People in the News

Dr. Harry Pachon Passes Away

Dr. Jaime Chahin Receives Award from Texas A&M Univ.

Vincent Tobar Reports on AISD Hot Meeting at Eastside Memorial

Remembering Veterans by the Numbers

MACC Officially Renamed Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center

Voces de Latinas Part 2

Conjunto Classes at the MACC

Julia Rodriguez Aguillon Se Recuerda

See page 14 for her story.
People in the News

Richard Santos
Re-Elected Vice-President of National Historic Trail

International research historian Richard G. Santos of Pearsall has been re-elected Vice President of the statewide Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association.

Mr. Santos has authored and co-authored 37 books, published over 3,000 articles in the U.S., Mexico, Vatican, LaHague, and Japan, produced or served as consultant and appeared in dozens of regional and national TV documentaries.

He represents the eleven counties between Bexar County and the Rio Grande crossings at Maverick and Webb counties. “We are in the process of continuing to identify historic sites, communities, water crossings and the various trails of both Caminos Real” said Mr. Santos.

Dr. Harry Pachon
Passes Away in Southern California

Harry Pachon, a scholar-activist who helped focus national attention on the needs and traits of a growing Latino population, particularly in politics and education, has died. He was 66.

Pachon had served as president of the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute (TRPI) from 1993 until he retired from the post at the end of 2010. Under his leadership, the Institute became the nation’s premier think tank on policy issues relevant to Hispanics. Prior to his work at TRPI, Pachon spent a decade as the executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials Educational Fund (NALEO) of which he was a co-founder. At the time of his passing he was a tenured professor of public policy at the University of Southern California, a post he had held since 2003.

The son of Colombian immigrants, Pachon was born June 4, 1945, in Miami but spent much of his youth in Colombia. When he was 16, he returned to the United States and lived with a brother in Montebello, where he finished high school.

He worked odd jobs while attending Cal State L.A., where he received a bachelor’s degree in 1967 and a master’s in 1968, both in political science. In 1973 he earned a doctorate in government from Claremont Graduate University with a dissertation on “Ethnic Political Mobilization in East Los Angeles.”

He taught at Loyola University, Michigan State University and City University of New York before moving to Claremont in 1987 to begin a joint appointment at Pitzer and Claremont Graduate University.

Jaime Chahin honored by Texas A&M-Kingsville

Jaime Chahin, dean of the College of Applied Arts at Texas State University-San Marcos, has received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Chahin has been a long-time supporter of the higher education of Hispanic students and has made an impact in this area through his research and writing. Among his publications are Engaged Scholarship in Hispanic Serving Institutions (2009), U.S. Latino Psychology Handbook (2009) and Latina Immigrant Transnational Mothers: The Voices of Leaders (2007).

In addition, Chahin has been the executive producer of two PBS documentaries, opened the Center for Migrant Education and received the Outstanding Latino in Higher Education Award from the American Association of Higher Education and the Hispanic Caucus. He is also the recipient of a National Kellogg Foundation Leadership fellowship (1993-96) and received the Ohtli Award from the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2002).

In April, Chahin was recognized by the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District for his commitment to academic excellence through his program Caminos and Caminitos, which provides 8th grade students an opportunity to get a head start on high school during the summer prior to the 9th grade.

Chahin received a bachelor’s degree in sociology and political science from Texas A&I University in 1974. A year later he received a master’s in administration and policy from the University of Michigan and in 1977 earned a doctorate in education administration from the same institution. He currently serves as an advisor for several foundations and as the treasurer of the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education.

Debbie Russell
Del Valle ISD Board Member

At the most recent meeting of the Del Valle ISD, newly appointed trustee Debbie Russell, abstained from voting on appointing a new superintendent.

Del Valle ISD has been under the microscope since members of the community began to get into the nasty habit of asking questions about policy and procedure. Recently the long time superintendent and several others decided the heat in the kitchen was too hot for them to bear. Keep your eye on Debbie Russell.

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DC COURT: RICK PERRY’S REDISTRICTING MAPS DO NOT SATISFY REQUIREMENTS OF VOTING RIGHTS

On Tuesday, November 8th, 2011, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia denied the State’s motion for summary judgment on the Republican-drawn maps for U.S. House of Representatives, State Senate and State House.

The order, read in part:

“Having carefully considered the entire record and the parties’ arguments, the Court finds and concludes that the State of Texas used an improper standard or methodology to determine which districts afford minority voters the ability to elect their preferred candidates of choice and that there are material issues of fact in dispute that prevent this Court from entering declaratory judgment that the three redistricting plans meet the requirements of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. See 42 U.S.C. 1973c.”

Texas Democratic Party Chairman, Boyd Richie, issued the following statement:

“Rick Perry’s Republican Party used every dirty trick they could think of to keep voters from deciding elections. After laying-off tens of thousands of teachers, I can understand why Republicans don’t want to face voters. Thankfully the courts are not going to let them disenfranchise millions of Texans with these illegal maps.

Republicans drew blatantly illegal maps then tried to game the system by going through the courts rather than the Department of Justice. Yet even the courts threw their dirty maps out the window. The courts said what we’ve been saying all along. These illegal maps trample on the voting rights of Texans and don’t allow voters to elect their candidates of choice.

The real losers in this process are the voters. Texas voters are seeing Republican discrimination and obstructionism at all levels but don’t know which Republicans they’ll have a chance to vote against this election cycle.

This entire process could have been avoided if Republicans would have drawn maps based on demographics rather than their own shallow political ambitions.”

Voices of Veterans exhibit opens on Veterans Day

Texas veterans of all wars honored, stories shared at Capitol Visitors Center

AUSTIN — The Texas Veterans Land Board and chairman Jerry Patterson, will celebrate Veterans Day with the opening of a Voices of Veterans™ program exhibit at the Texas Capitol Visitors Center called “Every Veteran has a Story to Tell.”

The interactive, multimedia exhibit will open on Nov. 11 (11.11.11) at the Texas Capitol Visitors Center in the historic Old Land Office on the Capitol grounds at 112 E. 11th St. in Austin. The featured exhibit will run through September 2012.

“Our nation’s wars are well-known,” said Jerry Patterson, chairman of the VLB and retired Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. “But hearing the gripping personal narratives from veterans of those wars — their experiences of leaving home, going abroad, facing combat and surviving — adds context for the public. These first-hand accounts prove that ordinary men and women, faced with incredible adversity, can accomplish extraordinary things.”

The Voices of Veteran program is an oral history initiative of the VLB that honors veterans by documenting their powerful stories through thorough interviews. Their captivating stories are then permanently archived in the Office of Veterans Records at the Texas General Land Office, where they join the historic documents of other Texas heroes such as Sam Houston, David Crockett, Jim Bowie and William Barret Travis. The archives are made available to researchers, historians, genealogists and the general public to inspire future generations and remind us of our soldiers’ sacrifices. The program is free to Texas veterans of all wars, from World War II to Afghanistan.

The “Every Veteran has a Story to Tell” exhibit will include a short video on the Voices of Veterans™ program, multimedia iPad kiosks with selections from veterans’ interviews and personal memorabilia. Twelve Texas veterans of four wars — World War II, Vietnam and both Iraq wars — are featured in videos about courage, duty, fear and survival as part of the exhibit.

Austin Independent School District’s Latest IDEA

By Vincent Tovar

Writer’s Note: All interviewees’ names have been protected, upon request, to secure their confidentiality and rights as faculty, staff, parents, and community members.

On October 20th, 2011, the Austin Independent School District (AISD) hosted a Community Meeting that presented three scenarios to help improve the Vertical Team for Eastside Memorial High School at the Johnston Campus. Over 200 people attended the dinner-time event, which included breakfast-time refreshments such as aguas frescas and pan dulce.

I was highly offended by statements made by[AISD representatives] – Eastside Memorial High School staff members throughout the October 20th meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, Area Board Trustee Sam Guzman welcomed attendees and reminded them of his efforts to keep Johnston High School open. Before he introduced the speaking lineup, Eastside Memorial parent, Pete Montoya, Mr. Guzman offended many audience members as he mentioned how the level of education at Eastside Memorial was unacceptable.

Superintendent Dr. Meria Carstarphen followed Mr. Montoya with a presentation that featured three different scenarios, each utilizing IDEA Charter School, a charter school organization notable for its schools in South Texas, to take over Allan Elementary, while strengthening the entire Eastside Memorial Vertical Team.

The graph below shows the specific longevity plans for AISD’s as of October 21st, 2011. Unfortunately, this graph doesn’t show how Allan would only be Pre-K/Kindergarten – 2nd, and may include 6th grade; the remaining students would be split and sent to Govalle and Ortega. For the actual meeting handouts, visit: http://www.austinisd.org/fmp/community/past-meetings

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After the presentation ended, “Breakout Groups” met in Eastside Memorial classrooms to discuss the different scenarios. Groups were divided based on schools, and the reactions were explosive. One Martin staff member recapped, “The night was monopolized by these three scenarios. The scenario feedback sheet (see aforementioned website) took up three-quarters of the handout, and left little room for actual community options. Similar to Thursday night, there was little room for feedback.”

In the breakout group that included the Martin Middle School and Eastside Memorial High School communities, many teachers had clarifying questions that Associate Superintendent of AISD Middle Schools, Dr. Bergerone Harris, was still struggling to answer after the 8pm end time had passed. Martin staff members noted, “Eastside Memorial teachers were calling attention to numbers used [by AISD], like the 60% graduation rate when [Eastside] has more like 75% according to Eastside staff.” After the meeting, an Eastside Memorial staff member expressed, “Eastside is on a positive trajectory. Instead of being improved, it’s being dismissed.”

A Martin staff member emphasized a strategy not being utilized. “We must work to engage parents of youth who have been historically marginalized because of whatever conditions exist. As a staff member at Martin, I’ve worked to include them as much as possible in the decision-making.”

“You’ll be phased out.” – AISD Chief Academic Officer, Ramona Treviño, answering an Allan Elementary teacher after asked what will happen to teachers, like her, if IDEA Charter School takes over Allan

Allan, Brooke, Govalle, and Ortega communities were met with a questionable welcome by AISD Chief Academic Officer, Ramona Treviño. Dr. Treviño, the former CEO and founding principal of the University of Texas’s Charter Elementary School, repeated all the scenarios after Dr. Carstarphen’s presentation. An Allan parent in attendance reacted, “It was a lot of information, and we were all confused. What is a charter school? What is IDEA? What are their differences?”

The parent continued, “I didn’t like how we would lose our teachers. They know the community. They know the kids. Why start over? Who are these new teachers?” Within a personal context, the parent said, “My kids have been attending Allan since Pre-K. Now, they must go to a different school? Why? It’s not their fault.”

On Thursday night, the same Allan parent approached Area Trustee Sam Guzman, and asked him, “Which of these scenarios do you like the best?” Mr. Guzman replied with his likeness for Scenario A. The Allan parent noted, “Well, next year, I have a child that’s going to start Pre-K. Scenario A doesn’t have a Pre-K at Allan.” In our interview, the parent concluded, “Mr. Guzman answered that Scenario B would be better for [me], but insisted that Scenario A was the best choice.”

All of this resonates with the Govalle parent who attended the same group and stated, “I’m not surprised by what happened Thursday night. I feel like AISD does public meetings just to make it seem like they care, but it’s still their decision in the long-run.”

On Monday, Superintendent Carstarphen held a closed meeting with Eastside Memorial High School faculty, and expressed her surprise at the backlash she was receiving in regards to the IDEA proposals, especially since they were merely proposals. Dr. Carstarphen conveyed that she had never experienced anything like this from any community. Nevertheless, she is still searching for the best option.

An Eastside Memorial Staff Member advised, “I think Carstarphen has to expect backlash when it’s presented to the wrong people first. If the [Eastside Memorial] Staff could have heard it first, understood it, and possibly seen its reason and accepted it, it would be more likely that we would support it.”

On Tuesday, October 25th, 2011, AISD hosted a public hearing for school communities to voice their suggestions, comments, questions, and concerns over recent proposals made by AISD affecting certain schools. Unfortunately, Eastside Memorial High School Vertical Team schools didn’t get the memo.

The Messenger system, AISD’s automated telephone contact system, didn’t call parents, in neither English nor Spanish, to invite them to Tuesday’s meeting. Flyers weren’t sent to schools, and AISD staff members have been more than frowning upon for attempting to organize school employees and families to partake in community organizing. In many conversations, there is fear of being targeted.

The unspoken pressure stipulates: no AISD employee can take part in any organizing efforts with respect to the district’s proposals. AISD Parent Teacher Associations must use their own paper and copier. The Parent Support Specialists must step away from parents’ organizing efforts, and any resistant, or even questioning, employee will be identified as such.

So what lies ahead? Can AISD and East Austin communities trust each other? If so, can collaboration be both quick and effective? And the final, and most pressing, question is: What is the best option?

A Govalle parent, and Govalle alumnus says, “With all our tutors, mentors, and Americorps folks working with our kids, they truly get what they need. With all the staff that they get, it’s a start. I feel like they’re getting a chance.” An Eastside Memorial staff member adds with the questions, “Where is the data that shows how these scenarios would successfully recapture kids who have left to charter schools? Where are those percentages? Where is AISD’s disaggregated data to show which high school kids are not graduating? Are they kids who have matriculated through the entire vertical team? Are they mostly new 9th and 10th graders who may or may not need more English Language support? Is this a vertical problem when, if you look at the TAKS scores, all the Eastside Vertical Team elementary schools are making remarkable improvements?” At this point, the number of questions far outweighs the number of answers.
Let's have a real conversation about the justice system in Travis County.

Over the next few months, right here in the pages of La Voz, I want to have a conversation with you about the Travis County criminal justice system.

Since launching my campaign for Travis County District Attorney, I've spoken with hundreds of Hispanic voters from across Travis County about what kind of reforms will ensure a criminal justice system that works for everyone regardless of race or economic status.

One of the criticisms about our criminal justice system I've heard most frequently is that people are concerned about men and women who are being arrested and incarcerated on insufficient evidence, and that subsequent incarceration is costing people their jobs and even housing for their families.

This week, I unveiled the first of several policy proposals that set out a pathway to reforming the District Attorney’s office, “Justice That Works Around The Clock.” My plan will reform the DA’s office Intake Division into a 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week operation. Under my plan, the DA’s office will review every arrest before charges are filed.

The reforms I've outlined will dramatically decrease the number of individuals from across all walks of life who end up with lengthy terms of incarceration in Travis County pending court appearances. It will also ensure that people are not needlessly incarcerated when insufficient evidence exists for a successful criminal prosecution—meaning less people will lose jobs, their livelihood, and their housing.

This is just the first of several reforms I will be proposing. I hope you will take a moment to visit my website and read more about this policy, and take a moment to sign up to receive e-mail updates from our campaign.
Since the founding of the United States of America, it seems that as a country we have always been at war. In the beginning, we were fighting with the Indians as we pushed them West and South. Then we fought with British as we sought our independence from England.

The American Revolutionary War which started on September 1st, 1774 and ended on September 3rd, 1783 resulted in the deaths of 4,435 soldiers.

In 1812, the United States found itself once again fighting the British. A total of 2,260 lives were lost in the War of 1812.

On April 25th, 1846, the United States declared war on Mexico over a dispute on where the Southern boundary of the United States would. The Mexicans said it was the Nueces River. President Polk said it was the Rio Grande. The war lasted until February 2, 1848. A total of 13,283 U.S. soldiers died in this war and Mexico lost almost half her land.

The Civil War started on April 12, 1861, when 11 southern slave states declared their secession from the United States and formed the Confederate States of America. The other 25 states supported the federal government (“the Union”). After four years of warfare, mostly within the Southern states, the Confederacy surrendered and slavery was outlawed everywhere in the nation. The war produced about 1,030,000 casualties (3% of the population), including about 620,000 soldier deaths—two-thirds by disease. The Civil War ended on April 8th, 1865.

The Spanish American War started on April 25th, 1898 and lasted until August 12th, 1865. A total of 2,446 U.S. soldiers died in this war over Cuban independence.

To be sure, there have been many more “wars” since the inception of the United States. In fact, the United States of America was at war with the Apache Indians from 1851 until 1900. On these two pages you will find information about other wars that the United States has been involved in over the years.

### World War I
**April 2, 1917**

A total of 4,734,991 men served in World War I. 116,516 U.S. soldiers were killed in this war. A total of 989,600 men registered for the war from Texas. Altogether 5,171 Texans died during World War I. Four Texans were awarded the Medal of Honor.

### World War II
**December 7, 1941**

A total of 16,112,566 U.S. soldiers served in World War II. A total of 405,399 died. Statewide 3,023 U.S. soldiers were killed during WWII. Another 3,884 were wounded. There were 231 casualties from Travis County of which 35 were Hispanics.

### Korean War
**June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953**

A total of 5,720,000 U.S. soldiers served in the Korean War. A total of 36,574 died. There were 27 casualties from Travis County of which 5 were Hispanics.

### Source:
- World War I: The National Archives and Records Administration College Park, MD 20740-6001
- World War II: The National Archives and Records Administration College Park, MD 20740-6001
Vietnam War
November 1, 1955
April 30, 1975
A total of 8,744,000 U.S. soldiers served in the Vietnam War. A total of 58,220 died. There were 75 casualties from Travis County of which 26 were Hispanics.

Name                             Branch
1. AGUILAR, ARNOLD             Marine/PVT
2. BANDA, MACARIO S            Army/SP4
3. BELTRAM, AUGUSTINE JR       Marine/PFC
4. CANO, JOSE RAMON            Army/SP4
5. FLORES, ARTHUR MERINO       Army/CPL
6. FLORES, VICTOR JR           Marine/LCPL
7. GARCIA, JOE ROBERT          Army/CPL
8. GUERRERO, WILEY             Army/PFC
9. HERNANDEZ, JOHN ALBERT      Army/SP4
10. JURADO, ELIAS CASTRO JR    Army/SP5
11. LOFTON, BOOKER T JR.       Army CPL
12. LOPEZ, RUDY                Army/PFC
13. MATIAS, WENCESLAO ROSAS JR Army/CPL
14. MOORE WALTER LEE JR.       Army CPL
15. MONTEZ, JOE                Marine/LCPL
16. MORENO, DAVID J            Army/PFC
17. MORENO, JOE                Marine/PFC
18. QUIROZ, ALEXANDER          Army/SP4
19. REYES, PETER C             Marine/CPL
20. RODRIGUEZ, ELIAS RANGEL    Army/SG
21. RODRIGUEZ, JOE             Army/CPL
22. RODRIGUEZ, TOBY S JR       Marine/LCPL
23. ROLAND JOHN PAUL           Marine LCPL
24. TIENDA, DANIEL             Marine/CPL
25. VALENCIA, AMADO ACOSTA     Army/SP4
26. YBARRA, SAMUEL GARCIA      Marine/CPL

Gulf War
August 2, 1990
February 28, 1991
A total of 2,225,000 U.S. Soldiers served during the Gulf War. There were 2,094 casualties including 29 from Texas. The lone casualty from Travis County was Lt Commander Barry Cooke. A total of 8 Hispanics from Texas were killed in the Gulf War.

Date of Casualty Name             Rank      Age   Branch
9/3/2004   Perez, Nicholas     Lance Corporal 19  U.S. Marine

SOURCE: Department of Defense.

Iraq War
March 20, 2003 – present
A total of 1,500,000 U.S. Soldiers have served during the Iraq War. There have been 4,801 casualties since the start of the war in 2003. According to the Department of Defense the casualty breakdown is as follows:

Total 4,434

SOURCE: Department of Defense. This number is as of , 2010.

A total of 420 U.S. soldiers from Texas have died in the Iraq War. Out of this number, 125 have been Hispanics. Most are from the urban areas of Houston, San Antonio, and El Paso. A total of 12 U.S. soldiers from Austin, Texas have died in the Iraq War.

Three of them were Hispanic and are listed below. The Austin Independent School District named a new elementary school in Dove Springs after Lance Corporal Nicholas Perez in 2006.

SOURCE: Department of Defense.
Emma S. Barrientos Unveiling Ceremony

ABOVE: The Barrientos family standing with the new sign renaming the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center. 
Photo credits Paul Saldaña, BrisasCommunications.

ABOVE: Joaquin Castro stands with supporters at dedication ceremony on November 5, 2011

ABOVE: Tejano Democrats, Sandra Tenorio, Gonzalo Barrientos, Gloria Aleman and Fred Cantu.

ABOVE: A shot of the crowd taken by Paul Saldaña of Brisas Communications.
RIGHT: Various members of the Austin Tejano Democrats stand with Joaquin Castro in Austin, Texas. Castro is running in the new 35th Congressional District which stretches from San Antonio, Texas to Austin, Texas. Castro’s twin brother is the Mayor of San Antonio.
Voces de Latinas

Part Two

Voces de Latinas: A Photo Exhibit in Five Parts

The Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, Mexic-Arte Museum, and The Nettie Lee Benson Library Collection, University of Texas at Austin have joined together to feature the contributions, achievements and legacies of 102 local Latinas in a photo exhibit entitled Voces de Latinas: A Photo Exhibit in Five Parts. The exhibit offers a mosaic blending of images and biographical narratives of Latinas from the late 1800s to the present that represent all walks of life.

All Latinas portrayed in the exhibit were nominated by the community at large and the images and biographical information were donated to the Austin History Center by friends, family members and other community individuals for use in the exhibit.

Each of the partners will exhibit 20 of the images and sponsor a program in conjunction with the Voces de Latinas exhibit. The exhibit will be on display from September 25 through October 23. The exhibit was made possible in part with a grant from the Austin Friends of Folk Art. It is free and open to the public. La Voz de Austin will be sharing the Voces de Latinas project with its readers over the next four months.

Felicidades a todas mis hermanas.

Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza
District Clerk, Travis County

Teresa Palomo Acosta

Teresa Palomo Acosta is a poet and writer. Her parents were the late Andrés Alderete Acosta and Sabina Palomo Acosta, who immigrated to the United States as children. Acosta was born in 1949 and reared in McGregor, a small town near Waco, Texas. She was educated in McGregor public schools and graduated with a Bachelors Degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1974 and a Master of Science from Columbia University in 1977.

While a student at UT-Austin, Acosta wrote “My Mother Pieced Quilts,” a poem that has been widely anthologized and taught in literature classes throughout the country. She is the author of three poetry collections: Passing Time (1984), Nile & Other Poems (1999), and In the Season of Change (2003).

Numerous individual poems have also appeared in books and anthologies. As a poet, Acosta strives to re-imagine and re-tell the history of Mexican-origin people. Acosta has written more than eighty historical articles and biographical sketches on Mexican Americans, African Americans, and women that were published in the New Handbook of Texas (1996).

In 2003 she coauthored Las Tejanas: 300 Years of History (University of Texas Press, 2003), the first general survey of Spanish-Mexican women in Texas ever published. The book was awarded the 2004 T. R. Fehrenbach Award for best book from the Texas Historical Commission. Acosta served as the principal writer for the book.

Emma S. Barrientos

Emma Serrato Barrientos grew up in the barrios of Galveston, Texas. After graduating from high school, she married Gonzalo Barrientos and moved to Austin so that he could attend the University of Texas.

She and Gonzalo became very active within the Mexican American community, and it was during the Economy Furniture Strike in 1968 that she experienced first-hand that anyone could make a difference in their community if they were committed to a cause and persistent in its pursuit.

A devoted mother and wife, Barrientos was involved in her children’s activities as well as her husband’s leadership as a public servant. Like her husband, she was a community activist and advocated to ensure that the Hispanic community was recognized for its accomplishments in the arts, education, and history.

A lover of the arts, Barrientos joined forces with other community leaders and advocated for a Mexican American Cultural Center in Austin, a vision which became a reality in 2007. Barrientos was a member of the Mexican American Business and Professional Women’s Association, Texas Senate Ladies Club, Texas County Democrats of Texas, Austin Women’s Political Caucus, and countless other organizations and boards. Emma passed away in 2009. In recognition for her contributions to the arts, the Mexican American Cultural Center was named in her honor in 2010.

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Voces de Latinas

Myrna Cabello

Myrna Cabello was born in Austin, Texas, to a Mexican immigrant family. She discovered at an early age that her calling as a writer and performer transcended her beyond the poverty, violence, and cultural barriers of her childhood.

Cabello graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art, becoming the head in-store artist for the very first Central Market in Austin while at the same time pursuing an acting career.

In 1996 Cabello landed her own national radio show “Food and Family with Rosa Cook,” which she voiced in both English and Spanish. To date Cabello has over 850 film/TV, commercial, voice-over, and industrial credits to her name. Combining her diverse talents with her amazing drive, she has garnered success in TV, film, theatre, and music.

In 2005 Cabello began pursuing singing professionally and quickly became known for belting out heartfelt blues and rock. In 2006 the Austin City Council honored her with Myrna Cabello Day, and she was inducted into the Texas Music Museum as an influential Latina artist. In 2009 her debut CD Letting Go was released at the Long Center for the Performing Arts. At the time, she was the first Latina independent artist to perform at the Center. In 2011 Cabello received an American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers Award, which is awarded annually to members who are writers in the early or developing stage of their careers.

“Grandma” Camacho

As an East Austin resident, Lorraine Camacho was actively involved as a strong supporter of education and youth safety. It was for this reason that she was affectionately called “Grandma Camacho.”

She gave tirelessly of her time and home by volunteering as a room mother and for the Reading is Fundamental Program at Metz as well as having her home designated as a McGruff Safe house for the children living in the area.

Camacho was one of the founding members of the East First Street Neighborhood Advisory Committee in the late 1960s and was a strong supporter of Austin’s and Travis County’s first elected Mexican American official: Richard Moya (County Commissioner), Gus Garcia (AISD School Board President), John Trevino (City Councilman), and Gonzalez Barrientos (State Representative).

Camacho received numerous awards and recognition for her dedication and commitment to her community. The City of Austin proclaimed September 15, 1991, as Lorraine Castro Camacho Day; she received the Metz 80th Anniversary Celebration Commemorative History Play; and in 1998 the Texas Senate issued Proclamation No. 90 in Memory of Lorraine Castro Camacho.

On September 16, 2000, the Austin Parks and Recreation Department honored her memory by naming its facility at 34 Robert Martinez Drive as the Lorraine “Grandma” Camacho Center. She passed away in 1999.

Eyna Canales-Zarate

Maria Eyna Canales-Zarate has lived in Austin since 1973. She is a graduate of St. Edward’s University in Management and Marketing.

Canales-Zarate’s professional work includes management of a small accounting and tax office, directing the financial and procurement activities of an educational consulting firm, and was the managing partner of a bookkeeping and tax business.

From 1980 to 2010, she worked for the City of Austin serving in a variety of capacities including economic development, auditing, financial management, fleet management, executive assistant in the City Manager’s Office, and Assistant Director of Administration and Support Services for the Austin Public Library.

Diana Castañeda Herrera

Diana Herrera Castañeda was born in Austin, Texas, to Ninfa and Edward Herrera. In 1970 she graduated from Travis High School and attended Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, where she majored in Secondary Education.

A second generation Mexican American, Castañeda honors her heritage and family by serving as a leader in her community. Two strong role models for Castañeda were her aunt and uncle, Consuelo Herrera Mendez, who is considered the first Mexican American teacher to be hired by the Austin Independent School District, and Patricio J. Mendez, an Austin attorney and the first Mexican American to run for City Council.

In 1992 Castañeda was elected to the AISD Board of Trustees. She also campaigned for the positions of Place 5 Austin City Council (1988) and Travis County Constable Precinct 4 (1994), but was not elected.

Castañeda has served in numerous organizations such as the Mexican American School Board Association of Texas, the Mexican American Business and Professional Women’s Association (MABPWA), the 1996 Mexican American Cultural Center Task Force (Vice Chair), and the Hispanic Women’s Network of Texas (charter member). A champion for women’s rights, Castañeda has been a long time activist with National Organization of Women (NOW) and has served as the Texas NOW chapter Vice President for Diversity and Vice President of membership. In 2008 she was elected to the National Board of NOW.
Voices de Latinas

Linda Consuelo Irizarry Crockett

Linda Irizarry Crockett, originally from Puerto Rico, graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1983 with a degree in Radio-TV-Film Production. She worked at KLRU until 1985, and then went to work for KOKE Radio as an advertising sales representative for its then Spanish AM station KMMM.

With a strong theatre background she began acting in local theatre in 1983, well aware of the lack of opportunities for Latino actors in Austin. Her first role was in the production of “MAGGIE, MAGALITA” at the Dougherty Arts Center. Later she became business manager for the Zachary Scott Theatre Center and was instrumental in bringing bilingual theatre productions to ZACH’s stage and promoting Latino artists.

Linda has also performed in several play productions that include, “TARTUFFE”, “THE LADY FROM HAVAN.,” and “SHEAR MADNESS,” among others. While raising her daughter, working at the theatre, and performing at other venues in Austin, she also did voice over work in Spanish and had an occasional extra role in films. In the late 1990s she produced and hosted a weekly radio music program, “SANCOCHO BORICUA,” that lasted five years on KOOP Radio.

In 2004-2005 Linda immersed herself in another aspect of Latino culture, the television novela. She had a recurring role as Aurora in the international television Spanish soap opera “LA LEY DEL SILENCIO” on the TELEMUNDO Network. Linda works for the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center as Education, Marketing and Events Specialist.

Nilda de la Llata

Nilda de la Llata was born on July 26, 1957, in Brownsville, Texas, but raised in Matamoros, Mexico, until she was 10 when her family moved back to Brownsville. After graduating from high school, she attended Texas South Most College, now the University of Texas at Brownsville.

De la Llata started work as a dishwasher at Las Manitas Restaurant. Later she became a waitress and was promoted to the manager position. After working at Las Manitas for several years, she moved to Austin with 57 cents in her pocket.

In 1995 De la Llata started work as a dishwasher at Las Manitas Restaurant. Later she became a waitress and was promoted to the manager position. After working at Las Manitas for several years, she changed jobs to work at the Granite Café as their manager.

In 2001 as President of the Board of the Mexic-Arte Museum, she pushed the drive to purchase the building at 419 Congress Avenue that lasted five years on KOOP Radio.

Carlota Luna Fuentes

Carlota Luna Fuentes, the daughter of Pilar and Eulogio Luna, was born in San Antonio, Texas, on April 12, 1864. When she was 10, her family moved to Austin and lived at Nueces and Live Oak, now 2nd Street.

In 1881 Luna married Toribio Fuentes at St. Mary’s Cathedral Church. They had ten children, and in order to provide for the family, her husband worked as a day laborer, peddler, and farmer. The strain of providing for such a large family proved too much for him. In an article which appeared in the July 05, 1900, Austin Tribune, Toribio Fuentes was tried for lunacy in the County Court and was “adjudged insane.” The article went on to say that “his mind became unbalanced on account of business troubles.”

Fuentes secured the services of Dr. Goodall Wooton, then Austin’s most prominent physician, to testify as a witness that the family did not have the means to take care of him. Two months later, after being committed to the Lunatic Asylum, Toribio died, leaving Carlota with nine children ranging from the ages of 8 months to 19 years old.

In order to provide for her family, Fuentes and the older children continued farming. In 1905 she married Juan Salazar and had one more child. On June 53, she died at the age of 90 and is buried beside her mother, Pilar Luna, in Oakwood Cemetery.

Rosie Mendoza

Rosie Mendoza is originally from Harlingen, Texas, and has been a resident of Austin since 1981. In 1983 she graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration in Accounting.

Mendoza is licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in Texas and has over six years of experience as a comptroller of a major nonprofit entity and over 21 years of public accounting.
Voces de Latinas

Laura Rangel Muños
Laura Rangel Muños was born in 1968 to Olga and Joe Rangel. In 1987 she graduated with honors from Crockett High School.

She attended the University of Texas at Austin, where her grandfather retired from his janitorial job and her father once worked as a bus boy, and earned a bachelor’s of science degree in chemical engineering in 1991.

In 2002 she earned a master’s of business administration degree from the University of Houston. Muños began her career with BP Chemical Company as a process and process control engineer at the Texas City refinery and chemical plant.

She successfully transitioned from the engineering discipline to become a financial analyst for BP’s deepwater projects in the Gulf of Mexico. Muños was one of the first Hispanic female engineers in the oil industry, and recalls being questioned in the early days of her career whether she really was an engineer.

She feels that to this day, many people judge her first by the color of her skin before realizing she has become an expert of bringing together the technical and financial worlds. Muños believes equality will only come through education and has taught her young daughter that hard work is critical to success. She is a Lifetime Member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) and has served as President of the Texas Bay Area Chapter Professional chapter and Chair of the SHPE National Corporate Board.

Jo Ann Carreon-Reyes
Jo Ann Carreon-Reyes was born in San Antonio, Texas, and has lived in Austin since 1972. In 2000 she and her husband Rupert Reyes co-founded Teatro Vivo. Its mission is to produce culturally relevant Latino theatre that addresses critical social issues and productions that have Latino roots and branch into every corner of human experience, exploring age-old themes and modern dilemmas.

Carreon-Reyes currently serves as the Executive Director of Teatro Vivo. She also has 19 years of classroom teaching experience in a variety of grade levels and with diverse student populations.

In 2009 the Austin Woman Magazine recognized Carreon-Reyes for her contributions to the Austin theater scene. The University of Texas at Austin presented the Community Leadership Award to both Carreon-Reyes and Rupert Reyes in September 2008, and both currently serve on the 2011-2012 Community Council for the Department of Dance at UT. Carreon-Reyes has maintained a productive presence within the Austin theatre community and together with her husband has produced countless plays that have kept audiences laughing and crying.

Rose Reyes
A native of Edinburg, Texas, Reyes moved to Austin in 1984. She has been the Director of Music Marketing for the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau for the past 6 years.

Reyes has worked in the cultural arts arena in Texas for over 20 years, including working as an artist manager for Tish Hinojosa and an administrator, fundraiser, and producer for state-wide cultural arts organization Texas Folklife Resources.

At Texas Folklife Resources she oversaw development of statewide music and visual arts touring initiatives, artist development, and fundraising, and she produced an annual roots music series titled Texas Folk Masters.

Reyes has worked extensively on business and cultural outreach programs for the Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Texas Department of Commerce and has served on the boards of La Pena, Austin Music Commission, the National Academy of Recorded Arts and Sciences Texas Chapter, Cine Las Americas, City Of Austin Live Music Task Force, and the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Initiative.

She has consulted with a wide range of non-profit groups such as Americans for the Arts, the Library of Congress, Latino USA, The Alejandro Fund, Ballet Austin, ALLGO, and International Accordion Festival.

The Center for Mexican American Studies at The University of Texas at Austin is proud to join with many others in paying tribute to the 102 Latinas that are part of the Voces de Latinas Exhibit.
Julia Rodriguez Aguillon was born the youngest of two brothers and three sisters on Feb. 17, 1917. She and her mother, Maria Rodriguez, often depended on her older siblings for help during the Depression. She was still a child attending Urban Elementary when her sisters married. The older siblings helped out with food and/or money for Aguillon’s school shoes. Literacy and speaking English were reinforced by the adults around her. Aguillon recalls her mother guiding her hand when forming letters from the alphabet.

To make ends meet, she washed clothes for a banker in their neighborhood while Aguillon was in school.

Julia’s mother never remarried. To make ends meet, she washed clothes for a banker in their neighborhood while Aguillon was in school. Aguillon also tried to bring in money after her father’s death, which was also her way of keeping the memory of him alive.

Eusebio Rodriguez had taught Aguillon how to make tortillas and pastries. She’d use his special recipe and was offered 10 cents for her flour tortillas from a neighbor until her mother told her the neighbor should be making their own tortillas and that Aguillon should stay focused on school. Aguillon eventually became the family’s only graduate.

“I’m proud to say that I never failed a grade,” Aguillon said. Growing up in Laredo, Texas, was very positive, even after her father died. “I had a very beautiful childhood,” she said. “I have very good memories.”

In 1937, she graduated from Laredo High School. “I would have liked to go to college,” said Aguillon, but she lacked the means. Instead, she began work at Kress as a sales clerk the following year.

Thanks to a shortage of men because of the war, she was promoted in 1942 to the post of receiving clerk, a post she kept for the next five years. With that job, she got Saturday afternoons off. Her responsibilities included receiving merchandise and checking invoices. Altogether, she spent 12 years at Kress.

Aguillon wasn’t only immersed in work, though. She also enjoyed activities such as photography, bicycling, eating out and watching movies, at home as well as across the border in Mexico. But when she and her friends visited Monterrey, Mexico, she encountered hostility. “We knew they didn’t like us,” she said of the Mexicans. “They had a bad attitude about us [Mexican Americans].”

In 1942, she also joined the Civil Defense, teaching skills that would be necessary in the event of an enemy attack. Aguillon represented Civil Defense in Laredo’s annual George Washington Celebration Parade in February of 1943. Her involvement in local social events, friendships, and work kept her busy. “I was the slow one in the family [to marry],” she said. “But I was with my mother and I was very happy.”

She also sometimes visited San Antonio, 150 miles northeast of Laredo. Through her childhood friend, Socorro Garcia, she met Luciano Aguillon. Luciano had been discharged from the Army on Oct. 7, 1945, after serving in the Pacific with Company A of the 763D Tank Battalion. When she met Luciano, he was working as a barber next door to Ms. Garcia’s beauty salon. Their introduction led to their first date at the Majestic Theater.

After being married for a year, Aguillon’s first son was stillborn. She recalls being in labor for three days. “I was dying. I was very ill,” she said. Due to their Catholic faith, the nuns at Santa Rosa Hospital in San Antonio opposed any unnatural procedures, even if it meant saving her life. Aguillon said. Her obstetrician, Dr. Bernard Bloom, eventually decided on a Cesarean without charging the couple.

But Aguillon’s critical condition cost Luciano all of his savings. They hired a nurse for each of the three shifts per day for one week of hospitalization. Dr. Bloom helped
The Austin Latino Theater Alliance also known as ALTA is determined to continue a tradition with or without funding for the arts. With funding cuts happening to the arts, this theater group is relentless and feels this story must be told with or without funding to the group. Its tradition and history of the play important enough to make the show happen, all for the love of La Pastorela.

Austin Latino Theater Alliance (ALTA) is returning this season with La Pastorela's production with a new Artistic Director as well as other known actors to this year's show.

Muchas gracias,

Marylou Castillo Production Manager
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e-mail address: maricacastle@yahoo.com
La Voz de Austin - November, 2011

Veterans and Soldiers Parade

Date and Time: November 12, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

Parade & Outreach Location:
Parque Zaragosa Park
2608 Gonzales Street – near 7th & Pleasant Valley
9 to 11: Meet doctors & clinicians specializing in Combat Stress Injuries & Family Counseling

Sponsored by Austin VFW

Constable Maria Canchola and Justice of the Peace Raúl Arturo González join the millions of Americans who salute the Veterans who have served our country over the years.

Raúl Arturo González
Justice of the Peace
Precinct 4
Travis County

Maria Canchola
Constable
Precinct 4
Travis County

Paid Political Announcement by Raul Gonzalez and Maria Canchola