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People in the News

Anna Maria Chávez
Selected Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts USA

Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) announced that Anna Maria Chávez has been appointed to the top post at the iconic organization. Chávez’s appointment as the 19th chief executive of Girl Scouts, among the largest and most widely recognized nonprofits in the country, comes as the organization readies to launch a national celebration as part of its 100th anniversary designed to honor its legacy and create urgency around girls’ issues.

“Girl Scouts is the premier leadership organization for girls with a trailblazing legacy that stretches nearly 100 years,” said Chávez, who currently serves as chief executive officer of Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas. “The country has never needed Girl Scouts more than it does today. What girls are accomplishing in Girl Scouting is inspiring. I have seen it firsthand in Texas, and I intend to tell that story far and wide.”

Chávez grew up in a Mexican-American family in the small town of Eloy, Arizona, and later in Phoenix. She holds a law degree from the University of Arizona College of Law and a bachelor’s degree in American history from Yale University. Bar admissions include the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, Arizona Supreme Court, and U.S. Supreme Court. Her husband Robert is a financial industry executive and they have a son, Michael.

Dr. Victor Saenz Addresses Seguin Rotary Club

Dr. Victor Saenz, Assistant Professor at The University of Texas at Austin, addressed the Seguin Rotary Club on August 30th, 2011. His talk focused on the new demographic reality of Texas (and the US), and how the growing US Latino population provides even greater urgency to the issues facing Latino males in education.

Dr. Saenz also highlighted the important trends on educational attainment for Latino males, and why it’s important to focus on and invest in the education of the Latino population, as our future economic prosperity is dependent on this growing community.

A native of the Rio Grande Valley, Dr. Saenz graduated from La Joya High School in 1992, The University of Texas at Austin in 1996 with a degree in mathematics, the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at UT in 1999 with a Masters Degree and earned his Ph.D. from UCLA in 2005 in higher education.

Sandra Tenorio
Elected Chair of Tejano Democrats

Longtime political activists, Sandra Tenorio of Buda, Texas was elected Chair of the state-wide Tejano Democrats organization. She is the first female to hold that position in the organization’s history.

Tenorio, who has also served as mayor of Kyle, has been a Tejano Democrat member since the organization’s founding in 1993, and has served as chair and vice chair of the group’s Austin chapter. She follows former State Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos as chair of the statewide organization.

Elida Reyna Wins at the Tejano Music Awards in SA

Longtime Tejano singer Elida Reyna took home a bunch of awards from the 30th Annual Tejano Music Awards at the Municipal Auditorium in San Antonio, Texas on September 10th, 2011. A native of Mercedes, Texas, Reyna records with Freddie Records out of Corpus Christi, Texas. This year she won, Song of the Year, Female Vocalist of the Year, Entertainer of the Year and Album of the Year.

Celeste Villarreal
Elected to Post with Hispanic National Bar Association

Celeste Villarreal, an Austin attorney, was elected Vice-President of External Affairs for the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) at their Annual Convention in Dallas, Texas. The HNBA is a national membership organization whose mission is to represent the interests of the more than 100,000 Hispanic attorneys in the United States.

Villarreal, who spent almost 25 years working in the media, graduated from The University of Texas at Austin in 1982 and earned her law degree from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas in 2005. In addition to her private practice she is also a part-time Municipal Judge for the city of Austin.

Dr. Rogelio Saenz Named New Dean at UTSA

The University of Texas at San Antonio’s College of Public Policy is hosting a reception Tuesday, September 13th, 2011, at the Pearl Brewery to welcome its new dean, Rogelio Saenz. The reception is from 5 to 7 p.m. at the American Institute of Architecture of San Antonio at the Pearl, 200 E. Grayson St., Suite 110.

Saenz, a sociologist and social demographer, is originally from the Rio Grande Valley town of Mercedes. He earned his bachelor’s degree in 1981 from Pan American University, an Masters degree in Sociology in 1986 from Iowa State University and a Ph.D. in sociology, also from Iowa State in 1986.

Before coming to UTSA this summer, he had been a faculty member at Texas A&M University since 1986. Saenz replaces Dennis Haynes, a professor of social work, who was interim dean of the public policy school since 2008.
State LULAC Director Provides Update on Redistricting Lawsuit in San Antonio, Texas

The big enchilada is the best way to describe the trial that is taking place in San Antonio, Texas. Nothing but the best that Texas' Latino community is fighting a battle royal against the State of Texas in the fight to redistrict Texas after the 2010 census. From 2000 to 2010, Texas population grew from 20,581,763 to 25,373,947, an increase of 21.68%. Whites increasing from 11,074,619 to 11,441,991, an increase of 3.32%, Blacks increasing from 2,421,693 to 2,925,751 an increase of 20.81%, and Latinos (Hispanics) from 6,669,666 to 9,847,852, an increase of 47.65%.

From 2000 to 2010, Whites accounted for 7.67% of the new population growth in Texas, while minorities accounted for 92.33% in growth in Texas. Latinos accounted for 66.32% of the total growth.

According to provisions in several sections of the U.S. Constitution, census are to be taken every 10 years and based on the census, states are re-apportioned Congressional seats based on the population of each state. The number of Congressional seats is fixed at 435. These 435 seats are re-apportioned based on the census count every 10 years.

In this year’s census, Congressional seats were re-apportioned, giving Texas 4 new congressional seats, that is, 4 new Congressional districts, Florida 2, Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, South Carolina, Utah and Washington, 1 each, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, each lost 1 and New York and Ohio lost 2.

The United States Senate always stays at 2 US Senators per state, but the Congressional seats, while remaining fixed at 435, the number per state is apportioned according to populations shifts in each state. Well, Texas has the hard task of reapportioning, reconfiguring, its 32 Congressional districts it garnered in 2010 to 36, the new number based on the 2010 census. In other words, Texas remaining the same size physically, needs to redraw its Congressional lines to fit 36 Congressional seats into the same area that accommodated 32 Congressional seats in the past.

The name of the game in reapportioning is redistricting. In states throughout the country, the re-districting of Congressional districts includes re-districting of most political electoral lines, from Congressional districts, to state senatorial districts, to state legislative districts, to school board districts, to county precincts, to constable districts, to city council districts.

One of the first lawsuits to make it to court was the Teuber v. Texas case which was filed by Republican Tea Party activists. Their argument centered on the idea that any redistricting that relied on illegal immigrants in the census count should not be permitted, that is, should be barred. The problem with this argument was who is the illegal population in Texas? The other logical argument was, how was it that Texas got 4 new Congressional districts, where illegals were included in the count and how was it that the plaintiffs now wanted to not count them? The Teuber lawsuit was non-suit, that is, dismissed from the court docket.

Three other lawsuits were consolidated on July 6, 2011 by the federal district court judge assigned to the case in San Antonio, Judge Orlando Garcia, and are known respectively as the Perez case, the Mexican American Legislative Caucus, Texas House of Representatives (MALC) case and the Texas Latino Redistricting Task Force. The defendants in each case are Rick Perry as Governor of Texas and other State officials. The lawsuits are challenging Texas redistricting that were drawn up by Republican controlled committees and legislatures that drew up Texas new Congressional districts in ways that did not give minorities who accounted for the major population gains in Texas and rewarded their White political districts. The end result would be Congressional seats and other political districts in Texas that would not reward the minority communities of Texas which is the growth machine for Texas’ population. Latinos increased from 2000 to 2010 by 47.65%, Blacks by 20.81% and Whites by 3.32% and Whites become the gaining community in Texas political redistricting.

National LULAC did not want Texas LULAC to join in the Texas fight. National had a plan, but weren’t telling anyone. The threat from Luis Vera, LULAC’s acting National President, actually legal advisor, to Texas LULAC was to stay out of the redistricting fight or face expulsion from LULAC. Texas LULAC went around National LULAC and joined up with the Texas Latino Redistricting Task Force. National LULAC has intervened as a third party plaintiff (petitioner) in the Mexican American Legislative Caucus.

The trial of the consolidated case started in San Antonio on September 6th and the cast before the court were among the most respected people in Texas, including, Joe Bernal, Alex Jimenez, Dr. Andres Tijerina, Dr. Henry Flores, all who testified today as well as some redistricting experts before the 3 Federal Judge Panel. The trial is expected to last until September 16th.
Welcome to the September edition of “Cultura Corner.” The fall is an exciting month as we celebrate some profound and defining events. Can you name one or two?

The first event is the Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15) that is celebrated to recognize the contributions that Hispanic Americans have made to American society and culture. In the spirit of Teatro’s mission and goals, we celebrate the contributions that Mexican-Americans have made to our local, state and national communities. This event also honors five of the Central American neighbors who celebrate their independence during the month of September.

National Hispanic Heritage Month had its origins in 1968 when Congress passed Pub. L. 90-498 (PDF, 153 KB), which authorized and requested the President to issue an annual proclamation designating the week including September 15 and 16 as National Hispanic Heritage Week. During that week Hispanic American celebrated anniversaries of independence for Latin American countries such as Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua that falls on September 15th, Mexico’s independence on September 16th, and Chile’s on September 18th. The first proclamation was issued by President Lyndon Johnson. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan expanded the weeklong celebration to one month. The month long celebration now includes Columbus Day or Dia de la Raza, which is October 12th.

At the National/International levels, we celebrate: Ellen Ochoa-World’s First Hispanic Female Astronaut, Frida Kahlo-Mexican Artist, Rita Moreno & Anthony Quinn-Performers, Sandra Cisneros & Octavio Paz-Writers, Cesar Chavez & Dolores Huerta-Political Figures, Jaime Escalante-Educator, Sonia Sotomayor-First Hispanic U.S. Supreme Court Justice

At the local level, we celebrate the many individuals who have consistently contributed to making this community a better place to live in. These individuals (the list is not a complete list) have supported and made valuable contributions to the educational system as well as to the cultural arts. They are: Dr. Irene Garza; Mary Martinez; Dr. Maria Avalos; Sam Flores; Liz Campos; Alfonso Rincon; Homer and Vickie De La Rosa; Alejandro & Yolanda Guerra; Maria G. Betancourt; Yomeida Guerra; Gloria Reyna; Gilbert, Dolores & Michelle Avalos; Nick & Velma Carrillo; Crescencio & Francis Perez; Dr. Rachel Cruz; Johnny & Mary Cruz; Rose Medrano; Steve & Esther Boehm; Gilbert & Glenda Moreno; René Moreno; Ricardo & Janie Guerra; Sam Ramos; Stella Ozuna; Dr. Soledad Ramirez; George and Isabel Cabello Start; Gloria, Ellie and Janie Jimenez; Johnny, Maggie & Ashley Gonzales; Robert & Dora Luna; Mary Louise Lutz; Shaun Valdez; Jerry Belmarez. … This is just to name a few! I will continue the list in future articles.

In the spirit of celebration and recognition, I invite you to visit Teatro’s GALERIA (Exhibit Room). We have a Hispanic Heritage Month display that includes photos, paper clippings and other media of local Hispanics who have contributed to the Mexican-American arts, culture, traditions and education. The display dates back to 1982.

The second event is the Diez y Seis de Septiembre Celebration which is Mexico’s Independence from Spain. Did you know that in the early hours of September 16th, 1810—on the church steps in the town of Dolores Hidalgo, Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla rang the church bell to gather all the towns’ people? On that evening, he read the Grito de Hidalgo. In the Grito he asked that everyone rise up against the Spanish Crown to preserve their cultural identity, and the will than themselves: Independence.

In the United States we see media coverage of huge “immigrant roundups” (raids) but the story of what happens to children who are torn from their parents when the parents are deported is rarely seen. Yet it happens every day in this country. The present law must force the children to abandon the only home they’ve ever known, leaving behind their friends, their school, neighbors, sweethearts and their youngest brother, age 3, and their dog, Frijol.

A routine traffic stop by a police officer goes terribly wrong and now they are not only running from immigration officers but also from the law.

If forced, what would you do to keep your family together? Learn about the Martinez’s and their herailing journey to deal with the issues that threaten to tear their family apart. “In Search of the American Dream” will grip you and your family. Journey with the Martinez family as they face a challenge beyond their worst fears. This movie will make you love your family even more.

In the United States we see media coverage of huge “immigrant roundups” (raids) but the story of what happens to children who are torn from their parents when the parents are deported is rarely seen. Yet it happens every day in this country. The present law must be enforced. The parents must go but the American-born children stay.

“\In Search of the American Dream”\ tells the story of one family torn apart... and the fear and agony the children are forced to bear alone.

“\In Search of the American Dream\” is currently in post-production and is slated to be released in early 2012.
THE PLIGHT OF THE MIS EDUCATED: IN SEARCH OF AN IDENTITY

By Richard G. Santos
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The children of a union of a European and Native American were the third class citizens.

The children of a union of a European and Native American were the third class citizens. Originally (1500’s to mid 1600’s) if the father was of European stock and the mother Native American, the children were called “castizos”. If the father was Native American and the mother of European ancestry, then the children were called “mestizos”.

By the late 1600’s the term and social designation of castizo was dropped and all children of such unions are commonly referred to as mestizos. This was probably brought about by the marriages of castizos and mestizos which did not produce an alternate social identification tag. This social caste represented the major domos, clerks, domestics, ranch hands, cattle hands, farmers, masons, and local militia members.

The fourth class casta were the Native Americans divided into two groups. First and foremost were the Spanish-speaking, Roman Catholic, “mission Indians” and their land-owning descendants. They represented the manual intensive labor force of the Spanish American colonies.

The totally assimilated Native Americans (such as the Tlaxcaltecs) were usually referred to as “gente de razon” as they were frequently employed as colonists in new areas to serve as an example to the local Native Americans of the benefits of becoming a Spanish-speaking, Roman Catholic, land-owning person who dressed and lived like their mestizo and criollo neighbors. The 200 Tlaxcaltecs who founded San Esteban de Tlaxcala opposite the river from Saltillo, Coahuila in 1598 are a good example. Some of their descendants were among the settlers of the third founding of Monclova, Coahuila in the 1680s and the original Villa de Bexar in 1716 - 1718 (now San Antonio, Texas).

Not all Native Americans went through the missions. On October 12, 1837, Jose Francisco Ruiz presented a Resolution to the Senate of the Republic of Texas stating “the people called Lipan (Apache), Karankawa (Texas Gulf Coast) and Tonkawa (south central Texas from Waco to Atascosa, Wilson, Medina and Frio counties) your committee considers part of the Mexican Nation and are no longer to be distinguished from that Nation. They occupy the western part of Texas”.

In 1837, “West Texas” began at the Colorado River and extended to the Rio Grande. Hence, the Native Americans family clans of diverse tribes and nations not killed by the recently arrived settlers from the United States, were socially and legally declared “Mexican” but not Mexican citizens. Many eventually moved into the communities of South Texas where in time they became part of the Tejano and Mexican American population.

It is unfortunate that the standard U. S. and Texas history textbooks do not include any of this historical information and insights as it is very important to understanding the cultural diversity of the Tejano and Mexican American population of South Texas. Not knowing any of this and brainwashed with the WASP Black Legend version of U. S. and Texas history, many reach out for a false identity they consider more positive than their cultural identity, or succumb to an inferiority complex due to not knowing their respective family background.

This article was first published in the Zavala County Sentinel .........31 August – 1 September 2011
La Voz: Welcome to Texas Dr. Dorsey. Let’s start this interview by sharing with our readers a little of your early background. Tell us if you would about your early education, where you grew up and what high school was like for you.

Dr. Dorsey: I was born and raised in Redfield, South Dakota, pop. 3000. High school in South Dakota in the 1960s was pretty simple, and we had much less to deal with than today’s young people. I kept busy playing football, basketball and golf. I had teachers and coaches that had a big impact on me. My parents both were musicians, so that also was a big part of my early life.

La Voz: When you think back to the time when you were getting ready to graduate from high school, what was going on in your town? What were young people thinking about, talking about?

Dr. Dorsey: Things were pretty quiet in Redfield; again a very small town. There was not a lot of opportunity to get into trouble. No drugs or gangs. Everyone knew everyone else, so you couldn’t hide. As I was getting ready to graduate in 1969, the biggest thing on our minds was the war in Vietnam. All of us expected to be drafted, and would likely be sent to Southeast Asia. We all knew older brothers or friends who died there, so that hung heavy over all of our heads during my time in high school. Every generation has its own unique burdens to carry— that was ours.

La Voz: How was it that you chose to enroll at the University of South Dakota?

Frankly, I never really thought of looking anywhere else.

Dr. Dorsey: Frankly, I never really thought of looking anywhere else. It was where my older sister and brother went, plus, it had the best school of business in the state. College selection was very different back then. Schools were near capacity and there was not the kind of extensive searching that students and parents do now. Almost all of my classmates were first-generation college students, and were just glad to get in somewhere.

La Voz: After graduating from college did you go to work or did you head straight for graduate school?

Dr. Dorsey: I went directly to graduate school at Washington University in St. Louis. I knew what I wanted— to get a Ph.D. in economics— so there was no reason to delay starting my career. I love St. Louis, and I had a great experience at Washington U.

La Voz: Somewhere I read that you worked for the U.S. Department of Labor: What was that experience like and what was the most valuable lesson you took away?

La Voz: What lessons did you learn from your time at the University of the Redlands which will help you in guiding Texas Lutheran University?

Dr. Dorsey: There is a steep learning curve for a new college president, so I’ve been able to move much more quickly to be a strong leader here at TLU.

La Voz: What lessons did you learn from your time at the University of the Redlands which will help you in guiding Texas Lutheran University?

Dr. Dorsey: I loved pheasant dinners as a child, and I would have to say that it still is my favorite.
Dr. Suart Dorsey  
Lutheran University

because of my previous experience. I have a sense of confidence, tempered by understanding about what works and what does not on college campus. I think I have a particularly good grasp on the economic challenges facing higher education.

La Voz: What is the most challenging aspect of developing an endowment fund at a private university?

Dr. Dorsey: Absolutely the key challenge is articulating an exciting vision for the university’s future. Without that, there is no reason for an individual to make a financial commitment. You have to give them an emotional stake in bringing about something exciting and transformational. When you can paint that picture, asking someone for a seven-figure gift is not difficult— it’s fun.

La Voz: While you have only been here a short time, is it your sense that the challenges of getting Hispanics enrolled in college, the same as they were or are in California?

Hispanic students tend not to think about small, private colleges, and if they do, they think that they would not fit in to the campus culture. I think they are similar. We had good success in California, but we had to work harder. Hispanic students tend not to think about small, private colleges, and if they do, they think that they would not fit in to the campus culture. So we have to work harder at getting Hispanic students to consider us, but also be mindful that the normal adjustment process for a freshman student may be that much harder. But we are very good at this.

TLU always had been about opening doors of opportunity, often for first-generation students, welcoming students from diverse backgrounds, and working hard to give them the tools to succeed. There is a family approach here that resonates well with Hispanic students.

La Voz: Again, I know you have only been here a short time, but what would you say are the top three things you will be focusing your attention during your first year here?

Dr. Dorsey: First, raising the visibility and awareness of TLU. Wonderful things happen here; lives are transformed, and yet we tend to be under the radar screen. Fund-raising also will be important, as we have important investments to make into our campus and programs. But most importantly, all of us at TLU will continue to focus on delivering a great experience for our students. Our primary goal always must be to raise the value of a TLU degree.

La Voz: Let’s conclude this interview by asking you some different kinds of questions. What is your favorite food?

Redfield, S.D. is the “Pheasant Capital of the world,” so we all had a freezer full of wild pheasant.

Dr. Dorsey: Redfield, S.D. is the “Pheasant Capital of the world,” so we all had a freezer full of wild pheasant. I loved pheasant dinners as a child, and I would have to say that it still is my favorite.

La Voz: What kind of music do you like to listen to?

Dr. Dorsey: Not very Texan I’m afraid. My parents had a dance band for years, so my taste rues to swing (Frank Sinatra), Dixieland (Pete Fountain), and contemporary big band (Buddy Rich). As I get older, I like to listen to quieter “smooth” Jazz. My kids call it elevator music.

La Voz: Well, Dr. Dorsey, we want to thank you for taking the time to visit with us. We look forward to working with you as you take Texas Lutheran University to the next level.

Dr. Dorsey. Thanks to La Voz for having me, and good luck to you and your readers.
In 1994, Alphonso Rincon was publishing a newspaper called The Casa Blanca Review. In his September issue for 1994, he ran the photo on your left of a 16th of September celebration in Seguin that took place in 1944.

Like many Mexican American communities in Texas, cultural celebrations have been taking place for over a hundred years. What is significant about these celebrations is that they served to remind a community that there is a history rich in tradition that should not be forgotten.

En 1994, Alphonso Rincon estaba publicando un periódico llamado The Casa Blanca Review. En el ejemplar de septiembre de 1994, publicó el foto a mano izquierda de un festival del 16th de septiembre que se llevo acabo en en Seguin en 1944.

Como muchas comunidades Mexican Americanas en Texas, La Raza tiene más de cien años celebrando su cultural y historia.
Mickey y sus Carnalez

Saturday, October 8th, 2011
8:00pm to 11:00pm at the Dance Pavilion
Presented by Seguin LULAC Council 682

Tickets are $12 Pre-Sale $15 at the door Tickets available at JP’s Quik Stop & Bakery and the Guadalupe County Fair Association office. Tickets are also available from any LULAC member

También Tocando: Conjunto Romo
In His Own Words

The following is part of an autobiography that Mr. Flores started to write a year ago upon the invitation of Dr. Ana Maria Gonzalez. The work will be part of the “Seguin Stories” project that she has been leading at Texas Lutheran University.

One more try at college

“I enrolled in the second summer session again at Southwest Texas Teachers College. My father had remarried and my brothers and sisters were doing well. I started to get more involved in the church and soon had the position of master of ceremonies.”

Se va casar Sam

During lunch we became more acquainted and I asked her if I could see her again. She said yes and I started going to Seguin to see her. Most of the time we went to the movies and then we would go out for a snack or dinner. After several times meeting with her she said she wanted me to go to her home and meet her parents. I said I appreciated the invitation.

The following week I went to her home and she introduced me to her mother Elvira and her father Bartolo. They welcomed me and were very cordial. They invited me to stay for dinner which I did. There after we met regularly and several months later I asked her if she would be my girlfriend. Again, she agreed and several months after that I asked her if she would marry me. She said she would have to speak to her parents. A week later she told me that her parents had agreed so I made plans to go and ask them in person for permission to marry their daughter.

Se casó Sam

After a discussion to know me better and what my plans were for the future, they agreed to let us to be married. We set the day of our marriage on December 20, 1953. I was still a student in college but several months before our marriage I rented a home in San Marcos. I bought new furniture on credit. I had everything ready for us to move in after our marriage. We were married at La Trinidad Methodist Church in Seguin, Texas with the Reverend Eugenio Vidaurri officiating.

After the church wedding Phil Medlin escorted us back to my wife’s house where we hosted a small reception. I borrowed my father’s car and Velia and I went to Austin overnight for our honeymoon. We returned the following day and went to our home which I had rented. For the first several month Velia was at home as a house wife and we were barely making it. We were living on the small subsistence that the government under the GI Bill was providing. She said she needed to work to help out and managed to get a job in Seguin at the dental office of Freddie Sagabiel. She commuted to Seguin by Greyhound Bus and return to San Marcos in the afternoon.

On May 9th, 1955 I graduated from Southwest Texas Teacher College. I had earned a bachelor’s degree in education with a minor in art. I had completed college in three years going full time including all summer sessions.

During the three years I had only one failing course which was a “D” that I made in geography. Most of my grades were C with some B’s, but not one single A. My wife, her family and I attended the graduation exercise on campus. I was very happy and looking forward to the future and getting a teaching job.

I went to look for a job in Seguin and filled out an application. I was told to go to the Juan Seguin Elementary School which was fully segregated from grades 1-6. The school was called the Mexican School. This is when I found out that the Seguin school district did not employ Hispanic teachers for any of the schools except Juan Seguin. The principal told me there were no vacancies. When I think about now it makes me angry. But in those days we just accepted things like that.

Segregation in Seguin

Back then segregation was very pronounced. The city of Seguin had a swimming pool for the Hispanics which was next to the Juan Seguin School. The blacks had a swimming pool at Ball High School and the Anglos used Starck Park swimming pool. In those days the restaurants would not allow blacks to eat inside. If you were black, you had to go through the kitchen and buy your food and take it with you. What a disgrace! Hispanics could eat in some of the restaurants but others did not serve Mexicans.

A Soldier Stands Up

Vincent Patlan was a World War II veteran who had been wounded during the war and was no push over. He was working as a Seguin ISD truant officer when one day he was denied service in a restaurant. He made contact with the American GI Forum which was founded by Dr. Hector P. Garcia from Corpus Christi, Texas to help Hispanic veterans.

Mr. Patlan and the American GI Forum raised hell about the practice of discrimination in the restaurants in Seguin. They also began to call attention to the segregation practices in housing in Seguin. This was the beginning of some of the social
change that was taking place.
The sentiment was if we were good enough to go to war, we were good enough to eat in a restaurant in the United States of America.

My Teaching Career

After I realized I was not going to get a teaching job in Seguin, I began to consider other cities. A friend of mine named Rudy Aguirre, who had been my scoutmaster, encouraged me to apply for a job in the Harlandale Independent School District in San Antonio, Texas. So I went and met with the superintendent, Dillard Collum. After my interview he offered me a position teaching 5th grade at Southcross Junior High School.

In August of 1955, my wife and I moved to San Antonio where I rented a house. I had a car that my in-laws had given us. It was an older Chevrolet but it ran well and was in good condition. As a teacher, I was assigned to teach a self contained 5th grade class with an enrollment of 45 students. The only period I didn’t meet with them was P.E. The rooms were small and did not have air-condition.

The class was 95% Hispanic and 5% Anglo. I taught all subjects including music. I found the students to be respectful and very dedicated to their school work. I made it a point to visit the home of everyone of my students. Parents were surprised to see me and told me that teachers never visited their homes. My starting teaching salary was $2,805 for nine months. (172 days) It wasn’t very much money so I had to look for a part time job. I found being a ticket taker at Friday night football games helped bring a little more money.

One of My First Teaching Challenges

At the beginning of my second year we got a new principal. His name was Howard “Bull” Harris. He had been a high school football coach. The state of Texas had passed some new laws requiring public schools to provide classes and teachers for special education.

One day Mr. Harris called me in and said I was his best teacher. (We had eight fifth grade classes.) He told me that he wanted me to teach special education classes. I said, “Mr. Harris, I work and you tell me what you want me to do.” He assigned me to teach a class of mentally retarded students and here is where the controversy began.

The school was having a declamation contest. I had a student named Tomas who I encouraged to compete. I assigned Tomas to learn verbatim the Greetings Address. The contest was held several weeks later. After the judges finished their reviews, they determined that Tomas had taken first place. Several teachers complained to Mr. Harris and said that Tomas shouldn’t get the first place trophy because he was in special education. Mr. Harris conceded.

When I found out that Tomas was not going to get the trophy I went to see Mr. Harris. I told him that Tomas had competed fair and square and that he should not be denied just because he was a special education student. Mr. Harris saw that I was getting assertive and demanding and he agreed with me that Tomas deserved that first place trophy. I was learning that the fight for justice is all around us.

Moving to Seguin

In 1956, my son Cesar was born. We were still living in San Antonio but the rents were very high. So we decided to move to Seguin and live with my in-laws. I would commute every day from Seguin to San Antonio. Little did I know that I would do this for 35 years.

The 1960s were filled with many experiences and tragedies. My sister Rebecca passed away and left her two sons Robert, 15, and Richard, 13, with my father. My younger brother Daniel was still in the service. In 1963, Cesar started school. The schools in Seguin were zoned and Cesar was assigned to Juan Seguin Elementary School, a Mexican American segregated school.

This school was about 2 miles away from the house. I never thought much about schools being segregated but I soon realized that there was another elementary school that was only half a mile from the house. It was Weinert Elementary School.

I went to see the Superintendent, A.J. Briesemeister. I told Mr. Briesemeister that I wanted to get a transfer for Cesar so he could go to Weinert. The Superintendent said that it would not be possible because students had to attend the schools in their zone. I thanked him and left.

The Betrayal

Some weeks later, I found out that some Anglo students in the Juan Seguin School zone were given transfers to other schools in the district. I was very upset and angry and went back to see the Superintendent. When I arrived I told the Superintendent’s secretary that I needed to see him. She went to his office and told him that I wanted a letter stating why my son could not attend Weinert Elementary School.

He came out and wanted to know why I wanted a letter. I told him that I knew the district was giving Anglo students transfers to other schools. I told him it was wrong and he was discriminating against my son. I told him that I was going to go to court and sue the school district. He became very alarmed and said he did want any trouble. He told me to give him some time to speak to the school board members. I told him to do what ever he needed to do, but if my son was not allowed to transfer, I would sue him in court.

Several days later, he called me at work in San Antonio and asked me to come by his office. When I arrived he told me that he had spoken to the board and they agreed that my son could attend Weinert Elementary School. I said thank you and as I was leaving, Mr. Briesemeister said that he did not appreciate that I had threatened him. I responded by telling him that I did not threaten him with bodily harm, I threatened him because of the district’s racist policies and that was no threat. When he realized that I was angry, he told me OK, we do not want any trouble. I replied, neither do I and left.

Ending the Segregation in the Seguin Schools

When the word got out that I had managed to get a transfer for Cesar, I got a call from Edward Espinoza who was my wife’s cousins husband. He said he knew of my son’s transfer and asked if he and five other parents could come and talk to me. I said sure. Edward was an Army veteran from the Korean War. He had been wounded and highly decorated for valor en combat.

After the war he learned how to fly a small airplane on the G.I. Bill. The day Edward came over, he brought four men and one woman. I only remember the names Vincent Medina and Jose Gallegos. I explained how I got Cesar’s transfer.

They then told me they had all gone to see the Superintendent as well but were denied transfers. They asked me if I could help them and be their spokesperson. I said yes. Two weeks later we went before the Seguin school board. Robert Koennecke, the school board president asked what we wanted.

To be continued in the next issue of La Voz de Guadalupe County.
Remembering our Loved Ones

Please join us for a Night of Remembrance dedicated to the memories of loved ones, friends, neighbors and military personnel who have gone on before us.

Tuesday, September 13
6 p.m.

1116 N. Austin St.
Seguin, Texas 78155
(830) 379-9430
Texas Lutheran University Faculty Profile

Profe Juan Rodriguez

In the coming months, La Voz de Guadalupe County will feature in each issue a Texas Lutheran University faculty profile. The purpose of these profiles is to better acquaint the community with the university and its staff.

La Voz: How long have you been a faculty member at Texas Lutheran University?

Rodriguez: I am now in my 30th year of service at TLU. Vine jovencito y me voy bien arrugado.

La Voz: In addition to teaching classes, I understand you are involved with a group called MASA. Tell us about your involvement with this group.

Rodriguez: When I came to TLU, I, along with some truly gifted and dedicated Raza students, organized the Mexican American Student Association (MASA). Since then and excepting two years, I have served as MASA’s advisor.

La Voz: Are you involved with any other campus based groups at TLU?

Rodriguez: I am the founder and advisor of another Mexican American organization based at CMAS. It is the Mexican American Alumni and Friends Association (the M double A F A), which seeks to bring the Mexican American, Latino, and other TLU alumni together to address issues and to explore cultural expressions directly related to Mexican American and Latino students on campus. The M double A F A was founded over a decade ago.

La Voz: Where were you teaching before you came to Texas Lutheran University?

Rodriguez: Well, after doing doctoral studies at the University of Iowa, I got my first, “real wages”, university teaching position at the University of Arizona in Tucson. After a short stint there, I took a position at the University of California at San Diego (La Jolla), and then I moved on to the University of California at Berkeley. After teaching at the University of Washington (Seattle) for a short time, I accepted a position at the University of Texas at Austin before coming to Texas Lutheran College, as TLU was known back then.

La Voz: Share with us, if you will, aspects of your early upbringing? Are you originally from Texas?

Rodriguez: Soy Tejano de Linburgo, as we Chicanos call Edinburg. I was born into a family of Mexican peones. Lo digo con orgullo. Though born in the Valley of the Rio Grande, I grew up in a small town south of Lubbock, where we dropped out of the cotton-picking migrant stream. I come from a family of twelve. I am the only one in my family to have graduated high school or pursued a university education. My brothers and sisters did not finish their public schooling not because they were intellectually incapable of doing so, but because poverty and Jim Crow were double blows to the gut near impossible to overcome.

La Voz: Who were some of the people who extended a hand to you early in your career?

Rodriguez: I am what I am because of the “habits of the heart” my father and mother, brothers and sisters, instilled in me. I owe them the most. In later years, I could not have pursued post-graduate studies without the many sacrifices my ex-wife and my children from that marriage made for me. Along the way, there were—as there must be in such cases—teachers who cared and encouraged: my junior high and high school English teacher, Mrs. Head, particularly. Demanding and unrelenting, she taught me English and its grammar. A coscorrones, pero aprendi, and I shall be grateful to her until the end. May she rest in peace.

La Voz: How did the idea of going to graduate school come about?

Rodriguez: By the time I received my B.A., I knew in my heart and mind that I could handle graduate studies. Not only that, but by then, I was so stricken with loving the challenge of learning new things about the world. El mundo era ancho y ajeno, I learned, but it could be mine, intellectually and spiritually.

La Voz: During the years you were in college, were you involved in any campus organizations?

Rodriguez: While I participated in several student organizations, I am most proud of those I founded or co-founded. Among the latter are Los Tertulianos at Texas Tech and two at the University of Iowa: the Chicano Native American Union and the Graduate Student Union.

La Voz: Tell us about the college experience in your family. Where did your children go to college and what do they do today?

Rodriguez: My oldest daughter attended Austin Community College. She works with the federal court district in Austin. Another daughter attended the University of Texas and works retail. Two of my sons attended TLU; one is a urologist in Galveston and the other works for the IRS in Austin. My two little girls from my second marriage are in the 4th and 2nd grade, respectively.

La Voz: Given that literature is your field, what are some of the books that you highly recommend?

Rodriguez: How much time do you have? Cervantes’ El Quijote, of course. There’s Cien años de soledad (García Márquez), El llano en llamas, de Juan Rulfo. You want Chicano books? Try Miguel Méndez’ Peregrinos de Aztlan, any of Rolando Hinojosa’s short stories or novels; Aristeo Brito’s El diablo en Texas, etc. I could name works from other countries and other traditions including the US. There are so many great books to read out in the world.

La Voz: Let’s change up the questions. Tell us:

Favorite quote: “Al cielo se sube una pie”

Favorite food: Chinese

Favorite color: Blue

First car you ever owned: ’54 Chevy; first mode of transportation: a bicycle and then a motorcycle

The thing on your bucket list that you still want to do: Learn how to fly a plane.

La Voz: Any last words?

Rodriguez: I want to encourage all parents to send their children to TLU. It’s a good place to send your children to be taught not only academically but spiritually as well. Besides, it is your local university, your local connection to higher education . . . es tuya, and I am here to welcome you on campus when you come. Muchas gracias, Alfredo, por la visita. You are doing a great service for the Seguin and Guadalupe County communities.
Declaración del partido demócrata de Texas sobre los primeros tres días del juicio de la redistribución de los distritos electorales

San Antonio- El juicio sobre la redistribución de distritos electorales ayer concluyó el tercer de los nueve días asignados. Entre las conclusiones presentadas hasta ahora son:

- Evidencia que demuestra que ni los demócratas en la legislatura ni el público fueron permitidos a dar sus opiniones sobre los mapas políticos creados por los republicanos.

- Testimonio de los expertos sobre la forma anormal del distrito 40 en la cámara de representantes de Texas creado para el ex-demócrata Aaron Peña, cuyo nuevo distrito tiene solo el 1.5 por ciento de su distrito actual. El testimonio de los expertos demostró que el distrito 40 tuvo que haber sido creado para elegir un republicano en un área que es fuertemente demócrata.

- Varios expertos presentaron evidencia del tipo de técnicas manipulativas usadas por parte de los que crearon los mapas políticos para luchar contra los cambios demográficos. Mapas sin el uso de estas técnicas manipulativas favorecerían a los demócratas y les darían más poder político a las minorías.

Hoy a las 8 de la mañana comenzó el cuarto día del juicio con el primer testigo del estado siendo la persona quien creó los mapas políticos en cuestión. (El fue permitido testificar fuera de orden por circunstancias especiales y los testigos para los demandantes seguirán testificando a la conclusión del testimonio de este testigo.)

Abajo está una declaración del Subdirector Ejecutivo del Partido Demócrata de Texas, Anthony Gutiérrez, sobre el juicio en San Antonio hasta ahora:

“Muchos expertos han presentado evidencia demostrando que estos mapas políticos fueron creados para privar del derecho a votar a los Latinos y a otras minorías. También fueron creados para predecir determinar el resultado de suficientes elecciones para asegurar una mayoría republicana para la próxima década. Estos mapas son una bofetada en la cara de los que lucharon para que todos tuvieran derecho al voto.”

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Word Power

En Las Palabras Hay Poder

No one can ever argue in the name of education, that it is better to know less than it is to know more. Being bilingual or trilingual or multilingual is about being educated in the 21st century. We look forward to bringing our readers various word lists in each issue of La Voz de Guadalupe County.

¿Pero cuando? But when?
Tu sabes You know
¿Deveras? Really
Era tiempo It was about time
¿Nos vamos? Shall we go?
¿Quien te dijo? Who told you?
¿Cuando te dijieron? When did they tell you?
¿Porqué te dijieron? Why did they tell you?
No te creas Don’t believe it.
¿Quien vas a apoyar? Who are you going to support?
¿Creas que puede ganar? Do you believe he can win?
Who Was Doña Josefa de Dominguez: and What Does She Have to Do With the 16th of September?

by Alfredo Rodriguez Santos c/s

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated around the country from September 15th to October 15th. As Yvonne de la Rosa points out in her column on page 4, President Lyndon B. Johnson first declared National Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968. It was President Ronald Reagan, who extended it to 30 days and proclaimed National Hispanic Heritage Month in 1988.

But Mexicans and Mexican Americans have been celebrating the 16th of September for a long time. The photo on page eight shows a group of Mexican Americans in 1944 at a 16th of September celebration in Seguin, Texas.

But did you know that the 16th of September is an historic mistake? El Grito de la independencia by Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla was not supposed to happen on September 16th, 1810!

¿Qué fue lo que pasó?

At the end of the 18th Century, many of the monarchies of Europe began to see revolutions spreading like wild fire. People were tired of living under repressive regimes. The idea of living under the rule of king who told you when you could speak, when you could work and when you could sleep, was quickly falling out of favor.

The philosophers of the day, Rousseau, Montesquieu, and Voltaire, helped to fill the atmosphere of change with ideas of democracy, liberty and equality. And it was their books that a small “reading club” in Querétaro, Mexico found most intriguing.

As the American Revolution birthed the United States of America, other countries knew it was time to act. The French mobilized and push the Royal Court back to Paris. The republic was proclaimed in 1792 and King Louis XVI was executed. The news spread and people knew the time had come to act.

All of these developments caught the attention of a woman named Doña Josefa Ortiz de Dominguez. Doña Josefa was the wife of Miguel Dominguez, the Magistrate of Querétaro.

A Passion for Justice

It was well known that Doña Josefa was vehemently against the abuse that the Spaniards– that is, the European-born Spaniards – exercised over the natives considering and treating them as second-class citizens. She always identified with the native’s social problems, for they were relegated to secondary positions in public administration as well as in the military.

Throughout her life she fought for the recognition of the Indigenous people’s rights, in addition to using her position as Chief Magistrate to involve herself in numerous charitable ventures.

“The Literary Club”

One of Doña Josefa’s ventures included hosting a “literary society” where people came together to discuss literature and the works of the Enlightenment which at the time were banned by the Roman Catholic Church. These meetings were attended by many educated people include a priest named Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla.

It was at Doña Josefa’s house where these “literary meetings” evolved into an underground movement called the Querétaro Conspiracy that was to produce the armed struggle for independence from Spain. To be sure, there were others in Mexico making their own plans.

The Querétaro Plan was to gather weapons and supplies and transport them for an uprising set to begin on December 8th, 1810, right before the celebrations for El Dia de La Virgen de Guadalupe.

The Betrayal

But Doña Josefa and her group were betrayed by one of the members of her group and when her husband, El Corregidor de Querétaro found out he was furious that his wife would be involved in such activities. After having her locked in her room, he prepared to round up the would be revolutionaries, including Father Miguel Hidalgo.

Doña Josefa managed to smuggle a note out of her room with the help of a maid. The note was for Father Hidalgo warning him that they had been discovered and that the soldiers were coming for him. An ally of Doña Josefa rode into the night and it was he who delivered the somber news to Father Hidalgo in Dolores, Guanajuato telling him what had happened.

Knowing that time was short, Father Hidalgo made the snap decision to go to the church at 2:00 am and ring the bell to call the people to the church where he would give his famous Grito de Dolores and ignite the Mexican War of Independence.

The struggle to free Mexico from the rule of Spain would take 11 years and cost many lives. Father Hidalgo would not live to see Mexico free, but his words, actions and spirit live on today. And it is this that many Mexican American celebrate each 16th of September.

The Legacy

But it is the role of Doña Jose de Dominguez that has not received much attention. Thanks to La Corregidora’s timely alert, many conspirators were able to escape before being arrested and jailed, though she herself was the victim of Captain Arias’ betrayal. She was arrested and taken to Mexico City, where a trial was held in which she was convicted of treason. She was jailed in various convents until finally, in June of 1817, her husband was able to have her released.

Once Independence from the Spanish rule was achieved, Agustin Iturbide – who proclaimed himself emperor – invited her to be part of his court, but she refused the appointment because she considered that the Empire was completely contrary to the ideals for which the War of Independence had been fought. Moreover, she refused any reward for her services to the insurrection.

Doña Josefa Ortiz de Dominguez died on March 2, 1829 at the age of 61 in Mexico City. Her remains were moved to the city of Querétaro and deposited, along with her husband’s, in the Mausoleum of the Illustrious in Querétaro.
SEPTEMBER

Thursday, September 15
"Fiesta en la Plaza"
6:30 – 8:30 p.m. • Alumni Plaza
Come and join us for a special celebration with music, food and dance. The event will feature the Son Jaroch Group “Son Armado” with traditional music of the state of Veracruz and a performance by Aztec dancers, plus food, drinks and festive colors. Free and open to the public.

Tuesday, September 20
Fiesta
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. • ASC, Graf Lounge
Students come make crafts, hear great music, and enjoy free food! Come celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month fiesta style!

Thursday, September 22
Mexican Revolution Series on PBS
4:00 p.m. • Dunne Conference Center
Given that last year was the 100th anniversary of the Mexican Revolution, the San Antonio station KLRN has created a new series called “Children of the Revolution.” In it, they explain how the Mexican Revolution had a direct impact on the San Antonio area. It would be wonderful to relate a historical event of such magnitude to your actual life and surroundings, don’t you think? Come and learn about it.

Monday, September 26
Honduras Mission Trip
4:00 p.m. • Dunne Conference Center
For 25 years, a group of Seguin residents has been going to Honduras to offer its voluntary work in public health and veterinary services. This last May, eight students and a professor from TLU joined their efforts and they will talk about their remarkable experience in the Central American country. A reception with traditional Honduran food and drinks will follow. Free and open to the public.

Wednesday, September 28
Robert Rivard – San Antonio Express News Editor
7:30 p.m. • Wupperman Little Theatre
“Mexico and its struggle to break from its past to find a new future.” Veteran reporter and news editor Robert Rivard will relate his experience as a journalist covering events in Mexico, and share some reflections on the role of a free press, as Mexicans strive to transcend a seemingly relentless cycle of violence. Robert Rivard is the chairman of the Inter American Press Association (IAPA) Committee on Freedom of the Press and Information and he is also editor of the San Antonio Express News.

OCTOBER

Tuesday, October 4
Study Abroad in Spain and Costa Rica
4:00 p.m. • Dunne Conference Center
Students who studied abroad this last summer will share their experiences with wonderful stories and beautiful images. Come and find out the opportunities TLU offers to study abroad.

Monday, October 10
Dr. Refugio Rochin
10:00 a.m. • Chapel

Tuesday, October 11
Lecture by Dr. Refugio Rochin: An Educational Journey
9:30 a.m. • Jackson Auditorium
Recently honored as one of the Peace Corps 1962–1964 alumni, Dr. Refugio Rochin has been designated as one of “America’s Top 100 Influential Hispanics,” by Hispanic Business magazine. He will speak about his own educational journey, the challenges he has faced and will have advice for all students entering today’s workforce.

Thursday, October 20
Ojalá Concert
7:30 p.m. • Jackson Auditorium
Ojalá is an Austin based band that mixes both Spanish and Arabic in their songs. The music traditions of the South of Europe and the North of Africa are clearly linked (Spain was under Muslim rule for over 700 years). Therefore, instruments, voice register and rhythms are shared. This group recovers that common background and makes us aware of those ties. These ethnic rhythms will delight you and enrich your sense of belonging to a global community.

Events sponsored by:
Modern Languages Department,
Division of Student Life and Learning, and Student Activities