



Bethlehem Area Public Library

Local History Collections

Finding aid for the Papers of Sergia P. Montz, 1949-1998

Creator: Montz, Sergia P. (1916-2012)
Title: Papers of Sergia P. Montz, 1949-1998
Dates: 1949-1998
Extent: 2 linear feet, 73 photographs, 177 slides
Location: Bethlehem Room
Language: English, Spanish

Abstract: The Papers of Sergia P. Montz, 1949-1998, are indispensable in understanding the development of the Puerto Rican community in Bethlehem, PA. Providing a multi-pronged view of the community from the standpoint of education, cultural events, social services, and professional advocacy, the Montz papers offer an informed and self-aware glimpse into the issues and challenges facing the Puerto Rican and Hispanic community in general between 1970 and the early 1990's.

Access to materials: This collection is open to researchers in the Bethlehem Room.

Conditions for Reproduction and Use:

Sergia Montz and her family retain all copyrights to items within the collection. Permission to quote and/ or publish must be obtained from them directly.

Preferred Citation: [Item], Papers of Sergia P. Montz, 1949-1998. Bethlehem Area Public Library Local History Collections, Bethlehem, PA.

Historical Note:

A highly revered and influential figure in Bethlehem's Puerto Rican community, Sergia Montz (1916-2012) was born and raised in Guanica and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Puerto Rico and a master's in education from Lehigh University. A Spanish teacher for over twelve years, Montz taught at both Moravian Academy and Liberty High School. Montz spearheaded the bilingual education movement in the Bethlehem Area School District and headed the program for over a decade before retiring in 1982.

In addition to her work in educating bilingual children, Montz was an active participant in the Puerto Rican Community. She served as president of the Council of Spanish Speaking Organizations of the Lehigh Valley twice in the 1980s and was a member of the Puerto Rican Beneficial Society and the Puerto Rican Cultural Association. Also interested in the development of the public library, Montz served on its board and participated in a long-range

planning committee to study the needs of the city's public library. In 1978, Montz was selected as Bethlehem's outstanding Puerto Rican.

Scope and Content:

The Papers of Sergia P. Montz, 1949-1998, are indispensable in understanding the development of the Puerto Rican community in Bethlehem, PA. Providing a multi-pronged view of the community from the standpoint of education, cultural events, social services, and professional advocacy, the Montz papers offer an informed and self-aware glimpse into the issues and challenges facing the Puerto Rican and Hispanic community in general between 1970 and the early 1990's.

The Papers of Sergia P. Montz are organized in four series. The **Personal Files Series** (1971, 1978, 1989, undated) consist of one folder containing two postcards from Puerto Rico and several Christmas cards, also from Puerto Rico. Some cards contain personal notes from Iris Duncan, Betty Pulis, and Gladys Valcourt, among others, while some cards are blank and were probably used as educational tools in the classroom. The **Puerto Rican Community Files Series** (1949-1998) reflect the growth of the community through Montz's collecting of newspaper clippings from the local press. Included in the files are various cultural events such as local art exhibits highlighting Puerto Rican artists. Montz's work as representative and writer for the Spanish language newspaper *La Voz Hispana* can also be found in this series. Finally, research files contain data and articles about the Puerto Rican population, migration, and education. Included are a manuscript of Montz's master's thesis and two dissertations from local scholars interested in the community. The **Professional Organizations Series** (1970-1998) contains the records of three organizations supported by Montz: the Council of Spanish Speaking Organizations of the Lehigh Valley (Consejo de Organizaciones Hispanas del Lehigh Valley), the Puerto Rican Beneficial Society and the Puerto Rican Cultural Association. The former was officially incorporated in 1970 and generously supported by Lehigh University to represent and aid in the advancement of the Hispanic community. Included in the files are copies of the original articles of incorporation, by-laws and minutes of the board of directors. There are also photographs of various events at the Senior Citizens Center accompanied by an index compiled by Montz. Files from a 1984 workshop sponsored by the Council and entitled "Getting to Know Your Hispanic Neighbors" are also present and contain administrative records addressing the organization of the workshop, and presentation materials including the text, a cassette and several slides. The **Slide Collection Series** (1974-1981, undated) consists of 177 color slides reflecting various aspects of the Puerto Rican community, including education, cultural events, Bethlehem buildings, and personalities.

Organization of the Papers of Sergia P. Montz

Series 1: Personal Files (1971, 1978, 1989, undated)

Series 2: Puerto Rican Community Files (1949-1998)

Subseries a: Art

Subseries b: Bethlehem's Puerto Rican Community

Subseries c: Bilingual Education

Subseries d: Events

Subseries e: La Voz Hispana

Subseries f: Research Files
 Series 3: Professional Organizations (1970-1998)
 Subseries a: Council of Spanish Speaking Organizations of the Lehigh Valley
 (1970-1998)
 Subseries b: Puerto Rican Beneficial Society (1966-1986)
 Subseries c: Puerto Rican Cultural Association (1977-1988)
 Series 4: Slide Collection

Separated Materials: Several items that were beyond the scope of the collecting policy have been donated to the South Side Branch of the Public Library. These materials are educational tools that can assist students in learning about Puerto Rican culture.

Names: Sergia P. Montz

Subjects:

Bethlehem (Pa.)-Social conditions
 Bethlehem (Pa.)-Social history
 Bethlehem (Pa.)-Social life and customs
 Education, Bilingual
 Puerto Ricans Education United States
 Puerto Ricans United States Social conditions

Container Listing

Series 1: Personal Files (1971, 1978, 1989, undated)

Consists of one folder containing two postcards from Puerto Rico and several Christmas cards, also from Puerto Rico. Some cards contain personal notes from Iris Duncan, Betty Pulis, and Gladys Valcourt, among others, while some cards are blank and were probably used as educational tools in the classroom.

Folder Title	Date	Box	Folder
Correspondence	1971, 1978, 1989, undated	1	1

Series 2: Puerto Rican Community Files (1949-1998)

This series reflects the growth of the community through Montz's collecting of newspaper clippings from the local press. Included in the files are various cultural events such as local art exhibits highlighting Puerto Rican artists. Montz's work as a representative and writer for the Spanish language newspaper *La Voz Hispana* can also be found in the series. Finally, research files contain data and articles about the Puerto Rican population, migration, and education. Included are a manuscript of Montz's master's thesis and two dissertations from local scholars interested in the community.

Subseries a: Art

Folder Title	Date	Box	Folder
Exhibits			
Contrastes - Lehigh University	1984	1	2

Luis Cajiga	1985, 1989-1990	3	1	Oversize
Santos Exhibit	1989-1990	1	3	
Santos Exhibit Poster	1989-1990	Mapcase		
General	undated	1	4	

Subseries b: Bethlehem's Puerto Rican Community

These files were compiled by Montz and are preserved in their original groupings.

Contents include flyers and numerous newspaper clippings concerning people, events, and profiles of the Puerto Rican community in the local press.

Folder Title	Date	Box	Folder
Puerto Rican Community	1949-1966	1	5
Puerto Rican Community	1967-1969	3	2 Oversize
Puerto Rican Community	1970-1974	1	6
Puerto Rican Community	1975	1	7
Puerto Rican Community	1976	1	8
Puerto Rican Community	1977	1	9
Puerto Rican Community	1978	1	10
Puerto Rican Community	1979	1	11
Puerto Rican Community	1980	1	12
Puerto Rican Community	1981-1982	3	3 Oversize
Puerto Rican Community	1983	1	13
Puerto Rican Community	1984	1	14
Puerto Rican Community	1985-1986	1	15
Puerto Rican Community	1987	1	16
Puerto Rican Community	1988	1	17
Puerto Rican Community	1989-1990	1	18
Puerto Rican Community	1991-1992	1	19
Puerto Rican Community	1996-1998, undated	1	20
Photographs	1971, 1974, 1978	1	21

Subseries c: Bilingual Education

Folder Title	Date	Box	Folder
Bilingual Education	1970-1990	1	22

Subseries d: Events

Folder Title	Date	Box	Folder
Puerto Rican Cultural Week	1975	1	23
Puerto Rican Cultural Week	1976	1	24
Resolution	1976	3	4 Oversize
Puerto Rican Cultural Week	1977	1	25
Puerto Rican Cultural Week	1978	1	26
Puerto Rican Cultural Week	1979	1	27
Puerto Rican Cultural Week	1980	1	28
Puerto Rican Cultural Week	1981	1	29

Puerto Rican Cultural Week	1986-1987	1	30
Puerto Rican Cultural Week	1988-1989, 1992-1993, undated	1	31

Subseries e: La Voz Hispana

Folder Title	Date	Box	Folder
Founding documents	1970-1971, undated	3	5 Oversize
La Voz Hispana	1970-1975, undated	1	32
Cuaderno Escolar	1971, undated	1	33

Subseries f: Research Files

Folder Title	Date	Box	Folder
Puerto Rican Migration			
Articles, talks	1952, 1957, undated	3	6 Oversize
Published works		3	7 Oversize
	Diaz, Joseph O.P. <i>The Psychology of Puerto Rican Migration</i> . (Chester, PA: Linder Printing, 1994).		
	Denis, Maldonado. <i>Puerto Rico y Estados Unidos: Migracion y Colonialismo. Un Analisis Sociohistorico de la Emigracion Puertorriquena</i> . (Mexico: Siglo XXI, 1978).		
	<i>Beyond Ellis Island: Hispanics: Immigrants and Americans</i> . (Washington, DC: National Council of La Raza, 1986).		
Puerto Rican Population			
Articles	1970-1990	1	34
Data, clippings	1970-1990	1	35
Studies	1988, 1997	2	
	Manuscript: "A Study of Puerto Rican Students attending Liberty High School during 1964-1965 by Montz	1965	1 36
	Antonsen, Peter J. <i>A History of the Puerto Rican Community in Bethlehem, PA 1944-1993</i> . (Bethlehem, PA: Council of Spanish Speaking Organizations of the Lehigh Valley, Inc., 1997). Inscribed copy of dissertation and inscribed monograph		
Talks given by Montz	1956, undated	1	37

Series 3: Professional Organizations (1970-1998)

Subseries a: Council of Spanish Speaking Organizations of the Lehigh Valley (1970-1998)

This organization was officially incorporated in 1970 to represent and aid in the advancement of the Hispanic community. Included in the files are copies of the original articles of incorporation, by-laws and minutes of the board of directors. There are also photographs of various events at the Senior Citizens Center accompanied by Montz. Files from a 1984 workshop sponsored by the Council titled "Getting to Know Your Hispanic Neighbors: are also present and contain administrative records addressing the organization of the workshop, and presentation materials including the text, a cassette, and several slides.

Folder Title	Date	Box	Folder
Articles of Incorporation	1970-1971	3	8 Oversize
Board of Directors Lists	1970-2000	1	38
Brochures	undated	1	39
Building: 520-526 E. 4th St.	1984-1986, undated	3	9 Oversize
By-laws	1992, undated	1	40
Clippings	1970s	1	41
Clippings	1980s	1	42
Clippings	1990s, undated	1	43
Correspondence	1970-1971	1	44
Correspondence	1972	1	45
Correspondence	1973	1	46
Correspondence	1985, 1987, 1989, 1994	1	47
Dedication of Sergia Montz and Basilio Huertas Technology Center for Learning	1997	1	48
Events	1973-2000	1	49
Senior Citizens' Center Poster	1970		Mapcase
Flyers	1970-1990s	1	50
General Meetings	1982, 1985, undated	1	51
History of the Council	1968, 1970, undated	1	52
Lehigh Valley Community Council	1985-1986	1	53
Board of Director Minutes	1970-1971	1	54
Board of Director Minutes	1972	1	55
Board of Director Minutes	1973-1975	1	56
Newsletters	1988, 1991	1	57
Photographs			
List	undated	1	58
Board, L. Ortiz (2)	undated	1	59
Board retreat (5)	1989	1	60
Louis Cajiga (12)	1988-1989	1	61
Flag raising ceremony (7)	1980	1	62
Flag raising ceremony (4)	1987	1	63
Grupo Folklorico (4)	undated	1	64
Hispanic Senior Citizens Center Photographs			
General (9)		1	65
Picnic (10)	1995	1	66
Thirty year anniversary (2)	1998	1	67
Proposals			
Center for Coordinated Social Services			
Rough draft	1971	1	68
Final draft	1971	1	69

Final	1972-1973	1	70
Continued funding	1976-1977	1	71
Twenty-fifth annual celebration	1993	1	72
Workshop: "Getting to Know Your Hispanic Neighbors"	1984	1	73

Subseries b: Puerto Rican Beneficial Society (1966-1986)

Folder Title	Date	Box	Folder
Puerto Rican Beneficial Society	1968, 1975-1976	1	74
Puerto Rican Beneficial Society	1977-1981, undated	3	11 Oversize
Annual banquet programs	1966, 1975-1977, 1986	1	75
General information, background, Membership	1960-1980	1	76

Subseries c: Puerto Rican Cultural Association (1977-1988)

Folder Title	Date	Box	Folder
Puerto Rican Cultural Association	1977-1980	1	77
Puerto Rican Cultural Association	1981-1983, 1986-1988	1	78
Constitution, invitations, clippings	undated	1	79

Series 4: Slide Collection (1974-1981, undated)

Consists of 177 color slides reflecting various aspects of the Puerto Rican community, including education, cultural events, Bethlehem buildings, and personalities. Organization of slides closely reflects Montz's original order.

	Box
Bethlehem (19)	4
South Side and other views of Bethlehem (7)	
Businesses	
El Pilon	
Fernandez Pantry (2)	
Martinez Grocery	
Churches	
1st Baptist Church	
Hispanic Baptist Church	
Holy Infancy Church	
Holy Name Society	
Pentecost Church	
House in Bethlehem	
Unidentified	
Council's Programs (17)	
Spanish Center (2)	
Spanco Baby Center	
Ana Claudio - director	
Margarita Alicia	

Juan Cruz - employment counselor
Spanish Center clinic
Mundo Hispano
Hispanic senior citizens center - women playing dominoes
Alma - Eason Center
Victor WLVT - TV program (3)

Education (15)

Puerto Rican graduates (2) 1974
Liberty students visit P.R. Prints Exhibit - Lehigh 1975-10
Cosmetology class - Liberty 1975
Upward Bound study center 1975
Chestnut Hill College - June 1976
Broughal's "Band" - June 1977
Trip to Millersville 1978
Evening school graduates 1979
GED students 1979
Hispanic students - Freedom 1979
Puerto Rican Teachers at Penn State 1981
Seniors Award 1981
Bilingual education undated

"Happenings" (111)

Cultural week - Anita Amigo, Blanca Smith
Dinner
 Puerto Rican Dinner - Donegan (2) 1973-1974
 Spanish Dinner 1970-06
 Discovery Day - Donegan 1975-11
Flag Raising Ceremony (3) 1975
Flag Raising Ceremony (2) 1977
Flag Raising Ceremony 1978
Flag Raising Ceremony undated
Harrisburg trip (2)
Parranda 1977-12
Puerto Rican Parade (93)
 Puerto Rican Parade (25) 1975
 Puerto Rican Parade (36) 1976
 Puerto Rican Parade (32) 1977

Note: Slides are placed in numbered order, but are not complete because some slides are not numbered.

People (15)

Bruno - Donegan - Teacher
Samuel Clardio - Teacher
Donegan - Music
Rev. Abram Encaracion
Victor Garcia 1978
Domingo Jorge - EMR 1978-1979
Rafael Lopez
Mr. Lopez with students

Matias - Donegan
Ocampo - Language development
Linda Parrata, Lucy de Jesus, Ocampo?
Alex Trujillo (2)
Bilingual counselor with student
Pedro testing secondary student - Title VII 1978-1979

Appendix: Council of Spanish Speaking Organizations of the Lehigh Valley, Inc.

Transcribed from Montz's handwritten notes.

Founders:

Mr. John Slee - Director, Human Relations Commission of Bethlehem
Senator Jeanette Reibman
Miguel Marrero
Gordon Payrow, Jr. - Mayor of Bethlehem
Juan Rodriguez - Puerto Rican Beneficial Society
John S. Campbell - Pastor of Holy Infancy Church
Jesus Ortiz - Puerto Rican Beneficial Society

Incorporators:

John S. Campbell
Blanca Smith
Luis Huertas
Carmelo La Torre
Jesus Ortiz

Official Date of Incorporation: December 31, 1970

Started as: Spanish Center

Past Presidents:

1970-1972	Miguel Marrero
1973-1975	Salvador Salazar
1976-1977	Isaac Pimentel
1978	Gladys Volcourt
1979-1981	Sergia Montz
1982	Salvador Salazar
1985-1988	Iris Cintron
1989	Sergia Montz
1990	Carlos Lopez
1991	Iris Cintron
1992	Jose Garcia
1993	Basilio Huertas
1994-1995	Sandra Figueroa
1996-1007	Basilio Huertas

1998-1999 Manuel Gonzalez
2000 Marlene Fowler

Delegates of the Council (1998)

Bilingual Education
First Baptist Church
First Hispanic Baptist Church
Laop. Adv. Council
Puerto Rican Beneficial Society
Puerto Rican Cultural Association
St. Bernard Church