embassy staff. “I had so many hilarious things happen to me...I enjoyed tons of laughter just simply making fun of myself.” Attendees at her lecture delighted in the Ambassador’s sense of humor as she freely shared details of her mishaps.

At the conclusion of her lecture, Ambassador Jaramillo took questions from the audience and gave us even more insight into the life of an ambassador. This was a rare opportunity to learn how a humble New Mexican woman made her way onto the international stage of diplomacy and the notable contributions she made for our country.

The **U. S. Ambassador Mari-Luci Jaramillo Endowed Scholarship** has been established at the UNM College of Education by a committee of prominent educators and friends. The committee is chaired by Dr. Diane Torres Velásquez. The endowment will support doctoral students in the field of education who demonstrate academic excellence and distinguish themselves by their dedication, enterprise, and initiative to help others using collaborative and innovative approaches to equity. Donations can be sent to UNM Foundation, 700 Lomas Blvd., NE, #2 Woodward Center, 87102. For more information, contact Mary Wolford at 277-1088 or [Mary.Wolford@unmfund.org](mailto:Mary.Wolford@unmfund.org).

## Meet & Greet The HWC 2016/2017 Scholarship Recipients



Friday, September 9, 2016  
6:00—8:00 pm

UNM Science & Technology Rotunda  
(across from CNM Main Campus)  
801 University Blvd., SE

No cost to attend.

Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP: to Dr. Victoria Sánchez  
[visanchez@salud.unm.edu](mailto:visanchez@salud.unm.edu)  
(505) 508-0301

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”  
*La educación es el arma más poderosa que puedes usar para cambiar el mundo.*  
—Nelson Mandela



## Masquerade Charity Ball

October 22, 2016  
6:00pm to 11:00pm

Albuquerque Country Club  
601 Laguna Blvd., SW

\$100 per person  
\$1,000 table of 10

This annual fundraising event benefits the HWC Scholarship & Mentorship Program. Come and enjoy an evening of fun, in costume or not. There will be a reception and cash bar, a dinner, silent auction, and 50/50 raffle. The traditional parade of costumes (La Marcha) will get the dancing started to the music of David Nuñez & Company.

If you would like to sponsor this event, or know someone who does, go to our website and download the sponsorship form. Or, contact Marisa Stanford at [marisastanford@aol.com](mailto:marisastanford@aol.com).

**Mark your calendar...**invitations will arrive in the mail.