Introducing our Canary Islands Descendants Association President, Socorro Reyes Morales an 11th generation descendant of Juan Leal Goraz. She shares motivation for her journey into the genealogical research of her family.

Dear Cousins,

You want to know how I got interested in our Canary Islands history? For me, it started with Ray Esparza. I knew of our Alamo history and Gregorio Esparza, but I had no idea of my lineage with the Canary Islanders.

One day in talking with Ray, he told and showed me the family tree he had done. You see his father and my grandmother were brother and sister. Well it opened a whole new world of questions and I felt like somebody pulled something in my heart. I wanted to know more about these people who came to Texas from so far. I wanted to know what they looked like or have an idea why they came. Some where inside of me I wanted to know the blood lines that ran thru me. Why was my sister so fair with light brown hair? Why did I have a brother that was darker than my fair sister? Who did I look like?

In my heart I felt like they were calling us saying, “Because of us you are here. Don’t forget us. Keep us alive by talking about us. Remember us.”

(See Journey on Page 2)

My Stories by Frederick J. Sanchez
Written by daughter Martha L. Haydel

This is the first in a series of stories shared by our cousin Martha L. Haydel that recall her father’s memories of growing up in San Antonio, Texas during the 1920’s.

The Bakery

When I was a kid growing up in San Antonio, Texas my friends and I hung around a neighborhood bakery called Trevinos; they sold bread, pan dulce and other baked goods. It was located on a corner on Durango Street. That store smelled like heaven when the door opened and delicious aromas floated out.

The owner had a delivery route every day. We boys knew about what time he would return to the store. We waited around for the truck to come into sight and then gathered around him as he unloaded it. The trays usually held delicious crumbs and bits of leftover bread and cookies, which he would let us have. Boy, I can still taste it when I close my eyes! (See My Stories on Page 2)
(My Stories by Fred J. Sanchez continued)

Grandma Corina Perez Sanchez

I was born on Labor Street, but later we moved to Pace Alley, next to my Grandma Corina Sanchez. She also lived on Pace in a small house which backed up to her daughter, Esther’s, backyard. Esther’s house faced Ruiz Street and Grandma used Ruiz Street as her address, too.

Grandma was very straight-laced. She always dressed up when she left the house to go shopping or to church – hat, gloves, nice dress and good shoes. Ruiz Street had a streetcar that ran down the middle of the street. Grandma often used to ride the streetcar to do her errands. When she returned home from each outing she always cleaned and buffed her shoes and stuffed them with newspaper to keep their shape. I never knew her to forget to care for her shoes.

Grandma was always fussing at me, but I think she really liked me. She accused me of being a hoodlum because I loved to wear the fashionable high-waisted pants. She said, “Why can’t you be more like your cousin, Ralph?” I said, “If I was like Ralph, Grandma, you wouldn’t like me so much!”

Once when I was a teen-ager I had a job at a filling station. I was at work one day when the owner said to me, “Freddie, there’s a lady waving to you from across the street.” I looked up and there was my grandma standing on the corner. I walked over to see what she wanted. “Freddie, where have you been? You haven’t come to see me in a long time.” She had ridden the streetcar all the way down town just to check up on me. I promised her that I would come by on the weekend.

Grandma used to try to tell me about our family history while she ironed. She wanted to tell me of our connection with the Alamo, but I was just too eager to run out to play. If only I had listened. Little did I know that her father and grandmother were survivors of that battle (Alejo Perez and Juana Navarro Perez Alsbury)!

Sometimes I spent the night with her. Before going to sleep she tried to teach me my prayers in Spanish. I wasn’t a very good student.

Grandma never worked in the yard, but she would often take her iron and ironing board on the porch in hot weather. While she ironed the clothes, I would sit on the porch and we would talk. That’s when she told me some of her stories.

She knew I liked cowboy movies. She often would take me to the movies in the afternoon. We would watch all my favorite cowboys on the screen, Tom Mix, Hoot Gibson, and others. (To be continued)

(Socorro, Journey, continued from Page 1) So my journey started. I have not been disappointed. That journey has taken me into worlds of old and information has flowed. I’ll read anything that comes my way on the Canary Islanders and their descendants and the Alamo. I am always looking around for old pictures and stories of San Antonio. I search faces in a crowd and names that sound familiar. All I know is that I love my family’s history and it has given me some of the answers I was looking for. And for this start, I thank Ray Esparaza, who passed away. I’ll try to carry the torch and continue to search for more family. As I know he would like, would of done, if God had not called him home to be with our relatives. I now know I have found the most important part of my journey and that is “Familia” in the Canary Islands Descendants Association. Contributed by Socorro Morales
Dear Canary Islands Descendants and Friends,

Join us to Celebrate the 283rd Anniversary of the “First Cabildo”

Saturday, August 2, 2014
Plaza Club, Frost Bank Tower
11:30 am until 2:00 pm
Featuring displays and CIDA sales items.

Speaker: Diego Bernal, San Antonio City Councilman, District 1

Please come and have a fabulous buffet with family and friends. Enjoy the fantastic views of the city our ancestors founded, atop the Frost Bank Tower! Please spread the word, as this event is open to everyone, and everyone is welcome!

Save the date, and RSVP as soon as you get your invitation.
Deadline to RSVP is Friday, July 25th.
Your check is your reservation.
You must have a reservation. No walk-ins at this event

Adults $33.00 and Children $12.00
Please make checks payable to CIDA
Mail Checks to:
Mary Jane Evans
18668 Bandera Rd
Helotes, Texas 78023

Covered Parking is FREE in the Frost Bank Building.

****PLEASE WEAR YOUR TRADITIONAL CANARY ISLANDS ATTIRE****
Rosemary Geyer, Events Chair
For more information and to volunteer for the Luncheon!
Contact Rosemary Geyer at:
Phone: 210-658-5734
geyerja@earthlink.
On the Agenda

Below are business items addressed at the last CIDA meeting

The CIDA Executive Board decided to fill two empty Board positions, and to create a number of CIDA Ad Hoc Committees.

The CIDA By-Laws, Approved 2009 Updated Version, provide some guidance for the expedient replacement of Officers who leave office prematurely. In the case of the President, the Board recommends a replacement, and the membership ratifies the recommendation. That process was used to replace Mary Ida Lobaugh when she passed away. In the case of other elected Officers, the Board makes expedient replacements and notifies the membership. In addition, the President can appoint minor Officers (not elected) and appoint heads and members of Standing Committees. The President can also create Ad Hoc Committees, give them direction, and fill them, in order to meet specific needs.

The CIDA Board met on May 4th and May 17th. They addressed a wide variety of initiatives that will be created to rebuild CIDA. Both Board meetings attained a quorum, and the May 17th General Membership meeting also attained a quorum.

The CIDA Board selected Armandina Sifuentes to complete the current term of the 1st Vice President, Ways & Means.

The CIDA Board selected Anthony Delgado to complete the current term of the 2nd Vice President, Membership.

The President created, and the Board concurred with, the following CIDA Ad Hoc Committees to serve for the remainder of the current term:

—Ad Hoc 2015 Folklife Festival Committee
—Ad Hoc Public Relations Committee
—Ad Hoc Ways & Means Committee
—Ad Hoc Membership Committee
—Ad Hoc Finance Committee
—Ad Hoc Custodial Committee
—Ad Hoc Planning Committee

The duties of these committees will be provided in a separate message, so everyone can understand their purposes and may also volunteer to become committee members.

The CIDA By-Laws, Approved 2009 Updated Version, state that Committees may be chaired by, and filled with, Associate Members. This offers CIDA the opportunity to enjoy the commitment, drive, skills and energy of a whole class of members that cannot compete for elected Officer positions.

The Officers in place during 2014, and the Standing and Ad Hoc Committee members here in 2014, will serve until the 2015-2016 team is installed. This will allow incoming elected/appointed members to work in parallel with the outgoing members so the transition will be smooth.

CIDA OFFICER ELECTIONS NOVEMBER 2014

REMINDER-The CIDA General Election will be held in November 2014. If you are interested in serving in a leadership position and making a difference, let your fellow members know and attend upcoming meetings. This is your organization get involved, make a difference and ensure our organizations keeps going on forever.
283rd Arrival Anniversary Celebration

*March 9, 2014 at the Plaza Club, Frost Bank Tower, San Antonio Texas*

Photos: Clockwise:
1. Gilbert Patino, Armandina Sifuentes, Yolanda Patino, and Clem Perez
2. Entertainers 3. CIDA Member and Dr. Alfonso Chiscano

*Photos courtesy of Jo Annette White and Gene A. Chapa*

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**Canary Islands Descendants Association**

**Purpose**

A. To encourage and promote all educational studies and historical and genealogical research that enhance the historical, cultural and civic significance of the accomplishments of the sixteen original Canary Islands families who founded the Villa de San Fernando, now the City of San Antonio.

B. To foster and perpetuate the preservation of documents and artifacts identified with the culture and life of the Canary Islanders’ history in San Antonio, Texas.

C. To initiate, and promote programs, lectures and civic events which are intended for the general public, and which are conducted to memorialize historical sites and buildings associated with the Canary Islanders’ history in San Antonio, such as San Fernando Cathedral.

D. To establish and promote the celebration of significant days and commemorative civic events that celebrate those special days linked to the Canary Islanders’ history in San Antonio for example: February 2-Feast day of La Virgen de la Candelaria, Patroness of the Canary Islands; March 9-Commemoration of the day the 16 families arrived at the Presidio San Antonio de Bejar; and August 1-Commemoration of the establishment of the first civil government in 1731.

E. To remain non-political in structure and activity, yet a viable civic entity.