CHAPTER UPDATES

Dona Ana County Chapter

Our chapter has revitalized itself and is meeting on the third Tuesday of each month in the conference room located at the Mesilla Valley Hospice on Montana Blvd, Las Cruces. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. We are working on changes in sentencing guidelines for DUI offenders, this was brought on by the sentencing of the offender in the death of Ramiro Ramos in March of 2005. His offender was sentenced to the maximum allowable by law, only six years.

We are hosting another grief seminar beginning April 6th at 5:30pm and continuing through May 11th for a total of six weeks. This group will be facilitated by Phyllis Jackson at the Center for Grief Services, located at Mesilla Valley Hospice. This seminar is free of charge. For more information please call her at 525-5750.

We will participate in CVRW sponsored by the 3rd Judicial District Attorney’s Office, by attending the tree planting ceremony on April 23rd, 12 noon, at Young Park and a video tribute to homicide victims. For more information about the Dona Ana County Chapter, please call Donna Richmond at 505-635-8908 or 505-526-3437 or e-mail drlapinon@zianet.com

By Donna Richmond—Chapter Leader Dona Ana Chapter

Espanola Chapter

The Espanola Chapter is meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Amber Care office.

Death leaves a heartache no one can heal,
Love leaves a memory no one can steal.

~Author Unknown
NATIONAL HEADLINES

Murder Rate Up, Other Crime Down - WASHINGTON, Dec. 19, 2005

(AP) The U.S. murder rate jumped 2 percent during the first six months of this year, with the highest increases in small towns and the Midwest, the FBI said Monday. Crime fell nationwide for other significant offenses, including rape, arson and assault.

After a dramatic decline in the number of murders last year, when the murder rate fell 5.7 percent, it ticked upward 2.1 percent between January and June.

Citing figures collected under its uniform crime reports, the FBI said cities with fewer than 10,000 people saw the largest increases, of 13 percent.

Murder rates rose across the country, but the Midwest saw the highest increases with 4.9 percent. Kansas City, for example, reported 56 murders in the six months of this year but only 39 during the same time period in 2004.

The FBI did not disclose its raw crime counts for all communities because it considers these six-month reports to be preliminary.

But for all cities with more than 100,000 people, it reported 4,080 murders in 2005 and 3,979 in 2004. The FBI said rapes nationwide fell nearly 5 percent, and arson crimes fell nearly 6 percent. Property crimes - which include burglary, larceny and vehicle thefts - declined overall 2.8 percent.

Assault fell just under 1 percent.

The FBI based its figures on crime reports from 10,374 police agencies around the country.

ELECTIONS HELD

Elections were held for the NMSOH Board of Directors at our yearly membership meeting November 19th, 2005 and new officers were voted in by the Board.

Please welcome all of them:

Officers:

President: Patti March
Vice President: Michael Roach
Secretary: Lenora Tsinjinnie
Treasurer: Clara Maberry

Members at Large:
Donna McNevin, Ray Padilla, Marcy Stairwell, Donna Richmond & Ernestine Roach

“..."We are a grass roots NM Non-Profit. with an all volunteer board of 9, 8 of which are Survivors of Homicide!” Our newest board member is local Attorney Ray Padilla voted in by our advisory board! We are very lucky to have him volunteering for survivors!

MEET OUR NEW ADVOCATE!

We are sad to announce that our former Victim Advocate/Volunteer Coordinator Joan Shirley resigned her position in October of 2005. We want to thank her for all the services she performed Survivors throughout the state. Joan has been involved with our group since 1999 as a member, a board member, then as our only paid employee funded by the New Mexico Crime Victims Reparations Commission. Thanks Joan for all you did! She will be missed by many!

We realized that replacing Joan would be a difficult process but we worked hard and had many qualified applicants apply for the position. In March we hired our new Victim Advocate/Volunteer Coordinator Patsy Vega. Patsy has worked in the criminal justice system for many years with victims of violent crimes. Watch for our next newsletter where we will present a bio on Patsy!

And we want to add a special thanks to Advisory Board Member and resident volunteer, Investigator Pat Caristo, for organizing our office and keeping it together during the difficult transition. We could not have done it without her! Thanks so much!
**Love Gifts from 11/2005 - 3/2006:**

Donor: Lisa Isaacs
Joe & Earlene Price
Bobby Dora Munoz
Bennie & Gloria Benavidez
Mollie Sedillo
Martha & Miller Frances
Bob & Shirley Mathews
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Leandro Garcia & Hazel Abeyta
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Randy & Sue Binder
Deborah Yellowhorse-Brown
Tary & Adela Aguilar
Eagle & Stephanie Rael
Lavini Pennington
Clara Maberry
Donna Mcnevin
Patti March

In Memory of:
Gabriel Joseph Salgado
Kevin Shirley
Fabian Munoz
Jose Benito Benavidez Jr.
Paul Sedillo
James C. Francis
Son Greg
Stephanie Margaret Murphy
Michael Vincent Abeyta
Alex A. Gomez
Steven Goodwin
Richard Ray Martinez
Patricia Trish Griego
Harry L Grant Jr.
Mike Binder
Benjamin Clyde Shirley
Antonette J. Aguilar
Alfredo "Lil Eagle" Rael
Melody Ann Pennington Garcia
Mark Maberry
Estevan Vigil
Gary James March

--- Original Message ---

From: Michael Roach
To: Patti March
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2005 8:02 AM
Subject: Re: Hey so glad to hear it.

Patti:
Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. Could you please get this message to all our members.

Mike and I would like to thank all of you for your support and prayers these past several months. The jury reached a GUILTY verdict of 1st degree on the murder of Mikes’ sister, and my sister-in-law, Deborah Roach. The murderer Cecil Boyett will never see daylight as we know it.

We would like to thank the Valencia County Survivors group for being there. Your presence meant so much to the family.

We can now go on with our lives (although things will never be the same again) knowing justice has been done.

We would like you to know that Debby was a kind and generous person. She was a wonderful daughter, mother, sister, sister-in-law, aunt and friend. She will forever be missed and remembered in our hearts.

Mike and Ernestine

NMSOH is a tax-exempt Organization that depends largely upon private donations to cover operational expenses, but also seeks some funding. To give a donation please contact us. You may also donate to New Mexico Survivors of Homicide, through United Way, just write us in on their form.
Los Lunas Wellness Center
3445 Lambros Loop
6:30-8:30pm
Contact Person: Clara Maberry
505-877-6385

Las Cruces
6-8 wk Grief Study
299 E. Montana
6-8PM
Contact Person: Donna Richmond
505-526-3437

Las Vegas
3rd Wednesday of every month
6pm
Las Vegas Justice and Peace Center
719 6th St.
Contact Person: Helen Trujillo
505-425-6325 fax: 505 454-2588

Hobbs
2ND Tuesday of each month
200 E Park, Hobbs, NM
(Office of Charlotte Farkas, Counselor)
Contact Person: Patsy Hodges
505-392-4541 (wk)  / 505-392-7161
Alternate Contacts:
Wanda Kelton 505-392-7649
Janene Sanders  505-391-7340

Roswell
2nd Tuesday of every month
305 W. Tilden
5-7pm
Contact Person: Krystal Deason
505-317-5845 or 505-627-9239

Gallup
Call for meeting schedule
Jan… Mar… May, July, Sept, and Nov.
Gurley Hall, Unm Campus 6-8 pm
Contact Person: Gloria Vigil
505-272-5040
Alternate: Patsy Vega 505-232-4099

Los Lunas
3rd Wednesday of every month
REFLECTIONS

Dirge Without Music

I am not resigned to the shutting away of loving hearts in the hard ground. So it is, and so it will be, for so it has been, time out of mind:
Into the darkness they go, the wise and the lovely. Crowned
With lilies and with laurel they go; but I am not resigned.

Lovers and thinkers, into the earth with you.
Be one with the dull, the indiscriminate dust.
A fragment of what you felt, of what you knew,
A formula, a phrase remains, — but the best is lost.

The answers quick and keen, the honest look, the laughter, the love, —
They are gone. They have gone to feed the roses. Elegant and curled
Is the blossom. Fragrant is the blossom. I know. But I do not approve.
More precious was the light in your eyes than all the roses in the world.

Down, down, down into the darkness of the grave
Gently they go, the beautiful, the tender, the kind:
Quietly they go, the intelligent, the witty, the brave.
I know. But I do not approve. And I am not resigned.

Edna St. Vincent Millay

“GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN”

NMSOH LOVE GIFTS

DONOR ________________________________

IN MEMORY OF ___________________________________________________________

DATE OF BIRTH ________________________

DATE OF DEATH _______________________

Make checks payable to NMSOH Love Gifts (no cash please) All donations are tax deductible. Your gift will be acknowledged in the next newsletter and a receipt will be sent to you for tax purposes.
Special thanks to:

Crime Victims Reparations Commission
DeVore Aviation Corporation of America
James Durst – Blackhawk Investments
Ray Padilla, Attorney at Law

Are you ready to help out? We need volunteers. Contact Patsy Vega for details @ 505-232-4099 or call your local chapter!