

2005 Scholarship Banquet

MANA del Norte celebrated their 16th Annual Scholarship Banquet in October 2005. Family, friends, MANA members and other guests honored our scholarship recipients at a banquet held at the beautiful La Posada de Santa Fe. Attending guests also participated in the 3rd Annual Sip-ping & Bidding silent auction. The event was highlighted by the presentation of scholarships by Scholarship Selection Committee Chair, Michaela "Shelley" Valencia and committee. The following extraordinary women received a \$750 scholarship to use in their pursuit of a post-secondary degree:

- Luz Chacon
- Jenelle Manzanarez
- LouAnn Sanchez
- Thyria Sandoval
- Jacqueline Jaramillo
- Celina Ronquillo
- Deluvina Sanchez
- Veronica Granger
- Madeline Sandoval
- Ruby Ortiz
- Lorie Montoya
- Lisa Mora



2005 Keynote Speaker, Dr. Andrea Bermudez inspired us with her presentation on "Freedom: Authoring Are Own Lives"



2005 Scholarship Recipients



Isotopes Baseball—Fundraising for 2006

As the New Mexico Isotopes 2006-2007 baseball season begins, MANA del Norte will be fortunate enough to take advantage of a great opportunity to do fundraising. The concession stands at the games on May 19, 2006, July 14, 2006 and July 16, 2006 will be run by MANA del Norte, and the monies raised from these events will go toward scholarships and operating expenses of the organization. What a great way to spend the evening with friends and family. At the same time bring your pocketbook and appetite, and while you watch the Isotopes win, you can support MANA del Norte and all the great things we do for our northern New Mexico communities. Hope to see you there!!

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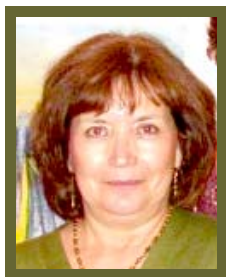
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Special points of interest

- MANA del Norte has awarded \$80,000 in scholarships since 1989 and has exceeded all other chapters throughout the U.S. in their scholarship awards
- If you have not already done so, please remit your membership dues (Full \$25; Friend \$15, Hermanita \$5), for the 2006-2007 membership year, as soon as possible. Thank you.



Dear MANA del Norte Members, Friends, and Hermanitas: MANA del Norte's Annual Membership Luncheon was held on March 11, 2006, at Angelina's in Espanola. It was an afternoon filled with good food, discussion of MDN's activities this past year and goals for 2006, and, of course, sharing of books and door prizes. Following is a brief summary of MDN's activities in 2005:

In October 2005, we held our 16th Annual National Hispanic Heritage Month Scholarship Banquet at La Posada de Santa Fe Resort & Spa. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Andrea Bermudez, Faculty Emeritus, University of Houston, and our guest speakers, Dr. Valerie Martinez, Assistant Professor, College of Santa Fe, and Linda Martinez, Consultant and Business Woman, inspired us with their presentations on "Freedom: Authoring Our Own Lives. As indicated above, we honored and awarded eleven (11) scholarship recipients with \$750 each. In addition, through the MANA National Coors

Scholarship Program, we awarded two additional scholarships in the amount of \$500 each. It is our goal in 2006 to award ten (10) \$1000 scholarships. As a jump start toward this goal, our third annual "Sipping and Bidding" Silent Auction, held right before the scholarship banquet, was once again an outstanding success, netting over \$3,500 for scholarships. Many thanks to Virginia Padilla and her committee for a job well done on the scholarship banquet and to Suzanne Johnston and her committee for a successful silent auction. Please see other fundraising events detailed in separate articles in this newsletter.

In November 2005, MANA del Norte members attended and participated in the **"The First Latina Summit – Bridging the Gap on Prescription Drug Coverage,"** sponsored by Pfizer, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. New Mexico Supreme Justice Petra Jimenez-Maes, Secretary of State Rebecca Vigil-Giron, and Attorney General Patricia Madrid, addressed several issues, including the scope of the uninsured population in New Mexico, programs available for the uninsured, and the importance of Latina involvement in this issue.

During November and December, our Membership was asked to collect travel toiletries (i.e., shampoo, bath soap, toothpaste, etc.), and at MDN's holiday social held at my home, we prepared over 80 gift bags which were then distributed to Esperanza Women's Shelter in Santa Fe and the Crisis Center of Northern New Mexico in Espanola. We shared some delicious holiday goodies and had great fun preparing the

gift bags. Thank you to all who participated in this event. Our Hermanitas and their mentors were also very busy all year involved in several projects which are discussed in a separate article in this newsletter.

To reiterate on last year's message, as a "member-oriented" organization, the Board depends on its members to assist it in carrying out MDN's mission. Please consider serving on one of our committees (Membership Luncheon, Scholarship Awards Committee, Scholarship Banquet Committee, or Fundraising Committee), or consider volunteering as a mentor for our Hermanitas program. At present, we are also looking for someone to fill the positions of Vice President for Membership, Secretary, and Hermanitas Coordinator on the Board. As you can see, there is a lot of work to do, and the Board cannot do it alone.

Latinas making a difference in their communities

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Finally, the Board is proud and honored to announce that the 2007 MANA National Conference will be hosted by MANA del Norte in Santa Fe in late May 2007 (tentative date). This promises to be a very exciting event that will bring national recognition to our chapter. Although MANA National is handling most of the details, our chapter will host a welcoming reception on the evening prior to the beginning of the conference. We will be forming a committee to help organize the reception, as well as plan for the overall conference. Your assistance and attendance is crucial to the success

of this national event. Furthermore, please keep in mind that when it comes time to register for the National Conference, that you register through our chapter, rather than through MANA National, because we will be able to keep all registration monies in our own coffer. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in serving on the 2007 National Conference Planning Committee.

Thank you all for your continued support of MANA del Norte. I look forward working with you in the coming year to continue MANA del Norte's success in helping Hispanic women in northern New Mexico. Please contact me, or any member of the Board, with any questions or suggestions. As our former President and CEO of MANA National once said, "Juntas podemos hacer lo que no podemos hacer solas."

Sinceramente, Terry M. Ortega, President, MANA del Norte

MANA is a national community of Latinas actively working to create a better quality of life for Hispanics.



MANA del Norte—Hermanitas

HERMANITAS®

The sisterhood of MANA del Norte is embracing young women from northern New Mexico through its Hermanitas mentorship program based in the Española Valley. Since May 2005, Rachel Martinez, Catrina Lujan and Alicia Gonzales have been dedicated members of the Hermanitas program, making it a small but promising group of young women focused on staying in school and pursuing high academic goals.

Since Hermanitas is a mentorship program, three MANA del Norte members from Española were recruited to mentor and work year-round with the Hermanitas. Lucia Sanchez, Andrea Maestas and Socorro Salazar follow a curriculum provided by MANA National to organize workshops and field trips for the young women in the program.

“Our goal is to provide the girls with useful information that will make them successful in school,” Lucia says. “We want them to be active and productive members of our community.”

Career development is a vital part of the Hermanitas curriculum, and last October the group visited the One Stop Career Center at the Española Department of Labor. The Hermanitas learned how to use a job-search data base and started working on their resumes – something they had never done before.

Helping the Hermanitas network and discover resources is a major function of the program. Dr. Linda Friedman from the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women in Albuquerque was invited to speak to the Hermanitas about mental and emotional health, which provided an opportunity to talk openly about important issues such as depression, teen suicide and mechanisms for dealing with stress. “I was able to get Dr. Friedman’s business card in case I need more information in the future or need to get my friends information about things like depression,” Alicia says.

The Hermanitas program isn’t all about receiving; the young women in the group also gain experience in community service. In December, the Hermanitas assembled 50 gift bags which were given to the Crisis Center in Española and Esperanza Women’s Shelter in Santa Fe.

In addition to scheduled workshops and events, the Hermanitas spend quality time with their mentors individually. Andrea and Rachel sit for hours at the bookstore reading and sipping coffee; Socorro and Alicia take belly-dancing classes; Lucia and Catrina go bowling and watch movies. Spending time with their mentors allows the girls to talk about their hopes and dreams or get advice about something that is bothersome. Sometimes, it’s just a chance to get out and have fun.

On April 7-8, the Hermanitas group attended the Year of the New Mexico Girl in Albuquerque. The event was sponsored by the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women and was attended by young women from across the state of New Mexico. Two days worth of workshops, networking and making friends made the conference a worthwhile experience for the Hermanitas. Thanks to MANA del Norte, the Hermanitas have many more experiences like this to look forward to.



2006 MANA National Meeting

This year’s Annual Conference promises to be our best ever. There are still some slots left in the Child Passenger Safety Seat (CPS) training, which will take place from May 22-25. There are also few slots left in the Financial Literacy train-the-trainer training, which will take place on Saturday, May 27. Our speakers are all lining up, including (just in!) Maria Marin as a keynote speaker at our luncheon on Saturday, May 27. As a reminder: the Chicago hotel discount cut-off date is April 25. More information can be found on our updated registration form

on our National website—www.hermana.org. Everyone who already sent in their CPS applications has been accepted. We would like to encourage Chapters who have not signed anyone up to go ahead and do so. The forms and information are once again included as attachments. MANA National will pay for two members from each Chapter to receive four days of training and then stay for the conference. Trainees would be flown to Chicago on Sunday, May 21 and back home on Sunday, May 28 (or sooner if the trainee is not able to stay for

the conference). MANA National will cover hotel, conference registration (which includes continental breakfast and lunch on Friday, lunch on Saturday), airfare and training fees. Financial Literacy training will be offered on Saturday, May 27. MANA National will pay for two members from each Chapter to attend this training. It will be a train-the-trainer training, where participants will be expected to return home and train others with this Freddie Mac program. Chapter members who sign up for this training will be registered for the conference at no cost to themselves or the Chapter. MANA National will cover

them for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at the hotel. MANA National will also cover airfare. Background information and an application form are also attached. (Please note, if you have already signed up for this training you have been accepted. Forms can be obtained from MANA National or MANA del Norte). All of us in the national office look forward to seeing you and your members in Chicago. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like more information. *Con Cariño, Alexandra Escudero, Deputy Director, MANA, A National Latina Organization*

Cinco de Mayo History and MANA del Norte's Non-Event Event?

The 5th of May is a significant date for Mexican-Americans, especially those in the Southwest. In La Puebla, Mexico, a mighty battle was fought and won. Cinco de Mayo's history has its roots in the French Occupation of Mexico. The French occupation took shape in the aftermath of the Mexican-American War of 1846-48. With this war, Mexico entered a period of national crisis during the 1850's. Years of not only fighting the Americans but also a Civil War, had left Mexico devastated and bankrupt. On July 17, 1861, President Benito Juarez issued a moratorium in which all foreign debt payments would be suspended for a brief period of two years, with the promise that after this period, payments would resume.

The English, Spanish and French refused to allow president Juarez to do this, and instead decided to invade Mexico and get payments by whatever means necessary. The Spanish and English eventually withdrew, but the French refused to leave. Their intention was to create an Empire in Mexico under Napoleon III. Some have argued that the true French occupation was a response to growing American power and to the Monroe Doctrine (America for the Americans). Napoleon III believed that if the United States was allowed to prosper indiscriminately, it would eventually become a power in and of itself.

In 1862, the French army began its advance. Under General Ignacio Zaragoza, 5,000 ill-equipped Mestizo and Zapotec Indians defeated the French army in what came to be known as the "Batalla de Puebla" on the fifth of May.

THE NON-EVENT EVENT? In commemoration of the austerior event MANA del Norte celebrates the "Cinco de Mayo Non-Event." This event was the brainchild of our former fundraising chair, Suzanne Johnston. The idea—to send out invitations to our members and communities and ask them to set aside Cinco de Mayo as a day they will attend their own personal holiday by relaxing and/or do anything they feel like. The event will cost them a small donation, but it's a unique way of giving yourself permission to take care of the one person who can make a difference in your life—YOU!

MANA del Norte will be sending out the Cinco de Mayo Non-Event information in the mail and you'll know that MANA del Norte has thought of a creative way to help you focus some time for yourself. Don't forget to send in your donations for this unique event.



*Music, dancing and
food have long
been an integral part of the festivities.*



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