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People in the News



Mrs. Orozco Passes Away After Long Active Life

Aurora Orozco, 92, of **Cuero** passed away Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2011 in **Austin**. She was born May 8, 1918 in **Cerralvo, Nuevo Leon, Mexico** to the late **Lorenzo Estrada** and **Gertudis Toscano**.

She married **Primitivo Orozco** in 1950 in **Mercedes, Texas**. A 1938 graduate of **Mercedes High School**, **Aurora** attended the **University of Texas at Austin, Extension Course in Business** from 1947-49. She was employed as a salesperson for **Lieberman's Department Store** in **Cuero** from 1967 to 1985.

She was a well-known Mexican-American community leader in **Cuero** from the 1960s to the late 1980s and served as secretary of **Familias Unidas** of **Cuero** from 1975 to 1977 and as a member of the **Cuero Voter Registration and Education Organization** from 1987 to 1992, as well as secretary and member of the **League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)** from 1972 to 1975 and from 1978 to 1982, respectively.

She also served as a member of the **City of Cuero City Council Advisory Committee** from 1985 to 1990, and juror for the **DeWitt County Grand Jury** in 1979 and 1984. Her participation at **Our Lady of Guadalupe Church** included president of the Church Council from 1972 to 1981; president and secretary of **Las Guadalupanas** from 1971 to 1981 and 1989 to 1992, respectively; and bilingual lector from 1976 to 1999.

After seeing her six children graduate from college, she became a writer, penning both poems and short stories and volunteered at the **Mexic-Arte Museum** from 1984 to 2010. In 2001, **Aurora** attended **President George W. Bush First State Dinner for President Fox** of **Mexico** with daughter **Sylvia**.

Among her publications are "Mexican Blood Runs Through My Veins," in *Speaking Chicana, Voice, Power, and Identity* in 1999. Unpublished literary works include her autobiography and over 35 short stories, 50 poems, 10 political essays, and multiple travel logs.

An article about **Aurora** written by her daughter, **Dr. Cynthia E. Orozco**, appeared in 2006 in *Latinas in the United States: a Historical*. **Aurora** enjoyed reading novels, reading newspapers, visiting museums, traveling, crocheting, and embroidery.

She is survived by her daughters, **Maria Teresa Orozco** of **Houston**, **Sylvia Orozco** of **Austin**, and **Irma Orozco** (Claudio Lopez) of **San Antonio**; her sons, **Eddie Orozco** of **Houston** and **Robert Orozco** of **San Antonio**; and **Dr. Cynthia Orozco** of **New Mexico**, sisters, **Ketta Flores** and **Tules Estrada**, both of **Mercedes**; brother, **Alejandro Estrada** (Gloria) of **Mercedes**; She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband.



Fernandez Promoted to Assistant Director at the City of Austin

Rolando Fernandez Jr. currently serves as the **City of Austin Assistant Director of the Contract and Land Management Department**. Prior to this, **Fernandez** served as the Assistant to **Austin City Manager Marc Ott** from August 2008 to October 2010. As Assistant to the City Manager, **Fernandez** provided leadership to numerous corporate initiatives and administrative support to the City Manager.

Fernandez began his career with the **City of Austin** in 2006 serving as the Executive Assistant to the **Assistant City Manager Michael McDonald**, providing leadership to the Community Service Group and Public Safety Services.

The **Texas** native earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice and an associate degree in psychology from **Wayland Baptist University**. He attended **St. Mary's University** for graduate school and received a master's in public administration graduating with Distinguished Graduate Honors. He is also a graduate of the **USAF School of Aerospace Physiology**, **USAF Instructor School** and the **USAF Airman Leadership**.



Landeros Joins the Public Relations Crowd in Austin

Alexandra Maria Landeros is the Owner/Founder **Plum Communications & PR**.

Originally from **Los Angeles** with deep roots in **Aguascalientes, Mexico**, **Alexandra** graduated from **Carnegie Mellon University** in

1998 with a B.A. in History and Public Policy, along with a minor in Film and Media Studies.

After moving to **Austin** that same year to pursue film and music, she returned to one of her first loves - acting - and was a **Vortex Repertory Company** member for three years. She continued her violin studies while working at **Blackberry Violin Shop**, playing in several bands, and she then returned to school to earn an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from **Texas State University**.

She works as the Public Relations Director for **Mexic-Arte Museum**, and she has recently launched her own business, **Plum Communications & PR** providing services to independent entrepreneurs and musicians. When she has free time, she still enjoys playing the fiddle, makes short films to entertain her friends, spends vacations in the Big Bend desert, and pursues an environmentally sustainable lifestyle.



Deborah Paredez Named interim director of CMAS

The dean of the **College of Liberal Arts** has named **Dr. Deborah Paredez** the interim director of the Center for Mexican American Studies

Paredez holds a Ph.D. from the Interdisciplinary Theatre and Drama Program at **Northwestern University**. She teaches courses about race and performance in the Department of Theatre, the **Center**

for Mexican American Studies, and the **Center for African & African American Studies**.

Her recent scholarship has focused on U.S. Latina/o performance and popular culture. Her articles, "Remembering Selena, Re-membering Latinidad," (*Theatre Journal*, 2002) and "Becoming Selena, Becoming Latina" (*Women and Migration in the US-Mexico Borderlands*, **Duke University Press**, 2007) comprise part of her book, *Selenidad: Selena, Latinos, and the Performance of Memory* (Duke University Press 2009), that explores the afterlife of the Tejana performer, **Selena Quintanilla Perez**.

Deborah served as Associate Director of the Center for Mexican American Studies for the 2009-2010 year and also continues her work as **Director of Arts and Community Engagement (ACE)** in the **Vice President's Office for Diversity and Community Engagement**.



Andy Imutan Passes Away in the Philippines

One of the original farm workers who set in motion the modern farm worker movement that helped **Cesar Chavez** become a national figure passed away last month. In the next issue of **La Voz de Austin** we will have full coverage of his life work and struggle for social justice.

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Pensamientos para marzo

Rally and March in Austin

Austin Voices for Education and Youth is helping to organize the Rally and March at the State Capitol on March 12th, 2011. Over 10,000 people are expected to attend from all over the state. Locally, 100 students and parents from each of the 113 public school in **Austin, Texas** are expected to attend. The event will begin with a march at **Waterloo Park** and arrive at the Capitol at noon. For more information please call (512) 450-1880. You can also get more information at the following website. www.savetxschools.org.

Changing the Topic

Austin Police Commander Ernesto Pedraza has decided to run for the office **Constable of Precinct 4** in 2012. He will be running against **Maria Canchola** the incumbent. While the pursuit of public office should always be welcomed, in **Commander Pedraza's** case it appears that he is shooting too low.

With all of his training and 33 years in law enforcement, it seems as though **Commander Pedraza**, who earns \$130,422 a year should be running for a higher office. Maybe something like Sheriff of Travis County. Now that would be a step up!

Are People in Austin Too Nice?

I have only been a resident of **Austin, Texas** for six years and in this time I have come to notice several things that strike me as odd or unusual. For one, it seems like people tend to preface direct comments with the phrase, "I'm sorry. . . but . . ." and then continue on with what ever it is they were going to say.

The other thing I have noticed in my short time here is the use of the word "comfortable." I once saw a person on television tell a reporter who asked them a direct question, "Well, I'm not comfortable answering that question" What? I said to myself, well that's why the reporter asked you the question the way he did. It's not suppose to be a comfortable question. Que pasó?

Maybe those of us who grew up in South Texas are use to a different way of life. Maybe if I stay in Austin another six years, I will get that comfort feeling.

The graph below is something that we found extremely interesting. Visit the Texas Tribune website for a lot more interesting graphs like this one.

TOP TEN SUPERINTENDENT SALARIES			
SUPERINTENDENT	BASE SALARY	ENROLLMENT	PAY PER STUDENT
CARROL THOMAS BEAUMONT ISD	\$334,212	19,309	\$17.31
MELODY JOHNSON FORT WORTH ISD	\$324,450	79,285	\$4.09
MICHAEL HINOJOSA DALLAS ISD	\$317,444	157,352	\$2.02
LOUIS STORNER ALIEF ISD	\$306,781	45,230	\$6.78
TERRY GRIER HOUSTON ISD	\$300,000	200,225	\$1.50
JERRY ROY LEWISVILLE ISD	\$298,231	50,216	\$5.94
RICHARD MIDDLETON NORTH EAST ISD	\$287,844	63,452	\$4.54
DAVID ANTHONY CYPRESS FARMBANKS ISD	\$279,320	100,685	\$2.77
MERIA CARSTARPHEN AUSTIN ISD	\$275,000	83,483	\$3.29
CULWELL GARLAND ISD	\$274,000	57,510	\$4.76

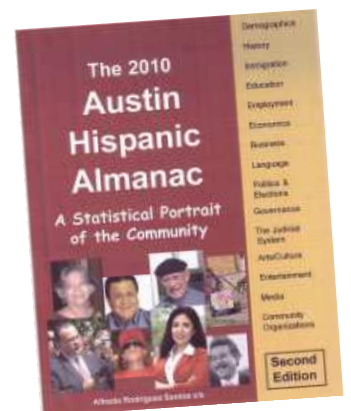
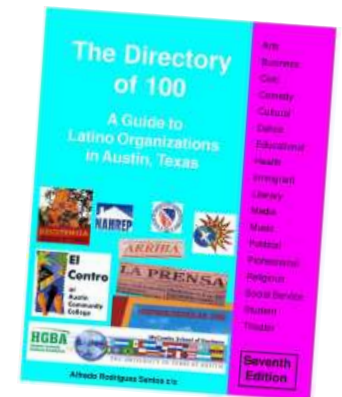


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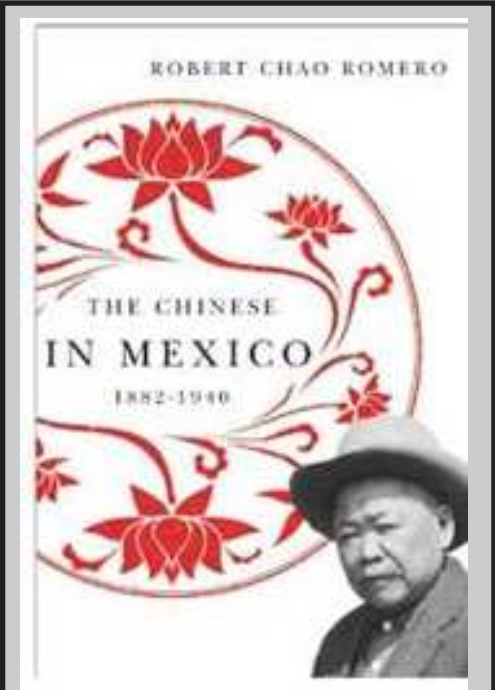
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Romero, Robert Chao. **The Chinese in Mexico, 1882-1940.** University of Arizona Press (2010)

An estimated 60,000 Chinese entered **Mexico** during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, constituting Mexico's second-largest foreign ethnic community at the time. The Chinese in Mexico provides a social history of Chinese immigration to and settlement in **Mexico** in the context of the global Chinese diaspora of the era.

Robert Romero argues that Chinese immigrants turned to **Mexico** as a new land of economic opportunity after the passage of the **U.S. Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882**. The author uses many sources and provides a compelling story about the search for freedom.

Mexican immigrants’ health declines as they assimilate to America New immigrants healthier than those in US the longest

BY ANDREA FERESHTEH AND JESSICA STARK

Mexican-Americans who are most integrated into the culture — including those born in the United States, and not recent immigrants — appear less healthy and more likely to require resources to manage their health conditions than more recent, less-integrated migrants, according to a new study from **Rice University, Duke University** and the *University of Colorado Denver*.

In particular, the research reveals that this pattern of declining health among immigrants who are in the U.S. the longest holds more strongly for men than women. Conversely, the research indicates that, among new arrivals, women report poorer health than men.

“Men who have recently migrated from Mexico tend to report better health than women,” said **Bridget Gorman**, associate professor of sociology at **Rice** and lead author of the study, which was published online this week in the peer-reviewed **Journal of Health and Social Behavior**. *“This could be in part because men are more likely than women to migrate to the U.S. in search of employment — often in physically demanding jobs — and at younger ages.”*

The study examines gender differences in Mexican immigrant health using data from the

1998 - 2007 **National Health Interview Survey**.

“The implications of our findings run counter to the popular belief that recent immigrant arrivals are taxing the U.S. health care system,” said

Jen’nan Read, associate professor of sociology and global health at **Duke** and co-author of the study.

While men tend to start out healthier than women, their health declines at a faster pace as they adapt to the U.S. culture. *“In particular, the risk of diabetes increases at a strong rate for Mexican-American men, even after we account for a variety of factors that might explain this relationship, such as smoking or income,”* **Gorman** said. *“Yet, among women, diabetes status appears mostly unrelated to their acculturation level.”*

Gorman and her co-authors, **Read** and **Patrick Krueger** of the **University of Colorado Denver**, found that the major mechanism driving these patterns is access to and utilization of health care. Women are



BRIDGET GORMAN

more likely to use the health care system because of their roles as family caretakers; they are more likely to be in contact with doctors and, therefore, more aware of their ailments, according to the authors.

In contrast, men, especially those who immigrated more recently, are much less likely to use the health care system and therefore may not know they are sick. Over time, male immigrants become increasingly likely to use the health care system, and thus the gap between men and women begins to close.

“From a policy perspective, this highlights the necessity of improving access to and utilization of medical-care services among men,” **Gorman** said. *“Not only would this help address an important unmet health need for many men, it would also permit health researchers to more accurately assess and forecast medical-care need and use among residents.”*

The study was funded in part by the **Faculty Initiative Fund at Rice University**, which awards competitive grants to **Rice** faculty for significant projects that might enhance the university and lead to larger endeavors, research breakthroughs, external funding opportunities or unusually creative works.

“When Rice University first gave us funding to conduct this study a few years ago, we wanted to explore how social and economic circumstances, along with health behaviors, collectively impacted the reporting of medical conditions among Mexican-Americans,” **Gorman** said. *“We expected to find that medical-care access and use was important in this process, but we did not expect it to play such a dominant role in shaping differences between men and women.”*

— Andrea Fereshteh is a senior writer at Duke University. Jessica Stark is assistant director of news and media relations at Rice.

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Letter to the Editor

Edward Gomez

Most of us know well before hand, if we are getting into debt, there will be trouble if we don't have the money to cover ourselves when the bills come due. It is inconceivable how the **Austin Independent School District** now finds itself with over a \$100 million dollar shortfall and there are trustees who didn't see it coming.

In my outreach work in the community over the last eight years in **Austin** I have worked closely with **AISD** schools, teachers, parent support specialists and principals. As a member of the clergy I also worked closely with the immigrant community, their first generation children and Mexican Americans who have been here for generations.

The *quiceañera* celebrations and other events were opportunities for me to learn and see some of the family dynamics that either supported or discouraged the advancement of our children.

Kindly allow me to offer some of my observations. Please note that while some of my observations may be brutally honest, and have offended others in the past, they are made with the utmost concern for the future wellbeing of our students, our community and our people.

First, I must say that I have encountered amazing principals, dedicated teachers and parent support specialists in the schools who really care. I can actually name some of them! When I was at **El Buen Samartiano**, the Assistant Principal of **Crockett High School** once put two Hispanic kids in his car who were in serious truancy trouble and drove them to **El Buen** to get them signed up for the **GED**.

I have many examples of such dedication and passion for helping our kids. However, while the efforts of people like the ones I refer to are heroic and exemplary, they were constantly challenged by what I perceived as a highly bureaucratic office on 6th Street that was so top heavy that any efforts for

improvements were suffocated by political red tape and incompetence. It was virtually impossible to get any innovative state of the art program to be accepted by the hierarchy on 6th Street unless it comes recommended by the "right" people.

Let me give you an example. AISD has adopted the **CATCH** program to promote healthy eating, reduce obesity and all that popular stuff now in the media. First of all **CATCH** is not a program per se. It is actually an overarching position or direction that says that every school has to follow some principles in their kitchen and recreational programs to promote health and wellness in the student body. Well, according to **Children Optimal Health November 2009 Summit Report**, **CATCH** is not catching much! The research reveals incredibly high levels of overweight and obese children living around our middle schools.

Why? Well, one reason is that cafeteria managers are expected to feed the children most of whom are on lunch programs, where they don't pay, for only \$2.50/day. The result is food that contains low nutritional value emphasizing high carbohydrates that turn to sugar and empty calories. Seriously, who can have a *nutritious* lunch in Austin for \$2.50?

While **CATCH** is a brave first attempt; nothing fried, fruits and vegetables, etc, there is in most schools still the option of chocolate milk. Yet these attempts to teach kids to eat right do not go far enough. First, **CATCH** only goes from K through 8th grade. When my daughter was in Austin High three years ago the healthiest thing on the menu was a taco salad. It was cooked (actually heated up on site) in cheap trans fat oil taco shell, filled with not lean ground beef (I bit into a hardened fat ball that almost cracked my tooth), lettuce and tomatoes over the top with some cheese shreds.

Secondly with budget cuts, PE and recreation times are also severely cut. There is no opportunity for exercise unless you are in a team sport. My daughter who has been playing lacrosse and track and dance for almost all her life told me that in PE the kids are just baby sat – no kids are challenged to work out in basic exercise programs. They can walk or run around the field. Usually, and you can see them when you go by, they are cruising, talking and texting as they do a "lap".

Third, and especially among Hispanic students, there seems to be a general apathy about learning and going to school. I was invited to speak by the principals at **Crockett** and **Aiken's High Schools** to "at risk" 9th graders who were failing the 9th grade for the second time.

I decided to start by going around the room (with parents forcibly present) asking what did each child want to be when they grew up and became adults. Out of almost 20 in **Crocket** and nearly 28 in **Aiken's** High none (zero) responded with a job or career that involved a college education. Most of the girls wanted to get married and have kids and the boys wanted to work with their dads in either the lawn businesses, or restaurants. The highest paying job that a boy responded to was owning and operating a dump truck.

When we gathered with administrators, teachers, parent support people and **Communities in Schools** counselors, the question asked of me was – "What program do you have that can plant a dream in these kids?" Sadly, I didn't have one.

In the final analysis, and what is taboo to say among the politically loud Latino groups in **Austin** is that we cannot expect **AISD** or any institution or program to raise our children for us. You cannot expect them to teach our children to eat right, love learning, not have early

sexual encounters or be motivated to succeed in a global economy.

Many of our Hispanic kids have not ventured past their own neighborhoods. There was no exposure of opportunities for them to pursue. At a recent **Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce** gathering for the **Hispanic Austin Leadership**, I met a young man in his twenties with a college degree who told me that while he was born and raised in **East Austin**, it was not until he graduated from High School that he saw the 360 bridge! He went to **Austin Community College** then was admitted to UT on a scholarship in business.

That seemed incredible to me, but it is still true. This provincial mentality within our Hispanic community is killing any dream that a child may have. It is often fostered out of fear by parents who feel that the sea of opportunities offered in this country is not "really" for them.

In spring and summer, I jog around **Lady Bird Lake**. As I run, I soon notice that I am one of the only Hispanics running around the lake, other than some young men in wait staff uniforms taking a short cut who work at the **Ramada Renaissance**. When you look closely and observe, you will note that while **Austin** is 34% Hispanic we are highly segregated into enclaves that restrict exposure to opportunities and advancement. I do not feel that Hispanics in Austin are forcibly segregated by any dominant group, but we segregate ourselves!

Lastly, the issue of teenage pregnancy among Latinas is literally at epidemic proportions. We are stifling any hope for economic advancement within our Hispanic community. The problem is not just with the attitude of the girls and boys, but with the parents. And God forbid anyone mention Family Planning! I cannot tell you how many times I have seen mothers

pull their daughters from high school because they are doing poorly to help them clean homes during the day, or baby sit their younger siblings while mom works. I knew of one single mother with three daughters in junior high and high school, who after school had them work with her cleaning downtown office buildings until 1 or 2 in the morning. Then she would take them to school the following morning and do it all over again. Aside from helping her mom, the high schooler would work weekends at a **Wendy's** fast food store for the family to make ends meet.

Do you think that these girls will get an education? Their escape is to fall in love and get pregnant so that they can have their own wealth and family. At a very young age, we push our daughters into adulthood. Look at the language we use. When you ask someone in Spanish how many kids do you have and what are their genders, how do we respond? *"Tengo dos mujeres (women) y un hombre (man)"* (in English we would say two girls and a boy). Although they may be children, they are called women and men! Language is the expression of a culture – is an ancient maxim. It certainly true here in **Central Texas**.

With world wide economic fallout never before seen in history causing the poor to become poorer, our community will be forced into destitute poverty. We may be a majority in this millennium but that will only make for a larger number of Hispanics in poverty. Education, I am convinced is the only sure route out of poverty and if we are not educated there is no chance for us to build our wealth and participate with presence and voice in this economy.

The Education system is broken. Unless we have something like Healthcare Reform for education there will be little hope for the future generation in this country to compete with success in a world market.

An Interview Austin ISD School

Lori Moya is an **Austin** native and attended public school in the **Austin Independent School District**. She graduated from **Travis High School** in 1975 and attended the **University of Texas at Austin**. For the last 26 years she has worked at the **Office of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts**. **Ms. Moya** was first elected to the AISD in 2006 and represents **District 6**.

La Voz: Let’s start this interview by asking you to share with us what kind of time commitment does being a school board member require?

Moya: We meet as a full board three times a month and on occasion we have special meetings. We also hear employee grievances and parent complaints from time to time which is in addition to our regular meetings. Additionally, we have committee meetings to attend. Currently, I have officer meetings as I serve as the Board Secretary, Policy committee meetings as the chair, District Advisory Council meetings where I am the Board liaison. Then there are constituent meetings from time to time depending on issues at the time.

La Voz: Did you sort of know going in that it would take up this much time?

Moya: I knew the time commitment was going to be significant, however it took a while for me to be able to balance work, board activities, and home life. Learning how to manage all the requests for time and not overwhelming myself is constantly evolving.

La Voz: What has surprised you

the most in your time as a school board member in Austin?

Moya: Several things have really surprised me. One is how passion turns into intolerance, bigotry, and classism. Another is the magnitude of the information that must be sorted through to make a decision on behalf of the entire district not just one neighborhood, one community, one school. As Trustees, even when elected from a single-member district, we take an oath to represent **all** children of Austin ISD. Getting people to understand and embrace that has been difficult at times.

La Voz: Do you get a lot of phone calls from people about things that are going in different schools?

Moya: It varies depending on what is going on at the time.

La Voz: Your father, Richard Moya, is a political pioneer here in Travis County having been the first Mexican American to hold elective office. I am going to assume that you and your family have been a part of his lifes work over the years. When you look back to when you first got involved in civic affairs and compare it to the present, what has changed?

Moya: Oddly enough not a whole lot. My father taught me that public service is the most important activity we could ever perform. Giving back to the people of your community is a must. If you are given the

opportunity to serve, then you serve with honor and integrity. This is the foundation by which I base my service to the children, families, staff and community of Austin ISD.

In the late ‘60s and early ‘70s we were fighting discrimination and demanding equal rights for all and calling out the injustices against the Mexican-Americans of Austin and Texas. We are still fighting that fight. Albeit with different methods, but still fighting it. My desire is to have a impact on changing that for my children’s children and my community.

La Voz: When people think about parental involvement in the public schools, what would do you see as a missing element?

Many people seem to believe if parents are not involved at the same level they are, those parents don’t care about their children.

Moya: Many people seem to believe if parents are not involved at the same level they are, those parents don’t care about their children. That is not further from the truth. Some families have hardships that others don’t have. This difference causes some to be harsh critics of those families. It is unfortunate because we cannot and should not judge others. I believe that parents love their children and would be more involved if 1) they didn’t have to work 2 or 3 jobs to

make ends meet; 2) had a role model to show them the way; 3) and in some cases were not afraid to come in the door. These are just 3 examples of what I believe to be complications or hindrances for some families. Not for all of course, but for many.

La Voz: Do you find that the Campus Advisory Council at each school in your district work as well as they should? What else should they be doing?

Moya: I don’t have first hand knowledge of the effectiveness of all the **CACs** in District 6. However, my experience has been that the CACs can have a huge impact on the school when they have a good understanding of their role and when the campus Administration uses them to provide needed guidance and ideas, support and messaging to the campus and overall community.

La Voz: If there is one thing you could change in the school district, what would it be?

Moya: I would change how the district communicates, outreaches and engages the community as a whole. Early on in my service, I realized that public education as a business is not the best at marketing itself, telling its story, communicating the issues effectively, or showcasing the brand that is public education and in our case Austin Independent School District. I will continue to push toward a change in this area.

La Voz: With regard to the current budget crises the school district is facing, what is the biggest misconception the general public has voiced in the last couple of weeks?

Moya: The issue of school closures has taken on a life of its own. We have acknowledged that the delivery of the message by our Facilities Master Plan task force leadership was flawed, however it has been difficult to get the community to let go of this fear and focus on the critical issue of the budget. Another misconception is that we can solve this budget deficit by simply cutting the budget for the central office. This portion of the budget is only 2 to 2.5% of the over all budget. That is just not possible. This level of shortfall will require very creative thinking and give and take by all parts of the district.

La Voz: When do you think the **Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees** first realized that this crises was coming down the tracks?



"I would change how the district communicates, outreaches and engages the community as a whole."

with Lori Moya

Board Trustee, Dist. 6

Moya: About 18 months to 2 years ago.

La Voz: During your last school board working session, one of the trustees asked the superintendent to consider including an equity plan that would show how the entire school district was going to be impacted by the proposed layoffs. Do you still expect to see one before the end of the year?

Moya: Yes. It is important to look at these plans over the entire district. If you don't, you run the risk of impacting one community more than others. By that I mean not only geographic communities but student communities.

La Voz: The school board meeting of February 28th, was a long one. What can the state legislature do to help solve this financial crisis?

Moya: This is not an easy fix. There are a lot of parts that have played a role in this financial crisis.

First, with respect to state revenue, they need to increase the use of the **Rainy Day Fund**, as well as provide for additional revenue sources which may include increased fees on some services. I am hopeful that the comptroller will have updated revenue projections for the next biennium that will use the latest and best information available and will result in increased monies available to fund the state's obligations in public education and other areas.

In addition, the state of **Texas School Funding Plan**, including its "Robin Hood" provisions, needs to be rewritten. While the intentions were good, the damage that is done to the districts like **Austin** that are labeled property wealthy is greater than expected. I have been told the finance system formula does not take into consideration districts like **AISD** that is fortunate to have high property wealth but also has a large and growing student population that qualifies for free and reduced lunch. The cost of education index used in the formula is over 15 years old and out-dated, thus is in need of revision/ updating.

As a side note, AISD has been locked into Social Security since at least 1983, and does not have the ability to extract itself from the program.

Specifically, this index has not been updated to reflect the substantially increased cost of living in **Austin** and **Central Texas**, as well as other cost factors like the Social Security burden borne by **Austin ISD** but not any of the other school districts in **Central Texas**. As a side note, **AISD** has been locked into Social Security since at least 1983, and does not have the ability to extract itself from the program.

Second, declaring school finance as an emergency item for this current session might help move the needed decisions

to be made in time to impact the current budgeting process the school districts are going through. You see there are statutory requirements districts must meet related to staffing that must be decided up to six weeks before the end of the Legislative session. These legal requirements put a strain on the district's budgeting and staffing process such that decisions must be made without all the information, including the final school finance budget, from the Legislature.

Third, I believe that the legislature should provide additional flexibility in how the funding that is available can be spent so that districts like **Austin ISD** have local control on how to allocate its limited resources to best meet the needs of our students and community. This flexibility can come in the form of lifting, even if only for this biennium, restrictions regarding class sizes, the use of furloughs to allow fewer days worked for less pay, and the ability of districts to provide pay reductions below current levels for its employees in an attempt to offset layoffs and reduce our budget deficit.

La Voz: Has the topic of asking **AISD** employees to take a 5 or 10% pay cut been something that has been put on the table for discussion?

Moya: Well, as I somewhat alluded to above, state law prohibits school districts from cutting or reducing teacher salaries to a level below where

they are now. Without Legislative assistance, our hands are tied. In the current preliminary budget, changes to employee health benefits and co-pays could go up and ultimately effectively cause approximately an 2% reduction in take home pay.

La Voz: Another idea that has been introduced into the school financial crises discussion is the leasing of the old **Johnston High School** campus to **Southwest Key**. How serious would the financial crises in **AISD** have to be before this idea is given more serious consideration?

Moya: Our current policy allows for in-district charters. The proposal as I understand it does not establish an in-district charter, nor is the financial benefit to the district as significant as has been portrayed. I am also concerned about conveying a multi-million dollar district asset that has been paid for by taxpayer monies to a non-profit entity for a 99-year term at \$1/year. But given the interest in possible charters across the district, the Board has plans to schedule time in the near future to discuss our policy and facility use or possible partnership opportunities that have arisen.

La Voz: Is the school district still moving forward with opening new campuses in light of the current financial crises?

Moya: The difficulty is that education of the children must

continue regardless of a financial crisis or not. Certain parts of town have campuses that are so full, the educational experience is difficult and less than optimal. The district will need to look at as many options as possible to ensure that all children receive a quality and equitable education.

La Voz: Regarding the raising of the tax rate for the school district, is it correct that despite what ever amount is raised, part of that amount would have to go back to the state for the **Robin Hood** fund?

Moya: Yes, any increases in our property tax rate would require that we send at least 40-45% of the revenue generated to the state in the form of recapture/ **Robin Hood**. That amount could actually increase depending on whether and how the state ultimately decides to revise its school finance formulas.

La Voz: What other possible solutions to this financial crises have not yet been discussed that you believe deserve our attention?

Moya: **Austin ISD** is ramping up its development activities in the hopes of finding foundations, federal or state grants, local philanthropy and other outside sources that could help fund innovation or other critical programs in the district that are at risk due to reduced state aid.

La Voz: We are running out of space so we are going to have to end our interview with you. On behalf of all the readers of **La Voz de Austin**, I want to thank you for taking the time to visit with us.

Moya: Thank you.



Reagan Raiders Prepare to Dance through TAKS with Ozomatli



Reagan High School students and teachers took a boogie and brain break when Los Angeles-based band Ozomatli recently performed for the campus. The three time Grammy-award

winning Latin, Hip Hop and Salsa ensemble's visit also provided members of Reagan's New Orleans Funk Band with the unique opportunity to join Ozomatli's performance for the concert's closing numbers.

Just before the concert began, Funk Band members joined the professional musicians to rehearse, and participate in mini workshops. Reagan Band Director Ormide Armstrong said that it took two years of planning to arrange for Ozomatli to visit the campus. He worked with members of non-profit group Anthropos Art, which matches professional musicians with middle and high school



students, in predominantly economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, for free music lessons, workshops, master classes and performance opportunities.



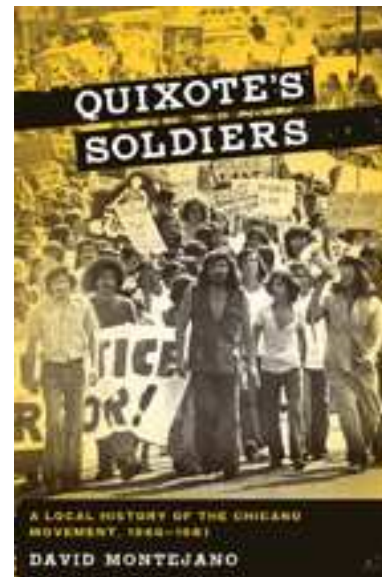
Principal Anabel Garza said the concert was a pre-TAKS motivator for students and staff. She also noted Ozomatli's mission, which is to promote peace and unity through music, when introducing

the band. Ms. Garza credits students' and teachers' focused academic efforts, and commitment to keep the campus open for the school's academic success over the past two years. She expects Reagan to once again earn a state accountability rating of Academically Acceptable for a third year in a row.

Additional photos of the concert are posted on the AISD online gallery at <http://www.austinisd.org>.



New Book



"David Montejano has written a well-researched and clearly argued study of the interaction among members of different social backgrounds in San Antonio's Chicano community during the turbulent and politically creative years of the late 1960s and early 1970s. He has augmented extensive archival research (especially in the papers of Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez) with effective use of secondary works by other sociologists and historians and his own field work. This book will be of interest not only to historians of Mexican American urban life and Chicano struggles for civil rights, but also to anyone interested in the politics of the Vietnam War era."

—David Montgomery, Farnam Professor of History Emeritus, Yale University

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The Young Professional Association of Austin (YHPA-Austin) is an official non-profit and a 501(C)(3) Tax Exempt Status organization registered in the State of Texas. It was founded in January 2006 to serve as the principal professional resource for young Hispanics in the Austin and Central Texas area. Members build a foundation for their professional, community, and personal development. This organization supports and encourages Hispanic higher education through scholarships and mentorships. For more information please their website: <http://yhpaa.org>

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Grupo Vida

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Southwest Key Makes a Proposal to the Austin Independent School District

Frequently Asked Questions *East Austin College Prep Academy Proposal to Lease Eastside Memorial*

Does East Austin College Prep Academy want to lease Eastside Memorial so they can turn it into a college prep academy high school?

Members of the East Austin community are requesting the opportunity to further expand the East Austin College Prep Academy, which is part of the East Austin Children's Promise initiative. This initiative's goal is to provide a full service multi-functional community center for the Govalle/Johnston Terrace neighborhood. The campus that is currently being used as a high school will offer a community center that includes: a tuition free public charter school for a 6 -12th grade college prep academy, adult education, parent & community leadership, health care services, violence and substance abuse prevention services, cultural activities, after-school programs, and youth development opportunities.

Is the method of showing how much AISD would save from leasing the property to East Austin College Prep Academy a way to buy-in for the idea?

Southwest Key Programs and the East Austin College Prep Academy firmly believe that every neighborhood school in Austin ISD should be preserved and kept open. However, given the current economic climate, AISD budget shortfall, and AISD's ongoing efforts to meet state academic standards we believe AISD and the community can forge a collaborative partnership in the Govalle/Johnston neighborhood area that will improve the quality of life and education for the immediate community and students.

District Superintendent Meria Carstarphen has expressed frustration publicly, saying that everyone is quick to criticize proposed budget cuts, but no one is circling back with solutions. We are presenting a potential solution to part of the problem.

Why is East Austin College Prep Academy focusing on Eastside Memorial?

Based on 2009-2010 TEA data, Eastside Memorial demonstrates a 58% capacity and nearly an \$8 million

annual operating budget. AISD has publicized efforts to facilitate partnerships in the community and we believe that entering into a long-term lease agreement with the East Austin College Prep Academy could redirect an estimated \$80 to \$100 million in potential cost savings to AISD over the next 10 years. We are also aware AISD is preparing a reconstitution plan for 2011-2012 that could include additional consolidation and/or school closure. Through this potential partnership, AISD could save money currently being spent on an under-performing and under-utilized school by leasing the property to the East Austin College Prep Academy and allowing the Academy to expand its full service community school and better serve the needs of the

solutions can be found to help engineer education reform that can then be implemented in ISDs. Charters don't take the best students from schools, rather it's the parents who fear their children are not getting as much as they need and are at risk of not being successful that seek out public charter schools. We're happy to talk further about the role of charter schools in communities, but the Texas Charter School Association (www.txcharterschools.org) is probably best positioned to educate the community in depth about the role of charter schools in our education system.

Why is Southwest Key Programs/ East Austin College Prep Academy getting involved in this?

The East Austin College Prep Academy is one of only a few charter schools in the entire state of Texas that the TEA has approved to manage academically underperforming schools in Austin. And the mission of both Southwest Key Programs and East Austin College Prep Academy is to ensure the children in our community have access to resources that prepare them for college and future success.

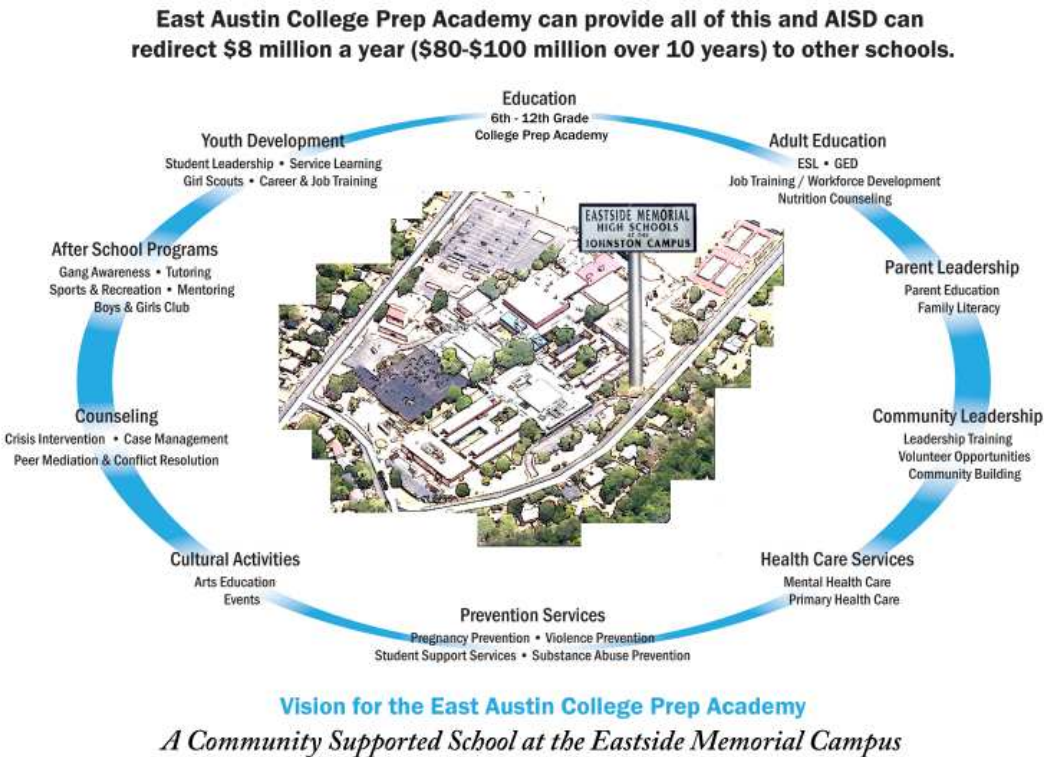
What is East Austin College Prep Academy doing to collaborate?

We have been participating in the coalition meetings that have been happening throughout the city and we collaborate and partner with many organizations to bring services that can strengthen students' experiences. Some of our current partners include: AARP, AMD, Austin Community College, Austin Travis County Health and Human Services Healthy Neighborhood Unit, Boys and Girls Club of the Austin Area,

City of Austin: Cultural Arts Division, Capital Area Food Bank, Girl Scouts of Central Texas, Hispanic Physician's Association, Huston-Tillotson University, Texas Charter Schools Association, and University of Texas.

How is East Austin College Prep Academy supporting other AISD, non-eastside schools, from closing?

Our belief is that all children and families deserve access to quality educations - whether that is on the eastside or any other part of the community. We believe that by allowing EACPA to provide the education here in the Govalle/Johnston Terrace community, AISD can redirect its resources to preserve neighborhood schools across the district.



community. This way they will be able to help provide the community with what we all know the community needs: quality education and resources to strengthen families in East Austin.

Should AISD be forced to close Eastside Memorial, this community plan could fill the void and allow the East Austin community to take ownership of the future quality of life and education in the area.

What is East Austin College Prep Academy doing to dispel the myths about charter schools?

The truth is public charter schools were started to work in partnership with traditional public education. Charter schools are allowed to run more autonomously so new



GAHCC Announces 2011 Board of Directors

Greater Austin Hispanic
Chamber of Commerce
Expanding Business Culture

Austin, Texas - The Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GAHCC) announced the 2011 Board of Directors. On January 19th, the GAHCC Membership convened at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at the Annual Members Meeting where they elected six new Board Members to the GAHCC Board of Directors. Following the meeting Anna Sanchez, Vice President of Business Banking Group of Wells Fargo, was announced as the 2011 Chair. Ms. Sanchez and the 2011 Board were inducted on March 5, 2011 at the GAHCC's 38th Annual Awards Banquet, Celebrando Austin.



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Wells Fargo



Joe H. Morin - Treasurer
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Celia Israel - Secretary
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& Newman



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Andy Martinez
Greater Austin Hispanic
Chamber of Commerce



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Community Care



Stephanie Richmond
Richmond International
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Paul Cruz, Ph.D.
Austin Independent
School District



Thomas "Tomás" Miranda
Cisco Systems



Amelia Lopez
MWM Design Group



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Ron Meredeith
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Kathy Duncan Burrell
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Wells Fargo, Business Banking



Frank Garza
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Farmers Insurance



Anna Marie Arredondo
IBM



David Rodriguez
Sage Point Financial, Inc.



Geronimo M. Rodriguez, Jr.
Seton Family of Hospitals



Alex Valdes
Winstead PC



Javier Valdez
Individual

FORMER BROWNTOWN MIGRANT RENE PEREZ ROSENBAUM NABS ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY'S DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

By Juan Montoya

When I transferred from **Garden Park Elementary** to **Cromack** I was in the fourth grade. At the time, **Garden Park**, like **Palm Grove**, was considered the poor cousin of city schools. The rooms were old military barracks converted to classrooms. The bathrooms were serviced by a septic tank, a dark green spot of grass in the middle of the schoolyard.

At the new school I met some students that I would see on and off in the years to come. **Brownsville** was a little town then. However, a few names do stick in my mind. The school at the time had **Mr. Benavides** as principal and **Mr. Alvarado** as coach. As in any new classroom, you soon found out who the competition was.

One of those was **Rene Rosenbaum**, a kid who lived across 30th street on Carolina St. Another was **Tony Rocha Jr.** (La Peca's son). Still others were **Alfonso Gutierrez**, **Sergio De Leon**, **Raul Salinas**, and **Tommy Medina**. I can't even remember the girls because usually the guys can't compete against them. But the reason I remember **Rene** and **Tony** was because after we reached the sixth grade we all expected to attend **Faulk Middle School** and looked forward to an adolescence

filled with adventure and (we hoped) girlfriends.

However, as we were all migrant students, when we were supposed to go to the seventh grade we were placed in the **BISD Migrant School**, now **Castañeda Elementary**. The classrooms were barracks again, only this time they were fenced off from the outside by an eight-foot chain link fence topped off with three strands of barbed wire. **Ruben Gallegos Sr.** was the first principal there, replaced later by **Lee Garza Sr.**

A sign with the school's name was decorated with a silhouette of a farmworker hauling a hamper of some crop on his left shoulder. Just as we were segregated from the rest of the school district, our classes ran from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday to make up for our early departure during the school year and our late arrival in **Brownsville** in late October.

Why do I remember this? Because it would be difficult to think of a more inauspicious beginning for a scholar to emerge. We have been blessed. **Tony Rocha Jr.** went on to become a CPA and an accountant with **IRS**. **Rene**, who was lethal in math, is now a PhD.

in Economics and has a teaching position at **Michigan State University**.

On Friday, February 25th, 2011, his alma mater, **St. Edward's University**, where he attended on a full ride, honored him during their Homecoming Week 2011 with a **Distinguished Alumni Award**.

René entered **St. Edward's** in 1974 through the **College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)**. Two-and-a-half years later, he graduated in 1976 with a BA in Economics. He also earned a PhD in Economics from the **University of Notre Dame** in 1985.

He is is an Associate Professor in Community and Economic Development in the **Department of Community Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies** at **Michigan State University (MSU)**. His teaching, research, and outreach interests are in labor economics, community economic development, farm labor markets, farm worker health and early childhood education studies, and Latino and other minority economic issues.

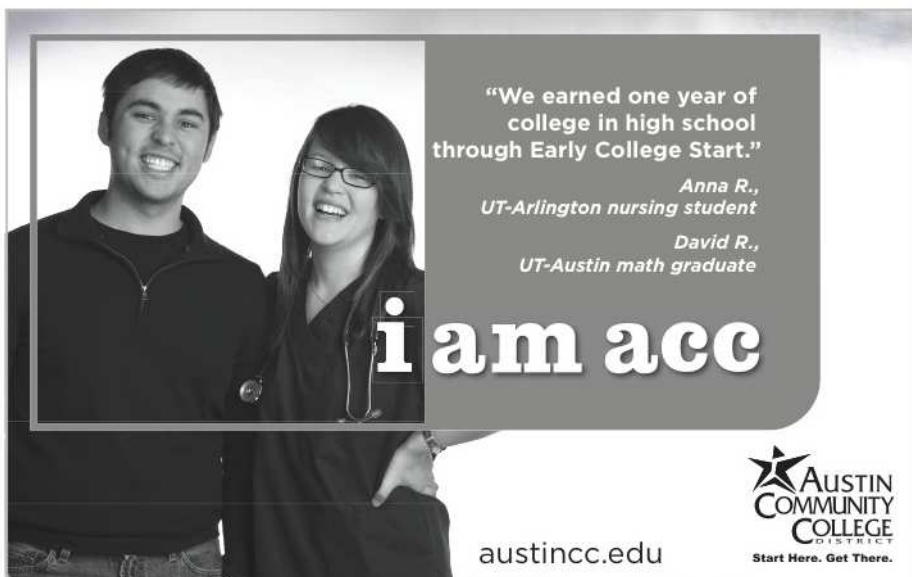
René teaches and lectures at the undergraduate and graduate levels on the theory and practice of community and

economic development and on economic issues and the Latino community in the U.S. In addition to publishing, he presents papers at state, regional, and national conferences and conducts outreach activities with public and nonprofit organizations and agencies, particularly those servicing the Hispanic and migrant and seasonal farmworker population in the state.

He is also a faculty program member in the **MSU Chicano Latino Studies Program** and the **MSU Center for Latin and Caribbean Studies**. He is active in his local community through his work at **St. Joseph Catholic Church**, where he is a member of the **Social Justice Group** and serves as a Confirmation Mentor. He is married to **Mary Beth Adams-Rosenbaum**, from **West Bend, Wis.** They live in **St. Johns, Mich.** with their two boys, **Adam Rene Perez** (age 16) and **Alex Antonio** (age 13).

Rene is the kind of guys who doesn't forget his roots. When he visits **Brownsville**, he looks up old friends and touches base frequently. His brother, **Lucino**, is a former county commissioner and his sister Yolanda operates the old family business **Rosenbaum Flowers and Giffts** on **Hortensia Blvd.**, in the heart of the **Southmost** barrio.

Way to go, Rene. Si se puede!



"We earned one year of college in high school through Early College Start."

Anna R.,
UT-Arlington nursing student

David R.,
UT-Austin math graduate

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Sylvia Mendez Awarded Medal of Freedom

Sylvia Mendez was born in 1936 in **Santa Ana, California**. Her parents were **Gonzalo Mendez**, an immigrant from **Mexico** who had a successful agricultural business, and **Felicitas Mendez**, a native of **Puerto Rico**.

The family had just moved from **Santa Ana** to **Westminster** to tend a farm that they were renting from the **Munemitsus**, a Japanese-American family that had been sent to an internment camp during **World War II**. This took place during a period in history when racial discrimination against Hispanics, and minorities in general, was widespread throughout the United States.

In the 1940s, there were only two schools in **Westminster**: **Hoover Elementary** and **17th Street Elementary**. **Orange County** schools were segregated and the **Westminster** school district was no exception. The district mandated separate campuses for Hispanics and Whites. **Sylvia** and her two brothers, **Gonzalo Jr.** and **Jerome Mendez**, attended **Hoover Elementary**, a two-room wooden shack in the middle of the city's Mexican neighborhood, along with the other Hispanics.

17th Street Elementary, which was a "Whites-only" segregated school, was located about a mile away. Unlike **Hoover**, the **17th Street Elementary** school was amongst a row of palm and pine trees and had a lawn lining the school's brick and concrete facade.

Realizing that the **17th Street Elementary** school provided better books and educational benefits, **Gonzalo** decided that he would like to have his children and nephews enrolled in there. Thus, in 1943, when **Sylvia Mendez** was only eight years old, she accompanied her aunt **Sally Vidaurri**, her brothers and cousins to enroll at the **17th Street Elementary School**. Her



At a White House ceremony yesterday, **President Barack Obama** honored recipients of the **2010 Presidential Medal of Freedom**. This award, America's highest civilian honor, is bestowed on individuals who make especially laudable contributions to the country's national interests. Among this year's recipients is **Sylvia Mendez**, a civil rights activist of Mexican and Puerto Rican descent, who more than six decades ago took the fight for school desegregation to the highest court in the nation.

Initially, **Gonzalo** received little support from the local Latino organizations, but finally, on March 2, 1945, he and four other Mexican-American fathers from the **Gomez, Palomino, Estrada, and Ramirez** families filed a lawsuit in federal court in **Los Angeles** against four **Orange County** school districts — **Westminster, Santa Ana, Garden Grove** and **El Modena** (now eastern Orange) — on behalf of about 5,000 Hispanic-American schoolchildren.

During the trial, the **Westminster** school board insisted that there was a "language issue", however their claim fell apart when one of the children was asked to testify. The testimony proved that most of the children spoke English and showed that Hispanic-American students had the same capacity for learning as their white counterparts.

On February 18, 1946, **Judge Paul J. McCormick** ruled in favor of **Mendez** and his co-plaintiffs. However, the school district appealed. Several organizations joined the appellate case as amicus curiae, including the **ACLU, American Jewish Congress, Japanese American Citizens League**, and the **NAACP** which was represented by **Thurgood Marshall**.

More than a year later, on April 14, 1947, the **Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals** affirmed the district court's ruling in favor of the Mexican families. After the ruling was upheld on appeal, then-**Governor Earl Warren** moved to desegregate all public schools and other public spaces as well.

Aftermath

Mendez finally was allowed to attend the **17th Street Elementary** school, thus becoming one of the first Hispanics to attend an all-white school in **California**. However, the situation was not easy for her. Her white peers called her names and treated her poorly. She knew that she had to succeed after her father fought for her to attend the school. **Gonzalo Mendez** died in 1964 at the age of 51, unaware of the impact that the case for which he fought would have on the nation.

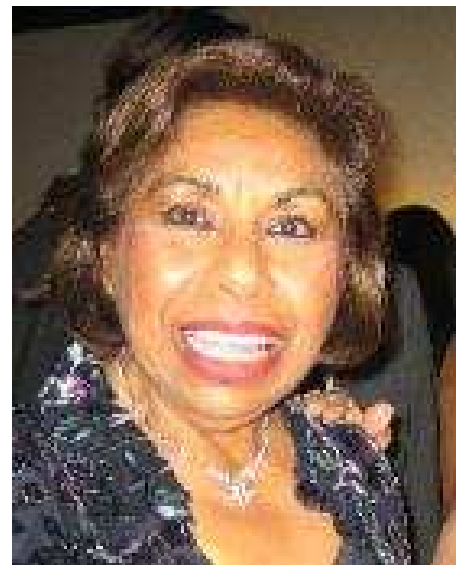
Mendez v. Westminster set an important precedent for ending segregation in the United States. **Thurgood Marshall**, who was later appointed a **Supreme Court** justice in 1967, became the lead **NAACP** attorney in the 1954 **Brown** case. His amicus brief filed for **Mendez** on behalf of the **NAACP** contained the arguments he would later use in the **Brown** case. The **Mendez** case also deeply influenced the thinking of the **California** governor at the time, **Earl Warren**. By 1954, when the **Brown** case appeared before the high court, **Warren** had become the chief justice.

Legacy

Mendez became a nurse and retired after working for thirty years in her field. She adopted two girls and lives in **Fullerton, California**.

She travels and gives lectures to educate others on the historic contributions made by her parents and the co-plaintiffs to the desegregation effort in the United States. The success of the **Mendez v. Westminster** case made **California** the first state in the nation to end segregation in school, paving the way for better-known **Brown vs. Board of Education** seven years later, which would bring an end to school segregation in the entire country.

Sandra Robbie wrote and produced the documentary **Mendez v. Westminster: For all the Children / Para Todos los Ninos**, which debuted on **KOCE-TV** in **Orange County** on September 24, 2002 as part of their **Hispanic Heritage Month** celebration. The



documentary, which also aired on **PBS**, won an **Emmy award** and a **Golden Mike Award**.

In 1998, a few years before **Mendez's** mother **Felicitas** died, the district of **Santa Ana, California** honored the **Mendez** family by naming a new school the "**Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez Fundamental Intermediate School**", after **Sylvia Mendez's** parents.

On April 14, 2007, the **U.S. Postal Service** unveiled a stamp commemorating the **Mendez v. Westminster** case.

Calendar of Events

March 3rd, 2011 - Austin Interfaith Southeast Neighborhood Community Meeting 6:30pm to 8:00pm at **Wiedan Elementary School**. For more contact **Ofelia Zapata** at (512) 669-0809

March 5th, 2011 - Celebrando Austin, the 38th Annual Awards Banquet by the **Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**. Hilton Hotel in Austin, Texas 7 to 11pm For more information please call (512) 462-4318

March 9th, 2011 - Center for Mexican American Studies Portfolio Plática: Christina Garcia. 12:00pm to 1:00pm in the Chicano Cultural Room in the Texas Union of **The University of Texas at Austin**. This portfolio plática by **Christina Garcia** explores how Chicano/a creative writers have reckoned with spirituality and religion in narratives confronting social and historical trauma. In particular, three key themes emerge: religiously inflected anxieties about modernization; human relationships to a sacred landscape; and the conflict between logic-based rationality and spiritual epistemologies.

March 12th, 2011 - Education Rally and March at the Texas State Capitol. Event starts at noon.For more information please call (512) 450-1880

March 16th and 17th, 2011 - Mexican American Experience 2011 at the **Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center** 600 River Street Austin, Texas. See program spot in this issue of **La Voz de Austin** page 9.

March 18th, and 19th, 2011 - A. B. Quintanilla & Kumbia All Stars and Ozomatli concert. Other groups on the bill are La Guerrilla, Os Alqimistas, La Distrancia, and the Latin Breed. See spot on page 8 of this issue of **La Voz de Austin** for more information. Event to take place at the **Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center** 600 River Street Austin, Texas.

March 23rd, 2011 - CMAS Graduate Portfolio Plática: Claudia Cervantes-Soon • 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM • Cissy McDaniel Parker Dean’s Conference Room (SZB 238), Sanchez Building, **The University of Texas at Austin** Title of talk: “Schooling in Times of Dystopia: Empowering Education for Juarez Women”

Young women in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico are coming of age in an era of feminicides, violence, impunity, and fear. This portfolio plática by Claudia Cervantes-Soon is based on ethnographic study that examines the ways in which a public high school, in one of the most disenfranchised areas of Ciudad Juarez, attempts to empower subaltern youth through its critical and social justice philosophy of education. The study draws from critical pedagogy and socio-cultural theory to offer a unique analysis of how hegemonic ideas are resisted and/or inscribed pedagogically, politically, and institutionally. The study also examines how the school’s constructions of democratic and social justice education interact with the current dystopic context of Juarez to provide a framework with which a group of Juarez young women author their identities and practice forms of resistance. The study offers new insights on the experiences and agency of youth in contexts of civil unrest along the U.S-Mexico border, and sheds light on the possibilities for urban schools

March 26th, 2011 - Cesar Chavez “Social Justice March” to the Texas State Capitol. The march will assemble as Terrazas Library 1105 East Cesar Chavez Street Austin, Texas at 12:00 noon. For more information please call: (512) 472-9921

March 30th, 2011 - CMAS Graduate Portfolio Plática: Gloria Cisneros Lenoir • 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM • Cissy McDaniel Parker Dean’s Conference Room (SZB 238), Sanchez Building, **The University of Texas at Austin**. Title of talk: “An Examination of Newcomer Immigrant High School Students in Central Texas”

This portfolio plática by **Gloria Cisneros Lenoir** discusses the academic skills of newcomer immigrant high school students in Central Texas. Substantial growth of minority and immigrant population groups since 1990 has occurred and is projected to continue over the next 20 years. There has been limited research on newcomer immigrant high school students, and this plática is based on a larger study of such students

March 31st, 2011 - PODER’s 5th Annual Cesar E. Chavez “Si Se Puede” Awards Dinner at the Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center 808 Nile Street in Austin, Texas. Event starts at 6:00pm You can contribute to PODER’s youth leadership development program by placing an ad in our “Si Se Puede!” Awards Dinner Commemorate Program Booklet. Copies will be distributed at the celebration and sent to our national, regional and local supports. Ad contracts due March 11th, 2011.

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 multi-lingual is about being educated in the 21st century. We look forward to bringing our readers various word lists in each issue of **La Voz de Austin**.

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

Education	Educación
is important	es importante
because it opens	porque abré
your mind to things	su mente a cosas
you might have never	que usted quizás nunca
thought of before	pensó antes
When you become	Cuando usted llega ser
educated you also	educado, usted también
become someone who	llegue a ser alguien
is respected in the	respetado en la
community because	comunidad porque
you know how to defend yourself	usted sabe defenderse

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Dan Arellano

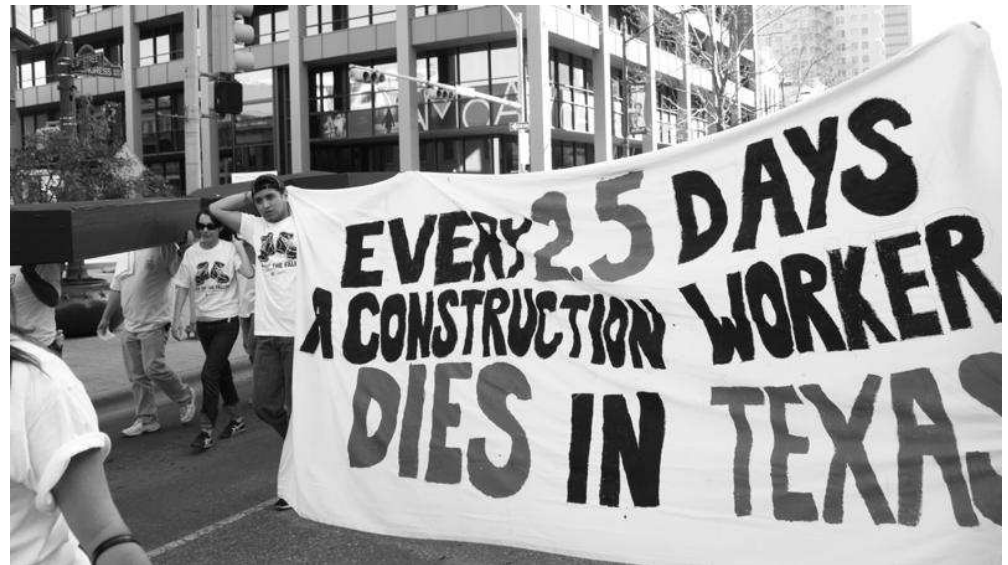
(512) 826-7569

darellano@austin.rr.com



The Day of the Fallen

The Day of the Fallen was a great success, bringing together members of the community and beyond for a powerful display of unity at the steps of the State Capitol. With Texans converging in Austin traveling from El Paso to Houston and San Antonio, Dallas to the Valley, it was truly a statewide show of solidarity. With over 100 community members busy educating legislators in the afternoon and asking for better protections for construction workers, 138 coffins were laid onto the lawn of the capitol in memory of the workers that died on the job in 2009 in Texas. With around 500 in attendance, Texans came out in full force for workers yesterday. Already, media from around the state is buzzing with news of the Day of the Fallen.



Workers Defense Project
Proyecto Defensa Laboral

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photos by Sam Ortega

salvemos

A LAS ESCUELAS DE Texas

MARCHA & MANIFESTACIÓN

March 12, 2011

March: 11am @ 12th and Trinity

Rally: Noon-2pm @ TX State Capitol

AUSTIN, TX

JOIN US to demand our lawmakers put education first!
Our future depends on it!

el 12 de marzo, 2011

Marcha: 11am @ Calle 12 y Trinity

Manifestación: 12-2pm @ Capitolio de TX

AUSTIN, TX

¡Acompañenos para demandar que
nuestros legisladores ponen la educación
primero! ¡La educación es nuestro futuro!

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