

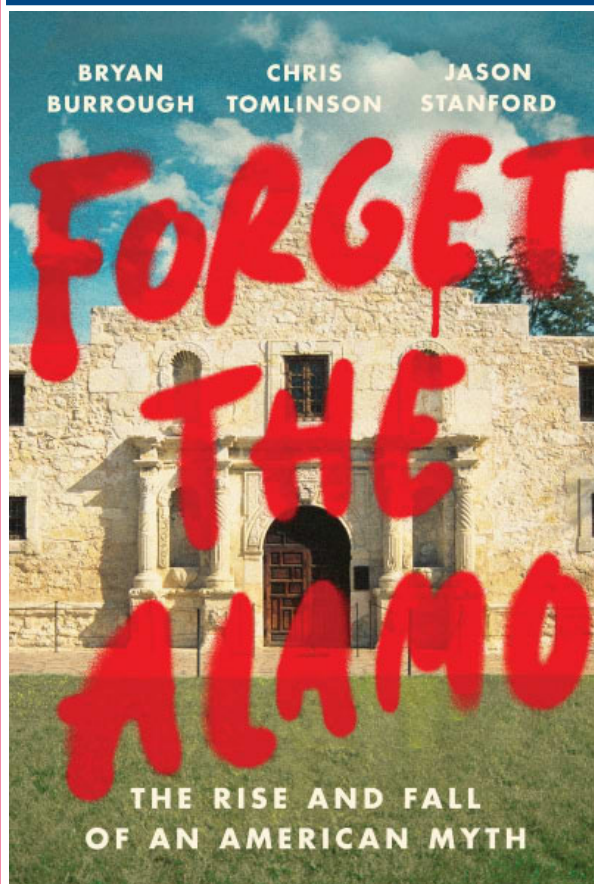
Volume 16 Number 7  
A Bi-Cultural Publication  
July, 2021

# La B03

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**Solamente el que carga el saco sabe lo que lleva adentro**

**Why is this  
Book Causing  
so Much  
Worry?**



**An Interview with Frances Acuña**



## Travis County Democratic Party Welcomes New Executive Director

Austin, TX - The Travis County Democratic Party welcomed new executive director, **Cynthia Van Maanen**, to its operations this week. County party leadership approved the hire after a competitive selection process that drew candidates from around the country.

“After interviewing candidates from across the country we selected a hometown progressive policy professional to lead our organization on important issue campaigns,” said **Katie Naranjo**, chair of the Travis County Democratic Party. “*Cynthia’s experience at the Texas Legislature, City Hall, and training the next generation of progressive leaders is what we need going into redistricting, special sessions, and a competitive election cycle.*”

Before her selection as executive director, **Van Maanen** served as legislative director for **State Representative Lina Ortega** during the 87th Legislative Session. **Van Maanen** has also worked for former **Austin City Council Member** and **Mayor Pro Tem Delia Garza**, now **Travis County Attorney**. As a policy analyst in **Garza’s** office, **Van Maanen** worked on issues such as abortion access, reimagining public safety, and equitable pandemic relief. **Van Maanen** has also served as curriculum chair for the **Austin chapter of New Leaders Council**.

“*Cynthia is a sharp and creative problem-solver who works hard to put progressive values into action,*” **Garza** said. “*She was an invaluable member of my City Council staff, and I’m really excited to see her bring her skills and experience to our party.*”

# People in the News



## Crystal Davila Sworn in as Pasadena ISD School Trustee

**Crystal Davila** was finally sworn in as a member of the **Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees**. As a public high school teacher, she is the youngest elected board member in PISD.

**Crystal** ran for her position because she understands education, she knows Pasadena ISD, and she loves her community. As a young, energetic, and passionate Latina who is a product of **Pasadena ISD**, having attended **L. F. Smith Elementary School, Queens Intermediate**, and graduated from **Pasadena High School** in 2011.

As a math teacher in her fifth year of service at **Pasadena High School** she enjoys talking with and getting to know her students and colleagues, but many feel as though opportunities are lacking in the School District and in **Pasadena** as a whole.

**Crystal** graduated from **Pasadena High School** in 2011 and received her B.A. from **The University of Texas at Austin (UT)** in Math and Urban Studies, along with a teaching certificate from **UTeach STEM**. After graduating from **UT** in 2015, she joined the **Pasadena Eagles** family in 2016 and has been working there since. She enjoys working with her students, embracing their diverse cultural backgrounds, and their wit to keep her hip. She always shares stories with her family and friends.



## Natalie Diaz is First Latina Poet to Win Pulitzer Prize for Poetry Collection

**Arizona State University Department of English** associate professor **Natalie Diaz** earns the **2021 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry** with ‘Postcolonial Love Poem’ collection.

The honor comes mere months after the **MacArthur Fellow** made history by becoming the youngest chancellor ever elected to the **Academy of American Poets**.

“*I care so much for the book and for the people that the book has brought me to, but also for the people I hope the book could carry of my life, you know, of my beloveds and my strangers,*” **Diaz** said. “*And so in a lot of ways I don’t think I’ve ever felt this way about a prize before, whether it was winning a championship or some of these other prizes — in some ways I feel like the things I’m trying to fight for in language, this was a kind of recognition that I know that they matter even if it’s in a small way.*”

**Diaz**, who is **Mojave** and an enrolled member of the **Gila River Indian Tribe** said, “*I think that’s part of what makes this feel good is that I feel like in some ways our worries and our loves are being brought to bear in the larger literary world and journalistic*



## Carolina Cruz returns to on-air reporting at Univision Austin

BY VERONICA VILLAFANE

After more than three years behind the camera, **Carolina Cruz** returns to an on-air reporting. She has started a new job as an MMJ at **Univision Austin**.

**Cruz** moves to **Texas** from **Chicago**, where she was a producer for **WSNS Telemundo** until late May. Before that, she worked as a weekend news producer for **Univision’s WGBO** in the **Windy City**.

**Cruz** previously worked as an MMJ at **WVEA Univision Tampa Bay** until **Entravision** dismantled and shut down newscast operations in **Tampa** in 2015.

She also spent two years as an MMJ and anchor/producer for the Spanish-language newscast at **WTVO/WQRF** in **Rockford, Illinois**.

## Veronica Terriquez named director of UCLA’s Chicano Studies Research Center

**Veronica Terriquez**, a scholar who has always prioritized community engagement, has been appointed director of **UCLA’s Chicano Studies Research Center**, home to one of the most robust archives of Latino and Chicano



Veronica Terriquez Ph.D

materials in the country. The center, part of **UCLA’s Institute of American Cultures**, supports intersectional research, programming and advocacy related to Chicano, Latino and indigenous communities.

**Terriquez** will become the 10th director in the center’s 51-year history and its first woman leader. “*I’m thrilled to be able to direct a center whose mission is to leverage original research on U.S. Latinx communities in order to have an impact on the campus, higher education and the broader society,*” **Terriquez** said. “*I’m honored to assume the role of director, following Chon Noriega whose visionary leadership has broadened the scope of the center’s scholarly and public impact, particularly in the arts.*”

**Terriquez** joins **UCLA** from **UC Santa Cruz**, where she was an associate professor of sociology. She received her doctorate in sociology from **UCLA**, a master’s in education from **UC Berkeley**, and her bachelor’s in sociology from **Harvard University**. Her research focuses on efforts to civically engage youth, immigrants and other low-income residents of color. She has published widely in journals and disseminated research in collaboration with schools, unions, community organizers and local governments.

**Terriquez’s** dual faculty appointment as a professor in **UCLA’s Luskin School of Public Affairs** and in the **UCLA College** will allow for a broad campus network.



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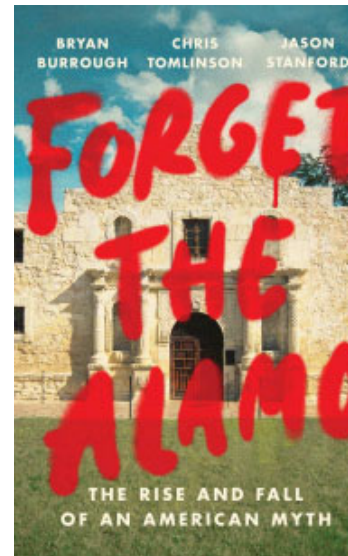
# Pensamientos

Read this book and learn about the not-so-hidden historical truth of the **Alamo**.

Specifically, in a newly-published book titled, "Forget the Alamo: The Rise and Fall of an American Myth," co-authors **Bryan Burrough**, **Chris Tomlinson**, and **Jason Stanford** paint a historically accurate picture of the **Alamo** story with plans to present their work last Thursday on the online platform of the Bullock Texas History Museum located here in **Austin, Texas**.

Given that **Governor Greg Abbott**, **Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick** and **Speaker Dade Phelan** are on the museum's board, they exercised their power and forced the director to cancel this event.

The rub is that the less-than-flattering, albeit factual and credible,



interpretation of **Texas** history that the battle of the **Alamo** was motivated in great part to preserve the institution of slavery. To understand this part of our history, one has to know that this land, that later became "**Texas**," once belonged to **Mexico** and that **Mexico** had abolished slavery back in 1829. For greater insight, read this post to my blog back in 2014: **Vicente Guerrero, Mexico's First Afro-Indian President**.

The irony is that **Texas** republicans decry "de-

platforming" which is something they just did with these book authors and scheduled presenters, **Burrough** and **Tomlinson**, while promoting legislation that they term, the "social media censorship bill" (Senate Bill 12). SB 12 is one of the governor's priorities that failed during the regular session, however, it will resurface in the special legislative session that begins this week.

The truth of the matter is that they want to continue whitewashing history with a falsely patriotic and triumphalist view of history that preserves the myth of "**Texas exceptionalism**," that either erases or rationalizes the truths of our state and nation's atrocious history of slavery, conquest, and colonization of which the story of the **Alamo** is clearly emblematic.

-Angela Valenzuela

## Guest EDITORIAL



**Dr. Angela Valenzuela**  
**Professor The University**  
**of Texas at Austin**

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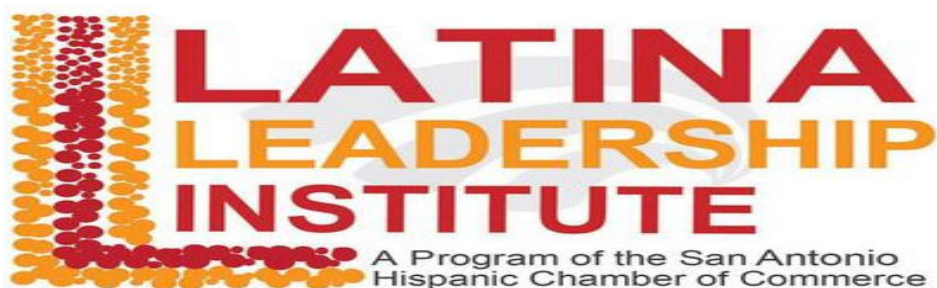
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10:00 a.m. Breakfast in the Parish Hall  
10:30 a.m. English Mass in the Chapel  
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## Susanna Ledesma Woody Announces her Candidacy

I'm excited to announce that I am running for **Travis County Commissioner of Precinct 4!** We cannot continue to wait and allow for complacency to perpetuate institutional racism and systemic inequities.

Now is the Time to reform **Travis County** so that all members of **Travis County** can have a better quality of life.

Candidates are supported through the generosity of community members who believe their values will be represented by the individuals in office. Each donation made will go a long way in helping us get the word out to the people of precinct 4.

Please chip in to support our people-first campaign today! My campaign kickoff event will be announced soon! If you have questions or would like to set up a meeting with me, please feel free to email or FB message my campaign. Thank you!

## Dolores Ortega Carter Announces her Candidacy

It is with great joy and humility that I announce my re-election as your **Travis County Treasurer**. I am excited about the new rules and regulations set forth by Treasury management that will protect your taxpaying dollars. There is still much work to do with respect to voter suppression and **COVID-19** variants. We must continue to work at the Legislature to preserve our inalienable rights. We cannot let those who do not believe in a democracy exclude us.

Thank you so much for your continued support and please vote!

ADELANTE!  
CON MUCHO ORGULLO! ---

Dolores Ortega Carter



## Travis County Commissioner Margaret J. Gomez Announces her Candidacy

On Monday, June 21, 2021, I announced that I am running for re-election as **County Commissioner, Pct 4**. This is not just a job with a paycheck for me but a mission to represent the Mexican American community in a way that makes you proud: responsibly, ethically, consistently, and wisely! I take care that your taxes are not wasted even though **Austin/Travis County** have become unaffordable for many of our families who have been forced out of this city and county.

The votes I have made during my entire tenure as Commissioner have been to protect the most vulnerable in this community. If only governments would ensure that affordable housing was built so that poor people, middle income, displaced and gentrified families would not become homeless or have to leave **Austin/Travis County**.

I volunteered to head the government section of the Census effort that led to me involve the **Precinct 4** team of Constable and Justice of the Peace. From there Team4 collaborated with Precinct 1 in eastern **Travis County** to make sure every single person would get counted. The effort was very successful, thanks to the hard work of frontline workers. This team effort then led to getting PPE, food, water and information about the vaccine for **COVID-19**.

The COTA effort to get people vaccinated was to make sure that the poorest people in **Travis, Bastrop, Caldwell** and **Hays County** got their shots because poor people are our responsibility. They are all covered by **Central Health's Sendero**.

Members of the Court knew that we could not reach everyone so we voted to help two groups in **Pct 4** with resources to reach people with information about Covid and the vaccine because it was necessary for people to get vaccinated. The **Latino Forum** with whom **Paul Saldaña** works with and **Susanna Woody** of the **DelValle Coalition** each received \$100,000 to help **Travis County** achieve this goal. Other groups in **Travis County** were also assisted to achieve vaccination goals.

The drive through effort at COTA was successful and open to people who wanted to get vaccinated. Again, through collaboration of employees of **Travis County**, this valuable work got done! Not perfect but people got vaccinated, the main goal!

Yes, we need criminal justice reform but we do not have to throw the baby out with the bath water. Of course we can be better; people must not die at the hands of anyone whether by law enforcement or others. You have always told me, since my days as Constable, Pct 4, that you wanted to feel safe on the streets, in your homes and in our schools. I have listened and heard you.

I want to continue to make you proud of my representation of you. The primary election is in early 2022. More details will follow as better information becomes available. I am asking for your support.



# Frances Acuña

## Austin Resident Advocates for the Latinx Community for Over Two Decades

*“As a community leader, I’m able to tell everything the way that it is, the way that I see it.”*

Rebecca Saborio

saboriorebecca@gmail.com

*“When I hear injustice, it makes me want to make changes,” says community activist **Frances Acuña**. “Most of the time, it’s those injustices that keep me going and make me stronger, because I went through so much throughout my life.”*

The 50-year-old mother of two from both US and Mexican residency spent the teen years of her life house-hopping and tackling mental and economic hurdles.

*“Once I graduated high school, it was very, very lonesome because this young lady was in an apartment all by herself,” says **Frances**. “So I went to college for a little bit until I wasn’t able to work anymore, because I had my [first] baby.”*

When her son turned five, **Frances** moved from **San Benito, TX** to **Southeast Austin** in 1997 with the goal of becoming a certified nursing assistant. And when her dream became realized over the decades, so, too, was her passion for advocacy.

*“AISD just kept telling me, “You need to punish [your second son] **Favian** because he did this,” or he was a troublemaker, he was the disrupter of the class, he was everything except that he*

*had issues with different learning abilities. And so there I started advocating in the community.”*

In 2013, the same year that **Favian** was diagnosed with cancer, **Austin** faced historic flash floods that decimated thousands of homes. These floods encouraged **Frances** to use both her advocacy and community health worker skills to assist residents alongside **Go Austin/Vamos Austin**, the non-profit coalition.

*“It was in 2013 when I started waking up,” says **Frances Acuña**. “And I started learning. And since then, I take every training that I can so I can be able to advocate, especially for my kids because they’re first. As long as they’re okay, I can keep going. The second step is advocating for others, which I do a lot when I see the need.”*

After assisting the community as a first responder again with the **Dove Springs** floods of 2015, **Frances** became a climate resilient community lead



organizer, focusing primarily on providing access to healthy food and physical activity with an emphasis on flooding infrastructure.

*“Working as a community leader has its benefits, and it has its not-so-much benefits. Because, as a*

*community leader, I’m able to tell everything the way that it is, the way that I see it. And I can tell a council member how I feel, and I don’t have to be going around the bush. Because I also learned that I am their boss. Because we put them there, we voted for them, and they represent us. So they work for us.”*

Along with safety promotion, the Latina advocate and her team fought against gentrification in the courtroom, opposing the **Land Development Code** revisor House Bill 2989.

*“With gentrification coming into our neighborhood and with affordability, it’s scary just to think that we are going to be displaced,” says **Frances**. “And, as a community organizer, I can’t go in and*

*organize in **Bastrop** or any of those little towns where, what do I organize there? I barely finished high school. I tried going to college, but I didn’t graduate because I was pregnant, and then I was a mom. So, my only hope is that I’m able to stay here in my house, and I’m able to afford it.”*

The bill died at the end of the May session, and the Austin resident of 24 years currently remains watchful of any new city zoning plans. She hopes for an end to inequalities regarding COVID-19 testing and vaccinations.

*“You don’t have to have a title in order for you to qualify for life. And I am nothing more than my neighbor, we’re just human beings. And not because I have that community health worker title I’m better than them. I felt very disappointed, because it shouldn’t be that way. It should be that that person has severe side effects of COVID and they need the testing, but they didn’t get it. They were at home dying.”*

Despite the hurt she has faced and the injustices seen, **Frances** moves forward with resilience. *“I always think that God puts you in places so you can learn, so you could live, so you could get strong. And that’s what He has made me.”*

# Our Fathers Fought GOP Voter Suppression 70 Years Ago

By Paul Chavez and Fred Ross Jr.

Originally printed in The Nation

Why did **President Biden** place **Cesar Chavez's** bronze bust in the Oval Office on Inauguration Day—27 years after his passing? Why did 17 million Americans support his boycott of **California** table grapes in 1975? Is it because the genesis of **Chavez's** activism was community organizing and voter engagement?

He was a civil rights leader before becoming a farm worker leader, and he embraced a transformational vision of trade unionism. With Republican lawmakers in many red states enacting laws to thwart voting by people of color, this is a good time to examine **Chavez's** roots.

**Chavez's** journey to the **White House** began at age 25 when he met **Fred Ross Sr.**, one of America's great community organizers.

*"The first time I met Fred Ross, he was about the last person I wanted to see," Chavez said, eulogizing Ross in 1992. Ross came to the rough East San Jose barrio of **Sal Si Puedes** (Get Out If You Can) in spring 1952, organizing a chapter of the **Community Service Organization** after forming the mother chapter in **East Los Angeles**. Chavez had recently left the fields. He initially thought Ross was a college professor down from **Berkeley** or **Stanford** to study Mexicans and ask insulting questions.*

## Celebrating the Power of Unity

So during a "house meeting" hosted for **Ross** in his home's packed living room, **Chavez** planned to "get even" by having some tough young buddies scare him away. Then **Ross** started talking about empowerment through the ballot box—and changed **Chavez's** life. **Ross** wrote in his diary, *"I think I've found the guy I'm looking for."*

Over a frenetic 40 days and nights **Chavez** helped the **CSO** to register 4,000 voters. On Election Day, the county Republican Party sent

"challengers" to intimidate first-time Latino voters—reminiscent of the voter suppression civil rights activists resist in the South today. The strategy backfired. One Latino voter said, *"At first I got really mad, but then thought if they go to all that trouble to keep us from voting, it means they are paying attention to us."*

When so many Latinos voted, county officials ordered packinghouses to stop dumping waste into barrio creeks, and fixed cesspools that had been causing amoebic dysentery.

**Ross** hired **Chavez** as a full-time organizer. Together, **Ross** and **Chavez** created 22 **CSO** chapters throughout **California** that signed up more than 500,000 voters and helped 50,000 legal residents become citizens. Leaders developed such as **Edward Roybal**, **Herman Gallegos**, **Cruz Reynoso** and countless others. **CSO** battled voter suppression, police brutality, job discrimination and school segregation. It formed a diverse coalition of Latinos, African Americans, Jews, Catholics, Japanese Americans, and labor leaders.

**Chavez** and **Ross** directed registration of 160,000 Latinos and turned out voters in the 1960 **John Kennedy** presidential race, winning praise from **John** and **Robert Kennedy**, who met with **Chavez**.

After his 25-day fast for nonviolence in 1968, **Chavez** asked **Ross** to mount a statewide registration and voter turnout drive for **Robert Kennedy's** presidential campaign. **United Farm Workers** organizers and grape strikers joined veteran **CSO** activists in **East LA**. "Bird dogs" went door-to-door ahead of deputy registrars marking sidewalks with chalk in front of homes with unregistered voters. In 20 days, they registered 11,000 new voters just in the Eastside.

**Chavez** traveled the state stumping for **Kennedy**. **John Lewis** recalled spending the final weeks before the June primary accompanying **Chavez** "deep into some of the poorest neighborhoods in **Los Angeles**, both Latino and African American. We met and talked with countless people—one by one or assembled at rallies." High turnout



Cesar Chavez and Fred Ross Sr. knew it would take a movement to fight measures aimed at intimidating Latino voters. So they built one. (photo by Bob Fitch)

in Latino and Black precincts brought **Kennedy** victory before he was shot at the **Ambassador Hotel**.

**Ross** taught **Chavez** that organizing is about listening to people, engaging them on issues they care about, and spurring them to collective action. **CSO** became the biggest, most influential **California** Latino civil rights group of the 1950s and early '60s. *"CSO was the best and most effective grass roots organization to which I have belonged,"* affirmed **Cruz Reynoso**, later the first Latino **California Supreme Court justice**.

*"You can't do anything by talking," Chavez observed. "You can't do anything if you haven't got the power.... And the only way you can generate power is by doing a lot of work."*

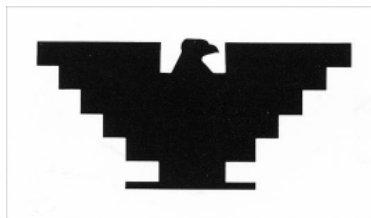
Fulfilling his dream of organizing farm workers in 1962, and with **Ross's** help, **Chavez**—joined by **Dolores Huerta** and **Gilbert Padilla**—used the community organizing principles they learned in **CSO** to build the

**UFW**. They knew only a union could address abuses in the fields. But they also believed it would take more than a union to overcome the crippling dilemmas field workers faced upon returning to their communities; it would take a movement.

The same voter suppression **CSO** fought in the '50s is now experiencing a resurgence. So passing HR 1, the For the People Act, and then organizing to turn out voters would be the truest tribute to **Cesar Chavez**, **John Lewis**, and **Fred Ross**.

**Paul Chavez** is president of the **Cesar Chavez Foundation**, which keeps his father's legacy alive through its affordable housing, educational radio, and academic tutoring endeavors.

**Fred Ross Jr.** is a veteran labor, community and political organizer who was trained and mentored by **Cesar Chavez**, **Dolores Huerta**, and his father, **Fred Ross Sr.**





## Betita Martinez Sutherland Passes Away

Elizabeth (Betita Martinez) Sutherland's father came to the United States in 1917 during the Mexican Revolution, and he taught his daughter radical politics from a young age. "Every night over dinner he would talk about seeing Zapata come into the capital with the campesinos, and that put the idea in my head that I wanted a revolution right here."



Sutherland became the first Latina student at Swarthmore, and after graduation, she moved to New York where she began a career in publishing. To "pass" in the white-owned publishing world, Betita Martínez adopted her mother's middle name and became Liz Sutherland. In 1958, she was hired by Simon & Schuster.

The political radicalism encouraged by her father revived on a trip to Cuba in 1961. After meeting with revolutionary artists and writers, she recalled, "When Cuba declared itself socialist, so did I." In 1962, Sutherland became an active member of New York Friends of SNCC. She used her professional connections to raise funds for the organization in liberal New York circles. Funds raised in northern offices were critical to SNCC's southern projects; at its height, the New York office raised 75% of the SNCC budget.

"My work was my identity," Sutherland recounted, "I was a SNCC worker; that remained my self-definition." In 1966, however, after SNCC articulated the need for Black membership and leadership, most whites left their leadership positions. Sutherland, though identifying as Chicana, was also replaced, but she continued to work for SNCC. In June of 1967, she sent a paper called "Black, White, and Tan" to SNCC's Atlanta headquarters. She wrote, "One day I found myself unable to vote in SNCC because I was 'white.' When I was a child, the girl next door wasn't allowed to play with me because I was Mexican." She signed the paper Elizabeth Sutherland Martínez, using her father's last name for the first time in SNCC.

For Sutherland, the struggles against racism and sexism were inseparable. In 1968, she moved to New Mexico to fight in the Chicano movement. "From SNCC's Liz Sutherland," she remembers, "I became Betita Martinez again, overnight." Martínez continued to devote her life to activism and founded the newspaper El Grito del Norte, which covered the Chicano movement, the Black Panther movement, and other anti-racist struggles. In 1997, she founded the Institute for MultiRacial Justice in the California Bay Area with SNCC's last chairman, Phil Hutchings. The mission of the center was to "help build alliances among peoples of color and combat our divisions."

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# HILLSIDE

## SUMMER CONCERT SERIES 2021

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On Saturday, July 10, we will celebrate the memory of our loving husband and father, **ORLANDO SUSTAITAMATA**, with a Memorial Mass at Holy Family Catholic Church. Located at 9322 FM 812, Austin, Texas 78719, mass will begin at 11 am, with a meal following for fellowship and remembrance. All are welcome.





# En la comunidad

## Dove Springs families get visit from AISD at Operation Reconnect Action Day June 29, 2021



**ABOVE:** Dr. Elizalde, Superintendent of AISD, Vanessa Fuentes, Austin City Councilwoman, District 2, AISD District 2 Trustee Ofelia Zapata, and George Morales, Constable Precinct Four.

By Benjamin Beane

Austin ISD families in the Dove Springs neighborhood received a friendly visit at their homes on Saturday June 26th in the morning as part of the district's **Operation Reconnect Action Day**. Over 50 volunteers, composed of AISD staff and community members, donned red shirts and walked door-to-door to nearly 350 families. The volunteers were making sure families had everything they needed for the upcoming 2021-22 school year.

The event started at **Mendez Middle School**, where volunteers gathered to learn about their roles and responsibilities, connect with each other and enjoy complimentary breakfast tacos and coffee. "Today our mission is to listen and to learn and to connect with our students and our families," said AISD Superintendent **Stephanie Elizalde**. "And while we do a lot of surveys, nothing can replace the person-to-person contact. We feel the energy and we can learn so much so that we can continue to improve how we provide services to our communities,"

At each home, residents received an AISD drawstring bag filled with information including upcoming registration and vaccine opportunities — such as the free vaccine clinic which was held simultaneously as **Action Day** at **Mendez Middle School**. Each person vaccinated received a \$25 gift card to **H-E-B**.

Along with school registration help, students and parents had the chance to speak to district staff about any other questions or concerns. "I think my biggest takeaway was that — I've visited homes before, visited families before — but never done it during the summer break, and it was a different feel," said **Houston Elementary Principal Alberto Alonso**. "Families are feeling different, going through different emotions and situations through the summer break."



**ABOVE:** The Montopolis Community Development Corporation Board, (Dr. Fred McGhee, Susana Almanza, Lisa Goddard & Noe Elias), unveiled the Juneteenth true equity historic preservation marker at the state-designated **Burditt Prairie Cemetery**, the oldest African American cemetery in Austin.

The dedication ceremony was held Friday, June 18th at 6700 Felix Ave. "Montopolis is the most historic neighborhood in Austin that nobody knows, about, says Dr. Fred L. McGhee, author of the book **Austin's Montopolis Neighborhood**. "It was founded before the **City of Austin** and almost became the capital of the **Republic of Texas**. The establishment of one of the city's original **Freedom Colonies** after the Civil War only adds to its priceless history."

"With gentrification destroying the heritage of entire Austin neighborhoods, community based protection, preservation and perpetual care matter now more than ever. This is a historic event for Austin and for the community. We must continue to honor our ancestors," says **Susana Almanza**, president of the **Montopolis Neighborhood Association**.

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## A Political and Electoral History of Hispanics in Austin and Travis County 1948-2020



This book, A Political and Electoral History of Hispanics in Austin and Travis County 1948 - 2020 contains the names of the over 400 Hispanics who have run for elective office in the last 72 years in Travis County. Included are the offices sought, votes received, party affiliations, and election outcome. Also contained in the book are samplings of campaign literature, interviews with selected candidates and stories about the many attempts to win a seat at the public policy table. This publication should serve as a valuable reference for those seeking to do further research on the Hispanic community in Travis County.

To order a copy visit:  
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## Las líneas del tren ligero están por llegar a Austin

Imagen artística conceptual



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¡Project Connect avanza! Únase en estas próximas reuniones para ver los últimos diseños y actualizaciones sobre las líneas de tren ligero **Naranja** y **Azul**.

- **Información disponible en persona:** Biblioteca Central de Austin, sábado 31 de julio, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- **Reuniones virtuales en vivo:** incluyen sesiones en grupos pequeños para analizar los proyectos desde el punto de vista de los vecinos. Del martes 27 de julio al jueves 5 de agosto
- **Disponibilidad de un foro público virtual y pregrabado:** Del martes 27 de julio al viernes 27 de agosto

Para obtener más información, visite **ProjectConnect.com**.

Para averiguar sobre servicios de traducción de idiomas o adaptaciones, llame al 512-904-0180. La información sobre la reunión está disponible en español.





# Remembering Frances T. Ybarra

**Frances Ybarra** of **Uvalde, Texas** passed away on June 20, 2021. She was 86 years old. There will not be a formal funeral and her obituary is indeed very short and basic. In fact, most people would assume she was just another elderly person who lived and died in a small town in south **Texas**. But they would be mistaken.

I say this because 51 years ago **Frances Ybarra** stepped into the pages of history when she joined with more than a thousand parents in supporting the 1970 **Uvalde** public school walkout in which her children were participants.

## Frances Ybarra was elected president

At a community meeting held on April 23, 1970, in the old **Sacred Heart Catholic Church** parish that faced **Crisp Street**, **Frances Ybarra** was elected president of the newly formed parent group called the **Mexican American Parents Association** (MAPA). **Mrs. Ybarra**, who had nine children would go on to address the **Uvalde Independent School District Board of Trustees** on numerous occasions and appear before the press in **San Antonio** to try and tell the student's side of the story.



**Frances Trevino Ybarra**  
August 26, 1934 - June 20, 2021

**Mrs. Ybarra** often joined the walkout students as she conducted daily picket lines at different school in the district. But there was another event that remains with me to this day. It was the time I went to **Mrs. Ybarra's** home on **Margarita Street** on July 19<sup>th</sup> 1970. In her small living room, sitting a big stuffed chair was none other than **United States**

## First President of the

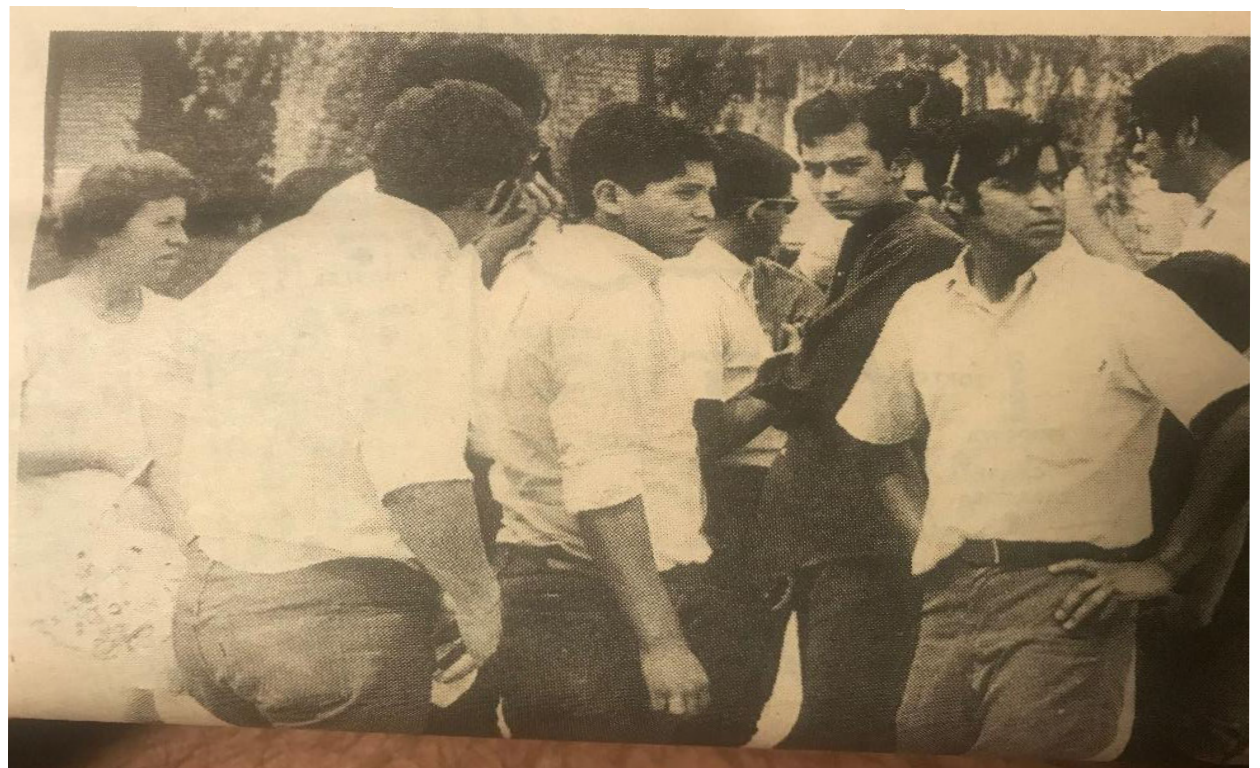
**Senator Walter F. Mondale** from the state of **Minnesota**. Also in the room I would later find out were, **Texas State Senator Joe Bernal** from **San Antonio** and **Richard Avena** from the **U.S. Office of Civil Rights**.

## Mrs. Ybarra introduced the senator and explained

**Mrs. Ybarra** introduced the senator and explained why he had come to **Uvalde**. As people took turns sharing their stories of what happened during the walkout, the senator listened and some of his aides took notes. People told him about the **Texas Rangers** and

what it was like going to school in **Uvalde**. They also told him that many of the students who participated in the walkout were now going to be punished by having to repeat the entire academic school year. The senator let us know that despite the hardships of living in south **Texas**, he was determined to do what he could to help us. It was a message we were not used to hearing.

Midway through the meeting, some of **Mrs. Ybarra's** family members brought in simple trays of ice tea and kept coming back until everyone had a glass. **Senator Mondale** shared stories of the efforts of other groups around the country to address social justice issues and told us that despite



**RIGHT:** Walk-out students conferring about some issue. **Juan Alonzo, Davic Leal and Ramon Flores.**

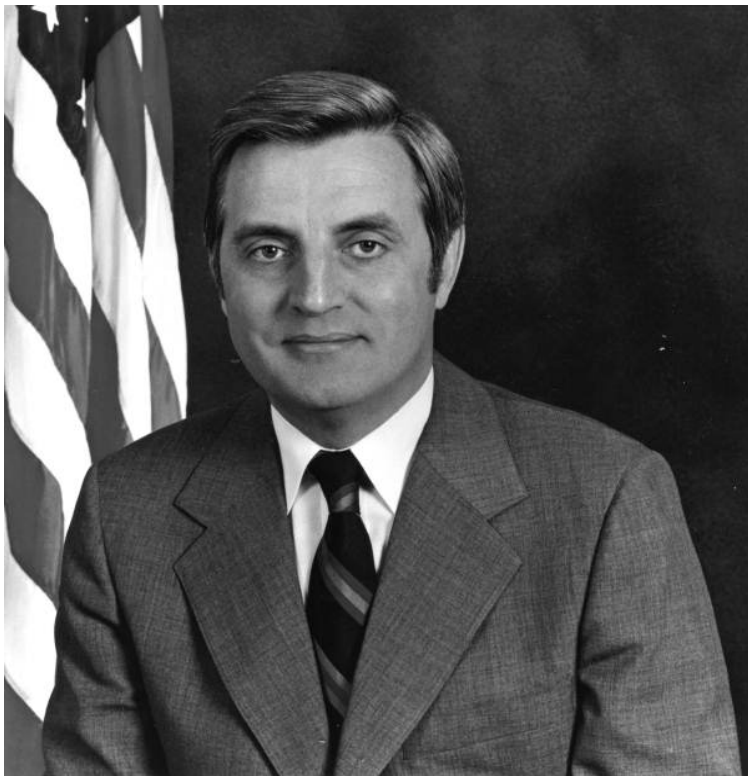


# Recordando a Frances T. Ybarra

## Mexican American Parents Association

the odds, we must never give up. He reminded us about the struggle of the farm workers and **Cesar Chavez** out

I would learn that when he asked to use the restroom, he was directed to go outside into **Mrs. Ybarra's** back yard.



ABOVE: Senator Walter F. Mondale

When he did not come back, **Jose Uriegas** got up and went to go look for him. **Mr. Uriegas** later related that he found the senator holding on to a mesquite tree by the outhouse he had just used. He was crying and when **Mr. Uriegas** asked him what happened? He told him, "I cannot believe that in my

*country people still live like this."*

**Senator Mondale** and his group headed back to **San Antonio** and we were left with the hope that people outside of **Uvalde** were learning about our situation.

**Mrs. Ybarra**, knowing that we had limited resources repeated **Senator Mondale's** words and thoughts and reminded us that we could not give up. We started this walkout and there was a lot of work left to be done.

in **California** and how despite being among the poorest of people, they were finding the strength to fight back with the grape boycott. He told us how people in **New York City, Chicago, Boston** and in his home state of **Minnesota** were standing with the farm workers and refusing to buy **California** table grapes.

**I**, like others in the room sat there in awe at the sight of a **United States Senator** in a barrio living room in **Uvalde** listening to our situation. Later



ABOVE: Mrs. Ybarra signing documents while holding Candelaria, one of her nine children.

On August 23rd, 1970 **Mrs. Ybarra** and the Superintendent of the **Uvalde Independent School District, Mr. Byrom**, were featured in a big story in the **San Antonio Express**. They each gave their views on the walkout and what the future might hold for everyone involved.

Again, while the passing of **Mrs. Frances T. Ybarra** might not carry much significance for people today, back in 1970 she was one of the parents who had found the courage to stand up and defend her raza. To all those who knew her and her work, she was one of our heros.



**Frances  
Treviño  
Ybarra**

**August 26th, 1934  
June 20th, 2021**



## AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA ENMIENDA DEL PLAN DE ACCIÓN 2019 DEL CONDADO DE BRAZORIA

Audiencias públicas se llevarán a cabo el miércoles 14 de julio del 2021 a las 5:30 p.m. y el miércoles, 21 de julio del 2021 a las 9:00 a.m. en las oficinas del Condado de Brazoria en el edificio East Annex ubicado en 1524 E. Mulberry, Angleton, Texas. El propósito de estas audiencias serán para recibir comentarios y aportaciones ciudadanas sobre la enmienda del Plan de acción 2019 que reasignara los fondos sin obligaciones de proyectos ya terminados a otros proyectos presentes que necesitan ayuda financiera. Por favor mirar la lista de todos los proyectos y cantidades en: <http://brazoriacountytx.gov/departments/housing-and-urban-development/public-notices>

La localización es accesible para personas con discapacidades físicas. Personas incapacitadas, que no hablan inglés, usan lenguaje de señas y otras personas que necesitan adaptaciones especiales y desean asistir a esta audiencia pública, deben comunicarse con Nancy Friudenberg al (979) 864-1860, antes de la audiencia para que el alojamiento sea disponible.

Para información general, por favor llame a Nancy Friudenberg al (979) 864-1860. Además, pueden presentarse observaciones por escrito al Departamento de Desarrollo de Comunidad del Condado de Brazoria, 1524 E. Mulberry, Suite 162, Angleton, Texas 77515 o por fax al (979) 864-1089. Por favor de enviar cualquier comentario antes de las 4:00 p.m. del 2 de Agosto de 2021.

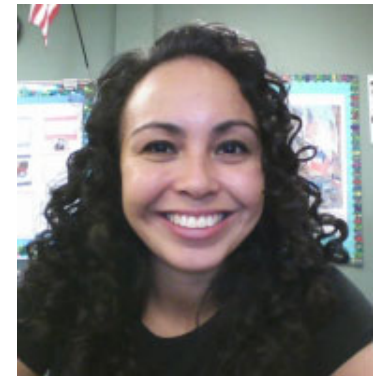
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*"Empowering Economic Development"*

## Austin High School Teachers Dies in Climbing Accident in El Paso

**Christina Garcia-Mata**, who died in a hiking accident, had taught at **Akins High School** since 2006. In 2018, she was voted the 2017-2018 **Akins Teacher of the Year**. She has served in various roles at **Akins**, including the campus AVID coordinator and the **Green Tech Academy** coordinator. She has taught various classes at **Akins**, including Teen Leadership, SEL, U.S. History and AVID.



According to the **El Paso Times**, she died after she fell while hiking in the **Franklin Mountains**, which skirt along the city's edge. The **El Paso** area has experienced heavy rainfall since Sunday, making the terrain wet and slippery. Officials said she was swept away by rushing water and fell down the mountain.

The **El Paso Fire Department** received a report of a lost hiker around 4 p.m. The **El Paso Combined Search and Rescue Team** responded to the scene and began searching for **Garcia-Mata**. She was found dead around 6 p.m. on Monday.

The **ABC Channel 7** news station interviewed fire department officials about the incident. "She was hiking and a stream of water rushed her away," said **Enrique Dueñas-Aguilar**, a spokesman for the fire department in the news station's interview. "She suffered some injuries and she did not survive." The station also interviewed **Garcia-Mata's** husband **Gabriel Mata**, who previously taught Teen Leadership classes at **Akins**, as well.

**Mata** said he was worried about how **Akins** students would react to the news of her passing. "They love her," **Mata** said. "They're going to hear this and they're going to be heartbroken." **Mata** said his family lived in **Austin**, but were visiting family in **El Paso**. The two loved hiking together, he said.

She graduated from the **University of Texas at El Paso** with a bachelor's degree in History and a minor in Chicano Studies. **Akins Principal Tina Salazar** sent an email to the campus staff to notify the community about **Garcia-Mata's** passing. "I know this is stunning and devastating news. I also know the loving and caring arms of the **Akins ECHS Family** will extend to all who are impacted by this difficult loss," she wrote. "Our school is a tight knit family, and I am asking that we embrace and support each other during this very difficult time. I love you all immensely and I am here for anything you need," **Salazar** wrote. Counselors will be available in the **Akins** library on Wednesday as early as 9 a.m. to assist students and community members who are grieving **Garcia-Mata's** death.

The **Eagle's Eye**, the school newspaper, has created a special webpage for the campus community to share memories, write tributes and share photos of **Garcia-Mata**. Readers are invited to visit this page and share it with others who knew her.





## A Message from Millicent Valek President of Brazosport College

At Brazosport College, we are focused on student success initiatives that provide the tools for you to reach your personal goals. We're proud of our outstanding faculty, staff and many community partners who make this possible. Whether it be developing innovative workforce programs to meet the requirements for entry into the petrochemical industry or adding new programs to provide needed training in health care professions, we're constantly looking for ways we can grow and prosper with our community.

Thanks to the strong support of our community, our beautiful campus features state-of-the-art facilities that play a key role in training a skilled workforce and in recruiting outstanding faculty and staff. Currently, we make a difference in the lives of more than 20,000 students each year through our credit programs, non-credit programs and customized training.

We are proud of the economic impact we have in this community. For example, students who receive an associate degree from Brazosport College and enter the petrochemical industry within the Gulf Coast region earn, on average, \$86,000 a year in wages.

There are many pathways available to students. Twenty-five percent of our credit students are co-enrolled in high school while attending Brazosport College. Working with counselors, students can choose pathways that meet their personal goals. Whether pursuing certificates, an associate degree or a bachelor degree, we can help families save thousands of dollars. In fact, most of our students graduate with little or no student loan debt. For those needing tuition assistance, we have resources available through financial aid, as well as many scholarships provided by the Brazosport College Foundation.

Career training at Brazosport College equals great job opportunities in our community. I encourage you to go to the college website and look at a link called "Career Coach." You'll find the most recent information on available job openings, salaries and training programs at BC. With all of the recent expansion announcements by local industry, you may want to consider a career choice in process technology or in one of the skilled craft areas such as pipefitting, welding or drafting.

Whatever it is, choose the path that's right for you. Brazosport College is the college of choice for our community and I hope to see you on campus soon.



### AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA PLAN DE ACCIÓN 2021 DEL CONDADO DE BRAZORIA

Audiencias públicas se llevarán a cabo el miércoles 14 de Julio del 2021 a las 5:30 p.m. y el 21 de Julio del 2021 a las 9:00 a.m. en las oficinas del Condado de Brazoria en el edificio East Annex ubicado en 1524 E. Mulberry, Angleton, Texas. El propósito de estas audiencias serán para recibir comentarios y aportaciones ciudadanas sobre el Plan de Acción 2021. El Condado anticipa recibir fondos del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los EE.UU en la suma de \$1,716,085 bajo el programa CDBG, \$517,255 bajo el programa de HOME y \$154,660 bajo el programa ESG durante el programa año 2021. En adición, el Condado de Brazoria ha recibido una financiación única de \$1,874.07 bajo el programa HOME-ARP. Por favor mirar la lista de todos los proyectos y cantidades en: <http://brazoriacountytx.gov/departments/housing-and-urban-development/public-notice>

En el primero (1) de julio del 2021, una copia del Plan de Acción anual de PY 2021 estará disponible para el público en el departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario del Condado de Brazoria, 1524 East Mulberry, Suite 162, Angleton, TX 77515. La localización es accesible para personas con discapacidades físicas. Personas incapacitadas, que no hablan inglés, usan lenguaje de señas y otras personas que necesitan adaptaciones especiales y desean asistir a esta audiencia pública, deben comunicarse con Nancy Friudenberg al (979) 864-1860, antes de la audiencia para que el alojamiento sea disponible.

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# *Vamonos con* Campaign Kickoff for Judge



**ABOVE:** From left to right: Dr. Teresa Granillo, MSW, PhD, CEO of Avance, Inc., Candidate Bianca Garcia, Austin City Council Member District # 2 Vanessa Fuentes and Texas State Representative Celia Israel (D-50)

**BELOW:** Justin Perez and candidate Garcia.



**ABOVE:** Travis County Attorney Delia Garza and former judge Bob Perkins came out to show their support for Bianca Garcia’s candidacy.

To learn how you can get involved in Bianca’s campaign please visit the Facebook page: Bianca for Jusge



# Bianca Garcia

## County Court at Law # 3



**LEFT:** Katie Ramirez, Blanca Garcia, Bianca Garcia, Mary Lou Lugo and Elizabeth Segura Villegas

**RIGHT:** Candidate for Judge in County Court of Law # 3 Bianca Garcia



**BELOW:** From left to right, Bob Perkins, Ricky Fuentes, Jorge Tamayo and Jesus Herrera





# Calendar of Events

**July 10th, 2021 - Ruben Ramos and the Mexican Revolution** in Bryan, Texas. Visit his website for more information

**July 17th, 2021 - Little Joe y La Famila** in Midland, Texas. Visit the website for information and tickets.

**July 17th, 2021 - Ruben Ramos and the Mexican Revolution** at Rosedale Park in **San Antonio, Texas**. Visit his website for more information.

**July 20th, 2021 - Austin Tejano Democrats Monthly Meeting** at **Casa Maria** from 6pm – 8pm 4327 S 1st St #102, Austin, TX 78745, USA  
Contact: David Chincanchan - Chair 512-789-6054, or dchincanchan@gmail.com

**July 24th, 2021 - Retiro en Español con el Padre Enrique Hernandez** “La presencia de Dios en medio de nuestros problemas y dificultades”  
El retiro de este día consistirá en 2 lecturas, la primera sera = Dios sigue iluminándonos en medio de la crisis de la sociedad de hoy  
La segunda sera - El espíritu Santo sigue trabajando en medio de la crisis de los principios y valores El costo del retiro será de \$ 35 e incluirá el almuerzo. Farvor de registrarse a mas tardar para el día 10 de julio Para más información visite el website de la diocese Catholica.

**July 30th, 2021 - Little Joe y La Famia** at **Harrah’s Casino & Hotel** in Laughlin, Nevada. Visit the website for more information and tickets

**August 12th, 2021 - Central Texas Music Legends Breakfast** at Casa Garcia 1901 W. William Cannon 78748 in Austin, Texas. Contact Joe Olvera for more information at (512) 667-0206

**August 19-22, 2021 LULAC Texas Convention** in **Austin, Texas** at the **Hilton Austin Airport**, 9515 Hotel Drive, Austin, Texas 78719

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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**.

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.

The next time	La próxima vez
There might not be a next time	Puede que no haya una próxima vez
Who would have thought?	¿Quién lo hubiera pensado?
Never underestimate a person	Nunca subestimes a una persona
When it is your time?	¿Cuándo es tu momento?
What will you do?	¿Qué vas a hacer?
How can you tell?	¿Cómo puedes saberlo?
Will you help me?	¿Me ayudarás?
I need your help.	Necesito tu ayuda.
Who will help your family?	¿Quién ayudará a tu familia?
When was the last time you asked for help	¿Cuándo fue la última vez que pidió ayuda?
Who was the last person that you helped?	¿Quién fue la última persona a la que ayudaste?
Is it hard to ask for help?	¿Es difícil pedir ayuda?
Who has ever helped you?	¿Quién te ha ayudado alguna vez?





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## 2021 Texas LULAC Convention

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Para más información tocante el Programa de Compras y Adquisiciones de Negocios de Minorías y Mujeres de la Ciudad de Austin, y del proceso de certificación, por favor contactar al Departamento de Recursos de Empresas Pequeñas & Minoritarias en 512-974-7600 o visite [www.austintexas.gov/smbr](http://www.austintexas.gov/smbr).



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William Clark Green  
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