

EL ATRISQUEÑO

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Photo courtesy of www.marblestreetstudio.com

SunCal Foreclosure Update

News of SunCal's foreclosure is creating great challenges for the Atrisco Heritage Foundation. As of this publication's distribution the Atrisco Heritage Foundation has not received the current year's obligation payment of \$1 million. The payment was due in December 2009. Much, if not all, of the news of SunCal's bankruptcy and foreclosure dealings have been a series of moves and countermoves between SunCal and its Lenders. The foreclosure process is the latest effort by the Lender to either gain leverage in renegotiating terms for refinancing the land or it is an aggressive effort by the Lender to foreclose and gain title to the land thus leaving owner SunCal out in the cold. The latter of these outcomes would spell disaster for the 100-year obligation to pay \$1 million a year to the Atrisco Heritage Foundation as the foreclosure will relieve the Lender or any subsequent owner of this obligation.

The outcome of this real estate dilemma and its ultimate impact on our Foundation, is still uncertain. However, the Atrisco Heritage Foundation is not waiting for the tide to turn in these proceedings.

First, the Atrisco Heritage Foundation has filed a lawsuit for breach of contract against SunCal on this matter. Additionally, we are legally analyzing whether we have legal grounds for further suits against other entities within the SunCal organization. While legally seeking a solution to this problem is necessary, it must be noted that legal remedies are costly and time consuming so it is a method of resolving this problem that will not provide relief any time soon.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Some people believe generosity is a learned behavior. I think however, when it comes to the community of Atrisco it also is in our DNA, in our history and thankfully in our power to keep fostering in our future generations. In this issue of *El Atrisqueño*, you will read stories of giving by Atrisquenos who know how important it is to be charitable, not only financially but also in the giving of their time to people in need.

It's been apparent to me that these are traits Atrisco was founded on, and the traits its people have continued through the generations to build upon. When someone needed a house built or a barn raised, it became the neighborhood's project with family and friends pitching in. As we moved forward, the projects might have changed—now someone might need grandma's house remodeled so that she is safe, comfortable and cared for, however, the importance of everyone providing their skills and talents to the project are present just the same. Just as our ancestors relied on the Atrisco ranchers, farmers, plumbers and carpenters, today it has never been more important to use the resources of our own people to get things done, keep a youth program alive, a scholarship funded or to provide a service to people who need and deserve it. Our circle of commerce and benevolent giving is vital to the success of our community.

In these pages you will read about the Atrisquenos who have stepped up to the plate to donate to our Atrisco Heritage Foundation scholarship fund. By doing so, these generous people will make sure that students continue their college education, pursue degrees and earn careers in medicine, technology, teaching, engineering, business and various trades that benefit our community and the world. The Atrisco Heritage Foundation's goal is to continue funding scholarships for heirs. That funding will have to come from private and public donations. However, with heirs backing heirs in their academic pursuits, we have every reason to believe our goal can be met. Thank you to those who contributed. There are plenty of opportunities for all heirs to help keep the scholarships going.

You also will read about some special Atrisquenos who give of their time to make the community better. There's Diamante de Atrisco, Josie Gutierrez, who even in her golden years continues a legacy of serving meals at a homeless shelter as a tribute in honor of her late husband. There is heir extraordinaire Clara Peña, a community leader, motivator of change and champion of promoting the youth of the South Valley. Pena has started a chess program that will reach hundreds of students and teaches them not only how to play chess but how to become strong academic leaders in their schools and families. The permanent chess tables she provides at each school are a remarkable example of giving.

As you will see, whether you choose to donate to the Atrisco Heritage Foundation through the United Way's "Select Giving" option or make a direct contribution of time or services, you are continuing a tradition of giving consistent with our ancestors. We hope the stories within these pages will inspire you to give in some way. I hope your summer is filled with family time, special moments and taking time to extend charity where and when it is needed. That's the Atrisco way.

Peter Sanchez

President & CEO, Atrisco Companies

Fresco Artist Federico Vigil:

New Mexico's Michelangelo

Imagine a space 1,000 square feet larger than the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City. Instead of celestial images however, the art on the walls and ceiling in this building tells the story of the history of New Mexico from cave dwellings to modern times, including a tribute to the history of the village of Atrisco and its people.

Visitors to the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque will not have to imagine it for much longer. The Torreón—that round building near the front of the cultural center—is being painted by artist Federico Vigil, who specializes in the fresco style of painting. It is the same process that Michelangelo used to paint the Sistine Chapel.

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Giving To Atrisco Foundation is as Easy Through United Way



The United Way of Central New Mexico is making it easy for everyone to donate to the Atrisco Heritage Foundation in order to support scholarships, educational programs, business development skills classes and artistic programs for children and adults.

There are several different ways you can make a difference. The community fund allows heirs to specify that their donation, either individually or through their employers, to go directly to Atrisco.

All you have to do is choose the "select giving option" that allows donations to go directly to the specified nonprofit agency. Atrisco Heritage Foundation, which is a nonprofit, depends on donations in order to further its mission of improving education and enabling more heirs to open businesses, expand their companies or continue their higher education or vocational goals.

Through United way, 100% of the donation benefits the Foundation. If you have questions about how to specify that your United Way donation goes directly to the Atrisco Heritage Foundation, contact Carolyn Ortega at cortega@atrisco.org.

Your donations help the Atrisco Heritage Foundation continue to empower heirs and strengthen the Atrisco community.

HEIR CLARA PEÑA HELPING CHILDREN LEARN BENEFITS OF CHESS

Clara Peña doesn't underestimate the power of play. In the past four years she has made Albuquerque's South Valley a better place to live and learn. In her own personal way she has continued to support the mission set forth by the Atrisco Land Grant so many hundreds of years ago. Her goal is always to empower citizens and make communities more educationally and economically sound.

Peña is running for a seat in the New Mexico House of Representatives in November's general election. She hopes to bring a sense of accountability and common sense to the Legislature and to fight for services and the needs of the South Valley. Her loyalty most definitely rests in her community.

Her latest endeavor is providing children a place to sit and learn chess at the same time.

The project started with concrete benches, then evolved to tables that have chess boards permanently placed in the tables. These sets of tables and benches are already in place at Westside Community Center and Armijo Park. Rio Grande High School will get a chess table this August. Plans are to have others built and placed in many other schools and centers where children gather, play and learn.

Peña says her idea of the benches and tables began years ago when she saw that children at a playground did not have a place to sit. First she made benches, then a 7-year old named Marcos Nieto Sanchez came up to her and suggested chess boards to go inside the tables. "It was an idea that made sense," Peña says. "I wanted to make them permanent, but I also wanted them to be a tribute to Atrisco heirs."

"The chess tables give the kids something else to do at the tables," she said. "The benefits of chess to students is incredible. Children who learn to play chess do better in school. It's a win-win for everyone."

Rio Grande High School already has a chess team and several chess camps are being held at community centers. Playing chess has been shown to improve strategy and comprehension skills in students.

Peña hopes to see more young people playing the game to unlock the power of their minds in being able to make good, logical decisions as well as to have patience and learn strategies to deal with difficult situations.

G2G: Guide to Greatness in College and in Life Begins Now

Guide to Greatness (G2G), a day of free workshops to help students go to college, stay in college and graduate from college.

Graduating from high school is not a guarantee that a student will be successful in college or in their quest for a trade career. Statistics have shown that many graduating seniors are not ready for higher education rigors and some students don't understand what it actually takes to get that career they have dreamed about.

The Atrisco Heritage Foundation has designed the Guide to Greatness (G2G) program in order to emphasize some critical skills needed to be successful in college or in various career trades.

The free citywide G2G program addresses the development of self confidence, interpersonal skills and character building along with successful techniques to improve a student's academic abilities.

The Foundation, in association with Bernalillo County and the University of New Mexico, will debut G2G on July 17 for students in 9th through 12th grades. Parents are encouraged to attend as well and programs will be specifically designed to help them support and improve the chances of his/her child being successful in college and beyond.

Through its workshops, students learn new methods of behavior and learning practices which will help them become more effective in school and life. These objectives will be met through active learning in group

exercises, individual activities, information presented, role-playing, scenario discussions, and examples. The workshops will assist in integrating new ideas with existing knowledge. These new found skills will provide students with a new set of abilities that improves their chances of success.

"We believe G2G fills a void that is not currently being addressed within the state," Carolyn Ortega, Atrisco Heritage Foundation Chief Financial Officer and one of the people who designed G2G. "By reaching students as young as 14, these skills can be used in high school as well as college."

The ultimate goals are to create a self development program for high school students in order to increase the number of students who apply for college, stay in college, and graduate from college. However, the program also teaches students ways to deal with life and academic challenges. G2G's strategies help students overcome obstacles that could prevent them from being successful after high school.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, only 37 percent of college students in New Mexico completed a four-year program. This is well below the national average of 56 percent. The Atrisco Heritage Foundation is committed to changing that trend and helping make as many students as possible successful in their future endeavors.

Heirs Can Keep Scholarships, Programs Alive

Donations to the Atrisco Heritage Foundation will be increasingly important in the future. As a non-profit organization, the Foundation is geared towards providing services and offering scholarships to heirs who need the help and want to go to college. For decades, heirs had been asking for scholarships to be provided and not until the Atrisco Heritage Foundation was formed did the scholarships come to fruition.

The Atrisco Heritage Foundation's scholarship fundraising campaign is in full swing. The Foundation has already given more than \$300,000 in scholarships over the past several years through a partnership with the Hispanic Scholarship Fund. More than 100 heirs apply for Atrisco Heritage Foundation/Hispanic Scholarship Fund scholarships each year.

"We will actively seek the support of corporate and private donors who are as committed to keeping our education goals alive," Carolyn Ortega, Chief Financial Officer, said. "We have had many heirs who have generously given to the scholarship fund and who understand that without them it will be very difficult to continue to help our college-bound heirs achieve their goals."

People who have generously donated to the fund this year include: Clara Apodaca, Bernie and Mary Metzger, Milton and Carolyn Ortega, Clara Peña, Peter and Claudia Sanchez, Thaddeus and Arleen Lucero.

To make a donation to the scholarship fund, contact Carolyn Ortega at 505-836-0306, or mail your tax-exempt contribution to 1730 Montano NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107.

The Foundation's funding from SunCal is imperiled, either temporarily or permanently (see article on page one), all programs and

community support has been impacted. "During the past three and one half years of the Foundation's operations, many very helpful and beneficial programs have been developed which have benefitted our heir community significantly," Peter Sanchez, Executive Director of the Atrisco Heritage Foundation, said. "One of the most recognizable programs has been our Scholarship Program. It was a benefit heirs had sought for decades, but finally became a reality when the Heritage Foundation championed this cause and made it an immediate program offering in year one of our existence. Having seen its impact on so many young adults through the scholarship selections, award dinners and countless letters of gratitude from the students, one quickly comes to understand the importance of continuing this program in spite of the economic changes with which we are currently dealing. I hope that those whose families have been touched by the generosity of this program or those that simply understand the importance of educating our youth will step forward and help us keep this valuable program going."

In addition to donating directly to the Atrisco Heritage Foundation, there is another easy way to help donate to the Atrisco Heritage Foundation through a partnership with Albertsons grocery stores.

All you need is a Community Partners Card. Then, when you shop at any Albertson's store, scan your card at the check-out and five percent of your eligible purchases are given to Atrisco Heritage Foundation as a cash contribution from Albertson's. For more information contact Diane Garcia at the AHF office, 505-836-0306.



NOTICIAS

Urns for Sale through El Campo Santo:

Beautiful handcrafted cremation urns are on sale through Atrisco Companies offices. Prices vary. For information contact Anita Lucero at 505-836-0306.

Santa Clara Cleanup Scheduled:

The next clean up day this year for Santa Clara Cemetery is Oct. 9 from 8 a.m. to noon. For more information contact Anita Lucero at 505-836-0306.

Albuquerque Hispano Chamber Technology Classes:

The Atrisco Heritage Foundation has partnered with the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce to provide computer training for adults. The classes are offered at the Hispano Chamber and are free to Atrisco Heirs.

Classes include instruction on using email, Microsoft programs such as Word, Excel and Publisher, as well as a beginning class for new computer users. For more information contact the Atrisco offices at 505-836-0306.

Mariachi Spectacular:

Atrisco Heritage Foundation was pleased to support Mariachi Spectacular, July 7-11 2010. Mariachi Spectacular featured the talents of several people and groups including Mariachi Sol de Mexico de Jose Hernandez, Mariachi Internacional de Guadalajara and Maricachi Reyna de Los Angeles and special guest Angeles Ochoa. The event featured workshops, concert, a competition highlighted by a Spectacular Mass at the New Mexico Veterans' Memorial Park.

Atrisco Artist Paul Sanchez to Paint San Jose Mural:

New Mexico artist Paul Sanchez has been commissioned to paint a mural along a wall at the San Jose de Armijo Cemetery, one of three cemeteries of El Campo Santo and the Atrisco Heritage Foundation. Sanchez work has received national and international acclaim and depicts the lives of New Mexicans and the history of the state.

SunCal Update *continued from page 1*

Alternatively, the Foundation is continuing on a path forward that includes growing revenue generating businesses, including those within its newest company, the Rio Grande Educational Collaborative, and with the El Campo Santo cemeteries. These businesses are still small and underdeveloped, but we do have these avenues as paths for sustaining our operations.

However, because SunCal has not been able to provide the yearly funding, the Atrisco Heritage Foundation has had to put on hold programs, scholarships as well as other heir benefits and opportunities. This has not been easy and it is something the Atrisco Heritage Foundation Board, Management and Staff are working to overcome and to restore to heirs as soon as possible. However, without the funding by SunCal the extensive benefits provided by the Foundation to heirs and to our community will undoubtedly be negatively affected.

In an effort to gain some of the financial ground lost or at risk of loss, the revenue-generating Rio Grande Educational Collaborative has been expanded to include fee-based before and after school educational programs, as well as continuing their programs that are covered by education grants and RGEC's tutoring business line.

Atrisco Companies' Chief Financial Officer, Carolyn Ortega, said the Foundation was taking steps early on to offset our organizations vulnerability with the Westland/SunCal deal struck in 2006 that created the support for the Atrisco Heritage Foundation. "We did so by adding other revenue lines to our business and by cutting administrative costs," she said.

"It was apparent from the outset that we needed to diversify our businesses because the arrangement with SunCal was precarious," Peter Sanchez, CEO of the Atrisco Companies said. "As a result, it was a strategic objective of the Board and Management of the Atrisco Companies to diversify other businesses to lessen the vulnerability of that 2006 promise by SunCal to provide \$1 million a year. Nothing was guaranteed then and we knew that a plan had to be in place in case the funding stopped."

In addition, the Foundation also will apply for grant funding for future programs. Grants are how many non-profit groups provide their services, and this will be a bigger part of the Foundation's focus in the future. In addition to grants, the Foundation will more vigorously encourage charitable donations and look for funding from other sources with similar goals and objectives.

The Foundation already has received a four-year grant from Bernalillo County in order to run the Guide 2 Greatness program that will give high school students a boost up in college preparation and degree completion.

"Our goals remain the same," Sanchez said. "We want to provide programs to heirs that empower them, help them further their education and that continue to help us preserve our heritage and the history of the Atrisco Land Grant."

And as far as what our future holds in terms of SunCal's funding of the Atrisco Heritage Foundation only time will tell. But as a total organization the Atrisco Companies will work feverishly to persevere through this setback, Sanchez said.

"Once again, understanding our own history is critical to our modern day struggle," he said. "We have been on the ropes before with an uncertain outcome in the balance. Our own history provides the answer; a tenacious approach is what we need to find our way to a solution."

Applausos!

Heir and scholarship recipient, **RICO GALLEGOS** earned one of the biggest academic honors being named valedictorian of his class at the UNM Valencia Campus. It takes the best of the best to achieve such a prestigious status.

It is through these Atrisquenos' outstanding work that the heritage of Atrisco lives on. Great job! If you know a outstanding Atrisqueno that you think should be highlighted in the next issue, email Justine Apodaca at japodaca@atrisco.org.

Rio Grande Educational Collaborative Expands With Fee-Based Programs to More Students



The Rio Grande Educational Collaborative (RGEC), the newest edition to the Atrisco Companies, is expanding its services.

RGEC has been helping improve the lives of students in Albuquerque's South Valley and across the state since the program started almost 10 years ago. As part of the Atrisco Companies, the RGEC has been able to expand to include a fee-based before and after school program in several more Albuquerque schools.

For the past nine years, the goal and purpose of RGEC has been to provide resources to South Valley students and parents. RGEC'S business offerings include two distinct but related programs. The first is an academic based before and after school programs while the second is a tutoring program. In both cases these educational services are geared toward elementary and in some cases middle school students.

"The after-school and tutoring programs we offer

tie into academic disciplines the children are learning in school," said Mike Silva, President of RGEC. "We always had plans to expand, and now that we are a part of the Atrisco Companies we are able to realize these opportunities and offer the services for more students."

Right now RGEC provides after school programs in six South Valley schools. It will continue to provide those free programs through funding by a 21st Century Community Centers Grant. Schools being added to the fee-based programs are Chaparral, Ventana Ranch, Chamisa, Hubert Humphrey and Petroglyph elementary schools.

RGEC's second business line, tutoring, has been the most sought after Supplemental Educational Services vendor in New Mexico, currently providing high-quality tutoring services that extend across eight school districts, including: Albuquerque, Belen, Deming, Los Lunas, Farmington, Rio Rancho, Santa Fe and Gadsden. More than 800 students receive tutoring and now many others will have it available to them, said Silva.

HEIRS WHO MEAN BUSINESS

Several heirs are proud owners of business. It is more important than ever to support our fellow Atrisquenos. Support for our Atrisquenos help to continue our rich Atrisco heritage.

PERICOS an heir-owned business, has over 20 varieties of burritos! Three Locations: 109 Yale SE 505-247-2503, 1609 Isleta Blvd SW 505-877-0526, 2810 Coors NW 505-839-4762, Catering 505- 610-9621.

THE SIGN STORE: Heir Telsfor Padilla is owner, Signs, Banners, and Vehicles, 3600 Osuna Rd. NE Ste. 101, Albuquerque, NM 87109 505-830-2530

JOHNNYBOARDS.COM: Heir Ruben Garcia is owner; provides a unique form of cost-effective advertising for small, medium or large businesses to capture their target audience. The advertising placards are placed in health club locker rooms, washrooms of restaurants, hotels, cultural centers, concert venues and many other locations. Call 505-254-1147 to invest in this type of advertising for your business.

If you are an heir that owns a business and is interested in having your business highlighted in the next issue of El Atrisqueno please contact Justine Apodaca at japodaca@atrisco.org.

DIAMANTES HEIR PROFILE:

Josie Gutierrez

Big Heart, Big Giving



At the age of 78, Josie Gutierrez stands a little over five feet tall. Inside that petite package she possesses a spirit of giving that knows no bounds. At this year's Diamantes de Atrisco luncheon in April, Gutierrez was honored by the Atrisco Heritage Foundation for her 25 years of volunteering at a local shelter.

Peter Sanchez, Executive Director of the Foundation, said Gutierrez's years of service to Albuquerque's neediest families, "exemplifies generosity and displays the true meaning of giving through her actions."

Gutierrez is the matriarch of a large family. She has seven sons and five daughters. She also has 33 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild. She says that it is her family's love that drives her to help others.

"I started volunteering at the shelter with my husband," she says while enjoying the luncheon at Embassy Suites. "When he passed (away) I found that it was even more impor-

tant to continue. My time spent at the shelter helped me through that difficult time."

Gutierrez has continued volunteering with the help of her loved ones, who drive her to the food bank. After her husband's death, Gutierrez didn't know how she was going to be able to continue serving meals at the shelter. Then something very important occurred to her.

"What I realized was that God always provides to those who truly need," she said. "He has provided me with everything that I have needed to continue."

She said through the giving of her time she has gained a sense of peace and has a strengthened relationship with God.

Volunteering is the easy part for Gutierrez. However, the difficult part for her is to be praised for her good deeds. "I do what I do because I want to," Gutierrez said.

Still Gutierrez's actions can't go unrecognized by the Foundation. It is through her giving that the legacy of Atrisco lives on and touches people's lives.

The five-foot dynamo plans to continue volunteering at the shelter indefinitely.

Fresco Artist Federico Vigil *continued from page 1*

Vigil says painting the Torreon is the chance of a lifetime for an artist, especially one who practices the art of fresco, which involves a process of plastering, drawing and painting on walls and ceilings. It is one of the most grand forms of painted art in the world, and Albuquerque's project is the only unfinished fresco at this time, said Vigil.



"Everything else has been completed, and there is nothing of this scale, nothing," he says.

He tells the story of first looking at other walls at the Cultural Center to paint in fresco. Nothing seemed to be just right, so he and members of the Museum Board kept walking around the center looking for ideas.

"Then, we walked into the Torreon and my eyes opened as wide as saucers," Vigil says. "My heart was pounding out of my chest and I knew, I just knew this was it. This was the canvas to cover and it was going to be something incredible." The AHF collaboration with the National Hispanic Cultural Center resulted in a depiction of the Atrisco Land Grant prominently placed on one section of the walls. This will be a lasting tribute to Atrisco and its people in a monumental work of art.

The Atrisco Heritage Foundation has done its part to provide Vigil with information on Atrisco's past, present and future.

Vigil says he hopes that as many people as possible come to see the Torreon as the walls get covered.

"They can come see it now because I really want to educate people on the art of fresco," he says. "The process is what makes this special. They should see it now to fully appreciate its beauty and unique, exquisite artform."

Visitors who have come to see him work are often moved to tears as they stand and glance up to the 20-foot plus high ceilings and turn slowly to view the history being portrayed on the walls.

"We are honored to have Atrisco featured on Federico's work of art," Peter Sanchez, Executive Director of the Atrisco Heritage Foundation says. "The magnitude and lasting legacy that this work of art leaves is unprecedented."

The fresco is scheduled to be completed and unveiled to the general public for all to see and enjoy in October 2010.



ATRISCO'S DIAMANTES SHINE

The Atrisco Heritage Foundation believes heirs who are 70 years and older are very special gems, the "Diamantes" of the Atrisco Heritage Foundation. The Foundation honored some of these treasured heirs with a luncheon in April at the Embassy Suites in Albuquerque.

"The luncheon is a way for the Foundation to show appreciation and love for the Diamantes," said Peter Sanchez, Executive Director of the Atrisco Heritage Foundation. More than 100 Diamantes, attended the event. Heirs were treated to mariachi music and door prizes.

Anita Lucero, coordinator of the event says Atrisco's Diamantes are valuable. "We are here because of them," she said.

Lucero said honoring the senior heirs is important for the foundation. "Planning this event and seeing how much the Diamantes

enjoyed themselves always brings joy to my heart," Lucero said.

Manuel Casias, Air Force chaplain, spoke on the importance of the legacy passed down to future generations from our Diamantes. "Everybody has a story to tell, just listen," Casias said.

It is through the stories of our Diamantes that the history of the all the heirs past, present, and future is kept alive. Our history will span not only centuries past but also centuries to come, Sanchez said.

"Like precious diamonds, our Diamantes are precious to us."

CAMPS TO HELP EVERYONE!

More than 100 young Atrisco heirs have attended several camps. Circo Latino incorporated skill building, physical activity, Spanish language, healthy eating habits, leadership and cooperation skills, creativity and a live circus performance. The camp was at the National Hispanic Cultural Center.

At the Albuquerque BioPark children were introduced to many aspects of the zoo, botanical gardens and aquarium. Children learned how animals were cared for and how their habitats were built.

In addition to those camps the Atrisco Heritage Foundation, working with partners such as the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce and others, also provided camps in Computer Technology, Writing (VOCES), and Science (Camp Invention) to students and adults. The Hispano Chamber of Commerce together with the Atrisco Heritage Foundation will offer ongoing computer workshops throughout the year. For more information contact the AHF office at 505-836-0306.



Marcus DeHerrera, left, Joseph Marquez, center and Lilliana Sanchez

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