

# LAS FIESTAS DE SANTIAGO Y SANTA ANA

July 18-20, 2008





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The Royal Court  
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Megan Avina

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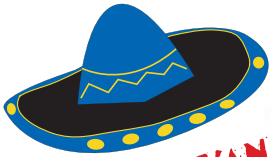
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## Welcome to the 2008 Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana

*Bienvenidos a Taos,*

*Gracias a todos por la oportunidad a servir como La Reina De Las Fiestas De Santiago y Santa Ana por el año del dos mil ocho.* I feel honored to display this title because it is a representation of Taos, a place of many wonderful traditions, cultures and religions. It is important for all our traditions to be continued and I am very proud to do this along with my court.

The youth is also very important in our community; they are the future of Taos. They need examples to follow and teachers to learn from. All too many times I see the youth heading in the wrong direction and the people they listen to the most are the young adults. I am very involved with the youth and I cannot wait to work more with the youth as La Reina.

I am truly looking forward to this year with my princesses. Tanya, Sue, Kaitlyn, and I are all friends



Megan Avina

They have done a wonderful job bringing us up. I also want to thank the Taos Fiesta Council, our sponsors, Evangeline 'Vangie' Romero, Elma Vigil and Sonya Romero for their guidance.

*Gracias y ¡Que vivan Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana! Sincerely,*

Amogene Olaya Fátima Martínez  
*La Reina de las Fiestas de Taos 2008*

---

## 2007 Fiestas Queen farewell

*Bienvenidos a Taos,*

This past year, being La Reina de Taos 2007, has been one of the most incredible and unbelievable experiences of my life. When the year first began I had no idea how much of an impact this would have on me, but as La Reina I have come to truly appreciate my culture, religion and the magnificence of Taos. With all of the different ethnicities and traditions we Taoseños have, I would not have been more proud to represent any other town, nor would I have wanted to. I have met so many people, attended multiple fiestas and events throughout Northern New Mexico, been a role model for the youth of the community, and connected with my religion and traditions.

On behalf of my court I would like to express my gratitude to the many people that helped make this year so memorable. I first want to thank my parents Bob and Alice Romero, my brother and sister, and the parents of my court who were always helpful and supportive of us; our caballeros, who were there with us at many of our events; the



Megan Avina

Taos Fiesta Council for making everything possible and successful; the Fiesta Royal Court sponsors Evangeline Romero, Elma Vigil, and Sonya Romero for dedicating so much of their time and effort always being there with us; and of course my Princesses Leah Abeyta, Felicity Gallegos, Samantha Lucero, and Alysia Martínez who have become like another family to me. They have been so encouraging, fun, dedicated, and was the best court anyone could ask for.

I would finally like to wish the best of luck to the upcoming 2008 Fiesta Court. I know they will have an unforgettable journey and experience, and will enjoy our great community by being a part of such a wonderful tradition and representing the many cultures and traditions that make up the splendor of this town.

*Que Dios los bendiga y gracias por la oportunidad.  
¡Que vivan Las Fiestas De Santiago Y Santa Ana!*

Sincerely,  
Ana-Alicia Romero  
*La Reina de las Fiestas de Taos 2007*

# *Que Vivan Las Fiestas de Taos!*



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# ¡BIENVENIDOS!

Fellow Taoseños and visitors:

On behalf of the Taos Fiesta Council, welcome to our annual celebration, Las Fiestas de Taos. 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.

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.

The theme for 2008 is: "Reflecting on the Past" / "Recordando el Pasado." My Great Aunt Doña Carolina Santistevan Rael de Domínguez



(a first cousin to my maternal grandmother Doña María Gregorita 'Grace' Santistevan de Romo) celebrated her 99th birthday in June of this year and my Great Aunt (my grandmother's sister) Doña María Elojia Santistevan de Kloster celebrated her 93rd birthday in April. They are two living legends and a true testament to our past.

We invite our visitors to tour and visit the many cultural and historic sites throughout Taos and receive with open arms, the cariño of our community.

*¡Dios les bendiga! ¡Que vivan Las Fiestas!*

*Cariñosamente,*

Don Francisco Trujillo II  
President  
Taos Fiesta Council, Inc.

## Welcome!



Rick Romancito

**2008 Taos Pueblo Governor Paul T. Martinez**

From the Pueblo of Taos

The Taos Pueblo Governor and War Chief wish to join the neighboring communities of Taos to welcome visitors and friends to the annual Fiestas on July 25 and 26. This celebration is in honor of the patron saints, Santiago and Santa Ana.

It is an opportunity to celebrate the richness and beauty of the cultural diversity that Taos is well known for and also to bring friends, relatives and visitors together to enjoy the blessings of the patron saints.

It is the hope of Taos Pueblo that the cultural



Rick Romancito

**2008 Taos Pueblo War Chief Luis Romero**

traditions are continued in honor and respect of the surrounding communities and patron saints.

May we be blessed with peace and happiness during the Feast of Santiago and Santa Ana.



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## Fiestas welcome from the mayor's office

*¡Bienvenidos!*

On behalf of the Town Council and the town of Taos staff, my wife and I would like to welcome everyone to the 2008 Fiesta de Santiago y Santa Ana.

The Taos Fiesta Council has dedicated many working hours throughout the year to make this celebration special for all of us.

Congratulations to our Fiesta Queen and her court. Thank you for your representation of the town of Taos.

This annual celebration is a time for us to visit with old friends, make new ones and enjoy our beautiful plaza. All Taoseños and visitors have an



opportunity to enjoy the sights and sounds of Fiesta on our historic Taos Plaza.

Taos has so much to offer! Please take the time to enjoy the natural beauty of the area and the friendliness of the people. The Fiestas de Taos is a special time for all of us.

Have a great time, keep safe and please visit us often! Enjoy!

Please don't drink and drive during this celebration, have a safe Fiesta weekend.

*¡Que vivan Las Fiestas de Taos!*

Bobby F. Durán  
Mayor of Taos

---

## Fiestas welcome from Taos County Commission

On behalf of the Taos County Board of Commissioners, elected officials and county staff, I would like to extend an invitation to visitors and friends to join us in our 2008 annual fiesta celebration!

This is a joyous time that brings our community together; it's a celebration of life and the unity of our diverse tri-cultural community. The Taos Fiestas draw the elderly and the young to one place in time to strengthen our families and to make new, lasting friendships. Enjoy the sounds in the music of New Mexico and sights of the colorful clothing that is worn by many. Experience culture through performances, and taste the foods that are offered throughout this celebration.

It is with this annual feast celebration that we commemorate our New Mexican and Taoseño traditions by keeping history very much alive. It's



important to remember that our freedom to celebrate our fiestas is only possible because of the sacrifices by our American heroes. Please keep them in your constant prayers for their safe return!

Thank you to our fantastic Fiesta Council who worked hard to sponsor such a wonderful and time honored event. Thank you to the residents of Taos County and our guests who through their participation always make our fiestas memorable. From the bottom of my heart, I extend to everyone our hospitality.

God's Blessings! *¡Que vivan Las Fiestas de Taos!*

Charlie I. Gonzales  
Chairman  
Taos County Board of Commissioners





## Welcome from the Intergovernmental Council

Welcome Taoseños and visitors on behalf of all the elected and appointed officials and staff of the Intergovernmental Council 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 the rich cultures that have developed in Taos. 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 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! ¡Bievenidos! 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



Rick Romancito

After the parade last year, children hopped aboard Tío Vivo.



## Schedule

# Taos Fiesta Council 2008 Plaza Entertainment Schedule

### FRIDAY (JULY 18)

1 - 2 p.m.	Catalina Río Fernandez y Flamenco Nuevo México
2 - 2:30 p.m.	(To be announced)
2:30- 3 p.m.	Los Niños Bailadores
3 - 4 p.m.	J. Pedro Quezada
4 - 5 p.m.	Legacy of Santa Fé
5 - 6 p.m.	Amanda Quintana, Spanish vocalist and guitar
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Fiesta Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
6 - 7 p.m.	Miguel Timoteo y Suavidad
7 - 9 p.m.	Opening Ceremonies on Taos Plaza
9 - 10 p.m.	Mariachi Paisano Del Valle
10 p.m.	Plaza closes

### SATURDAY (JULY 19)

9 -10 a.m.	T.E.A.M. Choir
10 -10:30 a.m.	Children's Parade
10:30 -11 a.m.	Mariachi Nuevo México y Angel Espinoza
11 a.m. - noon	Baile Español
noon -1 p.m.	Jenna Martínez
1 - 2 p.m.	Baile Ilusion Dance Company
2 - 3 p.m.	Mariachi Nuevo México y Angel Espinoza
3 -4 p.m.	Maravilla Ballet Folklorico
4 -5 p.m.	UNICO
5 - 6 p.m.	Baile Folklorico de Santa Fé
6 -7 p.m.	Daniel Cordova y Esperanza
7- 8 p.m.	Sassfire
8- 9 p.m.	Izcalli In Nanantzin (Danza Azteca)
9 -10 p.m.	Dickie Córdoba y La Pleve
10 p.m.	Plaza closes

### SUNDAY (JULY 20)

9-10 a.m.	St. Francis Choir
10-11 a.m.	Trio Los Gallos
11 a.m.-noon	Ballet Folklorico Arco Iris Fantastico
noon -1 p.m.	Sentimiento
1 p.m.	Historical parade
1 - 2 p.m.	Los Zapateados
2 - 3 p.m.	Mariachi León
"Dedicated to Jenny Vincent, a Living Legend"	
3 -3: 30 p.m.	Special Community Presentation
3: 30 4:30 p.m.	Young Guns
4:30 -5:30 p.m.	Bad Boys
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Darren Córdoba y Calor
6:30 -7 p.m.	Mariachi Calor
7 p.m.	Closing Ceremonies



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Fine memories of a trio of fiesta queens: Left, 1981 Taos Pueblo fiesta queen Barbara Lujan crowns 1982 pueblo fiesta queen Evelyn Martínez, who gets congrats from Taos Fiesta queen Kathy Fernandez.

The Taos Fiesta Council, Inc., is seeking individual or group photographs of past Royal Courts and antique Taos Fiesta pictures, etc. You may e-mail them to Edward Coca at [bardo\\_coca@hotmail.com](mailto:bardo_coca@hotmail.com) or contact (575) 758-3733 to hand-deliver. Mailing address: Taos Fiesta Council, Inc., P.O. Box 3300, Taos, NM 87571.

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The 2007 Royal Court promenades through the plaza during Las Fiestas.

# Taos Royalty

By Virginia L. Clark and Sonya F. Romero

**T**he crowning of the Taos Fiesta queen is the last preliminary business required before the Fiestas of Taos celebrations can officially begin. The Fiesta pageant is historically a tough night for pageant judges, and this year was no different.

“It was impossible,” pageant judge and Taos County Chamber of Commerce director Steve Fuhlendorf sighed, remembering the futility of it all. “The judges vote independently, not collaboratively. All the choices were very, very close, and it could have gone either way. All of the contestants were just wonderful and I was tremendously impressed by their poise and attention to tradition.”

## EMBODIMENTS OF GRACE

To be chosen La Reina, or queen, remains not only an honor, but carries a responsibility, said Jerry A. Padilla, El Crepúsculo editor, *The Taos News*.

“The young woman should be in good moral standing, respected by her peers for her intelligence, poise, generosity and knowledge of traditions. She must be respectful of the elderly and known for her willingness to bring honor to her community by the example of her lifestyle.”

Physical beauty, while nice, is not a

prerequisite, Padilla noted. “The one chosen as La Reina must live up to the title by being a well-rounded person with lots of inner beauty.”

A young woman’s proficiency in spoken Spanish is still an important point and sometimes makes the difference in who gets selected. By the way, the caballeros, or young men accompanying her and her princesses are expected to meet a male version of the same criteria.

## 2008 ROYAL COURT

This tall order was once again successfully met in all contestants for La Reina, of whom the judges ultimately selected Amogene Olaya Martínez. The four outstanding young women of the 2008 Royal Court will gather at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on Camino De La Placita Friday (July 18) for the 5:30 p.m. Fiesta mass and coronation of La Reina. The Royal Court then proceeds to Taos Plaza.

The Fiesta Council no longer waits to announce who will be queen at a Baile del Anuncio (Announcement Ball), but that doesn’t mean it is any less dramatic waiting to find out who the judges picked at the end of the Fiesta pageant, held this year on June 15.

If you missed the pageant, peruse the profiles here to get an idea of the caliber of these young women who presented such a hard choice to single out one over the others as La Reina, when all were such excellent candidates.

### IF YOU GO

**Friday (July 18)**

**5:30 p.m.** Fiesta Mass and La Reina coronation Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, West of Taos Plaza on Camino De La Placita

**7:30 p.m.** Official Fiesta opening-Taos Plaza

**Saturday (July 19)**

**10 a.m.** Children’s Parade, Enos García school to Taos Plaza

**Sunday (July 20)**

**1 p.m.** Historical Parade, Paseo Del Pueblo Sur



Megan Avina

**A**mogene Olaya Martínez, 18, admired the fiesta queens and princesses every year since she was a child, so she was delighted to have the opportunity to be a part of the Royal Court. That she is La Reina this year is just icing on the cake.

"It feels amazing," Martínez said. "Right now, my family and I don't have words to explain how amazing it is, it's an honor to do this for Taos."

Martínez, 18, is a 2008 graduate of Taos High School where she participated in Lady Tiger volleyball and track. She took advanced placement classes since her Junior year, getting a head start on college courses at the University of New Mexico where she plans to major in psychology.

"I'm really looking forward to that. I want to help the youth," she said, pointing to the fact that there are a lot of single parent families in Taos she feels would benefit from her expertise.

Martínez was chosen a 2006 student ambassador to New Zealand and Australia and the experience was eye-opening.

"I was so lucky to be chosen. I got to see the House of Parliament and hold a koala bear," she said. During the more than three weeks she spent

a night with the Maori people of New Zealand and sampled local fare, including crocodile meatballs.

A member of St. Michael's Youth Group and an altar server of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Martínez just got both her brothers to become altar servers.

She loves to read, plays hacky-sack and trains in Taekwondo where she holds a second-degree black belt, the substance of her talent portion of the Fiesta Pageant held June 15.

The question put to her by the judges during the pageant's impromptu question session was what three things she valued most in her culture. She answered, "my family, the religion and the people. My family, they're always there for me, no matter what."

"While I'm still young I'm going to try to experience as much as I can, I want to exchange to Spain," but she plans to return, "I will come back to Taos and I will flourish here."

Daughter of Pamela and Francisco Martínez of Taos, her maternal grandparents are Rebecca and Wilfred Trujillo. Her paternal grandparents are the late Priscilla and the late Manuel Martínez.



Megan Avina

**T**anya Rebecca Claire Abeyta, 16, has wanted to be in the royal court since she was a little girl and the passion she has for the people and traditions of Taos rang through her voice in her pageant address that was both commanding and rousing.

"I'm so excited, it's a real honor. We're representing the whole town," Abeyta said about the court. "It's the most favorite cultural memory you can think of, everything about it — the food, the music, family."

Though the youngest of the court, Abeyta is accomplished in many areas. A 2009 Taos High School graduate, she is an Honor Roll student, has participated in Student Council and Junior Senate, is captain of the varsity cheerleaders and a violinist with Mariachi El Tigre, which she performed for her talent portion of the pageant.

"This is my first year in Mariachi El Tigre," she said, admitting that she had always been nervous to learn an instrument.

She praised Mariachi teacher Rachel León for helping her overcome her shyness to pursue

her musical dreams. "When (León) took back the Mariachi program she fought to keep it, make it bigger and keep it alive," Abeyta said about funding cuts that threaten many arts programs in municipal schools.

Reading, writing, dance and the violin are her primary joys, but she also enjoys the outdoors and spending time with the St. Michael's Youth Group of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

She plans to attend the University of New Mexico to pursue a career in medicine as a radiology technician. "The human body really interests me," she said.

The impromptu question judges put to her was how she would use the Fiesta to keep the culture alive. She replied that she wanted to get the youth involved in Fiesta and the St. Michael's Youth Group of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

Abeyta is daughter of Amelia Espinoza and Joseph Abeyta and stepfather Edward Coca of Los Córdovas. Maternal grandparents are Becky Espinoza and the late Orlando Espinoza. Paternal grandparents are Margie and Emilio Abeyta.





Megan Avina

Suzanne Samantha Archuleta, 18, is a 2008 Taos High School graduate, with widely spread roots in Taos. She and Martínez graduated together and Baca is her cousin.

For her talent portion of the pageant, Archuleta treated the audience to the tantalizing aroma of freshly cooked tortillas that she prepared on a hot plate set up in the auditorium. She introduced her great-grandmother, Eva Cortés, 94, to the audience and credited her with passing on the tortilla-making tradition when Archuleta was just a little tike.

Archuleta participated in the Lady Tiger track team for one year, as well as Lady Tiger volleyball, basketball and all-district softball in 2007 and 2008. She was a member of Student Council for three years, participated in freshman, sophomore and junior Senate and was involved in

Taos Feeds Taos.

The impromptu question she fielded was what lesson she learned throughout the whole competition. “Not to forget where I came from because Taos made me who I am today,” she answered.

She gave the community thanks for giving her the opportunity to run for the Fiesta queen.

Archuleta plans to attend Central New Mexico Community College and then continue her education at the University of New Mexico to pursue a career in medicine as a radiology technician.

She loves reading, writing, singing, cooking, driving, and playing softball. She also enjoys going to the mountains and being around her family.

Archuleta is the daughter of Marietta and Jim Fambro and Charlie Archuleta of Taos. Her maternal grandparents are the late Susan Santistevan and late David Santistevan. Her paternal grandparents are Frances and Felix Archuleta.



Megan Avina

**K**aitlyn Rene Maire Fátima Baca, 18, is a 2008 Taos High School graduate who said she cooked for three solid days before the Fiesta pageant, making 400 biscochitos for the judges and audience. She and Archuleta had no idea they were both doing cooking demonstrations for their talent segment until the day of the pageant.

The impromptu question judges asked of her was what she would tell other young women who want to run for Fiesta queen and why it was a good idea.

“It was a very good question,” Baca said. “I said it’s a good experience. It affects their lives because they get to meet lots of people. It really boosts confidence and lets other kids know it’s possible to do what you want to do. We had a lot of fun rehearsing together. I’ve seen the royal courts before and they have a lot of fun and they get really close.”

Currently the 2007-2008 Taos Rodeo Queen, Baca knows well the joys and responsibility of representing your hometown. She is a member of the Taos High School Rodeo team, she has participated in Student Council for the last three years and was also a member of the Lady Tiger Varsity Cheerleaders during her freshman, sophomore, and junior years.

She enjoys working and spending time with her family and friends and she is an active member of the 4H club.

Her plans are to attend Central New Mexico Community College in Española to pursue a career in cosmetology. She is pretty certain she will then return to Taos and open up her own shop.

Baca is the daughter of Kathy Baca and Rubén Baca of Taos. Her maternal grandparents are Sue and Bob Foster. Her paternal grandparents are Frances and Rubén Baca.

# iViva Las Fiestas!

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*“Physical beauty, while nice, is not a prerequisite.  
The one chosen as La Reina must  
live up to the title by being a well-rounded person  
with lots of inner beauty.”*

— JERRY A. PADILLA, EL CREPÚSCULO EDITOR, *THE TAOS NEWS*

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Megan Avina

Taos' value system is highly respectful of the elderly who bring honor to the community, garnered from the wisdom of their years.

# Traditions

By Jerry A. Padilla

**F**iestas, in the Hispanic sphere of influence, traditionally have been days set aside for honoring a saint or saints of the Catholic church.

Such observation normally is practiced with solemnity and celebration, and usually in that order.

The Spanish-speaking world, historically associated with the Catholic church, especially in rural and pastoral regions, came to include religious functions in its celebrations of living.

To an outsider who doesn't understand the religious significance of the proceedings, a fiesta may be seen as an extended outdoor party, with music, dancing, outdoor cooking and vending — an almost carnival atmosphere.

And while it is true that fiestas represent a time of celebration and reaffirmation of community, all too often in recent years fiestas have come to be seen by some as nothing more than unrestrained revelry and a local beauty pageant.

But not to the locals, who still understand and respect

the solemnity of the feast days.

## SPIRITUAL-PHYSICAL BALANCE

A fiesta, after all, is a celebration to honor the patron saint of a village, town, city or nation. It also can commemorate a saint particularly or historically favored by a large group of people.

Locals will tell you there is nothing wrong with observing the saint's day with exuberance in good food, entertainment and visiting among friends and relatives, but they will remind you that there is a certain method or procedure in Hispanic folkways to ensure a balance between the spiritual and physical world.

The observance of saints' days often takes on a personal significance, especially if one's given name is the same as the honored saint, or if one

were given the name due to being born on that particular day.

In old-time Taos, the biggest fiesta or feast day of the year was celebrated September 30, the day of the patron saint of Taos Pueblo, San Geronimo, or Saint Jerome.

In celebration, both Pueblo and



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The Lions Club Tío Vivo carousel is still the big draw for youngsters at Fiesta every year.

Traditions continues on page 24

**¡Que Vivan Las Fiestas de Taos!**



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**Traditions**  
continued  
from page 22

town residents took part in religious activities of the Catholic church at the chapel of San Geronimo de Taos at the Pueblo.

In the 1930s, when the town fathers decided to start a new fiesta to help boost the economy, the importance of choosing the saints' days must have weighed heavy on them.

### SAINTS OF HISPANICS AND THE VIRGIN

It was decided the fiesta would be celebrated in honor of Santiago and Santa Ana: The apostle James, patron saint of Spain and Hispanics, and Saint Anne, none other than Jesus' grandmother.

Surely the significance of such important personages did not escape those who chose to identify them with the town of Taos. Traditionally, the residents of a locale would gather at the church, or in an outlying area, at a chapel or capilla. A mass was celebrated to start the day and to invite God's blessing and participation. The attitude was that of asking a stern, loving Father to lend approval to activities of joy in honoring His saints in the reaffirmation of the community. These saints and others were regularly called upon to intercede in the daily proceedings of the living. Perhaps it could best be described as acts of faith and respect to begin a fiesta with religious doings first.

A formal procession was sure to follow: From the church, through the community and around to the cen-



Rick Romancito

**Future Taos Tigers entertain the crowd on the plaza.**

tral square or plaza. A queen and princesses chosen from among local young women would take their places of honor, holding court over the activities.

Once the religious observances are complete (note: These are not looked upon as a chore, but as

a welcome responsibility that helps ensure spiritual balance and strength for all), the festivities begin.

In the past, local musicians and dance troupes fine-tuned instruments and passages for public performances. Bards prepared to tease and cajole each other or visiting poets from other placitas. Families prepared foods in sufficient amounts to serve any and all visitors. Relatives and friends reunited and joined in with the cooking and merrymaking, all the while releasing the tensions of a workday life.

Family ties were renewed and new friendships cemented, as is still the case in many circles.

To top off the day's activities, a dance is held. More often than not the music is in Spanish, performed by more than one group taking turns.

A fiesta was and is a time of fun, family and neighborhood reunions and perhaps most importantly, a spiritual affirmation of human cooperation with a higher power.

The observance of and practicing of traditions helps keep a community strong. In celebrating this



Rick Romancito

**Fiesta Orange Crush Dancers made the most of their appearance during the Saturday (July 22) 2006 Children's Parade.**

year's fiestas, be you a native or a visitor, remember the solemnity and respect that is at the core of the meaning of what the celebration is about.

*¡Bienvenidos a Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana!*



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Navajo Germantown textile, *Eyedazzler*, 1895, courtesy of Millicent Rogers Museum, 1956-1-47.  
Photos: *San Geronimo Days at Taos Pueblo*, ca. 1876. *Taos Pueblo* (detail), courtesy of Taos Historic Museums.

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Courtesy "The Hispanic World"

**XVth century polychrome marble sculpture of Santiago de Compostela crushing a defeated Moor (image and text pages 168-169).**

## PATRON SAINTS

# St. James and St. Anne

By Virginia L. Clark

Saints are held in high regard by Taos locals for the saint's good works and blessings, which are believed to be especially powerful when invoked on the saint's feast day. Taos Fiestas are celebrations of the feast days of Taos patron saints, St. James, Santiago (July 25), and St. Anne, Santa Ana (July 26).

### TORTURED AND MARTYRED

According to various sources and "The Hispanic World" (J. H. Elliott et al, eds. London: Thames and Hudson, 1961), St. James the Apostle is none other than the patron saint of Spain itself, and his burial place, Compostela in Spain, is the third most holy site in Christianity after the Vatican and the Holy Land.

*Saints continues on page 28*



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**Bronze statue  
of St. Anne  
and child  
Jesus Christ**

**Saints** continued from page 26

Throughout Christendom, wherever Spaniards went, be it on Crusade to the Holy Land, or pushing down into Iberia or conquering the Americas, the cry of *¡Santiago y cierra — España!*/St. James and charge — Spain! rose from the hosts of conquistadors who were successful in their campaigns to win souls and lands for God and country.

St. James worked hard to convert the people of *Finis Terre* in western Spain, what the Romans called the “end of the earth,” but with little immediate success. He finally achieved phenomenal following after being tortured and beheaded by Herod Agrippa in A.D. 44, the first of the Apostles to be martyred. Forbidden to bury the saint, his body was reportedly stolen from Jerusalem, smuggled away aboard a small boat and buried in a secret place in Galicia, on the Spanish coast.

Centuries later, a hermit heard music and saw a star shining light on a field. An investigation later turned up the apostle’s burial place, named in Latin, *Campus Stellae*/Field of the Star. The name we now recognize is Compostela.

Legends about the famous St. James in furious battle array with a sword in one hand and a banner in the other, mounted on a white war horse flying overhead or charging the fray, side-by-side with the king and commanders of Spanish armies, are told throughout Spain and in every country where conquistadors landed.

By the year 1200 A.D., some one million pilgrims had hit the road to Compostele to seek healing and the blessings of this powerful “Boan-erge,” son of thunder, as James and his brother John the Apostle were known. These two Sea of Galilee fishermen, who were famous for their bad tempers, became beloved followers and apostles of Jesus.

## MOTHER OF MARY

St. Anne’s feast day is officially July 26 and she is held in great honor as the mother of the Virgin Mary and grandmother of Jesus. Through a maze of marriages and widowhood, St. Anne is reported to have given birth to three daughters, each to a different husband and each daughter was named Mary. One of the daughters gave birth to St. James, thus making St. Anne his grandmother as well.

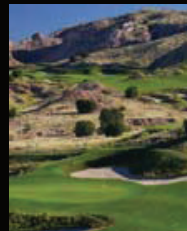
Saints Joachim and Anne were extolled by St. John the Damascene and Gregory of Nyssa as models for Christian parents, whose honorable duty is the holy education of their children. They are revered for nurturing and teaching Mary to be worthy of being mother of God. Their parenting is held to glorify their Creator and sanctify their own souls. The courage and strength they instilled in Mary allowed her to remain faithful, even as she stood at the foot of her son’s cross.

Santiago y Santa Ana have much to offer, therefore, to the visitors and locals who attend the saints feast days every year at Las Fiestas de Taos.

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Rick Romancito

**Fiesta Queen Ana-Alicia Romero, left, Princesa Leah Marissa Abeyta, and Princesa Felicity Bridgette Nicole Gallegos pose with future royalty along the parade route.**



Greg Kreller

**Veronica Rodriguez, from Xalisco-Tepic, Mexico, waits backstage before the students from Taos' sister city perform a traditional Mexican dance on the Plaza.**



**Clear blue skies dawned for the 2007 Children's Parade along Camino de la Placita.**

Rick Romancito



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Rick Romancito

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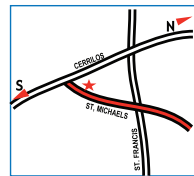
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