

# La Voz de Austin

Volume 3 Number 2  
February, 2008

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

People in the News

TACHE: Celebrating  
33 Years

Feria para Aprender

An Interview with  
Rupert and JoAnn Reyes

Calendar of Events

1972

AVERAGE INCOME  
\$11,895.00

NEW CAR: \$3,853.00  
NEW HOUSE: \$27,600.00

Loaf of Bread . . . . . \$.25  
Gallon of Gas . . . . . \$.55  
Gallon of Milk . . . . . \$1.20

Dow Jones Average - 889 to 1036  
President - Richard M. Nixon  
Vice-President - Spiro Agnew



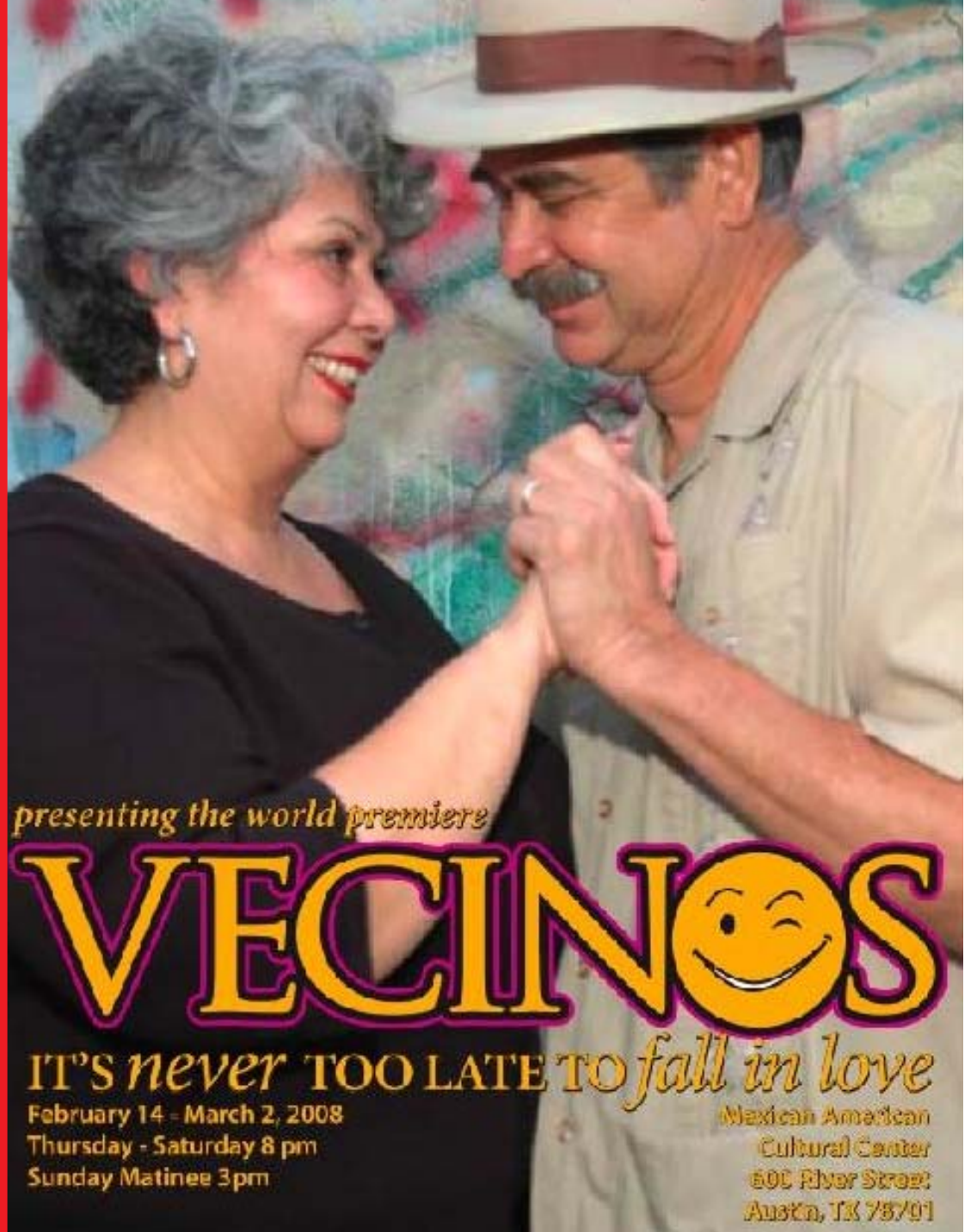
## TEATRO VIVO PRESENTS A Romantic BILINGUAL COMEDY

written by Rupert Reyes

directed by TJ Gonzales



Free



presenting the world premiere

# VECINOS

IT'S never TOO LATE TO fall in love

February 14 - March 2, 2008

Thursday - Saturday 8 pm

Sunday Matinee 3pm

Mexican American  
Cultural Center  
600 River Street  
Austin, TX 78701

# People in the News



## Martín Perez Elected President of Hispanic CREO

WASHINGTON, DC – **The Hispanic Council for Reform and Educational Options** announced the election of **Martín Perez**, president of the **Latino Leadership Alliance of New Jersey** and founding partner of the **Perez & Bombelyn** law firm, as its new chairman. **Perez** will fill the role held by the organization's founder **Robert B. Aguirre**, who stepped down in January after six years of service.

*"Hispanic CREO is an important asset to the education reform movement. Their ability to unite the Latino community behind school choice is crucial," said Perez. "The chance to help lead an organization with this type of impact is a great opportunity and an honor. I look forward to building on this foundation and increasing our role, efficiency and influence in the school choice movement."*

**Perez**, in addition to his role with **Latino Leadership Alliance of New Jersey**, has enjoyed a successful legal career as a civil rights attorney fighting for the rights of Latinos, African-Americans and other under represented groups since founding **Perez & Bombelyn** in 1988. A native of **Puerto Rico**, **Perez** earned his Master's Degree in Secondary Education from **Seton Hall University** and his Juris Doctor from **Rutgers University Law School**.

For more information about **Hispanic CREO** visit their website at: [www.hcreo.org](http://www.hcreo.org).



## Margo Gutierrez Named Interim Head Librarian at UT Benson

AUSTIN, Texas - **Margo Gutiérrez** has been named interim head librarian for the **Benson Latin American Collection**, a unit of the **University of Texas Libraries** at **The University of Texas at Austin**. The appointment is effective Jan. 31, upon the retirement of **Head Librarian Ann Hartness**.

*"The Benson Collection is one of the university's premier research collections, world-renowned for the breadth and depth of its resources," said Fred Heath, vice provost and director of the University Libraries. "We are fortunate to have someone of Margo's experience, expertise and community stature to oversee its operations during this transition period."*

**Gutiérrez** was named **REFORMA Librarian of the Year** in 2000 by the **National Association to Promote Library and Information Services** to Latinos and the Spanish-speaking. She is the recipient of a **General Libraries Librarian Excellence Award** (in 2001) and the **Director's Staff Honors Award**.

**Gutiérrez** has co-authored "The Encyclopedia of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement and the Mexican American Experience: An Encyclopedia" with **Matt Meier**. She holds a bachelor's degree in Latin American Studies from the **University of Arizona**, a master's degree in Latin

American studies from **The University of Texas at Austin** and an master's degree in library science from **Arizona**. Prior to joining the **University of Texas Libraries** in 1987, she was readers services librarian at the **Blumberg Memorial Library, Texas Lutheran University** and a reference librarian at the **University of Arizona Library**, where she was also a cataloger and serials assistant.



## Raul Alvarez to Run for ACC Trustee Position

**Raul Alvarez**, who served two terms on the **Austin City Council**, announced his intention to run for a seat on the **Board of Trustees of Austin Community College (ACC)**. He is seeking election to Place 5 on the ACC Board, a position that was vacated by former **Trustee Rafael Quintanilla**, who relinquished the position when he moved out of the ACC district.

*"I am excited about the prospect of serving the community in this role," stated Alvarez. He adds that "Austin Community College is a pivotal part of our educational system, and its importance will only be magnified as the region's economy and the demand for a highly educated workforce continues to grow."*

Since June 2007, **Alvarez** has worked as the **Grassroots Community Coordinator** for the **Office of Redesign of the Austin Independent School District (AISD)**. He is part of an **AISD Redesign Team** that is coordinating efforts that aim to improve student performance across the district while also

closing the achievement gaps that currently exist.

**Alvarez** is originally from the small **South Texas** town of **Rio Grande City**. He graduated from **Stanford University** with a B.S. in Industrial Engineering and earned a masters degree from **The University of Texas at Austin** in **Community & Regional Planning**.



## Robert Franco to Lead Greater Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

**Robert Franco** will be sworn in as the new Chairman of the **Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce** during its 35th Annual Awards Banquet on February 8th.

**Franco**, a Vice-President of Business Banking for **Bank of America** has served on the Board of Directors of the Chamber since 2004. He has been affiliated with **Bank of America** in Austin for over 27 years.

In addition to his community involvement with **Austin Voices for Education and Youth**, **Mr. Franco** is a **Paul Harris Fellow** with the **Oak Hill Rotary Club**, a former board member of the **Business and Community Lenders of Texas** and an adjunct professor of business at **Concordia University** for almost 10 years. **Mr. Franco** and his wife **Gloria** also serve as mentors at **Johnston High School**.

## Car insurance with PERSONAL SERVICE. No extra charge.

At State Farm® you get a competitive rate and an agent dedicated to helping you get the coverage that's right for you and the discounts you deserve. Nobody takes care of you like State Farm. Contact me. I'll prove it.



**John Lewis CLU, Agent**  
2501 W William Cannon Drive  
Austin, TX 78745-5281  
Bus: 512-443-9600  
[john.lewis.p2t8@statefarm.com](mailto:john.lewis.p2t8@statefarm.com)  
Se habla español



LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, STATE FARM IS THERE.®  
Providing Insurance and Financial Services

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company • State Farm Indemnity Company  
P040201 05/05 Bloomington, IL • [statefarm.com](http://statefarm.com)®



**PRODUCTION**

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

Managing Editors  
**Yelana Santos**

Distribution  
**EI Team**

Marketing  
**Eric Garcia**

Contributing Writers  
**Angel Espinoza**  
**Alejandro Martinez, Jr.**

Production Assistance  
**Yleana Santos**  
**Wayne Sanchez**  
**Héctor Nájera**

**PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT**

*La Voz de Austin* is a monthly publication sponsored by the **Mexican American Center for Community and Economic Development**. The editorial and business address is P.O. Box 19457 Austin, Texas 78760. The telephone number is (512) 291-9060. The use, reproduction or distribution of any or part of this publication is strongly encouraged. But do call and let us know what you are using. Letters to the editor are most welcome.

**Guest Editorial****MEDIA TOO QUICK IN COMPARING OBAMA WITH KING**

by

**Alejandro Martinez Jr.**

According to news reports during the initial primary election contests, **Barack Obama** is drawing high praise for his oratory skills. His performances are causing voters, journalists and political pundits to swoon after every speech. Some have dared to compare him to **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** While there is no doubt that Obama is a capable speaker, the comparison to King needs further examination.

First, I must concede that I am not African American. I am a first generation American of Hispanic descent born in the mid 1950s in **San Antonio, Texas**. My awareness of King exists because I was 12 years old in 1968 at the peak of the civil rights movement.

As an young impressionable baby boomer, I experienced **King's** impact on American society and admired him. As an adult, I came to realize that I had witnessed one of the greatest orators in American History.

Through my life I have continued to be inspired by his words, including the speech where he spoke about dying and not caring about leaving anything

behind except a committed life; and his "Letter from the Birmingham Jail" where he suggested that if people want to create a more just society, they should not expect the passing of time to bring change, but must impose their will on time. And, I have learned more about him. I learned that he espoused and practiced moderate political methods of civil protest in contrast to some African American leaders of his time. I learned that his house was bombed. I learned that for all that he stood for, he was assassinated at the age of 39.

In all, I have learned that **Martin Luther King, Jr.** was a unique American. Thus, the media's comparison of a political newcomer like **Obama** to **Martin Luther King, Jr.** seems, in my humble opinion, disrespectful.

**King's** presence on the public stage provided much needed context to issues that had simmered since the founding of the country. His words were uplifting. His words provided hope and comfort to a suffering people and conflicted nation. **King** achieved notoriety because of his intellect and selflessness. Most importantly, it came from his challenge to the nation to live up to the ideal of equality for all expressed in the Declaration of Independence. Eventually, the

power of his words, whether written or verbalized, manifested into action that led to historic changes. The type of changes that have benefited many Americans, including myself and **Barack Obama**.

**Obama's** notoriety is largely owed to his career in politics as an elected official and standing as a Presidential candidate.

Aside from these differences, the societal challenges each faced are dramatically different. **King** lived in an era where being a Black American meant that you were treated like you were less than a second class citizen. It meant that every time you spoke up and pointed to a perceived wrong in the law you were subject to persecution and it placed your life in danger.

Simply stated, **King's** presence on the public stage was not meant to raise his profile in a run for public office. And as far as I know, **King** did not have a teleprompter to aid him while giving the speeches that elevated the imagination of Americans. **Dr. King** did not have a high and mighty title. Yet, he was a

powerful force in American History.

In his essay "Of Eloquence," British philosopher **David Hume** asserts that great orators have an uncommon impact on the public. Their words can "Rouse the genius of a nation" and "By their natural charms, gain over, even the most prejudiced, to the love and admiration of them". History tells us that **King** achieved what Hume describes. Although **King** was not perfect, in his public life, his words and actions exhibited what Ancients Greek philosophers believe to be the most important virtues in human affairs: wisdom, moderation, justice and most important, courage.

To some extent, the comparison of **Obama** with **King** is understandable. It has been almost forty years since King's death and two generations of Americans have been born since then. So modern ears may judge a competent orator as great because they have no experience with anything better.

Still, for those of us that were fortunate enough to witness a historic figure, such a comparison is not appropriate.



## Amaya's Taco Village Mexican Restaurant

David and Laura  
Amaya  
Family Operated

Inside Dining  
and To Go Orders

# 458-2531

At Capital Plaza 5405 North IH-35 Austin, Texas

Elect  
**Janie Serna**  
for  
Constable  
Precinct 1

College Graduate  
Master Peace Officer  
Certification

**Experience, Leadership, Committed**

Adv. Paid by Selica Alvarado, Treasurer



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

P.O. Box 140842, Austin, TX 78714



## La Campaña Promete Acelerar Los Retrasos en el Procesamiento de las Solicitudes y Fomentar la Participación de los Votantes

**Washington, DC—** Hoy, la campaña *Ya es Hora: ¡Ciudadanía!* (Citizenship, It's Time!) anunció que ha superado su meta de ayudar a movilizar a más de un millón de inmigrantes elegibles a solicitar la ciudadanía de los Estados Unidos en el 2007. Aun cuando miles de solicitudes todavía están siendo procesadas, el servicio de inmigración y ciudadanía de los Estados Unidos (USCIS por sus siglas en inglés) confirmó la recepción de 1,029,951 solicitudes de ciudadanía desde enero a octubre del 2007 —cerca del doble de solicitudes de ciudadanía recibidas en el 2006.

“Superar la meta de un millón de solicitudes es un tremendo logro”, dijo la directora ejecutiva de Fondo Educativo **Arturo Vargas NALEO**. “*Este es otro ejemplo del deseo de la comunidad latina de involucrarse completamente en el proceso político estadounidense. La alianza Ya es Hora continuará construyendo su campaña para seguir esta movilización y esperamos incrementar la participación de los votantes latinos en noviembre del 2008.*”

“El aumento elevado en solicitudes de ciudadanía, arrastrado por el optimismo y la esperanza que sellan cada solicitud, es una victoria para todos los estadounidenses” dijo **Eliseo Medina**, vicepresidente ejecutivo del Sindicato Internacional de Empleados de Servicios (SEIU por sus siglas en inglés). “*Justo cuando los ataques hacia los inmigrantes han aumentando, esta comunidad reconfirma su patriotismo y compromiso para ayudar a fortalecer la democracia de los Estados Unidos. Esta es la clase de participación cívica que nuestro país necesita para crecer con fuerza.*”

Desde enero del 2007, esta campaña sin precedentes ha unido a más de 400 instituciones en 24 ciudades para ofrecer talleres sobre la ciudadanía y a proveer otras herramientas de ayuda a los solicitantes. Los medios de comunicación en español —Entravision, ImpreMedia y Univision— han incorporado mensajes y programas educativos sobre la ciudadanía, al igual que anuncios impresos y televisivos de servicio público alcanzando al 99% de los hogares Hispánicos.

Como resultado del tremendo éxito de la campaña, los diversos miembros que componen este esfuerzo de *Ya es Hora: ¡Ciudadanía!* están trabajando con USCIS y representantes del Congreso para reducir el retraso en el procesamiento de las solicitudes. Actualmente, los retrasos procesales en USCIS podrían impedir que los solicitantes del 2007 puedan naturalizarse a tiempo para votar en las elecciones del 2008.

“Nuestra campaña está comprometida en proveer el apoyo necesario para que podamos acelerar los retrasos”, dijo **Celia Muñoz** vicepresidenta de **Consejo Nacional de La Raza** (NCLR, por sus siglas en inglés). “*Estos solicitantes han seguido todas las reglas —esperado pacientemente su turno, pagado sus impuestos y contribuido con sus comunidades. Todos estamos de acuerdo de que éstos no deben enfrentar retrasos injustificables que les impida conseguir su ciudadanía. Ellos merecen la oportunidad de convertirse en ciudadanos activos para que su voz se escuche el día de las elecciones.*”

Además de su continuo compromiso para ayudar a los inmigrantes elegibles a naturalizarse, la campaña *Ya es Hora* recientemente inició *Ya es Hora: Ve y Vota* (It's Time, Go Vote), una campaña activa que busca movilizar y llevar a millones de latinos a las urnas en noviembre 2008.

**Sobre la Campaña:** *Ya es Hora: ¡Ciudadanía!* (Citizenship It's Time) es una campaña sin precedentes coordinada para informar, educar y motivar a los residentes permanentes elegibles de los Estados Unidos para solicitar la ciudadanía.



## 2008 Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards Application

### About the Youth Awards

The Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards run annually from January through July and honor young Latino leaders with grants for their college education. Applications are open to graduating high school seniors who maintain an un-weighted 3.0 GPA. Award categories include Business, Education (future teachers), Engineering and Mathematics, Journalism, Leadership and Sports.

The Awards are divided into twelve different regions across the country: Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, San Diego, Los Angeles, San Jose/San Francisco Bay Area, Phoenix, Chicago, Miami, New York, Philadelphia/New Jersey, and Washington, DC.

Three recipients are selected for each category (Gold, Silver and Bronze Medallion) in each of the twelve regions and special recognition ceremonies are held with local business, education and community leaders to pay tribute to their accomplishments. Gold Medallion recipients are eligible for an additional \$5,000 educational grant, a laptop computer, and an all expense paid trip to attend the Hispanic Heritage Awards in Washington, DC.

### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### Who can apply/Do I qualify for the award?

To participate in the Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards you must be:

- A graduating high school senior
- Planning to enroll in college in the fall
- A citizen or permanent resident of the US
- Of Hispanic/Latino descent (at least one parent)
- Minimum 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale)

**When are award recipients selected?** May through the end of June- If you're selected as a regional youth award recipient you will receive a phone call and an e-mail from a member of the Youth Awards team.

**When is the deadline for applying?** Applications must be in by March 14, 2008

**For more information write to:** Hispanic Heritage Foundation 2600 Virginia Ave NW, Suite 406 Washington, DC.20037 or visit the website at: [www.hispanicheritage.org](http://www.hispanicheritage.org)

## Quality Vision Eyewear

2 pairs of  
Eyeglasses

**\$89**

Marco, lentes y  
transición  
para visión  
sencilla **\$99**



Eye Exam

**\$30.<sup>00</sup>**

**Hablamos Español**

**2800 S. IH-35) salida en Oltorf**

Mon - Fri 8:30am until 5:30pm

Saturday from 10am until 3:00pm

Su amigo el oftalmólogo  
**Valentino Luna,**  
con gusto lo atenderá

**462-0001**

# An Interview with Rupert and JoAnn Reyes from TEATRO VIVO

**Teatro VIVO** is a long time institution based in Austin, Texas. During the month of February the Teatro will debut its latest play called *VECINOS*. We decided it would be a good idea to interview the long time founders of TEATRO VIVO, Rupert and JoAnn Reyes. Sin más, aquí te va la entrevista.

**La Voz:** How long have you and JoAnn been involved in the Teatro movement?

**Teatro VIVO:** We began working as *Teatristas* in 1974 after **Dr. Jorge Huerta** (UC San Diego) visited the UT campus where we were students. We had never seen the Chicano reality portrayed on the theater stage. We were so inspired by what he shared that it significantly changed the course of our lives.

**La Voz:** What specifically did he bring to UT?

**Teatro VIVO:** He introduced us to the *movimiento* of Teatro Chicano happening in the US and an organization called **T.E.N.A.Z.** (TEATRO NACIONAL DE AZTLAN). **Jorge** had founded **Teatro de la Esperanza** at **UC Santa Barbara**, a company that still exists today in **San Francisco**.

He also shared the work of **Luis Valdez** and **El Teatro Campesino**. He left us with the "Red Book" as it was nicknamed, a collection of *actos* by Campesino that included the most produced *acto* in the US, *Los Vendidos*. We went on to form a student Teatro group called **Carnales en Espiritu** at UT and performed in the free speech area on campus and out in the community as well.

**La Voz:** When you think back to the early years of the Chicano Teatro movement, what has changed the most: the audience or yourselves?

**Teatro VIVO:** I would have to say we have. Not so much in how we think, even though I hope we have matured and become wiser. The audiences are still the same

mostly due to the fact that there has been little change in our society concerning Latinos. Yes, we have made great advances, but look at the number of dropouts, pregnant teens, percentages of college students in flagship universities, number of elected officials and brown faces in movies and on TV. We still have a lot to tell and a lot of audience members to tell it to.

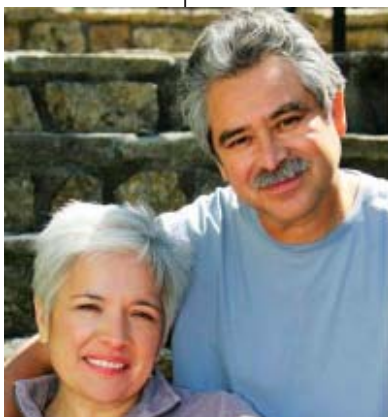
**La Voz:** Let's discuss your new play and ask what inspired this new play, *Vecinos*?

**Teatro VIVO:** First, and this might be surprising to you, is that sometimes inspiration comes from a challenge, not a need to tell a story or some great artistic need. I was challenged by my partner in **Teatro Vivo**, **Jo Ann** to write a play with a small cast. Then, I have had this idea in my head about where some of my early loves are. How are their lives? Just curious. This started the story that I wanted to tell.

But as you know, sometimes we begin a journey and then the path takes some twists and turns and we are no longer on the same journey that we began. So, this play looks at how love knows no age and barriers. If I had to put my thumb on what inspired me, though, it would have to be my Dad. He was a true gentleman, and a devoted husband. I lost him this past October so this play takes on even more meaning to me.

**La Voz:** So this play has several messages?

**Teatro VIVO:** With all my plays, there is a subtle message. I really don't write them with that intention, but I want them to say



something to someone in the audience. There are two messages – First, love has no age, **Don Roberto and Doña Maria**, the main characters are approaching 70 years old when they meet and fall in love. Another significant message is on the importance

of getting an education. Of all the keys that we have to open doors to successful futures for our *gente*, education is in my opinion paramount.

**La Voz:** I have been to **Teatro Vivo** performances in the past and have noticed that **Rupert** makes a deliberate effort to let the audience know about the mission of the Teatro. Can you share with our readers a little bit about the mission?

**Teatro VIVO:** It actually is something that we do with a very specific purpose. We really don't get a chance to address our community about who we are and why we do the style of theater that we do. I mean, we could put it in the program, a brochure, or even a big sign at the front. But we think that is more effective and meaningful to have someone say it as a personal message to the audience.

I think **La Raza** likes to hear things said more than to read it. It also gives a face to the production. Our actors always bring back stories of being recognized in public by our audiences. It makes the audience and our company feel a little closer.

Our mission is this: **Teatro Vivo** is dedicated to producing quality, bilingual theater accessible to all theater audiences and artists that reflects the heart and soul of the Latino community.

**La Voz:** Tell us more about this idea.

**Teatro VIVO:** Key words in our mission are *quality* and *accessible*. The word *quality* is important because we approach each play as professional theater artists. From the audition process to the final performance of a production, our intent is to produce a quality theatrical experience for our audiences.

The word *accessible* extends to language and economics. In terms of language, we produce bilingual plays. Audience members acknowledge and appreciate the inclusive nature of both English and Spanish spoken.

In terms of economics and accessibility, we offer "pay what you wish" nights every Thursday. Audiences are invited to participate in the theater experience for whatever they choose to pay. We also partner with community organizations to offer complimentary tickets to their communities.

**La Voz:** What are future plans for Teatro Vivo? What does Teatro VIVO need the most right now?

**Teatro VIVO:** I could give you a list. We need what most groups need. We are really going to give a hard look at rehearsal space. When you think about it, we need rehearsal space more than we need a performance space. A play may run one to three weeks, while we rehearse for 6 to 5 weeks. But I am not saying we don't need a performance space, which would be fantastic. We need volunteers to help with the building of sets, people to help with the run of the show both back stage and in the front.

As for future plans, we have a collaboration in the works with **St. Edward's University**, are in conversation with **Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas** about organizing a Teatro Festival there in Summer of 2009. And we are still keeping hopes alive to begin a youth theater company beginning with **St. John's Episcopal church** in north Austin. We also want to continuing to build our company with better plays and production values. We will be forming a new board of directors soon, are you available?





**Vision:** Modernize and refine the Constable's Office using all available resources. Train deputies and staff to be multifunctional. Make the Constable's office accountable and available to all of Travis County. Reach out to other local and county agencies and develop partnerships with each other that not only help each agency but also serve the needs of our community. Make the Constable's Office become a leader and coordinator in developing strategies and devoting resources to reach out to at-risk youth.

"As a 30-year resident of Precinct 4 and a proud member of the community, I share your concerns about the direction that Travis County needs to be headed in. I am committed to providing all of our citizens with the very best in Public Safety and Community Service."

"As your next Constable of Precinct Four, I will instill Trust, Integrity, Respect and a new Vision to the Office. My top priorities will be to provide services to the public and professionalize the Constable's Office. I ask for your vote and support in the Democratic Primary on March 4th, 2008."

#### Contact Information

Email: [AlonzoReyes4Constable@yahoo.com](mailto:AlonzoReyes4Constable@yahoo.com)

Phone: 1-512-586-4626

**WEBSITE**  
[www.alonzoreyes.com](http://www.alonzoreyes.com)

Paid political announcement by Alonzo Reyes for Constable Campaign

## Toma Mi Corazón XVI

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Silent Art Auction Fundraiser

Saturday, February 9, 2008

Preview Party 5-7 pm

\$10 admission  
(includes silent auction)

Silent Auction 7-9 pm

\$5 admission for silent auction only

At La Peña &  
Las Manitas Avenue Café

227 & 211 Congress Ave

Austin, TX 78701

Contact: David Gutierrez

(512) 477-6007 or  
[lapena@lapena-austin.org](mailto:lapena@lapena-austin.org)

### Career Opportunities

## Want to join one of America's Most Admired Companies?

Visit us today and share your talent with a company that will value your contributions!

- Pay range from \$12-14 per hour!
- Increased compensation for Spanish Bilingual skills!

Now Hiring full-time inbound **BILINGUAL CUSTOMER CONTACT REPS** for entry level call center positions in Sales, Customer Service, and Claims. Our local Call Center in South Austin employs over 1000 call center reps.

Our culture celebrates creative ideas coupled with analytical thinking. We may dress informally, but we're serious about our business. We offer career opportunities for those who thrive on constantly creating better ways to serve our customers.

Besides an obsession with the latest technology, and a chance to work with diverse and bright colleagues, we offer competitive pay and great benefits:

- Medical, dental and vision care
- Education and child care assistance
- On-site medical facility, fitness center and cafeteria
- 401K
- Gainshare
- Ongoing training and career advancement

Please visit [jobs.progressive.com](http://jobs.progressive.com) and search for Customer Contact Rep - Bilingual openings in Texas.



**PROGRESSIVE**

# Austin Community College and the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education to Recognize the 25 Most Influential Latinos in Austin

**TACHE, the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education** is celebrating its 33rd year of working to improve the educational and employment opportunities for Hispanics in Higher Education. Founded in 1974, this organization of individuals from colleges and universities throughout Texas will be holding its 2008 Annual Conference in Austin, Texas. As part of its activities TACHE has decided to publicly recognize the 25 Most Influential Latinos in Austin, Texas as identified by *La Voz de Austin* in its December, 2007 edition.

This public recognition by TACHE represents in many ways an affirmation of Latinos by Latinos and is significant because too often Latinos in many communities are tapped by "others" to be the "leaders" in their community without regard to what the people think or believe.

As background, in November of 2007, *La Voz de Austin* in collaboration with several

individuals in the community, composed a list of 117 Austinites of Latino descent who work in a variety of occupations and endeavors. Readers were asked to vote by email, regular mail or telephone for 25 most influential Latinos in the city. The definition of what "influential" meant was left to the readers. The readers were also told that based on their vote, the top 25 would be listed in the December edition of *La Voz de Austin*.

Responses to the invitation to vote were overwhelming and it became clear during the weeks of voting that a number of individuals had very large followings. It also became very clear that some people were very proud of the accomplishments and work of the people they voted for.

Here at this newspaper we wish to thank **Dr. Richard Armenta** of

**Austin Community College, Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education and Austin Community College** for joining us in recognizing the 25 most influential Latinos in Austin, Texas at the **TACHE Baile** on February 29th, 2008 at the H and H Ballroom in South Austin. (See poster on the back page.) The public is invited to attend.

We hope the attention and honor that comes from this recognition will serve to inspire others to work at what they are passionate about. We also hope that this recognition and honor begins to change the terms of future discussions about who is a leader and influential person in the Latino community in Austin, Texas.

1. Angle Abitua
2. Sylvia Acevedo
3. Juan J. Adame

4. Susana Almanza
5. Erika Gonzalez
6. Gonzalo Barrientos
7. Dr. Nora de Hoyos Comstock
8. Ana Yanez Correa
9. Martha Cotera
10. Gus Garcia
11. Daniel Garza
12. Rita Gonzales-Garza
13. Mona Gonzalez
14. Dr. Janis Guerrero-Thompson
15. Councilman Mike Martinez
16. Gustavo Monsante
17. Andrew "Andy" Martinez
18. Linda Medina
19. Luis Orozco
20. Rupert Reyes
21. Dr. Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez
22. raul salinas
23. Dr. Juan J. Sanchez
24. Dr. Federico Subervi
25. Dr. Angela Valenzuela

ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education  
**Conference 2008**  
33rd Annual Conference - February 13-16, 2008 - Austin, Texas


## Daniel Gonzales Attorney at Law

*Call me, I can help.*

13284 Pond Springs Road, Suite 403  
Austin, Texas 78729

Office (512) 219-9300  
Fax (512) 219-9375

**Rick Noriega**  
**FOR TEXAS**  
for US Senate  
[www.ricknoriega.com](http://www.ricknoriega.com)



Answering  
the call to serve.

---

**Lt. Col. Rick Noriega Only One Left  
Standing as Major Candidate Hoping  
to Secure the Democratic Nomination  
for the United States Senate. Register  
to Vote y Prepare para Marzo.**

**For more information about the Noriega  
campaign check the website: [ricknoriega.com](http://ricknoriega.com)**

Paid Political Announcement by Alfredo Rodriguez Santos c/s, camarada del candidato. Es todo!



# AUSTIN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Serving Austin for 150 years

## JOIN US IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Accepting Online Applications  
from  
**January 18, 2008**  
through  
**February 4, 2008**

For more information visit us at  
**[www.AFDrecruiting.com](http://www.AFDrecruiting.com)**

**(512) 974-0100 or (800) 832-5264**



La Voz de Austin - February, 2008

### 2008 SUMMER PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP AT TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SAN MARCOS

The Summer Predoctoral Fellowship program supports the Texas State 2004-2009 University Strategic Plan's call for an "increasingly diverse student body" by enhancing "the recruitment and retention rates of African-American and Hispanic/Latino faculty". The fellowship program will contribute to the achievement of this goal by inviting doctoral candidates at other institutions who have completed their course work and are in the process of writing their dissertations (ABD) to spend June and July working with colleagues in their field and students on the Texas State campus.

#### Expectations for Visiting Scholars

The visiting scholars will spend their time on campus collaborating with research faculty and contributing to a range of academic activities that will support their professional development. The host department will provide access to work space, computers/printers, and other equipment necessary for a successful experience at Texas State.

Application Doctoral candidates wishing to be considered for the Fellowship should submit the application and supporting materials to the Graduate College by March 7, 2008 (postmark).

#### Criteria and Process for Selection

The graduate student must come from an underrepresented group, have completed all of their graduate course work, and be working on writing their dissertation. Stipend Detail The basic support will be an \$11,000 stipend for the months of June and July that includes living expenses. Additional support will be available to cover travel expenses for a return trip in the next year at the request of the department. The University may assist in locating university housing according to availability. Summer Predoctoral Fellowship at Texas State University-San Marcos

For more information please contact: Paula S. Williamson, Associate Dean, Graduate College, Texas State University-San Marcos, 601 University Drive, San Marcos, TX, 78666 or call 512-245-6292

### Subscribe to *La Voz de Austin*

Subscribe to *La Voz de Austin* and receive your copy in the mail. Send \$25.00 to:

*La Voz de Austin*  
P.O. Box 19457  
Austin, Texas 78760



# ***FEBRUARY is "HONOR THE ANCESTORS" MONTH AT THE MACC***



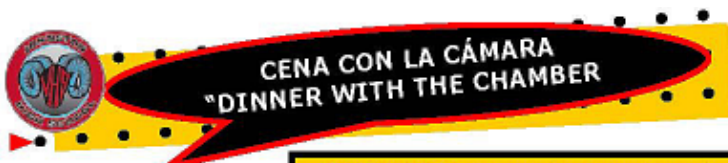
**ABOVE:** Standing Eagle engages our children in paying tribute to the ancestors during the MACC



**ABOVE:** Aztec Dancer, from St. Edward's University, during the MACC GRAND OPENING.



**LEFT:** Standing Eagle pays tribute to the ancestors during the MACC G R A N D OPENING.



Greater Austin Hispanic  
Chamber of Commerce  
Expanding Business Culture



Austin  
Independent School District

GAHCC and AISD want to provide you an overview with exciting changes at **Johnston High School**. Come and learn how YOU can ensure YOUR child's academic success!

Students of **Johnston High School**, their parents, and the community are welcome to come out and have dinner with the Chamber at the

**Johnston High School Cafeteria**

**1012 Arthur Stiles**

**on February 12, 2008.**



**Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.**

**Program will begin at 6:30 p.m.**

To RSVP please contact Selina Aguirre @  
(512) 462-4314 or [saguirre@gahcc.org](mailto:saguirre@gahcc.org).

Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

2800 South IH-35 | Suite 260 | Austin, Texas 78704 Telephone (512) 476-7502 Fax (512) 476-6417

## New BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

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.

Included in this directory are 159 Latino organizations in the following categories:

For more information about the directory please visit: [www.mexicanamericancenter.com](http://www.mexicanamericancenter.com) or call (512) 944-4123.

### The Directory of 100

A Guide to  
Latino Organizations in  
Austin, Texas

2008

Mexican American Center  
for Community and Economic Development

#### Directory Categories

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Arts        | 9. Music            |
| 2. Business    | 10. Political       |
| 3. Civic       | 11. Professional    |
| 4. Cultural    | 12. Religious       |
| 5. Dance       | 13. Social Services |
| 6. Educational | 14. Student         |
| 7. Immigrant   | 15. Theater.        |
| 8. Media       | 16. Otras           |

## Guerreras de la Vagina

Con una producción en Español de Los Monólogos de la Vagina, las Latinas de Austin están alzando su voz y haciéndose escuchar

Día-V es un movimiento global para eliminar la violencia contra mujeres, jovencitas y niñas y al mismo tiempo, recauda fondos a través de producciones benéficas de la tan premiada obra Los Monólogos de la Vagina de la Dramaturga/ Fundadora Eve Ensler.

La campaña de Día-V está empezando su décimo año de recaudación de fondos para organizaciones que trabajan para eliminar la violencia contra las mujeres y jovencitas. Muchas presentaciones de Los Monólogos de la Vagina son parte de la campaña. En el 2007, más de 3000 eventos Día-V se llevaron a cabo en los Estados Unidos y alrededor del mundo. Hasta la fecha, el movimiento Día-V ha recaudado más de \$50 millones y educado a millones acerca de el problema de la violencia en contra de mujeres.

La obra se basa en entrevistas realizadas por la autora a más de 200 mujeres de todas las edades y niveles económicos y culturales, preguntándoles sus vivencias ya sea buena o no tan buena con sus vaginas.

El cuestionario nacional de violencia en contra las mujeres encontró que las latinas reporten menos que otras mujeres la violación. "Esta obra y este movimiento han tocado corazones durante la última década, pero ahora es tan importante que tratemos de comunicar con la comunidad latina," dijo Trejo. "Tenemos que decirles que pueden ser escuchadas."

Un grupo de 14 mujeres bilingües van a participar por segundo año en la única producción en español en Austin. "Debido al éxito de la obra del año pasado, tuvimos que seguir haciéndola," dijo co-organizadora de Día-V Cynthia Trejo. "La reacción era increíble."

Todos los fondos recaudados con esta obra son a beneficio de Arte Sana. Esta organización trabajar para ayudar a las víctimas de violencia doméstica y sexual y del racismo, especialmente en la comunidad hispana. Usan una combinación de programas educativos y arte para empezar el proceso de recuperación para las víctimas.

"Queremos ofrecer mas que un buen show. Por me dio de Los Monólogos de la Vagina, queremos traer conciencia sobre la violencia hacia la mujer y al mismo tiempo ofrecer una obra en nuestro idioma que es íntima, profunda y divertida," dijo co-organizadora Verónica Hernández.

Los Monólogos de la Vagina tendrán dos presentaciones el viernes y sábado, febrero 22-23, 7:30 p.m., en The Monarch Event Center, 6406 N. IH35, Suite 3100, Austin 78752. Los fondos recaudados son a beneficio de Arte Sana ([www.artesana.com](http://www.artesana.com)) Puede obtener boletos en Discoteca Sanchez, 7309 Cameron RD # 101, Austin 78752, Por Internet en: [www.TexasPerforms.com](http://www.TexasPerforms.com), o con las organizadoras: Verónica Hernández 512.992.6996 o Cynthia Trejo 512.699.1792

Si no cabe en su casa,  
hay espacio en la nuestra  
Hasta 1 mes de renta GRATIS



1905 East William Cannon Dr.  
Austin, Texas 78744  
(512) 443-8800



201 West Stassey Lane  
Austin, Texas 78745  
(512) 441-3955



EL  
FLACO  
Tex-Mex  
Cafe

The Best  
Carne Guisada  
in Austin

3632 S. Congress Ave.  
Austin, Texas 78704  
(512) 444-2767



by Daniel Garza

Parents, have you ever spoken to your child about the classes he/she has chosen to take for a semester? Have you ever wondered if those classes were in your child's best interest? I know I have.

Time and time again I have sat there and not so patiently tried to get my daughter to see that her studies will be more beneficial for her if she were to take other courses than the ones she has chosen. I want her to choose classes that are more challenging for her.

Meanwhile, I'm clueless as to what I'm talking about, because I really don't know much about the courses available for my child, therefore leaving me with no ground to stand on. Of course, I don't have to tell you how frustrating that could be, but I do want to tell you about something that I discovered during a recent visit to my daughter's advisory teacher. The student star report.

# The Star Report

Several months ago I was in a meeting and one of the presenters gave a brief overview of the student star report, and how it could be used to assist students in graduating on time. I was very interested in what she had to say about this student star report, and so I set out to see if I could get access to my child's star report. I decided to call her advisory teacher to discuss her progress, and to see if I could get a print out of her star report.

What I found out about this student star report was very helpful in so many



ways for me. I remember when this school year started I heard about the different levels which someone could graduate in. I spoke with my daughter and asked her to pay a visit to her counselor to see what classes she had to take so that she could graduate at a distinguished status.

Of course I didn't know how tough it

would be for her to accomplish that goal, but I pushed her to do it anyhow. Naturally, she acted just like a teenager would, and she didn't speak with anybody. She just

randomly picked classes that she felt were in her best interest. This brings me back to the student star report.

So what is the student star report? It's a game plan! The star report let's you see what classes your child is enrolled in now, how many credits they currently have, how many credits they need, and what classes they should take, not only to graduate on time, but to be categorized in either plan. I've learned there are several different plans, with recommended as standard and distinguished 4x4 plan as top ranking. I also learned that the plans are not much different from each other, take a few credits here and move them over there, and you just became a distinguished graduate.

I know this may not be news to everyone, but it is news to me! Why? Because now, I can help my child work on a game plan, and I can help her reach for the stars.

## Report on Austin ISD Committee on Neighborhoods and Schools

In December of 2006, the Board of Trustees of the **Austin Independent School District** appointed a committee of 20 community members to examine the challenges of what to do with schools that were experiencing overcrowding and what to do with schools that had too few students.

The Committee, chaired by **Andy Anderson**, **Rachel May Proctor** and **Paul Saldana** was made up of members from neighborhood associations, the **AISD District Advisory Committee**, the **Austin Council of PTA's**, Professors from the **University of Texas at Austin** and the **Austin business community**. **Alfredo Santos c/s from Austin Voices for Education and Youth** is also a member of this committee.

As the city of **Austin** continues to grow and change demographically there is a lot of pressure by people in neighborhoods to hold onto the past with respect to keeping their local school open. The school district on the other hand is faced with the challenge of educating more and more students in an efficient and economical manner by building schools in strategic locations.

For the past year, the **Committee on Neighborhoods and Schools** has been meeting as a group and with invited guest speakers in order to develop more insight on how to deal with increasingly complex challenge. Among the questions the

committee has been entertaining are:

What should be the criteria for identifying underutilized and overcrowded schools?

What should be the criteria for assessing alternatives?

What should be the criteria for assessing conditions?

Are there opportunities for interlocal collaboration?

What are the procedures for identifying and ensuring ongoing stakeholder engagement and participation?

The Committee had expected to wrap up its work and present their findings/recommendations to the AISD Board in December of 2007. Instead, the Committee made a preliminary presentation to the **Austin ISD Board** on December 10th and asked for more time to complete its work.

**Dr. Terry Clark** from the **University of Texas at Austin**, one of the hardest working members of the committee produced the graph below in an attempt to show the challenges of the groups work. The Committee has now formed three sub-committees and will be examining some specific areas in more detail.

**Sub-committee 1: Review Criteria (Andy)** This group will develop the data and indicators the district should be monitoring that indicate changes in the health of a campus.

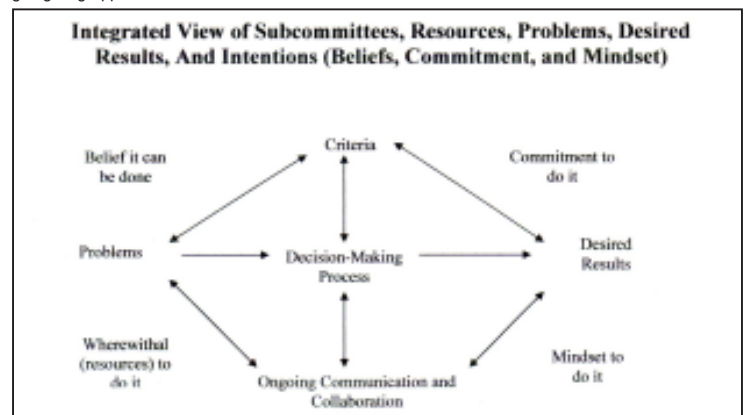
**Subcommittee 2: Decision-making process (Rachel)** For a school for which the data suggests a possible problem, what is the process for working with a campus community, and the community as a whole, to assess that possible problem and develop a course of action?

**Subcommittee 3: Ongoing communication and collaboration (Paul)** What strategies should the district employ on an ongoing basis to communicate and collaborate with the public to build relationships of trust, to keep the community informed about possible challenges and opportunities facing the district, and to participate as an active partner in community planning efforts? This is the big question the Committee is going to grapple with over the next few months.

It is expected that after soliciting public review and input of their work, the Committee will make its final assessments and recommendation revisions before appearing before the **Austin Independent School Board of Trustees** for the submission of the final report.

**Joey Crumley** and **Dr. Janis Guerrero** have been the **AISD** staff members who have worked with the **Committee on Neighborhoods and Schools** for the past year and have been a tremendous asset and resource for helping the group accomplish much of its work.

This page is sponsored by **Austin Voices for Education and Youth**





# En La Comunidad

## Latino Community Takes Issue with Travis County Sheriff's Department

On Thursday, February, January 31st, 2008, over 100 members of the Latino community in **Austin** met at the **Mexican American Cultural Center** to discuss changes in the way **Sheriff Hamilton** is going to run the Travis County Jail. According to reports in the **Austin American Statesman**, the Sheriff has agreed to let federal immigration agents set up an office in the county jail to more often monitor whether inmates who are booked into the **Travis County Jail** are in the United States legally. According to the Sheriff, the immigration agents will be working 24 hours a day seven days a week. For many years, the immigration agents have been able to check to on the status of inmates in the county jail, what is going to be different is that they are going to be checking more often.

Many in attendance felt that this "new procedure" was going to be the cause of too much chaos in the community and would serve to break up families. Another meeting, this time with the Sheriff is planned for February 12, 2008 at 6:00pm in the Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center located at 808 Niles Street.

**BELOW:** Attorney Guillermo Gonzalez makes a point with the crowd.



**ABOUT:** Austin Attorney Alberto Garcia is speaking with a reporter from Univision about the changes going on in the Travis County Sheriff's Department.

**BELOW:** Attorney Nicole True explains to the assembled crowd at the Mexican American Cultural Center how this change in operations at the Travis County Sheriff's Department will adversely impact low income people.



**ABOVE:** Father Jaime Mathis from Juan Diego Catholic School spoke at the beginning of the meeting.



# *In the Community*



**ABOVE:** Long time community activists Marcelo Tafoya and Hermelinda Zamarripa listen to the discussion of how these changes in the Sheriff's Department are going to affect people.

**BELOW:** A photo of some of those who attended the meeting on January 31, 2008



## Calendar of Events

- February 9, 2008** **Toma Mi Corazón** is La Peña's signature event and annual fundraiser. The event kicks off at 5 pm with a preview party at Las Manitas Avenue Café where people will have a chance to enjoy some food, drinks, and listen to some live music from Sister Sister y los Mistres.
- February 12, 2008** **Cena con la Cámara at Johnston High School** from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at 1012 Arthur Stiles. Dinner 6:00 p.m., Program 6:30 p.m. RSVP: saguirre@gahcc.org For more information please call 746-7502
- February 12, 2008** **Community Meeting** with Travis County Sheriff Greg Hamilton. This event is a public discussion and question and answer session concerning the Sheriff's decision to open the doors of the county jail to Federal Immigration Officers. The meeting will take place at the Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center located at 808 Niles Street starting at 6:00pm
- February 13, 2008** **Senatorial Debate** between Representative Rick Noriega and Ray McMurrey, candidates for United States Senator. Hosted by Keep Austin Blue and the UT Democrats. Event starts at 8:00pm Jester A121A - University of Texas, Austin Campus
- February 13 - 16, 2008** TACHE Conference at the Doubletree Hotel in Ausitn, Texas. Visit TACHE website for more details at: [www.tache.org](http://www.tache.org)
- February 16, 2008** **Feria Para Aprender Para Padres y Niños** Saturday from 10:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Burger Activity Center, 3200 Jones Road. For more information please call (512) 986-4555
- February 19, 2008** Early voting begins for the Texas Primaries
- February 29, 2008** TACHE Baile 7:00pm to midnight at H and H Ballroom 4404 Brandt Road in South Austin. Tickets are available at Estrada Cleaners 2618 East 7th Street in Austin. Ruben Ramos and the Texas Revolution will play. For more information please call 223-7955.

To get your events listed in *La Voz de Austin* please call: (512) 944-4123

## 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 a nuestros lectores de *La Voz de Austin* una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

No te conozco	I don't know you
Sacame de esta duda	Take me out of this doubt
¿Estas registrado para votar?	Are you registered to vote?
Dime como te llamas.	Tell me what your name is
¿Quien te dijo eso?	Who told you than?
No te creas!	Don't believe it!
Habla con fulano.	Talk to Mr. Fulano.
Dejame en el canton	Leave me at the house (slang)
¿Será verdad?	Could it be true?



**FERIA PARA APRENDER**  
PADRES - NIÑOS - MAESTROS  
2008

### Feria Para Aprender para padres y niños

*En Español*

Sábado, 16 de febrero  
10am - 3pm

**¡Entrada Gratis!**

Burger Activity Center  
3200 Jones Rd.  
Austin, TX

**Libros gratis para niños**

• Exhibidores • Entretenimiento  
• Actividades Infantiles

**¡Premios!**

[www.feriaeducativa.org](http://www.feriaeducativa.org)

### DareCo Realtors

Thinking of buying a house, then think of me. I have been in the real estate business for more than 20 years. I can help you realize your dream of owning your own home.



**Dan Arellano**



**(512) 826-7569**

[darellano@austin.rr.com](mailto:darellano@austin.rr.com)





**Nosotros ya votamos.**

This photo comes from Dos Amigos Publishing Collectors Calendar Series which is available (830) 769-4303. For the 2008/2009 calendars write to P.O. Box 582, Jourdan, Texas 78026.



**March 4 Democratic Primary**  
**Vote Early Feb. 19-29**  
[www.GaryCobb4DA.com](http://www.GaryCobb4DA.com)  
[voteforgary@gmail.com](mailto:voteforgary@gmail.com)  
**512-637-7260**

P.O. Box 142416 • Austin, TX 78714

**F**or 17 years I have represented the victims of crimes and their families. I have personally prosecuted many violent offenders and have seen firsthand the losses inflicted by their transgressions.

Crime is not, however, solved by simply getting convictions. We must work together as a community toward the goals of mitigating the damage caused by crime and preventing its recurrence. With your help, I will continue to develop strategies for establishing long-term, proactive partnerships between the DA's office, law enforcement and community-minded organizations.

To do this, I ask for your vote in the Democratic primary on March 4.

*Gary Cobb*

