

SALIDA DEL SOL



A Tri-Cultural Presentation at La Fonda Hotel Santa Fe, New Mexico

By Lynn Brittner

Our 20th anniversary celebration of OST's National Historic Trail designation was in the Santa Fe Room at the La Fonda Hotel, generously donated by La Fonda Hotel and organized by Liane Brown. The event was opened with a prayer from Southern Ute Tribal member Nathan Strong Elk. Local musician Chus Cales played Spanish classical guitar in a festively decorated room adorned with a beautiful glowing Christmas tree. After the blessing, OSTA Director Lynn Brittner

All photographs courtesy of Lynn Brittner.

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read the newly-received Old Spanish Trail Proclamation from the office of the Mayor of Santa Fe, which officially proclaimed December 4th as "Old Spanish National Historic Trail Day." There was a buffet of traditional New Mexican food and beverages. Attendees included both members of the OSTA and non-members (some of which became members).

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The speakers included:

Nathan Strong Elk, Jr., is a Southern Ute Tribal member, a Director at Large/Native American member of the Old Spanish Trails Association, Southern Ute Native American Church member, and a board member of the Southern Ute Housing Association. His belief is in working for the land and Earth and the people that he serves and considers himself a passionate, loving and forgiving Leader. Nathan started the afternoon with an opening prayer. He then presented a Ute perspective on the Old Spanish Trail as well as a Native American flute performance.



John Carson teaches history at Otero Junior College in La Junta, Colorado. His father was Jess Carson, who lived from 1914 to 1999 and was the son of Charles Carson, who lived from 1861 to 1939 and was one of Kit Carson's seven children. John Carson, a park ranger and interpreter at Bent's Old Fort National Historic site in La Junta, was recently honored as one of eight Top Frontline Tourism Workers statewide. John was both engaging and personable and gave a lively talk about Kit Carson and the Old Spanish Trail.



Joseph Sanchez is the Director of the Spanish Colonial Research Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Dr. Sanchez worked on the study to evaluate the feasibility and eligibility of designating the OST as a National Historic Trail under the feasibility study provisions of the National trails system act. Dr. Sanchez gave an interesting historical perspective of the Old Spanish Trail, discussing the first documented use of the name and the various routes of the trail used by trappers, traders, immigrants, and military expeditions.





Pat & Don Rundstrom, Julianne Burton-Carvajal



Lynn Brittner, OSTA Director



Chus Cales, guitarist.



Lisa Bonney and Claudio Chacon, in audience.



Liane Brown and John Carson.