

# La Voz de Austin

Volume # 2 Number 12  
December, 2007



## ADENTRO / INSIDE

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

**Terra Firma - The Journey  
from Migrant Farm Labor  
to Neurosurgery**

**Dove Springs Gets  
a Health Clinic**

**New San Antonio Style  
Tardeada Comes to Austin**

**New Film on Archbishop  
Patrick Flores coming to  
PBS**

**People in the News**

**En Palabras Hay Poder**

**Austin Voices for  
Education and Youth  
Presents: An Interview  
with Trent Sharp**

**From the Sacred to Popular Culture:  
Representations of La Virgen de Guadalupe  
Art Exhibition Opening and Marian Choral Concert**



# People in the News



## Lulu Flores is New President of the National Women's Political Caucus

**Maria Luisa "Lulu" Flores** of **Austin, Texas** was recently elected **President** of the **National Women's Political Caucus**.

This **Washington, D. C.** based organization is a multicultural, intergenerational, and multi-issue grassroots organization dedicated to increasing women's participation in the political process and creating a true women's political power base to achieve equality for all women.

**Flores**, who is an attorney and Of Counsel to **Hendler Law, P.C. of Austin, Texas** has been active in **Austin** politics for a long time and ran unsuccessfully for **Texas State Representative** in 2002.

She has served as Assistant Director for Intergovernmental Affairs of the **Railroad Commission of Texas** (1996-2001) and as Assistant Director for the Alternative Fuels Division of the **Railroad Commission of Texas** (1992-1996). Prior to working with the Railroad Commission, she was **Director for Governmental Affairs for the State Bar of Texas** from 1986-1991. **Lulu** was also Chief of Staff to the late **Irma Rangel**, first Hispanic woman elected to the **Texas House of Representatives**.

**Lulu** earned a B.A. with High Honors in Government from the **University of Texas at Austin** and earned her law degree from the **University of Texas School of Law**.



## Saldaña Joins CMAS Staff at UT Austin

**Natasha Saldaña**, formerly of the Department of Chemical Engineering, has joined the **Center for Mexican American Studies** staff as its new academic advisor.

As the **CMAS** academic advisor, **Natasha** will be responsible for undergraduate degree program, including advising of Mexican American Studies majors and prospective majors and course administration duties, such as course scheduling, final exam reporting, course instructor surveys, and grade reporting.

**Natasha Viera Saldaña** is a native Austinite who was raised in Central East Austin. She is a graduate of **Stephen F. Austin High School** and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from the College of Communication at **The University of Texas at Austin** in 1999.

**Natasha** resides in **Austin** with her husband and three sons. She is an active volunteer at **Dell's Children's Hospital** and enjoys watching her sons play sports and learning from their new experiences. She can be reached at 471-2134 and nvs@mail.utexas.edu.



## Barrera Enters March Primary for Judicial Post

**Carlos H. Barrera** has declared his candidacy for Judge in **Travis County Court at Law Number 8**. **Barrera**, who was born in 1957, grew up in **Laredo, Texas**, graduated from **Laredo High School**. He earned his degrees from **Georgetown University** and the **University of Texas School of Law** and returned to **Laredo** to become an assistant district attorney in 1983. Subsequently, **Carlos** became the First Assistant County Attorney for **Webb County**.

In June 1990, **Carlos** returned to **Austin** and began a criminal defense law practice. He became board certified as a criminal law specialist in 1991. **Carlos** has also served on the **Austin Bar Association's Judicial Screening Committee** and as a long-time volunteer referral lawyer with the **Women's Advocacy Center** (recently renamed the **Texas Advocacy Project**).

**Carlos** and his wife, **DeeDee**, a speech pathologist, have two sons and are strong community volunteers. **Carlos** coaches i9 junior football and **Balcones Youth Sports Little League** baseball and was an assistant coach with the **North Austin Soccer Association**.



## Victor Gears Up for Another Political Campaign

It's true, **Victor Morales** is going to run again. The school teacher nobody wanted to believe was "for real" stunned the Democratic political establishment in 1996 when he dared to run for the **United States Senate**.

Now he is back and preparing to run for **State Representative in District 4** which is currently held by 5 time incumbent, **Republican Betty Brown of Terrell**. Now 58 years old, **Morales** stated, "I still think I have some fight left in me. I still think there is a place for people like me."

In 1996, 2.4 million people voted for him when he ran for the **United States Senate**. And his white pick up truck? He still has it.



## Karyna Mata Joins Staff of Austin Area Urban League

**Karyna Mata** is the newest employee of the **Austin Area Urban League**. As the new Project Assistant for the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Grant** on High School Redesign, **Karyna** will be working on community engagement and outreach under the supervision of Ms. Janice Johnston.

**Karyna** was born and raised in **Laredo, Texas**. She graduated in May from **The University of Texas at Austin's College of Communication** with a Bachelors Degree in advertising. During her last year at **UT**, she completed an internship with a local advertising firm and received priceless hands-on learning.

Orale, A quien conoces que  
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candidates for *People*  
in the News, send us  
an email at:  
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# La Gente de Austin

## Editorial

In this issue of *La Voz de Austin* we are proud to bring you the results of our search for the **Top 25 Most Influential Latinos in Austin, Texas**. When we decided to try this polling exercise we were not sure if our readers would participate.

I must say, I was pleasantly surprised at the number of people who took the time to review the list of 117 names that appeared in the November 2007 issue. And I was even more surprised at the number of people who submitted names that were not on the original list.

To be sure, there is a lot of talent and leadership in **Austin, Texas** among Latinos. There are a lot of people who are working in a variety of areas trying to build community and make a difference. We wish to congratulate everyone who works day in and day out in their respective areas and organizations to improve lives of those with whom they come in contact with in **Austin, Texas** and beyond.

Below are the names of the Top 25 Most Influential Latinos in Austin, Texas in 2007:

**Angel Abitua**  
**Sylvia Acevedo**  
**Juan J. Adame**  
**Susana Almanza**  
**Erika González**  
**Gonzalo Barrientos**  
**Dr. Nora de Hoyos Comstock**  
**Ana Yanez Correa**  
**Martha Cotera**  
**Gus Garcia**  
**Daniel Garza**  
**Rita Gonzales-Garza**

**Mona Gonzalez**  
**Dr. Janice Guerrero-Thompson**  
**Mike Martinez**  
**Gustavo Monsante**  
**Andrew "Andy" Martinez**  
**Linda Medina**  
**Luis Orozco**  
**Rupert Reyes**  
**Dr. Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez**  
**raul salinas**  
**Dr. Juan J. Sánchez**  
**Dr. Federico Subervi**  
**Dr. Angela Valenzuela**

On pages 10, 11, 14 and 15 you will find a short biographical sketch and photo of each of the individuals listed.

### RELATED NOTE

In the short time that we have been publishing *La Voz de Austin* we have come to discover that there are a lot more good stories than bad stories in **Austin, Texas**. Yet, when we pick up the traditional newspapers or watch the major television channels, if there is a story with a Latino in it often involves a tragedy or something having to do with crime.

Day in and day out *sale lo mismo*. So we ask ourselves, is this all that is going on in the Latino community? Nomas somos criminales? Nomas merecemos cobertura cuando hay un choque en el freeway?

One of the reasons why we are doing *La Voz de Austin* is because we are sick and tired of

picking up other publications or watching TV newscasts and seeing all the blood, guts and negative stories with respect to people of color.

Now we are not saying don't put Latinos on TV or write about them when they break the law, what we are really saying is that there is a need to put some balance in the publications that seem to have this propensity to only go with the negative. De todas maneras, mientras que no llega esa día, we are going to after those "other" stories with *La Voz de Austin*.

### OTRA COSA

Ya que estamos hablando de "other" stories, quiero extender una invitación a todo los que nos apoyan que nos manden su sugerencias de personas o organizaciones que debemos de cubrir con *La Voz de Austin*. Aunque tratamos de estar al tanto de todo lo que esta pasando, siempre necesitamos la ayuda de otros.

### LA ULTIMA COSA

In the next several weeks the election season will be upon us. There will candidates filing for numerous offices. They are all want to win. The time and sacrifice that many of them will be making will take a heavy toll on their families. All of them need help. Don't be shy about calling just one of them and asking how you can help.



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

### On the Cover



ABOVE: From the private collection of Gilberto Cardenas.

The Mexican American Cultural Center is going all out to make this Christmas at the MACC an unforgettable one for everyone. One of this year's elements that is sure to make it different is the view of numerous art pieces from the private collection of **Dr. Gilberto Cardenas**. Take time to go out to the MACC for you may never see this artwork again.



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## Young Hispanic Professional Austin Association

The Young Hispanic Professional Austin Association invites you to join us for the 2nd Annual Coats, Cans & Corks! Kick off the Holiday Season with giving and raise a glass at Austin's newest wine bar, VINO VINO!

**Monday, December 10, 2007**  
**6:00pm-8:00pm**  
**VINO VINO Wine Bar**  
**4119 Guadalupe Street**  
**Austin, Texas 78751**

In the spirit of giving we will be collecting can goods for the Capital Area Food Bank and coats (used or new) benefiting Coats for Kids.

### Suggestions:

- canned meats like tuna, stew, and chili (pop tops preferred)
- canned green beans, corn, and other veggies -pasta & pasta sauce
- pinto beans -rice -baby food/formula -healthy cereal -peanut butter

**RSVP:** [rsvp@yhpaa.org](mailto:rsvp@yhpaa.org)

About YHPAA: The Young Hispanic Professional Austin Association (YHPAA) is an official non-profit and a 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Status organization registered in the State of Texas. It was founded in January 2006 to serve as the principal professional resource for young Hispanics in the Austin and Central Texas area for members to build a foundation for their professional, community, and social development. For more info. go to: [www.yhpaa.org](http://www.yhpaa.org).

## ABUELITA'S CHRISTMAS CAROL

at the Mexican American Cultural Center

Join your business associates who are discovering the best deal in town for Christmas fun! Book a show of "Abuelita's Christmas Carol" in the MACC's performance studio for an intimate, unforgettable solo performance by Alex Garza.

Don't miss Abuelita's private party!

She is not Ebenezer Scrooge or George Bailey. She's a lot spicier!

Book this very affordable show today—for your employees and their children! Catering associates available for whatever kind of party you have in mind! For more information call **AMPARO at 478-6222**.

## Letters to the Editor

### Regarding the Top 25

Dear Editorial Staff:

I picked up your paper the other day waiting for an opportunity to visit with students at Johnston High School. I saw this article and was surprised as to the number of people listed that I know. I think the real story is not the contest, but the missed opportunity to ask these people what, or who, influenced them to do what they do. You missed an opportunity, maybe not. Some of the names are obvious choices because of their long-lived presence and commitment to working in the community. Other names are prominent, but not necessarily influential yet. I work for the Extension Service providing after school programming to mostly young Latinos on the East Side. Did you know there are more than 30 Latino principals, (mostly in elementary schools), in Austin Public Schools? If you want influence, then look no further than people helping shape education at the neighborhood level. I bet if you asked that list of 117 people who influenced them there would be some educator back in their past. Do your readers a favor and send these people a questionnaire asking what three people influenced them and why. Then, you will have a story. Maybe even a book.

Cheers,

R. Noel Rodriguez  
 Buda, TX 78610

I just came across your proposed list of the 25 Most Influential Latinos in Austin. I wanted to point out a few additional pieces of information and one correction: **-The Limon Family** is confirmed at more than 2,000 members in Austin - **Julian Limon Fernandez of Conjunto Los Texas Wranglers** is a Limon Family member - **Hermelinda Zamarripa** of the Office of Police Monitor & Community Activist is also a Limon Family member

Here are additional people that should be included on your list: - **John Trevino** (first Hispanic on Austin City Council and former Mayor Pro-Tem); Limon Family member - **Diana Limon** (owner of **Diana's Flower Shop** in East Austin); Limon Family member - **Johnny Limon** (Neighborhood Activist); Limon Family Member - **Fidel Estrada** (Owner of **Estrada's Cleaners** since 1960) - **Lois Villaseñor** (Owner of Mission Funeral Home) - **Jorge Guerra** (Owner of El Azteca and community activist) - **Fidencio "Rabbit" Duran** (Owner of Rabbits on 6th Street) - **RoseAnn Maciel** (owner of Joe's Bakery on E. 7th Street)

Thanks for your consideration!

Regards,

Lonnie Limón  
 Austin, Texas

## Juanita Flores

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# *From the Sacred to Popular Culture: Representations of La Virgen de Guadalupe*

## Art Exhibition Opening and Marian Choral Concert

Art Work from the private collection of Gilberto Cárdenas

and a Marian Concert by the award-winning St. Mary's Cathedral *Schola Cantorum*

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Mexican American Cultural Center 600 River Street Austin, Texas

### Sponsors:

UT-Austin Center for Mexican American Studies  
UT-Austin Mexican Center, Teresa Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies  
Mexican American Cultural Center  
La Peña  
Las Manitas

### Free and open to the public

In recognition and celebration of the **Feast Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe**, an iconic figure in the history of the mestizo people of Mexico and the U.S., **The Center for Mexican American Studies** and The Mexican Center of the **Teresa Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies of the College of Liberal Arts at The University of Texas at Austin**, along with the **Mexican American Cultural Center, Las Manitas** and **La Peña**, proudly present, *From the Sacred to Popular Culture: Representations of La Virgen de Guadalupe* art exhibition (works from the private collection of Gilberto Cárdenas) and a Marian Choral Concert by the **St. Mary's Cathedral Schola Cantorum**.

From December 9-12, 1531, a decade after the Spanish conquest and in the midst of massive upheaval and exploitation of the indigenous population of Mexico, *La Virgen* appeared to the Aztec convert **Juan Diego** at **Tepeyac**, a rocky hill which was then outside **Mexico City**. December 12th is designated as the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. All over the world, veneration of **La Virgen de Guadalupe** culminates on this day. In the years and centuries following her first appearance to **Juan Diego**, the **Virgin of Guadalupe** has continued to be depicted as a beautiful, dark-skinned woman. This representation of *La Virgen* has remained intact in spite of its transformation from a traditional religious image to pop culture icon.

The modes of her representation have changed over time, as have the messages that can be found within the imagery of the **Virgin of Guadalupe**. Some view *La Virgen* as a loving and forgiving mother, while others see her as a symbol of nationalism, liberalism, or even feminism. The reactions that the image of *La Virgen* evoke are in the eyes, beliefs, and emotions of the beholder.

This exhibition explores this multifaceted, versatile imagery of the **Virgin of Guadalupe** spanning from classical depictions to contemporary portrayals. These modern appearances of *La Virgen* emerge on a wide range of objects, such as crosses and altar pieces, as well as tote bags and temporary tattoos. All of these items allow for a profound exploration of the **Virgin of Guadalupe's** changing role in society, facilitating a personal encounter with the diverse images shown in this exhibition.




The timeless popularity of *La Virgen de Guadalupe* regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, class, or race can be attributed to the great variety of media used when portraying her in public. The **Virgin of Guadalupe** is specifically a Mexican figure, but is universal and accessible to everyone.

The evening's program will commence at 6:30 p.m. with a ceremony by the *Matachines Guadalupanos*. Matachines are traditional dance and musical groups that draw elements of their repertoire from **Aztec** and Native American culture and costume. *Matachines Guadalupanos* will be followed by a presentation by Gilberto Cárdenas, the **Julián Samora Chair of Latino Studies** and **Director of the Institute for Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame**. When he was on the faculty of **The University of Texas at Austin**, **Professor Cárdenas** also owned **Galería sin Fronteras**. His Latino art collection is one of the largest in the country. The works in this exhibit were previously shown at **Galería América** at the **University of Notre Dame**. A special altar for **La Virgen de Guadalupe** will be built by **Juan Pablo Gutiérrez**, a cultural activist and writer formerly from **Austin**, who now serves as **Director of the Colectiva del Rescate Cultural** in **San Francisco**.

**Cristina Cabello de Martínez**, a Senior Lecturer in the **Department of Spanish and Portuguese at The University of Texas at Austin**, will provide a historical account of the manifestations of *La Virgen de Guadalupe* to **Juan Diego**. The choral concert by the **St. Mary's Cathedral Schola Cantorum** will begin at 7:30 p.m. *Schola Cantorum* is Latin for singing school, which is the name cathedral choirs have used since the sixth century. According to **Jeffrey Jones-Ragona**, the conductor of the *Schola Cantorum* and St. Mary's Director of Music, the 34-member choir features some of the best professional singers in Austin. The *a capella* concert will include Advent chants of the holy Christmas season awaiting the celebration of Christ's birth and compositions from the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth century **Mexico City Cathedral** repertoire.

The opening concert will be preceded by a reception and performance by *Mariachi Jalisco*, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The choral concert and art exhibition are free and open to the public. The art exhibition runs from Dec. 8, 2007 through January 5, 2008.





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## Health Clinic Coming to Dove Springs

The Travis County Health Care District Board approved a plan to bring a community health clinic to Dove Springs on Thursday, November 15, 2007. The clinic is scheduled to open in April 2008.

The Wesley Center for Family and Neighborhood Development along with the Dove Springs Collaborative for Change has been at the fore front of a community awareness campaign to establish a community health clinic in Dove Springs. Over 400 Dove Springs residents stepped forward to sign a petition in support of a Health Clinic. With the approval of the Travis County Health Care Board, the Wesley Center is now calling for a community education meeting this month.

At this meeting, county and city health officials will share with the community their plans for the clinic. The establishment of this clinic in Dove Springs represents the positive change organizations, residents, and neighborhood leaders are making Dove Springs. The proposed site for the clinic is a shopping center on William Cannon Drive at Interstate 35. Approximately 35 people will be hired to run the clinic including seven full-time doctors. For more information contact **Andrew Hernandez**, Executive Director, **Wesley Center For Family and Neighborhood Development**, 3000 South IH 35, Suite 210 Austin, Texas 78704 512-326-8545.

## New San Antonio Style Tardeada Coming to Austin

**Julian Limon Fernandez** from **Los Texas Wranglers** fame has announced that on Sundays he will be organizing a **San Antonio Style Tardeada** in **Austin, Texas**. Community and Civic organizations such as Las Guadalupanas, Church Choir, VFW, CWV, Knights of Columbus are welcomed to use the event as a fundraising activity. **Fernandez** stated, "I would like for the entire family kids and all come out to experience our rich Conjunto culture. Kids 14 and younger will enter free. We want you to enjoy with your family a great afternoon wherever we play. As most of you know my music is not loud and it's a very nice and safe scene for young and old." For more information please call: (512) 933-1485



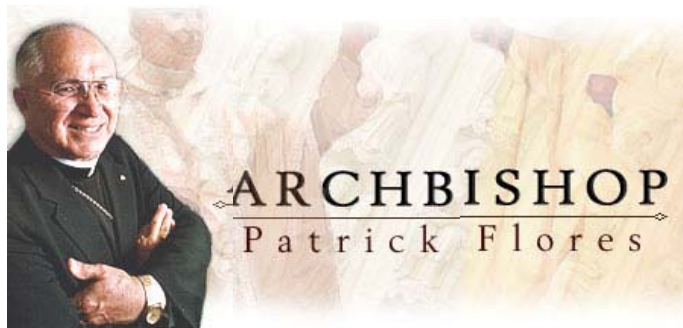
## English Usage Among Hispanics in the United States

Nearly all Hispanic adults born in the United States of immigrant parents report they are fluent in English. By contrast, only a small minority of their parents describe themselves as skilled English speakers. This finding of a dramatic increase in English-language ability from one generation of Hispanics to the next emerges from a new analysis of six **Pew Hispanic Center** surveys conducted this decade among a total of more than 14,000 Latino adults.

The surveys show that fewer than one-in-four (23%) Latino immigrants reports being able to speak English very well. However, fully 88% of their U.S.-born adult children report that they speak English very well. Among later generations of Hispanic adults, the figure rises to 94%. Reading ability in English shows a similar trend.

As fluency in English increases across generations, so, too, does the regular use of English by Hispanics, both at home and at work. For most immigrants, English is not the primary language they use in either setting. But for their grown children, it is.

# New Film on Archbishop Emeritus Patrick Flores Coming to PBS



*American Archbishop Patrick F. Flores (born 1929) became the first Mexican American to rise to a high rank in the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. When appointed Archbishop of the Archdiocese of San Antonio in Texas, he became the head of the largest provinces of dioceses in the country. Throughout his life and career, Flores was greatly admired and well-liked, as he supported civil rights causes, actively helped the poor, and sought to bring together people and leaders of other faiths.*

In 2005, Galán Incorporated, a film production company, announced that it wanted to produce a documentary about **Roman Catholic Bishop Patrick F. Flores**. The chosen subject matter seemed highly appropriate for a motion picture, as **Flores** is a charismatic figure whose life and legacy offer the kind of drama and inspiration that makes for a compelling narrative.

**Flores** rose from humble beginnings to become America's first Mexican-American Catholic Bishop. In his early life, **Flores** was a migrant worker and cantina custodian but, after he entered the priesthood, he rose to the highest levels in the church hierarchy. Along the way, his career was filled with accomplishment, controversy and even danger.

## Early Life and Career

**Flores**, the seventh of nine children born to **Patricio and Trinidad Fernandez de Flores**, was born on July 26, 1929, in **Ganado, Texas**. **Flores** attended **Ganado Elementary School, Pearland Elementary School and Christian Brothers' Kirwin High School in Galveston, Texas**. In 1946, when he was in the tenth grade, **Flores** wanted to drop out of high school when his father became ill and could not work. He was persuaded against that route, however, when a nun convinced a bishop to finance his education at the Catholic school.

His education thus salvaged, **Flores** diligently applied himself to his studies and completed a three-year program in two years. He managed to accomplish this even while studying Latin on the side.

To earn money for his family and himself, **Flores** worked in a cantina, picking up empty beer cans from the floor and sweeping up cigarette stubs. The working environment coupled with his chores compelled him to want to make the whole world a cleaner and more habitable place, and he felt the best way he could do that was by becoming a priest.

Intent on following his calling, after he graduated from **Kirwan**, **Flores** entered **St. Mary's Seminary in La Porte, Texas** in 1949. He later attended **St. Mary's Seminary in Houston**. He never wavered in his decision to become a priest. Once again displaying academic ambition, he completed eight years' of seminary education in seven. When he completed his work at the **Houston** seminary, he took his holy vows. He was ordained into the Catholic priesthood at **St. Mary's Cathedral in Galveston** on May 26, 1956, by **Bishop Wendellin J. Nold**.

Now known as **Father Flores**, he celebrated his first mass at the **Guardian Angel** in **Pasadena, Texas**. Shortly afterward, he was assigned to the **Diocese of Galveston-Houston**, where he served as an

assistant pastor in several parishes.

## Humble Activist

Concerned with the plight of the poor and oppressed, **Flores** began displaying activist inclinations in the early 1960s, when he directed the **Christian Family Movement** in the **Galveston-Houston** diocese and the **Bishop's Committee for the Spanish Speaking**, a ministry that encouraged bilingual congregations. At the end of the decade, in October 1969, **Flores** joined forty-seven other Hispanic priests to establish **PADRES**, an organization that draws attention to the problems of Hispanics in the church. In between, he received his first pastorate, at the **Guardian Angel Parish** in **Pasadena**, in 1963; in 1967, **Flores** became pastor of **St. Joseph-St. Stephen Parish** in **Houston**.

In May of 1970, **Pope John Paul VI** made **Flores** the auxiliary to the archbishop of **San Antonio**. Later that year, he became a bishop, the first Mexican American to attain that high a position in the **Roman Catholic Church**. Being bilingual, and coming from a poor background himself, **Flores** managed to develop a strong relationship with the parishioners.

Also in May of 1970, **Flores** was appointed chairman of the **Texas State Advisory Commit-**

**tee** to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and in July he became national chaplain for the **League of United Latin American Citizens**.

Even in such positions of respect and power, **Flores** remained humble and continued directing his activities toward helping the less fortunate. In 1972, he co-founded the **Mexican-American Cultural Center** in **San Antonio** and served as its honorary chairman.

He then helped form the **National Foundation of Mexican American Vocations** and the **National Hispanic Scholarship Fund**, which helped hundreds of young people to obtain a college education. The following year, he helped raise more than \$20,000 for earthquake victims in **Mexico**, and then he joined picketers at a supermarket who were protesting the stocking of nonunion lettuce and grapes.

**Flores'** activities did not go unnoticed. *Time* magazine named him "an emerging leader of America" in 1974. He gained more media attention in 1976 when he helped establish "Telethon Navideno" (Nativity Telethon), a broadcast event held on the first Sunday of December to raise money for indigent Latino families. Proceeds paid for emergency rental finances, utilities, and medication for single women with children, the elderly, the unemployed and the sick.

By this time, **Flores** had spent

twenty years in the priesthood. However, as humanitarian as his aims were, his activities were not without personal danger. In August of 1976, he visited **Ecuador** to attend a conference, but he ended up being held at gunpoint by the country's army for 28 hours with 56 other relatives.

## Recognized for his Work

During the 1980s and 1990s, he received several significant honors for his work. In 1985, he received the **Ellis Island Medal of Honor**, during the celebration of the **Statue of Liberty's** 100th Birthday, and he received the **Hispanic Heritage** award for leadership in 1986. In October of 1989, **Flores** became the first **San Antonian** to receive the **Anti-Defamation League's Ben and Julie Rogers Ecumenism Award**, which is given to religious leaders for promoting clerical harmony and cooperation. In 1995, he received the **Distinguished Churchman Award** by the **San Antonio Council of Churches** and the **Ford Salute to Education** award. In 1999, he received the **B'nai Brith International Humanitarian Award**.

**Coming to PBS in the Spring of 2008**  
Special sneak previews are scheduled for December, 2007. Check your local PBS affiliate for dates and times.

# Terra Firma — A Journey from Migrant Farm Labor to Neurosurgery

by  
Alfredo Quinones-Hinojosa

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*"You will spend the rest of your life working in the fields,"* my cousin told me when I arrived in the United States in the mid-1980s. This fate indeed appeared likely: a 19-year-old illegal migrant farm worker, I had no English language skills and no dependable means of support. I had grown up in a small Mexican farming community, where I began working at my father's gas station at the age of 5.

Our family was poor, and we were subject to the diseases of poverty: my earliest memory is of my infant sister's death from diarrhea when I was 3 years old. But my parents worked long hours and had always made enough money to feed us, until an economic crisis hit our country in the 1970s. Then they could no longer support the family, and although I trained to be a teacher, I could not put enough food on the table either.

Desperate for a livable income, I packed my few belongings and, with \$65 in my pocket, crossed the U.S. border illegally. The first time I hopped the fence into California, I was caught and sent back to Mexico, but I tried again and succeeded. I am not condoning illegal immigration; honestly, at the time, the law was far from the front of my mind. I was merely responding to the dream of a better life, the hope of escaping poverty so that one day I could return home triumphant.

Reality, however, posed a stark contrast to the dream. I spent long days in the fields picking fruits and vegetables, sleeping under leaky camper shells, eating anything I could get, with hands bloodied from pulling weeds —



the very same hands that today perform brain surgery.

My days as a farm worker taught me a great deal about economics, politics, and society. I learned that being illegal and

poor in a foreign country could be more painful than any poverty I had previously experienced. I learned that our society sometimes treats us differently depending on the places we have been and the education we have obtained. When my cousin told me I would never escape that life of poverty, I became determined to prove him wrong. I took night jobs as a janitor and subsequently as a welder that allowed me to attend a community college where I could learn English.

In 1989, while I was working for a railroad company as a welder and high-pressure valve specialist, I had an accident that caused me to reevaluate my life once again. I fell into a tank car that was used to

carry liquefied petroleum gas. My father was working at the same company. Hearing a coworker's cry for help, he tried to get into the tank; fortunately, someone stopped him. It was my brother-in-law, **Ramon**, who climbed in and saved my life. He was taken out of the tank



ABOVE: Camper shell where Alfredo Quinones lived



BELOW: Place where Quinones crossed the border



unconscious but regained consciousness quickly. By the time I was rescued, my heart rate had slowed almost to zero, but I was resuscitated in time.

When I awoke, I saw a person dressed all in white and was flooded with a sense of security, confidence, and protection, knowing that a doctor was taking care of me. Although it was clear to me that our poverty and inability to speak English usually translated into suboptimal health care for my community, the moment I saw this physician at my bedside, I felt I had reached terra firma, that I had a guardian.

**One of my mentors there convinced me, despite my skepticism, that I could go anywhere I wanted for medical school.**

After community college, I was accepted at the **University of California, Berkeley**, where a combination of excellent mentorship, scholarships, and my own passion for math and science led me to research in the neurosciences. One of my mentors there convinced me, despite my skepticism, that I could go anywhere I wanted for medical school. Thanks to such support and encouragement, I eventually went to **Harvard Medical School**. As I pursued my own education, I became increasingly aware of the need and responsibility we have to educate our country's poor.

It is no secret that minority communities have the highest dropout rates and the lowest educational achievement levels in the country. The pathway to higher education and professional training programs is not "primed" for minority students.

In 1994, when I started medical school, members of minority groups made up about 18% of the U.S. population but accounted for only 3.7% of the faculty in U.S. medical schools. I was very fortunate to find outstanding minority role models,



**ABOVE:** Alfredo Quinones in 1990 working as a welder in Stockton, California

but though their quality was high, their numbers were low.

Given my background, perhaps it is not surprising that I did not discover the field of neurosurgery until I was a medical student. I vividly remember

when, in my third year of medical school, I first witnessed neurosurgeons peeling back the dura and exposing a real, live, throbbing human brain. I recall feeling absolute awe and humility — and an immediate and deep recognition of the intimacy between a patient and a doctor.

myself immersed in and committed to the betterment of U.S. society. With my sights set on neurosurgery after medical school, I followed my heart and instincts and have tried to contribute to my community and the larger society in my own way.

**I see a career in academic medicine as an opportunity not only to improve our understanding and treatment of human diseases but also . . .**

I see a career in academic medicine as an opportunity not only to improve our understanding and treatment of human diseases but also to provide leadership within medicine and support to future scientists, medical students, and physician scientists from minority and non-minority groups alike.

My grandmother was the medicine woman in the small town in rural Mexico

where I grew up. As I have gotten older, I have come to recognize the crucial role she played not only in instilling in me the value of healing but also in determining the fate and future of others. She was my first

role model, and throughout my life I have depended on the help of my mentors in pursuing my dreams.

Like many other illegal immigrants, I arrived in the United States able only to contemplate those dreams — I was not at that point on solid ground. From the

fields of the **San Joaquin Valley in California** to the field of neurosurgery, it has been quite a journey. Today, as a neurosurgeon and researcher, I am taking part in the larger journey of medicine, both caring for patients and conducting clinical



and translational research on brain cancer that I hope will lead to innovative ways of fighting devastating disease. And as a citizen of the United States, I am also participating in the great journey of this country. For immigrants like me, this voyage still means the pursuit of a better life — and the opportunity to give back to society.

**Dr. Quinones-Hinojosa** is an assistant professor of neurosurgery and oncology and director of the brain-tumor stem-cell laboratory at **Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore**, and director of the brain-tumor program at the **Johns Hopkins Bayview** campus.



**ABOVE:** Dr. Quinones walks with others in the hospital

That year, one of my professors strongly encouraged me to go into primary care, arguing that it was the best way for me to serve my Hispanic immigrant community. Although I had initially intended to return to Mexico triumphant, I had since fallen in love with this country, and I soon found



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La Voz de Austin - December, 2007

## *New BOOK* **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **The Directory of 100**

A Guide to  
Latino Organizations in  
Austin, Texas

**2008**

Mexican American Center  
for Community and Economic Development

The Mexican American Center for Community and Economic Development is pleased to announce the fourth edition of The Directory of 100 - A Guide to Latino Organizations in Austin, Texas. This directory continues the tradition set by long time Austin community activist Martha Cotera who produced the first directory in 1976.

Each organization has been contacted personally to confirm their existence and the accuracy of their organization's public profile. The directory is updated regularly and contains the name of the organization contact, mailing address, telephone number, fax number, email address, website address, number of members, and the year the organization was founded

### **Order Form**

Please send \_\_\_\_ copy of The Directory of 100 - A Guide to Latino Organizations in Austin, Texas at \$24.95 per copy. Texas residents please add sales tax: 8.25% (\$2.05 per book) Shipping is \$1.25 per book. There is no charge for shipping of bulk orders. Call for more information.

Send to **MACED**  
P.O. Box 19457  
Austin, Texas 78760  
(512) 291-9060

[www.mexicanamericancenter.com](http://www.mexicanamericancenter.com)



## Una Invitación a La Gente de Dove Springs

The **Wesley Center for Family and Neighborhood Development** and the **Dove Springs Collaborative for Change** would like to invite **Dove Springs** residents and families to a Community Awareness Meeting about a new Community Health Clinic coming to the **Dove Springs** neighborhood.

The meeting will be held on Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm **Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church** located at 6830 S. Pleasant Valley Rd.

It is important that the families of **Dove Springs** have their voices heard!

If you can come and bring others to come, please call us at 512-326-8545 for further information.



**ABOVE:** Young students understand what it means to have a health clinic close to where they live.



**"Empowering Youth,  
Strengthening Families and  
Transforming Neighborhoods"**

## Juan Pablo Gutierrez Returns to Austin

After a long absence, artist **Juan Pablo Gutierrez** will be back in **Austin, Texas** during the month of December to construct an altar for the **Mexican American Cultural Center's** December Program and Art Exhibit titled: *From the Sacred to Popular Culture*. Currently living in **San Francisco, California**, he is best known for his Mexican ritual paper cuts involving pre-conquest influences and these have evolved in being the centerpiece at the annual Day of Dead Ritual Procession in **San Francisco's Mission District**. For those who knew and worked with **Juan Pablo** when he lived in **Austin**, please stop by the **Mexican American Cultural Center** a saludar y platicar un rato.



L.A. Campos de la Garza, photographer

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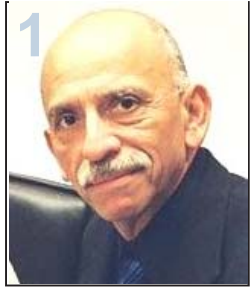
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Austin Parks and Recreation

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# The 25 Most Influential



**Angel Abitua**

**Deputy Director  
LULAC District VII**

**Angel Abitua** is a quiet and unassuming man. But behind his glasses is a mover and shaker of young people throughout **Central Texas**. In addition to being the Deputy Director of **LULAC District VII**, Angel is also the primary

organizer of the **LULAC Youth Councils in Central Texas**.

A 1969 graduate of **Pan American University**, Abitua retired from state government in 1999. He has been a member of **LULAC** for 38 years and has served in various leadership capacities. Regarding his work with youth he says, "I get to see the germination of talent and leadership in these young Hispanics. I know they will go on to be leaders, whether it be in the public or private sector. I am sure that some of them will become future political leaders or successful as business executives or educators."



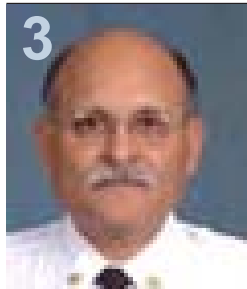
**Sylvia Acevedo**

**Businesswoman and  
Community Activist**

On almost any given night in **Austin, Texas** where there is a meeting about education, you will see **Sylvia Acevedo** either leading the discussion or working a table and sharing information with students and parents. As the President and CEO of **CommuniCard**, (A company that specializes in an English-to-Spanish flash cards product that helps to break the communication barrier between employers and their employees), this **Stanford University** trained engineer is constantly trying to inspire others to achieve their maximum potential by believing in themselves.

Originally from **South Dakota**, Acevedo has held executive positions with **Apple Computer**, **IBM** and **Dell** where she developed a track record for results and innovation. Now as an community activist in **Austin**, she is active with the **Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce** and the **E3 Alliance** which is seeking to develop a new blueprint to public schools in **Central Texas**. Her community and entrepreneurial work has been recognized by a number of groups including the **United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce** who named her National Businesswoman of the Year in 2004.

Acevedo's newest project is called *La Feria de Aprendizaje*. This one day fair where parents and the community can meet face to face with representatives of numerous educational institutions and programs was started this year in February and will be held again in February, 2008. This time, Acevedo expects to more than double attendance from the 3,000 from the first event to 7,000 next year in 2008.



**Juan J. Adame**

**Austin Fire Chief**

On February 6, 2006, Chief **Juan J. Adame** became the new Fire Chief of the **Austin Fire Department**. Chief Adame, 58, served in the **Corpus Christi Fire Department** for 32 years; 18 of those were spent as its Fire Chief.

Since his arrival in **Austin**, Chief Adame has made the time to visit numerous organizations throughout the city. He has been especially involved in the activities at **Johnston High School**. His entire staff at the **Austin Fire Department** has come to know him over the short time that he has been in **Austin** as fair and just man. Chief Adame has also been very involved in community organizations such as the **Boy Scouts of America**.



**Susana Almanza**

**Co-Directors PODER**

Mention the name "PODER" in connection with social justice issues in **Austin, Texas** and immediately the names **Almanza** and **González** come to mind. As the Co-Chairs of what is unmistakably one of the most influential community based organizations in the **State of Texas**, **Susana Almanza** and **Erika Gonzales** are two individuals who take their work very seriously.

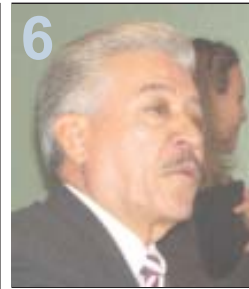
**Almanza** is a native Austinite who grew up and went to school here graduating from **Austin High School** in 1971. She is responsible for the general administration and resource development of the organization. She is often a guest speaker around the city and was a former member of the **Austin Environmental Board** and former member of the **Planning Commission**, both under the auspices of the **City of Austin**.

**González**, is a native of **Eagle Pass, Texas** and earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in elementary education with English as a second language credentials and a minor in psychology from **St. Edward's University**. She is responsible for coordinating all youth related activities and the supervision of all youth organizers. **González** also co-coordinates several **PODER** projects around environmental health and the connection to indigenous practices, transportation, juvenile justice in communities and schools, and gender and resource equity in local recreation centers. Both **Almanza** and **González** are outstanding examples of what it means to be a community activist.



**Erika González**

**Co-Directors PODER**



**Gonzalo Barrientos**

**Former Texas  
State Legislator  
and Community  
Activist**

We can think of no one in **Austin, Texas** who has given so much of himself and his family over the

years to make **Texas** a better place in which to live. **Gonzalo Barrientos**, first as a community activist in the 1960s, then as a **Texas State Representative** 1975 - 1985 and later as a **Texas State Senator** 1985 - 2007 has represented the people of **Central Texas** for more than 30 years.

Originally from **Galveston** and raised in **Bastrop, Texas**, Senator **Barrientos** grew up picking cotton and attending segregated schools. During the 1960s he joined **President Johnson's War on Poverty** while still attending the **University of Texas at Austin**.

As the recipient of numerous honors and awards including the 1996 Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund's Matt Garcia Public Service Award and the 2001 Combined Law Enforcement of Texas Association award he continues to stand up for the people.



**Dr. Nora  
De Hoyos  
Comstock,**

**Community Activist**

**Nora Comstock** received her bachelors degree from history and in 1982, earned her Ph.D in Educational Administration, both

from **The University of Texas at Austin**.

In 1990, after employment in various sectors, she decided to form her own company, **Comstock Connections**. The company provides client/ customer development services to business in both the profit and non-profit sectors.

**Dr. Comstock** currently serves on the **Lozano Long Center for the Performing Arts Board** and has served on numerous community, county and state boards and commissions over the years. In 2000, she was selected one of twenty Latinas in the U.S. to be fellow of the **National Hispana Leadership Institute** in **Washington, D.C.**

Locally she is credited with growing an organization called, **Las Comadres para Las Americas** from about 100 members to approximately 1600. Nationally **Las Comadres** has approximately 10,000 members in over 60 cities and 22 states. She expects to add 10 more states this year.

# Latinos in Austin, Texas



**8 Ana Yanez Correa**  
Executive Director of the Texas Juvenile Justice Coalition & Immigration Activist

**Ana Yanez Correa** is the Executive Director of the **Texas Criminal Justice Coalition** and works tirelessly to improve the treatment of young people who find themselves

going through the **Texas** criminal justice system. In addition to her work with young people she is also active in the debate over immigration policy around the country.

**Yanez** and a close group of friends are part of the activist contingent in **Central Texas** that regularly calls attention to the plight of immigrants in the United States. Once an immigrant herself, **Yanez** speaks from the heart on the issues and challenges that many face trying to survive in a new country.

With a bachelors degree from **Midwestern University** (1997) and a masters degree in public administration (1998) she is currently pursuing a Ph.D in Educational Administration at the **University of Texas at Austin**.



**9 Martha P. Cotera**  
Author, Community Activist

**Martha P. Cotera**, has the distinction of being a founding member of the **Mexican American Cultural Center** and an advocate for Hispanic issues in **Austin**.

She is nationally recognized as a feminist historian, and since 1974, a business owner and part time archivist librarian at UT's famous **Benson Latin American Collection**. She is the author of the ground-breaking feminist text, *Diosa y Hembra: History and Heritage of Chicanas in the US*, and of *The Chicana Feminist*. Her writings also include more than 100 other books, essays and articles including chapters in books, on topics of activism, civil rights, feminism, and in Latino history.

**Cotera** has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors over the years including: **The 2005 RAZA AWARD** for Outstanding Individual Effort in the Latino Community, by **United East Austin Coalition**; the **IMAGE-National Award for Advocacy**, 2004; the **Guadalupe Honoree**, by **LUPEARTE 5th Annual Celebration**, 2003; and the Outstanding Hispana Historian, honoree at the **Las Tejanas Symposium, Center for Mexican American Studies, UT Austin**, 2003;

Originally from **El Paso, Texas**, **Cotera** has been an activist in Austin since 1964 and is proud to be called a progressive, or even a radical working for social progress.



**10 Gus Garcia**

Community Activist, Former School Board Member, Former Mayor of Austin

Originally from **Laredo, Texas**, **Gus Garcia** came to **Austin** in the 1950s to attend the **University of Texas**. After earning a

B.B.A. in 1959 he became a Certified Public Accountant and continued his education with graduate studies.

His involvement in the community began in the 1960s and in 1972 he was elected to the **Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees**. The first Mexican American to ever have a seat on this body. In 1982, he became the **President of the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce** and in 1991, he was elected to the **Austin City Council**. In 2001, he was elected **Mayor of the City of Austin**.

Apart from these elective positions, **Gus Garcia** has given willingly of his time as a member of a number of committees and community organizations. Although retired, he continues to be a very influential person in the city and his opinions and *consejos* are often sought by those wanting to make their next organizational, political or professional move.



**11 Daniel Garza**

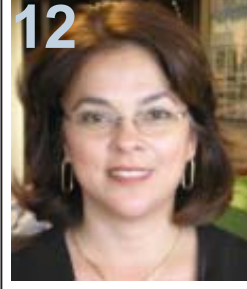
Community Activist Hip Hop Artist, Minister

Most people would never guess that **Daniel Garza** has something to say. Most would never guess that on the Eastside of **Austin, Texas** he has a huge following of young people who often seek his

advice and views. **Daniel Garza** is one of the best kept secrets in **Austin, Texas**.

A high school dropout and father of five, **Daniel Garza** is the epitome of what you would call a "drop in." Having lived a tough life in the streets of **Houston** and **Austin** as a gang member, "**C-Now**," as he is known professionally, spends everyday speaking to young people about the suffering and pain he went through growing up and watching friends fall down or get locked up. As spoken word performer he cautions young people to think for making decisions that can affect them for a long time to come.

In addition to all his community work, he still makes time to attend classes at **Austin Community College** and works for an community based organization called **Austin Voices for Education and Youth**. In this job **Daniel** helps to organize young people on high school campuses in the **Austin Independent School District** and show them that despite being students, they too have a voice that counts and should be heard.



**12 Rita D. Gonzales-Garza**

LULAC District VII Director and Chair of Unidos de Austin

**Rita D. Gonzales-Garza** has been a civil rights activist for over twenty years. She has a B.A. degree from **Texas Tech University** and

a Master's in Public Administration from **Southwest Texas State University**. She has worked for the **State of Texas** for over 20 years and is currently a Project Manager and is responsible for policy development of anti-poverty and homeless programs.

She has also been a member of the **League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)** for over twenty years. In 2005 and 2006, she served as President of LULAC Council 650. In April 2005, **Ms. Gonzales-Garza** was elected as **LULAC District Director for District 7**.

**Ms. Gonzales-Garza**, is also the **Chair of Unidos de Austin**, and a founding member of the group. **Unidos de Austin** is a coalition of Latino advocacy organizations and individuals, formed in November 2005. **Rita** has repeatedly shown demonstrated her commitment to the Latino community by stepping to call attention to injustices.



**13 Mona Gonzalez**

Executive Director River City Youth Foundation

**Mona Gonzalez** is the founding **Executive Director of River City Youth Foundation (RCYF)**, one of the longest-running youth organizations in greater **Austin**

approaching its 25th anniversary.

For more than three decades, **Gonzalez** has been a champion for **Austin's** underprivileged and at-risk youth. She has worked successfully to launch programs throughout the city that enrich children's lives and keep them safe. In the 90s, **Gonzalez** relocated **River City Youth Foundation** to the **Dove Springs** area in **Southeast Austin** to serve the fast-growing needs of this community.

Under **Gonzalez's** leadership, this youth and technology center has grown into a beloved haven for families and children who rely on the organization's year-round counseling, mentoring, prevention, skills training, and meal services.

She is credited with spearheading the development campaign to establish the first library and recreation center in **Dove Springs**. She has also received leadership awards from the Austin Police Department, the Dispute Resolution Center, the Community Justice Council, LULAC, and others. A native of **Brownsville, Texas**, **Gonzalez** graduated from the **University of Texas in Austin**.



# The 25 Most Influential



**Dr. Janice Guerrero-Thompson**

**Executive Director for Planning and Community Relations for AISD**

**Janis Guerrero Thompson** holds three degrees from **The**

**University of Texas at Austin:** a Ph.D. in Educational Administration, a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction, and a Bachelor of Sciences in Education.

In her current position as **Executive Director for Planning and Community Relations at Austin Independent School District**, **Dr. Guerrero** oversees the district's strategic planning, communications and media services, foundation development and special projects, business partnerships, ombudsman, and customer service.

**Dr. Guerrero** is a native Austinite and is an active volunteer for her community and church. She currently serves as vice chair of the **Board of Directors for Central Texas Goodwill Industries** and recently completed her term as President of the **Board of Directors for Executive Women in Texas Government**. She serves as Vice Chair of the **City of Austin's Civil Service Commission**, and serves on the Administrative Team for the **Community Action Network**. She regularly serves as a Eucharistic Minister and Lector for **St. Mary Cathedral**, and served on the Steering Committee for the **Austin Diocese's Our Faith Our Legacy** capital campaign. In June 2004, *Hispanic Magazine* recognized **Dr. Guerrero** as a "Top Latina in Community Service."



**Mike Martinez**

**Austin City Councilman**

**Council Member Mike Martinez** has devoted his entire career to public service. In 2006, he resigned from a 13-year career with the **Austin Fire Department** to serve on the **Austin City Council**.

**Mike** became an **Austin** firefighter in 1993, serving as a Drill and Ceremony team member of the **Austin Fire Department's Honor Guard**. A member of the **Austin Firefighters Association** since 1993, **Mike** has a long record of representing public safety professionals' interests in elections and campaigns having served as the Chair of the **Austin Firefighters Association Political Action Committee** from 2001-2004.

A graduate of **Leadership Austin**, as well as the **LBJ School of Public Affairs West Point Military Leadership Program**, **Mike** is a strong believer in community involvement. **Council Member Mike Martinez** lives in the Holly neighborhood in **East Austin** and is a proud single parent of one son, **Alejandro**, age 8.



**Gustavo Monsante**

**Anchor Univisión**

**Gustavo Monsante** tiene 17 años con **Univisión**. Es casado y tiene tres hijos. **Gustavo** es periodista, conductor de noticias de **Univision 62** y productor del programa estatal **Voz y Voto...** Nació en **Lima**,

**Peru** y ha estado en la industria de la radio y la televisión por más de 25 años... Leer y escribir son una de sus pasiones literarias, así como el arte en el dibujo y la pintura y disfruta de la vida al aire libre y la cocina.

En **Austin**, **Gustavo** tiene tres años y ha cumplido estableciendo los parámetros para tener organizado y lanzar al aire el primer noticiero en español en **Austin, Texas...** Después de estos cuatro años, "Noticias 62 Univision", ha comprobado ser el noticiero en español, para la comunidad de habla hispana en **Austin**.



**Andrew "Andy" Martinez**

**President, CEO Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**

Prior to being appointed the President and CEO of the Hispanic Chamber, **Andy** amassed over 30 years of Management and Executive experience in

the Information Technology field with international corporations the likes of **IBM, Lexmark International, NCR** and **Permond Solutions**. **Andy** holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing, from **Syracuse University**, graduating cum laude from the University; he was also elected and inducted into the **Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society**. He is also very active in the Community holding leadership positions in civic and social services organizations in **Central Texas**.

In October, 2005, he personally launched the first-ever, county-wide, bilingual newspaper in **Williamson County**. The newspaper, **El Puente News**, drew positive reviews from **Austin** and surrounding area media for its design and innovative approach to supplying information to the evolving County population.

He is a current involvement includes being a member of the: **Hispanic Advisory Council**, 31<sup>st</sup> U.S. Congressional District, Member, Advisory Panel – **AISD Hispanic Youth Leadership Conference**, Member, Board of Directors – **Round Rock Chamber of Commerce**, Commissioner and Current Board Chair – **Round Rock Housing Authority**, Member, Board of Directors – **Central Texas Easter Seals Foundation**, Member and Past President – **El Amistad Club of Round Rock**, Member, Advisory Board – **Round Rock Higher Education Center**



**Linda Medina**

**President of Young Hispanic Austin Professional Association**

**Linda Medina** was born and raised in **El Paso, Texas**. She received her Bachelor's from the **University of Texas at El**

**Paso (UTEP)** in 2001 and Master's in Education with Honors from **Concordia University** in 2005.

This year she accepted a position with **Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GAHCC)** as their new Education Foundation Program Manager where she supports all of the education initiatives including the High School Mentorship Program, High School Redesign Initiatives, Education Foundation, Hispanic Austin Leadership Program, and the Education Committee.

Prior to the **GAHCC** she was a teacher for six years and taught 1st and 2nd students for **Austin ISD** and **El Paso ISD** (one year). In 2006, she was named Teacher of the Year at **Ridgetop Elementary** and named Who's Who Among American Teachers.

In January of 2006 she founded the **Young Hispanic Professional Austin Association**. In the past two years, over 900 young Hispanic Professionals in the **Austin** area have attended **YHPAA** events.

**Linda** currently serves on the **Leadership Austin Emerge Council**, **E3 Community Champions Council**, **Latinitas Advisory Board**, and the **Girl Scouts of Central Texas Multicultural Task Force**. She is also an active and proud member of the **UTEP Alumni Austin Chapter** and is an **Austin Partners in Education** mentor at a local high school.



**Luis Orozco**

**Lanier High School student and Community Activist**

A senior at **Lanier High School**, **Luis Orozco** has made community involvement his early claim to fame. As one of the organizers of last year's student immigration walk-outs, **Luis** led hundreds of

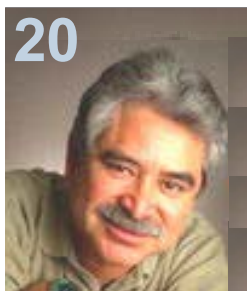
**Lanier** students to a march at the **Texas State Capitol**. There, he was one of the speakers who spoke against proposed federal legislation that would have criminalized people without papers who are in the **United States**.

His actions brought him to the attention of **Austin Voices for Education and Youth** where he is now an active member. **Luis** regularly speaks to groups at the **University of Texas at Austin** about immigrants and last year served on the **District Advisory Committee of the Austin Independent School District**. **Luis** hopes to become a lawyer.



# Latinos in Austin, Texas

20



**Rupert Reyes**

**Teatro VIVO**

Rupert is the artistic director of **Teatro Vivo** founded in 2000. He is a graduate of the **University of Texas Department of Theater, Drama Education**. His work history includes the student group, **Teatro Carnales en Espiritu** at the University, the student group at the **George I.**

**Sanchez Center, Teatro Lagrimas y Risas**, and a four-year stint with the renowned **Teatro de la Esperanza of Santa Barbara, CA** (now located in San Francisco, CA) and was the director for the **TENAZ International Theater Festival** in 1979. He was one of the original founders of the **Latino Comedy Project** based in **Austin** and served for two years as one of the artistic directors.

Rupert's playwright credits include the **Petra Plays** (Petra's Pecado, Petra's Cuento and Petra's Sueño). His plays have been produced in a number of cities throughout the US, including **San Antonio**, and **Houston, TX, San Francisco, CA, Albuquerque, NM**, and **Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN**. The **Austin American Statesman** called the Petra plays the "Greater Tuna" of Latino Theater.



**raul salinas**

**Author, Poet & Community Activist**

Born in **Texas** on March 17th, 1934, Raúl Salinas is a literary luminary who has shared podiums and microphones with giants such as **Miguel**

**Piñero, Pedro Pietri, Oscar Zeta Acosta, John Trudell, Jose Montoya, Ernesto Cardenal** and **Lawrence Ferlinghetti**.

Author of three poetry collections "Viaje/Trip" (chapbook), "East of the Freeway," and "Un Trip Through The Mind Jail," plus the forthcoming "Indio Trails: A Xicano Odyssey through Indian Country" (Wings Press). His literary work has appeared in numerous anthologies and journals. He is also an adjunct professor at **St. Edwards University, Austin, Texas**. In 2002, Raúl Salinas was the recipient of the **Louis Reyes Rivera Lifetime Achievement Award** presented on behalf of La Causa student group at **Amherst College, Mass.** and **The Dark Souls Collective**.



**Dr. Federico Subervi**

**Professor**

**Dr. Federico Subervi** is a professor at the **School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Texas State University-San Marcos**. Since the early 1980s, he has been conducting research,

publishing and teaching on a broad range of issues related to the mass media and ethnic minorities, especially Latinos in the United States. His research also includes assessments of the images of Black in Brazilian television advertisements, and the media system of Puerto Rico, his country of origin. His book, *The Mass Media and Latino Politics*, is scheduled for publication in early 2007.

Among his other activities from his home base in **Austin**, **Dr. Subervi** directs the **Latinos and Media Project**, a site dedicated to the dissemination of research and resources pertaining to Latinos and the media, and serves as chair of the Board of Directors of **Latinitas, Inc.**, an organization and Web-based magazine for Latina adolescents and teens.

21



**Dr. Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez**

**Professor and Director of the World War II Oral History Project at The University of Texas at Austin**

**Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez** launched the **U.S. Latino & Latina WWII Oral History**

**Project** in the spring of 1999. To date, the project has interviewed over 630 men and women across the country. The Project has produced two books, *Mexican Americans & WWII* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2005) and *A Legacy Greater than Words* (distributed by UT Press, 2006), and work is underway on another edited volume, to be called *Beyond the Latino WWII Hero*.

**Dr. Rivas-Rodriguez** worked as a journalist for over 17 years before receiving her doctorate in Mass Communication from the **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** in 1998. She earned her Masters of Journalism in 1977 from the **Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism** and her Bachelors of Journalism in 1976 from the **University of Texas at Austin**. She joined the faculty of the UT School of Journalism in 1998.

She was on the committee that organized the **National Association of Hispanic Journalists**, and organized two of its most effective youth efforts: a writing contest for high school students and a convention newspaper that trained college students under the mentoring and training of professional journalists.



**Dr. Juan José Sánchez**

**President and CEO of Southwest Key Program**

**Dr. Juan Sánchez** grew up in a poor barrio in **Brownsville, Texas**. Although many of his peers dropped out of school or ended

up in either the juvenile justice or criminal justice systems, a young **Juan Sánchez** made a decision to make something different out of his life. He was among the first Chicanos to receive his doctorate from the **Harvard Graduate School of Education**.

He took these experiences and knowledge back to **Brownsville** with the intent of giving back to his community. As the Director of **Esperanza Home**, a residential treatment center for youth, **Dr. Sánchez** worked with many young boys and girls, helping them take responsibility for past actions and set a new course for the future.

He started **Southwest Key Programs** in 1987. Today **Southwest Key** it is a national organization. Many of its program models are considered "best practices" in the child welfare and juvenile justice fields. **Dr. Sánchez** is known nationally as a tireless advocate for young people and is regularly called upon to tell his story and of the lessons learned through **Southwest Key Program**.



**Dr. Angela Valenzuela**

**Professor and Director of the Texas Center for Ed. Policy**

**Angela Valenzuela** is a professor in both the **Cultural Studies in Education Program** within the **Department of Curriculum & Instruction** and the **Educational**

**Policy and Planning Program** within the **Department of Educational Administration** at the **University of Texas at Austin** where she also serves as the **Executive Director of the University of Texas Center for Education Policy**.

A **Stanford University** graduate, her previous teaching positions were in **Sociology at Rice University in Houston, Texas** (1990-98), as well as a **Visiting Scholar at the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Houston** (1998-99). She is also the author of *Subtractive Schooling: U.S. Mexican Youth and the Politics of Caring* (State University of New York Press, 1999) and editor of *Leaving Children Behind: How "Texas-style" Accountability Fails Latino Youth* (State University of New York Press, 2004).

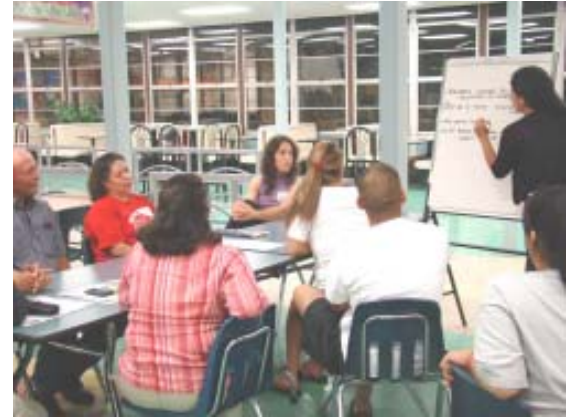
She has also just been promoted to the position of **Associate Vice-President for University Partnerships** within the **Division of Diversity and Community Engagement** at the **University of Texas at Austin**. Currently, she and her husband, UT History professor **Dr. Emilio Zamora**, are living as **Fulbright Scholars** in **Guanajuato, Mexico**.

# En La Comunidad

**Tejanos en Actions** participating in the **East Austin Lions** Veteran's Day Memorial Service at the corner of Cesar Chavez and IH 35



The **Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce** hosted a *Cena con La Camara* on November 13, 2007. This event was designed to bring in members of the community to Johnston High School to discuss the latest developments with regard to academic performance.



**RIGHT:** One of the breakout sessions at Johnston High School after dinner.



**LEFT:** Parents and community members asking questions during the wrap up part of the questions.

**RIGHT:** Community members make suggestions about how to deal with attendance at Johnston High School.






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# PTA Fund Raising Event

## Travis Heights Elementary School "Tamalada"

Travis Heights Elementary "Tamalada" will be held on Saturday, December 8th, 10 – 1 pm in the school cafeteria. Join us for a morning of community and cultural celebration at this annual event that has become tradition on the school's campus. The Tamalada is a celebration of the Mexican holiday tradition of families coming together to make tamales.

The morning festivities will include entertainment by the THES Thunderband, a performance from the THES choir and more. There will be Mexican hot chocolate, breakfast tacos, sausage wraps, and tamales for sale. On Wednesday and Thursday, Dec 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, leading up to this event there will be the actual making of the tamales where the community is invited to join in learning and teaching how to make tamales. There will be hot chocolate and cookies served.

Join us for this special celebration of culture and community! Funds raised during this event will go towards supporting the PTA's efforts for beautifying the campus grounds. The school address is 2010 Alameda Drive. Contact Grace Roman, 512-292-3621, for any questions or for more information.

## Escuela Primaria de Travis Heights "TAMALADA"

La escuela de Travis Heights llevara acabo su "TAMALADA" el sábado, el 8 de diciembre, de 10 – 1 del medio día en la cafetería de la escuela. Les invitamos que vengan a una mañana de la comunidad y dela celebración cultural en este acontecimiento que se a convertidos en una tradición anual. La "Tamalada" es una celebración de la tradición mexicana del día de fiesta delas familias que vienen junto hacer tamales. Una tradición quizás se perdiera si no se continúe con esfuerzos como estos.

Las festividades de la mañana incluirán música por el "THES Thunderband" que tocara sus canciones favoritas, un funcionamiento del coro de THES, un juego corto "Mucho Tamales y Más " donde se presentaran actores locales. Habrá chocolate caliente mexicano, tacos del desayuno y tamales de venta. El miércoles y jueves, Dec 5 y 6, en camino para este acontecimiento será la fabricación real de los tamales donde se invita a la comunidad que vengan a participar y aprender cómo hacer tamales. Habrá chocolate caliente y galletas servidas para los asistentes.

¡Ensámblenos para esta celebración especial de la cultura y de la comunidad! Los fondos levantaron durante este acontecimiento irán hacia el soporte de los esfuerzos del PTA para las mejoras de la comunicación en campus incluyendo los planes futuros para un quiosco de la escuela.

La dirección de la escuela es 2010 de Alameda Drive. Entre en contacto con Vielka Ridley, 512-414-4492, para cualquier pregunta o para más información.

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## Word Power

## En 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 Austin*.

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 de Austin* una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

No seas terco

Don't be stubborn

¿Otra Vez?

Again?

Preguntale a él

Ask him

Ella no sabe

She doesn't know

A la mejor él si sabe

Maybe he does know

Ya es hora

It is time

¿Qué dijiste?

What did you say?

Preguntale a tu mamá

As your mother

Ya no andas fregando

Don't be bugging me

Vale más que lo creas

You better believe it

Contesta la puerta

Answer the door

Dile que no

Tell him no

Dile que se vaya

Tell him to leave

¿Porque no hagas caso?

Why don't you mind me?

Ya no sé que hacer

I don't know what to do

Me estas cayendo gordo

You are really bothering me

Saque el perro

Take the dog out

¿Ahora qué?

Now what?



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# Austin Voices for Education and Youth

## Presents

# 10 Questions for Trent Sharp from the AISD Office of High School Redesign

High Schools across the country are being reinvented and redesigned for the 21st century. Here in Austin, Texas there are 13 high schools. Most of them have begun the process of redesign. Trent Sharp works for the Austin Independent School District in the Office of Redesign. As one of the key players in this redesign effort, Austin Voices for Education and Youth thought it would be timely to have Mr. Sharp share his thoughts with our readers.

**Austin Voices:** Before coming to work for the Office of Redesign, I understand you were a teacher in the district. Share with us a little about where you taught.

**Trent Sharp:** Prior to joining the Office of Redesign I taught literature, filmmaking, and AVID at Reagan High School.

**Austin Voices:** Are you originally from Austin, Texas?

**Trent Sharp:** I was born in Las Vegas, Nevada and did the majority of my growing-up in Abilene, Texas. I have been an Austinite since 1995.

**Austin Voices:** Where did you attend college and how did you pick the place where you received your undergraduate degree.

**Many years and tens of thousands of dollars later I have an undergrad, a Texas Teaching Certificate, and two Masters from UT.**

**Trent Sharp:** I have always loved Austin, and so, chose to attend the University of Texas. Many years and tens of thousands of dollars later I have an undergrad, a Texas Teaching Certificate, and two Masters from UT. I think I may be done for a while.

**Austin Voices:** When was the first time you heard about high school redesign?

**Trent Sharp:** I heard about Redesign when the first reports from State Regional Education Board were first made public approximately 3 years ago. I began participating in several of the redesign

town hall meetings and as the co-chair of the Reagan CAC (Campus Advisory Council) had the opportunity to visit exemplars across the country during Reagan's selection process.

**Austin Voices:** Share with our readers some of the major pillars of high school redesign here in Austin.

**Trent Sharp:** College-readiness and 21st century skills for every child in AISD.

**Austin Voices:** At some schools advisory is called seminar. Can you share with

our readers a little bit more insight into how this component of high school redesign is working?

**Every campus has examples of amazing advisories and every campus has areas they would like to improve upon.**

**Trent Sharp:** At the majority of AISD high schools, this is the first year advisory seminar programs have been available for students and families. Every campus has examples of amazing advisories and every campus has areas they would like to improve upon. Each campus will be receiving intensive support for the next three years as we all work to improve every day for every student in every building.



**Austin Voices:** From what you have seen thus far in high school redesign, what area seems to present the greatest challenges?

**From my perspective, the most challenging aspect of this work is developing a common understanding amongst all stakeholders that our schools were designed for an industrial world**

**Trent Sharp:** From my perspective, the most challenging aspect of this work is developing a common understanding amongst all stakeholders that our schools were designed for an industrial world and that if we intend for our students to participate as responsible global citizens we will need to build schools for the globalized digital future. That's a big shift

in thinking and not one that's easy to make.

**Austin Voices:** Is there a good example around the country of a high school that is operating successfully as a redesigned school?

**Trent Sharp:** No question! A "redesigned school" is nothing more than a school that has chosen to be responsive to shifting social, cultural, and economic contexts. There are many examples across the country of schools doing amazing things.

**A "redesigned school" is nothing more than a school that has chosen to be responsive to shifting social, cultural, and economic contexts.**

**Austin Voices:** Here in Austin what would you say is one thing in high school redesign that could use some extra help from the community?

**Trent Sharp:** Continued participation and engagement in the change process.

**Austin Voices:** Let's wind down this interview by coming back to you and asking, where will Trent Sharp be in 10 years and what will he be doing?

**Trent Sharp:** Loving my wife and son, travelling the world, listening to great music, eating great food, meeting interesting people, and fighting for what's right.

For more information about High School Redesign please visit the Austin ISD website at: [www.austinisd.org](http://www.austinisd.org)

# WHACHA SAY?

By Richard G. Santos

Being bilingual and bi-cultural has distinct advantages. The mind automatically and properly translates phrases from one language to another without relying on strict dictionary definitions. That is, that social, familial, regional or dialectic words or phrases are properly translated regardless of dictionary translations.

On the other hand, I truly enjoy throwing people off by giving dictionary-based answers to innocent and simple social questions. So, imagine all the Spanish you know comes from a dictionary when people ask the following questions. "Como amaneciste" which socially translates as "good morning" but according to the dictionary would be "how did you wake up this morning". I usually reply "de ladito planchando oreja" (on my side ironing the pillow with an ear).

To "como estas" (how are you) I usually answer "sentado" (sitting) or "parado" (standing) depending on my status at that particular moment. To "que andas haciendo" (what are you doing) I answer "ni tontos porque asi nacieron" (I am not making a fool out of anyone because they were born that way). To "como andas" (how are you or how have you been) which according to a dictionary translation would be "how do you walk" I answer "con los pies" (with my feet).

"Como te ha ido" (how have you been) is also asking "how has it gone for you". Thus I ask the person if he/she has several hours and if they want me to start at childhood or just since I moved to **Crystal City**. My answer to "como la pasaste" or "como la has pasado" (how did you pass the night/storm/etc.) depends on whether the person asking is a man or a woman, as well as level of acquaintance. This is due to the fact that according to the dictionary, the person is asking the listener "how did you pass it". The phrase leaves the person asking the question wide-open for all forms of replies.

Incidentally, I sometimes do the same thing in English as I give a social answer to a technical question. For instance, a waitress may ask, "can I get you anything" or "can I get you anything else" and I may say I want "a winning lottery ticket" or "a wealthy widowed woman who resembles Xena Warrior Princess". This reminds me

of someone in yankeeland who frequently told me not to say this or that. She blushed easily. hmmm

All kidding aside, the mind allows us to translate technical to social or social to technical questions and answers at ease. Consider the following. You are looking at a menu. The waitress is either softly tapping a foot or pretending her order book is a mini-drum as she taps a rhythm waiting for you to make up your mind. After looking at the menu, you tell her you "want a number four." You then tell her if you want it "well done, medium or rare." So, do you really expect the waitress to rush to the kitchen where the restaurant has an artist drawing numbers? And do you expect that Arabic or Roman "number four" to be carefully "well done"? Or are you expecting a drawing of the number so unique that an art critic would declare it to be "rare"?

No. The speaker did not actually mean what he/she said. Both the person ordering and the waitress listening were communicating in linguistic restaurant concepts. Had the speaker been a teacher in a classroom instructing elementary school children, then you could have expected "a number four well done". That is like a child coloring something without going outside the lines of the figure being colored. But note that coloring something without going outside the lines can be considered "rare".

Bottom line, being bilingual and bicultural, as well as being fluent or at least conversant in a language allows both speakers and listeners to communicate in a manner far beyond strict dictionary definitions. People who are mono-lingual (speaking one language) have problems translating social, technical or regional words and phrases. The same is true for people who speak a different dialect of the same language. That is, that both speaker and listener speak the same language but use different definitions and pronunciations for the same words. Moreover, sometimes a commonly used word in one geographic area can have a "socially unacceptable" meaning in a different area.

**Richard Santos is a writer currently living in Pearsall, Texas. He holds degrees from Our Lady of the Lake University and St. Mary's University**

## Liberal Arts and Science Academy High School is Now Recruiting Students



*"Coming from a Hispanic background, I know it can be hard for some students to enroll in a high school that seems far from their reach because they feel like they don't belong and would stand out in the crowd. In my search for a high school that would please me, the Liberal Arts and Science High School stood out to me. This was not only because of its rigorous courses, but also for everything else it had to offer."*

**Karla Berrones**  
Junior

*"Throughout my years at LASA, the program has enriched my education and not only made me a better scholar, but as well a better person. With the great faculty and the hands-on experience, it has provided me with opportunities and knowledge for me to exceed in college and pass expectations of other people. LASA has helped me prepare for the obstacles that I might face in life and encouraged me to do the best that I can"*

**Marzavia Crayton**  
Junior



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The Liberal Arts and Science High School is the advanced academic magnet high school program of the Austin Independent School District. It offers a rigorous, innovative, interdisciplinary curriculum that educates socially responsible leaders, problem solvers, and thinkers. The school is a founding member of the National Consortium for Specialized Secondary Schools of Mathematics, Science and Technology.



## Carlos H. Barrera for Judge Travis County Court at Law No. 8



Carlos was born to World War II veteran **Sergeant Raymundo Barrera** and his wife, **Placida**, on **Tachikawa Air Force Base** in 1957. He grew up in **South Texas**, graduating from **Laredo High School**. He earned his degrees from **Georgetown University** and the **University of Texas School of Law** and returned to **Laredo** to become an assistant district attorney in 1983. Subsequently, **Carlos** became the **First Assistant County Attorney for Webb County**.

Carlos was an active member of the **Laredo** community. He taught government classes at **Laredo Junior College**, served on the **Laredo-Webb County Child Welfare Board**, participated in the **Southwest Voter Registration Education Project**, belonged to the **Jaycees** and **Kiwanis**, and was a charter member of **Literacy Volunteers of America**.

In June 1990, **Carlos** returned to **Austin** and began a criminal defense law practice. He became board certified as a criminal law specialist in 1991. **Carlos** has also served on the **Austin Bar Association's Judicial Screening Committee** and as a long-time volunteer referral lawyer with the Women's Advocacy Center (recently renamed the Texas Advocacy Project).

Carlos and his wife, **DeeDee**, a speech pathologist, have two sons and are strong community volunteers. **Carlos** coaches i9 junior football and **Balcones Youth Sports Little League** baseball and was an assistant coach with the **North Austin Soccer Association**. He has served on the board of **Adoption Knowledge Affiliates**.



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