

Hispanic Leadership
Initiative Launch

Dr. Meria Carstarphen Shares Views on
Education with the Hispanic Community



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Vote May 9th, 2009

1958

Loaf of Bread
\$.19
Gallon of Gas
\$.24
Gallon of Milk
\$1.01

AVERAGE
INCOME
\$4,650.00

Dow Jones Avg:
436

New Car: \$2,155.00 New House: \$12,975.00



People in the News



Ana Yáñez-Correa Receives Sor Juana Award

Ana Yáñez-Correa, Executive Director of the **Texas Criminal Justice Coalition** received the **Sor Juana Festival** 2009 Women of Achievement Award on Friday, April 17, 2009 in Austin, Texas at the Mexican American Cultural Center.

The award is named after and in honor of the contributions of **Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz** [1651-1695], who is one of Mexico's greatest poets and playwrights and was highly regarded for her advocacy of women's education and solidarity against oppression.

In honoring the achievements of **Ana Yáñez-Correa**, the **Sor Juana Festival** highlights the importance of opportunity for children like **Ana** who immigrated to the United States from **Mexico**. **Ana** came to the U.S. when she was just a child and, with perseverance and dedication, she is now earning her Ph.D. while leading **TCJC** in its policy reform efforts.



Judge Naranjo Makes Right Decision

State District Judge, **Orlinda Naranjo** ruled that the **Texas Department of Public Safety** cannot make up its own rules as it goes along.

Naranjo issued a temporary injunction to prevent the agency from instituting new rules requiring applicants for a **Texas** drivers license to show documents that they are allowed to be in the country for a least a year when they are applying for a drivers license.

The **Mexican American Legal and Education Defense Fund** (**MALDEF**, which brought suit against the state of **Texas** argued that the **Texas Department of Public Safety** had overstepped its authority in making the rule change. The **DPS** is now appealing.



Uriñas Tapped to Head the Ford Foundation

The **Ford Foundation** has picked **Luis A. Urbiñas** as its new president. **Urbiñas**, who grew up in New York and graduated from **Harvard University** with a B.A. and M.B.A. has worked for the past 18 years at a consulting firm called **McKinsy & Company**.

The **Ford Foundation** was instrumental in funding a number of Chicano organizations during the hey days of the Chicano Movement including what became the **National Council of La Raza**. It also gave the initial funding for the **Mexican American Graduate Studies Program** at the **University of Notre Dame** which was directed by **Dr. Julian Samora**.



River City Youth Foundation Receives \$25,000 Award

Mona Gonzalez, the founding Executive Director of the **River City Youth Foundation** announced that her organization has been selected as the recipient of a \$25,000 **New York Life Insurance Company's Community Impact Grant** for its **Growing Resources, Opportunities & Work (GROW) campaign in Dove Springs**.

The grant, one of four in **Texas**, will allow **RCYF** to expand its outreach in 2009 to include education and community impact activities reaching more than 30,000 youth and families in southeast **Austin**.

"We are proud that **New York Life** supports our community through this program," said **David Humbert**, Managing Partner of the Austin General office, **New York Life**. "We are excited to team with **River City Youth Foundation** to expand the education and community impact activities in **Austin**."

"We are grateful for the support we've received from the **Austin General Office of New York Life** and **New York Life's** investment in our **GROW** campaign, which will have a lasting effect on the entire community," said **Gonzalez**.

The **River City Youth Foundation** is headquartered at 5209 South Pleasant Valley Road in Austin, Texas 78744. To contact them please call: (512) 440-1111 or email: info@rivercityyouth.org



Espitia Working Hard to Capture Oral Histories in Austin

Gloria Espitia has only been in **Austin, Texas** a short while, but she is determined to make a historical difference. As the community liaison for the **Austin History Center** of the **Austin Public Library**, **Espitia**, with a lot of help from **Danny Camacho** and others, has set in motion an initiative to collect the oral histories of elderly Latinos in **Austin**.

On April 18, she convened a workshop session on how members of the community can help under take this huge task. Various speakers spoke of the challenge of getting out there and how to actually perform the interviews. As **Espitia** stated, every day that some one days, they take with them a piece of history. This is why it is imperative that we move quickly. For more information on this project call: (512) 974-7480



Julian Castro Running for Mayor of San Antonio

On May the 9th, 2009, the voters of **San Antonio, Texas** will have the opportunity to cast their ballots for a new Mayor. **Julian Castro** is one of those in the running. A **Stanford** and **Harvard Law School** graduate, **Castro** is making his second bid for the mayoralty position.

Castro, whose twin brother is **Texas State Representative Joaquin Castro** is the son of **Rosie Castro**, one of the most influential Chicana activists in **San Antonio**. **Ms. Castro** has worked her heart out to raise two very fine young men who have proved time and again what it means to *hecharle ganas!*



Barbara Renaud Gonzalez has New Book on the Market

Barbara R. Gonzalez new book, *Golondrina, why did you leave me?* is now available from **UT Press** and all major book stores. An acclaimed journalist and native born Tejana, this is her first full length novel.

It is a lyrical story of land, love, and loss, bringing us the first novel of a working-class Tejana family set in the cruelest beauty of the **Texas** panhandle. Her story exposes the brutality, tragedy, and hope of her homeland and helps to fill a dearth of scholarly and literary works on Mexican and Mexican American women in post-World War II **Texas**.

Gonzalez is very good with words and understands the timing and phrasing of language. She will be doing a reading from her book in **Austin, Texas** on May 3rd, 2009 at **Bookwoman Bookstore** at 3:00pm.

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On the Question of Leadership

Leadership. What is leadership? This is always an interesting subject. Now-a-days it is common to hear the word "leadership" tossed around and marketed as though it were something that could easily be acquired if only one were to attend a class or two. Today we even have academic programs in the United States where people can earn a Ph.D in Leadership Studies. (Gonzaga University, Washington State and Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, just to name a few)

The fact of the matter is that good leadership is to a large degree a function of followership. It seems to me that if you call yourself a leader, then when you turn around, there better be somebody following you. If there is no one is behind you, you're not leading. Sounds too simple? It is simple. Here are some of the ingredients for being a good leader. The key word here is "good." For it doesn't take much for someone to stand up on a chair and say "follow me." And it doesn't take much for one to show up for a called meeting on time. But it does take a lot for people to trust an individual to lead them in an agreed upon direction.

Where does trust come from? It comes from spending time with people. It comes from sharing in the joy of victory and in the disappointment of defeat. In the Hispanic culture it comes from sharing a meal with someone and finding out about where they came from and how their family is doing. Trust comes from sacrifice. When people see you working your tail off, sometimes for no pay at all, at a church function, a political campaign, or doing something in the neighborhood, it communicates who you are and what you are about. Trust comes from public displays of courage, of stepping forward instead of stepping backwards. Sometimes trust is built slowly. Sometimes it comes from giving people the opportunity to see that the only thing that a person can really give and keep . . . is their word.

In the forty years that I have been a community activist I have learned that in addition to trust, there is another important ingredient for good leadership, it is understanding how to make "failure your friend." Most people do not understand or want to understand how failure can be turned into a friend. Learning how to make "failure your friend" is key for those of us who are involved in the business of organizing people. For the fact of the matter is that more people are

going to tell you "no" before you find one who will tell you "yes." If you

set out to become a good leader you will hear "no" and all the excuses that go with many more times than you will hear a "yes." Yes I will help you. Yes, I will stand with you.

Before **Cesar Chavez** found success with the farm workers union, he spent many years tasting the bitter fruit of failure. He heard a thousand times, even from the farm workers themselves, why the idea of a union or an association was not going to work. Before we heard the now famous phrase, "*Si Se Puede*", what Cesar constantly heard among poor farm workers was, "*No Se Puede*." The growers are too wealthy. They are too powerful. We will never be able to get them to sign union contracts. "*No se puede Cesar*." In the early days, many farm workers turned their back on **Cesar, Dolores Huerta, Gilbert Padilla Larry Italong and Tony Oredian**. They did not want to risk what little they had to loose. But Cesar and the rest refused to give up on the dream of building a union for farm workers.

Over the years **Cesar Chavez** learned not only from his own mistakes, but from history. He learned how not to repeat the errors that had destroyed the confidence, faith and yes, trust that others were willing to place in him. But it took a long time to bring farm workers into the 20th century. The journey of **Cesar Chavez** and the farm workers movement was indeed a long row to hoe. It wasn't until 1979, that Cesar stated, that the strikes in the fields that year were really the "Dream Strikes" because they strikes were about bread and butter issues. These strikes were about money. The previous strikes were about the unions right to exist, the union's the right to be recognized. But it was the strikes of 1979, where leadership, trust, sacrifice all came together and finally paid off. And when **Cesar Chavez** turned around, there were thousands of farm workers and people following him. "Todo con tiempo. Todo con tiempo. Alcabo hay más tiempo que vida."

Editorial



Alfredo R. Santos c/s
Editor & Publisher



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Mateo Delgado Appointed to State Board by Governor Perry

AUSTIN – Gov. Rick Perry has appointed nine members to the **Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD)** including **Mateo Delgado**. The council ensures that Texans with developmental disabilities have the opportunity to be independent, productive and valued members of their communities.

Delgado, an **El Paso** native and **University of New Mexico** law school graduate was born with osteogenesis imperfecta, a disease that causes brittle bones. "Others believed in me and that's made it possible for me to be where I am today," he says.

Delgado frequently traveled up and down I-25 and I-10 between **UNM** and **El Paso** while working on a bachelor's in psychology and anthropology. After he graduated he thought his time on the road might be over, but law school beckoned him back to **Albuquerque**.

Delgado says he was "exposed to the legal world" as a child. His father is **Hector Delgado**, an **El Paso** attorney. "I was interested in studying constitutional law as well as business law," the younger **Delgado** says. Constitutional law gave him the background necessary to pursue his advocacy work for the disabled. Business law will give him the insight into how the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** is put into practice.

Delgado says a trip one day to the library sold him on the need to focus on the **ADA**. Searching the library's collection for research on disabilities law and legislation, he found very little, but he found an extensive collection of materials on civil rights.

"The rights of the disabled is the biggest issue to be addressed since civil rights, but very little has been published," he says. **Delgado** says that the disabled need to get out and push for their rights. "It's not always convenient. Disabled people need to be visible and outspoken," he says.



Delgado's condition has presented him with challenges. He has had to have metal rods inserted in his arms and legs to support the long bones. To build up muscle, he's been a swimmer since his first days at **El Paso's Cathedral High School**. "**Coach Leo Cancellare** supported and encouraged me. Without him, I wouldn't be here today," says **Delgado**.

Cancellare, who died a several years ago, also served as the school's principal. "He took the time to help me develop as a swimmer and grow as a person. He helped me develop the discipline to get where I am today. He had tremendous drive and motivation," **Delgado** says.

Delgado did develop as a swimmer, winning the 200-meter backstroke in the **U.S. Disabilities Nationals** in 1998 and the 400-meter individual metal in 1999. He also won the bronze in the 400 freestyle in the **Paraolympic Panamerican Games**. **Delgado** swam competitively at **UNM** for two years. **Delgado** is quick to acknowledge the help and encouragement from his family - parents **Hector** and **Julie Delgado** and sister **Monica Lovaz** - as well as friends and teachers. His bones may be easily broken, but his spirit is not.

Today he is an associate attorney at **Hector Delgado PLLC**. and a member of the bar of both **New Mexico** and **Texas**.

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La Voz de Austin submitted several questions to **Perla Cavazos** so she could share her views with our readers. *Aquí están.*

La Voz: If you had to name just three issues as your own, what would they be?

Perla: The top three things I want to accomplish are 1) providing immediate steps to address the impact of the economic downturn for Austin families 2) dedicate my leadership to addressing affordability issues in Austin, such as following through on the proposals outlined in the Children and Families Task Force and 3) commit to creating a long-range comprehensive plan to position Austin to lead Texas' economic comeback. More specifics regarding my priorities can be found on my website, www.VotePerla.com.

La Voz: Share with us why you would make a better member of city council than your opponent.

Perla: What Austin needs now is a leader who understands the troubles faced by families struggling to live from paycheck to paycheck. I understand these concerns. What **Austin** also needs now is a leader who has the skills to help us emerge from this economic downturn better than when we started. I believe that I have these skills. My background at the state legislature uniquely positions me to help our city to diversify our revenue streams and to develop programs in which we invest in the small businesses that are the backbone of our economy. My history of community work uniquely positions me to serve as a uniting force, bringing diverse groups of people to the table as we envision and plan for a better **Austin**.

La Voz: For the last several years you have worked as policy analyst for a **Texas State Senator**. What skill set do you bring from this position to the city council if in fact you were to be elected?

Perla: You're right. I have experience both locally and statewide which would be of great benefit to the citizens of **Austin**. While serving locally on the City's Planning Commission I became very familiar with land use policy and how to balance our need to develop **Austin** in a responsible way that respects our unique environment and the character of our neighborhoods. I also have worked locally with many community groups and leaders on issues of affordable housing, supporting small businesses, women's issues, increasing minority involvement in politics and how to

10 Questions for Perla Cavazos

support our arts culture. From my experience at the Legislature, I would bring much to the position as a Council Member. Some of the things I have learned from working for over 6 years in the State Senate include:

- Understanding the value of a public policy-making process that is open to the public and offers numerous opportunities for public participation from experts, stakeholders and "regular **Austin**ites" to craft policies that reflect community values and tackle complex issues with commonsense, creative solutions;

- Finding solutions with a "big-picture" frame of reference and thinking regionally to act in partnerships with all stakeholders to create comprehensive solutions;

- Standing up for working families on issues of affordability, economic development, and education; and working with the business community to create partnerships that benefit consumers and employees while fostering a healthy business environment;

- Understanding that all policy proposals require a full financial vetting to determine the fiscal note of those projects;

- Leveraging state and federal funds so we can pay for infrastructure-improvement projects at the local level;

- And, finally and perhaps most importantly, bringing people together from different, sometimes competing, interests to find common ground and building relationships in order to be successful in achieving our public policy ideas.

La Voz: Una pregunta que siempre hace la gente es, por qué es importante elegir a un Hispano a un puesto tal como la del city council? ¿Tienes una respuesta?

Perla: Because the Hispanic community comprises nearly 40 percent of the population in **Austin**, I think it's important to have a city council that is representative of our local

demographics and uniquely understands the issues facing our Hispanic community.



La Voz: It's no secret that there seems to be a lot of **Stanford University** graduates in public office or running for public office in Texas. I am thinking of **Julian Castro** who is running for Mayor of **San Antonio**. I am also thinking of **Raul Alvarez** who was a recent member of the **Austin City Council** and is now on the board of **Austin Community College**. What do you think accounts for this preponderance of **Stanford** graduates in **Texas**?

Perla: I was fortunate to have earned a scholarship to **Stanford University** and received a great education. And, I personally know **Julian** and **Raul**. They are true public servants. As someone who serves as an ambassador to **Stanford University** and volunteers to speak to high school students applying to **Stanford**, I know that the university makes a great effort to recruit minority students and have a student body that is reflective of national demographics. **Texas** is a major recruiting ground for Latino students.

La Voz: Share with our readers some the things that led you to decide to declare for this city council position.

Perla: I am running for office for several reasons. First, I am running because of my experience and the contributions I can make for the citizens of **Austin**. Based on my experiences at the State Legislature, on the **Austin Planning Commission**, and through my involvement in many local groups, such as the **Austin Women's Political Caucus**, I have gained much expertise not only on policy issues affecting the public but also the importance of how to use the political process to address the issues in our community.

As part of these experiences, I became frustrated with the growing disconnect between our City government and the citizens of **Austin**. This disconnect has caused our City government to become very reactive and therefore has bred distrust among the public. There is not adequate notice or vision for important issues facing our City. In order to combat this problem on a fundamental level, **Austin** needs to embark in a long-range, comprehensive planning process with a heavy emphasis on public participation – something that has not been done in 30 years. This is central to my campaign.

Also central to my motivation to run for office is the need to address the changing demographics of our city, disparity issues among our population and the rising cost of living. From a very personal perspective I have witnessed many **Austin**ites, including my brother and sister, struggle to provide for themselves and their families on minimum-wage salaries without benefits or room for job advancement. These individual examples represent a large portion of our City that is being left behind. I strongly believe that all **Austin**ites are entitled to enjoy the high quality of life our City offers, regardless of where they stand on the economic ladder.

Finally, through my involvement in many political campaigns, like the **MACC** bond campaign, the campaign to elect **Raul Alvarez** and the **Austin Women's Political Caucus**, I worked with many individuals behind-the-scenes to impact our political process. It was my leadership experiences in particular at the **Austin Women's Political Caucus** that inspired me to step out from behind-the-scenes to become not just a leader, but a candidate for public office.

La Voz: Here are some "lighter" questions so that our readers can become more familiar with you, please provide short answers.

Last Book Read: The Essential Neruda: Selected Poems, Pablo Neruda

Personal Hero: My grandmother, Maria Montez Cavazos

Favorite Color: Pink

Favorite Food: Sopa de Tortilla

Place you still haven't visited: New York

Favorite kind of music: Cumbia

Memorable quote: "Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow. Walk beside me that we may be as one." – Native American Proverb



LANZATE TAKES OFF!

Southwest Airlines, in conjunction with the **Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)**, announced the opening of **"Dándole Alas a Tu Éxito/Giving Flight to Your Success,"** its annual education travel award program.

This program starts in April with an online application to HACU at www.hacu.org. The deadline is June 5th, 2009. Student are eligible to receive from one to four tickets which the student or an immediate family member can use in the Fall to travel to/from a college or university. The travel tickets are awarded to undergraduate and graduate Hispanic students with socio-economic need who journey away from home to pursue higher education. All of the participants must submit an essay explaining why they deserve the travel award and what inspires them to pursue a college degree.

"For more than twenty years, HACU has dedicated efforts to ensure Hispanic success in higher education," said Antonio Flores, President and CEO of HACU, the only national education organization for Hispanic-Serving Institutions. "HACU is proud to partner with Southwest Airlines, for the fifth year, on the 'Dándole Alas a Tu Éxito/Giving Flight to Your Success' travel award program. During these difficult economic times, these travel awards are essential to many students currently enrolled in college."

HACU, which has its national headquarters in **San Antonio, Texas**, represents approximately 450 colleges and universities, including **Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs)**, which collectively serve more than two-thirds of all Hispanic higher education students in the United States and Puerto Rico. HACU's international membership includes leading higher education institutions in Latin America and Europe.

Unauthorized Immigrants More Dispersed Around the Country; Labor Force Growth Halts, But Number of U.S. Born Children Grows

The **Pew Hispanic Center** today released "A Portrait of Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States," which includes population and labor force estimates for each state, as well as national-level findings about families, education, income and other key indicators.

The report finds that unauthorized immigrants are more geographically dispersed than in the past. A group of 28 high-growth states in the mid-Atlantic, Midwest, Mountain and Southeast regions are now home to 32% of the unauthorized population, more than double their 14% share in 1990. **California's** share declined to 22% from 42% during this same period.

Unauthorized immigrants are more likely than either U.S.-born residents or legal immigrants to live in a household with a spouse and children, according to the report. A growing share of the children of unauthorized immigrants (73%) are U.S. citizens by birth. The U.S.-born and foreign-born children of unauthorized immigrants make up an estimated 6.8% of the nation's students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12.

Looking at undocumented workers, the report finds that the rapid growth of the unauthorized immigrant labor force from 1990 to 2006 has halted. The new report estimates there were 8.3 million unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. labor force in March 2008, accounting for 5.4% of the work force. The 2008 labor force estimate appears slightly lower than the 2007 estimate, but the change is within the margin of error.

The unauthorized immigrant share of the labor force varies widely by state. Undocumented immigrant workers constitute roughly 10% or more of the labor force in **Arizona, California and Nevada**, but less than 2.5% in most Midwest and Plains states.

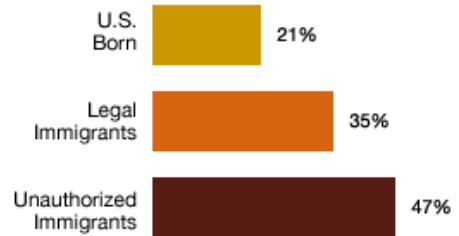
About three-quarters (76%) of the nation's unauthorized immigrants are Hispanic. As the **Pew Hispanic Center** has previously reported, 59% are from **Mexico**.

The new report builds on a **Pew Hispanic Center** analysis released last year, which estimated there were 11.9 million unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. in 2008. That report said the size of the unauthorized population appears to have declined since 2007, but the difference is not statistically significant. Both reports are based on an analysis of data from the March Current Population Survey, conducted by the **Census Bureau**, and on the 1990 and 2000 Censuses.

Other major findings:

- Adult unauthorized immigrants are disproportionately likely to be poorly educated. Among unauthorized immigrants ages 25-64, 47% have less than a high school education. By contrast, only 8% of U.S.-born residents ages 25-64 have not graduated from high school.
- An analysis of college attendance finds that among unauthorized immigrants ages 18 to 24 who have graduated from high school, half (49%) are in college or have attended college. The comparable figure for U.S.-born residents is 71%.
- The 2007 median household income of unauthorized immigrants was \$36,000, well below the \$50,000 median household income for U.S.-born residents. In contrast to other immigrants, undocumented immigrants do not attain markedly higher incomes the longer they live in the United States.
- A third of the children of unauthorized immigrants and a fifth of adult unauthorized immigrants lives in poverty. This is nearly double the poverty rate for children of U.S.-born parents (18%) or for U.S.-born adults (10%).
- More than half of adult unauthorized immigrants (59%) had no health insurance during all of 2007. Among their children, nearly half of those who are unauthorized immigrants (45%) were uninsured and 25% of those who were born in the U.S. were uninsured.

Nearly Half of Unauthorized-Immigrant Households are Couples with Children (% of households that are couples with children for each status group)



Source: Pew Hispanic Center

United States Hispanic Contractors Association Takes Offense to Email Circulated by Austin Capital Management



Austin, Texas – The U.S. Hispanic Contractor's Association released a statement today taking offense to an email circulated by **Austin Capital Management Office Manager Tina McMillin**. The email (see attached) camouflaged as a community service announcement to "undisclosed recipients" with a subject caption reading "Tax Reminder...April 15, 2009" and containing a picture of four Hispanic males and an offensive caption that reads ***Muchas Gracias! 21 million illegal aliens are depending on you!*** has left the membership of the U.S. Hispanic Contractors Association completely offended and perplexed.

"The content of the email transmitted by Ms. McMillin is beyond offensive to the Hispanic community. Messages, such as the one sent out by Ms. McMillin serves to do nothing more than propagate fear and fans the fires of ignorance and hatred toward a group that toils tirelessly, in oftentimes underappreciated crafts, for the good of themselves, their families and for ALL individuals who call America their home," said **Mr. Frank Fuentes**, Chairman of the U.S. Hispanic Contractors Association.

Mr. Fuentes further notes that since the email was transmitted from **Austin Capital Management's** company email, he and the members of the Association believe that this firm either condones the illiterate, backward mentality of this email or has little to no management control of what their employees do while on company time. *"Either way,"* states **Mr. Fuentes**, *"it's a shame to have a company in Austin Texas that claims to employ a mission that includes community responsibility: being model business leaders in the communities in which we operate our business, yet contradicts this mission with irresponsible and unacceptable blatant racism in the actions of their staff."*

NATIONAL HISPANIC BLOG PIONEER SETS UP AUSTIN PORTAL TO REPORT ON LATINO LEADERSHIP IN COMMUNITY, BUSINESS AND EDUCATION

Juan G. Tornoe, a pioneer in the Latino blogosphere and founder of the number one rated news site **HispanicTrending.net**, has honed in on **Austin** as the site of his newest blog venture. **Tornoe**, an Austinite who was one of the first Latino bloggers to interview **Obama** before his presidency, has launched the blog **Hispanics in Austin**.

Tornoe's blog will cover the latest happenings in Austin regarding Latino education, politics, culture, economics, media, and community through **Tornoe's** original news and analysis, as well as from a select base of contributors. *"The idea is to make this new site Hispanics in Austin a community effort so people hear a wide array of voices and can truly get a sense what's going on in Austin's Latinosphere,"* said **Tornoe**. *"This isn't just a site just for Hispanics but rather for anyone who wants to become more informed about the trends and events happening in the Austin Latino community and how this impacts businesses, educators, and organizations in the region."*

Among the features highlighted on **Hispanics in Austin** is a growing list of Latino organizations, charities, and companies as well as community postings about the latest **Austin** Hispanic news, events, and public issues. The site also publishes Spanish content.

"I see such enormous potential for Austin to lead the country as an innovator because of its rich Latino prowess and progress," said **Tornoe**. *"Hopefully, this site will help harness some of that intellectual power and community resolve and put it into perspective locally as well as nationally."*

"We're very excited to have Juan's skills and talent focused on Austin and helping to take Austin's global competitive advantage—its growing pool of bilingual educated employees and leaders—to a much larger scale on the Internet," said **Sylvia Acevedo**, founder and CEO of **CommuniCard, LLC**. *"With Juan's reputation and proven abilities, he'll help pave the way for an emerging Latino blogosphere in Austin."*

About HispanicTrending.net

Juan G. Tornoe founded **Hispanic Trending.net** in 2004 originally as a Hispanic marketing community forum. Over the years, the format of the site eventually changed to providing breaking news and trends articles in the Latino world, as well as serving as a resource center for advertising and marketing professionals serving the Hispanic industry.

Tornoe's **HispanicTrending.net** has drawn praise from numerous political officials and business leaders for its vast depth of timely and relevant Latino news and has been featured by media including **CNN**, **New York Times**, **Dan Rather's Reports**, **National Public Radio**, **USA Today**, **Reuters**, and many other outlets. **Tornoe** is also a published author and columnist with numerous marketing and business publications. A native of **Guatemala City**, **Guatemala**, **Tornoe** graduated from **Universidad Francisco Marroquín** and received an MBA from **E.S.E.A.D.E.**

The media contact for **Hispanic Trending** is **Oné Musel-Gilley**. She can be reached at **HispanicTrending.net** (512) 576-0219 or omg@visiblypr.com

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Dr. Meria Carstarphen, Shares Some Thoughts

Over the last several months, the **Austin Independent School District** has been involved in the selection of a new superintendent. **Dr. Par Forgione**, the current superintendent, is retiring after ten years. On March 23rd, 2009, the Board of Trustees of the **AISD** voted unanimously to hire **Dr. Meria Carstarphen** as the next Superintendent.

A native of **Selma, Alabama**, she holds a bachelors degree from **Tulane University**, a masters degree from **Auburn University** and a doctorate in Education from the **Harvard Graduate School of Education** at **Harvard University**. She is currently the superintendent of the **St. Paul, Minnesota** school district.

Below are some of the responses **Dr. Carstarphen** gave during a series of community meetings prior to her selection as the new superintendent. After being introduced by **AISD School Board** member **Lori Moya** at a luncheon at the **University Club** at **The University of Texas at Austin**, **Dr. Carstarphen** opened her remarks by speaking in Spanish and letting the crowd know how much she appreciated their presence. After sharing with the those in attendance where she was from she switched over to English and began discussing her views on education.

Dr. Meria Carstarphen: We have a lot of students in our district who do not speak English. We have been incredibly innovative and creative. We are recognized in this country as the premier school district to be able to address English language learner needs. And we have many immigrants and second and third generation learners that we have to address. It is a very, very complicated mix of children but it makes our district a better place.

I value diversity, I value innovation, I value creativity and the people will see that I will do just about anything to get a better outcome for students. We take a lot of risks in our

district. I have a current school board that flexes with me a lot.

We have challenged everything from teacher quality to principal placement and stuff in between. We are calling into question choice in our school system making sure that every opportunity for a family and a child is a high quality one. And then what is it about our systems that get in the way of providing a premier education across the board?

So there is a lot of exciting news for education across the country. We have a **US Secretary of Education** who is not cut from a traditional cloth. He is equally passionate and believes in "righting historical wrongs." And I anticipate that **Arnie Duncan** will be in many respects a different kind of champion for children that are from the demographic group you have here in **Austin** as well. And we will benefit from the extra attention resources that will help us to do a better job.

I am part of that national conversation, I am part of the international conversation and . . .

I am part of that national conversation, I am part of the international conversation and I do my part to be a complete member of my community in **St. Paul** and I anticipate being a full member of the community in **Austin** as well should I be chosen as the superintendent.

So as we wrap up the next few days of what it means to be the lone finalist for the position, I encourage you to ask questions of me as I have of students, teachers, staff and administrators so that school board can hear the things that you feel are important and to hear my response and engagement to those things . . . as they make their final about whether or not I should be the next superintendent in **Austin**. So with that I'll try to answer some of your questions.

Rudy Montoya: I'll start off. My name is **Rudy Montoya** and I am a former **AISD** school board member. I am also a parent of a 6th grade student in **AISD**. I want to ask you what were some of the aspects of the job that attracted you to the job here in **Austin**. And help us to understand why you are the right

candidate for our community and more importantly, for our kids.

Dr. Carstarphen: Here is what I bring to the table and why I would be a good match. I have learned a lot about how to better serve second language learners. And this district is the majority Hispanic. It is a critical part of the next phase of reform here. And I don't think that one necessarily has to speak the language or understand all the details of a culture or be from a particular place.

There are programs that work and don't work for our kids. And I am going to be so bold to say that Austin has not figured that all out . . .

But I will say that there are programs that work and don't work for our kids. And I am going to be so bold to say that **Austin** has not figured that all out just yet. There have been a lot of very specific programming around what is important in education that is one part of the solution but not everything. What I think I can bring to the table are all those other strategies that we know can work if we can figure out, again, with the community's support, how quickly and with the right resources we can put things in place.

I am a firm believer that the superintendent needs to have a very strong relationship with the school board. It is something that I value. I don't want anybody to think that is not part of my job. I want to have a relationship with my school board because they are elected by you and need to have access to me and make decisions with me about the next steps for the school district.

I have a very specific skill set that has prepared me to develop very quick understanding about . . .

I have a very specific skill set that has prepared me to develop a very quick understanding about the achievement gaps and experiences of children, their families and the schools and I think we will move swiftly but not hasten as we find a path to leadership

that serves urban children of color with unique needs in this country

Rita Gonzales-Garza: In order to make significant change in education would you be open to making changes not only in schools but at the main office because that is a big problem.

There are those who are not willing to do, and there are those who do not know how to do.

Dr. Carstarphen: Two things: there those who are not willing to do, and there are those who do not know how to do. It will take a very specific effort on my part to get to know my staff as quickly as possible, to understand the skills set that they have and don't have and again there might be people who know, how but are not willing and there are those who are willing if they knew how. And the distinction with those two groups is a large part of my job. And then after sorting that out, and making sure that we keep . . . and I am OK if you don't know how, but you are willing to learn how. We can figure that out, we can give you more support, we can do professional development, we can put them on the right path.

For those who are not willing to be part of the next step in change for Austin, they should not be working in this district

For those who are not willing and interested in being part of the next step in change for **Austin**, they should not be working in this district. And if they are not working, then it is my job to insure to we get the transition and leadership that we need to have. And other districts know me for that too. It is important that we have a firm leader that is fair and understands what that fine line is. There are a lot of people who have not had the support they need in order to carry out their job effectively. And so creating pathways for them to improve is important is because we are in education and if we can educate children, we can educate adults. This is something that I passionately respect. I feel

the New Superintendent: with the Hispanic Community



So we actually have to create the system to support the students we have at that time. And maybe ten years from now it will look very different. But in the beginning we have to put the resources behind the needs we have at the time. And it is tough because we do not spend enough money in education in Texas.

That is the kind of quality education we should be able to provide and not have to apologize for it.

And it is my personal opinion that we already know that when we want to do a great job for kids, it is going to cost about \$15,000 per student. That is the kind of

quality education we should be able to provide and not have to apologize for it. Now I know we are a third of the way here and I know it is unrealistic to put that kind of demand on the taxpayers, but at a minimum, with the resources that we do have they should follow the student's needs. And if we are missing something at the secondary level or elementary level or early childhood education, we need to address it today because there are consequences.

Regarding parent involvement, in Minnesota we do a couple of things. We have actually established learning centers that are not only for the students but also for the parents. We don't try to do content or language transition things. We are more interested in getting parents to understand how to be successful with their child. The other thing we are doing, we have a lot of adult basic education that is tied directly to our school system. We want parents to get their GED. We want to parents be proficient in their home language and also English. We value parents.

We want parents to learn and succeed because many times it translates into better academic performance for their own children. A parent who can help their child with math or reading is always going to be an asset in a community. Those are just some of the things we are doing.

The following questions came from a community meeting that was held at Travis High School.

Questioner: You have said in the past that every child deserves a quality education. Tell us what you mean by a quality education.

Dr. Carstarphen: A quality education is an education where children will receive the academic skills, (from) early childhood education thru 12th grade, to succeed in college or post-secondary education. A quality education is where students will receive career skills to be successful in a rapidly developing economy. And I have also said that a quality education provides students with decision making skills, critical thinking skills, that will make them an informed citizen or resident in a democracy. To live in the United States, to participate in the democratic process, to have a voice and access, means you better know how to think for yourself, make decisions that will help you and help our country grow.

Questioner: How do we prevent students from dropping out of high school?

Dr. Carstarphen: Just about every student will tell you that if they had a great experience in high school, if they were feeling engaged in class, if they were feeling as though teachers cared if they were in the classroom, if they were challenged by their work, if there were adults who supported them and worked with them, they would stay in school. By and large they would give up having their job. (I know) life circumstances can be very tough. But kids are very smart at a very early age. They know how important it is (an education). But if they feel like they are

spinning their wheels or they are not getting the support and they are spending year after year in school and don't earn credits for their courses and spend every summer in summer school when they could have a job to help themselves through the school year We create circumstances for them that make it nearly impossible (to advance) they will drop out.

Imagine how frustrating it would be to a 10th or 11th grader and not be reading proficiently after spending eleven or twelve years in our school system. Now at some point they are young adults, and they will say, I am not getting any value out of this. I am better off dropping out, maybe working for somebody who will get me some professional development.

So the challenge is not so much in trying to sell the students on the idea that we do have their best interests at heart, it is selling

the idea to the adults that they need to support students in school while they are there, to make sure that they are doing all that they need every step of the way, getting their credits, getting the right kind of challenging courses, engaging them in school, caring about whether or not they show up and did their homework and attend class.

Those are the things I think it is more of an adult

conversation than it is trying to convince our kids. By and large our kids are unbelievably compliant. They will do what we expect them to do. If we have low expectation of them, if you don't think they need to be in your class, or if you don't think we should be teaching reading at the high school level to help support them, then they will live up to those low expectations.

Continued on page 12



like we need to give people a chance to improve and if they do not improve and are not willing to improve, then we are going to have a different conversation. And that is from custodians to senior leadership people.

George Gutierrez from Ahora Si: One of the issues that we have in Austin is that parents of English language learners do not know how to navigate our system. They don't know how to come in and speak with school officials. What are your thoughts about how to open the lines of communication in the schools? And my second question is about bilingual education. And I know things cost money.

Dr. Carstarphen: Services for English language learners, and this actually holds true for special education or any kind of unique set of experiences, that a child has that we need to be able to build on and support. So, here is what we should do in the system: provide what they need. If they need it through high school then you have to provide it through high school. We cannot underestimate what it means when a child comes sideways into a system. We need to have the best structure leading all the way up through 6th grade. But if they get to the 8th grade and there is nothing, we will lose them. They will not get what they need. They will drop out.

The Big Squeeze Semi-Finals Coming to Austin on May 2nd

**Free Concert and Playoffs will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2-5p.m.
Mexican American Cultural Center 600 River Street, Austin
Official Hotel: Embassy Suites Town Lake**

Texas Folklife and the **Mexican American Cultural Center**, in conjunction with the **Austin Parks & Recreation Department**, present this free contest and concert open to the public on Saturday, May 2, at the **Mexican American Cultural Center**. It will be an afternoon filled with music as the Austin-based cumbia-playing band Cerronato will perform as well as Conteño, with its mix of conjunto, norteño, and Tejano music featuring former Big Squeeze winner **Juan Longoria, Jr.** from the **Rio Grande Valley**. Dancing will be encouraged at this free, family-friendly event.

The **Big Squeeze** semi-finalists range in age from 15 to 25 and represent both rural and urban areas in the state, with four hailing from **South Texas**. They are: **Gloria Jean Cantu**, 16, from **San Benito**; **Rogelio (Roger) Guerra, Jr.**, 16, from **Mission**; **Issac Ledesma**, 16, from **Belton**; **Anthony Ortiz, Jr.**, 15, from **Austin**; **Eduardo Ozuna**, 17, from **Penitas**; **Heriberto Rodriguez**, 16, from **Edcouch**; and **Jorge Vásquez**, 25, from **Houston**.

They were chosen by musicians and music industry professionals who served on the judges panel and were selected based on their song interpretation, technical skill, originality, execution, and stage presence. **Texas Folklife** congratulates these young musicians and appreciates their participation as well as all of those who entered the contest.

"The Big Squeeze contest allows us to fulfill our mission to preserve, promote, and celebrate Texas culture in a very real way," said Texas Folklife Executive Director Nancy Bless. "By supporting these young musicians we hope to encourage them to continue playing the accordion, an instrument that is central to Texas traditional music. It is gratifying to help inspire a younger generation of musicians, literally put them on the stage, and help assure the future of 'the national instrument of Texas.'"

Each semi-finalist will perform two songs at the May 2 concert and a panel of judges will choose three players to go on to the finals at the **20th annual Accordions Kings & Queens** concert in **Houston** on June 6th. **Jorge Vásquez**, in the 19-25 year old category, has already been selected by the judges to move on to the finals. The finalists will open at the widely acclaimed and wildly popular evening of squeezebox at **Houston's Miller Outdoor Theatre**. Last year the audience numbered over 6,000, and this year's concert promises to be a hit with an all-star line up including **Santiago Jimenez, Jr.**, **Sunny Saucedo**, and **Cedryl Ballou** and the **Zydeco Trendsetters**.

The grand prize winner of **The Big Squeeze** accordion contest 2009, chosen at the **Accordion Kings & Queens** concert in June, will receive a prize package valued at \$7,000, including an all expense paid trip to perform in **Trossingen, Germany**, the home of **Hohner's** German factory, a day-long recording session at the historic **SugarHill Recording Studios** in **Houston**, and promotional support from **Hohner, Inc.**, **SugarHill**, and **Texas Folklife**.

The **Big Squeeze** contest is funded in part by the **City of Austin** through the **Cultural Arts Division** and by a grant from the **Texas Commission on the Arts** and an award from the **National Endowment for the Arts**, which believes that a great nation deserves great art, **Hohner Inc.**, **Houston Endowment**, **SugarHill Recording Studios**, the **Still Water Foundation Flashbang**, **Embassy Suites Hotel, Austin**, **Botticelli's**, **Güero's Taco Bar**, and **Sign Effects**. This event is co-sponsored by the **City of Austin's Parks & Recreation Department**. The **City of Austin** is committed to compliance with the **American Disabilities Act**. If you require special assistance for participation in our programs or use of our facilities, please call (512) 478-6222. Visit the **MACC** at: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/macc/default.htm>



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Mike

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- Led on environmental sustainability initiatives, including making city events carbon neutral, reducing landfill waste, and promoting single-stream recycling.
- Fought for open government reforms, including making the City Auditor more independent and putting more public information online.

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- Take on our traffic problems, and hold an election to expand our rail system as soon as possible, as long as the funding system is clear.
- Protect the unique character of our neighborhoods, champion viable affordable housing strategies, and continue working to create a Homestead Preservation District to stem the tide of gentrification in East Austin.

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Austin is David's home. He graduated from Johnson High School in 1987, received a degree in economics from the University of Texas in 1991 and an MBA from Texas State University in 1993. He and his wife, Betsy, have a nine month old son and are expecting a second child in May.

As a business and civic leader David Buttross founded his first business in fifth grade, mowing lawns for extra money. David knows the value of hard work. And he learned early on the importance of keeping within a budget, meeting a payroll and providing good customer service. As mayor, David will use the lessons he learned from being a successful entrepreneur to ensure that our city makes the best use of taxpayer dollars to benefit all of our community. As a residential and commercial real estate investor, David has used his expertise to help turn over 1,000 renters into homeowners and taxpayers across the state of Texas, and he has developed an Austin small business incubator that helps small businesses grow and become a successful part of our community

DAVID BUTTROSS  **FOR AUSTIN MAYOR**

Dr. Meria Carstarphen Shares View on Education with the Hispanic Community

If you have high expectations of them, if you don't let them off the hook, you notice when they don't come to school, you ask them why they haven't done their homework, you create safety nets to insure that they get it done anyway they will be unbelievably committed and loyal not only to their school, their class, their teacher but to themselves. And so it is about how we treat them as young adults.

Questioner: I am sure that you support more parental involvement in education. In several cities around the United States, parents irrespective of citizenship status are allowed to vote in school board elections. What is your view on this?



You cannot students penalize for whatever their parents may or may not have done. The government needs to take that up with the adults.

Dr. Carstarphen: I have said this a couple of times. I believe that once a child is in our school system, whoever the parent or caregiver is, should be able to engage in every single process that our system makes available for any other resident or resident in our country. I also believe that we should not penalize children for being immigrants or coming with their families to this country. As soon as they get here . . . they are ours. They are ours!

You cannot penalize students for whatever their parents may or may not have done. The government needs to take that up with the adults. The kids however should be able to have access to and participate in every opportunity. There is nothing more frustrating than what we are experiencing in **Minnesota** right now. Where if you are not a citizen but you have come up through our school system you are charged out of state tuition and you do not have access to college scholarships. That is insane! It is grossly unfair to the child. You cannot penalize the child for what the adults did. The adults made a choice for their families. They made a choice for their children. Now that the children are here, treat them with respect. Give them the opportunity. If you limit opportunities you are limited the growth and well being of your country.

**We are all visitors here.
None of us were first.**

And every American knows, we are all visitors here. None of us were first. So we are still a country that is receiving immigrant families for all sorts of different reasons. And they, like our forefathers should have access to every opportunity that I experienced because I was born here. I would hope that across the country our leadership at the Federal level, at the state level, and even at the local level gets a lot smarter and certainly much more responsible about the future of our communities by giving our children the access that they need to be to get a quality education and a quality life.

CENTER FOR POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE LBJ SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Hispanic Leadership Initiative Launch

The Center for Politics and Governance at The University of Texas at Austin Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs in partnership with the Texas Exes will launch a Hispanic Leadership Initiative on May 4th, 2009 to examine and promote the Hispanic population's growing potential for leadership across Texas and in the nation.

The event will take place in the **Etter-Harbin Center Connally Ballroom** on the UT campus starting with a reception at 6:00pm The initiative will begin to measure emerging political and policy trends in the Hispanic community, recognize Hispanic leadership, develop and host information relevant to the Hispanic community and increase recruitment of Hispanic students to the University and the LBJ School.

The launch event will feature remarks by **The University of Texas System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa** followed by a panel discussion. Panelists include **Henry Bonilla**, former U.S. Congressman; **Ted Cruz**, former Texas Solicitor General; **Pete Gallego**, Texas State Representative; and **Orlinda Naranjo**, Travis County District Judge.

The Hispanic Leadership Initiative has five main objectives to be achieved over a three-year period.

Highlight Hispanic leadership and the emerging role of Hispanic Americans in influencing public policy

Recognize outstanding achievements in leadership by Hispanic alumni

Provide mentoring and networking opportunities for Hispanic alumni and students

Introduce Hispanic undergraduate students to the LBJ School of Public Affairs

Reconnect Hispanic alumni with the University of Texas on an annual basis

For more information about the **Hispanic Leadership Initiative** please call (512) 471-0693

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Nationally Recognized Leadership Program Celebrates 10 Years of Cultivating Hispanic Leaders

(Austin, Texas) On April 23rd, the **Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GAHCC) Education Foundation** graduated Austin's next generation of Hispanic leaders at the **2009 Hispanic Austin Leadership (HAL) Graduation Ceremony**. The ceremony took place at the **Sheraton Hotel** located at 701 11th Street.

Launched in 1999, **Hispanic Austin Leadership (HAL)** is a seven month immersion into the **Greater Austin** community and provides business leaders and professionals an opportunity to expand their civic awareness, leadership skills and network of colleagues. HAL graduates engage and promote proactive changes required to create equity, opportunity and a better quality of life for all of **Austin's** citizenry.

"The HAL program has sparked a renewed sense of civic duty in me. The breadth and depth of topics and diverse speakers has inspired me to take a vested interest in my community and drive for a greater quality of life for the region and beyond," states **Thomas Miranda**, HAL 2009 Graduate.

Each year, HAL program participants are asked to take part in a group project that promotes awareness of topics vital to the **Greater Austin** community. At this year's graduation, attendees will determine which group project, education, financial stability, healthcare, environment or civic leadership is Team Project of the Year.

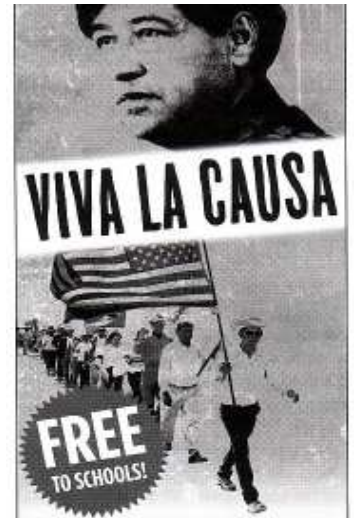
"These projects are so inspiring! The HAL Class of 2009 worked extremely hard to develop projects that will improve the community. The students are walking away from their HAL experience with a significant understanding of the issues affecting Central Texas and with strong community connections so they can provide a lasting impact as Hispanic leaders," states **Myndi Garret**, HAL Chair.

To date, HAL has been duplicated across 8 cities in the United States, graduated over 130 participants in **Austin** and received national attention after winning the **2000 National Society of Hispanic MBA's (NSHMBA) Brillante Award**.

2009 HAL Graduates include:

Eloy Alderete, Wells Fargo
 Juanita Baldwin, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
 Rosemary Hernandez Banda, 3M
 Barbra Boeta, PeopleFund
 Dana Dominique Castillo, Freescale Semiconductor
 Emafely Garcia, Univision 62
 Louis Garcia, Applied Materials
 Armando Garza, Freescale Semiconductor
 Gabriel Gomez, Southwest Housing Compliance Corporation
 Luis V. Guevara, University of Texas-Center for Mexican American Studies
 Christine Danielle Martinez, Univision Communication Inc.
 Melissa Martinez, Texas Gas Service
 Janette Miller, Southwest Housing Compliance Corporation
 Thomas Miranda, Cisco Systems
 Stefan J. Molina, CasaBella Architects
 Anoa Monsho, Austin Energy
 Aricella Navarro, Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
 Joe Pelayo, Applied Materials
 Consuelo Rodriguez, Dell
 Nancy Rodriguez, Austin American Statesman/Ahora Si!
 Enrique Romo, University of Texas at Austin
 Amanda Urquidez, Compass Bank
 Gloria Villalobos, Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority
 Jessica Warren, US Trust Bank of America
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For more information about the Hispanic Leadership Program, please contact **Linda Medina** at Imedina@gahcc.org or call: (512) 476-7502



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TEJANO CONJUNTO FESTIVAL EN SAN ANTONIO 2009 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Tuesday, May 5/Guadalupe Theatre
9-11am Free Admission for Senior Citizens

Seniors Conjunto Dance

Featuring Conjunto Music Hall of Famers
 El Pavo Grande Salvador García and
 Eddie "Lalo" Torres y Anita Paiz y su Conjunto

Wednesday, May 6/Guadalupe Theatre
7-9pm Free Admission

Best of the Tejano Conjunto Festival CD Release Party

20th Anniversary of The Best of the 8th
 Annual Tejano Conjunto Festival 1989

The Best of the 27th Annual Tejano
 Conjunto Festival 2008

Thursday, May 7/Rosedale Park
6-11pm \$12 per person*

6:00 Los Hermanos De León
 7:00 Los Badd Boyz del Valle
 8:00 Sunny Saucedá
 9:00 Joel Guzmán & Sarah Fox
Special Tribute to Esteban Jordán
 10:00 Esteban Jordán y su Rio Jordán

Friday, May 8/Rosedale Park
7pm-12am \$13 per person*

Puro Conjunto Pesado

7:00 Bene Medina y el Conjunto Águila
 8:00 Los Monarcas de Pete y Mario Díaz
 9:00 Ricky Naranjo y Los Gamblers
 10:00 Cuatro Rosas
 11:00 Los Dos Gilbertos



Saturday, May 9/Rosedale Park 2pm-12am
\$15 per person*

Puro Conjunto Pesado

2:00 Conjunto Heritage Taller
 Conjunto Palo Alto
 3:00 Chano Cadena y su Conjunto
 4:00 Ricardo Guzmán y Los Tres Aces
 5:00 Conjunto Borrego de
 Jesse Borrego Sr. y Jr.
 6:00 Johnny "El Brujo" Cruz and the Texas
 Chain Gang
 7:00 Los Cuatro Vientos de Jimmy Bejarano
 8:00 Eva Ybarra y su Conjunto
 9:00 Oscar Hernández and the Tuff Band
 10:00 Rubén Vela y su Conjunto
 11:00 Mingo Saldívar y sus Tremendos
 Cuatro Espadas

* 3-Day Pass Pre-Sale: \$25 for GCAC Members, \$30 for Non-GCAC Members
 At the door: \$30 GCAC Members, \$35 Non-Members

Workshops in the Button Accordion and Bajo Sexto, with a special session
 On Accordion Tuning, Maintenance & Repair, will be offered on May 7-9
 (Thursday-Saturday) at the Guadalupe Theatre.

These workshops will be conducted by conjunto greats Oscar Hernández
 and Jesús "Chucho" Perales.

For registration information (days, times, prices, etc.),
 call 210.271.3151 or visit
www.guadalupeculturalarts.org



Golondrina, why did you leave me? A Novel

By Bárbara Renaud González

These are excerpts from the novel: *Golondrina, why did you leave me?*

Introduction

How my mother crossed the border

Mami's got the radio on as usual, it's Selena with her *Como la flor*, and I turn it up. *Como la flor* . . . all the love that you gave me has died and how it hurts how it hurts . . . And then we're dancing round and round the kitchen table, *como la flor*, we're like two flowers no one has ever seen bloom in our two-step, and the kitchen's spinning with the polka's shoo-shoo-bopping love songs, no matter that there is something about love dying like the way that carnations die / *asupacito carcacha nodejestam baliar aunque tenga carcacha no importa peep-peep!* And how it hurts to see love die, *comolaflor*, like a flower a woman is like a rose.

"What do you mean?"

Mami's reminiscing again about Mexico and like always the story stops when I ask her how she crossed the border. Now the radio and Selena are surrounding us with that terrible beautiful love story that begins with a man's hands sliding up the wrist to dance and Selena's song takes me and Mami to that moment forever and I know she wants it to begin again even when it has ended and I know it must have hurt so much and yet. Sometimes I think love is just the beginning we want even when we already know what the ending is going to be. Love forbidden they murmur in the streets because we're from different societies the world says that money doesn't matter *oooohooohbaby* who cares the only thing that matters is our love.

"¿Cómo cruzaste, Mami?"

"What do you think, the way everybody did in those days. Over the bridge. Didn't jump in the river, if that's what you mean. Can't swim." Shrugging as she talks, her voice a shrug too.

"I mean, how did you make it across?"

Mami's my miniature, or I'm her giant version, depending on how you look at

it, she's not even five feet, with hands and feet half my size. But we both know she is the taller one. "Well, it was the forties and it must have been strange for a woman, a divorced woman like you to come across by yourself, were you alone?"

"What questions you ask."

"You say you left your toad-husband, and you were just

eighteen. And that you were real pretty." Tease her, leering at her doughy curves, up and down. "At least, you say you were pretty."

"Did you take the bus at night? Weren't you afraid? To be alone?"

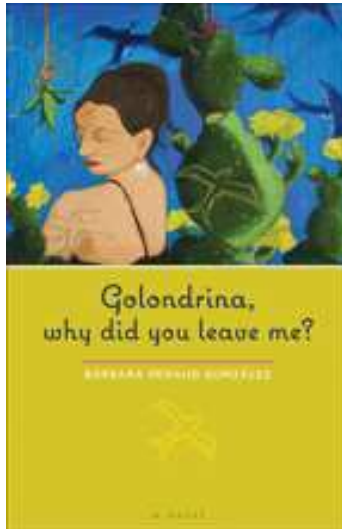
"I took the train. No, I was determined." My mother's looking at me from the stove, but she is really staring at the past, and for the first time I realize how there must have been a before-me, as there will be an after-her.

"I had a sister living in Oklahoma, remember."

But for someone who loves to talk about Mexico and recapitular el divorcio from the beginning to the tortured finish with Daddy, she is silent as fireworks that you can see from across the river in San Antonio. Her eyes close, open, tissue-wrapping to the mystery inside, and I can tell she's sorry that I'm just like her. I'm an exile just like she's been all her life, only from a different side of the river. So I keep going.

"Mami, but you never got farther than the border. You stayed and met Daddy. Why won't you tell me . . ."

She interrupts.



"Look, that sapo!"

My mother points the spatula again at me, and *wátchate*, a temper tantrum, because she knows where I'm going with this—and she never, ever calls her first husband by anything but *The Toad*. She turns again to the stove, her refuge, and I can feel her nightmares crossing into mine.

"Wasn't a good husband, believe me, he was just rich. That's all. Wanted to leave him, but he threatened me."

"What do you mean, he threatened you? You were married, what could he do to you?"

Mami sighs, a hot breeze on a summer day with no relief.

"He could keep my little girl. Me podía echar a la calle. He—he could call me an unfit mother by calling me a woman of the street."

"Chiiiiiit."

Thought that he was going to take advantage of me, yo! A young girl who he bragged was nothing next to him. *Mis-ter Omnipotent!* She's grinding the words into the volcanic stone.

"I showed him."

"Don't understand."

"Look mijita, por favor." She breathes the words as if she's just finished running a block.

But all this is her fault, she trained me well.

"What do you mean he wasn't a good husband?"

"Look. He was an old man when I met him."

I catch a glimpse of a scared young girl in her eyes in the glance she sends me. And I see the forty-year-old daughter reflected back at me. It's like we're traveling together somewhere and the years between us are crossing and circling each other. Her eyes are brown shimmering, like the way the golondrinas she likes fill up the sky with their purple-tipped wings, so that brown is the sign of spring. Finally, finally, she says, "Twenty years older than me, and I was just fifteen. I didn't know anything, anything, still playing with dolls at night."

"Blame your grandmother for all of this. She never told me anything. Nada. NA-DA!"

"The night before my wedding, you know what advice she gave me?" Her shoulders harden. "Told me that my duty was to aguantar. That I was going to become a woman, that I should obey. Had no idea what she was talking about."

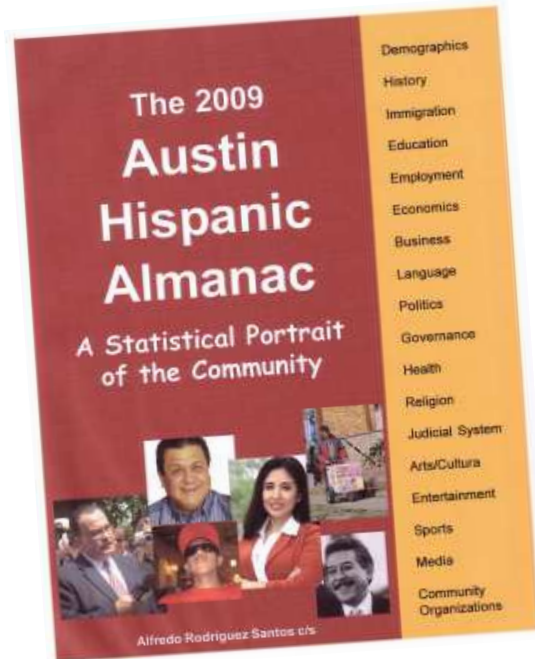
Chiiiiiit."

Aguantar. Put-up-with, take it, shut-up-and-don't-open-your-mouth. A woman's lot. A woman's duty, the Bible says, the Church says . . . "¡Pues no! Chiiiiiit!" Now I've done it.

"Here I was, a girl, excited to be a princess for the day, my mother inviting everyone in the neighborhood to come and admire my French-cut gown, my bridal diadem, the bouquet I could hardly carry—yes—he let me have the reception I wanted, and I remember it like yesterday. Avocado vichisuiichi, shrimp tamales and a seafood banquete, merengues italianos and a chocolate mousse cake—do you know how expensive that is? I haven't tasted any of that again since my wedding."

Golondrina, why did you leave me?
Now available in bookstores

Austin Hispanic Almanac



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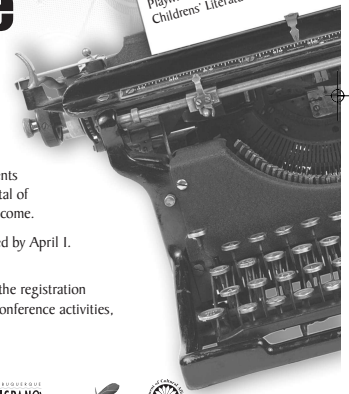
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Thanks to the support of the NHCC Foundation the registration price of \$250 covers all workshops, interviews, conference activities, refreshments and evening banquet.



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Cinco de Mayo: The National Holiday of Texas

Andrés Tijerina, Ph.D.

The **Cinco de Mayo** is the festive day on which **Mexico** celebrates its independence from the imperialist forces of **France** in the 19th century. And it is a day on which all Hispanics and their fellow Texans proudly join **Mexico** in celebrating its freedom.

The **Cinco de Mayo** is the date of the famous **Battle of Puebla** on May 5, 1862. On that day, **Mexico** defeated an invading force of the French army under the command of **General Laurencez**. On the morning of the battle, **General Laurencez** boasted that "the French soldiers enjoy such racial and organizational superiority over the Mexicans that with my 6,000 men, I control all of **Mexico**."

Opposing **General Laurencez** was **General Ignacio Zaragoza** at the head of the Mexican army, defending two forts of **Loreto** and **Guadalupe**. Although his troops were outnumbered two to one, **General Zaragoza** used his cavalry to outmaneuver and rout the French army. By 4:30 in the afternoon, the French general had retreated, leaving 500 of his casualties on the field of battle. The battle was one of the most glorious victories in Mexican History.

It is entirely fitting that Mexican-American and all Texans celebrate the battle, paying tribute to **General Zaragoza** because he was a Texan. He was born in 1829 in the **Presidio La Bahia** in present-day **Goliad, Texas**. The son of a cavalry officer, **Zaragoza** was steeped in the military traditions of the original Tejanos. When the French threatened to overtake the government of **President Benito Juarez**, **Zaragoza** saw his duty defending the independence of his mother country.

As commander, **Zaragoza** also commissioned a South Texas rancher, **Porfirio Zamora** of the **Posta del Palo Alto Ranch** near **Alice, Texas**, as captain of the Mexican cavalry. **Zamora** received **Mexico's** second highest combat decoration, the "Condecoración de Segunda Clase" for his valor and leadership in the battle. When **Captain Zamora** returned to his ranch in **South Texas**, he brought his medal and the citation personally signed by **President Benito Juarez**.

General Zaragoza died at the age of 33 before returning to his native **Texas**, but his heroic deed and his name are indelible in the history of **Texas** as in **Mexico**. Today, a historical marker stands at his birthplace in **Goliad**, where each year the citizens recall their part in the victory of the **Cinco de Mayo**.

Tejanos and Texans of all cultural backgrounds started celebrating the **Battle of the Cinco de Mayo** every year to honor **General Zaragoza**, **Captain Zamora**, and the other Tejanos who fought bravely for independence. It has since become one of the most distinctive and widely celebrated fiestas for all Texans.



General Ignacio Zaragoza



Registration for ACC's summer classes is open May 4-27. Apply now.

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Calendar of Events

April 24th, 2009 - 2nd Annual George I Sanchez Memorial Lectures in the Social Sciences and Education. Presenters: Dr. Gloria Gonzalez-Lopez **Associate Professor, Department of Sociology** *Engaged Research on Incest in Mexican Society* and **Néstor P. Rodríguez Professor, Department of Sociology** *Evolving Relations Between African Americans and Latinos*. 5:00pm to 7:00pm Main Building, Room 212. For more information please call (512) 471-4557

April 25th, 2009 - Austin Community College Riverside Fiesta del Barrio For more information please contact Dr. Mariano Diaz-Miranda at (512) 223-6363

April 28th, 2009 - Hispanic Quality of Life Forum on Health. Location: Rosewood-Zaragoza Neighborhood Center 2808 Webberville Road in Austin, Texas 78702. Start time 6:30pm For more information please call (512) 974-2344

April 28th, 2009 - Rotary Foundation meeting at Nuevo Leon Mexican Restaurant 1506 East 6th Street Austin, Texas. Presenter: D'Ann Johnson of Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid. Ms. Johnson will discuss the work of Legal Aid and its impact in the East Austin community. For more information, please contact John-Michael Cortez at (512) 845.8719 or visit: www.main.org/rotary

April 28th, 2009 - **CMAS Graduate Portfolio Plática** "Education Centers and Bi-national Cooperation: A Case Study of the LUCHA Program." **Beatriz Irene Gutiérrez** Doctoral Candidate in Curriculum and Instruction with a Graduate Portfolio in Mexican American Studies **April 28, 2009** 12:00 PM-1:00 PM Sanchez Building, Cissy McDaniel Parker Dean's Conference Room (SZB 238) *In this portfolio plática, Beatriz Gutiérrez examines the LUCHA Program at The University of Texas at Austin, which aims to lower the dropout rate of Hispanic students with support from the Mexican government. Gutierrez discusses the methodology employed and the theories of social and cultural capital, and the theory of caring to explain the program.*

May 1st, 2009 - Austin Music Mezcla CD Release Party 7:00pm

May 2nd, 2009 - Fiestas Patrias Festival - Fiesta Gardens, 2101 Bergman Ave, Austin, Texas Los T-Birds - Burleson County Fairgrounds, Caldwell, Texas 7:00-11:00pm

May nd, 2009 - The Big Squeeze Semi-Finals at the Mexican American Cultural Center in Austin, Texas For more information please call: (512) 478-622

May 3rd, 2009 - Fiestas Patrias Festival - Fiesta Gardens, 2101 Bergman Ave, Austin, Texas

May 3rd, 2009 - Book reading by Barbara Renaud Gonzalez. Golondrina, why did you leave me? Bookwoman in Ausitn, Texas

May 5th, 2009 - Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center presents the 28th Annual Tejano Conjunto Festival in San Antonio, Texas. The festival runs until Saturday, May 9th, 2009. Este es uno de los mejores festivales en San Antonio. Ponganse sus zapatos salgan a bailar. Para más información: (210) 271-3151 (Also, see entire schedule in this issue of La Voz de Ausitn)

May 6th, 2009 - **City Council Place 1 Candidates Forum** Topic: Candidate Forum: Austin City Council Place 1 (moderated by Barry Lovelace) Speakers: Perla Cavazos & Chris Riley 7:00am-8:30am Metropolitan Breakfast Club weekly meeting Location: UT Club, 6th Floor, Darrell Royal Memorial Stadium, 2108 E. Robert Dedman Drive. With reservations: \$15 for members and first-time guests. All walk-ins: \$25. RSVPs/Info: [www.mbcaustin.orgmbcaustin\(at\)mbcaustin.org](http://www.mbcaustin.orgmbcaustin(at)mbcaustin.org) or Katherien Deats 479-9460

May 8th, 2009 - Guadalupe Pre-Mother's Day Benefit Dance Los T-Birds - San Jose Church, Austin, Texas

May 14th, 2009 - Memorias Mexicano en Austin y el condado de Travis: a panel discussion" which will be held at the Mexican American Cultural Center from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. We hope that this project will help inspire our Mexican American community to learn more about their culture and the history that has shaped their very existence in Austin and Travis County. For more information please call: (512) 974-7498

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.

I	Yo
Want	Quiero
Debate	Debate
Candidate	Candidato
Mayor	Alcalde
Voter	Votante
Listen	Escuche
Please	Por Favor
Development	Desarrollo
Design	Diseño
Next time	La Proxima Vez
Simon (Slang)	Yes
No, just forget it (slang)	Chale, tirame a leon
Interview	Entrevista
History	Historia
Record	Grabar
Memory	Memoria

Bio Snapshot

Chicana poet and writer **Ana Castillo** was born and raised in **Chicago**, but has spent most of her writing career studying her Mestiza heritage. In her first novel, *The Mixquiahuala Letters* (1986), **Castillo** explores the relationship between two women who travel to **Mexico** in search of a better understanding of their place in both the U.S. and Mexican societies. The novel, written in the form of letters between the two women, is considered the landmark novel that made **Castillo** a leading Chicana feminist writer, winning the **American Book Award** from the **Before Columbus Foundation**.

Castillo's interest in race and gender issues can be traced through her writing career, culminating in *Massacre of the Dreamers: Essays on Xicanisma*, published in 1994. In this collection of essays, **Castillo** explores the notion of Xicanisma, a term she herself created in order to give name to the struggles of Brown women in the racially polarized U.S. In the U.S., much debate of racism becomes constructed in a Black-White paradigm, leaving little room for others. In *Massacre of the Dreamers*, **Castillo** explores the Chicana feminist movement of the 70's and where that movement is headed. **Castillo** notes that U.S. history, especially, seems to neglect the struggles of **Mexico** and the indigenous peoples who became involuntary migrants into what is now the Southwestern U.S. By exploring the history of **Mexico** and Central America, **Castillo** hopes to integrate ideas about the patriarchy and oppression of these societies with that of the United States, looking at how Brown women must cope in both societies.

Castillo was schooled in **Chicago** for the most part, attending the **Chicago City College** for two years before entering **Northwestern Illinois University**. Here, she received her B.A. in art. After receiving her degree in 1975, **Castillo** moved to **Sonoma County, California** to teach. In 1977 she moved back to **Chicago** and earned an M.A. in Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the **University of Chicago**. Throughout this period of time, **Castillo** was not only writing, but was also an activist — something she still continues to be. In 1986 **Castillo** moved back to **California** and taught at various colleges. She eventually found herself at the **University of Bremen** in **Germany** where she earned her Ph.D. in American Studies.

Not only is **Castillo** a noted poet and novelist, she has edited many works with other Chicana-Latina writers including **Cherrie Moraga** and **Norma Alarcon**. It was with **Alarcon** and others that **Castillo** co-founded *Third Woman*, a literary magazine, for which she is a contributing editor. Her most recent publication, *La Diosa de las Americas/Goddess of the Americas*, is an anthology about the **Virgin of Guadalupe** with **Castillo** as editor. **Castillo** proclaims herself a "devotee" of the **Virgin of Guadalupe** who is considered the Mother Goddess in Mexican, Mestizo, and Mexican-Indian societies, but largely ignored by the patriarchal Catholic church. It is the Catholic church and patriarch that led **Castillo** to incorporate sexuality as one of the main themes in her writing. Because the Catholic church does not condone sex unless it is for the sole purpose of having a child, many women in Catholic cultures, including much of Latin America, lose a segment of their "self" by being denied their sexuality. **Castillo** believes that women have lost their sense of self on many levels, including psychologically, physically, and spiritually, and need to reclaim themselves. **Castillo** herself does this through her writing and activism.



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- **FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY:** David believes that the city needs to live within its budget. As mayor he would focus on scrubbing unnecessary budget items, making the necessary cuts and ensuring that Austin lives within its revenue.
- **TOP PRIORITIES:** Providing good quality basic services like good roads, maintaining public buildings and spaces and ensuring that our fire and police department have the best training and equipment available to provide for our public safety.
- **INCENTIVES:** While incentives for some economic development projects may be warranted, the city should never provide incentives that result in unfair advantages for new businesses over existing businesses that have already been contributing to the Austin tax base.
- **LOBBYING:** In these tough economic times, allocating \$1 million for Austin and Washington lobbyists for the city of Austin is wasteful spending.
- **TRANSIT AUTHORITY:** Capital Metro has laid out an ambitious future for Austin's transportation needs and the city must continue to work to provide for the future needs of our city. But the city must act to reign in the spending of Capital Metro which has spent down its reserves despite the fact it owes the city of Austin and other agencies between \$85 million and \$110 million.
- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** The city should work with private enterprise on public/private partnerships to make a citywide affordable housing program available to low and middle income Austin residents.
- **NEIGHBORHOODS:** Good basic services are needed from the city to provide good roads, sidewalks, small neighborhood parks and other amenities that help provide a good quality of life. City staff should work with neighborhoods to develop community based plans that will improve neighborhoods throughout the city. For example, instead of paying thousands of dollars for artists to paint murals at skateboard parks, the city should use available money to improve neighborhood parks, youth athletic fields and maintain sidewalks in our existing neighborhoods.

Austin is David's home. He graduated from Johnson High School in 1987, received a degree in economics from the University of Texas in 1991 and an MBA from Texas State University in 1993. He and his wife, Betsy, have a nine month old son and are expecting a second child in May.

As a business and civic leader David Buttross founded his first business in fifth grade, mowing lawns for extra money. David knows the value of hard work. And he learned early on the importance of keeping within a budget, meeting a payroll and providing good customer service. As mayor, David will use the lessons he learned from being a successful entrepreneur to ensure that our city makes the best use of taxpayer dollars to benefit all of our community. As a residential and commercial real estate investor, David has used his expertise to help turn over 1,000 renters into homeowners and taxpayers across the state of Texas, and he has developed an Austin small business incubator that helps small businesses grow and become a successful part of our community

"I am asking for your vote for Mayor of the City of Austin. In these tough economic times, we need leaders who will put the city's interest above special interests, who will spend tax dollars wisely and hold the line on property taxes. We need a mayor who will make city staff and elected officials accountable for their actions and how they spend taxpayer money. I can't do it alone, but with your help we can make a difference."

Muchas Gracias,

David Buttross

Paid Political Announcement by David Buttross