

# La Voz

A portrait of Gina Hinojosa, a woman with dark, wavy hair, smiling. She is wearing a purple top and a gold necklace. The background is a textured, reddish-brown color.

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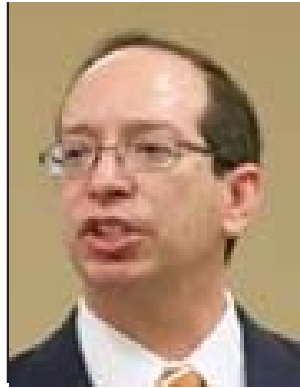
**Free/Gratis**

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# People in the News



## John Morán González Promoted to Full Professor at UT Austin

**John Morán González** was recently promoted to Full Professor at **The University of Texas at Austin**. He works in Department of English and also serves as the Director of the **Center for Mexican American Studies**.

**Professor González** attended **Princeton University**, graduating magna cum laude with an A.B. in English literature. He then earned an M.A. degree and a Ph.D. in American literature, both from **Stanford University**.

Originally from **Brownsville, Texas** he is author of [Border Renaissance: The Texas Centennial and the Emergence of Mexican American Literature](#) and [The Troubled Union: Expansionist Imperatives in Post-Reconstruction American Novels](#). He is also the editor of [The Cambridge Companion to Latina/o American Literature](#), published by **Cambridge University Press** in 2016.



## Morales Sworn In As Constable of Precinct 4

**George Morales III** was sworn in as the new **Constable** of Precinct 4 in **Travis County** on January 1st, 2017. Born and raised in **Austin, Texas**, **Morales** grew up in the **Dove Springs** neighborhood and graduated from **Johnston High School** and attended **Austin Community College** and **Huston-Tillotson University**.

**Morales** has twenty two years of law enforcement experience in **Travis County** and has received a number of awards over the years for his dedication and commitment to public service.

Prior to taking office, **Morales** served as the **Chief Deputy** for **Constable Adan Ballesteros** in Precinct 2. He law enforcement certifications include: Master Texas Peace Officer, First Line Supervisor, Certified Basic Police Instructor and Gang Investigator.



## Victoria DeFrancesco Soto Leads Off New Radio Program

The **Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**, launched its inaugural show, **AMÉRICA HOY** on Newsradio **KLBJ 590AM** on January 8th, 2017. The program is also streamed at [newsradioklbj.com](#).

**Mark Madrid**, President and CEO of the **Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce** is the host of the show and had as his first guest, **Dr. Victoria DeFrancesco Soto**, a lecturer in the **Department of Government** at **The University of Texas at Austin**. She provided a recap of the 2016 presidential election and shared her insight on the upcoming political environment.

**Dr. DeFrancesco Soto** is a contributor to **MSNBC** as well a regular political analyst for **Telemundo**. She has appeared on **HBO's Real Time with Bill Maher** and is widely published in both academic and popular outlets such as **POLITICO** and **Talking Points Memo**.

A native of **Southern Arizona**, **Dr. Defrancesco Soto** is of Italian-Jewish-Mexican heritage. She received her B.A. from the **University of Arizona** in 2000 and her Ph.D from **Duke University** in 2007.



## Serapio Herrera Inducted Into Tejano Roots Hall of Fame

**Serapio Herrera**, legendary *musico* from the 1960s when he fronted for **Los Sonics**, was inducted into the **Tejano Roots Hall of Fame** on January 7th, 2017 in Alice, Texas.

At the age of 12, in 1963, **Herrera** learned to play to organ and joined a group called **The Illusions**. A year later he formed the **Los Sonics**. The original **Sonics** featured **Henry Alemán** on lead vocals and **Serapio** on keyboards and vocals. **Serapio's** father, **Valentin**, would drive to gigs at the **Royal Sport** in **Seguin** and other towns/venues in a camper.

By 1968, **Serapio** was now sharing the stage with the likes of the **Royal Jesters**, **Little Joe**, **Sunny and the Sunliners**, in large venues all over **Texas, Kansas, Wisconsin, Illinois** and **Michigan** where fans would yell for **Serapio** to sing "Clavelito," his signature song since 1967.

In 1988, **Herrera** left the music scene enrolled in a technical college and opened a business. But the music was still in his heart. Today he is back and his new group is called **Cincuenta Veinte**. He can be contacted at (830) 625-3626



## Brad Urrutia Sworn In As Judge of the 450th Court

**Brad Urrutia** was sworn in as the new judge of the **450th District Court** on January 3rd, 2017. This is the newest court created by the **Texas Legislature**.

**Urrutia** states that it was his mother who drove home the need for an education. After graduating high school in 1987, he joined the **Army** to pay for college.

After being honorably discharged in 1990, he enrolled at **Texas State University** and graduated in 1993. A scholarship took him to **Washburn University School of Law** in **Topeka, Kansas**.

A criminal defense attorney from the beginning, **Urrutia** has tried every level of felony, from state jail felony drug cases to death penalty cases. Over the years he has been committed to representing indigent clients charged with the most serious crimes.

**Judge Urrutia** is married to **Amber Urrutia** and they have four children. He is a resident of South Austin.



## PRODUCTION

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### PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

**La Voz** is a monthly publication covering Bexar, Brazoria, Caldwell, Comal, Guadalupe, Hays, Maverick, Travis, Uvalde, Valverde and Zavala Counties. The editorial and business address is P.O. Box 19457 Austin, Texas 78760. The telephone number is (512) 944-4123. The use, reproduction or distribution of any or part of this publication is strongly encouraged. But do call and let us know what you are using. Letters to the editor are most welcome.

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## Pensamientos

*Bienvenidos a todos* to a new year. Gracias a dios we made into 2017. *Bueno, no todos.* There are a few folks we want to pay tribute to since they did pass away in 2016.

They are **Diana Castañeda**, local community activist, Tejano singer, **Emilo Navaira**, **Rocky Medrano**, Chicano journalist and activist, **Joe Olvera** from El Paso, **Danny Camacho**, avid historian and volunteer at the **Austin History Center**, legendary farm worker leader **Antonio Orendain** who passed away in the **Rio Grande Valley**, Tejano singer, **Bobby Butler** from **Tortilla Factory** fame, Chicana activist **Choco Meza** who passed away in September in **San Antonio, Texas**.

To all these folks and any others we may have missed, we say good-bye. You are gone but not forgotten Your time on this earth made a difference and we know the contributions you made during the time you were with us.

In this issue of **La Voz** we want to call to your attention the passing of **Archbishop Patrick Flores in San Antonio**. He goes down in history as the first Mexican American to be named a bishop in the **Roman Catholic Church** when he was so ordained on el *Cinco de Mayo* of 1970.

On page 6 you will find the Latino elected officials from the **Austin** area who were sworn into office recently. We count a total of 20. (Hope we didn't miss anyone.)

On page 7 we have included a teaser for a forthcoming series. Back in 2007, we published a list of the 25 most influential Latinos in **Austin**. In 2010, we published a list of the 21 hardest working community activists in **Austin**. This year we will be publishing four lists. See page 7 for more details.

Page 12 contains a Review of the Year 2016 with the covers of each issue of **La Voz**. *Cada año* it seems that time is going by faster and faster.



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## EDITORIAL

### Cambiando de Tema

Every few months or so, we are asked, we do publish a Latino newspaper? Why do you have to separate yourself? Can't we all just be Americans?

I am used to these types of questions after having been in the newspaper business for 26 years now. The story below has appeared in several cultural variations and we reprint it here as a partial response to the questions above.

A Jewish man spotting a friend reading an Arabic newspaper. "**Moshe**, have you lost your mind?" he says.

"Well, I used to read the Jewish papers, but what did I find?" **Moshe** replies. "Jews being persecuted, Israel being attacked, Jews disappearing through assimilation, Jews living in poverty. So I switched to an Arab newspaper. Now what do I find? Jews own the banks, Jews control the media, Jews are all rich and powerful, Jews rule the world. The news is so much better!"



**Alfredo R. Santos c/s**  
Editor and Publisher

### La Raza Round Table



Where friends and enemies come together for breakfast tacos every Saturday and discuss the important issues of the day. We meet at 4926 East Cesar Chavez Street in Austin, Texas every Saturday at 10:00am



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## Profile

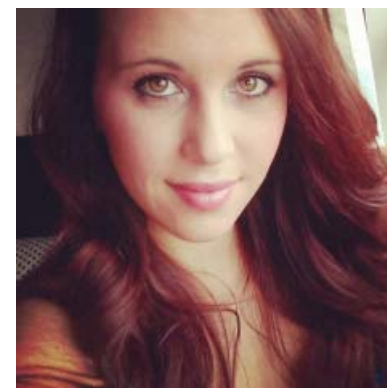


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**Sheeana Mayo**

**Third Grade Teacher at East Austin College Prep,**  
[www.eaprep.org](http://www.eaprep.org)

My name is **Sheeana Mayo** (soon to be Sheeana Cahill). I am 27 years old and this is my fourth year as a teacher, three of which have been at EA Prep. I am from **California** and received my teaching credential from **Chico State** in **Chico, CA**. I grew up with a very small family consisting of my mom and younger brother. As a kid, I always loved school and was very curious about everything. That love for learning continued to develop and has since become a love for education in general. I was that student who always got excited on test days and loved writing essays. I always knew I wanted to be a teacher. This summer I will be getting married in the redwood forest in **California**, so this is my last year teaching as **Miss Mayo**.



**Goals for EAPrep and your students:** I want my students to feel empowered by education. I would love for them to develop a passion for learning. My hope is that students feel safe to make mistakes, to ask any question, to put themselves out there, and to push themselves to grow intellectually and emotionally. I would love for all my students to leave my room feeling loved, respected, and with a love for learning.

**Degrees:** BA Liberal Studies with a minor in Child Development, Multiple Subject Teaching Credential (both in Texas and California)

**Favorite Activity:** Reading! I would read all day, every day if I could.

**Favorite Books:** A Song of Fire and Ice series, the Harry Potter series. I love anything in the fantasy genre.

**Personal hero and why:** My mom is my personal hero. My mom was homeless when she became pregnant with me. She worked hard every day to pull my family out of poverty. Today, she owns her own home! Her hard work and dedication inspire me every day. I have never met someone with so much strength. She raised me to be confident, independent, and loving.

**What animal best represents you and why?** I would have to say a cat. They are curious, independent, and temperamental.

**What is your greatest strength?** My greatest strength as a teacher is my ability to connect with my students. I love them all and I make sure that they know it.

**Interesting fact about yourself:** I was proposed to in **Nice, France** this last summer.

**Why do you work at EAPrep?** I absolutely love the team of teachers I get to work with every day. They are such passionate and dedicated educators. I am constantly inspired by them. I also love the population of kids we serve. These kids' lives will truly be affected by the level of education they receive. This may not be the easiest job in the world, but I can't imagine doing anything else!

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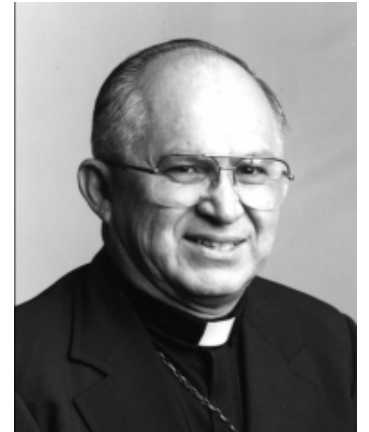
**8700 Lava Hills Rd.**

**ME AJUSTO A SU PRESUPUESTO**

## Bishop Patrick Flores Passes Away in San Antonio, Texas

Reprinted from National Catholic Reporter

**Retired Archbishop Patrick Flores**, 87, the first Mexican-American bishop in the United States, died of pneumonia and congestive heart failure Jan. 9 at **Padua Place Residence** for retired priests in **San Antonio**. The bishop, who dropped out of school to be a migrant farmworker, was known for his support for farmworkers, Mexican-American civil rights and his love of his culture and heritage.



**Los Angeles Archbishop Jose Gomez** described **Flores** as his good friend and mentor and *"a pioneer and role model not only for me but also for a generation of Hispanic priests and Latino leaders."* He said the archbishop of **San Antonio**, who retired in 2004, *"knew the struggles of Hispanics in this country, and he was a friend to the farmworker and a voice of conscience for dignity and human rights. He taught all of us to celebrate our heritage and traditions and encouraged us to share our faith and values proudly and to become leaders in our communities."*

Flores, born in Ganado, was one of nine children and called "Ticho" by his family. His younger sister, Mary Moreno, told Today's Catholic, newspaper of San Antonio archdiocese, in 2004 that her brother would often walk up and down the road in front of the family home praying the rosary. "He was always very close to God," she said. He also had a light side, often winning dance contests with his sister Mary, and played a number of instruments and sang.

He was ordained to the priesthood in 1956 in the Galveston-Houston diocese and was appointed auxiliary bishop of San Antonio in 1970. Eight years later, he was installed as bishop of El Paso, and in 1979, he was appointed archbishop of San Antonio. He was a member of the Immigration and Refugee Department of the U.S. Catholic Conference, chairman of the Church in Latin America Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and chairman of the Texas Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

In 1987, he welcomed Pope John Paul II to the San Antonio archdiocese as part of the pope's nine-city tour. The pope celebrated Mass for a crowd of 330,000 people in a field that is now the site of John Paul Stephens High School. The Mass still holds the record for the largest gathering in the state.

In an interview with Today's Catholic newspaper in preparation for his retirement, Flores said what he remembered most fondly of his time as archbishop was simply his life as a priest. "I've spent 48 years as a priest, and I have loved it all. If I had the chance to start all over again, I would not hesitate. I might have prepared better academically and in some other ways. But I have literally found great satisfaction in simply being a priest — being a bishop is simply assuming additional responsibility." "I have found it very challenging and very satisfying. So I've been happy at it and will continue to be happy," he added. Following Flores' retirement, he resided briefly at Casa de Padres retirement center for priests of the archdiocese, but he spent the past several years at the Padua Place residence for priests needing medical assistance.



# Congratulations To All Those Who Were Sworn Into Public Service For The Coming Years



**Adan Ballesteros**  
Travis Co. Constable Prec. 2



**Carlos H. Barrera**  
Judge County Court # 8



**Rose Cardona**  
Mayor Sunset Valley



**Greg Casar**  
Austin City Council, Dist 4



**Nora Comstock De Hoyos**  
Austin Community College Pl # 6



**David Escamilla**  
Travis County Attorney



**Bill Flores**  
U.S. Congress Dist. 17



**Delia Garza**  
Austin City Council Dist. 3



**Larry Gonzales**  
Texas State Rep. Dist. 52



**Nikki Gonzales**  
Round Rock ISD Trustee



**Victor Gonzales**  
Mayor of Phfulgerville



**Eva Guzman**  
Justice Supreme Court, Place 9



**Gina Hinojosa**  
Texas State Rep. Dist. -49



**Celia Israel**  
Texas State Rep Dist. -50



**Carlos B. Lopez**  
Travis Co. Constable Prec. 5



**George Morales III**  
Travis Co. Constable Prec 4



**Eddie Rodriguez**  
Texas State Rep. Dist. 51



**Gisela D. Triana**  
District Judge 200th Court



**Brad Urrutia**  
District Judge 450th Court



**Judith Zaffirini**  
Texas State Senator D-21



# Shining the Spotlight

TIME Magazine does it. So does a host of other publications. What is it they do? They announce the 100 most influentials people or the 100 most powerful people in the previous year.

*La Voz de Austin* is certainly not TIME Magazine but we do think it is important to shine the spotlight on people in the Latino community. So for 2017 we have put together a list of 100 people who we believe are making a difference.

They are divided into the following four categories on your right. In the next few issue of *La Voz*, look for the photos and profiles of individuals on these lists.



**The 25 Most Influential Latinos in Austin, Texas**

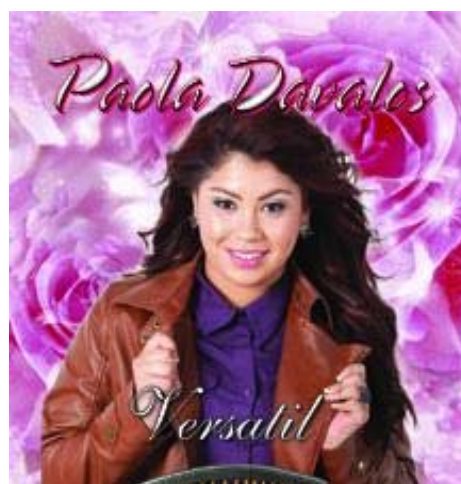
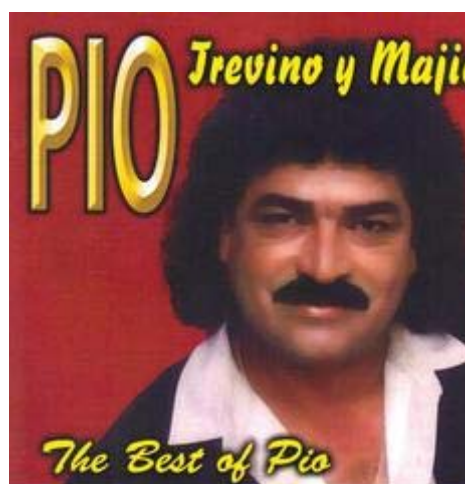
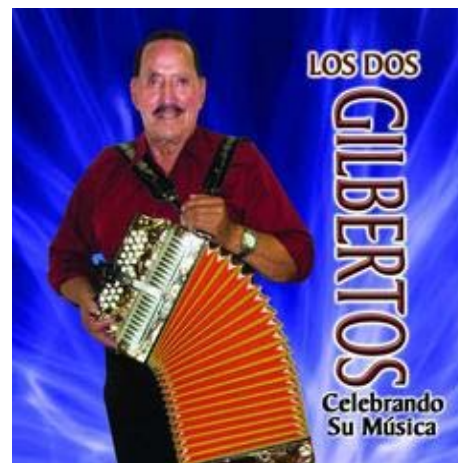
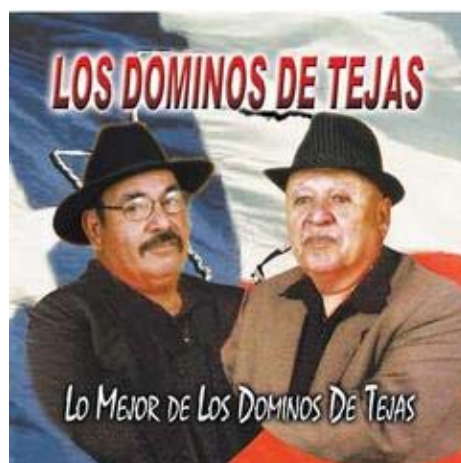
**The 25 Most Powerful Latinos in Austin, Texas**

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## Tips to Help Improve Your Economic Future

Here are some tips to help you take stock of your overall economic picture, with actionable steps designed to help improve your long-term financial security. If you are like many Americans, the current economic environment continues to make it difficult for your family to make ends meet. Many of us have readjusted our spending habits to such an extent that there is now a new normal. For example, we may no longer shop as much as or where they used to; we may settle for a staycation, rather than a true getaway; and items that were previously considered to be necessities have been relegated to the "can't afford" or "not needed" category. If you think these are temporary changes, think again. Many economic analysts feel that these new attitudes are here to stay.

### Tip #1: Determine what is really important.

Take stock of what is really important to you and your family—is the newest electronic game system or cell phone more important than creating a secure financial future?

Start by developing your family's mission statement. This is easier than it sounds: Simply write out what is important to you as a group. Be sure to include what your long- and short-term goals are, and what you are willing to give up in order to make these goals a reality. Don't forget that along the way, you may still want to decide what little luxuries your entire family can enjoy (like a get-away) that you want to keep in your budget – since these can help you feel less deprived and even save you money (by keeping you from going out to first-run movies, for example).

### Tip #2: Cut back, even if it hurts (a little).

Figuring out what is most important to your family from a financial perspective is a smart move –and a good decision for your long-term financial security. Making even small sacrifices in your spending can help you meet your goals. Look carefully at how you and your family members spend your money so you can identify where you can make small changes to cut back on non-essential expenditures. And don't overlook the bigger-ticket items you pay for every month, such as your cable TV/Internet subscriptions and car insurance. Making minor adjustments to these items can free up more dollars than you might imagine, and play a significant role in helping you fund your family's long-term financial goals.

### Tip #3: Become a dedicated saver.

If you are like many families, trying to juggle financial priorities can make saving extremely difficult. Successful savers use the concept of paying themselves first whenever they receive a paycheck. Over time, adopting that one smart move can help you reach your financial goal of saving for a car, a vacation, or whatever is a priority for your family. To help make it easier, check with your employer to see if you can have part of your pay automatically deposited into one or more savings accounts. It can make saving automatic—and nearly painless.

### Tip #4: Run your numbers.

Do you know if you are on track with your current disability coverage, life insurance, and retirement savings plan(s)? In other words, will these important items provide you and your family with the amount of financial protection you'll need – when needed? Don't wait until it's too late. Take the time now to assess their adequacy and make the appropriate adjustments.

### Tip #5: Get the help you need.

When it comes to Tips 1 through 4, you may feel you need some assistance. Whether you need help in just one area or all four, start looking at your future through a new lens – one that has your family's financial goals in focus, with a plan to help you get there. Contact a financial professional to discuss ways they can help you put these tips into action—and your financial dreams on track. Taking the right steps today can help to ensure a better financial future for both you and your loved ones.



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Condado de Brazoria, Texas

El Departamento de Transporte de Texas (TxDOT por sus siglas en inglés) es la agencia que propone la reconstrucción de la carretera FM 523 desde la SH 332 hasta la FM 1495 en el condado de Brazoria, Texas. La distancia total del proyecto es de aproximadamente 1.4 millas. Según el Código Administrativo de Texas, Título 43, §2.106 y §2.108, éste aviso sirve para informar al público que la Exclusión Categórica (CE) está disponible para revisión y que TxDOT está anunciando la oportunidad de una Audiencia Pública para el proyecto propuesto. La revisión ambiental, consultas y otras acciones requeridas por las leyes ambientales federales aplicables para este proyecto están siendo o han sido, llevado a cabo por TxDOT – en virtud de 23 U.S.C. §327 y un Memorando de Entendimiento fechado el 16 de diciembre del 2014, y ejecutado por la FHWA y TxDOT.

El propósito del proyecto propuesto es reconstruir la carretera FM 523 de dos carriles a una de cuatro carriles, con un carril adicional para dar vuelta a la izquierda. La ampliación propuesta cambiaría los dos carriles de 11 pies de ancho con un carril continuo de 14 pies de ancho para dar giros a la izquierda, a cuatro carriles de 12 pies de ancho con un carril continuo de 16 pies de ancho para dar giros a la izquierda. La ampliación incluye acotamientos de ambos lados de 10 pies de ancho. El proyecto completo es aproximadamente 1.4 millas de largo y contiene un área de 35.5 acres. El derecho de vía existente varea de 120 a 200 pies de ancho a lo largo del proyecto. El proyecto no requiere derecho de vía adicional. No habrá desplazamientos de viviendas u otras estructuras. El proyecto propuesto es necesario para mejorar la eficiencia operativa y la seguridad de la carretera existente añadiendo capacidad dentro de los límites del proyecto. Una Reunión Pública fue realizada en 19 de noviembre de 2015.

Se anticipa que el proyecto propuesto cruce varias zonas de inundación. Aproximadamente 0.45 acres de zonas acuáticas serán impactadas por el proyecto propuesto. Permiso, para impactar las zonas acuáticas será pedida al U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Distrito de Galveston mediante un Permiso Nacional 14. Además, se solicitará un permiso de la Guardia Costera de los EEUU para reconstruir el puente bajo la Sección 9 de la ley Rivers and Harbors Act.

La Exclusión Categórica, mapas que muestran la localización y diseño del proyecto, fechas tentativas para construcción y otra información relacionada al proyecto, están disponibles de lunes a viernes entre las 8:00a.m. y las 5:00p.m. (excluyendo días feriados estatales y federales) en la oficina del Distrito de Houston de TxDOT, 7600 Washington Avenue, Houston, Texas 77007 o en las oficinas del Condado de Brazoria de TxDOT localizadas en 1033 E. Orange, Angleton, TX 77515, o puede contactar al Sr. Carlos M. Zepeda Jr, al teléfono a (979) 864-8523. El resumen de dicha reunión y los planos esquemáticos para el proyecto propuesto, están encuentra en línea <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings/houston/111915.html>.

Cualquier ciudadano interesado puede solicitar una audiencia pública que cubra los efectos sociales, económicos y ambientales para el proyecto propuesto y su diseño. Dichas solicitudes, para la Audiencia pública puede ser sometido por escrito en o antes del 5 de febrero de 2017 a la dirección, TxDOT Houston District Office, Director of Project Development, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251-1386 o por correo electrónico a [hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov](mailto:houstonpiowebmail@txdot.gov). Además, cualquier comentario relacionado a la CE, puede ser sometido a la dirección incluida arriba. Si tiene alguna pregunta o comentario relacionada con el proyecto, o solicitar una Audiencia Pública, favor de contactar al Sr. Patrick Gant por teléfono a (713) 802-5274.




Relational Histories, Inter-Ethnic Alliances:  
Chican@/x Coalition Politics in Tejas

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# La Voz Year in Review 2016

The year 2016 is over. Every year it seems that time is going by faster and faster. On this page we look back on 2016 by visiting the various covers we produced.

Each issue of *La Voz* contains between 16 and 24 pages. If we take an average of 20 pages per issue and count the 11 editions we produced in 2016, we have a total of 220 pages. While doing *La Voz* is a lot of work, it is also a lot of fun. We look forward to another great year in 2017.



March, 2016



June, 2016



October, 2016



January, 2016



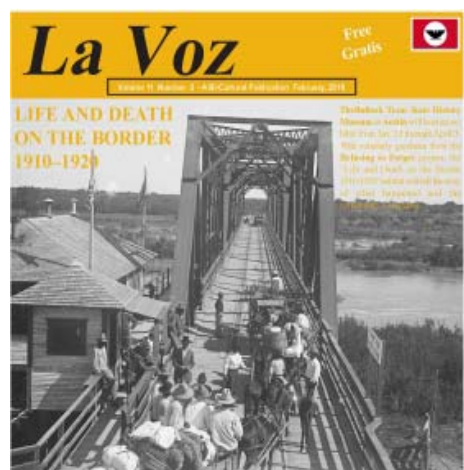
April, 2016



July, 2016



November, 2016



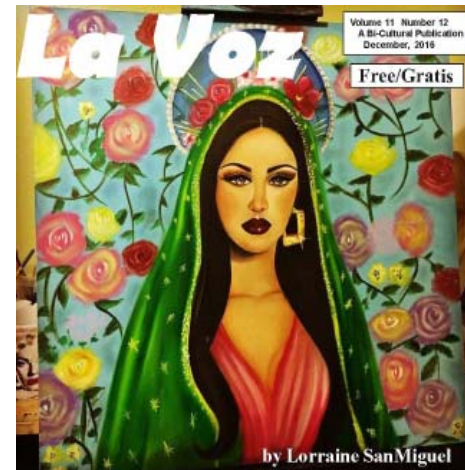
February, 2016



May, 2016



August/September, 2016



December, 2016



# Before La Raza Unida Party: *Lo que aprendimos en Uvalde, Texas*

In 1969, I was a 16 year old teenager living on **Ft. Clark Road** in **Uvalde, Texas**. I was also a student at **Uvalde High School** and a member of the **Mexican American Youth Organization**. Most people knew us by the acronym **M.A.Y.O.** There were maybe 40 of us in the **Uvalde** chapter. **Rogelio Muñoz** was one of our leaders and so was **Amaro Cardona**. We used to meet in an old two story house on **Nicolas Street** for *platica* sessions.

Many of us in **M.A.Y.O.** had decided individually and collectively that the time had come for the Mexican American to stand up and stop being afraid. Back then, as a people, we were afraid to say anything to anyone or question anyone, especially “the authorities.” *En aquel entonces*, many people simply did what they were told or charged off a predicament to that old Catholic adage, “*porque así lo quizo Dios.*”

As **MAYO** members, we didn’t subscribe to that point of view. We believed that it was more than just a coincidence or the will of God that a lot of adverse things seemed to happen to Mexican Americans and not to others. We wanted to know why it was that *El Mexicano* seemed to always be the one dropping out of school and working in the low paying jobs. We wanted to know why it was that our streets seemed to be the ones that got the least attention when it came to pot holes and upkeep. And we wanted to know why it was that when it came to law enforcement, we were the ones who seemed to fill the jails and pay the fines.

In 1968, we began publishing a newspaper called *La Revolución*. We

used this communication vehicle to help us ask the many questions we had about the way Mexican Americans were treated in **Uvalde**. I remember there were people who did not appreciate our inquisitiveness. There were some who told us to be careful. . . to watch what we were saying . . . and to not make the Anglo mad. We were young and although many of us might not have realized it, we were also part of world wide movement by young people who were taking issue with the ways things were.

One of the outcomes that was a direct result of the many **M.A.Y.O.** efforts was *La Raza Unida Party*. This was a political party started in 1970 by **José Angel Gutierrez** and other Chicano activists. Part of the impetus behind the formation of this third party was the idea that there was really no difference between the Democrats or the Republicans. It was also held that if Chicanos were going to bring about social and political change in **South Texas**, then it was going to have to be accomplished outside the structure of the traditional two party system. One of the events that underscored this view here in **Uvalde** was what took place after the General Election of 1968.

**Richard M. Nixon** has just won the presidency of the United States by one of the biggest landslides in history. In **Uvalde, Texas**, an individual by the name of **Dave C. Howard** had just won his third term as a state representative.

In January of 1969, **Mr. Howard** and all the other **Texas** legislators headed to the Capitol in **Austin** to be sworn

in. As is the custom in **Austin, Texas** on the opening day of the legislature, returning and newly elected members bring their families and participate in a few days of celebration. As is also the custom, each member goes to the podium and says something to the effect of: “*Members, I’m glad to be back in Austin and look forward to a productive 140 day session. I also bring you greetings from the voters back home and . . .*”

Well it was **Dave Howard’s** turn to come to the podium. He rises from the crowd and proceeds to the podium. Then just as he begins to speak into the mike, he pauses for a second, clears his throat, and then without warning, boom! Right there in from of everybody, he has a heart attack and dies! There is shock in the chamber! The legislature, in his memory, calls a four day recess and everyone takes time off to bury him. The Governor at the time, **Preston Smith**, as per the **Texas Constitution**, calls for a special election to replace **Howard**. Immediately, 10 individuals file to run. Because it is a special election, there is no time for party affiliations or party politics, although it becomes common knowledge which candidates belong to which parties.

With 10 people running for office, it is a foregone conclusion there is going to be a run-off election. Well sure enough, this is what happens. None of the 10 candidates received a majority of the votes cast. The run-off election as it turns out is going to be between **John Poerner**, a 36 year old businessman from **Hondo, Texas**

and a 26 year old school teacher from **Uvalde, Texas** named **Gabriel Tafolla**.

Now it just so happened that **Mr. Poerner** was a Republican. And it just so happened that **Mr. Tafolla** was a Democrat. And it just so happened that **Uvalde** and the surrounding area had a long history of sending Democratic state representatives to **Austin**. In fact, every state representative before the late **Mr. Howard**, including **Dolph Briscoe Jr.**, who served in **Mr. Howard’s** seat from 1949 to 1955, and who later went on to become **Governor of the State of Texas**, was a Democrat.

But on February 27, 1969, the day of the run-off between **Gabriel Tafolla** and **John Poerner** all this was to change. **John Poerner** defeated **Tafolla**. In an area that for years had elected Democrats to office, a Republican beat a Democrat! Needless to say, some people were shocked. I was one of those who couldn’t believe it. Even though I was a teenager and could not vote, I worked on **Mr. Tafolla’s** campaign. It was my very first campaign. How could **Uvalde** turn its back on a man from the *pueblo*? A man from the same party? A man with a history of party activism?

The answer, while not obvious to some at the time, was simple, **Gabriel Tafolla** was a Mexican American. And for the Anglo voters in the district, ethnicity was more important than party affiliation. Stated differently, the Gringo’s feeling at the time was that no damn Mexican was going to the

**Texas Legislature** in **Austin, Texas** as a representative from the **Uvalde** area. Period! End of Discussion! (Coffee conversation overheard by **Amaro Cardona** and later related to the members of **M.A.Y.O.** at a *platica* session.)

But lo and behold this was not the end of the discussion. No, this was for many, the beginning of a new one. You see, it was but 4 or 5 months later that **John Poerner**, the Republican from **Hondo, Texas** decided to change his party affiliation to that of the Democratic Party so as to “better reflect his constituency.” (His words in a press release)

And it was but a few more months after that, when **Jose Angel Gutierrez** launched *La Raza Unida Party*, based in part on the premise that in **South Texas** there was no difference between Republicans and Democrats.

So the idea of *La Raza Party* was not a difficult sell given what I saw in the **Poerner/Tafolla** race for state representative. In fact, shortly after I turned 18 in 1970, I registered to vote and registered with *La Raza Unida Party*. But those times are long gone now. Today things are different. Today, *el mexicano ya no tiene miedo*. (At least that is what people say.) Today, people vote for the party not for the race or ethnicity of the candidate. (At least that is what people say.) Today, *las cosas no son como antes, Todo ha cambiado*. Today much has changed. (At least that’s what they say.)

February 11, 2017. Omni Hotel Southpark. Wine Reception\*Dinner\*Live and Silent Auction\*Dance the Evening away to the music of GARY HOBBS. Annual "Let's Win the Future Gala" for the benefit of our students, including endowed scholarships funds at UTAustin, ACC and Texas State Univ. Sponsored by the Austin Hispanic Chamber Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non profit arm of the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. For tickets or sponsorship opportunities, contact Mary Lugo at MLUGO@GAHCC.org or call 512/476-7502.



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**Word Power**

***En las palabras  
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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**.

Nadie puede averiguar en el nombre de la educación que es mejor saber menos que saber más. Siendo bilingüe o trilingüe es parte de ser educado en el siglo 21. Esperamos traer cada mes a nuestros lectores de **La Voz** una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

|             |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Taxes       | Impuestos         |
| Tax rate    | Tasa de impuestos |
| Government  | Gobierno          |
| Payment     | Pago              |
| Penalty     | Multa             |
| Insurance   | Aseguranza        |
| Coverage    | Cobertura         |
| Assistance  | Asistencia        |
| Cost        | Costo             |
| Total Cost  | Costo total       |
| Benefit     | Beneficio         |
| Information | Información       |
| Level       | Nivel             |
| Help        | Ayuda             |
| Contact     | Contacto          |
| Law         | Ley               |
| Invitation  | Invitación        |
| Time        | Tiempo            |





**“No es necesario creer en Dios para ser una buena persona. En cierta forma, la idea tradicional de Dios no está actualizada. Uno puede ser espiritual pero no religioso. No es necesario ir a la iglesia y dar dinero. Para muchos, la naturaleza puede ser una iglesia. Algunas de las mejores personas en la historia no creían en Dios, mientras que muchos de los peores actos se hicieron en su nombre.”**

**— Papa Francisco —**

## **Applications Now Open: Community Health Champions Class of 2017**

Central Health is now accepting applications for the 2017 class of Community Health Champions, an initiative bringing together diverse community members from across Travis County to learn about, discuss, and collaborate on our work to improve the health of Travis County. Now in its second year, the program gives members a chance to participate in a series of workshops, activities, and collaborative events related to the work of Central Health and our partners. Travis County residents who are passionate about improving community health, interested to learn more about the local safety net system of health care, and wants to be more connected to these efforts, are encouraged to apply.

Please help us spread the word. If you or someone you know is interested, we invite you to attend one of two upcoming recruitment lunches:

Health Champions Recruitment Lunch North

Wed., Jan. 11 from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Casa Chapala

Health Champions Recruitment Lunch South

Wed., Jan. 18 from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Matt's El Rancho

Applications are open now through January 20, 2017. To learn more, click [here](#) or contact Claudia Herrington, Community Relations Manager at Central Health: [Claudia.herrington@centralhealth.net](mailto:Claudia.herrington@centralhealth.net) or 512-978-8112



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