Dear Comadres,

Throughout 2018 we have celebrated HWC’s 30 years; as the year ends we look forward to another 30! The past 30 years have seen many changes in the lives of women in general. The box below, so ably presented by Vangie Samora, delineates a number of these, providing the backdrop and context for our own HWC history.

Over the last year I’ve become keenly aware of the extraordinary HWC members who set in motion a vibrant and ever-changing organization. I think of our members as community artists who skillfully weave together our cultural roots and history, guided by vision and a sense of purpose within an evolving organization.

This year we enjoyed meriendas and mitote power hours that embodied our commitment to preserving our cultural roots and heritage. Dr. Carmen Samora’s presentation, Crafting a Life: Creativity Handed Down the Generations, highlighted the gifts of family and tradition. We learned from Sylvia Ortiz-Spence how she built Silverado-Ortiz Fashions from a two-sister weaving operation into an international business.

During a docent-led lecture at the National Hispanic Cultural Center’s Torrén, several members augmented the docent’s lecture with the history and influence of key women in our New Mexican history.

We also sponsored signature annual events that reinforced our mission to “promote, support and create opportunities for Hispanic women.” The mother/daughter brunch in May showcased our multi-generational flavor and honored women who nurture us. In September, we held the “Meet-and-Greet” to honor the new class of HWC scholarship recipients. Family, friends and HWC members gathered to learn about the students’ talents, skills, passion and commitment to their communities (read Marissa Elias’ keynote address on page 4). These scholars represent a multitude of academic disciplines (page 2) - a far cry from ages past when many of us were steered toward ‘gendered’ professions. The Masquerade Ball held in October is the main scholarship fundraising event, and this year we raised almost $15,000 through ticket sales, sponsorships, donations and a silent auction. We also celebrated our 30th anniversary at this year’s Masquerade Ball by honoring four primeras—women who have achieved a first in their respective disciplines (see page 5). Finally, on the first Sunday in December we broke bread, sang, and danced (!) at our annual Holiday Luncheon. As in year’s past, Las Flores del Valle, Leila Flores-Dueñas and Carol Vigil, helped us welcome in the holiday season with lively music and Christmas carols—this year they were accompanied by talented musician and ethnomusicologist, David Garcia.

As I near the end of my presidency, I reflect about how, over the last three decades, the multi-talented women in our organization have modeled and continue to model what connection and community can be. It has been my privilege to serve as President – I hope that I helped others to do their magic and shine!

Happy Holidays,

Dr. Victoria Sánchez

Women in 2019: The founding of HWC was driven by the need to increase the number of women leaders in our community. Thirty years later, women leaders are reflected in greater numbers. For instance, every staff leadership position at the National Hispanic Cultural Center is held by a woman. In the latest election, we witnessed one of the largest gains in women running for public office and winning their races. In New Mexico, the Governor is a woman, the Secretary of State is a woman, and for the first time a woman will lead the State Land Office. Women now hold two of New Mexico’s three U. S. Congressional seats and a total of 31 women won election to the 70-seat New Mexico House. In the New Mexico Court of Appeals, 8 of 10 judges are women. It’s a new day.
The HWC Scholarship & Mentorship Program was established in 2007. Scholarships are awarded to undergraduate, graduate and Ph.D. students at the University of New Mexico and Central New Mexico Community College. Since its inception, 238 scholarships have been awarded, totaling $105,000. To raise scholarship funds, the HWC sponsors an annual Masquerade Ball held in October. However, donations are accepted at any time and you can donate via the HWC website: www.nmhwc.com.
The annual HWC Meet and Greet was held on September 27, 2018, at the South Broadway Cultural Center. Sixty-nine guests attended this festive event. Dr. Leila Flores-Dueñas, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, invited each student to address the audience and share highlights about their lives and their educational goals. We also were inspired by the words of the keynote speaker, Marissa Elias, MPH. (Her message appears on page 4.) Special thanks to the Event Planning Committee: Terry Trujillo, Eva Gonzales and Dr. Carmen Samora. Their careful attention to location, food and beverage choices and décor made for a warm and inviting space to connect one-on-one. Enjoy the photos of many who attended, courtesy of Carol Vigil and Vangie Samora.
I was born in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, where both of my parents were born and raised. When I was one year old, we immigrated to the United States and settled in Animas, NM, a small town that sits at the southwest corner of the State. I graduated from Animas High School (with a graduating class of 21) and received a full-ride scholarship at UNM and completed a bachelor’s degree in biology intending to pursue a career in medicine. However, I longed for a deeper understanding of the root causes of health disparities and inequalities in my community and in my state. I was accepted to the Master of Public Health Program at UNM in 2015, began the program that fall and immediately fell in love with the field. I found that the more I learned in class the more I wanted to get involved locally and the more I realized how much it mattered. I became a U. S. Citizen in 2015 and last year I became a Precinct Chair in the Democratic Party State Central Committee for my voting precinct. I am now also a voter registrar. I completed the MPH program this past summer and a week after my Masters Examination I was offered a position as a Research Associate with the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) where I am part of PIRE’s evaluation team to support local prevention programs that aim to address NM’s opioid and substance abuse problems.

At a glance, my career pathway seems to be a straightforward and linear journey. However, obtaining a higher education has not been easy. As I struggled through my undergraduate degree, I had let myself believe that I was struggling because I wasn’t smart enough and because I didn’t belong in that world. I couldn’t see that I was here, and that I’d gotten that far. I failed to remember that my mother’s worn-out shirts and old shoes and beaten hands, along with my father’s endless hours of field work in the sun and in the cold, were their sacrifices for me to have a better life. It has become very important to me that I honor their sacrifice by not giving up because, at the end of the day, this is what our families dreamed for all of us.

When I applied for the HWC Scholarship in my final year of the MPH program, I had no idea it would be the meaningful experience that it turned out to be. My mentor, Dr. Victoria Sanchez, was looking for a graduate assistant, and I agreed to work with her and Dr. Shannon Sanchez-Youngman on a qualitative study of health equity practices in NM. Dr. Sanchez has provided me with an incredible amount of support and guidance, not only academically, but also in my individual growth as a woman in the professional field. If Dr. Sanchez heard about potential job opportunities, she would tell me about them. In fact, I heard about my current job from her. She helped me put together my resume, she conducted a practice interview, and she gave me a glowing recommendation. Very importantly, Dr. Sanchez constantly reminded me that I was here because of my hard work, my skills, and my work ethic. Sometimes other students and I met with Dr. Sanchez and Dr. Valerie Romero-Leggott to chat or to have lunch. I was so inspired by these women and it made what I was doing so much more meaningful. They reminded me that if I kept going—that if I kept fighting for what’s right—that I’m not there only for myself. I’m there for all the women in my life and in yours. So now it’s my turn to remind YOU, that you are worthy of success, of happiness, and of equality. Don’t settle for getting by. Don’t settle for the norms. Break the ceilings wherever you go. Be a voice for those who don’t have the opportunities that we do, because it is your voice and your work that will change it for them in the future.

Estamos unidas, ahora más que siempre. El enemigo no descansara, pero nosotras superaremos en números. Mientras sigamos retando las barreras que nos pongan en frente, resistimos el mal que nos quiere negar nuestros derechos. No hay que olvidar, que cuando intentaron enterraros no sabían que éramos semillas. Es tiempo que estas flores le den color al mundo.

Thank you all so much for having me here today. It has been a privilege and an honor. And thank you, Dr. Sanchez, for your mentorship. I’d also like to acknowledge the amazing women who have given me their love and support. First and foremost, mis abuelas Sara y Altagracia. My beautiful mother, Angelica y hermanas Brenda y Haley. My best friend and sister, Parisa, her mom Helen and Aunt Paula. These women have taught me how hard you have to kick the glass to break it.

Edited version.
HWC “Primeras” Award Presented to Four Trailblazers

Sonya K. Chávez
First Woman U.S. Marshal
New Mexico District

Synthia Jaramillo
First Woman Director of Economic Development, City of Albuquerque

Dr. Garnett S. Stokes
First Woman President of the University of New Mexico

Dr. Katharine W. Winograd
First Woman President of the Central New Mexico Community College

The HWC “Primeras” Award is given to women who have achieved a first in their field. These four honorees join 13 other women who have been recognized by HWC not only for their trailblazer status but for their commitment to professionalism and integrity. These women inspire us and we are proud to call them our comadres.
HWC “Primeras” Award Ceremony

The HWC “Primeras” Award Ceremony was the centerpiece of this year’s Masquerade Ball. HWC President Dr. Victoria Sanchez presided over the ceremony honoring four trailblazers: Sonya K. Chavez, Synthia Jaramillo, Dr. Garnett S. Stokes and Dr. Katharine W. Winograd. As is tradition, a shawl is draped across the shoulder of each honoree to signify a warm embrace from HWC. The shawls were presented by previous “Primeras” honorees Dr. Viola Florez and Lt. Gov. Diane Denish.
UNM President Dr. Garnett Stokes was not able to attend the Masquerade Ball, so her ceremony was held in her office on December 3, 2018. This was an opportunity to get to know her, to tell her about HWC and to present her with the HWC “Primeras” Award. Here she is wearing her shawl, ceremoniously placed on her shoulders by two previous recipients of the “Primeras” Award, Dr. Viola Florez and Lt. Gov. Diane Denish. HWC President Dr. Victoria Sanchez officiated.

L-r: Vangie Samora, Raqui Martinez, Dr. Carmen Samora, Dr. Viola Florez, Dr. Garnett Stokes, Dr. Victoria Sanchez, Lt. Gov. Diane Denish, Rosella Pena Trujillo.

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE HWC “PRIMERAS” AWARD

**Patricia A. Madrid**, New Mexico’s first woman Attorney General and the nation’s first Latina Attorney General

**Petra Jimenez Maes**, first Hispanic woman elected to the Supreme Court of New Mexico and first Latina in the nation to serve as Chief Justice of a State Supreme Court

**Pamela B. Minzner**, first woman Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court

**Diane D. Denish**, first woman Lt. Governor in New Mexico

**Judith M. Espinosa**, first woman Secretary of the NM Environment Dept. and the NM Transportation Dept.

**Dr. Mari-Luci Jaramillo**, first Mexican-American woman appointed an American Ambassador by a U. S. President

**Judith Cordova**, first Hispanic woman to serve at the level of Superintendent of a National Park Monument

**Teresa Leger de Fernandez**, first woman from New Mexico appointed by a U. S. President to serve as White House Fellow

**Martha Vázquez**, first woman Federal Judge in New Mexico, first woman to serve as Chief Judge in the District of NM and first Mexican-American woman in the nation to serve as Chief Judge

**Gloria Tristani**, first Latina to serve on the Federal Communications Commission; first woman elected to the NM State Corporation Commission and serve as Chair

**Dr. Verónica C. García**, New Mexico’s first Education Secretary

**Dr. Viola E. Florez**, first Hispanic woman Dean of a College at the University of New Mexico and first Latina Interim Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs at UNM

**Sonia Sotomayor**, first Latina Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States
Event Planning Committee: Dr. Vi Florez, Vangie Samora, Kathryn Ramsey, Raqui Martinez

Standing: Marissa Elias, Fabian Carbajal, Parisa Kermani, Sandie and Paul Mondragon. Seated: Dr. Victoria Sanchez, Chuck Holton, Kari & Chesley Karr

Vangie Samora Table


Delta Electronics Table

Todd & Leslie Cummins, April Alexander, Debbie Lodato, Carla & Paul Tennyson

Chiropractic Lifestyle Center Table

Barb & Ed Monjaras, Veronica Sanchez, Gabino & Stella Noriega, Gloria Chavez Sampson, Brian Moore, Dr. Karen Genter, Dr. Merrilee Foreman

Karla Barela, Gerrie Gallegos, Rachel Valenzuela—all three served as Silent Auction Table Monitors.

L-r: Daniela Armendariz, Andrea Borunda, Rosa Isela Cervantes, Lorena Blanco-Silva

L-r: Dr. Alisha Parada, Dr. Janet Ventura, Dr. Jennifer Gomez-Chavez, Dr. Lawrence Roybal

Standing l-r: Rebekah Pacheco, Sonya Chavez, Leroy Pacheco, Estevan Pacheco, Synthia Jaramillo & her guest. Seated: Tito & Eileen Chavez (Sonya’s parents).

Student Table, standing l-r:
Rebecca Gonzales, Stephanie Castillo, Yolanda Castillo, Kimberly Rogge Obando. Seated l-r: Fatima Torres, Wendolin Garcia, Nik Neudorf, Lisa Herrera, Julia Quezada

Standing l-r: John Serino, Rose Spader, Eva Gonzales Steve Moffat, Terry Word. Seated l-r: Marcela Sandoval, Denise Nourse, Dr. Carmen Samora, Mary Ann Garcia Word.

Seated l-r: Dr. Hector Ochoa, Mari Ochoa, Matt & Kathryn Ramsey, Vi Florez & Jerry Tighe. Standing l-r: Billy Gupton, Joseph and Veronica Tighe

Student Table

Standing, l-r: Anna Uremovich, Valerie Martinez, Karla Barela, Gerrie Gallegos. Seated, l-r: Jenelle Garcia, Brittany Ortega, Monique Gallegos (HWC student), and Mireya Ortiz.
Above: Stella Noriega & Marcela Sandoval

Left: Kim Trujillo, Theresa Cardenas

Sonya Chavez, her son Estevan, daughter Rebekah & husband Leroy Pacheco

HWC President Dr. Victoria Sanchez
A brief synopsis of Sor Juana’s life story:
“Born circa November 12, 1651, in San Miguel Nepantla, Tepetlixpa, Mexico, Juana Inés de la Cruz’s intelligence and scholarship became known throughout the country during her teen years. She began her life as a nun in 1667 so that she could study at will. Sor Juana read tirelessly and wrote plays and poetry, often challenging societal values and becoming an early proponent of women’s rights. Sor Juana is heralded for her Respuesta a Sor Filotea, which defends women’s rights to educational access, and is credited as the first published feminist of the New World. She died in Mexico in 1695. Today, Sor Juana stands as a national icon of Mexican identity, and her image appears on Mexican currency. She came to new prominence in the late 20th century with the rise of feminism and women’s writing, officially becoming credited as the first published feminist of the New World.”

Sample quotes by Sor Juana:
“I don’t study to know more, but to ignore less.”

“Who has forbidden women to engage in private and individual studies? Have they not a rational soul as men do?...I have this inclination to study and if it is evil I am not the one who formed me thus—I was born with it and with it I shall die.”

“O who is more to blame: He who sins for pay—Or he who pays for sin?.”

“In my opinion, better far it be To destroy vanity within my life Than to destroy my life in vanity.”

“And what shall I tell you, lady, of the natural secrets I have discovered while cooking? And I often say, when observing these details: had Aristotle prepared victuals, he would have written more.”

“In loss itself I find assuagement: having lost the treasure, I’ve nothing to fear.”

Dr. Carmen Samora arranged for a lunch at La Fonda del Bosque followed by a tour of the Torreón at the NHCC. This “Mitote Power Hour” event allowed us to visit with our “comadres” while enjoying a delicious meal. The tour gave us an intimate look at the Mundos de Mestizaje fresco by Frederico Vigil, personalized to focus on the women depicted in this massive and impressive work.

We heard about Malinche and Queen Isabella, among others. Perhaps the most intriguing historical figure we learned about was Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, a scholar, poet, nun and women’s rights activist. Eva Gonzales gave us an overview of the life of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and provided us with a list of quotes attributed to her and that give a sense of her intellect and wit. Thank you Eva!

Special thanks to Mark Mondragón and Francisca Srinivasan, the NHCC docents who were on hand to explain the imagery and answer questions.
**Annual Holiday Party**...Thank you to Kathryn Ramsey, Raqui Martinez and Terrie Trujillo for coordinating the annual Holiday Party held on December 2, 2018 at Nick & Jimmy’s Restaurant and attended by about 40 guests. The festivities started with generous plates of sumptuous hors d’oeuvres (courtesy of HWC) and music by Carol Vigil and Leila Flores-Dueñas (*Las Flores del Valle*), accompanied by David Garcia. The music was so lively that some guests took a spin on the floor. Delicious meals were ordered from a varied menu and many enjoyed libations from the cash bar. Special thanks to Veronica Sanchez for leading *Las Posadas*. Door prizes added another layer of excitement. Here are photos of some, but not all, who attended.

*Feliz Navidad*
2018/2019 HWC Membership

Clara Apodaca, Former First Lady of New Mexico
Lillian Apodaca, Attorney
Dr. Marlene Ballejos
Assistant Dean for Admissions
UNM School of Medicine
Jeannine Miller Barreras,
Vice President, Miller’s Inc.
Verónica Bujórquez
Valerie J. Borrego, CPA
Jane Braithwaite, Homemaker
Philly Carrasco, Retired
Sylvia Celedón-Pattichis, Interim Assoc. Dean, UNM College of Educ.
Sonya K. Chavez, U. S. Marshal
U. S. Marshals Service
Gloria Chávez-Sampson
Dr. Rose Díaz, Library & Archives Research Historian, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
Marissa Elias, MPH
Research Associate, Pacific Institute for Research & Evaluation
Asia Negrón Esposito
Educator/Journalist
Dr. Leila Flores-Dueñas, Assoc. Professor, UNM College of Education
Dr. Viola E. Flórez, Professor and PNM Endowed Chair, UNM College of Education
Dr. Merrilee Foreman, Owner Chiropractic Lifestyle Center
Wendolin García
Mary Ann Garcia-Word, Retired
Margaret Gonzales, Senior Operations Mgr. UNM Graduate Studies
Tanya Gonzales, Paralegal, Law Offices of the Public Defender
María Gutiérrez, Financial Planner
Samia Hindi, Educator
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, President & CEO Compa Industries, Inc.
Lucía López, Retired
Rose López, Retired
Karla Barela Lucero, Advance Planning Consultant, FRENCH Funerals
Dr. Helen Lucero
Retired Museum Curator/Director
Monique Martínez, School Counselor
Stella Noriega, Tax Consultant
Maricela (Mari) Ochoa, Outreach Mentor/Consultant for NM School for the Blind & Visually Impaired
Melita Ortega, Retired
Carmen M. Rodriguez, President Carmen Cares Consulting
Reina A. Romero, Retired Educator
Dr. Valerie Romero-Leggott
Vice Chancellor for Diversity UNM Health Sciences Center
Erminda Sachs, Artist
Lucinda Sachs, Writer

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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