

# Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana



## 2010 FIESTA COURT

*Princesas Remedios Refugio Medina, Raylyn Santana Córdova,  
Jasmine Dee Marie Peralta and Robyn Jamie Valdez  
Reina Desiree Briana Apodaca*

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## ¡Bienvenidos!

**F**ellow Taoseños and visitors: On behalf of the Taos Fiesta Council,

welcome to our annual celebration, Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana. Fiestas are a tradition passed from generation to generation, a way of preserving the rich cultures that have developed in Taos over the last four centuries. This festivity is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to unite in fellowship. It's a special time for families, friends, and visitors to come together and enjoy one another's company, as well as taste delicious foods, listen to traditional music and view the many talented people that are performing throughout the weekend.

We thank God for the many blessings that have been bestowed upon us over the past years and ask God's grace in preparing us for yet another year. The Fiesta Council has chosen the theme for the 2010 Fiestas to be "Returning to Sacred Places; Regresando a Lugares Sagrados." Taoseños consider so



COURTESY BERT RUIZ

Taos Fiesta Council President  
Edward Coca

much to be sacred — our rich culture; beautiful landscapes and buildings; traditions and faith — to name a few. During this celebration please take time to reflect on all that is sacred to you.

We invite our visitors to tour and visit the many cultural and historic sites throughout the beautiful community of Taos. Have a festive and safe Fiesta weekend.

¡Dios les bendiga!  
¡Que vivan Las Fiestas!

Edward "Bardo" Coca  
President,  
Taos Fiesta Council




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# Farewell from the 2009 Fiestas Queen

## Bienvenidos Familia y Amigos de Taos,



2009 Reina Angelica Lydia Salazar

TINA LARKIN

I have been blessed and honored to represent the community of Taos, New Mexico as La Reina de Las Fiestas de Taos for 2009. Throughout our year, my court and I have had the pleasure of attending many fiesta functions within

Northern New Mexico and met many, many wonderful people who have made this experience worthwhile. The precious memories we have shared will forever be cherished and have a special place in my heart.

On behalf of my court, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the many people who have helped make this year so memorable.

First of all, I want to thank our dear Lord for blessing us with a safe and joyous year.

Thank you to my parents, Molly and Tim Salazar, for the unconditional love and encouragement you have given throughout the years. To my little brother, you inspire me everyday and I love you. And to my grandparents, for always being there for me and giving me that little push when I needed it.

A special thank you to Ruby Romero and family for all the love and support you have presented to me. Thank you to my princesses, Ashley, Jessica and Jenea — it has been an honor and pleasure to have you by my side and you will always be some of my greatest friends.

And of course, thank you to all the families, friends and sponsors who helped make this journey possible.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you to the Taos Fiesta Council for maintaining the Fiestas and providing unique opportunities for the youth to learn and appreciate this beautiful place I call home. To Evangeline “Vangie” Romero, Elma Vigil and Sonya Romero, thank you for your love, friendship and guidance throughout the year.

Last but not least, thank you to my beloved community of Taos: You are the reason I am proud to be called a Taoseña.

To the 2010 Royal Court, best wishes towards a wonderful and memorable year. I know you will represent our beautiful community of Taos and learn more about our culture and tradition as you travel throughout Northern New Mexico. God bless all of you!

“Que Vivan Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana”

Sincerely,  
Angelica Lydia Salazar  
2009 Reina de Las Fiestas de Taos



Maria Jo (M.J.) Cordova and Tiana Martinez

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# Welcome to the 2010 Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana

## Bienvenidos a nuestra gran comunidad de Taos,

**I**t is of great honor to be representing the Taos community as La Reina de Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana por el año dos mil diez. Living in Taos my whole life, I have come to cherish and appreciate the traditions we carry out as Taoseños. Throughout this journey, I hope to become enculturated more in depth with my religion, traditions and culture.



TINA LARKIN

2010 Reina Desiree Briana Apodaca

The multi-cultures throughout our community are what make Taos so unique, and I could not be happier to be representing such a beautiful and sacred place.

Las Fiestas de Taos means a tremendous amount to me, and as La Reina, I am willing to take on the roles and responsibilities needed to fulfill this honorable position. In doing so, I will give my full commitment to making our community proud.

I am ecstatic to be a positive role model to the youth of our community. I will strive to set the best example for our younger generation in all that I do, so they too can pursue their dreams and goals. I truly want to have a positive influence on our youth learning and carrying on our religion, culture and traditions of Taos, so this most rich celebration of Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana will never diminish.

Although I hold the title of La Reina, I feel that my princesses, Raylyn, Remedios, Jasmine and Robyn are all winners and we all hold the same level of importance within this royal court. Sharing this opportunity with these amazing young ladies is going to be a fun, exciting and memorable journey.

Throughout the course of the year, I hope to meet new people, embrace new experiences and create everlasting memories with my princesses. The year has just begun, and already it has been an experience of a lifetime. As members of the Fiestas court, I know we will represent la gente y la comunidad de Taos con mucho orgullo.

I would like to thank my parents, Raul and Carla Apodaca, as well as my younger brother, Raulie, with all my corazón, for everything they have done for me to help me achieve this dream.

I would also like to thank my grandparents, Abe and Louisa Cardenas and Roger and Dolores Apodaca, for their love, guidance and encouragement.

To my best friend, Valerie Ortega, thank you for your help, support and love that you have given me.

Also, a heartfelt thank you to Christopher, Ernie and Santana Lopez for your support and guidance in getting me this far.

To the rest of my family and friends, thank you all.

On behalf of the 2010 Fiestas Court, we would like to thank all our sponsors for your generous donations. I would also like to thank the Taos Fiesta Council for all their efforts they put forth to keep the annual tradition of Las Fiestas de Taos alive.

Also, a huge thank you to our sponsors, Evangeline "Vangie" Romero, Sonya Romero and Elma Vigil, for the hard work and dedication they put forth to guide and assist the princesses and myself. I look forward to working with you and nuestra comunidad de Taos throughout the year.

*Muchisimas Gracias a Todos y Dios Bendiga.*

Thank You All & God Bless.

¡QUE VIVAN LAS FIESTAS!

*Sincerely,*

Desiree Briana Apodaca

La Reina de Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana 2010

There was a time  
when Taos Pharmacy was on the  
plaza at the center of the fiesta. We are  
proud to still be an important part of the Taos  
community. We are blessed to live in Taos. We  
encourage everyone to remember that a fiesta is  
a party. We want everyone to join the party,  
be with friends old and new and share  
your good cheer.



Taos Pharmacy is a recognized leader in modern pharmacy services but we are most proud of our history of service to Taos and Taos County.

*Que Vivan Las Fiestas de Taos!*  
*Que Viva Taos!*



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## From the mayor's office

**A**s mayor of the town of Taos, I welcome you to join us during our annual Fiestas de Taos celebration.

Particularly today, as we all attempt to adjust to challenging economic times, places like Taos are of even greater value. Taos is a destination where travelers can refresh relationships and remember how to relax. It is a place where visitors are invited to explore ancient southwest architecture and Hispanic and Native American history, authentic artistic culture, wild outdoor beauty — and inner life surprises. All wrapped around world-class food, shopping, recreation, workshops, entertainment, and accommodations.

Taos is a place where all of us can revisit and honor those places that are sacred to us.

During 2010, Taos invites travelers to celebrate our “Return to Sacred Places” — particularly as part of Fiestas de Taos, a community celebration honoring the two patron saints of Taos, Santa Ana and Santiago. Traditionally, the Fiestas de Taos is a time when the local Taoseños are invited to put aside their labor for two days and enjoy the leisure of the cultural Fiesta celebration. This year's ceremonies themed “Returning to Sacred Places” or “Regresando a Lugares Sagrados” begin at the Taos Plaza on Friday, July 23 and run through Sunday, July 25. Attendees can expect a town celebration with great food, music and performances from some of Taos' most talented — and this guide is a great place to start in learning all that is offered. A historic parade, mariachi and traditional dances will be some of the highlights of the three-day event.

I encourage everyone to come celebrate with us, enjoy Taos and the Fiestas. To learn more about Taos and all its offerings, please visit [www.TaosSacredPlaces.com](http://www.TaosSacredPlaces.com) and [www.FiestasdeTaos.com](http://www.FiestasdeTaos.com).

*Que Vivan Las Fiestas!*

Mayor Darren M. Cordova  
Town of Taos



Taos Mayor Darren Córdoba

## From the Taos County Commission

**B**ienvenidos fellow Taoseños, friends and visitors!  
On behalf of the Taos County Board of Commissioners, elected officials and county staff, I would like to extend an invitation to join us for the 2010 Fiesta de Santiago y Santa Ana! The Fiestas, with deep roots in the historical traditions of Northern New Mexico, is a joyous community celebration honoring the two patron saints of Taos, Santiago and Santa Ana.

Each year, the Fiestas bring several generations of people to one place in time so that we're able to recognize and honor our family ties and friendships, old and new. This year's theme, Sacred Places, will draw from our rich tri-cultural heritage to honor the spirit of the community through gatherings, traditional foods rich in taste, colorful costumes and dance and the stirring sounds of New Mexican music. We welcome you to experience this community celebration first hand, and please remember that our freedom to celebrate the Fiestas is only possible because of the sacrifice of our American soldiers. Please keep these heroes in mind and pray for their safe return.

Many thanks also to the members of our Fiesta Council, who through their hard work, manage to keep our traditions vibrant and alive. Thank you to the residents of Taos County and our guests who, through their participation, always make our Fiestas memorable.

*¡Que Vivan Las Fiestas de Taos y  
La Reina y Princesas!*

Daniel R. Barrone, Chairman  
Taos County Board of Commissioners



Commissioner Daniel Barrone





*Que Vivan  
Las Fiestas  
de Taos!*



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# From the Intergovernmental Council

**W**elcome Taoseños and visitors on behalf of all the elected and appointed officials of the Intergovernmental Council (IGC) of the Enchanted Circle to Las Fiestas de Taos. Las Fiestas are a tradition that, through the last four centuries, has passed from generation to generation as a way to preserve Taos' rich cultures and honor our "sacred places."

This festivity is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and unity. We invite our visitors to tour and enjoy the many cultural and historic sites throughout the Enchanted Circle and receive the cariños of our citizens and communities.

Thank you from our 13 members: Taos County, Town of Red River, Town of Taos, Village of Angel Fire, Village of Eagle Nest, Village of Questa, Village of Taos Ski Valley, Picuris Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, Peñasco Independent School District, Questa Independent School District, Taos Municipal School District, and the University of New Mexico-Taos.

Our sincere thanks to the Taos Fiesta Council for its tireless efforts in maintaining this time-honored event.

¡Gracias! Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Hee-Ya-Ho!

¡Que vivan Las Fiestas de Taos!

Barbara L. Wiard, Chairperson  
Intergovernmental Council of the Enchanted Circle,  
Mayor Pro-Tem, Village of Taos Ski Valley



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Barb Wiard

## From Taos Pueblo

### Greetings,

**B**onjour, Hola, Caio, He Yo Ho and Hello. Welcome to Taos Fiestas and Taos Pueblo, one of the UNESCO's finest sites and the oldest living inhabited community in North America.

We wish you the best in your travels and hope that each and every one of you can visit our home here at the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain range of Taos Pueblo.

We invited you to visit us on June 24 for the feast of San Juan, when Corn Dances were held. We will also be celebrating the feast days of Santiago y Santa Ana on July 25 and 26 with Corn Dances, beginning around 2 p.m.

The 25th annual Taos Pueblo Powwow were July 9-11 at the Taos Pueblo Powwow Grounds. On Sept. 17 and 18, please return to Taos Pueblo and join us as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the return of our sacred Blue Lake. We will have a full-day event on Sept. 18 at our Pueblo. Two weeks later join us in our annual San Geronimo Feast Day, with foot races starting around 7:15 a.m. and other activities until 5 p.m.

We send our sincere wishes to all of you traveling here and to all of our Taos neighbors. We hope your visit is what you expected and more. Please contact us at (575) 758-1028, visit us at [www.taospueblo.com](http://www.taospueblo.com) or just stop by. Have a wonderful summer, be safe, have fun and see you soon.

James Lujan Sr., Governor  
David G. Gomez, War Chief



RICK ROMANCITO

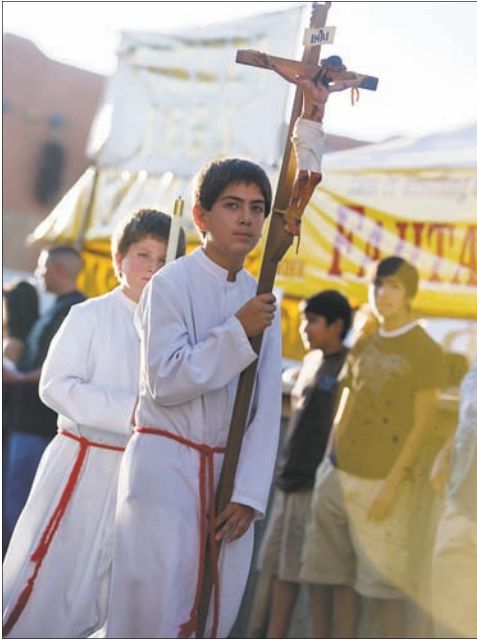
2010 Taos Pueblo Governor  
James Lujan Sr.



RICK ROMANCITO

2010 Taos Pueblo War Chief  
David G. Gomez

# Taos Fiesta Council 2010 Event Schedule



TINA LARKIN

This year's Historical Parade starts at 1 p.m. on Sunday (July 25).

During the 2009 Fiestas, Ronnie Archuleta waited in line to be the first to ride Tío Vivo, a beloved tradition of Fiestas that's set up inside the Plaza.



TINA LARKIN



GREG KRELLER

During a past Fiestas, Lloyd García of Mariachi Río Grande prepares for a procession.



TINA LARKIN

## FRIDAY (JULY 23)

- 1-2:30 p.m. Ballet Folklórico Arco Iris Fantastico
- 2:30-3:30 p.m. Alan y Amigos
- 3:30-4 p.m. Niños Bailadores
- 4-5 p.m. Catalina Río Fernández & Flamenco  
Nuevo México
- 5-6 p.m. Legacy of Santa Fe
- 5:30-6:30 p.m. FIESTA MASS - OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
- 6-7 p.m. *Sassfire*
- 7-9 p.m. OPENING CEREMONIES -TAOS PLAZA
- 9-10 p.m. Mariachi Encantadoras del Río Grande
- 10 p.m. PLAZA CLOSES

## SATURDAY (JULY 24)

- 8-9 a.m. Morning Prayer - *Ministerial Alliance*
- 9-10 a.m. *T.E.A.M. Choir*
- 10-10:30 a.m. CHILDREN'S PARADE
- 10:30-11 a.m. Mariachi Encantadoras del Río Grande
- 11 a.m.-Noon *Baile Español*
- Noon-1 p.m. *Daniel Córdova y Esperanza*
- 1-2 p.m. *Impresion*
- 2-3 p.m. *Lydia Rael - Baile Folklórico de Santa Fe*
- 3-4 p.m. *UNICO*
- 4-5 p.m. Antonio Reyna
- 5-6 p.m. *Ernestine Romero y Grupo Malsangre*
- 6-7 p.m. *Mystic Dance Team*
- 7-8 p.m. *Monica Yvette y Grupo Confianza*
- 8-9 p.m. *Danza Azteca Teonantli*
- 9-10 p.m. *Izcalli In Nanantzin (Danza Azteca)*
- 10 p.m. PLAZA CLOSES

## SUNDAY (JULY 25)

- 9-10 a.m. St. Francis Choir
- 10-11 a.m. *Mystic Dance Team*
- 11 a.m.-Noon *Al Leyba y Tierra Mala*
- Noon-1 p.m. *Baile Ilusion*
- 1 p.m. HISTORICAL PARADE
- 1-2 p.m. Severo Martínez
- 2-3 p.m. *UNICO*
- 3-3:15 p.m. SPECIAL COMMUNITY PRESENTATION
- 3:15-4:15 p.m. *Young Guns*
- 4:15-5:15 p.m. *The Bad Boys*
- 5:15-7 p.m. *Darren Córdova y Calor/Mariachi Calor*
- 7 p.m. CLOSING CEREMONIES

Italicized performers have donated their time, talent and performance to the community. The council thanks each of them for their generosity. Schedule is subject to change. Up to date information may be found at [www.fiestasdetaos.com](http://www.fiestasdetaos.com).



# Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana



## 2010 FIESTAS COURT

*Princesas Raylyn Santana Córdova, Remedios Refugio Medina,  
Reina Desiree Briana Apodaca,  
Princesas Jasmine Dee Marie Peralta and Robyn Jamie Valdez*



TINA LARKIN

## La Reina Desiree Briana Apodaca

**D**esiree Briana Apodaca will be the focus of attention as she is crowned La Reina at Las Fiestas de Taos Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on July 23.

As a girl, she looked up to those who served on the royal court. Now, Apodaca, a college student on the path towards a medical career and a volunteer extraordinaire, will be the one little girls want to emulate at this year's Taos Fiestas.

She says she is proud to have a central role at the festivities. "It's an important tradition of the Taos community," she said. "It's up to us, the new generation, to keep the traditions going."

Apodaca, 19, is a student at Central New Mexico Community College, where she is preparing for a career in medicine. She plans to become a radiological technician.

She graduated from Taos High School in 2009. There, she took advanced-placement classes and made honor roll. During her freshman year, she participated in Student Council

and Freshman Senate.

She participated in the All-Star Cheer Team "Taos Maximum Cheer" and was a captain on both the Taos Tiger Color Guard and Taos Tiger Orange Krush Dance Team.

Apodaca was also a member of the Taos Tiger Band and Mariachi El Tigre.

She enjoys singing, dancing and playing the violin. For the talent portion of the pageant, she sang stirring versions of two mariachi songs.

She is a devoted and passionate volunteer for the New Mexico Special Olympics, inspired by her brother, Raulie Jr. Last spring she joined the Taos team when it went to the state Olympics, helping out during several events including keeping time and stretching with the athletes.

Apodaca is the daughter of Carla and Raul Apodaca, of Ranchos de Taos. Her maternal grandparents are Louisa and Abe Cardenas. Her paternal grandparents are Dolores and Roger Apodaca.

—Staff report

### Desiree Apodaca's sponsors

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- Vigil's Iron Works





TINA LARKIN

## Princesa Raylyn Santana Córdova

**R**aylyn Santana Córdova says she entered the royal pageant so she would be a role model for those girls who might come from a broken home or have a troubled past.

She wants them to know they can overcome such difficulties in realizing their dreams.

Education is important to her, and she says she is inspired by her mom, a single mother who she calls a “beautiful, strong woman.”

“I wouldn’t know what I would do without her,” she says.

Córdova graduated in May from Taos High School, where she took advance-placement classes and participated in the Taos Tiger Orange Krush Dance Team.

She is enthusiastic about helping others, participating annually with family members in the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life.

Not surprisingly, she will be pursuing a

career in medicine when she attends Central New Mexico Community College this fall. Her goal is to become a registered nurse.

Her hobbies include creative writing and dancing. During the talent portion of the pageant, she performed a lyrical dance in memory of a dear classmate who died in a car accident this spring.

Córdova says she never misses attending Las Fiestas — it’s only fitting that at this year’s three-day event, she will play the important role of a princesa in the royal court.

Córdova is the daughter of Kathleen Branchal of Ranchos de Taos and Rudy Córdova of Taos. Her maternal grandparents are Reynaldo and the late Mercy Branchal. Her paternal grandparents are Clorinda and Fred Gonzales and the late Orlando Córdova.

—Staff report

### Raylyn Córdova’s sponsors

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**Re-elect**  
**Roberto “Bobby” J. Gonzales**  
**NM State Representative**  
**District #42 - Democrat**



**The Taos Fiestas are about our community's  
roots, heritage, traditions, culture  
and friendships.**

Thanks to all the individuals that work hard to continue  
this Taos tradition.

**Que Viva las Fiestas de Taos, la Reina and sus Princesas !  
Que viva la gente de Taos.**

**Enjoy the weekend and Be Safe**

Paid for by the committee to Reelect Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Marcos A Gonzales, Treasurer



## Princesa Remedios Refugio Medina

**R**emedios Refugio Medina says she was determined to be a part of the royal court for this year's Fiestas de Taos.

"I feel blessed to do it and an honor," Medina, 16, said. "I want to be part of something that makes Taos what it is."

Medina, who will be a 2011 Taos High School graduate, takes advanced-placement classes and has demonstrated leadership by participating in Student Council and Junior Senate. She was the student coordinator for the 2011 New Mexico Association of Student Councils' state conference.

In addition to her studies, Medina is a member of the Taos Tigers track-and-field and cross-country teams. She enjoys cooking and scrapbooking.

For the talent portion of the pageant she recited a poem she wrote.

Medina is the majordomo along with her parents for the capilla in San Cristóbal, assuming that position's responsibilities including getting the church ready for Mass held twice a month.

After graduation, she plans to attend the University of New Mexico before joining the U.S. Air Force to pursue a career in the military — she's determined to reach the highest rank possible. Medina would be the third generation of her family to serve in the military.

"Being a Taoseña is more than a name," she told the audience attending the pageant. "It is a blessing."

Medina is the daughter of Elizabeth and Roberto Medina of Arroyo Hondo. Her maternal grandparents are Vicky and Abenancio Córdova. Her paternal grandparents are Refugio and Ricardo Medina.

—Staff report

### Remedios Medina's sponsors

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- Vicky Cordova-  
Marquez
- Paul & Debbie Martinez
- Nickie Jo McCarty
- Theresa & Benny  
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- Remi Medina
- Ricardo & Emelinda  
Medina
- Mr. & Mrs. Ricardo  
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# Princesa Jasmine Dee Marie Peralta

**J**asmine Dee Marie Peralta admits that serving on the royal court was a childhood dream.

“I was one of those little girls who wanted to be La Reina or Princesa,” she said.

Of course, her mother, a past queen, also inspired her.

Peralta, 17, is a 2010 Taos High School graduate, where she was a member of the 2010 Class Senate, Student Council, Business Professionals of America and Don Fernando Yearbook Committee.

While at Taos High, she was a school leader, including student body vice-president, vice-president of the Sophomore Senate as well as president of the Junior Senate. She participated in Taos Tiger varsity cheerleading, varsity swimming and varsity softball.

She will attend the University of New

Mexico-Taos to pursue a career in the arts. Her goal is to be a professional photographer.

Peralta is active in the San Francisco de Asís Church Youth Group and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church community.

At the pageant, she told the audience about her devotion to her religion. “I hold my faith in my heart,” she said.

For the royal pageant, Peralta performed a dramatic scene from the pastoral play *Los Pastores*, in which she played the Archangel Michael, wielding a sword against the devil. She has participated in Christmas Pastores since she was young girl.

Peralta is the daughter of Dina and Joey Peralta of Taos. Her maternal grandparents are Virginia and Urban Romero Jr. Her paternal grandparents are Elizabeth and Alfred Peralta.

—Staff report

## Jasmine Dee Marie Peralta's sponsors

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TINA LARKIN

## Princesa Robyn Jamie Valdez

**R**obyn Jamie Valdez is proud that she has two heritages — Hispanic and Taos Pueblo — and that she participates in the traditions of both. “I cherish both cultures with all my heart,” she said during her introductory speech at the royal pageant.

She says she goes every year to Fiestas de Taos, spending all three days at the Plaza taking in the activity. As a princesa of the royal court, she will play an important role in this year’s celebrations.

Valdez, 17, who will be a 2011 Taos High School graduate, has aspirations to attend the Universities of New Mexico and Southern California to pursue a career in fashion and design. Her ultimate goal is to work as an editor for a fashion magazine.

It was during her freshman and sophomore

years at Taos High that she developed an avid interest in the arts. The jazz dance class offered at the school is a favorite.

For the pageant’s talent portion, she sang “Soy de Norte.”

Valdez is an active member of the Taos Pueblo Summer Youth Program, in which she and other young people are involved in projects promoting environmental protection and preservation.

“I am proud to be from Taos,” she said. “Taos is a very special town.”

Valdez is the daughter of Julie Romero of Taos and Anthony Valdez of Santa Fe. Her maternal grandparents are Reyes Romero and Anthony Archuleta. Her paternal grandparents are Lucy and Bobby Vigil.

—Staff report

### Robyn Jamie Valdez’ sponsors

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## A REGAL HISTORY

# A look back at Las Reinas of years gone by

*Names are listed with queens' maiden names*

**2009**

Angelica Lydia Salazar

**2008**

Amogene Olaya Martinez

**2007**

Ana Alicia Romero

**2006**

Micayla Corral-Jeantete

**2005**

Maria Elena Martínez

**2005**

Elena Villafranca

**2004**

Stephanie Romero

**2003**

Jessica Quintana

**2002**

Contessa Trujillo

**2001**

Sonya Francesca Romero

**2000**

Crystal Martínez

**1999**

Maya Martínez

**1998**

Samantha Gallegos

**1997**

Monica Tafoya

**1996**

Crucita Roberta Medina

**1995**

Roxanne Anderson Pérez

**1995**

Evelyn Trujillo



FILE PHOTO

1989 Reina Albertina Espinoza hugs 1990 Reina Gina Varos shortly after Varos was named the new queen.

**1994**

Karina Gallegos

**1993**

Santana Tafoya

**1992**

Leandra Medina

**1991**

Katrina Lucero

**1990**

Gina Varos

**1989**

Albertina Espinoza

**1988**

Denise Jeantete

**1987**

Fatima Suazo

**1986**

Stephanie Córdova

**1985**

Erlinda Sanchez

**1984**

Wenda Martínez

**1983**

Judy Suazo

**1982**

Carmen Vigil

**1981**

Lorraine Romero

**1980**

Darlene Vigil

**1979**

Natalie Padilla

**1978**

Diana Valerio

**1977**

Grace Coca

**1976**

Gina Ortíz

**1975**

Veronica Romo

**1974**

Bernice Sandoval

**QUEENS** *continues on page 24*





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**QUEENS** *continued from page 22*

**1973**

Carman Ledoux

**1972**

Christine Mondragón

**1971**

Stella Lucero

**1970**

Carla Martínez

**1968**

Yvonne Santistivan

**1967**

Carman Mares

**1966**

Teodora Vigil

**1965**

Lupe Valerio

**1964**

Sylvia Struck

**1963**

Frances Cohn

**1962**

Gleecy Martínez

**1961**

Maida Mares

**1960**

Rosalie Otero

**1959**

Elizabeth Naomi Varos

**1958**

Diana Rael

**1957**

Martha Martínez

**1956**

Manuelita Mondragón

**1954**

Stella Martínez

**1953**

Lucille Trujillo

**1952**

Cecilia Martínez y Salazar  
Torres

**1949**

Lucille Ortiz

**1948**

Porferia Valerio

**1936**

Alice Martínez

**1927**

Marcia Anaya

— *compiled by the Taos Fiesta  
Council*

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2009



TINA LARKIN

During the 2009 Fiestas, 2008 Reina Amogene Olaya Fatima Martínez welcomes the 2009 Reina, Angelica Lydia Salazar.

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# She's got the look

Pageant  
Coordinator  
and Royal  
Committee  
Vice-Chair  
Sonya Romero  
gives the story  
behind Fiestas  
fashions



Sonya Romero, 2001 Fiestas Reina

## How are the Royal Court dresses chosen?

The Taos Fiesta attire for the Royal Courts has always resembled the traditional and elegant apparel worn for celebrations throughout the history of Taos. The attire consists of a ribbon and/or laced peasant blouse and is paired off with a traditional hand-pleated cotton or velveteen broomstick skirt. In addition to their apparel, the Royal Court wears classic black pumps or black suede moccasins accented with sterling-silver conchas. Each of the young ladies adorns her attire with family heirlooms of traditional Southwestern sterling silver jewelry and belts with turquoise, coral, jade, onyx or opal stones to match. To complete their look, Las Princesas wear a time-honored hair comb brought from Spain called a peineta, draped in white Spanish lace called a mantilla. La Reina wears a sterling-silver crown with blue turquoise stones embedded in the center and engraved with the names of the patron saints of the Taos Fiestas, Santiago and Santa Ana, made by Meliton Trujillo in 1980.

## What kinds of things are considered when picking out the fabric colors?

Fabric colors are chosen to complement the Royal Court, to accent the shade of their skin, the blush of their cheeks and the color of their eyes. Furthermore, the dresses are worn during celebrations and are usually lively, bright and of rich colors, designed to stand out.

## Who supplies the dresses?

The Taos Fiesta Council supplies two handmade dresses made by a dear friend of mine and a great supporter of the Taos Fiestas, Linda Medina, a lifelong Taoseña currently residing in Río Rancho. The first attire provided to the court is worn for the Royal Pageant as their first unity outfit, in which all the young ladies wear the same dress. The second attire is the official Fiestas outfit with one full white dress for La Reina and matching dresses for Las Princesas. Any additional fiesta apparel has been purchased by the court from local boutiques or from Mrs. Medina.

## How long does the court get to keep the dresses?

The dresses worn by the court are made specifically for each member of the Royal Court and are theirs to keep.

## Where else do they wear them?

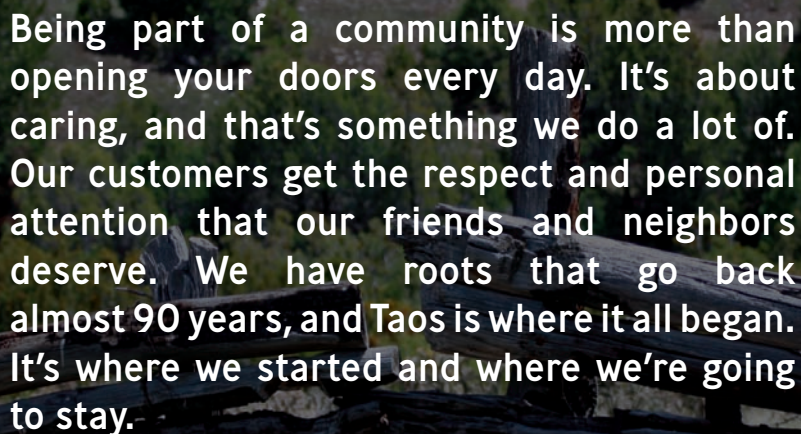
In addition to the Taos Fiesta weekend, the young ladies wear their traditional fiesta attire to the masses and parades of the Santa Fe Fiestas, Las Vegas Fiestas, Española Fiestas, the State Fair parade, the Taos Pueblo annual Powwow, Taos Rodeo, the Taos Chamber of Commerce, and many local, neighboring and religious events.

## Have you had a favorite among the dresses over the years?

I have helped design many fiesta dresses and I cannot favor one over another. They were all beautiful and I am honored every year to see the joy that it brings to each court.

—Staff report






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SANTIAGO



SANTA ANA

## Storied past, hallowed traditions, Taos-brand jubilee

**T**he July air makes its presence known — an unseen character in Taos' summer drama. But another invisible player tends to take up more space than the heat this time of the year. For with July, a reverie rolls in. It's the anticipation and the excitement, the memories and the promises of Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana.

It's recorded that Las Fiestas celebrations in the area began as early as the 1600s, according to documents from the Taos Historical Society, when Spanish colonists arrived in the region. They set out to claim land granted to them by the king of Spain.

So eventually these settlers began to honor the days of two patron saints, St. James (Santiago, July 25) and St. Anne (Santa Ana, July 26). St. James stands as the patron of Spain and caballeros, or horsemen, while St. Anne protects children, girls and grandmothers.

The Historical Parade and Children's Parade of today developed from the processions started back in those early days of the settlers.

Fiestas have always been a time of commemorating the sacred past and its traditions while feasting with family and friends. And indeed, in a publication the Taos Historical Society printed in 1953, an anonymous visitor recounts his first



TINA LARKIN

Taos kids — dressed to the nines — will hit the street at 10 a.m. on Saturday (July 24) for this year's Children's Parade.

memories of Taos and its Fiestas:

"Darkness was coming on and flares were being lit in all the little booths and tents ...

Long hitching racks ringed the outer edge of the plaza proper, and ponies and wagons crowded one another solidly.

Little lost Indian colts, whinnying shrilly for their dams, poked

their noses into tents in frantic search.

The high blaring tunes of a carosel and the voices of barkers added to the strangeness and excitement of this little unspoiled mountain village.

Nothing was organized — Everything was casual and utterly, unexpectedly delightful.

The plaza was thronged with jostling, happy, excited people, with children and dogs underfoot. It was all very gay and spontaneous and foreign and warm — an elixir to the spirit after the deadly uniformity of Southern California with its dreary little towns of sameness. I even remember some of the artists brandishing balloons, and dressed in gay costumes — not 'creations,' mind you — but just fun ...

This, then my first ... enjoyment of fiesta in the village of Taos ...

Have the diversions, distractions and merry escapades changed much over the many decades since?

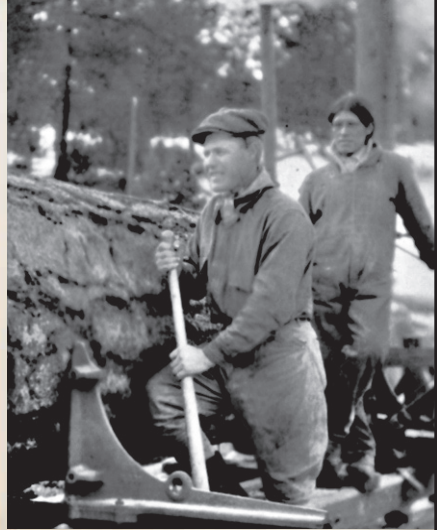
Come discover for yourself.

—Paige Gray





*Elisha & Charles Randall, 1939*



*Elisha Randall in Miranda Canyon  
1924*



*Charles Howard Randall,  
1916*

*Taos Fiestas, Taos High School Band, 1950*



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**Front row:** Angelica Miera, Kathleen Branchal, Celsa Gallegos-Vigil (Secretary), Donna Martínez, Anita Bringas, Christina Montez, Kathy Coca (Vice President), Sonya Romero. **Back row:** Daniel Miera, Edward 'Bardo' Coca (President), Don Francisco Trujillo II (Treasurer), Ronald Montez, Joseph Quintana, Patrick Vigil. **Not pictured:** Jose Coca, Georgianna Luceroles, Manuel Medina, Evangeline 'Vangie' Romero, Theresa Trujillo, Elma Vigil. **Auxiliary Members:** Andy Fambro, Cheryl Lucero-Lee, Charlotte Perez-Fambro, Reuben Martinez, Theresa Martinez, LeAndra Medina-Gordon and Elizabeth 'Liz' Peralta.

## The team carrying on the tradition

**T**he Fiestas de Taos was recently voted Best Annual Event in Taos County in *The Taos News* publication *Best of Taos*. The three-day celebration, which honors the patron saints Santa Ana and Santiago, brings the Historic Taos Plaza alive with activity. The weekend's events are made possible due to a very dedicated and hard-working group of volunteers with the mission of preserving this centuries-old tradition: The Fiesta Council.

Members of the council are charged with planning, organizing and implementing not only the weekend's events and activities, but a series of things leading up to it. Just as the last paper flower was being removed from the float last year, preparations for this year's Fiestas began.

Committees work throughout the year planning every detail of the Fiestas. It takes a special type of person to be part of the Fiesta Council. Current President Edward "Bardo" Coca feels fortunate to be part of such a committed group

A behind-the-scenes peek at the Fiesta Council

and is very thankful for the council's continued support and dedication. Currently there are 20 council members serving on one or more committees that include: Events, Royalty, Parade, Entertainment, Vendors and Finance.

The Events Committee organizes Noche Encantada, a dinner for visiting courts and councils and local community leaders, and Noche de Recuerdos celebrates the outgoing Royal Court and their families for their dedication and participation the previous year. There is a committee in charge of the Royal Court, including the pageant, scheduling and coordinating and chaperoning the Reina and Princesas throughout the year.

Then there's also the scheduling and planning of the entertainment for the weekend — no small task with more than 25 bands and dance troops that perform live on the gazebo over the course of the weekend.

**COUNCIL** continues on page 34

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Seeing the joy this brought those residents, and seeing the smiles on the faces in the crowds gathered at Las Fiestas, is what makes all of the hard work worthwhile.

**COUNCIL** *continued from page 32*

The parades remain a special highlight of Taos Fiestas. The committee in charge of the Historic Parade and Children's Parade receives help from the Kiwanis Club in registering floats, mapping out the route and coordinating the judges.

Vendor booth registration fees and sponsorships provide the funds to make this all possible. The treasurer is charged with keeping all this plus the council's nonprofit status in line and up to date.

Additionally, there are several community service projects and events the council and Royal Court participate in during the year as a way to be involved in the community. This past Christmas the Royal Court, with the help of some local elementary school children, filled stockings with handmade cards and bischochitos and took them to the residents of the Taos Living Center and Plaza de Retiro. A mariachi played Christmas music as the court sang carols and passed out the gifts to residents.

Seeing the joy this brought those residents, and seeing the smiles on the faces in the crowds gathered at Las Fiestas, is what makes all of the hard work worthwhile.

On behalf of the 2010 Fiesta Council, we invite and encourage you and your family to join us at this year's events and activities. See page 13 for the full Fiestas schedule or visit [www.fiestasdetaos.com](http://www.fiestasdetaos.com). If you have any questions about Fiestas or the council, please contact Edward "Bardo" Coca at [bardo\\_coca@yahoo.com](mailto:bardo_coca@yahoo.com).

—Anita Bringas,  
member of the Taos Fiesta Council

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# ¡Sabor!

**T**hese popular recipes come from the late food columnist of *The Taos News*, Fayne Lutz. Throughout her years contributing to the newspaper, she informed many readers on how to prepare delicious regional dishes.

## Jalapeño Potato Salad

- 4 medium russet potatoes, peeled and diced
- 1 can (10¼ ounces) chicken or beef broth
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 ribs celery, diced
- 1 large white onion, diced
- 2 whole jalapeños, canned, seeded and diced (not pickled)
- 1 jar (2 ounces) diced pimiento
- 4 hard-boiled eggs, peeled and sliced
- Salt to taste
- ⅔ cup mayonnaise (or Miracle Whip)

Cook potatoes in chicken broth and garlic until tender. Drain well and discard garlic. Place cooked potatoes in large bowl. Add diced celery, onion, jalapeños and hard-boiled egg slices. Salt to taste, then add mayonnaise. Mix lightly until potatoes are coated with mayonnaise. Chill. Makes 4-5 servings.

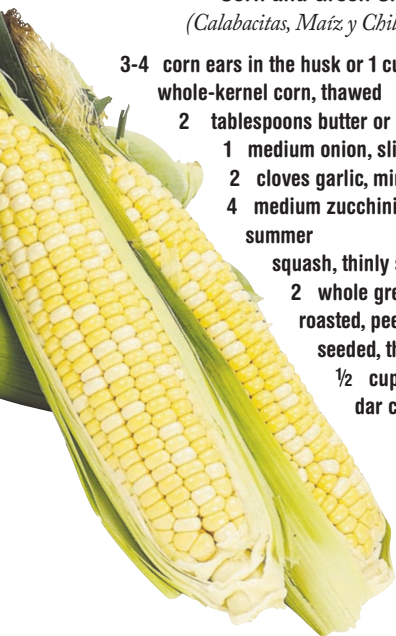
Potatoes are native to South America and were imported back to Mexico from Spain.

## New Mexico-Style Squash, Corn and Green Chile

(*Calabacitas, Maíz y Chile Verde*)

- 3-4 corn ears in the husk or 1 cup frozen whole-kernel corn, thawed
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 1 medium onion, sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 medium zucchini or other fresh summer squash, thinly sliced
- 2 whole green chiles, roasted, peeled and seeded, then sliced
- ½ cup grated cheddar cheese

Using a sharp knife, cut kernels from corn ears to make at least 1 cup.



Heat butter or margarine in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onions and garlic. Cook until softened, but not brown. Add squash. Cook and stir until squash is softened. Add corn and cook and stir another few minutes, stirring often. Add green chile. Salt to taste. Add cheese and heat until cheese begins to melt, then serve at once. Makes 4 servings.

*All of these ingredients are native plants. The dish is Native American in origin.*

## Tortilla Cinnamon Sugar Crisps

*These tortilla crisps are a delight. Use your own homemade tortillas or the whole-wheat kind. One package large flour tortillas will make about four dozen crisps.*

- 6 tablespoons sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons light corn syrup
- 6 7-inch flour tortillas

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Combine sugar and cinnamon. Brush one side of each tortilla with light corn syrup, then sprinkle generously with sugar-cinnamon mix. Cut each tortilla into wedges. Place each on a baking sheet. Bake for 10 minutes or until golden and crisp.



## Chile Colorado con Carne

- 2 ½-3 pounds coarsely ground pork or shredded beef
- 3 or 4 tablespoons flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 or 5 cups water or beef stock
- ½ cup ground red chile (Hatch, Dixon, or Chimayo)
- 1 or 2 cloves garlic, minced

In a large skillet, gently cook meat; don't brown. When meat is cooked, add flour to accumulated fat in pan and cook and stir flour two or three minutes. Add garlic and salt. Stir, then add chile to meat-flour mix and cook and stir to coat meat with chile. Gradually add water or meat stock to chile-meat mix. Cook over medium heat until thickened and bubbly. Cook a minute or two, taste, add more salt if necessary. Thin as desired. Makes about two quarts. Serve with cooked pinto beans or as an enchilada sauce.

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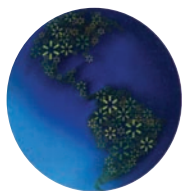
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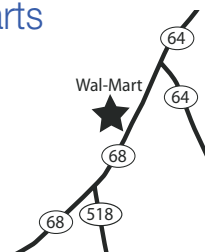
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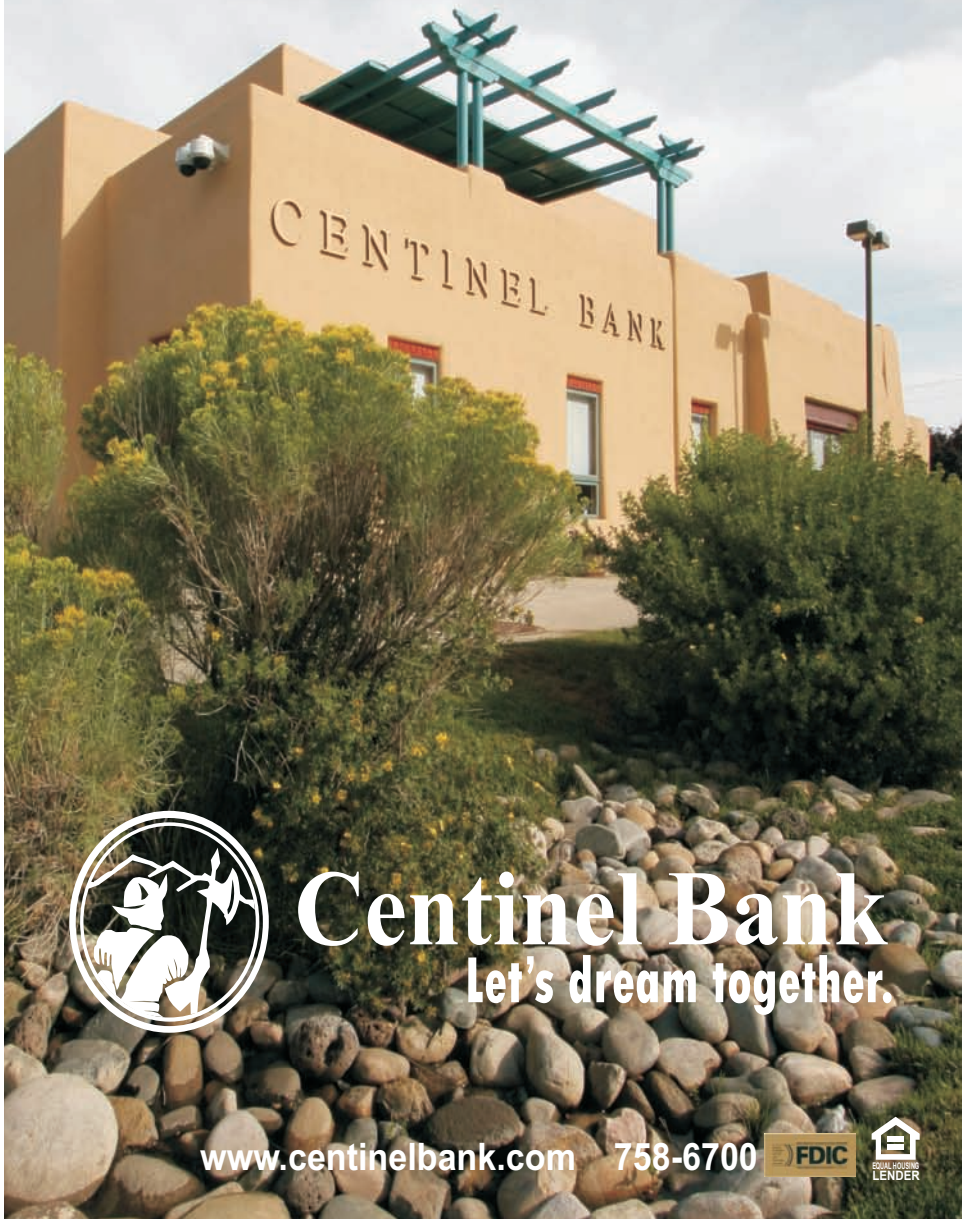
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