

Courier

FOOTSTEPS OF FAITH

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SOME (GROUP) ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

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'T WAS NEVER JUST FOOD?'

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A toast to garlic

... and signature dishes from six other sites

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Meet the Members

Visit Albuquerque

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

NTA contact: Maureen Chavez, tourism and small group sales manager

Office phone: 800.284.2282

Website: visitabq.org

NTA member since: 1977

What's new and exciting in Albuquerque?

Our newest luxury hotel, Hotel Chaco, pays homage to Chaco Culture National Historical Park and the ancient Puebloans who still reside in New Mexico. Construction of a new \$7.5 million restaurant at the top of the Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway is nearly complete. The development team is aiming for a spring or summer opening for the new 13,000-square-foot business.

What is a must-see in your area?

Old Town Albuquerque, the historical heart of the city, is home to more than 150 merchants and provides an array of dining, shopping and entertainment options. Take a tour while in Old Town, which offers everything from history and culture walking tours and ghost tours to Breaking Bad RV tours.

What is Albuquerque best known for?

Due in part to its more than 310 days of

sunshine, unique weather patterns and geographical setting, Albuquerque is known as the hot air ballooning capital of the world. We are home to the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, celebrating its 48th anniversary this year. We are also very well known for our traditional New Mexican cuisine (very different from Mexican cuisine due to the variety of cultural influences and our famous chile pepper) and a plethora of history, culture and art.

What's your favorite vacation spot?

I enjoy the lights, excitement and entertainment that Las Vegas has to offer; however, I am partial to New Mexico's oldest continuously inhabited community of Acoma "Sky City." The original community has no running water, no electricity and no cell service but provides the



best atmosphere for reconnecting with culture and tradition, and for really communicating with family and friends.

What do you like to do when you're not hard at work?

I enjoy spending time with my 5-year-old daughter. She reminds me that life is more than just emails, text messages and Facebook, and that I need to take a moment to imagine, dream and appreciate life's small details.

For more information, email Chavez at mchavez@visitabq.org.

Comfort Inn & Suites-Brattleboro

BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT

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NTA member since: 2018

Tell us what makes your hotel special.

We're a four-star hotel that has been described as modern and low-key, as well as clean and comfortable. Our parking lot can accommodate buses as well as trucks of all sizes. The hotel is fully handicap accessible and 100 percent smoke- and pet-free, which makes it very desirable for travelers. Our rooms are quiet and spacious.

What are some of the amenities you offer?

We have a lovely indoor heated pool and a sleek fitness center for all of our guests. We have a bright and fresh guest laundry area to accommodate our patrons with elongated

stays. We also have three polished and professional conference rooms.

What's your favorite destination?

As a past travel agent, I have been lucky enough to travel to a great many places. My favorite place of all time would be the Dominican Republic. Beautiful people, beautiful beaches—what more could you ask for?

What do you like to do in your spare time?

In my spare time, I am a woman of many things. I enjoy everything from sewing to making specialty cakes to hunting. I love spending as much time as I can with my two grandchildren.

You get to pick dinner tonight. Where are you going?

A favorite restaurant for me is La Queue de Cheval Steakhouse & Raw Bar in Montréal! After eating there, I dreamed about the meal for weeks.



For more information, email Manning at gm.vt073@choicehotels.com.