

The following is an outline of a speech that Sergio Jimenez gave at Monrovia Latino Heritage event at the Monrovia Historical Museum September 18, 2011.

Sergio spoke on the strong ties that bind Monrovia's African-American and Latino communities. His speech "A Shared History, Values & Community" was inspired by the Doctoral thesis of Mary Ellen Romney MacArthur. Sergio's hope is to see a rebirth of a close relationship between Monrovia's Latino and African-American communities.

September 18, 2011
"A Shared History, Values & Community"
by
Sergio Jimenez

1. **Congratulations** for Event, Organization
 - A. Monrovia Latino Heritage
 - B. Jimmy O'Balles
 - C. Individual Members & Volunteers

2. Intro
 - A. **Who I Am** – Sergio Jimenez
 - 1) I grew up and live in Monrovia
 - a) One-half block from here in an old vintage home (una Casa Vieja) I inherited from my **Abuelitos**.
 - 2) My Abuelitos, **Tony & Frances Ortiz**, came to Monrovia in the early 1950's
 - a) From El Monte's Barrios
 - 3) My family owned the old **Aztec Stone & Brick** salvage yard on Peck Road in Monrovia.
 - a) It's now the site of ABC Roofing, The Drydock R.V. Storage Center and The Family Festival yard.
 - B. I am currently **Vice President of La Historia Historical Society of El Monte**. I want to acknowledge our members here today.
 - 1) **President** – **Charles Zapata** – could not make it but sends greetings
 - 2) Secretary – Josie Zapata
 - 3) Historian – Richard Perez
 - 4) Member – Rosa Pena
 - 5) Chaplin – Virgie Fraijo
 - 6) Member – Dolores Haro

- 7) Other Members here present
3. La Historia

A. La Historia-El Monte

- 1) **Purpose** is to preserve the history of Greater El Monte's Barrios for future generations.
 - a) 8 major barrios (neighborhoods) best known and celebrated biggest barrios: Hicks Camp, Medina Court, La Mision
 - b) **Self-Contained** segregated communities with own churches, stores, sports teams, organizations, schools, "a world unto themselves"
 - c) We have our own museum – **The La Historia Society Museum of The Barrios**, 3240 Tyler Avenue, El Monte, Son Bienvenidos
 - d) Rio Vista Park – Hicks Camp outdoor historical display – **site of Hicks Camp**
 - e) Movie – About the Barrios Schools

4. **Monrovia** different from El Monte mostly Latino students

A. Monrovia was a rare historical experience

- 1) African-Americans and Mexican-Americans lived in the same neighborhood
The two groups were:
 - a) Friends
 - b) Neighbors (vecinos)
 - c) Shared the same segregated schools
 - d) Shared the same American dream of a better life

B. I'd like to read a quote from a Doctoral thesis on De Facto Segregation in Monrovia by Mary Ellen Romney MacArthur:

- 1) The quote describes the **interaction** between Mexican-Americans and African Americans in Monrovia's **shared** neighborhoods
- 2) **Read Quote** – page 113, Lines 39-40 – "Carr remembers having many Mexican and Mexican-American neighbors and classmates at Huntington School, many of whom spoke only Spanish: "They just integrated, and we ran around talking Spanish because we had to learn it. I've forgotten it now, but it wasn't unusual to see the little black kids talking Spanish.'" – **We learned from one another, became like one another.** We didn't just occupy the same neighborhood we even shared values.

C. Shared Values (valores compartidos)

The African-American and Mexican American communities co-existed in Monrovia and thrived together, I believe, because of three important shared cultural values: 1. Faith, 2. Family, 3. Community

- 1) **Faith (fe)** people of faith
Jesus Christ as Lord
Protestant traditions

Catholic traditions

2) Family (familia)

Extended family – not just mom, dad and kids
Aunts/Uncles (Tios y Tias)
Cousins (Primos)

3) Community (Comunidad)

Community explains why we are here today. It's not enough to see a few individuals attain wealth or elected office, it's whether we, **Nosotros**, advance forward as a community.

It's not about me – or you – **it's about US!**

5. Conclusion

- A. Our two communities' **histories and future** in Monrovia are **interwoven**.
- B. The **solution** to the **modern friction** between us is to look at these three shared values:
 - 1) Faith**
 - 2) Family**
 - 3) Community**They served us well in the past and work together on what we have in common. Today.
- C. We **share a history**,
We share **values**,
We share a **community**
- D. We are **not rivals**, we are **neighbors** and **partners** for the betterment of our communities and all of Monrovia.

Thank you.