



Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's "Third Thursday Food for Thought" Series

# An Incredible Family History Unearthed

## How a Search for the Past Can Redefine the Present and Future

A Zoom Presentation by Lay Historian Blanca Carrasco



Guest presenter Blanca Monica Marina Garza Enriquez Espinoza Perez Crispin Tijerina Cortez Salinas  
(Photos courtesy of Ms. Carrasco)

Finding this ancestry has strengthened my spiritual and community commitment and my sense of connection. I learned that finding one's roots can shape a person's sense of self and their life choices.

My name is Blanca Monica Marina Garza Enriquez Espinoza Perez Crispin Tijerina Cortez Salinas. I once was told that many of my last names might have Sephardic and/or crypto-Jewish origin and wanted to learn more. The resulting search for my roots has been a life-changing experience that took me from the Catholic Church to Judaism, a religion that originally seemed distant and foreign.

This presentation dares ask: "How does one truly identify ethnicity?" How do we claim our heritage? In short, the question "How did I get here?" is as important as "Who am I?"

My biological father is a descendant of Marcos Alonso de La Garza y del Arcon, co-founder of Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, a center for crypto-Jews since Spanish Colonial times. In his lineage, I found Constanza de la Garza, a crypto-Jew who was tried by the Spanish Inquisition and died in house arrest, possibly my thirteenth grandmother.



Thursday April 17, 2025

7 pm ARIZONA/Mountain Standard Time

(Same as Pacific Daylight Time)

To register for the Zoom program click on this link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_R1DWgzhuStiUP\\_8VdMzttA](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_R1DWgzhuStiUP_8VdMzttA)

For more information contact Old Pueblo at [info@oldpueblo.org](mailto:info@oldpueblo.org) or 520-798-1201.

## An Incredible Family History Unearthed . . .

Old Pueblo's Third Thursday presenter this month is Ms. Blanca Carrasco. Born in Torreón, Mexico, she has lived in El Paso, Texas for over 30 years.

Blanca is a direct descendant of Marcos Alonso de la Garza y del Arcon, co-founder of Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, an area known for *conversos* and crypto-Jews in New Spain.

In this presentation for Old Pueblo she will share her "journey" as a descendant of crypto-Jews in Isaac Arntenstein's film *A Long Journey: The Hidden Jews of the Southwest*.



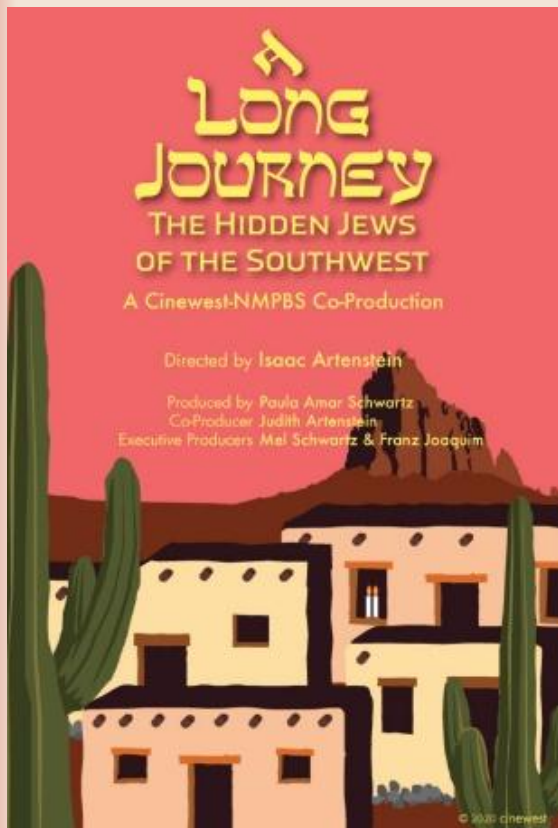
Blanca Carrasco is President of the Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies: [cryptojews.com](http://cryptojews.com).

### The Third Thursday Series

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's Third Thursday Food for Thought Zoom webinars, on the Third Thursday evening of each month, feature presentations on archaeological, historical, and cultural topics.

If you would like to be added to Old Pueblo's list of persons who receive semimonthly email announcements about the Third Thursdays and Old Pueblo's other activities – and other southwestern archaeology organizations' activities – go to [www.oldpueblo.org](http://www.oldpueblo.org), scroll down to the "Subscribe" box, and enter your name and email address there.

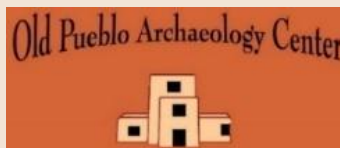
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**A LONG JOURNEY**  
THE HIDDEN JEWS  
OF THE SOUTHWEST  
A Cinewest-NMPBS Co-Production

Directed by Isaac Arntenstein

Produced by Paula Amar Schwartz  
Co-Producer: Judith Arntenstein  
Executive Producers: Mel Schwartz & Franz Joaquim



Old Pueblo Archaeology Center Third Thursday Food for Thought Lectures						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				Third Thursday		

For more information about this month's program or other activities, contact Old Pueblo Archaeology Center at [info@oldpueblo.org](mailto:info@oldpueblo.org) or 520-798-1201.