

Recordando a Emma Barrientos

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Pages 10 and 11



**Volume 5 Number 1&2
A Bilingual Publication
Jan./Feb., 2010**

La Voz

de Austin, Texas

(512) 944-4123

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Vasquez Elected President of National Org.

Melba J. T. Vasquez, PhD, an independent practitioner in **Austin, Texas**, has been elected 2011 president of the **American Psychological Association**.

As a leader in her field, **Vasquez** has focused on raising the visibility and participation of women and ethnic minorities in psychology, developing feminist and culturally competent services for women and minorities and advancing scholarship and ethics within the field.

"I am incredibly honored to have been chosen to serve in the role of APA president," said Vasquez. "Our association plays a central role in presenting psychology as the science of behavior. I will promote the benefits of psychological science to daily living and to helping with some of society's challenges."

As APA's first Latina president, **Vasquez** plans to make inroads with minority groups that are traditionally underserved by psychology. *"Strategies to promote coping and resilience for members of those groups are important to communicate to the public," she said.*

Vasquez earned her doctorate in counseling psychology from the **University of Texas, Austin**. Before becoming a psychologist, **Vasquez** taught middle school English and political science. She is a native of **San Marcos, Texas**, and earned her undergraduate degree from **Texas State University** in **San Marcos**.



Gerardo Castillo Appointed to Census Complete Count Committee

Gerardo Castillo, a native Austinite, was recently appointed by **Mayor Lee Leffingwell** to the local Census Complete Count Committee for the **Travis County**.

Castillo, who graduated from the **University of Texas at Austin** in 2002, worked as the Chief of Staff for **Texas State Representative Eddie Rodriguez** and vote coordinator for **U.S. Congressman Lloyd Doggett** before accepting the position of Manager for Community Involvement at the **Capital Metro Transportation Authority**. **Castillo** has also served on the **City of Austin's Planning Commission** as an appointee of Councilman **Mike Martinez**.

People in the News



Dr. Alma Aguado Running for United States Senate

Dr. Alma Aguado is a practicing physician in **San Antonio, Texas**, who is running for the United States Senate in **Texas** under the **Democratic Party**.

Although born in **Eagle Pass, Texas** in 1962, **Dr. Aguado** was raised in **Piedras Negras, Coahuila** and was the eldest of three children. She graduated from **La Facultad de Medicina Univ de Nuevo Leon** in 1986, served an internship at **The University of Texas Medical Branch** in **Galveston** and her residency at **Scott & White Memorial Hospital** in **Temple, Texas** in 1998.

As a solo practitioner in internal medicine in the underserved southwest area of **San Antonio, Texas**, she believes that her nature to care for others can be translated into the political arena by being a candidate for the U.S. Senator.

Dr. Aguado is a member of the **American Medical Association**, and the **League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)**.



Amanda Aguirre Goes to Washington

Amanda Aguirre was recently accepted as a White House intern in the Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs. **Aguirre**, who is from the Houston area, is a junior at **The University of Texas** pursuing a dual major in Sociology and Government.

In addition to her time spent in school she has worked as an intern for **Austin Voices for Education and Youth** where she helped create the School Inequities Project. This project identified disparities in **Austin** area schools and helped to explain how a lack of resources contributed to a lack of opportunities for high school students.

Amanda recently completed an Internship with the **Children's Defense Fund** doing community Health outreach in **South West Houston**. She hopes to continue working with non-profits with particular interest in community organizing, children's health and educational inequalities.



Southwest Key Names New Chairman of the Board

Southwest Key Programs (SWK), the 4th largest nonprofit in Central Texas announced that current SWK Vice Chairman of the Board **Victor Garza**, has been elected as Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Garza will assume the role of Chairman of the Board from **Gus Garcia**, the former mayor of **Austin**, who will continue serving on the board of **SWK**. *"Victor has been involved as a board member for 5 years and has a very distinguished record in community service," said Gus Garcia*

"I am looking forward to working closely with Victor as we expand our community engagement throughout the country," said Dr. Juan Sánchez, El Presidente and CEO of SWK. "I also want to extend my thanks to Gus Garcia for his vision and many years of service as the former Chairman of the Board for SWK and I am looking forward to his continued contributions as a member of our Board of Directors."

Mr. Garza is originally from **Eagle Pass, Texas** and is a graduate of **San Jose State University** with bachelor and masters degrees.

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La Voz de Austin is a monthly publication. The editorial and business address is P.O. Box 19457 Austin, Texas 78760. The telephone number is (512) 944-4123. The use, reproduction or distribution of any or part of this publication is strongly encouraged. But do call and let us know what you are using. Letters to the editor are most welcome.

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What Does It Mean to be a Community Acitivist?

by Alfredo R. Santos c/s

During the 2008 Presidential Election, former New York City mayor **Rudolph Giuliani** sarcastically mocked **President Obama's** role as a community organizer in **Chicago**, by asking the crowd "*What does a community organizer actually do?*" He was answered with a resounding applause. This jibe at the now President of the United States was repeated by the Vice Presidential nominee, **Alaskan** governor **Sarah Palin**, who stated that her experience as the mayor of **Wasilla, Alaska** was "sort of like being a community organizer, except that you have actual responsibilities." This comment also drew applause and winks.

What both **Giuliani** and **Palin** did by making fun of the now president of the United States, was to show a tremendous disrespect for community organizers and activists who struggled and sacrificed over the years to try and make a difference in the places they work. Their contempt for the people who give up time with family and sometimes work for very little money, shows how little they know and regard the people who have helped to shape this country. Here is but a brief list of those community activists and organizers who have been a part of the experiment we call democracy.

Sojourner Truth Martin Luther King, Jr.

Susan B. Anthony Cesar Chavez

Dolores Huerta Dr. Marshall Ganz

Emma Tenayuca Rebecca Flores

Rosemary Covalt Mary Almendarez

Patti Radle Barry Klein

I bring up this issue of community activists and organizers, because in this issue of *La Voz de Austin*, we have sought to bring to our reader's attention a group of local **Austinites** who are some of the hardest working community activists in the city.

Some of them live very modestly, others take no pay for all the hours they give. They are involved in different ways in the community because they believe in the issues and the causes. The next time you see one these community activists, take the time to say thank you. They appear on pages 12 through 14.

Como vas aver en estas paginas, se nos fue de repente **Emma Barrientos**. Yo la conoci nada más por unos años. Pero en cada junta donde no encotrabamos, siempre fue una mujer que enseñaba su respeto para la gente. Yo se que muchos de ustedes van ha tener bellos recuerdos de ella para siempre.

Editorial



Yleana Santos
Associate Editor

A Special Message from the Barrientos Family

Thank you for being here for our family at this difficult time, it means so much to me and my family. I ask for your help on the matter of "in lieu of" contributions made in Emma's name. There are so many worthy organizations in Austin that Emma supported and we certainly do not want to leave anyone out nor have hurt feelings. Our preferences are for the following two organizations.

Barrientos Scholarship Fund in memory of Emma Barrientos
c/o The ACC Foundation (Barrientos Scholarship Fund)

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or

Austin Tejano Democrats
in memory of Emma Barrientos
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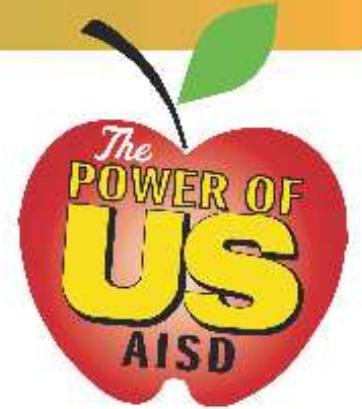
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Save the Date

Austin Independent School District

Community Summit

Wednesday, February 3, at 7:30 a.m.



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How the **POWER OF US** Can Transform Public Education in Austin!

*Help Achieve Bold, Innovative,
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Invitation to Follow

Vote March 2, 2010

During law school, Olga Seelig worked for the Travis County Criminal District and County Court at Law judges as a law clerk. She knew then she wanted to be a Judge. Her broad and balanced experience in the courtroom, as a prosecutor and defense attorney, led to her appointment to the bench of the Austin Municipal Court. She has been praised for her work as Judge by both defendants and law enforcement, where she proves her integrity with a fair and just court for all.

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Pasado, Presente, y Futuro: Forty Years of Chicana and Chicano Studies in Texas

NACCS-Tejas Foco Regional Conference

The University of Texas at Austin
February 25-27, 2010

The year 2010 marks the 40th anniversary of the formal establishment of Mexican American Studies in the academy in **Texas**. Since the early 1970s, many approaches have been developed and employed in the field of Chicana and Chicano Studies, some focusing on political economy, others on cultural studies, some focusing on the specificity of the Tejano experience, others focusing on how **Texas** fits into the larger experience of Mexican Americans in the United States and linkages to Mexico and Latin America. Chicana and Chicano Studies in Texas has drawn from many intellectual approaches and fields, and struggled to expand the definition of the academy, activism, and intellectual life.



The goal of the **2010 NACCS-Tejas Foco Regional Conference** is to examine questions around a "Texas School" of Chicana and Chicano Studies. We invite scholars of Chicana and Chicano Studies, members of NACCS, and the general public to submit proposals for papers, panels, or performances that engage the question of whether there is (or is not) a Texas-based approach to Chicana and Chicano Studies. Submissions may look at the past, present, and future of Chicana and Chicano Studies in **Texas** to outline such a "Texas School" of thought or may call into question the very idea of such a proposition. The conference will also consider whether there is more than one school of thought within Texas. For more information about this event contact **Luis Guevara** at (512) 471-4557



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AUSTIN, Texas—**The Ford Foundation** has awarded the **Texas Center for Education Policy** (TCEP) \$300,000 for the 15-month planning phase of the Teacher Education Institute initiative to be conducted by the **National Latino Education Research Agenda Project** (NLERAP).

The Teacher Education Institute is a national initiative that will result in a more diverse and highly skilled teacher workforce equipped with best practices for educating Latino/a and language minority youth. The initiative and **NLERAP** are housed in **TCEP** under **Dr. Angela Valenzuela**, associate vice president for school partnerships in the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement at **The University of Texas at Austin**.

Dr. Valenzuela said, *"The Teacher Education Institute initiative is significant because quality teachers are the factor that most influences student achievement, graduation rates and college eligibility among young Latinas and Latinos. If we are to begin addressing disparities in Latino students' opportunities to learn, we must focus squarely on our children's teachers."*



Dr. Angela Valenzuela

Part of the planning process includes establishing five regional boards for the Southwest, Midwest, West, Southeast and Northeast. Each of the boards will be responsible for developing, implementing and coordinating local Teacher Education Institute efforts and providing input into a national toolkit. The **NLERAP** will foster multiple pathways into teacher preparation programs. These pathways will address the intricacies of local, state and national policies that perpetuate the undersupply of quality teachers across the Southwest, Midwest, West, Southeast and Northeast regions that have been targeted for reform.

"We will also generate a well-informed agenda and action plan for K-12 educational research that honors the participation of Latino and Latina community members, practitioners and university-based researchers," Valenzuela said. "Based on this agenda, we can make sound recommendations to guide researchers, policymakers, educators, families and community organizations on Latino education issues."

For more information on the Teacher Education Institute and the **National Latino Education Research Agenda Project**, contact the **Texas Center for Education Policy** at (512) 471-7055 or email tcep@austin.utexas.edu

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Martin Luther King Jr.



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Raul Alvarez Endorsed by the Austin Firefighters Association

Raul Alvarez has received the endorsement of the **Austin Firefighters Association**. He is also proud to receive the support of the **African American Firefighters Association** and the **Hispanic Firefighters Association**.

*"It's an honor to be endorsed by the **Austin Firefighters Association**. I have been a strong advocate for the firefighters in the past when I was on the city council," Alvarez said. "I will remain a strong voice for the firefighters as long as I'm in public office."*



Mr. Alvarez served two terms on the City Council from 2000 to 2006. He quickly earned a reputation for hard work and diligence on a wide range of issues.

Alvarez also served one year as a City Council representative to the board of the **Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority**. He was also appointed to the Electric Utility Commission by **City Council Member Mike Martinez** in 2006. Currently, **Alvarez** is Place 5 Trustee for the **Austin Community College's Board**.

Alvarez earned his bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from **Stanford University** and his master's in Community & Regional Planning at the **University of Texas**. Mr. Alvarez and his wife, **Austin** banker **Theresa Alvarez**, have two children, **Sofia** and **Joseph**.

Austin Tejano Democrats

Endorsement Card March 2, 2010 Primary

The Tejano Democrats endorsed the following candidates during their **Screening & Endorsements Convention** held in Austin Texas on January 16th.

Bill White - Governor

Linda Chavez-Thompson - Lt. Governor

Barbara Ann Radnofsky - Attorney General

Hector Uribe - Land Commissioner

Hank Gilbert - Agriculture Commissioner

Jeff Weems - Railroad Commissioner

Jim Sharp - Texas Supreme Court PI 3

Bill Moody - Texas Supreme Court PI 5

Blake Bailey - Texas Supreme Court PI 9

Thank you to all our sponsors, candidates who bought ads and our wonderful volunteers. All who made it possible to make the convention a huge success.

Linda Chavez-Thompson Anuncia Candidatura para Teniente Gobernadora

Linda Chavez-Thompson Anuncia Candidatura para Teniente Gobernadora

Linda Chavez-Thompson declaró lo siguiente cuando formalmente anunció su candidatura como la candidata Demócrata para el puesto de Teniente Gobernadora.

Cuando era una niña pequeña, yo trabajé con mi familia en las plantaciones de algodón del oeste de Texas desde el amanecer hasta el atardecer. Hoy estoy muy orgullosa de estar aquí con mi familia para pedirles a los Tejanos su apoyo en nuestra campaña para ser la próxima Teniente Gobernadora de Texas.

Entiendo que no soy una millonaria como el Teniente Gobernador actual, pero la mayoría de los Tejanos tampoco son millonarios y ha llegado la hora de que ellos tengan una voz en nuestra capital estatal.

Entiendo lo que es trabajar largas horas y entiendo los sacrificios que los millones de Tejanos hacen para apoyar sus familias durante estos tiempos difíciles. Esos Tejanos continúan luchando porque quieren darle un futuro mejor para sus familias.

Me estoy lanzando como Teniente Gobernadora porque es hora de tener nuevos líderes en el gobierno estatal que trabajen para nosotros como nosotros trabajamos para nuestras familias. Los Tejanos están pagando el precio por la politiquería de siempre de los Republicanos en Austin, y ya es hora que trabajemos en nuestras prioridades.

El alto costo de la educación universitario se ha multiplicado en algunas escuelas y los Tejanos pagan más por seguro y utilidades que cualquier otras personas en el país. No podemos tener una economía saludable sin ciudadanos que sean bien educados, saludables, y ya es hora de que los nuevos líderes entiendan estas prioridades.

En 2010, cada niño debe de tener la oportunidad para obtener una educación que yo no tuve, y la clase trabajadora Tejana deben de tener la oportunidad de llevar a sus hijos al doctor sin tener que esperar en el salón de emergencias por horas.

He trabajado toda mi vida para superar muchos obstáculos y salir adelante y yo se que los Tejanos tienen las aptitudes y la voluntad de superar cualquier obstáculo. Con mucho trabajo y las prioridades correctas podemos lograr más. Tenemos que lograr más para nuestras familias y el futuro de este gran estado. Cuando yo sea elegida la Teniente Gobernadora, lograremos mas.



Public Safety Groups Endorse Margaret Gómez for County Commissioner Precinct 4

At her re-election campaign kickoff **Travis County Commissioner Margaret Gómez** received the endorsement of five public safety unions. The endorsements for the four-term Democratic incumbent came from the **Austin-Travis County EMS Employees Association PAC, Austin Police Association PAC, Travis County Sheriffs' Law Enforcement Association PAC, Travis County Sheriffs' Officers Association PAC, and Travis County Firefighters Association.**



"I am honored to receive such overwhelming support from the people who protect Travis County," Commissioner Gómez said. "These groups know my record and they know my commitment to public safety in Travis County. I look forward to engaging these groups in the future so we can continue to improve public safety in our communities."

Brett Spicer, chairman, Travis County Sheriffs' Law Enforcement Association PAC: Commissioner Gomez has always worked to improve public safety in Travis County. She cares about protecting our communities and she has a record to prove it. She is an experienced leader on the Commissioners Court, and we are proud to endorse her re-election."

Millie Zapata, vice president, Austin-Travis County EMS Employees Association & PAC Board Member: "Commissioner Margaret Gomez understands that ambulances must be near the community they serve. EMS is not only serve the community as a public safety agency, we also are very involved with the public health of our citizens - and she understands that. We support Margaret Gomez because she supports EMS."

Chris Perkins, chairman, Austin Police Association PAC: "Commissioner Gomez has been a long time supporter of public safety. She has never voted against public safety in harsh budget times, because she understands that the protection of the public comes first."

Jason Pack, president, Travis County Firefighters Association (Local 4583): "Commissioner Gomez has been engaged with the fire fighters and the department in a genuine effort to ensure that the people of southeast Travis County get the best possible ems and fire response. Her attention and support has truly help shape the ever improving delivery of public safety in Travis County."

Margaret Gómez has been Precinct 4's County Commissioner since 1995. A graduate of William B. Travis High School and St. Edward's University and a former county constable, Gómez has been a leader on affordable housing, environmental protection, tax relief and preserving the distinct character of Austin during her time on the Commissioners' Court. She has also been an active Democrat for over three decades and is a current member of Travis County Democratic Party Finance Council.



An Interview with El Presidente and CEO of

La Voz: Dr. Sánchez, let’s start this interview by sharing with our readers a little bit about your background. Where did you grow up, and what challenges did you face as you were growing up?

Dr. Sánchez: I grew up in **Brownsville**, a town in **South Texas**. We were a family of 9 and were very poor. My father died when I was 14, and as a result, we all learned to work at a very young age. I shined shoes and sold newspapers when I was 10 years old, just so that our family could have food on the table. I was under a lot of pressure to work since I was one of the oldest.

La Voz: What motivated you to finish high school?

Dr. Sánchez: Although neither of my parents had a formal education, they always insisted that education was a way for us to be successful and to do the things we wanted to do in life. They taught us that education was a way to escape the conditions in which we grew up.

Another strong motivating factor was my experience as a migrant worker in high school. I worked in the fields doing hard labor, and I learned that I did not want to do that work the rest of my life. Living in migrant camps under crowded conditions, traveling far from home, working very hard in the fields—all of these experiences motivated me to finish high school.

La Voz: What kinds of social movements were going on when you were growing up?

Dr. Sánchez: When I was a migrant worker, **Cesar Chavez** was just beginning to organize in **California**, which is where I used to go as a farm worker. We began to hear farm workers say that we should join a union. As a 16 year old kid, I had no idea what that meant, but I heard people shouting, *“Let’s join the union, let’s join Cesar Chavez.”* I just wanted to work.

La Voz: In your family, was the idea of going to college a subject that came up often?

Dr. Sánchez: Not a lot, but my mom and dad, particularly my dad, talked about going to college and what that could mean to you. For my mom, finishing high school was a significant and sufficient accomplishment. College was certainly an aspiration, but it was talked about as a dream way out there beyond our reach.

No one in our family had ever gone to college

My dad had expressed a willingness to work as many jobs as he needed to make sure I went to college, but he passed away when I was young. No one in our family had ever gone to college. Nobody in our community had ever experienced it either.

Though my parents valued education, they did not know what it meant to apply to college, or what it meant to get a degree. My 9th grade science teacher was the first person I interacted with significantly that had a college degree, and he insisted I go to college. And I did. I was the first person in my family to go to college.

La Voz: When you think back who were some of the role models?

Dr. Sánchez: That science teacher was certainly a role model for me. Another role model, interestingly, was a dentist that my mom took me to when I was 18 years old. One of the requirements to go to college was to have a dental exam, so my mom took me to the dentist for the first time in 18 years. He was a Latino dentist. My mom was so impressed by him, and I was impressed that she was impressed. So when I went to

college at **St. Mary’s University**, I thought I wanted to be a dentist.

La Voz: How did you decide on **St. Marys**?

Dr. Sánchez: I chose **St. Mary’s University** because I had spent a couple of years in a seminary. I majored in sociology.

La Voz: When did the idea of graduate school enter your mind?

Dr. Sánchez: The idea of graduate school came up while I was finishing my bachelor’s degree. I was walking to class when a Latino guy asked me what my plans were after graduation? Remember, this was in the 1970s, and there were lots of efforts to recruit minorities. This guy had a Master’s in Social Work and was recruiting for the **Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Washington** in **Seattle**. Social work sounded very interesting to me, so I applied and got a full scholarship. I packed my bags in a **Volkswagen** bug, and much to my mom’s disapproval, moved to **Seattle**.

La Voz: Did you like **Seattle**?

As a Latino, getting out of Texas was one of the best things I could have done.

Dr. Sánchez: **Seattle** was a real social consciousness-builder for me. As a Latino, getting out of **Texas** was one of the best things I could have done. In **Seattle**, the Latinos, African Americans, and Native Americans were so well organized. They fought for more minority students to be admitted into colleges, and for more scholarships and support for minority students. There were also incredible Latino professors, writers, poets, and

activists who wanted to change the world.

That’s where I met **Cesar Chavez**, **Reies Tijerina**, **Corky Gonzales**, and **José Angel Gutierrez**. If I had to look at a time in my life that had the most significant impact, it was those one-and-a-half years in **Seattle**.

La Voz: How was it you selected **Harvard University**?

Dr. Sánchez: When I was getting my Master’s in Social Work, I was trying to figure out what I was going to do with all the education I had. I decided that I wanted to focus on education because as I looked across the country, I saw that education was one of the most critical needs Latinos had.

Harvard was the only school I had applied to.

I wanted to have a degree from a reputable institution, so I applied to **Harvard**. In fact, **Harvard** was the only school I had applied to. My dissertation focused on Chicano alternative schools in the Southwest. There were only 3 of them in the country at that time.

La Voz: What was it like to be one of the first Chicanos to receive a doctorate from the **Graduate School of Education** at **Harvard**?

Dr. Sánchez: I did not realize that I was one of the first, although when I looked around there were very few Latinos at the doctorate level. Many had started in the graduate school but did not finish. When it came time to graduate, I wore a sarape instead of my cap and gown, and they almost did not let me walk across the stage in until I showed them my ID!

La Voz: With your doctorate in hand, were there a lot of job offers that came your way?

I was very fortunate and almost never had to look for a job. I was called about various job offers, and I chose to work as the Director of **La Esperanza Home for Boys** in **South Texas**. I chose that opportunity because the board of directors wanted to build its own alternative school. We built our own accredited school while I was there.

La Voz: How did you decide to start **Southwest Key**?

Dr. Sánchez: After six and a half years in **Brownsville**, I decided to start this non profit, which was then called **Texas Key**. I had been directing a residential facility for kids. We would take kids who were in trouble and taught them to live in our facility. Then we would let them go home. Within 30 days, a lot of these kids were back in the juvenile justice system or in our facility. I thought to myself, “This does not work.”

I decided to visit similar programs across the country. I saw that the majority of the kids being locked up were Latino or African American kids who had committed non violent offenses. These kids did not have any other option but to be



“That is how a couple of friends and I started looking at alternatives to incarceration for kids”

Dr. Juan Sánchez

Southwest Key Programs

incarcerated. That is how a couple of friends and I started looking at alternatives to incarceration for kids. I wrote a grant proposal to the state and got funded.

La Voz: Looking back, what was the biggest challenge in launching **Southwest Key**?

Starting this non profit was a risky move. I was married and had three kids and was the only one employed in the family. I was jumping into something for which I had no money and no guarantees whatsoever, but I thought it was a great idea.

I took a significant cut in pay from my already moderate salary, but I knew it was the right thing to be doing. I believed in it so much that I knew once people learned about the work we were doing to keep kids out of jail, and that we were doing it effectively, the idea would catch on. And it did!

La Voz: What beliefs and principles guide **Southwest Key's** work?

We believe that all children deserve to live in a community where they are safe and where they can be successful and fulfill their dreams. To give children this opportunity, we must open the doors to a quality education. We also believe that the

young people we work with, despite how challenging their circumstances may be, have the ability and the intelligence to finish high school, go to college, and achieve the goals they have for themselves. Finally, we believe that this work must be led by people who represent the people we are serving, and we are proud that our entire agency is led by professionals of color, as the majority of the kids we serve are kids of color.

La Voz: How did the organization decide to locate its national headquarters in **East Austin**?

“Southwest Key serves our community-we do not just work here”

We received this land in the **Govalle/Johnston Terrace** neighborhood of **East Austin** as a donation. When we secured the land, we began working with community leaders and residents to determine what they wanted to see here - which is why we have a **Boys and Girls Club**, offer **GED/ESL** classes, have a community meeting space and computer lab - as well as the middle school - it all came from them. Their challenge to us was that if we really wanted to be a part of this community and participate in its transformation, then we should move our headquarters to this neighborhood. So we did.

La Voz: What services are available at the **Southwest Key;s El Centro de Familia**?

Dr. Sánchez: **El Centro de Familia** offers employment support, leadership development and community organizing activities, health and wellness education, homeownership services, and our very own middle school, the East Austin College Prep Academy. We

are proud to work with community partners to offer these services.

La Voz: How do you keep the grassroots community involved in **SWK's** community initiatives?

Dr. Sánchez: **Southwest Key** serves our community—we do not just work here. Integrating members of the community, as well as their input into our work, is very important to us. We formed a Community Development Advisory Council approximately seven years ago, which is composed of some of the longest-standing and most respected leaders in East Austin.

Our **East Austin Leadership Development Program** recruits and develops future grassroots leaders from the community. These individuals provide constant feedback about **Southwest Key's** community initiatives and are involved in decisions affecting their neighborhood and their lives.

We also periodically conduct door-to-door surveys to seek input from our neighbors and ask what they need and want – and then we focus our efforts around this input.

La Voz: We have been hearing a lot about the **Harlem Children Zone Project** and about those who want to bring this project to **Austin**. Tell us about **Southwest Key's** interest in this project.

Dr. Sánchez: The **Harlem Children's Zone** has been receiving significant attention as a result of **President Obama's Promise Neighborhoods Program**. Through this program, the federal government will provide funding to 20 cities across to the country to replicate the **HCZ** model, a neighborhood revitalization initiative that focuses on the success of children. This model and others have demonstrated that

when disadvantaged children and families are given opportunities to succeed, they do!

As I mentioned, we have been doing similar work in the **Govalle/Johnston Terrace Neighborhood** for years. This federal initiative gives us the opportunity to accelerate our already-existing efforts here. In fact, we have formally launched the East Austin Children's Promise to provide a comprehensive support network that will transform East Austin, one neighborhood at a time.

La Voz: Does **Southwest Key** believe that the **HCZ** project can be replicated here in **Austin**?

Dr. Sánchez: Absolutely. The need for significant investment in **East Austin**, particularly in the **Govalle/Johnston Terrace Neighborhood**, could not be clearer. Our community has a rich history of organizing and has supported **Southwest Key** to become a vital force for positive change in **East Austin**. We have all the components in place to lead the **East Austin Children's Promise**.

La Voz: It is my understanding that community organizing is a key component of the **HCZ** – how will the work that **SWK** has been doing in partnership with the **Govalle/Johnston Terrace** community associations, such as the leadership program and the “Vota” campaign, be enhanced through the replication of the model?

Dr. Sánchez: Community members and community associations have long been organized in the Govalle/Johnston Terrace Neighborhood and **Southwest Key** has been able to accelerate and broaden the depth of this work. The replication of the **HCZ** model as the East Austin Children's Promise will provide additional resources and connect the

organizing efforts to service delivery, which is where we can see more significant systemic change happen.

La Voz: What happens if Austin or **SWK** does not get this grant?

Dr. Sánchez: Austin will be challenged when competing against cities that have garnered much more national attention such as **Detroit** and **New Orleans** for issues related to poverty, unemployment, and a lack of opportunity for young people. So the process will be highly competitive, but we will do our best to demonstrate the needs of **East Austin**, as well as the potential of our well-organized community and the capacity of **Southwest Key** to lead this effort. But grant or no grant, we will continue our work in the **Govalle/Johnston Terrace Neighborhood**. We already have seven years invested in our neighborhood, work begun well before this federal initiative was announced.

La Voz: What kind of difference do you think this initiative will ultimately make for the lives of children in our communities with high needs?

Dr. Sánchez: Our efforts focus on investing in a community where, historically, a large portion of children have not been very successful in the existing public school system. We are going to provide an opportunity for these kids to develop the knowledge and skills they need to be academically successful and the self-confidence to aspire high.

We are simply not going to let children in this Children's Promise neighborhood fail any longer. We are not going to let them fail in school or get caught up in the juvenile justice system. We are going to eventually eliminate poverty in this community because our kids are going to graduate from college and have secure and desirable futures.

La Voz: Pues, muchas gracias por haber tomado el tiempo para hacer esta entrevista.

Dr. Sánchez: No, deveras fue un placer para mi. Gracias a usted.



“Our efforts focus on investing in a community where historically .”



Recordando a Emma

The passing of Emma Serrato Barrientos was a shock to everyone who knew her. At her funeral mass in Austin, Texas the church was standing room only. Many people came from out of town to say their last good-byes. On these two pages we bring you just a sampling of the many people who knew and loved her. Que en Paz Descanse.

I don't think it is coincidence that Emma Barrientos lived and died while living at Gem Circle. I'd like a proclamation at the legislative and municipal level in her honor. Gem is exactly what describes her.

Rebecca Cobos
Austin, Texas

She was a gem and a treasure to all of us and this community and state. She is and will be missed for her warmth, compassion, vitality and leadership. Her legacy is a great one.

Lulu Flores
Austin, Texas

Emma Barrientos was a very special lady. She raised wonderful children into outstanding adults while being an outstanding employee and the best political wife I ever knew. I never heard her raise her voice but I never knew anyone, child or adult, who wanted her unhappy with them. No one would turn down a request from Emma to do anything she wanted you to do because whatever she asked was a good cause. On top of all she did with her family this lady made a major contribution to the Austin Arts community. The MACC will be as much her memorial as any tombstone.

Sadly, Austin may not see anyone like Emma any time soon.

Peck Young
Director,
Center for Public Policy and Political Studies
Austin Community College

My condolences to the Barrientos Family!
Emma and Gonzalo will remain in our Prayers.
My memories of Emma are only positive ones.
She was the driving force behind the Barrientos
Community Advocacy. We feel the great loss
here in Cotulla. God Bless the Barrientos.

Roel Rodriguez,
Cotulla, Texas

"She was a true leader in our community. What she did in her life to bring about change por La Raza gives her permanent membership among our Chicano Huelgista Union brotherhood - past and present. Que Viva Emma! Que Viva La Causa!"

Lencho Hernandez,
Austin, Texas



Emma Serrato Barrientos
February 18, 1942 - December 28, 2009

Emma was the personification of dignity and grace. She exuded genuine warmth and a welcoming nature whenever you were around her. Emma was a woman of great integrity and deep compassion with a smile that warmed your heart. Her passing has left an enormous void for everyone who was touched by her presence.

Frank Fuentes
Chairman, United States
Hispanic Contractors Association

Losing Emma is like losing the Wind beneath the Wings of many Activists, and feminists, in Austin. We worked to dedicate the site of the present day MACC with her and the committee. She was a joy as a colleague and teacher, mentor and friend. Not only her family mourns her but all who knew her grace, kindness and compassion, will never see the likes of her anytime soon.

Diana Castaneda,
former chair of MACC1986-1992

Emma Barrientos



My friend, Emma, was a truly a grand lady. Others live life and soon fade just like the “sparks” of the great sun that offers us warmth and life. Emma’s life burned brightest and endured longest. I, too, would have voted for her.

Buddy Ruiz

My condolences go out to the Barrientos Family in this difficult time. My thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of grief. May God give your family the strength to move forward. May your memories bring you comfort. They always say “that behind every good man is a Great woman”. And in your case, that is so very true. Thank you so much Emma for your tireless service to the Democratic Party, Culture/Arts Center and Latino Community. You will be greatly missed!

Cruz Saldana,
San Antonio, Texas

As a new decade dawns, the struggle for justice and humanity that Emma made her lifetime work will no doubt continue through those whom she inspired to make a difference. I know that for all of us who loved and admired her, the memory of Emma’s radiant spirit while she was with us will brighten even our darkest day without her. To Emma’s beloved family, you are in our most fervent prayers. May the Lord’s presence in each of your lives bring you peace, comfort, and a blessed assurance of the hope of glory.

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34, 17-18

Mona Gonzalez,
Austin, Texas

Gonzalo, what can I say that everybody else hasn’t already said. I’m glad you married Emma or I would never have had known her. she was a beautiful lady inside and out, intelligent, loving, hospitable and hard working. When my dad died, I didn’t think the family reunions would be the same. Well now, I feel the same now that Emma has passed. She had conversations for everybody, and hug and a kiss when she greeted you. It really makes me sad. When Naomi called me with the sad news, I was shocked! I will really miss her. My condolences, thoughts and prayers are with you and family. I pray that God will give you the strength to go thru this sad time.

Una madre, hermana, amiga, consejera, y lidera - – that is how we felt about Emma. She blazed a trail in Austin that can never be replicated. Her passion for equality and fight for Hispanic political voices was truly an inspiration. We will always draw support from her spirit.

Judge Olga Seelig
Austin, Texas

Fellow Democrats,

It is with a heavy heart that I note the passing of Emma Barrientos, one of our most loyal and hard-working Travis County Democrats, and a personal friend. Her death Monday morning leaves us all saddened by the loss but wiser and more inspired by her time with us. Our thoughts especially go out to her husband, former State Senator Gonzalo Barrientos, and the rest of Emma’s large and loving family. Married since they were 18, Emma and Gonzalo are a remarkable duo who would have celebrated their 50th anniversary next year.

A tireless Democratic activist, Emma campaigned for Gonzalo for three decades while pursuing her own career with Travis County, the State of Texas and the University of Texas. Among her signature issues were registering Hispanics to vote, crusading to increase voter turnout and electing good Democrats. We are grateful that we had the chance to acknowledge Emma’s contributions at our Trio of Democratic Stars Brunch in October. She was committed to community service her whole life, and in an interview for our TCDP Newsletter before the brunch, she encouraged everyone to do the same. “Everyone should care and get involved,” she said. “We all have a civic duty. We all have certain gifts the Lord gave us. Some people run for office, some do other things. I really feel that everyone ought to be part of it.” As we prepare to celebrate the New Year, let’s remember the example of Emma Barrientos. Let’s all be involved in our community and make sure 2010 honors her memory.

Dear Gonzalo and family,
I was sorry sorry to hear about your sudden and unexpected loss. Besides being a beloved mother and wife, Emma touched many other people’s lives over generations. My parents and Aunts knew Emma for years in Austin’s Hispanic community. I got to know her when I became active in local politics. She was an inspiration. If you wanted something done, Emma was the one to help make it happen. I will always remember her as a shining example of community activism with heart. My heart goes out to you at this time and in the days ahead.

Elaine Casas,
Austin, Texas

Lucy Barrientos Velasquez
Robstown, Texas

Sincerely, **Andy Brown** Travis County Democratic Party Chair

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Sylvia Acevedo

One of Austin, Texas' biggest promoters of education is **Sylvia Acevedo**. As the CEO and founder of **CommuniCard, LLC**, a firm specializing in innovative education, communication, and workforce strategies and solutions that help organizations meet the demands of the 21st Century, **Sylvia** also puts in more than her fair share of community involvement time.

In 2007, **Acevedo** teamed with leading organizations such as **Austin Partners in Education** and Spanish media partners **Univision TV**, **Univision Radio**, and **Ahora Si** to create an event that would teach Spanish-speaking parents how to navigate the U.S. education system.

Acevedo's research revealed that parents didn't understand the lifetime economic value of a U.S. high school diploma or college degree among other cultural barriers that were largely contributing to gaps in the education process. To address the issues, **Acevedo** created the **Para Una Buena Vida™** campaign and launched the **Feria Para Aprender** event which debuted as the first community-wide Spanish language education event in **Austin**.

Acevedo is regarded as one of the country's foremost Hispanic strategists and thought leaders for today's demographic shifts. Her board positions include the national **Girl Scouts USA Board, Ann**

Richards School for Young Women Leaders, and **Austin Community Foundation** where she is president-elect and one of the only Hispanic community foundation presidents nationwide.

Acevedo was one of the first Hispanics (either gender) to earn a Masters in Engineering from **Stanford University**. She completed her undergraduate studies at **New Mexico State University** where she graduated with honors and later served on its Board of Regents. **Acevedo's** early career was spent as a rocket scientist for the **Jet Propulsion Laboratories** followed by 20 years in executive positions for Fortune 100 companies, such as **IBM**, **DELL**, and **Apple**.



Dan Arellano

Dan Arellano is one of the busiest community activists in **Austin, Texas**. He is the President of the **Tejano Genealogy Society of Austin**, Treasurer of the **State wide History and Hispanic Genealogy Society of Texas**, and Vice President of **LULAC Council 4882**.

He has also served as past president of the **Greater Southwest Austin Optimist Club**, past Recorder for the **Knights of Columbus San Jose Parish**, past commander of the **Tejanos in Action** a veteran's organization. **Dan** is also co-chair of **Unidos**, a civil rights activist organization.

During his watch the **Tejanos in Action** were responsible for the renaming of the **South Austin Post Office** to the **Staff Sergeant Henry Ybarra III**, a casualty in the war in Iraq.

Dan also chaired the committee in the **Austin and Travis County Exhibit** to honor our veterans that ran for six months at the **Austin History Center**. He also led the efforts to have **Johnston High School** renamed to **East Side Memorial** in memory of the 20 young men killed while in service to their country.



Danny Camacho

Danny Camacho leads a quiet life on the Eastside where he has lived for more than 70 years. But if you want to find him, you need to go downtown to the **Austin History Center** where he puts in time as a volunteer researcher.

On April 12, 2006, the **Austin Public Library** and the **Austin History Center** honored **Camacho** for all that he has done over the years to dig up historical records on the Mexican American community in Austin. This past summer, **Camacho** proudly announced that he had found a newspaper article that on a 16th of September celebration that took place in **Austin** in the 1870s.

According the volunteer records at the library **Mr. Camacho** has logged in more than 2,100 hours as

a volunteer. **Camacho** as his mother **Grandma Lorraine Camacho** understood that making a difference in the community getting out there and putting in the time.



Diana Castañeda

Diana Castañeda is a long time community activist in **Austin, Texas**. As a 1970 graduate of **Travis High School**, she had been an active member of numerous community organizations, including **Girl Scouts**, the **Mexican American Democrats (MAD)** and her neighborhood associations.

Castañeda, who has run for public office on several occasions, won a position on the **Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees** in 1992. Her aunt, **Consuelo Mendez** was one of the first Mexican American teachers in **Austin**. **Castañeda** says, "I didn't know it at the time, but when my relatives were discussing the issues of the day, I often overheard their comments and insight and it would be years later that I would draw upon those beliefs and truths to help me in my community work today."

The mother of five children and 10 grandchildren, she has been involved with **Unidos de Austin** and serves as an officer in the statewide **NOW** (National Organization for Women) **Diana Castañeda** is one of those few persons who finds time to extend a helping hand any way she can.



photo taken by Grace McEvoy

Gloria Espitia

Gloria Espitia was born and raised in **Victoria, Texas**. She received her Bachelor's and Master of Library Science degrees from **Texas Woman's University** in **Denton, Texas**. Prior to joining the **Austin History Center/Austin Public Library** in March 2008 as Neighborhood Liaison to the Mexican American Community, **Gloria** was a librarian with the **Victoria College/University** of in **Victoria, Texas** for twenty-six years.

As Neighborhood Liaison, **Gloria** is committed to assuring that the history of our local community is preserved and documented. Since the 1870's, Mexican Americans have played a very important role in the formation of **Austin's** history but very little has been published and their contributions have gone unrecognized for too long.

It is for this reason that **Espitia** and the **Austin History Center** worked tirelessly sponsoring projects such as the **Preserving the Voices of our Mexican American Elderly; Memorias Mexicano American en Austin y el condado de Travis**; and the **Mexican American Firsts: Trailblazers of Austin and Travis County**.



The 21 Hardest Working Community Activists in Austin, Texas



Tim Eubanks

Tim Eubanks is the lead community organizer for **Austin Voices for Education and Youth**. Originally from the state of **Pennsylvania**, **Eubanks** has been with **Austin Voices** for five years.

As the lead community organizer, **Tim** coordinates and develops the advocacy and critical thinking skills of high school students through initiatives at **Garza** and **Reagan High Schools**. He instructs students in ways to apply the lessons of social justice movements of the past and present to today's struggle for educational justice.

Currently, he is coordinating efforts with the **Ready By 21 Coalition** to establish a Youth Council to improve social service delivery and leadership opportunities for young people in the **Austin** area. **Eubanks** states, *"I believe that if you present leadership opportunities to young people, they will step up to the challenge and give it their best."*

Tim was awarded the **Barbara Jordan Public Service Award** from the **LBJ School of Public Affairs** in 2006 and the "Si Se Puede" **Cesar Chavez** award from **PODER** in 2007. **Tim** is also a spoken word performer and has appeared at **Resistencia Book Store** on a couple of occasions. He is a graduate of **Antioch College**.



Richard Franklin

Richard Franklin has been a long time community advocate and was recently elected to the school board of the **Del Valle Independent School District**.

Most recently **Franklin** has been support a group of parents who are trying to convince the Superintendent that they should be allowed to start a PTA. It doesn't take very long to discover that after listening to **Richard Franklin** speak, you see and feel his passion for the community.

He also heads up a community group called the **African American Mentoring Project**, which he founded in 2007. This organization targets middle school students and works to empower them through after school activities. **Franklin** has worked in the financial industry and attended college at **The Ohio State University**.



Maribel Garza

Maribel A. Garza was born in 1969 and is a former elementary bilingual teacher and children's librarian. She is currently on leave from the Cultural Studies in Education Doctoral program at **UT Austin**, where her dissertation work centers on Indigenous (from the Earth) ways of being and the power of storytelling for cultural preservation and empowerment.

During her time in **Austin** she has worked with **Susana Almanza**, co-director of **PODER**, and trained as a consultant and organizer. That experience led her to do more community work with **Resistencia Bookstore/Red Salmon Arts** and to work as volunteer editor for **Latinitas Magazine**.

In the 2008, **Maribel** was invited to be a founding member of the **Alma de Mujer Local Council**. and later accepted the position of Director for **Alma de Mujer Center for Social Change**. She is currently developing diverse cultural and arts programming that is relevant to the **Xican@** (Chicano/Chicana) communities of **Austin** that will focus on young women and athletic development through exercise, traditional dance, and nutrition.



Laura Hernandez

Laura Hernandez is the **Executive Director** of the **Travis County Democratic Party**. In this position she is in charge of the day to day activities of the organization. Prior to accepting this position, **Hernandez**

served as a staffer on the 2008 Coordinated Campaign of the **Democratic Party**.

She was born and raised in **Houston** and then moved with her family to **El Paso**, Texas during her junior high school years. She graduated from **The University of Texas at Austin** in 2008 and was very active in political causes. During her senior year she served as the President of the **University Democrats at UT**. **Hernandez** plans to one day attend law school and plans on remaining involved in politics.



Tom Herrera

Tom Herrera is one of those quiet activists. He doesn't draw attention to himself, he just goes out and does what he says he is going to do. Now approaching 70 years young, **Mr. Herrera** shows no signs of slowing down. He is still active with the **Texas State Employees Union** after having retired from the **Texas Department of Human Service** in 1996 after 29 years

A graduate of **Texas A & I University**, **Mr. Herrera** is the chairman of his voting precinct 413, works with the **Elroy Community Library**, finds time to volunteer at the **South East Austin Library** and **Dove Springs Recreation Center** and has worked part-time with the **Census Bureau** for the last 10 years. He is also working this year with the **Census Bureau**.



Valerie Joiner

Valerie is a ten year employee with **Southwest Key Programs National Headquarters** located in **Austin, Texas**. She is currently the Executive Assistant for **Jennifer Nelson**, Chief Operations Officer at **Southwest Key Programs**.

Valerie is responsible for administrative, clerical and operational duties providing professional and equal support to all 55 programs within the six states that **Southwest Key** currently operates in. **Valerie** has also played an active role in developing the **East Austin Leadership Development Program**.

Valerie came to **Southwest Key** in April 1999 and has over 23 years of investment banking/management experience. She was born in **Miami, Florida** and grew up in **Vero Beach, Florida**. **Valerie** attended **Florida A & M University** in **Tallahassee, Florida** where she studied Journalism/Public Relations. **Valerie** is a faithful member of the **Eastside Church of Christ** here in **Austin, Texas** and she enjoys singing songs of praise, reading and writing.

Valerie is widowed and she has a son, **Harvey** (United States Marine Corps). **Harvey** is the joy of her heart. She enjoys scrap booking chronicles of **Harvey's** life because she is blessed to have raised him as a single M.O.M. (Motivator of Men).

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Carmen Llanes

Carmen is a native Austinite who grew up "on both sides of I-35." She began organizing with **PODER** as a college intern in the summer of 2005, when police shootings on the East side had become an issue as searing as the record-breaking heat.

After graduating from the **University of Chicago** A.B. '07 with a degree in Environmental Studies, she immediately returned to **Austin** to work for **PODER** and engage in local community efforts for environmental justice.

Carmen co-facilitates **PODER's** youth and health-related programs, such as the **Young Scholars for Justice** and **Nahui Ollin Healthy Communities** programs; coordinates the development and restoration of **Oak Springs Preserve**; and represents **PODER** on the Youth Leadership Development core group for the bi-national Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (SNEEJ),

Over the last two years she has worked for and alongside **Southwest Key Programs**, first as a coordinator for the **East Austin Vota! Campaign** in 2008, organizing candidate forums and voter outreach, and currently as a volunteer with **Southwest Key's East Austin Leadership Development Program**.



Daniel Llanes

Daniel Llanes is a very unique community activist in Austin, Texas. Not only is he involved with community based organizations such as his neighborhood civic association and city of Austin planning entities, he is also active a folk healer.

Daniel is a practitioner of traditional **Aztec** healing techniques and plant medicine, specializing in the use of the **Temascal**, the medicinal Aztec sweat lodge. He is a 3rd degree **Reiki Master**, is adept in **Mahikari**, laying of hands and deep tissue cell memory release work.

Daniel has studied these practices since 1992 with **Modesta Lavana**, who comes from an unbroken line of curadoras from **Huayapan, Morelos, Mexico**. In 1995, he began working and traveling with **Valentina Iuriuchenko**, world-renowned Russian spiritual healer.

In 2004, **Daniel** was awarded a **Webber Foundation** grant to create and comprehensive arts environmental awareness program utilizing poetry, music and dance. In 2006, he was the first recipient of the **Cesar Chavez "Si Se Puede Award"** given by **PODER**. **Daniel Llanes** is originally from **San Antonio, Texas**.



Michael Lofton

Michael Lofton is one of the most dynamic community activists in **Austin, Texas**. Since 1993, he has hosted the **Michael Lofton Talk Show** on Public Access Channel 16. For anyone involved in producing a television show, it is a well known fact that many hours go into the planning and delivery of such a program. This weekly show is dedicated to informing the public about the pressing issues of the day.

In 2006, as if Mr. Lofton did not have going on in his life, he founded the **African American Men and Boys Conference** because many young men do not have father figures in their homes. Over the past three years this program has seen 300 to 500 people attend and engage in dialogue through workshops and formal presentations at various **Austin Independent School District Schools**.

As the popularity of these Saturday conferences took off, **Lofton** found himself being asked, "*What about the girls in the community?*" Responded to community demands and building on the success of the **Men and Boys Conference**, he started the first **African American Women and Girls Conference** in 2007. **Michael Lofton** is one of those few individuals who puts his heart into his work. He deserves all the recognition and support we can give him.



Patricia D. Lopez

Every once in a while a graduate student comes to **The University of Texas at Austin** with more than just a desire to earn a Ph.D. This is definitely the case with **Patricia D. Lopez** who hails from **Visalia, California**.

Lopez, who has a long history of community activism in **California** with the **Chicano Latino Resource Center** and other small grass roots non-profits, believes she can make a difference in the lives children by helping to formulate good public policies in the field of education.

After earning an A.A. from **San Mateo Community College** in 2005 and a B.A. from the **University of California at Santa Cruz** in 2007, **Lopez** headed straight for **Texas** to study with the nationally recognized **Dr. Angela Valenzuela**. In the three years since she has been in **Austin**, **Lopez** has participated in three academic research studies, worked at the **Texas Center for Education Policy**, provided testimony and research assistance to over 30 Texas legislators on House Bill 3 and earned a masters degree.

As she works to complete her doctorate in educational administration, **Lopez** continues to explore the politics of education public policy not only on children in the public schools but also on their parents.



Susan Moffat

A former journalist and legislative researcher, **Susan Moffat** is a longtime Austinite who works on issues related to education, the economy and workers' rights.

She began her local activism in the 1990s, when, as co-president of her neighborhood association, she helped lead a successful fight to keep **Ridgetop Elementary** from being closed, preserving the school's outstanding programs for young English language learners who are the majority of its students.

In 2007, **Moffat** became a leader in the **Austin Sweat-free Campaign**, which led to the city's adoption of the **Procurement Code for Humane Workplace Conditions**. This ordinance, the first of its kind in **Texas**, ensures that the \$2 million in tax money the city spends each year on uniforms and garments does not go to suppliers who engage in sweatshop abuses, including sexual abuse or intimidation, illegal workplace hazards, overtime or wage violations or the use of child, indentured or slave labor. **Travis County** later adopted a similar policy, making it the first **Texas** county to do so.

During this period, **Moffat** was also a founding member of **Austin Full Circle**, a volunteer coalition that helped educate the public about the negative effects of big box

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chains on local wages and the health and safety impacts on nearby neighbors. This effort resulted in the enactment of a city ordinance that now requires a public hearing for any proposed retail project over 100,000 square feet.

Moffat currently serves as the **Education Chair of Liveable City** (www.liveablecity.org), where she has worked tirelessly to increase equity and transparency in the **Austin Independent School District** (AISD). She also worked as part of the "Stand Up for Reagan" Legislative Action Team in an effort to bring common sense and flexibility to **Texas'** school accountability laws and, specifically, to support **Reagan High School** and **Pearce Middle School**, which were both facing possible closure under state law.

Moffat is married to **Austin Chronicle** publisher **Nick Barbaro** and they are the parents of an **AISD** senior. If she had any spare time, she would spend it reading, dancing, or eating spaghetti.



Mike Manor

Mike Manor is a native Austinite and graduate of **The University of Texas at Austin**. As an administrator with **Travis County Health & Human Services** for many years, he brings a wealth of knowledge and insight to the many community activities which he is involved with.

Among those many organizations, **Mike Manor** has served with or on include: the **Community Action Network**, the **Austin/Travis County Ending Community Homelessness Coalition**, and the **Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities**. Most recently he also served on the **Board of Directors of Capital METRO**.

One project that **Mike Manor** gives a lot of his time to is the **Austin Area Interreligious Ministries**. As a licensed minister, **Mike** understands the spiritual importance of the journey called life. In conversation one immediately notices they are speaking with a man who is extremely smart and insightful about a wide variety of subjects.

As an activist one thing that should be said about **Mike Manor** is that he understands the importance of the phrase of "either we hang together or we will hang by ourselves." On almost every occasion, where I have had the privilege of listening to him speak, he is passionate about resounding this theme.



Marcelo Tafoya

Marcelo Tafoya, has without a doubt, the longest history of community activism of all the people featured on these four pages. Starting way back in the 1960s, **Mr. Tafoya** was the first Tejano/Chicano/La Onda disc jockey in **Austin, Texas**. He had a

radio show on **KUT** and **KAZZ** and **KGTTN** in the 1960s and produced the first Hispanic Television show in **Austin, Texas** called **Austin Presenta**.

This program aired such greats as **Sunny Ozuna**, **The Miracles** (Tierra Tejana) and many many others. At the same time he was involved directly in the media, he was constantly holding live music events at the old **Palmer Events Center** and running a record shop which he owned with musician **Roy Montelongo**.

In the 1960s **Mr. Tafoya** got into the newspaper publishing business with a publication called, **Musica** and another one called, **The Echo** (A radical newspaper for the benefit of the people.)

Today **Mr. Tafoya** remains active in the Latino community. He is the **Director of LULAC District 12** and is often present at community events as a speaker and observer. He has a huge Tejano musica memorabilia collection and is currently looking for a place to house and share this collection with the public.



Eleanor Thompson

Eleanor Thompson is an activist best known for her involvement in political campaigns with the Democratic Party. In every election cycle, Eleanor is on board someone's campaign.

Originally from **Austin**, **Eleanor** is a proud 1961 graduate of **L.C. Anderson High School**. She attended **Texas Southern University** in **Houston** and **Washburn University** in **Topeka, Kansas**.

After working for the **United States Air Force** she became a union organizer for **AFSCME**. She was then recruited by the **Travis County Democratic Party** in 1990 to work on its coordinated campaign staff. This year she will have completed 20 years of working for various candidates and causes.

Eleanor has two children and two grandchildren.



Alan Weeks

Allen Weeks is a community organizer and activist in the **St. John** neighborhood of northeast **Austin**. As president of the **St. John Neighborhood Association** and co-founder of the **St. John Community School Alliance**, **Weeks** has organized neighbors to increase social services, support schools and reduce crime.

In 2006, he led the successful effort to keep **Webb Middle School** open. Today, he and his wife **Julie** direct a **Family Resource Center** at **Webb** that supported over 360 families in 2008-09 with employment, education, housing, health and other services. **Weeks** is also active supporting **Reagan HS** and **Pearce MS**, and is committed to supporting excellent community schools built on community partnerships.

Allen Weeks holds degrees from **Washington and Lee, Duke** and **UT**, and was a teacher in **Virginia** for 15 years before coming to **Austin**. He also worked overseas in community development, including **India** and **Pakistan**. His wife **Julie** is a nurse, and has also worked overseas in west **Africa**. The **Weeks** have two children, **Ashley** (5) and **Ryan** (3). He and his family are members of **Covenant Presbyterian Church**.



Ofelia Zapata

Ofelia Zapata was born in **Amarillo, Texas** and raised in **Austin**. For the past 20 years she has been a community activist with **Austin Interfaith** out of her home parish of **San Jose Catholic Church**.

Austin Interfaith is a multi-ethnic, multi-issue coalition of 30 religious congregations, public schools and union who work together to address issues that affect the well being of families. **Ofelia**, who lives in **Dove Springs**, has mastered the **Ernie Cortez** lessons on what it takes to get people motivated and involved in changing their community.

She currently serves as a member of the **William Cannon Community Care Advisory Board**, which is working to expand the new health clinic in **South East Austin**. **Ofelia's** quiet demeanor should never be mistaken for a weak or shy woman, she knows how to fight and get things done in her community.

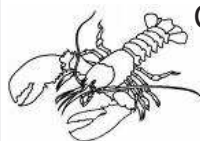
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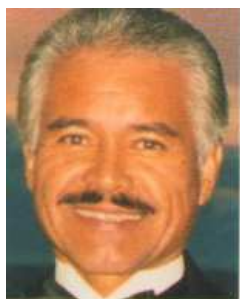
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CENSO 2010

IMPORTANTE

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basado en datos obtenidos por el Censo de los Estados Unidos

SEGURO

Por ley, la oficina del Censo no puede compartir las respuestas de una persona con nadie, incluyendo agencias federales, estatales y locales; tales como inmigración. La oficina del Censo solo cuenta cuántas personas están viviendo en los Estados Unidos.

FÁCIL

Cada hogar recibirá un cuestionario que será sencillo y breve para llenar y devolver. Si lo devuelve para Abril 1, 2010, nadie tendrá que visitarle para obtener respuestas.

PREGUNTAS: (210) 224-5476

www.maldef.org

Fundada en 1968, MALDEF es la organización latina de derechos civiles líder en la nación. Descrita como el bufete de abogados de la comunidad latina, MALDEF promueve el cambio social a través de la defensa legal, las comunicaciones, la educación de la comunidad y el litigio en las áreas de educación, empleo, derechos de los inmigrantes y acceso político.



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2010 CENSUS: **ESTA EN NUESTRAS MANOS!**



I'm not a hero... yet.

Marco, Criminal Justice student

ACC was always my first choice. I graduated from Johnston High (class of 2008) with honors and big plans to become an Austin police officer and eventually — a detective. Getting a scholarship from the ACC Foundation was incredible. Every year hundreds of ACC students get scholarships and get a shot at their dreams. Hopefully I can become a positive role model to the younger kids in my community. That's my goal.

Learn to be ACC www.austincc.edu/iamacc



Austin Association of Hispanic Firefighters

An affinity group is defined as a group of people having a common interest or goal or acting together for a specific purpose. The **Austin Association of Hispanic Firefighters** (AAHF) is just that, a group of firefighters within the **Austin Fire Department** who have a common interest and goals and act together for a specific purpose.

Since 1994, their common interests have been multi-faceted, from striving for the highest levels of professionalism in the fire service and for the advancement and promotion of all firefighters through the removal of barriers that may hinder their opportunity to achieve full potential, to contributing to the goal of all people in our community sharing in equal access to the Fire Department's services, including employment opportunities.

As firefighters, they feel the need and obligation of increasing the exposure of Hispanics in the Fire Department to serve as role models in the Hispanic Community. By doing so, they accomplish their goals of maintaining and cultivating the Hispanic



heritage and building stronger ties within the **Austin Fire Department** and the Austin Community. The AAHF are involved in and volunteer their time and efforts with various community projects and events throughout the year. The **River City Youth Foundation** annual Merry Memories and Easter events, Coat for Kids and other community fundraisers are just a few of the activities that the AAHF have taken part in. Their hopes are to establish an education/college fund, and by collaborating with other community groups

and sponsors, are hoping to begin planning their first annual Fundraising Christmas Holiday Ball this year. For more information on their efforts and activities visit their website www.NAHFaustin.com.

The Austin Fire Department is currently planning for an employment application period later this year that will be open to those interested in a career in the fire service. The Austin Association of Hispanic Firefighters (AAHF) offers a Fire Candidate Mentoring Program for those individuals interested in pursuing a fire service career. For more information about a firefighting career and details of their Candidate Mentoring Program contact them at career@NAHFAustin.com or visit their website www.NAHFaustin.com.

The **Austin Association of Hispanic Firefighters** (AAHF) is a non-profit organization and is always seeking sponsors and partners in their community efforts. If interested in partnering and/or sponsoring, contact them at info@NAHFAustin.com.

Scholarship to The University of Texas at Austin

The Department of Community and Regional Planning is still looking for good students to apply for its Masters degree program. For those interested in community development the Department of Community and Regional Planning in the School of Architecture is a good prospect. Tuition assistance is available for those accepted into the program. For more information contact Tasha Phillips, nphillips4@gmail.com, or Dr. Talia McCray, tmccray@austin.utexas.edu, for more information. More information about our program can be found at the following website: <http://soa.utexas.edu/>

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Calendar of Events

January 6th, 2010 - Grand Opening of the Austin Census Bureau Office 4129 S Commercial Austin, Texas

January 12th, 2010 - South Austin Democrats Travis County Candidate's Forum 5:30pm to 8:30 pm at Garner Betts Juvenile Justice Center 2515 South Congress Ave. in the Court Room Free Pizza!

January 12th, 2010 - Young Hispanic Professional Austin Association Information Sessions and Happy Hour. For those interested in becoming a member of YHPAA , you are invited to attend one of two info sessions;January 12th from 5:00pm to 8:00pm at Blu, 360 Nueces Street in Austin, Texas or on January 15th, 2010 at La Palapa at off of 290 East. For more information email: president@yhpaa.org

January 13th, 2010 - Raul Alvarez for County Commissioner - Campaign Headquarters Grand Opening from 5 to 8pm 2308 E. Cesar Chavez, Suite B, Austin, TX 78702 - Next to Juan in a Million For more info contact campaign at Email: AlvarezCampaign@msn.com Phone: 512/637-0881

January 13th, 2010 - Eve Schatelowitz Alcantar Fundraiser and Food Drive 5:30 to 7:30pm at Ranch 616. As with all events held on behalf of the campaign for Eve Schatelowitz Alcantar, the fundraiser on Jan. 13th will be a combined effort. We are conducting a food drive to benefit local food pantries for the homeless and for the Capital Area Food Bank. All who attend are asked to, please, bring at least two non-perishable food items to the event. Of course, we welcome campaign donations, too!

January 13, 2010 - Fundraiser for Karen Sage, candidate for Judge 299th District Court. Location: Nuevo Leon Restaurant 1501 East 6th Street Austin, Texas For more information call: 590-9864

January 14th, 2010 - Austin Young Republicans meeting 6:00pm at the Texas Embassy 706 East 6th Street Austin, Texas Officer Positions up for Election: President, Vice President, Treasurer & Secretary.

January 15-16th, 2009 - Tejano Democrats Endorsement Convention in Austin, Texas at Austin Doubletree Hotel, 6505 IH-35 (512) 454-3737 For more information contact Sandra Tenorio at (512) 423-2470

January 20th, 2010 Hispanic Bar Association Endorsement Meeting 5:30pm at the Travis County Commissioners Court 314 West 14th Street Austin, Texas For more information contact Jana Ortega at (512) 469-9900

January 21st, 2010 - Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Annual Members Meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel 6121 North Interstate 35 Austin, Texas 6:00pm to 7:30pm Complimentary appetizers and cash bar. For more information call (512) 476-7502

January 28th, 2010 - Austin Tejano Democrats Candidate Forum. Event starts at 6:00pm at Millennium Youth Complex 1156 Hargrave in Austin, Texas For more information contact Fred Cantu at (512) 698-4805

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, 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.

justice	justicia
candidate	candidato
election	elección
primary	primaria
support	apoyar
elect	elejir
vote	vote
donate	donar
help	ayuda



We currently need 12-15 Spanish-speaking mentors to be matched with eager students on campuses throughout Austin. To learn more, visit our website www.cisaustin.org or call 464-9764.
Habla Español.

Making Connections that Make a Difference



The Mentoring Matters program, a collaboration between Communities in Schools and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas, matches caring adults with elementary and middle school students in order to build one-on-one relationships that have lasting impacts.

La Peña presents "Toma Mi Corazon" on Saturday, February 6th, 2010. The 18th annual art exhibit and silent auction fundraiser will be taking place at their gallery space at 227 Congress Avenue in Downtown **Austin**. The event kicks off at 4:30 pm with a preview party featuring food, drinks, and live music followed by the silent auction at 6:00 pm. Admission to the preview party is \$10, which includes entrance to the silent auction.

Admission to the silent auction only is \$5.

For eighteen years **La Peña** has invited everyone to "Take My Heart" as hundreds of wooden hearts given out and decorated by artists, children, and many others. Then they are sold in a silent auction where the proceeds from the heart sales are used help support **La Peña's** arts and educational programming. **Toma Mi Corazón** is not only people's chance to help support **La Peña** but also own some unique, original artwork. Many hearts are currently on display at **La Peña's** gallery and more will continue to come in as the auction approaches.

La Peña is an interdisciplinary cultural and educational organization dedicated to the enhancement of art in all its forms. **La Peña's** mission is to support artistic development, provide exposure for emerging local visual artists, musicians, poets and other performing artists, and offer Austin's visitors and residents the full spectrum of traditional and contemporary Latino art. More information can be found at <http://www.lapena-austin.org>.



Art Exhibit & Silent Auction Fundraiser

Saturday, February 6, 2010

Save the Date & Donate Your Art Today!

Austin Students Invited to African American Men & Boy's Conference

The next **African American Men and Boy's Conference** will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, January 30, at **Reagan High School**, located at 7104 Berkman Drive.

The keynote speaker will be **Texas Senator Royce West**. **Senator West** has served in the Texas Senate, representing District 23 in **Dallas County**, since 1993. Senator West's key education initiatives have included creating the **Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center** at **Prairie View A&M University**, increasing funding for at-risk youth programs, addressing the problems of criminal street gang violence and establishing new standards for child care. He also established a Student Advisory Committee to obtain student perspectives on legislative issues and to expose them to volunteer opportunities in the community. **Senator West** is also a partner in the law firm of **West & Associates, L.L.P.**

Workshops will be held for parents, students and educators. Workshop topics will include life skills and employment, and responsible relationships.

Refreshments will be provided and door prizes will be given. For more information, call conference sponsor **Michael Lofton** at 585-6696.

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