



**Bethlehem Area Public Library  
Local History Collections**

**Papers of Sergia P. Montz, 1949-1998**

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Creator:</b>             | Montz, Sergia P. (1920?- )   |
| <b>Title:</b>               | Papers of Sergia P. Montz, 1949-1998.  |
| <b>Inclusive Dates:</b>     | 1949-1998  |
| <b>Extent:</b>              | 2 linear feet, 73 photographs, 177 slides  |
| <b>Abstract:</b>            | 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. |
| <b>Access to Materials:</b> | The collection is open to researchers in the Bethlehem Room.   |
| <b>Copyright:</b>           | Sergia Montz and her family retain all copyrights to items within this collection. Permission to quote and/or publish must be obtained from them directly.   |
| <b>Preferred Citation:</b>  | [Item], Papers of Sergia P. Montz, 1949-1998. The Bethlehem Area Public Library Local History Collections  |

**Biographical Note**

A highly revered and influential figure in Bethlehem's Puerto Rican community, Sergia Montz (1920?- ) 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.

Sergia Montz is married to a native of Bethlehem, Richard Montz, and they have two daughters: Brenda and Lydia.

## Collection Scope and Contents

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, n.d.) 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. 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, n.d.) 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

- 1) Series: Personal Files (1971, 1978, 1989, n.d.)
- 2) Series: Puerto Rican Community Files (1949-1998)
  - a. Subseries: Art
  - b. Subseries: Bethlehem's Puerto Rican Community
  - c. Subseries: Bilingual Education
  - d. Subseries: Events
  - e. Subseries: La Voz Hispana
  - f. Subseries: Research Files
- 3) Professional Organizations (1970-1998)
  - a. Subseries: Council of Spanish Speaking Organizations of the Lehigh Valley (1970-1998)
  - b. Puerto Rican Beneficial Society (1966-1986)
  - c. Puerto Rican Cultural Association (1977-1988)
- 4) Slide Collection Series (1974-1981)

## 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.

## Index Terms

The Papers of Sergia P. Montz are indexed under the following terms in the Bethlehem Area Public Library Catalog.

## People

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 List: An Inventory of the Papers of Sergia Montz

### Container

### Title

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | <p><b>Series: Personal Files (1971, 1978, 1989, n.d.)</b><br/>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.<br/>Correspondence 1971, 1978, 1989, n.d.</p> <p><b>Series: Puerto Rican Community Files (1949-1998)</b><br/>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 representative and writer for the Spanish language newspaper <i>La Voz Hispana</i> 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</p> <p><b>Subseries: Art Exhibits</b><br/>Contrastes (Lehigh University) 1984</p> |
| Box 1, Folder 2 |  |

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Box 3, Folder 1 <b>OVERSIZE</b> | Luis Cajiga 1985, 1989-1990  |
|                                 | Santos Exhibit   |
| Box 1, Folder 3                 | 1989-1990  |
| <b>Bethlehem Room Mapcase</b>   | Exhibit Poster   |
| Box 1, Folder 4                 | General  |
|                                 | <b>Subseries: Bethlehem's Puerto Rican Community</b>   |
|                                 | 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. |
| Box 1, Folder 5                 | 1949-1966  |
| Box 3, Folder 2 <b>OVERSIZE</b> | 1967-1969  |
| Box 1, Folder 6                 | 1970-1974  |
| Box 1, Folder 7                 | 1975   |
| Box 1, Folder 8                 | 1976 (1 photograph)  |
| Box 1, Folder 9                 | 1977   |
| Box 1, Folder 10                | 1978   |
| Box 1, Folder 11                | 1979   |
| Box 1, Folder 12                | 1980   |
| Box 3, Folder 3 <b>OVERSIZE</b> | 1981-1982  |
| Box 1, Folder 13                | 1983   |
| Box 1, Folder 14                | 1984   |
| Box 1, Folder 15                | 1985-1986  |
| Box 1, Folder 16                | 1987   |
| Box 1, Folder 17                | 1988   |
| Box 1, Folder 18                | 1989-1990  |
| Box 1, Folder 19                | 1991-1992  |
| Box 1, Folder 20                | 1996-1998, n.d.  |
| Box 1, Folder 21                | Photographs of school children in Bethlehem<br>1971, 1974, 1978 (17 photographs)   |
|                                 | <b>Subseries: Bilingual Education</b>  |
| Box 1, Folder 22                | 1970-1990  |
|                                 | <b>Subseries: Events</b>   |
|                                 | Puerto Rican Cultural Week   |
| Box 1, Folder 23                | 1975   |
| Box 1, Folder 24                | 1976   |
| Box 3, Folder 4 <b>OVERSIZE</b> | Resolution 1976  |
| Box 1, Folder 25                | 1977   |
| Box 1, Folder 26                | 1978   |
| Box 1, Folder 27                | 1979   |
| Box 1, Folder 28                | 1980   |
| Box 1, Folder 29                | 1981   |
| Box 1, Folder 30                | 1986-1987  |
| Box 1, Folder 31                | 1988-1989, 1992-1993, n.d.   |
|                                 | <b>Subseries: La Voz Hispana</b>   |
| Box 3, Folder 5 <b>OVERSIZE</b> | Founding documents 1970-1971, n.d.   |
| Box 1, Folder 32                | 1970-1975, n.d.  |
| Box 1, Folder 33                | Cuaderno Escolar 1971, n.d.  |
|                                 | <b>Subseries: Research Files</b>   |
|                                 | Puerto Rican Migration   |
| Box 3, Folder 6 <b>OVERSIZE</b> | Articles, talks on the topic 1952, 1957,<br>n.d.   |
| Box 3, Folder 7 <b>OVERSIZE</b> | Published works on topic:<br>1) Diaz, Joseph O.P. <i>The Psychology of Puerto Rican Migration.</i>   |

- (Chester, Pa.: Linder Printing, 1994).
- 2) Denis, Maldonado. *Puerto Rico y Estados Unidos: Migracion y Colonialismo. Un Analisis Sociohistorico de la Emigracion Puertorriquena.* (Mexico: Siglo XXI, 1978). (photocopy only)
- 3) *Beyond Ellis Island: Hispanics: Immigrants and Americans.* (Washington, DC.: National Council of La Raza, 1986).
- Puerto Rican Population
- Articles
- Box 1, Folder 34 Data, clippings 1970s-1990s
- Box 1, Folder 35
- Studies
- Box 1, Folder 36 Manuscript: "A Study of Puerto Rican Students attending Liberty High School during 1964-1965 by Montz 1965
- Box 2 Antonsen, Peter J. *A History of the Puerto Rican Community in Bethlehem, PA 1944-1993.* (Bethlehem, Pa.: Council of Spanish Speaking Organizations of the Lehigh Valley, Inc., 1997).
- Inscribed copy of dissertation and inscribed monograph**
- Torres, Ray Robles. "The Relationship Between Creativity and Self-esteem in Puerto Rican Kindergarten Children." Ph.D. diss, Pennsylvania State University, 1988.
- Talks
- Box 1, Folder 37 Given by Montz 1956, n.d.
- Series: Professional Organizations (1970-1998)**
- Subseries: 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 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.
- Box 3, Folder 8 **OVERSIZE** Articles of Incorporation 1970-1971
- Box 1, Folder 38 Board of Directors Lists 1970-2000
- Box 1, Folder 39 Brochures n.d.

Box 3, Folder 9 **OVERSIZE**  
Box 1, Folder 40

Box 1, Folder 41  
Box 1, Folder 42  
Box 1, Folder 43

Box 1, Folder 44  
Box 1, Folder 45  
Box 1, Folder 46  
Box 1, Folder 47  
Box 1, Folder 48

Box 1, Folder 49  
**Bethlehem Room Mapcase**

Box 1, Folder 50  
Box 1, Folder 51  
Box 1, Folder 52  
Box 1, Folder 53

Box 1, Folder 54  
Box 1, Folder 55  
Box 1, Folder 56  
Box 1, Folder 57

Box 1, Folder 58  
Box 1, Folder 59

Box 1, Folder 60  
Box 1, Folder 61

Box 1, Folder 62  
Box 1, Folder 63  
Box 1, Folder 64

Box 1, Folder 65  
Box 1, Folder 66  
Box 1, Folder 67

Box 1, Folder 68  
Box 1, Folder 69  
Box 1, Folder 70  
Box 1, Folder 71  
Box 1, Folder 72

Box 1, Folder 73  
Box 3, Folder 10 **OVERSIZE**

Box 1, Folder 74  
Box 3, Folder 11 **OVERSIZE**

Building: 520-526 E. 4<sup>th</sup> St. 1984-1986, n.d.  
By-laws 1992, n.d.  
Clippings

1970's  
1980's  
1990's, n.d.

Correspondence  
1970-1971  
1972  
1973  
1985, 1987, 1989, 1994

Dedication of Sergia Montz and Basilio Huertas  
Technology Center for Learning 1997

Events  
1973-2000  
Senior Citizens' Center 1970 Poster  
Flyers 1970's-1990's, n.d.

General Meetings 1982, 1985, n.d.  
History of the Council 1968, 1970, n.d.  
Lehigh Valley Community Council 1985-1986  
Minutes (Board of Directors Meetings)

1970-1971  
1972  
1973-1975

Newsletters 1988, 1991

Photographs  
Montz's list of all Council photographs  
Board Members 1973; Luciano Ortiz  
n.d. (2 photographs)  
Board Retreat 1989 (5 photographs)  
Louis Cajiga 1988-1989 (12  
photographs)  
Flag Raising Ceremony  
1980 (7 photographs)  
1987 (4 photographs)  
Grupo Folklorico n.d. (4 photographs)  
Hispanic Senior Citizens Center  
General 1986 (9 photographs)  
Picnic 1995 (10 photographs)  
Thirty year anniversary 1998 (2  
photographs)

Proposals  
Center for Coordinated Social Services  
Rough draft 1971  
Final Draft 1971  
1972-1973

Continued funding 1976-1977  
Twenty-fifth annual celebration 1993  
Workshop: "Getting to Know your Hispanic  
Neighbors"  
1984  
Slide presentation, text, cassette

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

1968, 1975-1976  
1977-1981, n.d.

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 75 | Annual banquet programs 1966, 1975-1977,<br>1986                |
| Box 1, Folder 76 | General information, background, membership<br>1960's-1980s     |
|                  | <b>Subseries: Puerto Rican Cultural Association (1977-1988)</b> |
| Box 1, Folder 77 | 1977-1980   |
| Box 1, Folder 78 | 1981-1983, 1986-1988  |
| Box 1, Folder 79 | Constitution, invitations, clippings                            |

**Series: Slide Collection (1974-1981, n.d.)**

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 4 | Bethlehem (19)  |
|       | South Side and other views of Bethlehem (7)               |
|       | Businesses  |
|       | El Pilon  |
|       | Fernandez Pantry (2)                                      |
|       | Martinez Grocery  |
|       | Churches  |
|       | 1 <sup>st</sup> Baptist Church                            |
|       | Hispanic Baptist Church                                   |
|       | Holy Infancy Church                                       |
|       | Holy Name Society   |
|       | Pentecostal 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 – Easton center                                      |
|       | Victor WLVT – TV program (3)                              |
|       | Education (15)  |
|       | 1974  |
|       | Puerto Rican graduates – June (2)                         |
|       | 1975  |
|       | Liberty students visit P.R. Prints Exhibit -Lehigh –10/75 |
|       | Cosmetology class – Liberty                               |
|       | Upward Bound study center                                 |
|       | 1976  |
|       | Chestnut Hill College – June                              |
|       | 1977  |
|       | Broughal's "Band" – June                                  |
|       | 1978  |
|       | Trip to Millersville                                      |
|       | 1979  |

Evening school graduates – June  
 GED students  
 Hispanic students – Freedom  
 1981  
 Puerto Rican Teachers at Penn State  
 Seniors Award  
 Bilingual education, n.d.  
 “Happenings” (111)  
 Cultural week – Anita Amigo, Blanca Smith  
 Dinner  
 Puerto Rican Dinner – Donegan '73-'74  
 (2)  
 Spanish Dinner – June '70  
 Discovery Day – Donegan – 11/1975  
 Flag Raising Ceremony  
 1975 (3)  
 1977 (2)  
 1978  
 n.d.  
 Harrisburg, Trip to (2)  
 Parranda – Dec. 1977  
 Puerto Rican Beneficial Society Open House –  
 9/26/71 (3)  
 Puerto Rican Parade (93)  
 1975 (25)  
 1976 (36)  
 1977 (32)  
 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 Encarnacion  
 Victor Garcia (1978)  
 Domingo Jorge – EMR – '78-'79  
 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 '78-  
 '79

## **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 Riebman  
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 |
| 1983-1984 | Sergia Montz     |
| 1985-1988 | Iris Cintron     |
| 1989      | Sergia Montz     |
| 1990      | Carlos Lopez     |
| 1991      | Iris Cintron     |
| 1992      | Jose Garcia      |
| 1993      | Basilio Huertas  |
| 1994-1995 | Sandra Figueora  |
| 1996-1997 | Basilio Huertas  |
| 1998-1999 | Manuel Gonzalez  |
| 2000      | Marlene Fowler   |

### Delegates of the Council (1998)

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