

# La Voz

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## Inside this Issue

Planea una  
cosecha  
abundante

Por qué el  
Cinco de Mayo  
debe ser  
importante  
para la  
comunidad  
Afro Americana

En Palabras  
Hay Poder

El Nuevo Libro  
sobre  
José de la Luz  
Saenz



**Elizabeth Saldaña y su mama**  
**BACH ECI... Alas para Nuestros Niños**

# Tejas Has Spoken. MAS FOR ALL!

Tejas roared. Texas and the nation heard. It was moving to see our community united as we met for our **March on Austin for Mexican American Studies**.

Students, professors, activists, professionals, and allies from different cultural backgrounds and walks of life united to update the American Dream through education. 40 people testified at the **Texas State Board of Education**, representing thousands of families, students, and leaders from the **Rio Grande Valley, Houston, El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, Baytown** and other parts of the great state of Texas.

**Texas State Board of Education Representative Ruben Cortez** led the way. Also, thanks to the **League of United Latin American Citizens, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the NAACP, Librotraficante, MAS-Texas, Texas State Teachers Association, Texas American Federation of Teachers, the Texas Freedom Network, Somos MAS, MAS Unidos, Tejas Foco, Puente, Nuestra Palabra: Latino Writers Having Their Say, Tu Libro, UH MASSO, MASSO en UTSA, UT TFN, UH TFN, MASC UT-Pan Am.**

**Tony Diaz**, El Librotraficante, said, "This is a huge victory and marks an important milestone in the Chicano Renaissance."

*"We went to Austin looking to implement Mexican American Studies (M.A.S.), and we came back with the Texas Plan that allows us to control the content of our courses, yet still have the courses recognized and advertised by the state, and also allows us to get the textbooks needed for not just Mexican American Studies, but also African American, Asian, and Native American Studies," Diaz added.*

*"We have paved a direct route from our communities, to classrooms, to the Texas State Board of Education, to publishers across the nation." This will come to be known historically as the **Texas Plan**, with bi-partisan support, for an educational system that tells all of our stories.*



**ABOVE:** Tony Diaz, one of the leaders of the movement to get Mexican American Studies in the classroom

## Immediate Actions:

We will be coordinating the work of all of our Librotraficante Under Ground Libraries to expand our base in our communities. We are holding a book drive right now for our Under Ground Library in Phoenix at Puente.

We are also working with all major educational institutions. Houston Independent School District, the largest school district in Texas, endorsed Mexican American Studies, as did El Paso ISD, and Ysleta ISD and others, to plan, conduct, and promote curriculums and courses.

All roads lead to the February 2015 National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Tejas Foco Conference at Lone Star College-North Harris in Houston, Texas: "Putting More Community in Community Colleges and Beyond," which will feature workshops by and for professors, students, administrators, teachers, families, and policy makers, and publishers.

We will be visiting the Texas State Board of Education in July.

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**Pensamientos**

Una vez más la bienvenida a otro asunto de **La Voz de Brazoria County**. En cada emisión de **La Voz**, que tratamos de llevar una gran variedad de historias interesantes para nuestros lectores. Con este tema que queremos llamar su atención al artículo por **Christina Morales** de **BACH** y la familia **Saldaña**. Es muy importante que cuando uno necesita ayuda de cualquier tipo que busca sin temor ni vergüenza. Hay muchas agencias en el condado que están dispuestos a ayudar.

El siguiente artículo en este número de **La Voz** es acerca del movimiento mexicano de establecer estudios Mexico - Americanos, en las escuelas públicas. **Tony Díaz**, activista de **Houston**, es uno de los líderes de este movimiento, y ha tenido varias victorias en los últimos meses aquí en Texas, en que las clases en las escuelas.

En la página 6 tenemos un perfil a otro activista de Texas que está trabajando para educar al público acerca de historia de **Texas**. **Dan Arellano** es de **Austin, Texas**, y viaja por todo el estado con un grupo de re-enactors que mostrar la otra cara de historia de **Texas**. Es un orador frecuente en colegios y universidades de todo el estado.

Nuestra historia en la fiesta del **Cinco de Mayo** en paes 10 y 11, ofrece algo distinto de lo que este día. Cuando lo lea, a pensar en lo que podría haber ocurrido si los mexicanos no habian ganado la pelea en **Puebla**.

Welcome once again to another issue of **La Voz de Brazoria County**. With each issue of **La Voz**, we try to bring a variety of interesting stories to our readers. With this issue we want to call to your attention the article by **Christina Morales** on **BACH** and the **Saldaña** family. It is very important that when a one needs help of any kind that they seek it out without fear or shame. There are many agencies in the county who are willing to help.

The next article in this issue of **La Voz** is about the movement to establish **Mexican American Studies** in the public schools. **Tony Diaz**, an activist from **Houston**, is one of the leaders of this movement and has had several victories in the last few months here in **Texas** in getting these classes into the schools.

On page 6 we have a profile on another activist in **Texas** who is working to educate the public about **Texas** history. **Dan Arellano** is from **Austin, Texas**, and travels around the state with a group of re-enactors who show the other side of **Texas** history. He is a frequent speaker at colleges and universities around the state.

Our story on the **Cinco de Mayo** on paes 10 and 11, provides a different take on what this day is all about. When you read it, think about what might have happened had the Mexicans not put up a good fight in **Puebla**.

**EDITORIAL**

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

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### **Aviso de audiencia pública Condado de Brazoria Plan 2010-2014 consolidados y plan de acción de 2014**

Las audiencias públicas se llevarán a cabo el Miércoles 25 de junio, 2014 a las 6:00 p.m. y el martes, 8 de Julio, 2014 a las 9:00 a.m. y en la sala de Comisarios que esta situada en el Condado Brazoria Courthouse, 111 E. Locust Street, Angleton, Texas. El objetivo de estas audiencias será para recibir comentarios y aportaciones sobre el Plan consolidado del Condado de Brazoria y Plan de Acción 2014. El Condado anticipa que se reciben fondos del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano en la cantidad de \$1.626.004 en el Programa CDBG , \$415.779 por el Programa HOME y \$132.699 en el Programa ESG durante Año 2014.

El 10 de junio de 2014 una copia de la 5-año Plan consolidado y Plan de Acción Anual estará disponible al público en el Condado Brazoria Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario, 1524 E. Morera, Suite 162, Angleton, TX 77515.

Personas con discapacidad, no se habla inglés, lenguaje de signos y cualquier otras personas que necesitan instalaciones especiales y que deseen asistir a la audiencia pública debe ponerse en contacto con la Sra. Nancy Friudenberg al (979) 864-1860, antes de la audiencia, de tal manera que la vivienda se puede hacer.

Para información general, por favor llame a Nancy Friudenberg (979) 864-1860. Asimismo, observaciones por escrito puede ser presentado a Brazoria County Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario, 1524 E. Morera, Suite 162, Angleton, Texas 77515 o por fax al (979) 864-1089. Por favor, envíe sus comentarios a las 4:00 pm 18 de julio de 2014.

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by Christina Morales

# BACH ECI... Alas para Nuestros Niños

**Elizabeth Saldaña** tiene solo tres años. Ella esta pequeña para su edad, debería caminar mejor, hablar mejor, debería de hacer todo... *mejor*. Pero, ella nació con necesidades especiales. Aparte de tener defectos congénitos del corazón, **Elizabeth** tiene síndrome de Down. Ella es una de 400.000 personas que viven en los estados unidos americanos afectadas con el síndrome de Down.

En su casa, **Elizabeth** da un paso tambaleante hacia un juguete. Ella cae después de pocos pasos e intenta de nuevo. Esta vez llega al camión. Ella no hará eso por una piruleta, sólo para su juguete favorito. Su madre, **Araceli Saldaña**, dice que puede decir una treintena de palabras, pero en casi dos horas que estoy allí, ella seña sólo unas pocas palabras y no dice más que una. Sin embargo, ella se comunica bien, juega bien, y cuando **Elizabeth** sonrío, se te ablanda el corazón. De hecho, **Elizabeth** es "una ladrona". Lo sé porque cuando me tengo que ir, lo tengo por seguro que esa niña se ha robado mi corazón.

Hace un año, **Elizabeth** empezó su terapia con **BACH ECI**. Ella había pasado mucho tiempo recuperándose de una cirugía del corazón y otros problemas de salud. Se veía que su progreso físico estaba retrasado. Al pesar de que le faltaban dos semanas para cumplir dos años, **Elizabeth** no andaba, ni hablaba. La niña necesitaba ayuda.

Ahora, **Elizabeth Saldaña** se ha desarrollado demasiado bien durante su tratamiento. Su terapeuta, **Sherry Varner**, dice que dentro de días **Elizabeth** no va a tambalear, ni caerse con la misma frecuencia. **Elizabeth** ha progresado más de lo esperado gracias al equipo de cuatro terapeutas, ayudantes, y sus padres que trabajan con ella con frecuencia. Me dice Araceli que hace un año **Elizabeth** no podía coger una cuchara y ahora ella levanta hasta cosas más pequeñas. **Elizabeth** sonrío, juega, y se arrima a la **Señora KC Strate**, la **Directora del Desarrollo de BACH**, para besarla. **Elizabeth** la ama y la **Señora Strate** ama a **Elizabeth**.

La **Señora Strate** conoce y ama a todos los niños clientes de **BACH**. Nosotras hablamos sobre sus aspiraciones para los clientes. Ella sueña cosas grandes, normales, llenas de un futuro y me dice que eso es lo que ella les quiere dar. En

**BACH** viven su misión... no hay momento más bendito que el nacimiento de un bebe... ellos quieren asegurarse que cada familia tiene la oportunidad de proveer a sus hijos todo lo necesario para que tengan éxito en la vida.

Las posibilidades y los sueños que tienen los padres para sus hijos son interrumpidos y cambian de sonido cuando se dan cuenta que su hijo tiene un retraso en su desarrollo. Demasiadas decisiones difíciles hacen que los papas se sientan aislados y desinformados. **BACH ECI** se ofrece a guiar a cada familia a las oportunidades para que su niño pueda llegar a su alcance completo, sin obstáculos económicos o educacionales.

Por 41 años, **BACH** ha trabajado con las familias de los niños necesitados, ofreciendo servicios para cada niño. **BACH** distribuya apoyo e información a los padres y les ayuda abogar por sus hijos. **BACH** también ofrece una variedad de servicios gratuitos desde el nacimiento de niños hasta los 12 años de edad a través del programa de servicios de apoyo. En la oficina en **Angleton**, **BACH** tiene equipo especializado para el tratamiento de niños con trastornos del procesamiento sensorial y mucho más.

Los servicios de **ECI** son proporcionados en el ambiente "natural" donde el niño vive, aprende y juega. Esto puede ser en el hogar, la guardería o la comunidad en donde su hijo se siente más cómodo. De esta manera, la intervención de su hijo le ayudará a participar en las actividades cotidianas.

**ECI** escucha a las preocupaciones de la familia y trabaja con ellos para planificar servicios. Cada familia tendrá un plan diferente, según lo que se necesita para su hijo. Bebés y niños pequeños aprenden mejor de las familias y las cuidanderas a través de actividades en su vida diaria como la alimentación, bañarse y jugar. **ECI** ayuda a las familias a aprender cómo utilizar estas actividades diarias para que los niños se desarrollen mejor.

**BACH** esta para servir a los niños minusválidos. Solo se necesita que estén viviendo en el condado de **Brazoria**, nada más se requiere. **BACH**



**Elizabeth Saldaña**

protege la privacidad de sus clientes y las familias de esos clientes. **BACH** usa fondos públicos y privados, pero no se reportan directamente a nadie sobre sus clientes. Los hispanos hacen el 35% de los clientes. **Elizabeth** es solo una.

**Araceli Saldaña**, la mama de **Elizabeth**, dice de su hija, "Su boca permanece abierta, es natural. Tiene los pies muy chicos, eso también es común en niños con Downs. Como lo se... me dijo **BACH**." La información y ayuda de **BACH** ha equipado a **Araceli** para el trabajo que tiene por delante. Todavía más, ahora por medio de los eventos para las familias de clientes que tiene **BACH**, ella está conectada con un círculo social de padres con niños de necesidades especiales. Se unen con regularidad en los eventos patrocinados por **BACH** y también forman amistades para ayudarse entre ellos. Allí, los

**Saldañas** no se encuentran solos. Los **Saldañas** necesitaban saber que otros padres habían superado los mismos obstáculos. Todos necesitamos acuerdos de que no estamos solos en los momentos difíciles de la vida. **BACH** ofrece mucho más que servicios terapéuticos. **BACH** ofrece información, ayuda, y paz.

La visión de **BACH**: Para promover programas positivas del desarrollo de los niños con necesidades especiales y el fortalecimiento de sus familias para que puedan apoyar a sus hijos por el resto de su vida.

**BACH** esta para abrir puertas y corazones. **Elizabeth** es especial, pero no es única. Hay muchos niños y niñas que pueden lograr una vida más realizada con la ayuda de este grupo que solo existe para dar le alas a nuestros niños.

# Wendy R. Davis

## for Governor of Texas 2014

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# Profile

## Dan Arellano - Activist Historian

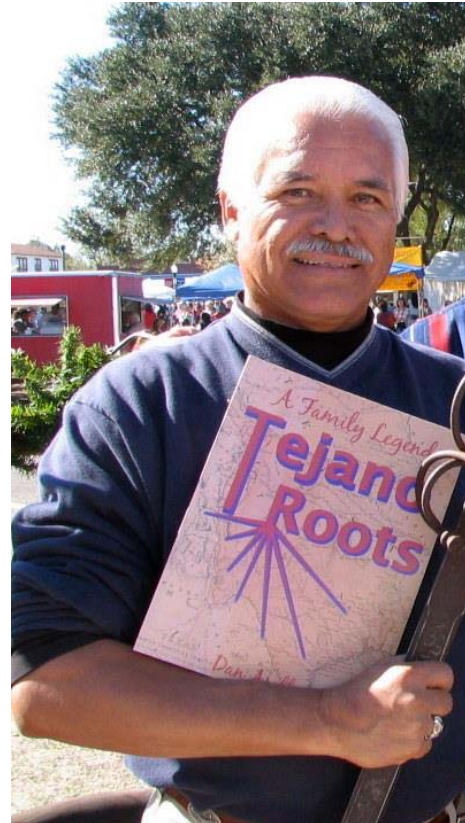
**Dan Arellano** es un historiador activista. Toma la historia y lo trae vivo a través de recreaciones, presentaciones de video, libros y conmemoraciones públicas en todo el estado. La pasión de **Dan** por compartir sus investigaciones se refleja cada vez que está en una reunión pública y hay una solicitud de anuncios. Casi sin falta, **Dan Arellano** se levantará de su asiento con las últimas noticias sobre próximos eventos.

Un original de Austin, **Dan Arellano** a veces no reciben el respeto y la atención que se merece. Muchas veces hay quienes apenas le dan la hora del día. Pero a su crédito, **Dan** es implacable y aunque hay solo cinco personas en un evento, el le hecha ganas como si fuera 500 personas delante de él.

Muchas personas no se dan cuenta, pero **Dan** pone su dinero donde está su boca. Si algo requiere financiación o si hay costos involucrados en la duplicación o la fotografía, **Dan** personalmente pone el dinero.

Monumento de los veteranos de Vietnam en **Eastside Memorial High School** que se erigió en 2011, fue el resultado de los esfuerzos organizativos de **Dan**. Actualmente está organizando un esfuerzo para construir un monumento a los soldados que sirvieron de **Travis High School** en Austin, Texas.

**Dan Arellano** cree que es importante saber y recordar las contribuciones de aquellos que han venido antes que nosotros. **Dan** es realmente un recurso valioso para la comunidad hispana en **Austin, Texas**.



**Dan Arellano** is an activist historian. He takes history and brings it alive through re-enactments, video presentations, books and public commemorations throughout the state. **Dan's** passion for sharing his research is reflected every time he is at a public meeting and there is a request for announcements. Almost without fail, **Dan Arellano** will rise from his seat with the latest news about upcoming event.

An Austin original, **Dan Arellano** sometimes doesn't receive the respect and attention he deserves. Many times there are those who barely give him the time of day. But to his credit, **Dan** is relentless and even if only five people were to show up to an event he organized, he will give it his all as if there were 500 people in front of

him.

Many people may not be aware, but **Dan** puts his money where his mouth is. If something requires funding or if there are costs involved in duplicating or photography, **Dan** personally puts up the money.

The Vietnam veteran's monument at **Eastside Memorial High School** which was erected in 2011, was the result of **Dan's** organizational efforts. He is currently organizing an effort to construct a monument to the soldiers who served from **Travis High School** in Austin, Texas.

**Dan Arellano** is unique in that he believes it is important to know and remember the contributions of those who have come before us. **Dan** is truly a valuable asset to the Hispanic community in **Austin, Texas**.

## Planea una cosecha abundante

Por Melinda Myers

Las plantas están llegando a la jardinería y los sueños de un jardín bonito y productivo llenan tu cabeza. Pero al poner sus planes en papel, no te mueves. Tal vez nada más necesitas un poco de ayuda.

Para comenzar, repasa tus recetas favoritas y haz una lista de los ingredientes que te gustaría crecer. Incluye los vegetales y las hierbas que utilizas a menudo, los que cuestan menos cosechar versus comprar, y los que saben mejor crecidos frescos en el jardín. Algunos de los que se me vienen a la mente son tomates, pimientos, y cilantro. Asegúrate involucrar a tu familia en este proceso. Después de todo, si ayudan a planear el jardín, será más probable que ayudarían a desherrar, regar y cosecharlo. Aun si no ayudan, probablemente se comerán todo cuando cocines sus platos favoritos con vegetales-frescos-del jardín.

Cuando ya tienes tu lista de vegetales y hierbas, puedes diseñar tu jardín. No dejes que este paso te intimide. Hay unos recursos fantásticos en línea, como el sitio móvil en español de Bonnie Plants, Gardening at your Fingertips mobile site ([m.bonnieplants.com/es](http://m.bonnieplants.com/es)), que proveen planes ya hechos para hacer este proceso mucho más fácil para jardineros nuevos y con experiencia. Por ejemplo, en solo un espacio pequeño (4 pies por 4 pies), su plan para el jardín de salsa hecha en casa permite que los jardineros cosechen dos plantas de tomates o tomatillos en jaula en una fila, una planta de jalapeños, y una de chiles morrones rojas en jaulas en la próxima fila, y cilantro y cebollas en la tercera fila. Si necesitas más producto para sus recetas favoritas, nada más añade otra sección de 4 pies por 4 pies. Aumenta aún más la productividad de tu jardín con cuidado apropiado y unas técnicas para utilizar menos espacio: Riega las plantas completamente cuando las primeras pulgadas de suelo son desmigajadas y están secando. También, asegúrate a poner abono vegetal; cubre la superficie del suelo con un estrato de hojas trizadas, agujas de pino, o paja sin malas hierbas. El poner abono vegetal conserva la humedad, suprime malas hierbas, y mejora el suelo con tiempo.

Maximice cada pie cuadrado cultivando tomates y pimientos en jaulas. En adición, entrena pepinos y otras viñas a crecer en un enrejado. Cultivando unas plantas verticalmente, te da más espacio para plantar el resto de tus hierbas y vegetales favoritos.

Ahorra aún más espacio al cultivar vegetales que maduran rápidamente, como lechuga, entre vegetales que necesitan más tiempo para comenzar a producir, como tomates. Esta estrategia, conocido como "interplantando," permite que cultives dos tipos de vegetales en solo un espacio. Cuando los tomates llegan a ser tan grande a bloquear el sol de las verduras, la lechuga estará terminado de producir. No solo ahorra espacio, pero también reduce la cantidad de malas hierbas.

Ahora que tienes tu lista, planes del jardín, e ideas para cuidado apropiado y ahorrando espacio, ¡estás listo para comenzar a cultivar!

Experta de jardinería, presentadora de televisión y radio, autora y columnista, Melinda Myers tiene más de 30 años de experiencia en horticultura y ha escrito más de 20 libros sobre jardinería, incluyendo "Can't Miss Small Space Gardening." Ella presenta The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series y los segmentos sindicados nacionalmente de Melinda's Garden Moments. Myers es también una columnista y editora para la revista Birds & Blooms. El sitio web de Myers, [www.melindamyers.com](http://www.melindamyers.com), ofrece videos y tips de jardinería.

## Plan for a Bountiful Harvest

By Melinda Myers



Plants are moving into the garden center and dreams of a beautiful and productive garden fill your head. But when it comes to putting your plans down on paper, you freeze. Perhaps you just need a little help.

To begin, take a look at your favorite recipes and make a list of the ingredients you would like to grow. Include vegetables and herbs you use often, those that are cheaper to grow than to buy, and those that taste best fresh from the garden. Tomatoes, peppers, cilantro are just a few that come to mind.

Be sure to involve your family in this process. After all, if they help plan the garden, they may be more inclined to help weed, water and harvest it. But even if they don't end up lending a hand, they will be much more likely to clean their plates when you make their favorite dishes with fresh-from-the-garden vegetables.

Once you have your list of vegetables and herbs, it's time to design your garden. Don't let this step intimidate you. There are some terrific online tools, like

Bonnie Plants' Spanish Gardening at your Fingertips mobile site ([m.bonnieplants.com/es](http://m.bonnieplants.com/es)), that provide plans to make this much easier for both new and experienced gardeners. For example, in just one small space (4 feet by 4 feet), their Homemade Salsa garden plan allows gardeners to grow two tomato or tomatillo plants in cages in one row, one jalapeno pepper and one red bell pepper in cages in the next row, and cilantro and onions in the third row. If you need more produce for your favorite recipes, just add another 4 x 4 section.

Boost your garden's productivity even further with proper care and some space-saving techniques: Water plants thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil is crumbly and just starting to dry. Also, be sure to mulch by covering the soil surface with a layer of shredded leaves, evergreen needles, or weed-free straw. Mulching helps conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and improve the soil over time.

Maximize every square foot by growing tomatoes and peppers in cages. In addition, train cucumbers and other vining plants up a trellis. Going vertical leaves more room to plant your other favorite herbs and vegetables.

Save even more space by growing fast-maturing vegetables like lettuce in between vegetables like tomatoes that take much longer to begin producing. This strategy, known as interplanting, allows you to grow two types of vegetables in one space. By the time the tomato plants become large and start to shade out the greens, the lettuce will be done producing. Not only does this save space, but it also reduces the number of weeds.

Now that you have your list, garden plans, and ideas for proper care and saving space, you are ready to start growing!

Gardening expert, TV/radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has more than 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including Can't Miss Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment segments. Myers is also a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers' web site, [www.melindamyers.com](http://www.melindamyers.com), offers gardening videos and tips.



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# Why African Americans Should Celebrate Cinco de Mayo

## Three Questions

### What is Cinco de Mayo?

Why do we celebrate it here in the United States of America?

Why should Black Americans celebrate this holiday?

In a nutshell, **Cinco de Mayo** is about an event that took place in Mexico in 1862. On this date, the 5th of May, a rag tag army of Mexicans, led by a general who was born in **Texas**, defeated the most powerful army in the world in the small town of **Puebla**.

The French, who had come to **Mexico** to “collect” on an overdue debt were so shocked that a bunch of Mexicans hiding behind rocks and trees could inflict so much damage and were forced to retreat and regroup. The French came back and not only took **Puebla**, but all of **Mexico** and ruled the country for several years. That is the basic story.

Next question – Why is **Cinco de Mayo** celebrated in the United States of America? According to **Dr. David E. Hayes-Bautista** in a paper published by the **UCLA Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture** about the origin of **Cinco de Mayo** in the United States, the modern American focus on that day first started in **California** in the 1860s.

**Bautista** writes, “Far up in the gold country town of **Columbia** (now **Columbia State Park**) Mexican miners were so overjoyed at the news that they spontaneously fired off rifles shots and fireworks, sang patriotic songs and made impromptu speeches.”



The 2007 **UCLA** paper notes that “The holiday, which has been celebrated in **California** continuously since 1863, is virtually ignored in **Mexico**. “*Cinco de Mayo is important to California because it was invented here,*” said **Hayes-Bautista**, who is the director of the center. “*It provides a collective identity for all Latinos, whether they were born here in California or immigrated from Mexico, Central America or South America. It binds them together in an identity — it is as important to Latinos as the Alamo is to Anglo-Texans.*”

The paper by **Hayes-Bautista** and co-author **Cynthia L. Chamberlin**, the center’s historian, appeared in the **Southern California Quarterly** and is titled “Cinco de Mayo’s First Seventy-Five Years in Alta California: From Spontaneous Behavior to Sedimented Memory, 1862 to 1937.”

**Los Angeles, California** has had an annual **Cinco de Mayo** celebration for the past 138 years. In Tuscon, Arizona school board minutes state: “A new holiday was inaugurated in 1910, two days being given off May 5 and 6 for the Mexican celebration “*Cinco de Mayo.*”

In the May 1, 1913 issue of **La Prensa**, a Spanish Language weekly in **San Antonio, Texas**, a picture of **General Ignacio Zaragoza** is on the cover, and a poem about him can be found on the literary page along with an interview with a veteran of the battle. In the following week’s edition, the newspaper gave a summary of celebrations held in **Waco** and **Austin**. In **Houston**,

Mexicanos were celebrating **Cinco de Mayo** as early as 1935.

### Why should Black Americans celebrate Cinco de Mayo?

Now for the last question, why should Black Americans celebrate an incident that took place in **Mexico**? To answer this question properly we have to go into a little more detail. Let us start with why the French had sailed across the **Atlantic** to collect on a debt. Recall that **Mexico** had lost almost half its territory to the United States in the **Mexican American War** 1846-1848.

Afterwards, internal politics, personalities and conflicts put further stress on the country. Three costly years of civil war over the implementation of the **Mexican Constitution** of 1857 had just ended. The Constitution’s defenders, the Liberals, defeated the Conservative opposition, with both sides taking expensive loans.

Once in power, the Liberal government faced a severe fiscal crisis. On July 17, 1861 **President Benito Juárez** ordered the suspension of foreign debt payments for a period of two years, citing the great financial difficulties of the country and promising to continue repayment after this moratorium.

In response, **Great Britain, Spain** and **France** signed a tripartite agreement



ABOVE: **Benito Juárez**

and sent military forces to take the customhouse in the port of **Veracruz** as a means of securing repayment.

By January, 1862, all three nations landed troops outside **Veracruz**. The intention was to force **Mexico** into negotiations. Unfortunately, not all the parties were concerned solely with debt repayment. **Napoleon III** sought to establish a monarchy in **Mexico** to restore French influence in the Western hemisphere. This idea was not new.

As early as 1844, the French Minister to **Mexico** drew up plans for the invasion and the imposition of a French prince. **Napoleon’s** goals were further encouraged by Conservative exiles, who saw a monarchy as a means of preserving their privileges, and the support of the surviving Conservative opposition.

When it became clear that the French had no intention of leaving **Mexico** after successful debt negotiations, the tripartite agreement was dissolved and the British and Spanish forces withdrew from **Mexico**. The United States with **Abraham Lincoln** as President, was in the midst of the **Civil War**. But he and his administration were following the events in **Mexico** with great concern. Given the secession of the South, European intervention in



ABOVE: **Ignacio Zaragoza**

# ¿Por qué la raza negra debe celebrar el Cinco de Mayo?

Mexico might have led to a more active French role in the **American Civil War**.

**Napoleon III** had sympathies toward the **Confederacy** and the creation of a hostile French puppet state would affect Northern foreign policy and war-time strategy. Though the United States took steps to organize a peaceful mediation, the Administration remained worried about antagonizing the French. Thus, the United States took no active role in aiding **Mexico**, even refusing to sell arms for its defense.

The French army then marched on the capital. With only the moral support of the Latin American nations, **Mexico** confronted the possible destruction of its national sovereignty and its absorption into the French colonial empire. The French forces were experienced, trained and well equipped. There was little doubt about the outcome of the battle.

French commander, **General Lorencez**, contemptuously wrote on April 26, *"we have over the Mexicans such superiority of race, organization, discipline, morality..."* Still, Mexico was determined to offer total resistance. *"We must now prove to France and to the entire world that we are worthy to be free,"* wrote **President Benito Juárez**.

## The Battle of Puebla

Mexico's defense was entrusted to **Ignacio Zaragoza**, a young 33-year old Liberal general. After maneuvering for position, **Zaragoza** decided to defend the city of **Puebla**, Mexico's second largest city. As the last defensible city en route to the capital, it offered



only improvised fortifications. Soldiers took up hasty defensive positions and prepared for the worst. Poorly armed, these 4,850 Mexicans awaited the arrival of 6,500 French.

On the night of May 3, **Zaragoza** told his staff that *"We must promise to die in our positions, given that it is illogical to pretend to achieve some victory with armaments so inferior to the enemy's; but we will try... causing him the greatest amount of damage."*

In the early morning of May 5, French infantry battalions approached the defensive positions with little worry and expectations of a quick defeat. Demonstrating his confidence in an easy victory, **General Lorencez** formed two

columns of troops and immediately ordered a frontal assault against the two major Mexican positions. Taking advantage of this reckless attack, **Zaragoza** skillfully redeployed his troops to blunt the direct French assaults.

Charging in mass toward Mexicans, the disciplined French troops expected the defenders to flee because of fear and panic. Instead, the trim red and blue uniforms of the French were of no protection against the concentrated fire of old muskets. During the entire day, the French attacked three times in this manner, incredulous at the amount of resistance. Each time they were forced back by the Mexican defenders, leaving the field strewn with their

wounded.

After the final assault, **Colonel Porfirio Díaz** disobeyed orders and counter-attacked, forcing the French withdrawal. By 5 p.m., **General Lorencez** recognized his defeat and retreated to **Veracruz**. Nearly five hundred French soldiers were left behind, either dead or bleeding in the Mexican trenches. Immediately, **France** deployed 30,000 additional troops. Now committed to establishing a monarchy, the French army eventually defeated the Mexicans at **Puebla** in 1863. However, the **Battle of Puebla** delayed French occupation by a year. During this respite, **Mexico** organized and prepared for this war, which would finally end with a French withdrawal in 1867.



ABOVE: Napoleon III

By the time of the coronation of **Napoleon's** representative, **Archduke Maximilian**, and the French consolidation in 1864, the fighting in the **Civil War** shifted to the North's advantage. Any French assistance would be politically unwise and of limited value to the losing South.



In sum, the Mexicans were able to tie up and keep the French busy so that they did not have the time or resources to aid the **Confederacy**. Some have speculated that had the French not been tripped up by the Mexicans, they would have helped the South and the outcome of the **Civil War** may have turned out differently. And if it did, the question of slavery may have been debated and delayed for many years to come.

**The Battle of Puebla**, and the refusal of the Mexicans to give up is why Black Americans should also celebrate **El Cinco de Mayo**.

“Race matters because of the slights, the snickers, the silent judgements that reinforce that most crippling of thoughts: ‘I do not belong here.’”

— Justice Sonia Sotomayor

Text **EQUAL** to **62571** to thank Justice Sotomayor

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## Noah and Sophia Win Social Security’s Most Popular Baby Names for 2013

**Noah** and **Sophia** are America’s most popular baby names for 2013. First time atop the list is **Noah**, the first new boys name at number one since 1960 other than **Jacob** or **Michael**, and the third straight year for **Sophia**. This is huge news in the world of baby names with **Noah** rising to the top, unseating **Jacob**. Proving to be America’s favorite before the 2014 **Russell Crowe** movie **Noah** climbed atop the box office charts! There is only one new name in the top 10 this year—**Daniel**, but he has been there before. Also, be on the lookout for another **Sophia** crawling up the list—Sofia with an “F” has reached her highest spot ever at number 13. Here are the top 10 boys and girls names for 2013:

Boys:	1) Noah	Girls:	1) Sophia
	2) Liam		2) Emma
	3) Jacob		3) Olivia
	4) Mason		4) Isabella
	5) William		5) Ava
	6) Ethan		6) Mia
	7) Michael		7) Emily
	8) Alexander		8) Abigail
	9) Jayden		9) Madison
	10) Daniel		10) Elizabeth

For all the top baby names of 2013, go to Social Security’s website, [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). The birth of a child is a wonderful time for families. While having fun with the baby names list, **Acting Commissioner Carolyn W. Colvin** encourages everyone to visit the agency’s website and create a my Social Security account at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

### Audiencia Pública aviso Condado Brazoria pha plan anual 2014

Se realizará una audiencia pública el martes 10 de junio, 2014 a las 9:00 a.m. y miércoles 25 de junio, 2014 a las 6:00 p.m. en la sala de Comisarios situada en el Condado Brazoria Courthouse, 111 E. Locust Street, Angleton, Texas. El propósito de la audiencia será recibir comentarios y aportaciones sobre el Condado Brazoria PHA Plan Anual 2014.

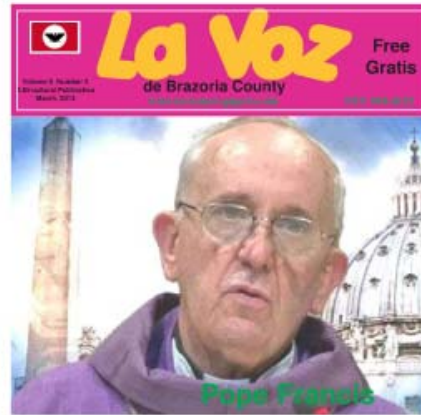
Desde el 13 de mayo, 2014, una copia de la PHA Plan Anual 2014 está disponible para consulta pública entre las 9:00 a.m. y 4:00 p.m. en la Autoridad de Vivienda del Condado Brazoria ubicado en 1524 E. Morera, Suite 162 Angleton, TX 77515.

Para información general, por favor llame a Nancy Friudenberg (979) 864-1860. Asimismo, observaciones por escrito puede ser presentado a la Autoridad de Vivienda del Condado Brazoria, 1524 E. Morera, Suite 162, Angleton, TX 77515 o por fax al (979) 864-1089. Por favor, envíe sus comentarios a nuestro departamento a las 4:00 pm 27 de junio de 2014.

Publicado 2014 junio



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# Calendar of Events

**May 16th thru 18th, 2014** - Tejano Conjunto Festival in San Antonio, Texas at Rosedale Park.

**May 17th, 2014** - Tierra Tejana at Cuathemoc Hall in San Marcos, Texas.

**May 17th, 2014** - Los Fantasmas del Valle in Robstown, Texas at the Red Barn

**May 24th, 2014** - Little Joe y La Familia in Pearsall, TX. at A & D Ballroom

**May 27th, 2014** - Run-off Election in Texas Polls open 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

**May 31st, 2014** - Ajua! Arriba El Norte: A Tribute to Lalo Gonzalez "El Piporro" at Our Lady of the Lake University's Thiry Auditorium at 7:00pm. Tickets for the show are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. There is also a prepaid option that includes a light dinner and "Meet the Artists" reception for \$15 per person. Please call 210-385-3877 or 210-431-3922 for ticket information, or purchase tickets online at [www.alasarte.com](http://www.alasarte.com)

**June 5th, 2014** - Little Joe y La Familia in Houston, TX. at Discovery Park

**June 15th, 2014** - Little Joe y La Familia in Albuquerque, NM. at the Albuquerque Zoo

**June 19th, 2014** - Little Joe y La Familia in Austin, TX. at the Austin Symphony Square  
11th & Red River

**June 27th, 2014** - Little Joe y La Familia in Artesia, NM. at Smokin' On The Pecos  
Eddy County Fairgrounds

**July 3th, 2014** - Little Joe y La Familia in Lubbock, TX. at Courthouse Lawn

**July 7th - 12th, 2014** - Nationla LULAC Convention & Exposition in New York City

**July 19th - 24th, 2014** - National Council of La Raza Convention in Los Angeles, California

## Word Power

# En las palabras hay poder

No one can ever argue in the name of education, that it is better to know less than it is to know more. Being bilingual or trilingual or multilingual is about being educated in the 21st century. We look forward to bringing our readers various word lists in each issue of **La Voz**.

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

Help me!

Ayudame!

Get out of the way

Muevate!

It exploded

Explotó!

Here, only my crackelings thunder

Aquí nomas mis chicharonnes truenen!

Leave me alone, I am sleeping

Dejame, estoy planchano oreja! (Inventive)

I just had a brain fart

Se me fue la onda! (Inventive)

Let's go for a ride

Vamos a dar la vuelta

Leave dude.

Descuentate ese! (Slang)

That's cool

Esta de aquellas (Slang)

Rancher's eggs

Huevos rancheros

Fijoles borrachos

Drunken beans

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# The World War I Diary of José de la Luz Sáenz



José de la Luz Sáenz

The book cover on the right is that of a newly released English version of **José de la Luz Sáenz's World War I** diary which was first published in Spanish in 1933, with the title: Los méxico-americanos en la Gran Guerra y su contingente en pro de la democracia, la humanidad, y la justicia (San Antonio: Artes Gráficas).

For the past 12 years, Professor Emilio Zamora, from **The University of Texas at Austin** has recovered this important historical text. He has edited and translated the book (with the assistance of **Ben Maya**), an almost daily account of the horrific experiences of war.



**Sáenz** also points out throughout the diary that Mexican Americans made battlefield sacrifices so that their descendants could claim equal rights in their other fight at home.

## Who was José de la Luz Sáenz?

**José** was born in 1888, in **Realitos in Duval County**. His family moved to **Alice, Texas** in 1908 and José graduated from high school in 1908. In 1918, he volunteered for military service and participated in **World War I** in the 360th Regiment Infantry in **Europe**. This when he began keeping a diary.

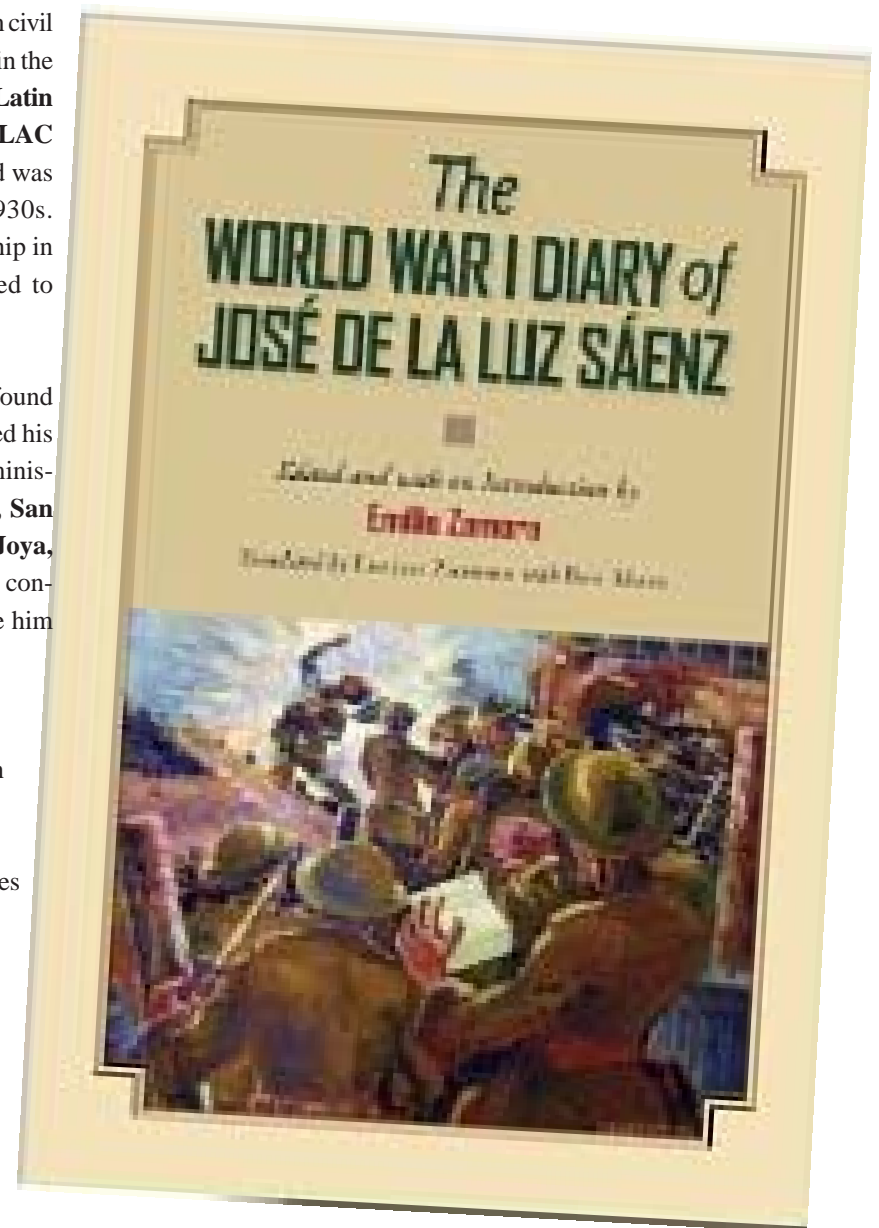
In his diary, **Sáenz** linked the American World War I "rhetoric of democracy" with the Mexican American struggle for civil rights. Upon his return from the war, **Sáenz** translated his experi-

ences and sacrifices—and those of the many other American soldiers of Mexican descent—fighting for democracy into a movement for Mexican American civil rights in **Texas**. **Sáenz** had an early involvement in the establishment of **LULAC**, the **League of United Latin American Citizens**. He was a member of the **LULAC Board of Trustees** between 1930 and 1932, and was president of the **McAllen** chapter in the 1930s. Through his numerous writings and his leadership in local activist organizations, **Sáenz** continued to battle discrimination.

During the Depression of the 1930s, **Sáenz** found employment with a relief agency and continued his forty-year career as a teacher and school administrator in places like **Moore, New Braunfels, San Agustín, Benavides, Premont, Peñitas, La Joya, Oilton, Edinburg, and McAllen**. He moved constantly because school officials would release him in reaction to his constant critiques against the segregation of Mexican children.

**World War II**—and the participation of his own children in the military—renewed his belief that Mexicans deserved equality because they were continuing to defend the constitutional principles of justice and democracy on the battlefield.

**José de la Luz Sáenz** died on April 12, 1953. He is buried at the **National Cemetery in Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio**. We honor him for his courage under fire and especially his dedication and contributions to the Mexican cause for respect and equal rights.





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