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# La VOZ de Hays County

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## Mariachi Nueva Generacion wins Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza for third consecutive year



**Mariachi Nueva Generacion** from **Texas State University-San Marcos** won the college/university group competition for the third time at the annual **Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza** in San Antonio at **San Antonio's Municipal Auditorium** on Nov. 30. *"For the last six years we have had a steady improvement,"* said **John Lopez Director of Multicultural Ensembles**. *"Our students worked really hard and we should all be excited and proud of this accomplishment."*

The ensemble's improvement is marked by its stellar track record. The group won third place at the competition in 2003, second place in 2004 and 2005, and first place in 2006 and 2007. *"The contest is held every year and has become the competition that really sets the bar for mariachi ensembles nationally,"* **Lopez** said. *"Several universities and schools compete annually."*

**Aroldo Villarreal** says what he enjoys most about being a Mariachi is being a part of an award-winning ensemble. *"There's nothing better than winning first,"* **Villarreal** said with a chuckle. *"There is a lot of satisfaction knowing that with all the work that everyone did everyone came together and we won. It takes a great team to make a great mariachi."*

## An Interview with Ruben Ruiz



See Pages 6 and 7

1973

Loaf of Bread  
\$.28  
Gallon of Gas  
\$.40  
Gallon of Milk  
\$1.30

**AVERAGE INCOME**  
**\$12,965.00**

DOW JONES AVERAGE: 783 to 1051  
PRESIDENT: Richard Nixon  
MOST POPULAR SONG: "You're So Vain"

NEW CAR: \$3,950.00

NEW HOUSE: \$32,500.00

## New School Named: Irene K. Mendez Elementary

The San Marcos CISD School Board voted to name the new elementary school in honor of veteran SMCISD educator Irene Mendez. A native of San Marcos, Mendez was herself a proud product of the local public schools, having attended Southside Elementary (now Bonham PreK School), San Marcos Junior High and San Marcos High School.



After her high school graduation, Mendez earned her Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Education from Southwest Texas State University, now Texas State University, and determined that she wanted to give back to her community. She became a Master Bilingual kindergarten teacher and served SMCISD for 28 years before her life was cut short by cancer. During the 1980's, Mendez was recognized as a Career Ladder Teacher, an award given for excellence in teaching.

Diana Guerrero addressed the school board, stating that Mendez "carried herself with remarkable spirit, moving mountains with her teaching, building skyscrapers with her expectations, and changing the hearts of so many children by enriching their lives with endless possibilities." Retired SMCISD principal Sarah Lesak added, "She [Mendez] was an example and positive role model to her students and taught them the power of education. She was patient, always finding solutions to any situation, especially if it had to do with educating children."

The school board acknowledged that choosing a name was difficult, for the three candidates submitted by the naming committee for consideration were stellar educators and citizens: Irene Mendez, Johnnie Armstead, and Theodora Scrutchin. Irene K. Mendez Elementary will be located at 1805 Peter Garza Drive, the site of the current Goodnight Junior High School. In late December 2008, Goodnight moves into its new facility at 1301 Highway 123. As soon as it is vacated, the former Goodnight site will be fully renovated throughout the spring and summer so that Irene K. Mendez Elementary can open in fall 2009.

## NCLR Está Listo Para Trabajar Con La Nueva Administración

### Felicita al nuevo jefe de Gabinete Rahm Emanuel



Janet Murguía

Washington, DC—Janet Murguía, presidenta y gerente general del Consejo Nacional de La Raza (NCLR, por sus siglas en inglés)—la organización nacional más grande de apoyo y defensa de los derechos civiles de los hispanos en Estados Unidos— felicita al representante Rahm Emanuel (D-IL) nombrado como jefe de Gabinete de la Casa Blanca por el presidente electo Barack Obama. "Trabajé con Rahm bajo la Administración de Clinton", dijo Murguía, "y por experiencia propia puedo decir que él es un estratega extraordinario y tiene un gran don para resolver asuntos difíciles. El asesorará bien al presidente electo Obama".

"Rahm es incomparable en el análisis del clima político, y es un gran legislador y estratega. No siempre estuvimos de acuerdo cuando trabajamos juntos en la Casa Blanca, pero siempre lo he respetado por su habilidad para conseguir que se haga el trabajo", agrega Murguía. "El país merece contar con las mejores mentes y los asesores más capaces para hacer frente a los desafíos que vienen; estoy ansiosa por trabajar con el presidente electo y su jefe de gabinete, y lograr que el país avance".

Murguía señala que el clima político y económico presentará retos y oportunidades importantes para la Administración de Obama en el alcance de las metas clave de política interior. "Estos son tiempos desafiantes. Es vital que el presidente electo se rodee de asesores fuertes con experiencia en diversas áreas, y que sean individuos con la capacidad de actuar para resolver las necesidades más críticas del país," dice ella. "La comunidad latina demostró en estas elecciones que estamos profundamente comprometidos con el proceso democrático; más de diez millones de votantes latinos se movilizaron en el país para votar. Esto demuestra nuestro deseo por trabajar en conjunto con esta Administración para resolver las principales preocupaciones como la economía, el cuidado de salud, y la reforma migratoria."



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# Comentando Sobre El Año 2008

## Editorial



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

En cuanto se va cerrando el año 2008, es apropiado que reflejamos en todo lo que ha pasado. Primeramente tenemos y debemos de felicitar a **Barack Obama** y a todos los que le ayudaron en su campaña para la presidencia de los Estados Unidos. Deveras, fue un logro historico de que los votantes pudieron elegir a un Afro-Americano a este puesto. Por lo tanto, esperamos que con el liderazgo de Obama el país va poder realizar los cambios que se necesita para mejorar las vidas de la gente.

Pero hay que reconocer que Obama no lo va hacer solo. Como decimos por aca en Tejas, una mano no se lava sola. Eso quiero decir que **Obama**, como Presidente, va necesita la ayuda de todos. Todos vamos a tener que poner nuestra parte si queremos que se cambie la situación sea aquí en el país o afuera del país.

Ahora vamos a la situación economica. Para los que ven la televisión, lo que se oye es que estamos en tiempos dificiles. Se dicen por allí que ya no va hacer facil obtener credito, comprar una casa o un carro. También dicen que mucha gente han perdido cantidades de dinero en el mercado monetaria de fondos mutuales y "stocks."

Aunque tal vez todo esto es cierto, hay otra gran cantidad de personas que estan diciendo o preguntando, a cual crisis? Donde esta el problema monetaria de la cual todos estan hablando? Estos individuos tienen razon. Ellos hacen estas preguntas porque no tienen inversioners en el "stock market." No tienen fondos de jubilación para cuando ya no trabajan. Asi es que es deficit para ellos ver o entender de que se trata toda el susto con la economia.

La realidad es que no sabemos que es lo que va pasar con la economia en los Estados Unidos o en el mundo. No sabemos en algunos casos, ni si quiera a quien se le debe el dinero que esta en tanto peligro. Ya la vida no es como antes. Antes uno se hiba al trabajo y se salia del trabajo. Se necesitaba algo de la tienda, se pagaba en efectivo. Si uno no tenia el dinero para hacer la comprar se esperaba o se ponía en "lay away" como más antes. Pues con eso les dejo. Pongan atención y mantenganse en comunicacion.

As the year 2008 comes to a close it is appropriate that we pause and take a moment to reflect on all that has gone on. First and foremost, we all need to congratulate **Barack Obama** and all those who helped him in his campaign for the Presidency of the United States. Really, it is historic that the voters in America were able to elect an African American to this very important position. And while we hope that the leadership of **Obama** will help us to realize the kind of changes that are necessary to improve the lives of many people, we must be realists.

We must recognize that **Obama** by himself is not going to bring about the kind of change we seek. As we say down here in Texas, a hand by itself does not wash itself by it self." (Sounds better in Spanish) President elect Obama is going to need all the help he can get. We are all going to have to do our part if we want to change here at home and abroad.

Now let's turn to the economic situation. For those who watch television it is being stated that we are in the middle of hard times. We are being told that it is no longer going to be easy to obtain credit, buy a house or a car. We are also being told that many people are losing great sums of money in the stock market and with mutual funds.

While all of this may indeed be true, there is another group of people who are asking, what crises? Where is the money problem that everyone is talking about? These individuals have a reason to wonder. Some of them are asking these questions because they do not play the stock market. They do not have money tied up in mutual funds. So it is difficult for them to understand what this econmics scare is all about.

The reality is that we do not know what is going to happen with the economy in the United States or the world for that matter. We don't even know in some cases who is the owner of the debt that is in so much trouble of being lost. Life is not like it used to be. There was a time when went to work and got off work. If you needed something from the store, you went and paid cash. If you didn't have the money to make the purchase, you waited or you put it on "lay away."

But things are not like that any more. We live in a modern world where things go faster. Progress is measured by how much consumption a house hold can undertake. Many have been conditioned to believe the bigger is better, that more is better.

The world is changing and now we are beginning to see the first signs that we are going to have to rethink what it is that makes us happy.

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## Linda's Monthly Column

*"Find your passion and volunteer!"*

by Linda Medina

People have asked me time and time again why I volunteer. When I volunteer I know that I am giving something back to my community by lending a helping hand to people and organizations. I think of volunteering as an exchange.

I know that I will find myself in need at some point in my life. So today I may be the person with the ability to help, but tomorrow I may be the recipient of someone else's volunteer effort.

I have been a giver and a receiver. Special individuals have truly impacted my life in many ways when I was a young child; from the church youth workers, to the Aspendale Camp leaders, to the speakers at the **UTEP Upward Bound Youth Program**, to the senior citizens that delivered books to my school! It is now my turn to give back and I do what I can. I encourage you to be part of our community and contribute!

There are so many options for being involved in your community, through professional associations, neighborhood organizations, arts and historic organizations and social service organizations. No man or woman is an island. People and societies co-depend on each other for survival. We can bridge the expanding gap between communities and so-



Linda Medina, M.Ed

cieties through volunteering. Volunteering is ultimately about helping others taking part in impacting people's welfare and happiness.

What better way is there to connect with your community and give something back? Do you feel strongly about something that is happening or not happening in your community and want to get involved? As a volunteer, you certainly return

to society some of the benefits that society gives you.

You may be a teenager, a student, a working professional, a homemaker or a senior citizen. Whether it's an hour or a one day....Find your passion and volunteer!

To find out about a list organizations in the Austin Community you can contribute your time or money to visit:

[www.iliveheregivehere.org](http://www.iliveheregivehere.org) click on Non-Profit Solutions.

Contact me if you have any questions, [queridalinda512@yahoo.com](mailto:queridalinda512@yahoo.com)

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## UN BASO DE LECHE A Glass of Milk

One day, a poor boy who was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry.

He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door. Instead of a meal he asked for a drink of water. She thought he looked hungry so brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it slowly, and then asked, "How much do I owe you?" "You don't owe me anything," she replied. "Mother has taught us never to accept pay for an act of kindness." He said.... "Then I thank you from my heart."

As **Howard Kelly** left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God and man was stronger also. He had been ready to give up and quit.

### Years later, that young woman became critically ill.

Years later, that young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled. They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease. **Dr. Howard Kelly** was called in for the consultation. When he heard the



name of the town she came from, the light of recognition filled his eyes. Immediately, he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to her room.

Dressed in his doctor's gown he went in to see her. He recognized her at once. He went back to the consul-

tation room even more determined to do his best to save her life. From that day forward he gave special attention to her case.

### After a long struggle, the battle was won.

After a long struggle, the battle was won. **Dr. Kelly** requested the business office to pass the final bill to him for approval. He looked at it, and then wrote something on the edge and the bill was sent to her room. She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all. Finally she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill.

She read these words, "Paid in full with one glass of milk." (Signed) Dr. Howard Kelly.

## Christmas Facts

"White Christmas" (1954), starring Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye, was the first movie to be made in Vista Vision, a deep-focus process.

"The Nutcracker" is the name for the ballet performed around Christmas time each year. "The Nutcracker Suite" is the title of the music Tchaikovsky wrote.

A traditional Christmas dinner in early England was the head of a pig prepared with mustard.

According to historical accounts, the first Christmas in the Philippines was celebrated 200 years before Ferdinand Magellan discovered the country for the western world, likely between the years 1280 and 1320 AD.

After "A Christmas Carol," Charles Dickens wrote several other Christmas stories, one each year, but none was as successful as the original.

Alabama was the first state to recognize Christmas as an official holiday. This tradition began in 1836.

Although many believe the Friday after Thanksgiving is the busiest shopping day of the year, it is not. It is the fifth to tenth busiest day. The Friday and Saturday before Christmas are the two busiest shopping days of the year.

Every spring for the first 11 years of his life, **Jaime Chahin** had to leave his Eagle Pass, Texas, home a month before school let out to travel to places like **Oregon, Montana, Washington** and **Idaho** — places where his parents could earn a living picking potatoes, hops and cherries and hoeing sugar beets. It was in those fields and orchards during those long, hot summers that **Chahin** learned the value of opportunity and education. *"My frame of reference was working with the sun on your back for nine or 10 hours a day and getting paid \$25 an acre,"* he says. *"It made me real hungry."*

That hunger spurred **Chahin** to charge through his secondary education with single-minded determination. After graduating from **Eagle Pass High School** in 1971, he earned his bachelor's degree in sociology and political science in just 33 months, immediately landed a full scholarship to pursue his master's from the **University of Michigan**, then completed his doctorate in education administration in 1977 before his 25th birthday.

Today, as the dean of the **College of Applied Arts at Texas State**, **Chahin** hasn't forgotten his roots. He has made it his mission to introduce educational opportunity into places it often isn't found.

Among his many efforts are receiving funding to endow the **Tomás Rivera Children's Book Award** to promote literacy; establishing **Caminos**, a summer camp held at **Texas State** that helps disadvantaged ninth-graders he calls "youth of promise" prepare for high school; helping to create the **Rockefeller Brothers Fund's (RBF) national Fellowships for Aspiring Teachers of Color program**; producing *"The Forgotten Americans"* a **PBS** documentary on colonias on the **U.S. Mexico** border and engaging students with cameras to document their social condition; and establishing the **Center for Migrant Education** at **Texas State**.

### The Center for Migrant Education

**Chahin** established the center in 2000 with a small grant to provide training to teachers of migrant students within the state of **Texas**. Its responsibility grew rapidly. In 2003, the center's staff received its first five-year grant from the **U.S. Department of Education (DOE)** in the amount of \$2.8 million. *"That began the first effort to provide training and in-service to migrant education staff in the school districts throughout the nation,"* **Chahin** says.

In 2008, the center received another five-year, \$3.1 million grant from the **DOE**, giving

**Chahin** good reason to take pride in the part the center and its staff has played in bringing educational opportunities to migrant students. *"We received this grant in a national competition during difficult financial times in this country,"* he says. *"To continue funding for the next five years means the center staff has done exemplary work to provide the training and in-service that is needed to support the migrant education programs in America."*

Those programs include providing instructional resources and technical assistance to educators who work with migrant students. The center facilitates training for every state in the nation that has a migrant education program. It also brings bilingual teachers from Mexico into the school districts where they are needed to provide critical summer instruction to migrant students.

*"A migrant student might leave Texas or Mexico in late April to go to Wisconsin and come back in September or October,"* **Chahin** explains. *"So they miss [school] the month of May and potentially the month of September. The Center for Migrant Education makes sure they transfer transcripts and have instructional support so they can continue their education and they don't lose out when they come back to their home base."*

Under another **DOE** grant, the **Center for Migrant Education** also coordinates the **CAMP** program for migrant students attending **Texas State**. "It pays tuition, room and board, fees and a stipend for 50 migrant students a year," **Chahin** says. "It's for the whole freshman year, so it adds up to about \$13,000 per student."

### Fellowships for Aspiring Teachers of Color

In 2008, the **Rockefeller Brothers Fund** honored **Chahin** for his years of service to its **Fellowships for Aspiring Teachers of Color** program, which he helped establish. Each year the program selects 25 college juniors from across the **United States** receive fellowships of \$22,000 to attend graduate school.

# Rising Star

## Dr. Jaime Chahin receives honor, grant for one of his worthy programs

**RBF** recognized **Chahin** at its annual summer workshop in New York, where he gives a presentation each year to the **RBF** Fellows and advises them about applying for graduate school and finding matching funds for their fellowships.

Back home at **Texas State**, **Chahin** personally coaches the university's nominees for the **RBF** Fellowship. *"I spend six weeks with our students who are chosen,"* he says. *"I tell them, 'You have to show that you know the applied part, that you know about the theory, and that you have the passion to want to be a master teacher.'"*

Most recently, **Chahin** coached education majors **Audrey Estupinan** and **Albert Walker**, who became the 18th and 19th

**Texas State** students to receive **RBF** Fellowships since the program's inception.



### The Road Ahead: Los Caminitos

**Chahin's** newest project, **Los Caminitos**, is a spin-off of **Caminos**, the six-week summer camp he created to provide disadvantaged ninth-graders with the opportunity to earn high school credits and gain the confidence to take a college-bound curriculum.

**Los Caminitos** targets much younger students — 4-year-olds. Inspired by a book he read about the impact that early exposure to language has on children's ability to learn and succeed academically, **Chahin** is working to bring together colleagues from **Texas State's Department of Family and Consumer Sciences** to launch the program at **Bonham**, a **San Marcos** pre-kindergarten. *"I have to sell them on the idea,"* he says. *"They're the experts in early childhood education. I don't know anything about that. The job of a dean is to facilitate the engagement of other scholars and identify potential funding resources."*

**Chahin** has an idea for that. As a **National Kellogg Fellow**, an honor he received in 1993, he plans to seek grant funding from the **Kellogg Foundation** for **Los Caminitos**. If **Los Caminitos** becomes reality, it will be yet another worthy project **Chahin's** passion for education has brought to students and another notable addition to his curriculum vita, but more important, to the public good. "If someone asks me where my passion for all these programs come from," **Chahin** says. *"I say, 'I lived it.'"*

# An Interview with Ruben Ruiz

**Mr. Ruben Ruiz** is a successful businessman based in **San Marcos, Texas**. As the author of The One Hour Hispanic Millionaire and other books, we thought that during this time of "economic crises" it would be most appropriate to share his views with the readers of *La Voz de Hays County*.

**La Voz:** Mr. Ruiz, you have a book out on the market about money and finance. Can you tell about it and what inspired you to write it?

**Ruben Ruiz:** This is my second book of at least 6 books that I will write on money & financial planning. The first book, The One Hour Hispanic Millionaire was 30 chapters and contained about twelve keys to achieve financial success. For success you have to go to all 12 keys in order. My latest book, The Richest Latino in America, is of course a self-help money book, but it is written in a "Novella" or story format.

**La Voz:** In the book, the point about savings is stressed. What do you tell people who say they don't have enough money left over after paying all the bills to even have a savings account?

**This may sound kind of tuff, but you have to find a way.**

**Ruben Ruiz:** This may sound kind of tuff, but you have to find a way. There are many Americans that spend more than they make, even if it's for necessities for the family. But if they always say we don't have any money left over all the time, then they never will. That is why is so important to take an hour a week to plan, even when you don't have any savings. The habit of putting away a percent-

age of income is easy, but is very hard if you haven't done it, or your parents or grandparents did not teach you.

**La Voz:** Have you noticed a difference between Mexican Americans who have been in the country for two or three generations and recently arrived Mexicans when it comes to how they handle their money?

**I think the majority of Hispanic Immigrants that have come to America in the last ten years . . .**

**Ruben Ruiz:** There are some differences. I think the majority of Hispanic Immigrants that have come to America in the last ten years have no knowledge of the financial system plus they also have not been taught to save or invest by their parents or grandparents.

So they have two major struggles to contend with. Statistics have shown that the older a generation is, the more they know about financial matters in America and their educational attainment is higher. But let me be very clear about this, it does not mean that a 2nd or 3rd generation born Hispanic-American is saving or investing at present, or that they have a good net worth; the majority don't.

**La Voz:** In the areas around the state where you operate, what surprises you the most when it comes to personal finance?

**Ruben Ruiz:** In a nutshell, NOTHING. What I mean, is that there is no major difference in personal finance, because it is a bigger city, or that the population is largely Hispanic or Non-Hispanic. It is based on Income & the "structured financial plan.". While many Hispanics that move to the bigger cities,

because they are paid more per hour and take home a bigger paycheck, it doesn't mean that they save more. It just means that they can spend more.

**La Voz:** As you know the economy is in the news almost everyday if not every hour. What are your views on what is going on with this "economic crises?"

**It started several years ago with the premise that all Americans should have the opportunity to purchase a home.**

**Ruben Ruiz:** The financial crisis is again about debt. It started several years ago with the premise that all Americans should have the opportunity to purchase a home. Everyone knows that a homeowner usually is more stable, and values oriented that a renter. So over the years the government & private sector has made the "buying a house" and getting a mortgage process easier and easier to qualify.

**I think many Americans already know that a lot of people should not have been given . . .**

I think many Americans already know that a lot of people should not have been given a mortgage. The process became so easy that almost everyone that wanted a house could qualify for a mortgage loan. Then the lenders of these loans would turn around and sell them to "Investment Banks". Then these banks would create a new "Mortgage Security of Bond" and



sell to institutional investors. So because so many mortgage loans went into default, it started a chain reaction.

Same old story on Debt, but a much bigger scale, because after all everyone that wants a house should get one. Americans will have to learn how to save more of their paycheck. This learning doesn't happen overnight, it takes time to get this into everyone's mindset so that it becomes automatic. If we compare the Internet & Cell Phone use, we find that it took many years for the majority of Americans to use everyday as they take a bath.

**La Voz:** Let's change up the discussion and talk about Ruben Ruiz. Share with our readers a

little about your background and work experience.

**My work experience in Financial Planning started out a few months after I graduated from SWT**

**Ruben Ruiz:** My work experience in Financial Planning started out a few months after I graduated from SWT ( Texas State University ), and I did not plan this. I had worked at IRS part-time while going to college, and after graduation worked for the IRS full time.

But, I was not a permanent employee and had to take the Federal Exam. Well, in July of that year our seasonal job was over,



# Una Entrevista con Ruben Ruiz

**Ruben Ruiz, Jr., MSFS, CLU, ChFC, CSA, RFC, is President and CEO of The Ruiz Financial Group, LLC., The One-Hour Hispanic Millionaire, The Wealth & Millionaire Publishing and Regional Director of Money Concepts Financial Planning Centers in San Marcos and San Antonio, Texas. Ruiz teaches, educates, and provides consulting services to clients and associates in wealth management and financial planning.**

and I had been approved as a permanent employee. It was going to be about a month that I would get approved, but in that one month I found the financial services industry and started working for a College Insurance Company.

For the next 9 years I would be working in the insurance or risk management industry. During that time I was reading more and more about this new industry called "Financial Planning." Finally I made the decision to become a financial planner, advisor, coach, whatever you like.

Since the financial planning industry was only about 10 years old, we were both writing the book on how to market or build a financial planning business. I made just enough money to pay bills for the next twelve years because I was learning something new about the industry and then had to transfer that knowledge into a profitable business.

### Throughout those years and even up to the present I never stopped learning

Throughout those years and even up to the present I never stopped learning, and acquired several professional designations & diplomas. Then I made up my mind to get my Masters in financial planning and started, and about three months later while attending a "financial bootcamp" on Wealth, I made the decision to write a book on financial self-improvement.

So here I was in a state of mind that I had to accomplish both of these major goals, and still continue my business & practice. It was so enjoyable & pleasurable

for me because of what the future would bring, that I worked every weekend to complete these two goals. All of this experience & training has given me today the mindset to quickly determine a client's financial mess or how to increase their net worth with a recommended structured plan of action. I continue my education every month.

**La Voz:** Who inspires you?

**Ruben Ruiz:** I don't know if I really have a single person anymore, besides my family, which is kind of an automatic inspiration for me. But, the goals are my big inspiration, because when you write them down, and then the steps to accomplish them, I see the future. And that is always exciting.

### But I did nothing about it because I thought, it's too hard, too much money, when will . . .

At one point just a few years ago, I had thought about being an author, as am sure many people have. But I did nothing about it because I thought, it's too hard, too much money, when will I write it, how will I write it, and so on.

It was not until I wrote down as a goal, and implemented the steps to reach that goal that it happened. This is much the same for Hispanics that want to increase their net worth and become financially independent; they will need to set up their goals, and then the steps (structured financial plan) to accomplish.

**La Voz:** What would you say is the best economic decision you have ever made?

**Ruben Ruiz:** That's easy becoming a business owner/entrepreneur in financial planning.

**La Voz:** What was your worst economic decision?

**Ruben Ruiz:** That I did not save money for the first 15 years of my adult life (Seems I have heard that before).

**La Voz:** Tell us about your current business.

**Ruben Ruiz:** My business practice consists of working with mainly Baby Boomers, and also Seniors, Business Owners and Young Adults to help them achieve financial independence. When I wrote my first book three years ago, I decided to self-publish and have made another goal to do a series of financial self-improvement books.

My second book just came out this year, The Richest Latino in America, and in addition to being a self-improvement book, it is also a "Novella" or story book.

### My business is all about educating and training people, the majority of them being Hispanic, about financial planning & building their net worth

It won three International Latino Book Awards in Los Angeles earlier this year. My business is all about educating and training people, the majority of them being Hispanic, about financial planning & building their net worth & wealth, whether I do it through a private consultation or meeting, or through my books & workshops.

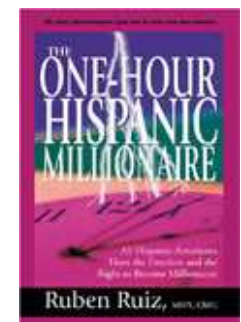
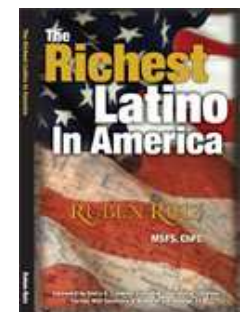
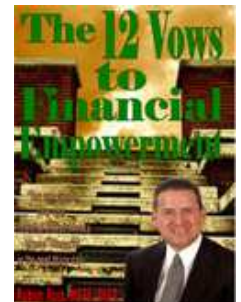
I just recently wrote down another goal, and I think maybe I blew a gasket or something, but the goal is to sell One Million books by 12-31-10, through non-profit organizations, private companies, and associations, online, through seminars & workshops, all the non-traditional outlets for book distribution. By doing this especially for the Non-Profit Organizations, they can make a profit to use for the further development of their organization and their members.

**La Voz:** You recently moved from downtown San Marcos to Corporate Drive on the South side of San Marcos. Are we to interpret that as a sign of growth?

**Ruben Ruiz:** Well I hope so. For the last 20 years I had either paid rent or shared space & ownership with my partner & friend **Javier Ledesma**, and I wanted to find an office just for my business. At the same time, **Javier** needed more space because of the growth of his Tax Business in **Central Texas**, and so **Javier** kept 100% of the building and I moved to the new office. In addition my spouse **Amanda**, and son **Richard** & daughter **Raquel** work with me in the business. We are also closer to our home, about 10 minutes away.

**La Voz:** What is left on your list of things to do in life?

**Ruben Ruiz:** Alfredo, I am glad you asked me that. I have three things currently, that I want to do in life; The first is writing a financial column for a newspaper, magazine and get paid for it; and 2nd, which I have mentioned earlier, to sell one million books by 12/10, and you get to help me do both. The third thing or goal is to go to the Fiji Islands in the Pacific and stay a month.



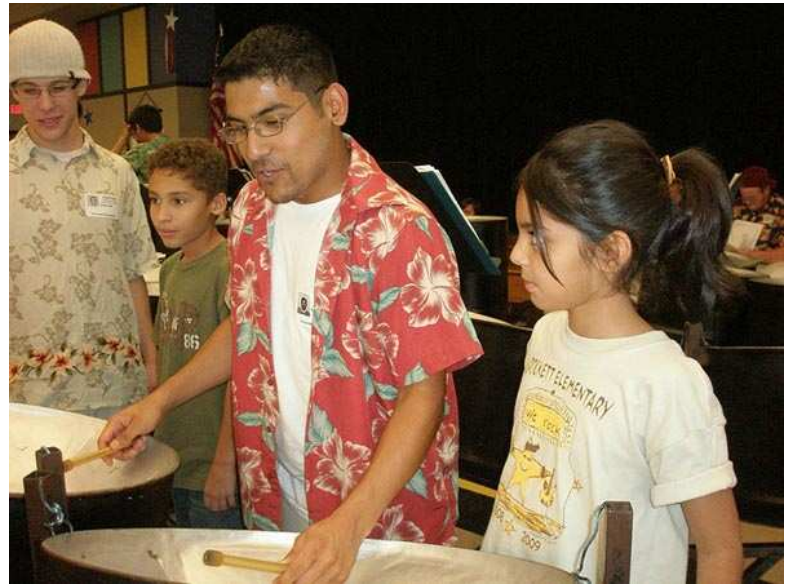
# San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District

## School Information

## Información Escolar



**Adan Garcia**, Bonham PreK student at the CDC, brought his book of *The Night Before Christmas* to "read" to Santa. Adan, age 4, is also reported to have told Santa, "I saw you on TV last night, and you looked pretty good." "Santa" in these photos is PRIDE High School science teacher, Peter Tice.



The Steel Drum Band from Texas State University recently played two assemblies for Crockett Elementary School students. Drummers under the direction of Genearo Gonzales, played Caribbean music — to the delight of students and staff alike. The instruments are actually high steel drums that have been hammered to different tones, or notes, according to Crockett music teacher Viki Hicks. Shown in the photo is Texas State student Ernest Luna demonstrating for Crockett students Jeremiah Legagneur and Malarie Torres how the notes are arranged on the drums. The event was made possible through a grant funded by the San Marcos Education Foundation. (Photo provided by Crockett Elementary)

**San Marcos High School** recently celebrated all of the students who have participated in the **Camino's** program by planting a tree in front of the campus. The **Camino's Pre-College Leadership Camp** at **Texas State University** is in its fifth year of bringing students from **Miller** and **Goodnight Junior High** schools into a six-week transitional program, preparing them for success at the high school level. Students graduating from the 8th grade are chosen by the teachers to participate in the program to gain leadership skills and earn credits toward high school. The **Camino's** project focuses on leadership development, academic instruction, and the college application process. **Dr. Jaime Chahin**, **Dean of the College of Applied Arts**, says that **Texas State** provides room and board, field trips, and on and off campus transportation for the participating students. For the last several years, the program has been funded by a grant from the **Texas Pioneer Foundation**.

**LEFT:** Shown in the center of the photo is **Dr. Jaime Chahin**, SMHS student **Juan Rodriguez**, SMHS principal **Michelle Darling**, and **Fred Markham** of the **Texas Pioneer Foundation**.





# Texas Preparatory School Events

- December 3 **Family & Friends Night** at TPS is from 5 – 7 pm. The open house will begin and dinner will be served at 5:00 pm. The talent showcase will start at 6:30 pm.
- February 1 Super Bowl XLIII Party time and place TBA.
- February 11 **Family & Friends Night** at TPS is from 5 – 7 pm. The open house will begin and dinner will be served at 5:00 pm. The talent showcase will start at 6:30 pm.
- April 1 **Family & Friends Night** at TPS is from 5 – 7 pm. The open house will begin and dinner will be served at 5:00 pm. The talent showcase will start at 6:30 pm.
- April 4 **Blue & White Marketplace** at TPS from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Parents and Community Members are encouraged to clean out the GARAGE and come set up a FREE booth in the school parking lot. For more information, please contact Ms. Maria Cabrera at 512.557.1540, we will only take the first 30 participants. BBQ Dinners will be sold as a fundraiser from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm.
- May 8 End of the Year Recognition Celebration at the place TBA from 6:30 to 9:00 pm

## Texas Preparatory School Learning is FUN!



### Our History

For eight years the Texas Preparatory School has been in the forefront of the school choice movement throughout the South Central Texas communities.

The school actively seeks to enrich the lives of boys and girls that attend through a creative and unique education experience. We are dedicated to ensuring that our community's youth have choice in obtaining a quality education within the public school setting to enhance their lives and shape their future.

400 Uhland Road #2  
San Marcos, TX 78666

Phone: 512-805-3000  
Fax: 512-805-7730  
Email: [info@texasprep.us](mailto:info@texasprep.us)  
Web: [www.texasprep.us](http://www.texasprep.us)

### A Free Open Enrollment School

Grades K- 6th

### Our Mission

To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring responsible citizens.

### Our Methods

TPS adopts the learning methodology of multi-aged grouping. Through this learning method students are allowed to advance as their readiness and potential allows, or remediate as needed. Multi-aged grouping allows students to work cooperatively with their peers that might be different ages and academic levels.

### Core Courses include:

MATHEMATICS  
READING  
SCIENCE  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
WRITING

### Elective Course include:

Primary Students (grades K-3)

ART  
MUSIC  
SCIENCE PROJECTS

Intermediate Students (grades 4-6)

CHEER  
DANCE  
PASSPORT TO MANHOOD  
SMART GIRLS  
SOCCER  
CLUB CHALLENGE

## ENROLL TODAY! PROJECT LEARN

An Early Educational Enhancement Program

Serving Students AGES

3 TO 5.

Monday - Friday

	Program Times	Monthly Activity Fee
All Day:	7:30 pm to 4:30 pm	\$250.00
Morning Program:	7:30 am to 12:30 pm	\$125.00
Afternoon Program:	12:30 pm to 4:30 pm	\$125.00
Extended Hours:	4:30 pm to 6:30 pm	\$ 25.00

Prepare your child for school today with daily instructional activities. All Day program includes breakfast, lunch, and snack.

For more information contact

Texas Preparatory School

400 Uhland Road #2

San Marcos, Texas 78666

512.805.3000 office

512.805.7739 fax

[info@texasprep.us](mailto:info@texasprep.us)



# La Profesora Dice:

## Obstáculos y Posibilidades para el Estudiante Indocumentado

Alma S. Pérez, Ph.D

Los estudiantes indocumentados pueden asumir que no tienen el derecho de legalmente asistir a una universidad en los Estados Unidos. Esto no es verdad. No existe ninguna ley federal o estatal que prohíba la admisión de los inmigrantes indocumentados a colegios y universidades en los **Estados Unidos de América**, ya sean públicos o privados, ni hay una ley federal o estatal que requiera que los estudiantes demuestren que son ciudadanos americanos para ser admitidos a una institución de enseñanza avanzada en los Estados Unidos.

Sin embargo, hay polizas institucionales que varían en la admisión de este tipo de estudiante. El estado de **Texas** fue el primero en decretar una ley en 2001 para que estos estudiantes pudieran asistir a una universidad y pudieran pagar in-state tuition y no tuvieran que pagar costos como los estudiantes internacionales. **Rick Noriega**, Diputado del Distrito 145 en Houston, tuvo éxito en pasar una propuesta histórica conocida como House Bill 1403 para proveer costos estatales y asistencia financiera a ciertos estudiantes que son inmigrantes.

También, en **Texas** fue donde se inició la señal del juicio **Plyer v. Doe** que llegó hasta la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos en 1982 permitiendo a cada niño la educación gratuita en las escuelas públicas garantizando una educación hasta el grado 12. Esta legislación fue ganada en la base de la Enmienda Catorce de los Estados Unidos.

Muchos legisladores en otros estados han debatido propuestas con criterio similar para pasar tal legislación. La legislación estatal decretada generalmente, requiere que los estudiantes hayan residido en el estado por tres años, que se hayan graduado de una secundaria estatal, hayan recibido notificación de haber sido aceptados a un colegio o universidad pública y que hayan firmado un affidavit declarando que harán una solicitud para legalizar su estado de residencia legal.

**El Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act)** es una legislación que ha sido introducida desde el 2000 por los dos partidos en el

**Congreso del Estado Unidos** y se dirige a la situación que enfrentan los jóvenes que fueron traídos a este país como niños inmigrantes indocumentados y que han crecido aquí, se quedaron, han asistido a la escuela y no han tenido problemas de conducta.

Hay miles de estudiantes que pueden calificar para el **DREAM Act**: Éstos incluyen estudiantes de honor roll, maestros aspirantes, doctores y abogados, atletas estrellas, artistas talentosos, y futuros empresarios. Estos estudiantes han vivido en este país por casi todas sus vidas y solamente quieren reconocer a los **Estados Unidos** como su casa. Enfrentan obstáculos únicos en su educación avanzada y no pueden trabajar legalmente y viven con miedo constante de ser deportados por las autoridades de inmigración.

En su reciente libro, Undocumented Immigrants and Higher Education: ¡Si Se Puede!, la **Dra. Alejandra Rincón** clama que estos estudiantes solo buscan igualdad bajo la ley y afirman su humanidad y sus derechos civiles. ¿Cuáles posibilidades podemos proveer todos nosotros a los obstáculos que dañan el éxito de estos estudiantes que serán los líderes de este país? Les invito a participar en este esfuerzo. Quizás la nueva administración de nuestro Presidente Electo Barack Obama nos abra la puerta. Nos vemos?.



Alma S. Pérez, Ph.D

## Students and Teachers Record an Oral History of the Valley for Radio

by Teresa Garza

**Texas Folklife**, a statewide non-profit organization, wants the Rio Grande Valley to tell its story with its own voice in the "Voices of the Valley" project. Residents of the **Rio Grande Valley** will have the opportunity to learn how to record oral history and have their work aired on an hour-long performance and radio program.

The project was launched in April at the **University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA)** during a public lecture conducted by **Elizabeth Perez Luna**. Luna is the news director and executive producer of national radio programming at WHYY-FM (90.9) in **Philadelphia**. "It was an intense two-day radio training focused on creating a 10 minute piece on curanderismo," said **Nancy Bless**, **Texas Folklife** executive director.

**Texas Folklife** wants to collect stories on the folklife and folklore of the Valley as a way to document its history. They have worked with community residency work in the past with various people in doing just that. "We are currently working with teachers and students from **La Joya High School, Edcouch High School's Llano Grande Center for Research and Development** and **UTPA**," said **Bless**.

**Bless** explained that there is an interest in telling community stories among the students currently receiving training on the proper use of audio technology including microphones, being aware of the environment while recording and then editing the material they record. **Cristina Balli**, project director of **The South Texas Project**, is now based in the Valley and currently providing the training and workshops to the La Joya and Edcouch students on a weekly basis. **Balli** provides such basics as how to conduct an interview, proper use of audio equipment, how to structure a story, and editing the finished product. "Some of the stories they have mentioned interest in documenting are their friend's lifestyles, quinceañeras, and even livestock and slaughterhouses. Their interests are all over the place and that's great," said **Balli**.

Students are now familiar with audio production formats; they can record interviews and gather sound elements and they know the basics of digital editing. Next they will learn how to log their material and produce their stories. Some of them know how to conduct oral histories as well. **UTPA** students work without the assistance of a trainer since they have more resources. They then present their creations to **Texas Folklife**. The **Austin**-based organization has worked on smaller projects with the Valley community in the past but sees so much more potential and expects great success with this current project.

They are now partnering with the non profit organization **La Unión del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)** to train staff and members to also produce stories for the radio program. On Nov. 14, **Alex Avila**, senior producer of **Latino USA** on NPR, and **Balli** gave **LUPE** staff their first orientation on the project and overview of the technology they will learn to use. Ideally, students will create short edited pieces about three minutes each for public consumption by springtime. The final pieces will also be available online at the **Texas Folklife** Web site when they are finalized.

Anyone interested in participating in this project should contact **Cristina Balli** at (956)346-5854 or cristinaballi@yahoo.com.



Texas Folklife staff member Cristina Balli helps La Joya ISD student Edna Vasquez with her recording equipment.



Dr. Alma S. Pérez received her Ph.D from the University of Texas at Austin. She can be contacted at: alma@learningtimeinstitute.com

# La Historia de Juan Diego

Diez años después de la conquista de México, el día 9 de diciembre de 1531, **Juan Diego** iba rumbo al **Convento de Tlatelolco** para oír misa. Al amanecer llegó al pie del **Tepeyac**. De repente oyó música que parecía el gorjeo de miles de pájaros. Muy sorprendido se paró, alzó su vista a la cima del cerro y vio que estaba iluminado con una luz extraña. Cesó la música y en seguida oyó una dulce voz procedente de lo alto de la colina, llamándole: "**Juanito; querido Juan Dieguito**".

**Juan** subió presurosamente y al llegar a la cumbre vio a la **Santísima Virgen María** en medio de un arco iris, ataviada con esplendor celestial. Su hermosura y mirada bondadosa llenaron su corazón de gozo infinito mientras escuchó las palabras tiernas que ella le dirigió a él. Ella habló en azteca. Le dijo que ella era la **Inmaculada Virgen María, Madre del Verdadero Dios**. Le reveló cómo era su deseo más vehemente tener un templo allá en el llano donde, como madre piadosa, mostraría todo su amor y misericordia a él y a los suyos y a cuantos solicitaren su amparo. "*Y para realizar lo que mi clemencia pretende, irás a la casa del Obispo de México y le dirás que yo te envío a manifestarle lo que mucho deseo; que aquí en el llano me edifique un templo. Le contarás cuanto has visto y admirado, y lo que has oído. Ten por seguro que le agradeceré bien y lo pagaré, porque te haré feliz y merecerás que yo te recompense el trabajo y fatiga con que vas a procurar lo que te encomiendo. Ya has oído mi mandato, hijo mío, el más pequeño: anda y pon todo tu esfuerzo*". **Juan** se inclinó ante ella y le dijo: "*Señora mía: ya voy a cumplir tu mandato; me despido de ti, yo, tu humilde siervo*".



Cuando **Juan** llegó a la casa del **Obispo Zumárraga** y fue llevado a su presencia, le dijo todo lo que la Madre de Dios le había dicho. Pero el Obispo parecía dudar de sus palabras, pidiéndole volver otro día para escucharle más despacio.

Ese mismo día regresó a la cumbre de la colina y encontró a la **Santísima Virgen** que

le estaba esperando. Con lágrimas de tristeza le contó cómo había fracasado su empresa. Ella le pidió volver a ver al Sr. Obispo el día siguiente. **Juan Diego** cumplió con el mandato de la **Santísima Virgen**. Esta vez tuvo mejor éxito; el Sr. Obispo pidió una señal.

**Juan** regresó a la colina, dio el recado a **María Santísima** y ella prometió darle una señal al siguiente día en la mañana. Pero **Juan Diego** no podía cumplir este encargo porque un tío suyo, llamado **Juan Bernardino** había enfermado gravemente.

Dos días más tarde, el día doce de diciembre, **Juan Bernardino** estaba moribundo y **Juan Diego** se apresuró a traerle un sacerdote de Tlatelolco. Llegó a la ladera del cerro y optó ir por el lado oriente para evitar que la **Virgen Santísima** le viera pasar. Primero quería atender a su tío. Con grande sorpresa la vio bajar y salir a su encuentro. **Juan** le dio su disculpa por no haber venido el día anterior. Después de oír las palabras de **Juan Diego**, ella le respondió: "*Oye y ten entendido, hijo mío el más pequeño, que es nada lo que te asusta y aflige. No se turbe tu corazón, no temas esa ni ninguna otra enfermedad o angustia. ¿Acaso no estoy aquí yo, que soy tu madre? ¿No estás bajo mi sombra? ¿No soy tu salud? ¿Qué más te falta? No te aflija la enfermedad de tu tío, que no morirá ahora de ella; está seguro de que ya sanó*".

Cuando **Juan Diego** oyó estas palabras se sintió contento. Le rogó que le despachara a ver al Señor Obispo para llevarle alguna señal y prueba a fin de que le creyera. Ella le dijo: "*Sube, hijo mío el más pequeño, a la cumbre donde me viste y te di órdenes, hallarás que hay diferentes flores; córtalas, recógelas y en seguida baja y tráelas a mi presencia*".

**Juan Diego** subió y cuando llegó a la cumbre, se asombró mucho de que hubieran brotado tan hermosas flores. En sus corolas

fragantes, el rocío de la noche semejaba perlas preciosas. Presto empezó a córtalas, las echó en su regazo y las llevó ante la Virgen. Ella tomó las flores en sus manos, las arregló en la tilma y dijo: "*Hijo mío el más pequeño, aquí tienes la señal que debes llevar al Señor Obispo. Le dirás en mi nombre que vea en ella mi voluntad y que él tiene que cumplirla. Tú eres mi embajador muy digno de confianza. Rigurosamente te ordeno que sólo delante del Obispo despliegues tu tilma y descubras lo que llevas*".



Cuando **Juan Diego** estuvo ante el **Obispo Fray Juan de Zumárraga**, y le contó los detalles de la cuarta aparición de la **Santísima Virgen**, abrió su tilma para mostrarle las flores, las cuales cayeron al suelo. En este instante, ante la inmensa sorpresa del **Señor Obispo** y sus compañeros, apareció la imagen de la **Santísima Virgen María** maravillosamente pintada con los más hermosos colores sobre la burda tela de su manto.

## LA CURACIÓN DE JUAN BERNARDINO

El mismo día, doce de diciembre, muy temprano, la **Santísima Virgen** se presentó en la choza de **Juan Bernardino** para curarle de su mortal enfermedad. Su corazón se llenó de gozo cuando ella le dio el feliz mensaje de que su retrato milagrosamente aparecido en la tilma de **Juan Diego**, iba a ser el instrumento que aplastara la religión idólatra de sus hermanos por medio de la enseñanza que el divino código-pintura encerraba.

**Te-coa-tla-xope** en la lengua Azteca quiere decir "aplastará la serpiente de piedra". Los españoles oyeron la palabra de los labios de **Juan Bernardino**. Sonó como "de Guadalupe. Sorprendidos se preguntaron el por qué de este nombre español, pero los hijos predilectos de América, conocían bien el sentido de la frase en su lengua nativa. Así fue como la imagen y el santuario

adquirieron el nombre de **Guadalupe**, título que ha llevado por cuatro siglos.

Se lee en la Sagrada Escritura que en tiempo de Moisés y muchos años después un gran cometa recorría el espacio. Tenía la apariencia de una serpiente de fuego. Los indios de México le dieron el nombre de **Quetzalcoatl**, serpiente con plumas. Le tenían mucho temor e hicieron ídolos de piedra, en forma de serpiente emplumada, a los cuales adoraban, ofreciéndoles sacrificios humanos. Después de ver la sagrada imagen y leer lo que les dijo, los indios abandonaron sus falsos dioses y abrazaron la Fe Católica. Ocho millones de indígenas se convirtieron en sólo siete años después de la aparición de la imagen.

## LA TILMA DE JUAN DIEGO

La tilma en la cual la imagen de la **Santísima Virgen** apareció, está hecha de fibra de maguey. La duración ordinaria de esta tela es de veinte años a lo máximo. Tiene 195 centímetros de largo por 105 de ancho con una sutura en medio que va de arriba a abajo.

Impresa directamente sobre esta tela, se encuentra la hermosa figura de Nuestra Señora. El cuerpo de ella mide 140 centímetros de alto.

Esta imagen de la **Santísima Virgen** es el único retrato auténtico que tenemos de ella. Su conservación en estado fresco y hermoso por más de cuatro siglos, debe considerarse milagrosa. Se venera en la **Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la Ciudad de México**, donde ocupa el sitio de honor en el altar mayor.

La Sagrada Imagen duró en su primera ermita desde el 26 de diciembre, 1535 hasta el año de 1622.

La segunda iglesia ocupó el mismo lugar donde se encuentra hoy la Basílica. Esta duró hasta 1695. Unos pocos años antes fue construida la llamada Iglesia de los Indios junto a la primera ermita, la cual sirvió entonces de sacristía para el nuevo templo. En 1695, cuando fue demolido el segundo templo, la milagrosa imagen fue llevada a la Iglesia de los Indios donde se quedó hasta 1709 fecha en que se dedicó el nuevo hermoso templo que todavía despierta la admiración de Mexicanos y extranjeros.



# For Some, This Christmas Season is Going to be a Tough One

**No Hay Dinero. Unos No Tienen Trabajo  
Cuando se Pone la Cosa Deficil Siempre  
Hay Que Tener Esperanza**

**Lea las siguientes historias y luego ponganse  
a pensar de nuevo de su propio situación**

As a young man, **Abraham Lincoln** went to war a captain and returned a private. Afterwards, he was a failure as a businessman. As a lawyer in **Springfield**, he was too impractical and temperamental to be a success. He turned to politics and was defeated in his first try for the legislature, again defeated in his first attempt to be nominated for congress, defeated in his application to be commissioner of the General Land Office, defeated in the senatorial election of 1854, defeated in his efforts for the vice-presidency in 1856, and defeated in the senatorial election of 1858. At about that time, he wrote in a letter to a friend, "I am now the most miserable man living. If what I feel were equally distributed to the whole human family, there would not be one cheerful face on the earth."

**Winston Churchill** failed sixth grade. He was subsequently defeated in every election for public office until he became Prime Minister at the age of 62. He later wrote, "Never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never - in nothing, great or small, large or petty - never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never, Never, Never, Never give up." (his capitals, mind you)

**Charles Darwin** gave up a medical career and was told by his father, "*You care for nothing but shooting, dogs and rat catching.*" In his autobiography, Darwin wrote, "*I was considered by all my masters and my father, a very ordinary boy, rather below the common standard of intellect.*" Clearly, he evolved.

**Thomas Edison's** teachers said he was "too stupid to learn anything." He was fired from his first two jobs for being "non-productive." As an inventor, **Edison** made 1,000 unsuccessful attempts at inventing the light bulb. When a reporter asked, "How did it feel to fail 1,000 times?" Edison replied, "*I didn't fail 1,000 times. The light bulb was an invention with 1,000 steps.*"

**Albert Einstein** did not speak until he was 4-years-old and did not read until he was 7. His parents thought he was "sub-normal," and one of his teachers described him as "mentally slow, unsociable, and adrift forever in foolish dreams." He was expelled from school and was refused admittance to the **Zurich Polytechnic School**. He did eventually learn to speak and read. Even to do a little math.

**Louis Pasteur** was only a mediocre pupil in undergraduate studies and ranked 15th out of 22 students in chemistry.

**Henry Ford** failed and went broke five times before he succeeded.

**R. H. Macy** failed seven times before his store in New York City caught on.

**F. W. Woolworth** was not allowed to wait on customers when he worked in a dry goods store because, his boss said, "he didn't have enough sense."

When **Bell Telephone** was struggling to get started, its owners offered all their rights to **Western Union** for \$100,000. The offer was disdainfully rejected with the pronouncement, "*What use could this company make of an electrical toy.*"

**Read the following stories and then think  
again about your own personal situation**

*"Our achievements speak for themselves. What we have to keep track of are our failures, discouragements, and doubts. We tend to forget the past difficulties, the many false starts, and the painful groping. We see our past achievements as the end result of a clean forward thrust, and our present difficulties as signs of decline and decay."* - **Eric Hoffer**

**Walt Disney** was fired by a newspaper editor because "he lacked imagination and had no good ideas." He went bankrupt several times before he built **Disneyland**. In fact, the proposed park was rejected by the city of **Anaheim** on the grounds that it would only attract riffraff.

After his first audition, **Sidney Poitier** was told by the casting director, "*Why don't you stop wasting people's time and go out and become a dishwasher or something?*" It was at that moment, recalls Poitier, that he decided to devote his life to acting.

The first time **Jerry Seinfeld** walked on-stage at a comedy club as a professional comic, he looked out at the audience, froze, and forgot the English language. He stumbled through "a minute-and-a-half" of material and was jeered offstage. He returned the following night and closed his set to wild applause.

In 1944, Emmeline Snively, director of the Blue Book Modeling Agency, told modeling hopeful **Norma Jean Baker**, "*You'd better learn secretarial work or else get married.*" I'm sure you know that **Norma Jean** was **Marilyn Monroe**. Now . . . who was **Emmeline Snively**?

**Decca Records** turned down a recording contract with the **Beatles** with the unprophectic evaluation, "*We don't like their sound. Groups of guitars are on their way out.*" After Decca rejected the **Beatles**, Columbia records followed suit.

In 1954, **Jimmy Denny**, manager of the **Grand Ole Opry**, fired **Elvis Presley** after one performance. He told **Presley**, "*You ain't goin' nowhere, son. You ought to go back to drivin' a truck.*"

**Beethoven** handled the violin awkwardly and preferred playing his own compositions instead of improving his technique. His teacher called him "hopeless as a composer." And, of course, you know that he wrote five of his greatest symphonies while completely deaf.

18 publishers turned down **Richard Bach's** story about a "soaring eagle." **Macmillan** finally published **Jonathan Livingston Seagull** in 1970. By 1975 it had sold more than 7 million copies in the U.S. alone.

**Jack London** received six hundred rejection slips before he sold his first story. English crime novelist **John Creasey** got 753 rejection slips before he published **564 books**.

**Cesar Chavez** was told by many experienced labor organizers that he would never be able to organize farm workers. They were just too poor and uneducated.

Never, never give up.

# Tamales Around the World

A tamale (Spanish tamal, from Nahuatl tamalli), is a traditional indigenous American food consisting of steam-cooked corn dough (masa) with or without a filling. Tamales can be filled with meats, cheese (post-colonial), and sliced chillis or any preparation according to taste. The tamale is generally wrapped in a corn husk or plantain (post-colonial) leaves before cooking, depending on the region from which they come.

Their essence is the corn meal dough made from hominy (called masa), or a masa mix such as Maseca, usually filled with sweet or savory filling, wrapped in plant leaves or corn husks, and cooked, usually by steaming, until firm. Tamales were developed as a portable ration for use by war parties in the ancient Americas, and were as ubiquitous and varied as the sandwich is today. The diversity of native languages in the pre-Hispanic America led to a number of local words for the tamal, many of which remain in use.

The plural is tamales, and this is the form of the word most often seen in the United States, with the singular frequently given as tamale rather than tamal. Tamales have acquired mainstream popularity in the United States. However, the Mexican tamale is the most common version known and consumed in the United States by non-Hispanic Americans. The tamales can be filled with pork or with beef. Another popular filling is corn (partially mashed, like creamed corn). Tamales are popular as Christmas meals in the southwestern states of the United States, where there is a large concentration of Hispanic families. A basic modern southwestern tamale contains a spicy meat filling, usually shredded pork, chicken, or beef and is sometimes served with a red sauce or chili con carne sauce.

The green corn tamale (green, meaning "fresh") is made with fresh white corn, often mixed with cheese, then lined with a long green chile slice before it is rolled and wrapped in a husk. Then the husks are steamed. Although the Arizonans (Tucson), claim to be the originators of this tamale, the base of it remains to be Mexican, and its popularity extends to southern California.

The tamale is a staple food along the Mississippi Delta, locally known as "Tamales calientes". It grew in popularity in the early 1900s when Mexican farmworkers introduced it to black workers in the cotton fields in the deep South. Hot tamales in the Delta are more typically made with corn meal instead of masa. The Missis-



issippi hot tamale features (possibly as sexual innuendo) in the well-known, cryptic song "They're Red Hot" by early Delta blues singer **Robert Johnson**.

Tamales have taken on a new direction in recent years as Nuevo Latino and New World chefs such as **Rick Bayless** bring new diversity to this ancient food.

## Tamales in Latin America

In **Belize, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua** and **Colombia** they are wrapped in plantain leaves, and there are several varieties, including tamal de gallina, tamal pisque, and tamal de elote (in **Costa Rica**, the name can also be used for a type of corn pastry). They are generally large, similar in size to the tamales of southeastern **Mexico**.

In Guatemala, Belize and Honduras, in addition to the El Salvador versions, there are tamales without filling which are served as the bread or starch portion of a meal:

- Tamal de elote (made with yellow corn, sometimes with a sweet taste)
- Tamalito de chipilín (made with Chipilín, a green leaf)
- Tamal blanco (simple, made with white corn)

During Christmas holidays, tamales of corn flour are a special treat for Guatemalans. The preparation time of this type of tamal is long, due to the amount of time required to cook down and thicken the flour base.

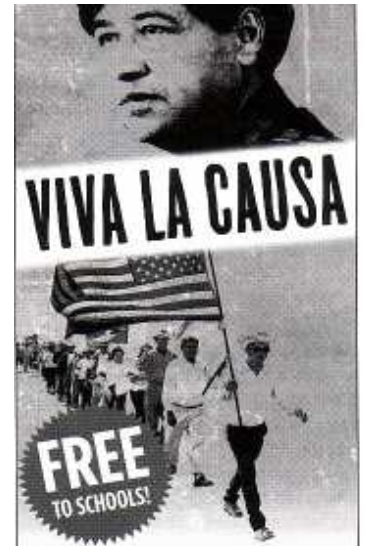
In **Panama**, tamales are considered one of the main national dishes. The Panamanian tamal is fairly large. The most common fillings are chicken, raisins, onions, tomato sauce, and sometimes sweet peas. Rarely you see pork versions. Another variation is tamal de olla, which is cooked in a pot and then served directly onto plates. Tamales are usually served for all special occasions, including weddings and birthday parties, and are always found on the Christmas dinner table. Peruvian tamales tend to be spicy, larger,

and are wrapped in banana leaves. Common fillings are chicken or pork, usually accompanied by boiled eggs, olives, peanuts or a piece of chilli pepper mainly in **Lima**, the capital city. In other cities tamales are smaller and wrapped in corn husks. They differ from the tamales made in **Lima** in that they use white corn instead of yellow corn as people in Lima do. Another version is called humita. It can be salted or sweet. Sweet ones have raisins, vanilla, oil, sugar. Salty ones can be filled with cheese (queso fresco) or chicken. Humitas are cooked in the oven or in the pachamanca.

Tamales are a favorite dish in **Mexico** that take several hours to prepare and make. Street vendors can be seen in every corner serving them from huge, steaming, covered pots (tamaleras). In some places like **Mexico City**, the tamale is often placed inside a wheat bread roll to form a torta de tamal, which is substantial enough to keep the breakfaster going until Mexico's traditionally late lunch hour.

The most common filling is pork but chicken is also used, in either red or green salsa or mole. Another very traditional variation is to add sugar to the corn mix and fill it with raisins or other dried fruit and make a sweet tamal (tamal de dulce). Since the cooking of tamales is traditionally done in batches of tens if not hundreds, and the ratio of filling to dough (and the coarseness of the filling) is a matter of discretion, there are commonly a few "deaf", or filling-less, tamal (tamal sordo), which might be served with refried beans and coffee. Instead of corn husks, banana leaves are used in tropical parts of the country such as the states bordering the Gulf of Mexico, **Oaxaca, Chiapas, Veracruz**, and the **Yucatán Peninsula**. These tamales are rather square in shape, often very large—15 inches (40 cm) or more—and thick; a local name for these in Southern **Tamaulipas** is zacahuil. To the south, banana-leaf tamales are also common in the neighboring Central American countries. Another less-common variation is to use chard leaves, which can be eaten along with the filling

Tamales are also found in **Colombia**, where there are several varieties (including most widely known tolimense as well as boyacense and santandereano). **Ecuador** has a variety of tamales and humitas, they can be filled with fresh cheese, pork, chicken or raisins. Ecuadorian tamales are usually wrapped in corn husk or achira (aka Canna) leaves. Nacatamales are also tamales. See nacatamal.



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Friday, December 12th — FREE — GRATIS 6:00PM - 10:00PM

The Mexican American Cultural Center, in partnership with Univision, will celebrate its first *Día de la Virgen* on Friday, December 12. This free holiday event will feature music by *El Tule*, *Ballet Folklorico de Roy Lozano*, mariachi music, performance by *Los Viejitos*, and a kick-off of the *Christmas Posada*.

Mexican American Cultural Center  
 600 River Street Austin, Texas 78701  
 512-478-6222 - 512-482-8582 fax



**December 19th 9-5 PM**  
 This unique one-day camp will teach children about the foods, music and Holiday Season traditions as celebrated in other parts of the world.  
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**Reyes Magos Camp**  
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## Word Power En Palabras Hay Poder

No one can ever argue in the name of education, that it is better to know less than it is to know more. Being bilingual or trilingual or 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 Hays County*.

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

The Economy	La Economía
Money	Dinero
Bank	Banco
Investments	Inversiones
Deposit	Deposito
Company	Compañia
Cheat	Enganiar
Rob	Robar
Confidence	Confianza
Liar	Mentiroso
Poke you in the eyes	Picar los ojos
Have no faith	No tener fe
Jail time	Tiempo en la carcel
Trial	Jucio

## Hispanic Scholarship Fund

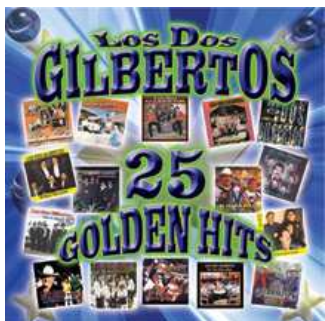


Visit their website for information about scholarships.

[www.hsf.net](http://www.hsf.net)



# Hacienda Records



## Los Dos Gilbertos

Los Dos Gilbertos are the grand masters of conjunto, and are known for their passionate vocals and unmistakably melodic accordion style. Today, their popularity is still at an all-time high and encompasses all of South Texas and beyond. From their home in Edinburg, Texas, into Mexico and throughout the United States, the 2 G's (as they are sometimes known) continue to sell out dance halls and arenas. With over 30 top selling albums, Los Dos Gilbertos continue to gather new fans wherever they go. Their songs tell of the pains and joys as sung by master storytellers, entertainers and superb musicians. Los Dos Gilbertos are more than popular; they are the heritage, voice and sound of the people. Their style transcends generations, and their hits such as "Por Una Mala Mujer," "Donde Estas Corazon," "Vieja Escalera," "Mi Querida Reynosa," "Me Hiciste Feliz" and "Palabra De Hombre" are as popular today as when they were originally released.

### History

**Hacienda Records** was founded in 1976, in **Corpus Christi, TX** by **Roland & Annie Garcia** and **Roland's** brother, **Rick Garcia**, engineer/producer, who remain at the helm, steering a dynamic staff to success. Today, **Hacienda** has established itself as one of the premier Spanish record labels and recording studios in the world and boasts a catalog with over 800 titles that specializes in Tejano, Traditional Tex-Mex, Conjunto and Norteño music. The catalog also contains some of the best Spanish Rock, Salsa, Merengue, Rap, Pop, Gospel and Christmas music in the business.

Over the past 30 years, Tex-Mex, Conjunto and Norteño groups have enjoyed an astounding level of performances and recordings throughout the southwest. **Hacienda Records**, has remained closely connected to the people of the southwest and the music they hear in the dance halls, clubs and festivals. These people places and event are the heart of where accordion driven music lives. During this time, **Hacienda** has produced some of the best music that will forever help preserve the Latin culture.

Through the hacienda website ([www.haciendarecords.com](http://www.haciendarecords.com)), visitors can connect to **Hacienda's** latest digital age innovation, the **Hacienda Radio Network**, broadcasting live music, 24/7 for everyone to listen to these timeless treasures. In that regard, **Hacienda** has digitally re-mastered enduring treasures by classic performers such as **Lisa Lopez**, **Pio Treviño**, **Romance**, **Los Chachos**, **Ruben Vela**, **Showband USA**, **Steve Jordan**, **Mingo Saldivar**, **Tony De La Rosa**, **Ruben Naranjo**, **Freddy Fender**, **Valerio Longoria**, **Michelle** and many others. **Hacienda** also offers music from contemporary conjunto stylists such as **Albert Zamora y Talento**, **Los Dos Gilbertos**, **Ricky Naranjo**, **La Traizion**, **Cali Carranza**, **Peligro**, **Victoria y Sus Chikos** and many more.

Gilberto Garcia Sr.'s professional career can be traced to when he joined El Conjunto De Chale Veliz. Success followed fast and he formed El Conjunto De Gilberto Garcia, which featured his 12-year old son, Gilbert Jr. on drums. A year later he and Gilberto Lopez Sr. joined forces and formed Los Dos Gilbertos. Their unique music described as "conjunto fino" has definitely made a mark in the history books. Now, together with Ruben Garza on vocals, Gilberto Garcia Sr. and his conjunto "Los Dos Gilbertos" continue to dominate the "conjunto sound." This digitally re-mastered CD is packed with energetic rancheras that will keep you "zapateando" (kicking up your heels) to the beat all night long. Enjoy the grandeur of music that Los Dos Gilbertos have to offer.

### Historia

**Discos Hacienda** fue fundada en 1976, en **Corpus Christi, Texas** por **Roland y Annie Garcia**, junto con el hermano de **Roland**, **Rick Garcia**, quien es ingeniero y productor y quienes continúan al mando, guiando a su dinámico personal hacia el éxito. Hoy en día, **Discos Hacienda** se a establecido como una de las primeras compañías de discos y estudios de grabación en el mundo y puede hacer alarde de un catalogo de más de 800 títulos que se especializan en música Tejana, Tradicional Tex-Mex, Conjunto y Norteña. El catalogo también contiene de lo mejor de la musica de Rock en Español, Salsa, Merengue, Rap, Pop, Christiana y Musica Navideña.

Por los ultimos 30 años, grupos de Tex-Mex, Conjuntos y Norteños han gozado de un increíble nivel de presentaciones y grabaciones por todo el Suroeste. **Discos Hacienda**, ha seguido conectada muy de cerca con la gente del Suroeste y con la musica que ellos escuchan en los salones de baile, clubs y festivales. Estas gentes, lugares y eventos son el corazón, donde vive la música de acordeón. Durante este tiempo, **Discos Hacienda** a producidola mejor música, que por siempre ayudara a perdurar la cultura Latina.

A travez de el sitio de Internet de **Hacienda** [www.haciendarecords.com](http://www.haciendarecords.com), nuestros visitantes se pueden conectar con la ultima inovación en la era digital, la red de radio de **Hacienda Radio Network**, difundiendo música en vivo 24 horas al día, 7 días a la semana para que todos puedan escuchar estas joyas eternas. En ese punto, **Discos Hacienda** a re-masterizado tesoros permanentes de artistas clasicos como **Lisa Lopez**, **Pio Treviño**, **Romance**, **Los Chachos**, **Ruben Vela**, **Showband USA**, **Steve Jordan**, **Mingo Saldivar**, **Tony De La Rosa**, **Ruben Naranjo**, **Freddy Fender**, **Valerio Longoria**, **Michelle** y muchos otros más. **Discos Hacienda** también ofrece música con artistas contemporaneos y estilistas como **Albert Zamora Y Talento**, **Los Dos Gilbertos**, **Ricky Naranjo**, **La Traición**, **Cali Carranza**, **Peligro**, **Victoria Y Sus Chikos** y muchos más.

**Hacienda Records and Recording Studios 1236 South Staples Corpus Christi, Texas 78404**

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National Hispanic Cultural Center presents the 7th Annual

# National Latino Writers Conference

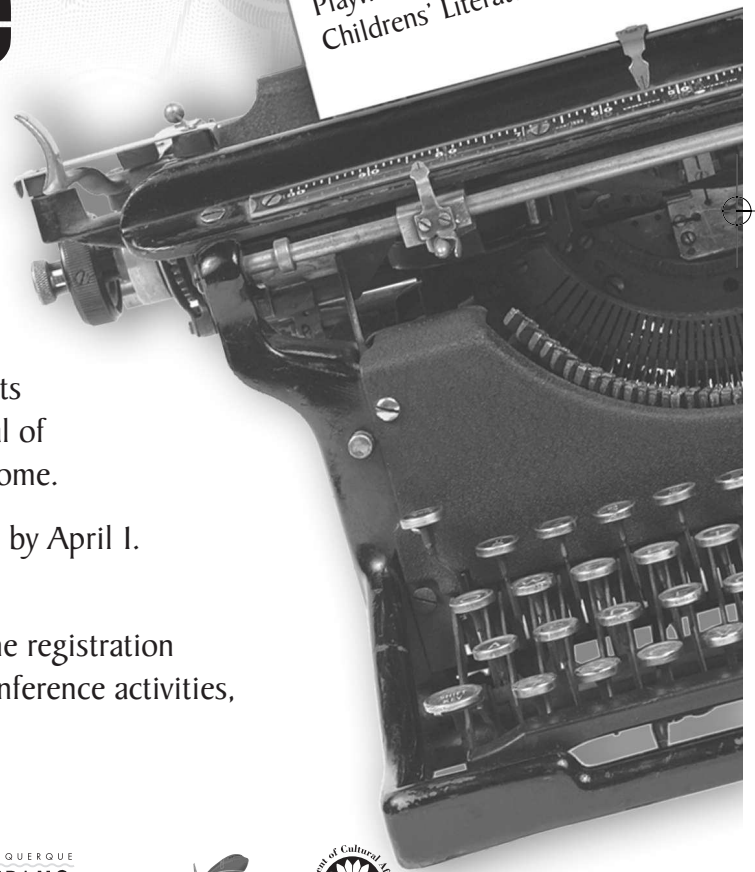
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