

“So Your Ancestors Were Crypto-Jews: Now What?”

Presented by Francine R. Gaillour, MD

Over the past two decades a growing number of Hispanos in Colorado, New Mexico and Texas, are discovering and exploring their Crypto-Jewish past. Some are spending hours on the Internet or research centers tracing their genealogy, others are quietly slipping into the back rows of their local Synagogue; some have fully embraced their Jewish roots and are raising their kids as Jews, still others are incorporating their Jewish legacy in their current spiritual practice, which may not be Judaism.

While no two journeys are alike, Francine Gaillour, MD suggests that what we all have in common is the individual quest to find *personal* meaning in the knowledge of having descended from Crypto-Jews.

So where are *you* in your journey and how are *you* moving forward with the knowledge of your Crypto-Jewish heritage? How do you take what was once a family’s historical footnote or an entry in a grandparent’s diary and make it *spiritually* relevant in *your* life today?

In this presentation, Dr. Gaillour will outline a roadmap to help you explore these questions in order to move forward purposefully along your journey. Her conceptual view suggests there are *five stages* individuals may go through in dealing with the knowledge that they are descendents of Crypto-Jews: *Discovery, Acceptance, Learning, Return/Reconciliation, and Healing*. Not too many families go past stage one (Discovery)---not for of lack of desire, but because they lack a context or roadmap for moving forward.

These five stages reflect both the “internal” spiritual journey each person takes and also the “external” relationships they have with their family members, their local community, and the Jewish community.

The objective of Dr. Gaillour’s conceptual roadmap is to help descendents of Crypto-Jews move from the *Discovery* stage forward---if they choose. The presentation will include time for discussion among the attendees.

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Francine R. Gaillour, MD, MBA, FACPE, is a former practicing physician who transitioned into healthcare management and consulting. Currently she is President of The Gaillour Group and Executive Director of the Physician Leadership Institute. As an Executive Coach and facilitator, she works with physician leaders who want to improve healthcare, and with medical group practices who want to build more collegiality.

On a personal level, Francine grew up in northern New Mexico, her mother having descended from the colonial settlers of what are now Questa, Chimayo, and Abiquiu. She attended the University of New Mexico College of Engineering and School of Medicine. After medical school a series of divine interventions led her to Judaism well before she became aware of probable *converso* history in her mother’s family. She went through a formal conversion to Judaism in 1986. Francine and her husband, who is an Ashkenazi Jew, along with her two children reside in Seattle, WA and Rio Rancho, New Mexico. Her personal mission is to help Hispano descendents of conversos/Crypto-Jews find spiritual meaning and joy in their return journey to Judaism.