



Volume 20 Number 9
A Bi-Cultural Publication
September, 2022

La Voz

Free
Gratis



Solamente el que carga el saco sabe lo que lleva a dentro

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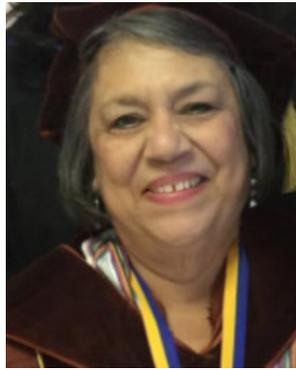
En Palabras
Hay Poder



Eloisa Rodriguez Medina
Candidate for Uvalde City Council

**Southwest Texas
Oral History Center**
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**Covering the Counties of:
Uvalde, Frio, Maverick, Val Verde, Kinney.**
**Take a look and listen to the Middle Rio
Grande region of Texas through Oral History.**



Yolanda Rodriguez-Escobar, PhD! An Assistant Professor of Social Work at Our Lady of the Lake University since 2009, has been named the new director of the Center for Mexican American Studies and Research.

Roberto Alonzo
Siempre
con
Uvalde

Re-Elect

Valerie Del Toro Romero

Uvalde County Clerk

Diana Olvedo-Karau Write -in Candidate

Life-long community advocate and native west side Uvaldean Diana Olvedo-Karau is announcing her candidacy as a Write-In candidate for Uvalde County Commissioner, Precinct 2, the seat currently held by incumbent Mariano Pargas. Olvedo-Karau states that though she has always desired to serve in public office, she had no intentions of running for office in this election. Had she intended to do so she would have filed to run in December 2021 so



that her name would appear on the ballot; increasing her ability to easily garner votes. Olvedo-Karau states that though a write-in campaign is a hard race to run, because voters must write in her name, not just mark a box to vote for her, she felt it necessary to run for this seat after the horrific tragedy of May 24th. Specifically because the incumbent Mariano Pargas, also a City of Uvalde Police Department officer and Acting Police Chief on the day of the tragedy; failed to exercise his active shooter training that required him to 1) breach the classroom where the shooter was located; 2) neutralize the shooter by killing or incapacitating him; and, 3) to stop the killing and dying of the children and teachers. Instead, Pargas entered the Robb Elementary building 3 minutes after the shooter and did nothing; an act which is and should be considered inexcusable and that betrayed the public trust.

Olvedo-Karau states she is well equipped to tackle the responsibilities of a County Commissioner; prepared to fight for lower taxes, improved roads & bridges and creating a more transparent County Commissioners court. These duties though critically Important, are the easy part of serving as a County Commissioner; the hard part is recognizing that elected leadership comes with a promise to one's constituents to serve with honor and integrity at all times and in all circumstances. Whether sitting in the designated commissioner chair during commissioner court meetings or performing one's job when duty calls.

Olvedo-Karau states that she has been standing with and speaking out for accountability and justice alongside parents, family members and supporters of those injured and killed since the tragedy and that she will continue to do so, regardless of the outcome of this election. Olvedo-Karau stated that of the many news stories and interviews she has heard since the massacre, that this is the one that most clearly reflects her reason for running in this election to unseat Pargas; the interview of Federico Torres. Federico Torres interviewed by Vice News on June 20, 2022 said it best, "...everyone who was there at the time was incompetent...or the courage to go in and do something...they were cowards." Torres went on to say, "He (Rogelio) could have been part of this town's future...it wasn't just my child, there were many...the Uvalde Police didn't just fail us adults and parents...they failed our children, the future of this community."

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Por cualquier pregunta, llamanos:
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Pensamientos

It has been a little over three months since the masacare at **Robb Elementary School.**

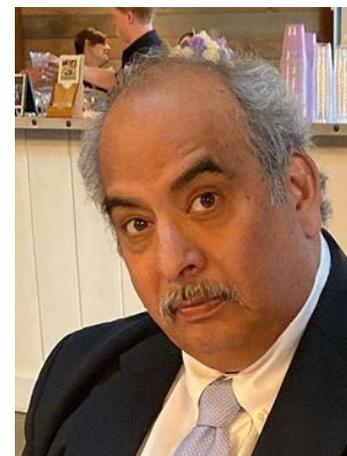
The shock that something like this could happen in **Uvalde, Texas** is going to remain with many people for some time. And of course there are some people who will never get over it or forget.

Over the past three months I have attend some of the public meetings of the school board and have watched other meetings from afar. In the beginning I saw how people in the community behaved at these meetings. I watched and listened to how they spoke when they stood before the microphone. They were polite and obedient. They respected the time limits that were placed on their comments.

More recently I have seen a change in many of these same people. I have seen how a number of them who have spoken at a public meeting or forum have read prepared comments from their cell phones. I have seen a new confidence in how they address an elected body. And I have heard their voices ring out in anger, rage and disdain with regard to the inaction of some.

In the last three months, a number of people in **Uvalde** have learned how to speak out forcefully. They have let it be known that they are not going away. And they have put on notice various elected officials that the time has come for some of them to go. The perceived cover up following the tragedy at

EDITORIAL



Alfredo Santos c/s
Editor and Publisher
of La Voz Newspapers

Robb Elementary School has turned some parents into community activist and advocates. It has awakened some to the reality that if you don't speak up, if you don't demand, you will get no action from those sit in positions of authority.

For those of us us became community activists during the years of the **Chicano Movement** (60s and 70s) we see history repeating itself. We see how the pain of injustice can make and take a person into realm they never thought they would be in.

I believed for many years that one of the secrets to success in politics was to not take your politics personally. But with what happened on May 24th, 2022 in **Uvalde** and the ensuing cover up and run around by politios and law enforcement officials, the rules have changed. It's time to take this tragedy personally. It is time to take off the gloves and be polite and obedient. It is time to . . .
... ya sabes!!



Uvalde Mother Files to Run for Pete Arredondo's Vacant Uvalde City Council Seat

Eloisa Rodriguez Medina, a 55 year old Uvalde native, announced her bid for the open seat on the final day of filing. **Eloisa** is the daughter of the late **Arturo Rodriguez** and **Natalia Ruiz Rodriguez**. She is also the sole sibling to her late brother **Art "Automatic" Rodriguez**.



Eloisa Medina attended Uvalde's Sacred Heart Catholic Church. She is a member of Uvalde High School's Class of '85 and has been an active volunteer for the nationally recognized Hispanic advocacy group called **Fierce Madres**. Living in Uvalde for over 50 years, **Eloisa Medina** states that she has always wanted to serve her community as a public servant and kept waiting for the right time to do so.

Eloisa Rodriguez Medina plans to be the driving force for action and change in Uvalde, TX. Uvalde residents seem to be demanding change and she plans to deliver for them. If **Medina** wins this race in November, she will be the only woman on the **City Council**, a group that could use a diverse voice, a mother's voice. Although she states being a woman is not the only reason to vote for her. **Eloisa** plans to be the most engaging member on the **City Council**, listening and involving her constituents in bringing true change to a brokenhearted community that she cherishes. As a non-politician, **Medina** wants to forge a path that others on the Uvalde council will follow. Please plan to vote in the November 8th election.

Register to Vote
Su Voto es Su Voz



UVALDE HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 1972
IS CELEBRATING
50 YEARS

JOIN US FOR FOOD, FUN, FROLIC & DANCE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2022

HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME

(Whoever would like to attend)

AFTER GAME SOCIALIZING (BYOB) till Midnite

At the home of Rebecca Riojas Cruz
407 N. Crisp St., Uvalde, TX 78801

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2022

CLASS REUNION 5 - 12 PM

American Legion Hall Post 479
583 W. Main St., Uvalde, TX 78801

Walk-Thru Our 1972 UHS Campus (Pending): 9:00 AM

Sign In For Door Prizes: 5 - 6 PM

Catered Dinner: 6 - 7 PM (BYOB)

Class Pictures: 9 PM

Dance: 7 - 11 PM (Music by DJ Extreme)

Farewell to All: 11 - 12 PM

Registration Fee: \$35 per person

U.S. Postal Service Honors Mariachi, the Traditional Music of Mexico



VOTE

**DIANA
OLVEDO-KARAU**



**WRITE-IN CANDIDATE
UVALDE COUNTY COMMISSIONER
PRECINCT 2**



KarauforCommissioner

UNITED FOR UVALDE

*Now is the Time for all of us
to come together*

*Ahora es el momento cuando
debemos de juntarnos*

**George
“Josue” Garza**

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We accept cases in the following cities:

Uvalde, Hondo, Kerrville, Boerne, Eagle Pass, Del Rio,
Brackettville, Crystal City, Carrizo Springs, Rocksprings, Leakey,
San Antonio, Pearsall, Jourdanton.

The Committee Justice for Uvalde

August 15, 2022

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Uvalde massacre occurred on May 24th, 2022, at La Escuela Robb in Uvalde, Texas. To date, the families of the victims and the community at large have not received any vital evidence from any investigation. A Senate committee published a preliminary report outlining some of the local law enforcement iniquities due to lack of leadership. However, most of the evidence used to reach said conclusion in the preliminary report was held back and not made accessible to the families or the community of Uvalde. Governor Abbott oversees the approximately ninety-one state troopers at the scene, yet nothing was mentioned about the state troopers' participation or lack thereof. The City Mayor, County Judge, School Board, and Governor have ignored the families' request for transparency. To date, no one from the mentioned departments or agencies has been reprimanded or fired for failure to perform their sworn duties. Therefore, the following is what the families and the community are demanding.

Manifesto

First, we should be clear that this investigation should be done by the Department of Justice, not by the Governor Abbotts DPS Department of Public Safety, or the Uvalde County District Attorney. Governor Abbott receives money from the NRA The National Rifle Association and their policy of supporting the sale of AR-15s. In addition, this Governor supports making the sale easier and allowing individuals to carry weapons in public. There is no way in heaven that this governor can be objective on this issue.

Second, an outside Texas firm should conduct an independent audit and accounting of all funds received by local governments as donations to assist victim families. The result should be made public.

Third, the National Compassion Fund must also conduct an audit and accounting of all funds they acquire or have transferred to them before any disbursements are made and expenses paid of any nature by them or their associates. We demand an itemized list of all donors with names, addresses, phone numbers, and amounts donated. The result should be made public. We demand an audit and accounting of all funds before anything else. How much they are charging for service and who contacted them and who authorized them to do this and where is the money to pay them coming from? They also named a handful of folks from Uvalde to be local advisors, who selected them? None of the families who lost loved ones are represented in any decision-making position. They seem to show up after each massacre and take over the donations and disbursements.

Fourth, the FBI (but not any office in Texas) should investigate all GoFundMe accounts were established to benefit the victim's families including the funds from the grocery store chain HEB, the League of Latin American Citizens, national and district offices, the National Football League, and any other donors mentioned in the media. The results of these investigations if probable cause is found that monies have not found their way to the victim's families should be prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney.

Fifth, the Texas Victim's Compensation Fund should set up an office in Uvalde at once and publicize its willingness to assist families in making requests for compensation for their losses.

THOSE CONDUCTING THE EXAMINATION OF THIS LAW ENFORCEMENT MUST DEMAND TO LOOK AT ALL THE EVIDENCE

1. All phone, text, and emails must be reviewed by every office present and their regional or central office from 23-24-25 to ensure that we know who was not acting in good faith. In addition, all these individuals must be interviewed under oath. A wide net must be cast asking everyone related to the Robb Elementary shooting not to destroy any communications.
2. The school board, City Council, the Governor's team, and all law enforcement officials, who became involved in this situation must respond to the above and the Minutes of each meeting held by local governments that had an agenda item on this issue must be made public.
3. 911 OPERATORS' records and responses must be examined and what direction they were receiving
4. Family and community members who were confronted by, detained, or lied to by law enforcement officers must be interviewed.
5. EMT units present must all so turn over their records.
6. Teachers and students who survived must also be interviewed.
7. Family of the victims must also be interviewed and recorded, and a transcription of their narrative deposited with the University of Texas at San Antonio under Special Collections Archival Material with a copy to each interviewee.
8. All body cam footage must be examined and made public.
9. All Robb Elementary school video cameras with footage of the May 24th event must be examined and made public.
10. the School Superintendent. and immediate administrative assistants be dismissed summarily for dereliction of duty and negligence in not having prepared staff and plans for such obvious possibilities as May 24th in that this is the epidemic sweeping the country since Columbine.
11. the City Manager and Acting Police Chief of the City of Uvalde as well as the Sheriff and Chief Deputy should be dismissed summarily for dereliction of duty and negligence in not having trained, prepared law enforcement personnel, emergency policies, and procedures in event of mass shootings in the city, and equipment on the ready to meet those challenges should they arise.

IN THE END, THERE MUST BE A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT THAT IS RELEASED IN BOTH SPANISH AND ENGLISH.

The first orientation is given to the families of the victims with their legal representatives in Uvalde at a public meeting called for that purpose.



Abelardo Castillo Adam Martínez Brett Cross Diana Olvedo Karau Jesse Rizo

The Letter on the Left

The letter on the left is from a group called Justice for Uvalde. It is headed up by **Lalo Castillo**. In the last couple of months a number of new community organizations have formed to address a variety of concerns in **Uvalde, Texas**. Their membership varies in that some are solely local while others have members outside of **Uvalde**. Here is a list of some of those organizations:

LULAC

(League of United Latin American Citizens)

Justice for Uvalde

KARMA

Uvalde Strong for Gun Safety

Fierce Madres

‘Turn in your badge and step down!’ |

Young girl speaks at Uvalde CISD school board meeting I am here to make a statement. If law enforcement job is to protect the kids, why didn't they do that on May 24th? I have mentioned this to Mr. Pete Arredondo numerous times. Turn in your badge!

A Knippa High School Student Shares Her Views

Our niece posted on Insta Gram and it breaks my heart all over again. She is a senior at **Knippa High school** and this is the new sad reality. **Alesandra Gonzales** is a senior @ **Knippa high school**. We lost family in the massacre!

Tuesday, September 6, 2022, 8:22 am - The Day We Received Our Dog Tags 1st period - AP Calc. A knock on the door, **Mr.V** gets up, looks through the peephole and decides it's safe to open the door. A hand reaches through, two IDs pass through.

Knippa is a small school, 1A. Most people have been coming here long enough so that everyone is known by name. The staff knows pretty much each of us individually. Over the weekend we received our first threat of the school year. To me, it's an odd concept to grasp; how someone could be so insensitive to innocent life, and the tragedy that occurred in the neighboring town in which many of us live.

Being a senior, it's almost impossible not to know each student. High school shares the same buildings with 5th grade and up. We see our littles (ones) everyday in the halls. I've learned that in any case, I'm not scared for myself, it's them. I have 4 cousins on campus. This summer I watched them grieve friends while raising money for the ones that survived. They were robbed of a summer of memories they should've made with them; instead they visited graves talking to friends that would never talk back.

I've lived long enough to experience some of life. They've not yet been to prom, played a high school sport, had memorable bus rides to away games, bonded with teammates, and claimed a spot in the student parking lot. Yet, each day they come to a school fenced like a prison and plaster on a smile, ready to learn. Though it's meant to keep people out, from the inside looking out, it feels like we're meant to be kept in. It feels like we're the ones who have done wrong, we're the ones being punished.

Because of someone else's cruel actions, we cannot move on campus without an escort. We can no longer access the front office. All the doors are locked at all times, no exceptions. We are no longer to open the doors to anyone, that's a privilege meant for the staff alone. Best of all, we wear IDs now. As I said, everyone knows everyone here. Our IDs are not for us. They are meant for a reality where someone may have to identify our bodies one day without having to obtain a DNA test.

They are dog tags for a war we never enlisted in. Yet, one day we just might find ourselves barricading doors, hiding behind desks, crouched tightly together on a cold floor of a dark room using whatever we can find around the room as weapons. Like soldiers fighting in the dark of the night, we'll stay low and vigilant, eyes scanning each corner of the room making sure nothing is out of place, ears alert hoping and praying that we may never hear a noise meant for the fields during hunting season.

If that day comes, we'll have our dog tags for the worst case scenarios. Our families will not know the pain of waiting hours for identification, just the pain of losing a child. So, from now on, we wear dog tags and hope that no one outside these walls will ever need to see them." Why did any of this have to happen. Why!



Jesse R. Moreno Sr. and his family presented the Jesse T. Moreno Jr. Memorial Scholarship to four first-year students at Southwest Texas Junior College

Uvalde, TX, August 29, 2022 – Jesse R. Moreno Sr. and his family presented the Jesse T. Moreno Jr. Memorial Scholarship to four first-year students in the Southwest Texas Junior College registered nursing program on Aug. 20 in Uvalde. Recipients of the \$500 scholarships were Carla Duran and Yesenia Salinas, both of Eagle Pass, Rosemary Ruiz of Uvalde, and Yolanda Hernandez of Carrizo Springs. Scholarships provide financial assistance throughout their first year at Southwest Texas Junior College.

Jesse T. Moreno Jr. died on Jan. 27, 2014, at 56, after a 16-year battle with multiple myeloma. The son of Mr. Moreno Sr. and the late Andrea Torres Moreno, he graduated from Uvalde High School in 1976. He attended Southwest Texas Junior College, where he graduated in 1978 with an Associate of Arts degree. After SWTJC, he went to the University of Texas Health Science Center School of Nursing in San Antonio and obtained a Bachelor of Science in nursing in 1981.

During the scholarship presentation, Nora Gonzalez, the sister of Mr. Moreno junior, spoke briefly with the students about what it meant to award her brother's scholarship to them. "We are so happy to give this award to four very deserving students," said Nora Gonzalez. "We're very happy to be presenting this award to you on behalf of my brother."

Andrea Perez and Tony T. Moreno, siblings of Mr. Moreno Jr., along with SWTJC President Hector Gonzales, were on hand for the scholarship awards presentation. This scholarship is awarded to a registered nursing student in the first year of the program. Applicants must have a 3.0 GPA on prerequisite courses and submit a 200- word essay on personal background, reasons for wanting to be a nurse, and obstacles encountered along the way.

The SWTJC registered nursing program is designed to prepare graduates to practice in a complex and ever-changing healthcare environment. Individuals wanting to enroll in the nursing program may contact Dr. Margorie L. Lieck, SWTJC Director, Licensed Vocational Nursing & Associate Degree in Nursing Programs, at (830) 591-7230.



Write in Javier Cazares for Uvalde County Commissioner- Precinct 2 On November 8th, 2022

"I respectfully ask for your vote on election day."

Paid Political Announcement by the Candidate



by Dr. Michael Luis Ortiz

Twelve students from the Uvalde area graduated from Sul Ross State University at the end of the summer 2022 semester. Antonio Sanchez of Carrizo Springs and Miranda Dvorak and Cecilia Reavis of Uvalde earned master's degrees.

In addition, Selena Lerma of Carrizo Springs, Esmerelda Cervantes, Israel Muñoz, and Daniel Vargas of Crystal City, and Debbi Flores, LeAnn Flores, Juan Gonzalez, Vincent Valenzuela, and Britt Whyrick of Uvalde earned bachelor's degrees.

Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College is an upper-level study center of Sul Ross State University in Alpine, with campuses in Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde. Campuses are leased from Southwest Texas Junior College. The Uvalde campus of Rio Grande College is located on the junior college campus on Garner Field Road.

Campuses consist of offices and classrooms; there is one lab in Del Rio, and students can access library resources through the junior college. The campus in Alpine is a traditional four-year institution with all the resources and amenities typical of a small university.

Rio Grande College began as the Uvalde Study Center in 1973 at the

petitioning of Uvalde citizens, soon after Uvalde native Dolph Briscoe Jr. became governor. The first class graduated in 1976 in a ceremony held at the First State Bank of Uvalde. Campuses in Del Rio and Eagle Pass were subsequently opened.

In 1987, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) sued the state of Texas over inequities in higher education along the border, an action that prompted the legislature to provide additional funds to border-serving universities. This led to expanded programs along the border and in cities like San Antonio, Corpus Christi, and Kingsville.

Under this impetus, Rio Grande College was established by the legislature in 1995. In the analysis for the bill, Senator Judith Zaffirini wrote: *"The Texas State University System board of regents voted to change the name of Sul Ross State University Uvalde Center to a name that better reflects the mission of the university in the region, especially as the institution expands to serve an increasing number of residents from the entire Middle Rio Grande region."*

Since then, RGC has received its own state funding, but its budget is controlled by the administration in Alpine, which it supports financially. Its enrollment has declined since the 1990s. Its enrollment is overwhelmingly Hispanic, female,

and first-generation. Although it offers only a fraction of the degree programs offered on the Alpine campus, it typically produces about the same number of bachelor's degrees each year, and it serves a population many times the size of that served by Alpine.

The creation of the Uvalde Study Center came while a movement was underway to serve underrepresented populations through regional colleges. In 1970, Texas A&I University at Laredo opened as an upper-level branch campus of Texas A&I in Kingsville. There was also an attempt to establish private colleges like Colegio Jacinto Treviño in Mercedes and Juárez-Lincoln University in Fort Worth, later in Austin, showing how desperate people were for education on their own terms. Broadly speaking, both public and private colleges were characterized by community engagement, long-distance administration, and reliance on makeshift arrangements.

Higher education in Texas has evolved since then. For example, Texas A&I University at Laredo is now the standalone four-year Texas A&M International University. But RGC operates much as it did in the 1970s, making use of rented and borrowed spaces, holding graduation ceremonies in civic centers and high school gyms.

In 2000, Sul Ross President Vic Morgan formed a strategic planning committee at RGC. In consultation with community leaders, the committee called for the independence of RGC, citing inaccessibility of resources and an untenable administrative structure. Morgan refused on account of RGC's small size.

Instead, RGC was granted its own vice president in 2001. Rented facilities were improved. \$1 million was allocated to establish a library, but, according to an April 7, 2002, article in the Uvalde Leader-News, that money went toward improvements on the Alpine campus instead.

The Pete P. Gallego Event Center, which is where graduation ceremonies are held on the Alpine campus, was built at that time. Since then there have been numerous construction and improvement projects on the Alpine campus while its enrollment has continued to decline.

In 2019, Sul Ross President Bill Kibler announced a Middle Rio Grande Higher Education Summit to be held in Eagle Pass. However, facing criticism from area leaders for his leadership, Kibler attempted to cancel the summit less than one month before the event. Area leaders nevertheless held the summit on September 22.

More than sixty elected officials, school administrators, college faculty, and students attended. Speakers included Al Kauffman, law professor at St. Mary's University and a civil rights attorney for the LULAC lawsuit, Velma Vela Ybarra, LULAC National Education Cochair, and Dr. Juan Sanchez, Uvalde historian and retired RGC institutional research director. Sanchez has researched the history of Uvalde and is a former editor of La Voz de Uvalde County; Ybarra spoke at the July 11 Unheard Voices March and Rally in Uvalde.

Uvalde County Judge Bill Mitchell and Uvalde Mayor Don McLaughlin were invited to the summit but declined to attend. Kibler announced his resignation as president later that fall after a vote of no confidence from the faculty of RGC, seven of whom he had threatened to fire for their advocacy. The author of this article was president of the faculty senate at that time.

On February 1, 2022, the Texas State University System announced a historic investment of \$33.1 million in capital improvement projects in the RGC service area. This follows decades of protest concerning the limited resources at RGC. Discussions are now being held as to where and how the funds should be invested.

The 16th of September, el diez y seis de septiembre, celebrates the start of a revolt in 1810 that led to **Mexico's** independence from **Spain** in 1821. People who know about this event can usually tell you about **Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla**, the parish priest from **Dolores, Guanajuato** and how he rang the church bell to announce the time had come to rise up against Spanish rule.

What most people can't tell you is the story of **Doña Josefa Ortiz de Dominguez**, the woman who played a key role in helping to launch the revolt for which **Father Hidalgo** is given so much public credit. In addition, most people do not know that the 16th of September, was not supposed to have happened.

A Little Background

Toward the end of the 18th century (1790-1800) a cultural movement called the **Age of Enlightenment** gained increasing popularity in **Europe** and **America**. One of the major ideas in this movement was the reform of society using the power of reason and the "advanced knowledge" of the sciences rather than relying on tradition, faith or revelation.

As far back as 1550, people were questioning the whole idea of why they needed to be ruled by kings and queens. They questioned the influence of the powerful **Roman Catholic Church** and why an intermediary was needed in order to have a relationship with God? They also questioned the idea of whether

the earth was really flat. This last point is important because it provided the basis for the notion of "heaven and hell" and thus the premise upon which **Catholic** ideology was built and used to control the faithful.

As the philosophers of the day offered their take on what life might look like without kings and queens, the **Industrial Revolution** made possible the more economical printing of books. People with inquisitive minds formed study groups and literary societies to read and discuss these "radical ideas," many of which were banned by the Catholic Church. Among those who were influenced by this movement were **Benjamin Franklin** and **Thomas Jefferson** in America, a priest in **Guanajuato** named **Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla** and the wife of a very highly placed Spanish official in **Querétaro** named **Doña Josefa Ortiz de Dominguez**.

The Protagonists of the Revolt

Father Hidalgo, in addition to his duties as a parish priest, enjoyed intellectual engagement and had a passion for the poor. Born in 1753, he was sent at the age of 14 to **Valladolid** (now Morelia), **Michoacán** to study at the **Colegio de San Francisco Javier** with the **Jesuits**.

His education for the priesthood was traditional, with subjects in Latin, rhetoric and logic. Like many

Doña Josefa Ortiz

La Corregidora

priests in **Mexico**, he learned some Indian languages, such as **Nahuatl**, **Otomi** and **Tarascan** and he also studied Italian and French, which were not commonly studied in **Mexico** at this time.

He was considered cultured and clever, earning the nickname **El Zorro** (the fox) from those at his school. **Hidalgo's** knowledge of French allowed him to read the works of the **Enlightenment** that were current in **Europe** even though these ideas were forbidden at the time in **Mexico**.

As corregidor, he was the official representative

Doña Josefa, was the wife of **Miguel Dominguez**, *corregidor* of the city of **Querétaro**. As *corregidor*, he was the official representative of the Spanish government with respect to administrative and judicial issues. She was born in **Valladolid** in 1768 and was educated at the prestigious **Colegio de las Vizcainas**, from which she graduated in 1791. In that same year she married **Miguel Domínguez**. The young couple went to live in **Querétaro**, where her husband exercised his functions. On both sides of her family, **Josefa** was of pure

Spanish ancestry. But this fact did not breed affection for the mother country. Like many members of the creole elite into which she was born, **Josefa** was highly antagonistic toward the **gachupines** (Spaniards born in **Spain**). **Josefa's** anti-Spanish attitude was also related to her intellectual development.

Both **Father Hidalgo** and **Doña Josefa** were members of the same literary society which met in several cities between and around **Querétaro**.

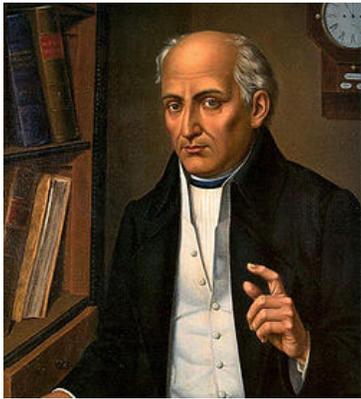
A Time to Act



Doña Josefa Ortiz
Esposa de don Miguel Domínguez, corregidor de Querétaro

In 1808, **Napoleon Bonaparte** had invaded **Spain**, and decided to impose his brother **José Bonaparte**, as king of **Spain** (1808 -1810). The people of **Spain** did not like this and talk of revolt was the topic to the day in cafes throughout the country. On this side of the ocean **Father**

de Domínguez de Querétaro



Miguel Hidalgo, Doña Josefa and their literary friends decided now was the time to declare independence. **Venezuela** had already done so on April 19th, 1810, and people were becoming anxious in other countries as well.

The original plan was to take advantage of the mass movement of people during the month of December when they traveled to various cities and pueblos to celebrate **El Día de La Virgen de Guadalupe**. **Hidalgo** believed that moving weapons under this cover would reduce the chances of getting caught by the authorities.

But on September 14th, the plan had been uncovered. It is believed that the postman of **Querétaro**, who was a member of the literary group, was the one who betrayed

them. When the **Correidor Miguel Dominguez** found out his wife was involved in the planning of this revolt, he exploded in anger and ordered her locked in her room as he went in search of the others.

Confined to her room, **Doña Josefa**, managed to smuggle a note out with the help of a servant warning **Father Hidalgo** that they had been discovered. The horseman who rode the entire distance to **Dolores, Guanajuato** found **Father Hidalgo** late in the evening the next day. Upon reading the note from **Doña Josefa**, **Father Hidalgo** realized he had only two alternatives; either abandon their plans, or move faster and start the revolt immediately.

In the early hours of September 16, 1810, **Father Hidalgo**, rang the bell of his little church, and issued his *grito* calling everyone to fight for liberty and against the Spanish. This would be the beginning of the **War of Independence War**, which would last 10 years.

Two days later, after **Father Miguel Hidalgo** delivered the **Grito de Dolores** (the Cry from Dolores) his followers reached the city of **Celaya**, which joined the

revolution on (September 21), and then **Guanajuato** (September 28), **Zacatecas** (October 7) and **Valladolid** (October 17) The Spanish now realized this rebellion was growing quickly and had to be stopped. On October 19, 1810, in **Valladolid**, **Father Hidalgo** issued a decree freeing the slaves and on November 29, in **Guadalajara**, he extended it to all of **New Spain**.

Father Hidalgo would not live to see **Mexico** free. In an attempt to seek support for the revolution, he set out for the **United States**, but he was caught and taken prisoner at the Wells of **Baján (Norias de Baján)** near **Monclova, Coahuila**, on 21 March 1811. He was then sent to **Chihuahua**, where, on July 30, 1811 he was shot..

Doña Josefa paid dearly for helping to start the **War of Independence**. She was first confined to the **Santa Clara** convent in **Querétaro** and then transferred to **Mexico City** for trial. Her husband tried to defend her but he failed to secure even an acquittal. Found guilty, she was confined to another religious institution, the convent of **Santa Teresa**.

So outspoken was the **Corregidora** in denouncing her captors that she was transferred to yet another nunnery, **Santa Catalina de Siena**, where

discipline was stricter. She was not released until the war ended in 1821.

Doña Josefa's opposition to unjust authority was not limited to European imperialism. Though defiant of Spanish royal authority, she was proud of her Spanish blood and bitterly condemned **Guadalupe Victoria, Mexico's** first president, when he expelled all Spaniards from **Mexico**.

Earlier on she had contemptuously refused to be a lady of honor in the court of the puffed up adventurer, **Iturbide**, who grandiosely styled himself **Agustín I, Emperor of Mexico**. She also refused to accept any remuneration for the services she had rendered the liberation movement.

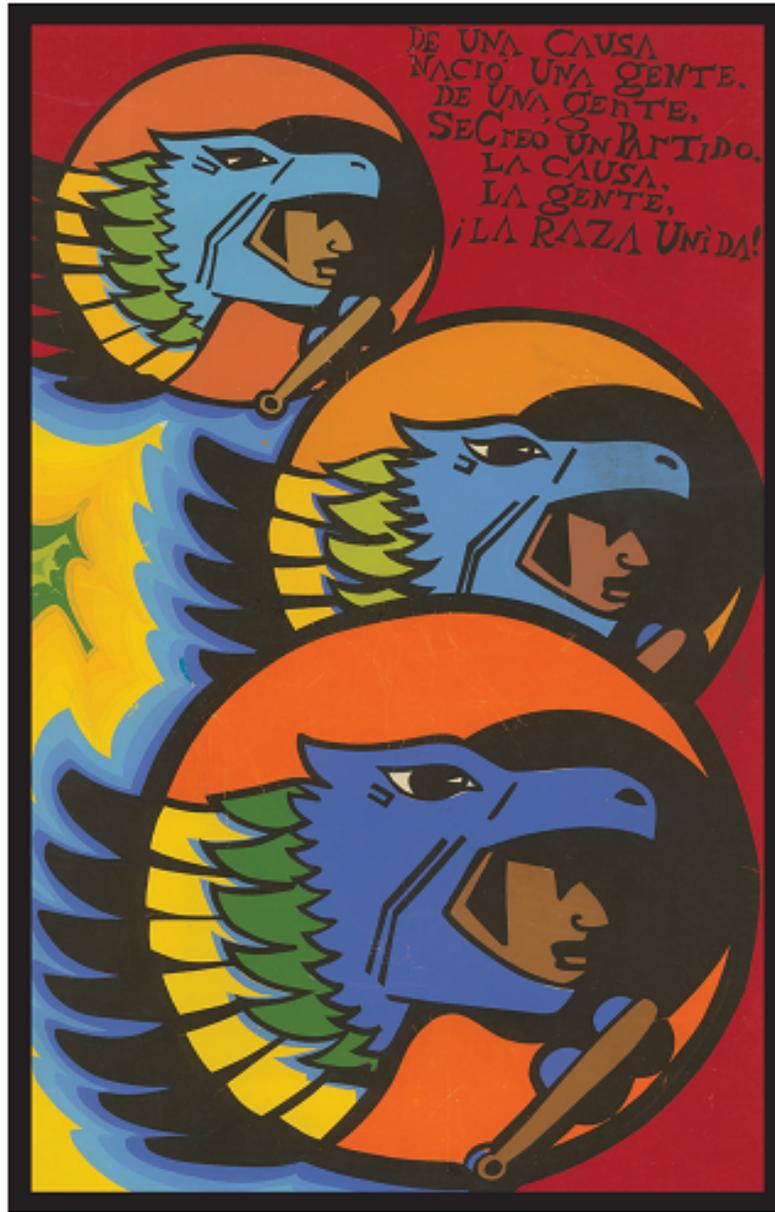
Josefa Ortiz de Domínguez died in 1829, at the age of 61. She was first buried at **Santa Catalina** but her remains were later shipped to her home city of **Querétaro**.

There the state congress declared her *benemérita* (meritorious). She was also honored in **Mexico City**, where a statue stands in a plaza that bears her name. For her independent spirit, for the subtle but decisive influence she exercised on her husband, and for her hatred of all forms of oppression, **Josefa Ortiz de Domínguez** was as much a symbol of Mexican emancipation as any of her male colleagues in the freedom struggle.



50th Anniversary
NATIONAL RAZA UNIDA PARTY

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1974 "La Raza"

Amado Mauricio Portia, Jr.

**University of Texas Downtown Campus
 San Antonio, Texas September 15-17, 2022**

"La Lucha Sigue"



Austin City Councilman Jose "Chito" Vela introduced a resolution that was passed recognizing and honoring La Raza Unida Party for its 50th Anniversary. Below is the resolution.

Be it known that

Whereas, The Raza Unida Party was established on January 17, 1970, at a meeting of 300 Mexican Americans in Crystal City, Texas, beginning an eight-year quest to bring greater economic, social, and political self-determination to Mexican Americans in the state, especially in South Texas, where they held little or no power in many local or county jurisdictions despite often being the majority of the population; and

Whereas, The Raza Unida Party's platform championed workers' rights, bilingual education and improved health care, supporting farm workers, students, and the working class; and

Whereas, The Raza Unida Party had significant electoral victories in South Texas, winning school board, city and county offices and even getting 6% of the vote in the 1972 Texas gubernatorial election; and

Whereas, The Raza Unida Party inspired Mexican American political, cultural and artistic developments throughout Texas, including Juarez-Lincoln University in Austin, a Mexican American institution of higher learning; and

Whereas, The Austin City Council acknowledges the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Raza Unida Party and its contributions to Texas.

Now, Therefore, I, Steve Adler, Mayor of the City of Austin, Texas, declare September 1st, 2022 as Raza Unida Party Day

A Brief History of La Raza Unida Party in Texas

The **Raza Unida Party** was established on January 17, 1970, at a meeting of 300 **Mexican Americans** at **Campestre Hall** in **Crystal City, Texas**. **José Ángel Gutiérrez** and **Mario Compean**, who had helped found **MAYO** (the **Mexican American Youth Organization**) in 1967, were two of its principal organizers.

In December 1969, at the first and only national **MAYO** meeting, Chicano activists had endorsed the formation of a third party, an idea that **Gutiérrez** had proposed in establishing **MAYO**. After **RUP** filed for party status in **Zavala, La Salle, and Dimmit** counties in January 1970, it began its eight-year quest to bring greater economic, social, and political self-determination to **Mexican Americans** in the state, especially in **South Texas**, where they held little or no power in many local or county jurisdictions although they were often in the majority.

Membership in the party was open to anyone who was committed to **RUP's** goals. The party fielded candidates for nonpartisan city council and school board races the following April in **Crystal City, Cotulla, and Carrizo Springs** and won a total of fifteen seats, including two city council majorities, two school board majorities, and two mayoralties.

In October 1971, **RUP** held its state convention in **San Antonio** and voted to organize at the state level over the objections of **Gutiérrez**, who believed that the party should strengthen its rural

standing rather than expend its energy on a state party. **Compean** rallied enough support for a state organization on the grounds that it would give a boost to the Chicano movement in **Texas** and repeat the success it had attained in **Crystal City** throughout **Texas**.

With the state party apparatus in place, **RUP** sought a candidate for the 1972 gubernatorial election, first calling upon such well-known **Democrats** as state senator **Carlos Truan, Hector Garcia** (founder of the **American G.I. Forum**), and state senator **Joe Bernal**.

All refused to run for the position. The party finally found a candidate in **Ramsey Muñiz**, a lawyer and administrator with the **Waco Model Cities Program**. **Alma Canales** of **Edinburg**, who had been a farmworker and journalism student at **Pan American University**, became the **RUP** candidate for lieutenant governor, although at twenty-four she was

too young to take the office constitutionally. Her presence on the **RUP** slate was considered a sign that women had a crucial role in the party.

Although they seemed an unusual match, the two resembled many of the **RUP** rank and file, who were young and university educated. Like others in the party, they had also been members of **MAYO**. Besides **Muñiz** and **Canales**, **RUP** ran candidates for nine other state offices, including member of the **Railroad Commission**, state treasurer, and member of the **State Board of Education**. **RUP**

candidates also ran for local posts in **Hidalgo, Starr, Victoria, McLennan**, and other counties.

The party, which had spread to many other states, held its first national conference in **El Paso** on September 1-4, 1972. About half of the estimated 1,500 participants were women, and a large number



of elderly people also attended. The delegates formed the **Congreso de Aztlán** to run the national party and elected **Gutiérrez** as **RUP** national chairman. Despite his standing as the party's chief political candidate, **Muñiz** was not much heeded. As a result, he left the gathering early to campaign in the governor's race.

The **RUP** platform that **Muñiz** put before voters, while emphasizing **Mexican-American** community control, bilingual education, and women's and workers' rights, bore similarity to the values espoused by the liberal faction of the state **Democratic** party, which supported **Frances (Sissy) Farenthold** for the party's gubernatorial nomination.

In spite of this, **Muñiz** did not receive strong support from liberals. Ultimately, even **Farenthold** endorsed **Dolph Briscoe**, to whom she had lost the nomination, although she had once referred to him as "a bowl of pablum." **Muñiz** won 6 percent (214,149) of the votes in the November election, thus reducing **Briscoe's** margin of victory so that the race was the first in the twentieth century in which a **Texas** governor was elected with less than a majority. **Muñiz** won heavily in some **South Texas** counties and had a decent turnout in large cities. Over the next two years **RUP** solidified its **South Texas** rural base and racked up more nonpartisan victories in the **Winter Garden Region**. It also achieved political successes in **Kyle** and **Lockhart**. Its urban support, though quite strong among university activists and barrio youth and politicians, remained small. This ultimately hurt the party's future, since many Hispanics lived in the state's major urban areas and their support of **RUP** was necessary for the party to have a larger political impact.

In 1974, **RUP** was ready for another try at the governor's race, with **Muñiz** once again its candidate. The party also ran a slate of fourteen men and two women for state representative from **Lubbock, Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Falfurrias, Crystal City**, and other cities. As in the 1972 election, the **RUP** campaign literature emphasized the party's **Chicano** foundation; but it also asserted a desire to "ensure democracy for [the] many, not the few" and the need to preserve "human and natural resources."

In addition, it called for the prosecution of industrial polluters. In his announcement for the governor's race on January 16, 1974, **Muñiz** sought to maximize the party's appeal to a broader spectrum of the state's voters, stressing **RUP's** ideas for new modes of transportation, improved funding of public education, better medical care, and solutions to urban problems.

But **RUP** did not fare well in the 1974 general election. **Muñiz** got only 190,000 votes and posed no real threat to **Briscoe's** reelection. In addition, none of the sixteen candidates for the state House garnered enough support to win. The party's sole real victories were in **Crystal City**, where cofounder **Gutiérrez** was elected as **Zavala County Judge** and the party successfully defended its dominance of other county offices. Nonetheless, by its numerous victories in **South Texas**, **RUP** had achieved **Mexican-American** political dominance in some cities and altered the state's political life.

Several **Mexican-American** women were significant participants at the state and national level. **Evey Chapa**, for instance, ensured that **RUP's** state executive committee provide for a female member; **Virginia Múzquiz** headed the **RUP** nationally from 1972 to 1974.

Sources:

Raza Unida Party Collection, Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas at Austin.

The Touch of a Teacher

How a little time in the life of a child can make all the difference in the world

Most Texas schools are now in session for the 2022-2023 academic year. Most students will begin the term with new clothes and all the nervousness that comes from advancing to the next grade. But not all the children will begin the new school year at the same time. Those that have spent the summer up North with their parents who work in the agricultural fields will not be arriving until mid September or even October.

The story you are about to read concerns one of these students. It was written by his fifth grade teacher. If you are a teacher, you may have had a student like **Juan Garza** in your class. Or maybe you knew a student like him when you were going to school.

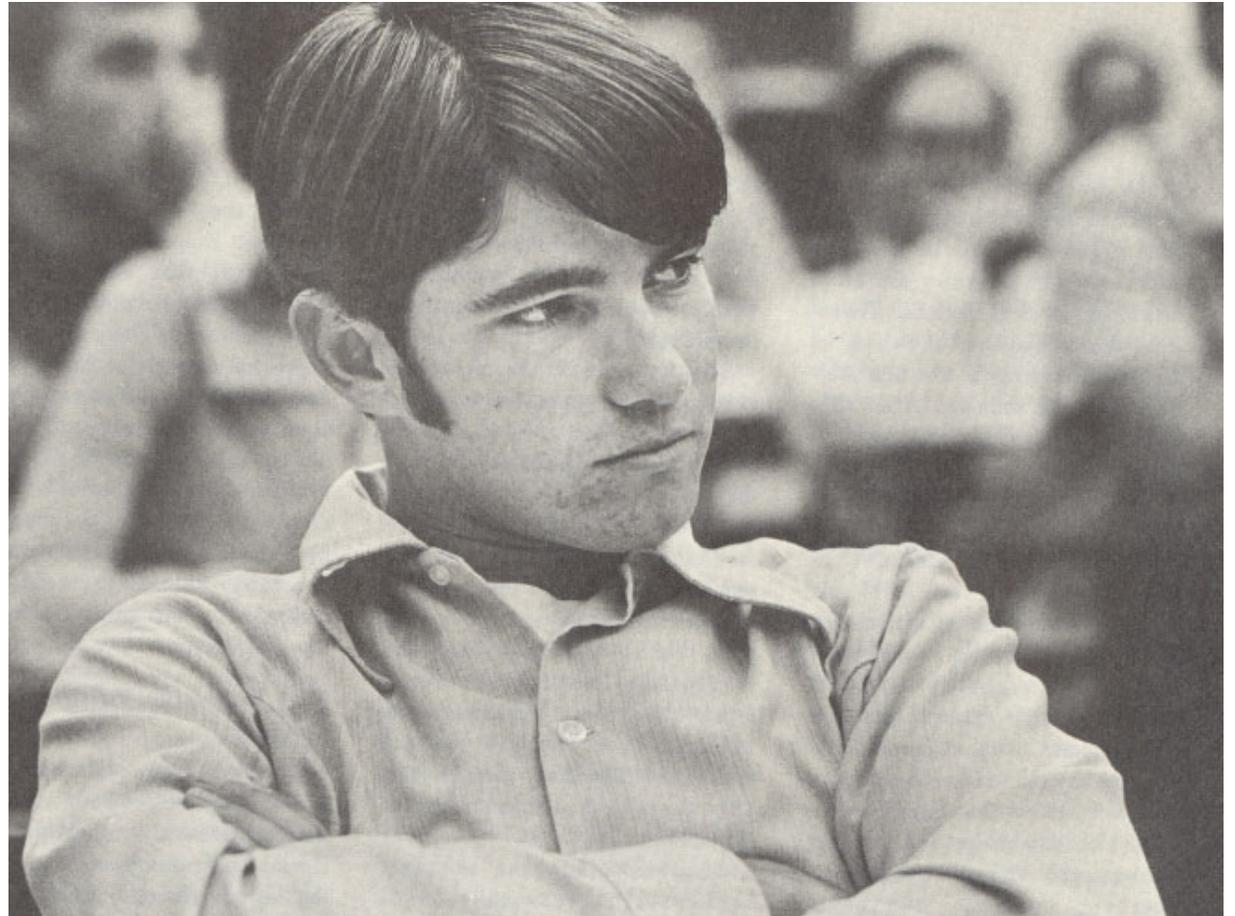
Juan's letter came today and now that I have read it, I will place it in my cedar chest with the other things that are important in my life. The letter started out with: *"I wanted you to be the first to know.*

..." I smiled as I read the words he had written and my heart swelled with a pride that I have no right to feel. I have not seen **Juan Garza** since he was a student in my class some 17 years ago. It was early in my teaching career. I had only been teaching two years but from the first day that he stepped into my classroom, I disliked **Juan**.

Teachers are not supposed to have favorites in a class, but most especially they are not to show a dislike for a particular child. I thought I was quite capable of handling my personal feelings along that line until **Juan** walked into my class.

I'm sorry to say it, but **Juan Garza** was one student I disliked. First of all he was dirty. Not just occasionally, but all of the time. Second, he smelled. He smelled like the crops he and his family were picking. And of course the smell varied with whatever was being harvested. His hair hung low over his ears and he actually had to hold it out of his eyes as he worked on assignments in class.

By the end of the first week of school, I knew he was hopelessly behind all the others. And not only was he behind, but he was also just plain slow. As each day passed, I began to withdraw from him. While I didn't actually ridicule the boy, my attitude was obviously apparent to the rest of the class for he quickly became the class goat, the outcast, the unlovable, the unloved.



He knew I didn't like him but he didn't know why. He also knew that other teachers in the school didn't like him either. As the days rolled on we made it through the fall festival, Halloween and Thanksgiving. By the time the Christmas season arrived I knew **Juan** was going to have to repeat the entire school year.

To justify holding him back, I went to his cumulative folder from time to time.

To justify holding him back, I went to his cumulative folder from time to time. He had very low grades for the first four years

but no grade failures. How he made it. I do not know. I closed my mind to the personal remarks that had been written by other teachers over the years. Remarks like:

1st grade - Juan shows promise but has a poor situation at home.

2nd grade - Juan could do better, but his mother is terminally ill. He receives little help at home.

3rd grade - Juan is a pleasant boy, but misses too many days of school. Mother passed away at the end of the school year.

4th grade - Very slow but well behaved. Shows some talent for art. Father often Believed to be working in California.

Well they passed him four times, but he will certainly repeat the fifth grade. "Do him good," I said to myself.

The day before the holidays arrived we had a school Christmas party. Teachers always get gifts, but for some reason this party seemed bigger and more elaborate than ever. There wasn't a student who hadn't brought me a gift. And each unwrapping brought squeals of delight as the students tried to guess who it was from.

Juan's gift wasn't the last one I picked up . . .

Juan's gift wasn't the last one I picked up. In fact, it was somewhere in the middle of the pile. It's wrapping was accomplished with a brown paper bag. For decorations he had colored Christmas trees and bells all around it and used masking tape to hold it together. The tag said: For **Miss Johnson** from **Juan**.

The class was completely silent as I began to unwrap **Juan's** gift. As I removed the last bit of masking tape, two items fell out and onto my lap. One was a gaudy rhinestone bracelet with several stones missing. The second item was a bottle of dime store cologne that was half empty. I could hear the snickering and whispers of the other children. At first I was embarrassed. Then I thought no. . . there is no reason for me to be embarrassed.

I looked at Juan and said "Isn't this lovely?"

I looked at **Juan** and said "Isn't this lovely?" I placed the bracelet on my wrist and asked him to help me fasten the clasp. There were a few oohs and aahs as I dabbed the cologne behind my ears. I continued to open gifts until I reached the bottom of the pile. We drank our refreshments and played games until the bell rang signaling the end of school for the holidays. Everyone gathered their belongings and filed out of the room with shouts of Merry Christmas. Everyone except **Juan**. He stayed behind.

With just us in the room, **Juan** walked

toward my desk clutching his books. "You smell just like my mom," he said softly. "Her bracelet looks real pretty on you too. I'm glad you like it." Then he quickly left the room.

I locked the door to my classroom, sat down at my desk and wept quietly. When the tears stopped I resolved to make up for the way in which I had been treating **Juan**. For months I had deliberately deprived him of a teacher who truly cared.

Beginning in January, I stayed after school every afternoon with **Juan**. We did extra problems in math. We did extra work in reading and spelling. Slowly but surely, he started to improve. By April, he was really moving along. Even the other students noticed that something was very different about **Juan**. Only once did I panic when he missed several days of school. It turned out that had to go work in the fields.

When the school year ended **Juan** had one of the highest averages in the class. And even though I knew he would be leaving for **California** to work in the strawberry fields, I believed that he had found a new confidence and outlook on who and what he could be.

I continued to teach and never again heard from **Juan** . . . until seven years later. He wrote me a letter from **Watsonville, California** that started out:

Dear Miss Johnson,

I wanted you to be the first to know, I will be graduating from high school next month, second in my class.

Very truly yours,

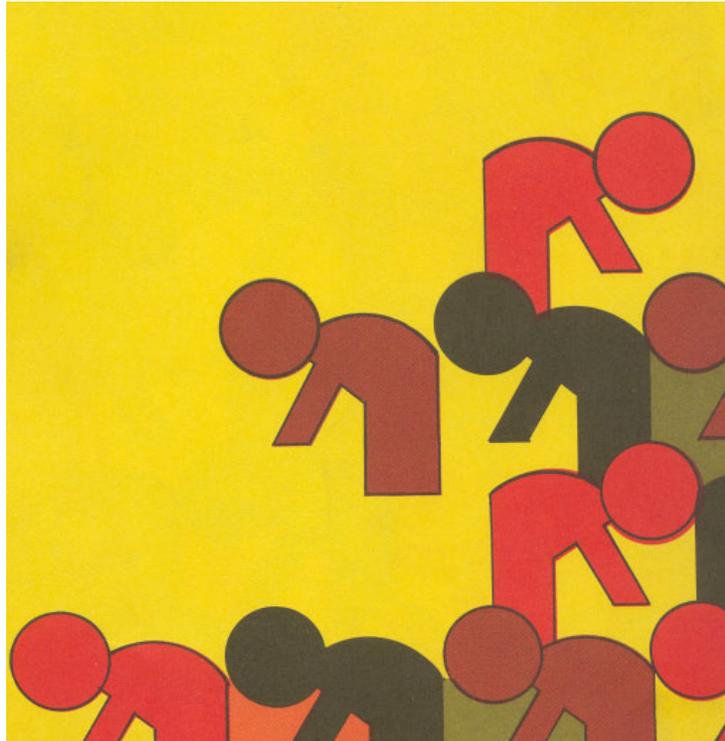
Juan Garza.

What a surprise. I sent him a card of congratulations and a small pen and pencil gift. **Juan Garza**, I wondered what he would do after graduation?

Four years later, **Juan's** second letter came. It had a postmark from **Ann Arbor, Michigan**:

Dear Miss Johnson,

I wanted you to be the first to know that I was informed I'll be graduating first in my class. The University has



not been easy. Although I received a small scholarship from the farmworker's union, I had to work part-time all four years to help cover the costs. But I loved every minute of it.

Very truly yours,

Juan P. Garza

Juan is graduating from college? I thought back for a moment at how quickly the years had passed and the fact that he still remembered me. I also recalled that Christmas party. I decided to send him a nice pair of sterling silver monogram cuff links and a card. I was so very proud of him. The **University of Michigan at Ann**

Arbor is one of the best schools in the world. He was doing good, very good!

Today, I received **Juan's** third letter with a postmark from the **Boston** area. Like his other letters he started it with:

Dear Miss Johnson,

I wanted you to be the first to know, that as of this writing I am now Juan P. Garza, M.D.. How about that! Harvard was hard but I have no regrets. I will be returning to California to do a residency at UCLA and work on pesticide issues as they effect farmworkers.

And I am going to be married in July . . . the 27th, to be exact. I wanted to ask you if you could come and sit where Mom would sit if she were here. I'll have no family present as Dad died last year. It would mean a lot to me. I can send you the plane tickets.

Very truly yours,

Juan

I'm not sure what kind of gift one sends to a doctor upon completion of medical school. I'll have to think about it for a moment. But my note cannot wait.

Dear Juan,

Congratulations. You did it by yourself in spite of those like me, and not because of me. This day has come for you. God Bless you. I'll be at that wedding with great joy.

Very truly yours,

Miss Johnson

We know there is a **Juan Garza** in every school in America. We know there are students who cry out for teachers who truly care. Look carefully and you might be able to find a **Juan Garza** in your school. But an equally important question is whether or not there is a **Miss Johnson** in every school. Where are the **Miss Johnsons**? Just a little time, a little more caring, that's all some children need.

We Will Never forget What Happened on May 24th, 2022



UNITED FOR UVALDE

August 23rd, 2022 – Uvalde City Council meeting:

“My name is Kimberley Rubio. I am Lexi’s mom. Burying my daughter was the hardest thing I have ever done. Her final resting place Hillcrest Cemetery, is a place of solace. As such, it is important to me that her gravesite appropriately represent her. I come to you today to request a standing headstone which is currently prohibited by the city. You have a copy of more or less what I want and I urge you to honor my request. It has also been brought to my attention that some community members oppose my request. To that I say if your child wasn’t murdered in her 4th grade classroom, your opposition doesn’t count!”

Uvalde Timeline

Events and Activities that have transpired over the past month

August 1st, 2022

Hondo City Council revokes Friends of NRA rental agreement. It was a heated city council meeting in Hondo on Monday evening, which was called to discuss the Medina County Friends of NRA event set for Saturday.

Wednesday, August 10

Travis County 419th Civil District Court Judge Catherine A. Mauzy rules that the Department of Public Safety does not have to turn over the records related to the Uvalde school shooting sought by Senator Roland Gutierrez because Gutierrez did not properly file the request under the Texas Public Information Act.

Tuesday, August 16

The Texas Tribune reports that millions of dollars donated after the Robb shooting have yet to reach victims' families and that months more of delay are likely.

Monday, August 22

The California-based law firm Bonner & Bonner announces a \$27 billion class-action civil rights lawsuit on behalf of Robb Elementary victims and families, targeting multiple entities, including the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District, the City of Uvalde, law enforcement agencies, and Oasis Outback, after weeks of meeting with families at Pastor Daniel Myers' church, Tabernacle of Worship.

August 23rd, 2022

Uvalde City Council meeting Kimberley Rubio speaks, ask for a standing headstone "My name is Kimberley Rubio. I am Lexi's mom. Burring my daughter was the hardest thing I have ever done. Her final resting place [is] Hillcrest Cemetery is a place of solace. As such, it is important to me that her gravesite appropriate represent her. I come to you today to request a standing headstone which is currently prohibited by the city. You have a copy of more or less of what I want and I urge you to honor my request. It has also been brought to my attention that some community members oppose my request.

To that I say if your child wasn't murdered in her 4th grade classroom, your opposition doesn't count.

Wednesday, August 24

Young girl speaks at Uvalde CISD school board meeting I am here to make a statement. I believe law enforcement's job is to protect the kids, why didn't they do that on May 24th? I



have mentioned this to Mr. Pete Arredondo numerous times. Turn in your badge!"

Pete Arredondo's attorney issues a statement that Arredondo "will not participate in his own illegal and unconstitutional public lynching and respectfully requests the Board immediately reinstate him, with all backpay and benefits and close the complaint as unfounded."

The UCISD school board votes to fire UCISD police chief Pete Arredondo. Arredondo is not in attendance at the meeting, citing death threats.

Thursday, August 25

Trustees vowed to coordinate with the Superintendent for an evaluation of the UCISD Police Department, pursue review of UCISD administrative practices regarding accountability, and hold a comprehensive town hall meaning before the 2022 - 2023 school year begins.

Saturday, August 27

Victims' families gather with activists and victims' families and survivors of the Santa Fe school shooting and other school shootings on the steps of the Texas State Capitol at a March for Our Lives Rally, demanding that Governor Greg Abbott call a special legislative session to raise the minimum age to purchase an assault rifle from 18 to 21.

Sunday, August 28

Uvalde school board unanimously agrees to fire school police chief Pete Arredondo hours after he publicly demanded backpay and asserted claims against him were unfounded. Although members requested he be present, Pete Arredondo did not attend the public meeting, citing concerns for his safety. Instead, Arredondo had his lawyer release a 17-page public statement half an hour prior.

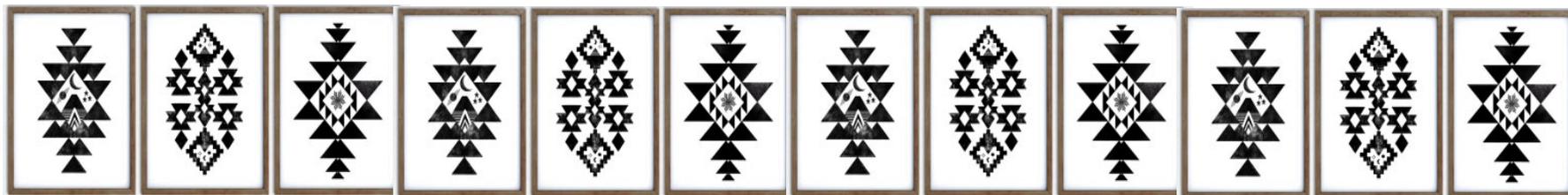
Mural in honor of the victims go up around town. Mike Hernandez is confirmed to continue an interim USCISD police chief.

Aug 30, 2022

Uvalde parents worry about school safety as new school year approaches

September 2nd, 2022

Former Uvaldean Elvia Perez, Lalo Castillo who currently resides in Uvalde and Alfredo Santos c/s who lives in Austin, Texas appear in a segment of ABC news program Nightline where they discuss the Uvalde public school walkot that took place 52 years ago..



Read *La Voz de Uvalde County* y Mantengase Informado

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September, 2022

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Please mail your check to: *La Voz de Uvalde County* for \$75.00 to 416 W. Nopal Street Uvalde, Texas 78801. Please call us if you have any questions or would like to pay with a credit card.

Gracias.

Américo Paredes:

This month in Border History

Américo Paredes was born in **Brownsville, Texas**. He was a musician, scholar, and folklorist. Born to **Justo Paredes**, a rancher, and **Clotilde Manzano-Vidal**, he was named **Américo** by his mother after the Italian navigator, **Amerigo Vespucci**, as “*the result of a promise to an aunt and her Italian sailor husband.*”

Growing up bilingual, **Paredes** had an ear for the cadences and rhythms of both Spanish and English, whether written, spoken, or sung. As a youngster, he wrote poetry, played guitar, and sang occasionally. He was educated in the **Brownsville** school system and graduated from high school in 1934. That same year, he began working at the **Brownsville Herald**, first as a cub reporter and later as a proofreader in both Spanish and English, earning \$11.40 per week. In 1936 **Paredes** completed his associate’s degree from **Brownsville Junior College** and two years later he began to publish poetry in **San Antonio’s** Spanish-language newspaper, **La Prensa**.

In 1937 he published his first book, a volume of poetry entitled **Cantos de adolescencia**. While hosting a radio program in **Brownsville** in 1939, **Paredes** invited locally-known singer, **Chelo Silva** (who later became known as “La Reina de los Boleros”) to perform. They later married but divorced when the couple drifted apart during **Paredes’s** tour of duty in the

United States Army. They had a son.

In 1940 **Paredes** went to work for **Pan American Airways** as a civilian war worker. In 1941, however, he had enlisted in the **United States Army** and was sent to the **Pacific Theater**, where the army made use of his literary skills, assigning him to write and edit **Stars and Stripes**. After the war, he covered the Japanese war crimes trials. He also edited **Armed Forces** magazine. While stationed in **Japan**, he met and married **Amelia Nagamine** on May 28, 1948.

Paredes returned to the **United States** in 1950 and also returned to college, this time enrolling at the **University of Texas at Austin**. By 1956 he had completed a bachelor’s (1951, summa cum laude), a master’s (1953), and a doctorate (1956) degree. He was the first **Mexican-American** to receive a Ph.D. at the **University of Texas**.

After acquiring his doctorate, he accepted a teaching job at the **University of Texas at El Paso**, and within a year he was offered a tenure-track professorship at **UT Austin**. He was first appointed to the **Department of English**, but in 1969 he accepted an additional appointment in the **Department of Anthropology**. As a teacher, he often integrated music into his classroom. Rather than sticking to



the standard lecture format, he often played his guitar and sang in class.

In 1958 the **University of Texas Press** published his dissertation as a book, **With His Pistol in His Hand: A Border Ballad and Its Hero**. The subject was **Gregorio Cortez Lira** (or simply known as **Gregorio Cortez**), a Tejano hero of a well-known border *corrido*. The book garnered immediate acclaim for **Paredes** and helped to establish his reputation as a folklorist.

Beginning in 1958, **Paredes** published a series of articles on the musical form of the *corrido*. Although the *corrido* was long thought to be of solely Mexican invention, **Paredes** demonstrated that, in fact, the *corrido* originated along the Texas-Mexican border. The earliest extant *corrido*, “*El*

Corrido de Kansas” (“The Ballad of Kansas”) actually originated in **Texas**. Its subject is ostensibly a cattle drive, but the *corrido* also subtly explores the relationship between Anglo and Mexican cowboys.

Paredes’s early work as a poet and novelist helped to spark the **Chicano** literary movement, influencing writers such as **Tomás Rivera** and **Rolando Hinojosa-Smith**. **Paredes** published a number of important books and articles, including **Folktales of Mexico** (1970), and **A Texas Mexican Cancionero: Folksongs of the Lower Border** (1976). His later works included **George Washington Gómez: A Mexicotexan Novel** (1990), a novel he had actually written years earlier as a reporter, and **Between Two Worlds** (1991), which influenced another generation of Mexican-American writers.

Paredes was also an activist. As a professor, he pushed for the founding of the **Center for Intercultural Studies of Folklore and Ethnomusicology** in 1967. He lobbied for and in 1970, along with **George I. Sánchez**, cofounded **UT Austin’s Center for Mexican-American Studies**. Once the center was created, **Paredes** continued to promote and bring mainstream acceptance to the field of **Mexican-American Studies**. Through his teaching and writing, he challenged the portrayal of **Mexican**

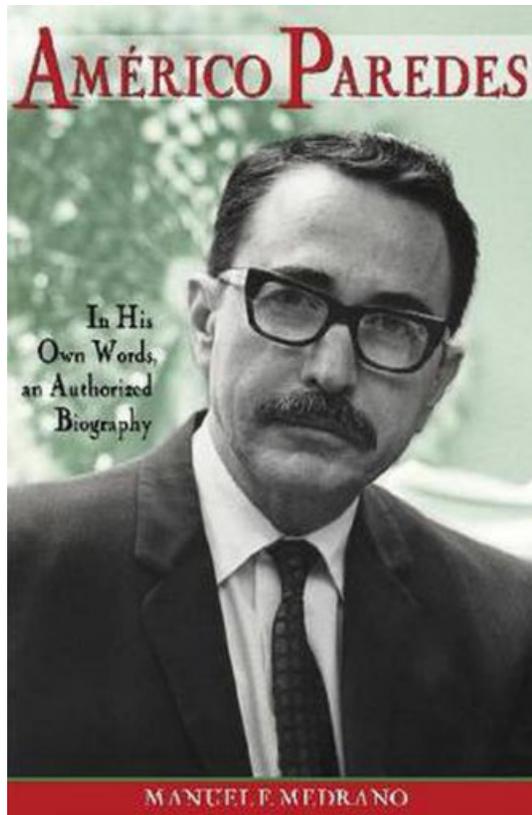
Americans’ role in **Texas** history by authors such as **Walter Prescott Webb** and **J. Frank Dobie**.

Music and folklore were intertwined in **Paredes’s** career as both a scholar and teacher. As a scholar, he collected stories and jokes from the **Texas-Mexico** border and from northern **Mexico**, and he trained generations of folklorists in **UT’s Anthropology** and **English** departments. In recognition of his contributions to folklore, literature, and cultural studies, he received numerous honors and awards, including a **Guggenheim Fellowship** in 1962 and the **Charles Frankel Prize** from the **National Endowment for the Humanities** in 1989. In 1990 **Paredes** received the **Orden del Aguila Azteca**, **Mexico’s** highest honor given to citizens of other countries. In 1998 the **Austin Independent School District** invited him to break ground for the **Américo Paredes Middle School**, named in his honor.

Paredes died of pneumonia at the age of eighty-three on May 5, 1999, in **Austin, Texas**. His wife **Amelia** died later that year. They were survived by **Américo Paredes, Jr.**, (his son with **Chelo Silva**) and by their three children: **Alan**, **Vicente**, and **Julia**. In 2008 **Américo Paredes** was an inaugural inductee into the **Austin Music Memorial** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/downontherio>.

From **TSHA’s Handbook of Texas**

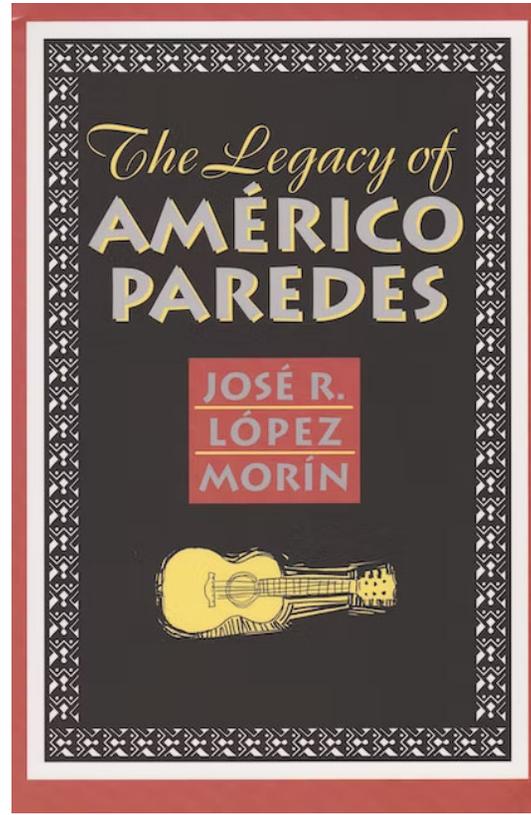
Libros para el otoño



Américo Paredes (1915–1999) was a folklorist, scholar, and professor at the **University of Texas at Austin** who is widely acknowledged as one of the founding scholars of **Chicano Studies**.

He was a brilliant teacher and prolific writer who championed the preservation of border culture and history. With the publication of **“With His Pistol in His Hand”: A Border Ballad and Its Hero** in 1958, **Paredes** soon emerged as a challenger to the status quo. He was a co-founder in 1970 of the **Center for Mexican American Studies** at the **University of Texas at Austin** and is credited with introducing the concept of **Greater Mexico**. **Paredes** became a scholar of scholars, guiding many students to become academic leaders.

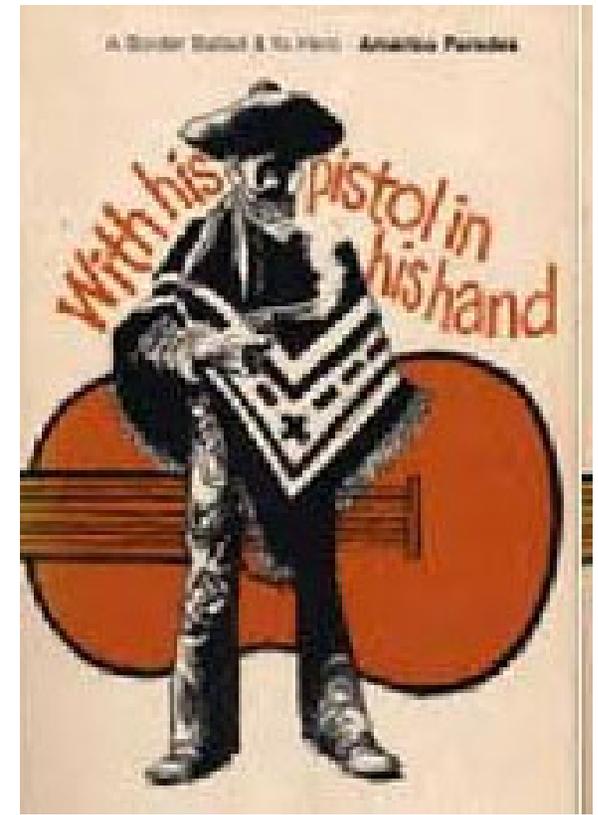
“Medrano’s biography offers an inspiring and necessary must-read for anyone claiming to have more than just a passing interest in studying the history and cultures of the American Southwest where Mexican Americans have a continuing and growing, important presence.”—Texas Books in Review



Américo Paredes (1915–99) is one of the seminal figures in **Mexican American** studies. With this first book-length biography of **Paredes**, author **José R. López Morín** offers fresh insight into the life and work of this influential scholar, as well as the close relationship between his experience and his thought.

Morín shows how Mexican literary traditions—particularly the performance contexts of oral “literature”—shaped **Paredes’s** understanding of his people and his critique of Anglo scholars’ portrayal of **Mexican American** history, character, and cultural expressions.

Although he surveys all of **Paredes’s** work, **Morín** focuses most heavily on his masterpiece, **With a Pistol in His Hand**. It is in this book that **Morín** sees **Paredes’s** innovative interdisciplinary approach most effectively expressed. Dealing as he did with a people at the intersection of cultures, **Paredes** considered the intersection of disciplines a necessary locus for clear understanding. **Morín** traces the evolution of **Paredes’s** thought and his battles to create a legiti-



Gregorio Cortez Lira, a ranchhand of Mexican parentage, was virtually unknown until one summer day in 1901 when he and a **Texas** sheriff, pistols in hand, blazed away at each other after a misunderstanding. The sheriff was killed and **Gregorio** fled immediately, realizing that in practice there was one law for Anglo-Texans, another for Texas-Mexicans. The chase, capture, and imprisonment of **Cortez** are high drama that cannot easily be forgotten. Even today, in the cantinas along both sides of the **Rio Grande**, Mexicans sing the praises of the great “sheriff-killer” in the ballad which they call *“El Corrido de Gregorio Cortez.”*

Américo Paredes tells the story of **Cortez**, the man and the legend, in vivid, fascinating detail in **“With His Pistol in His Hand.”** which also presents a unique study of a ballad in the making. Deftly woven into the story are interpretations of the Border country, its history, its people, and their folkways.

amazon

**Learn proverbs well and
good speech will come naturally
Aprende bien los refranes y
la elocuencia vendra de forma natural**

Lessons From The Beet Fields

The best part about thinning the beet fields in the state of Idaho in my youth was working alongside a fellow itinerant and master raconteur, Monterrey. I knew I'd never win, but I loved trading proverbs with him. Mostly I listened because he was much older and wiser. I knew that Idaho and Monterrey would expand my horizons beyond any book, at this point in my life... and they did. From Idaho I learned about the wider world, and from Monterrey I learned that you find wisdom in the strangest places. Without any trace of self pity, he would at times proclaim: ' todos tenenos cerebro...no todos tenemos la chansita' (we all have brains...we don't all have the opportunity).



Monterrey was the only name I knew him by, and Lare (Laredo) was the only name he knew me by. I believe there had to be a longstanding tradition among the itinerants at the labor camp to address each other this way. Monterrey himself did not relish familiarity " *Las malas companias hechan a perder las buenas costumbres*," he would say (bad associations spoil useful habits). Fortunately I presented no threat. He tolerated me.

I told him one morning, while we were thinning our rows, how much I appreciated his ready rapport and sayings. I asked him how he had come to own so many proverbs and truisms.

He eyed me with a cautious look, then said that a hardscrabble life of destitution and his own reckless, curious spirit led him down the wrong path 'sin rienda ni arrendador' (without rein nor trainer). He added that life had given him a pretty fair shake, considering his obstinacy and gallivanting ways. I am done with 'buscando ruido al chicharron' (looking for noise in the pork rind/stirring trouble). "At this stage," he ruminated, "I eat well, I sleep well and I provide for my family back home. All I have to do now is stick to what I know best, the fields... 'zapatero, a tu zapato' " (shoemaker, stick to your last...last='horma'/mold).

"You Lare, on the other hand, must chase your 'chansita' down, grab her by the neck, and never let go. Stay hungry and the world will be your oyster. 'Tu hambre es la mejor salsa' " (your hunger is the best sauce).

"If you don't want to thin beet fields in the future, you'll need to thin a few more beet fields now." One more lesson from Monterrey!

Jose Onofre Gonzalez

August 2022

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.

teacher	maestro
classroom	aula
school	escuela
principal	principal
books	libros
bell	campana
chalk board	pizarra
pencil	lápiz
pen	pluma
paper	papel
lunch	almuerzo
bus	autobús escolar
tardy	tardío
hope	esperanza
waiting	espera

Uvalde's Newest LULAC Council



ABOVE: Uvalde LULAC Council meets with the national president of LULAC, **Domingo Garcia**. From left to right, **Philip Ruiz** from Lockhart, **Fidel Acevedo** from Austin, **Joshua Clark** from Uvalde, **Domingo Garcia**, Nation President of LULAC, **Leticia Hernandez** from Uvalde, **Javier Cazares** from Uvalde and **Otilia Buentello Enriquez** from Cleburne, Texas. For more information about the Uvalde LULAC council please call: (830) 407-1330

With approximately 132,000 members and supporters throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, LULAC is the largest and oldest Hispanic organization in the United States. LULAC advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 1,000 LULAC councils nationwide. The organization involves and serves all Hispanic nationality groups.

Historically, LULAC has focused heavily on education, civil rights, health, and employment for Hispanics. LULAC councils and LULAC National Educational Service Centers provide approximately a million dollars in scholarships to Hispanic students each year. LULAC Institute programs include citizenship and voter registration drives, education and health events and programs that empower the Hispanic community at the local, state and national level.



LULAC was first organized in Uvalde, Texas in 1931 and was LULAC Council number 17. Mr. T.F. Torres was its president and its mailing address was at the Uvalde Leader News. In the nearby city of Crystal City, they had LULAC Council 16, headed up by J. Reynaldo Flores. In Del Rio, Texas LULAC Council 18 was headed up by José B. Rubio, and in Eagle Pass, Texas, J.C. Rodriguez was the president in 1931.

In the 1970s, LULAC is believed to have been active in Uvalde. In the 1990s there was indeed an active LULAC Council that met regularly and hosted a variety of events.

The early story of LULAC can be found in its newsletters which have recently been posted on line and in books that have been written over the years about the organization. Dr. Cynthia Orozco from New Mexico is one of the leading experts on the development and growth of LULAC.

OPEN IN THEATERS **SEPTEMBER 20**

Shaina
SANDOVAL

Baldemar
RODRIGUEZ

Lupe
CASARES

How far would you go to keep
your family together?

**POLICE
ICE**

IN SEARCH OF THE
AMERICAN DREAM

PARENTS STRONGLY
CAUTIONED
PG-13
A SCENE OF VIOLENCE
THEMATIC ELEMENTS
AND LANGUAGE
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13

HAÇIENDA RECORDS