People in the News

Suárez Joins Voces Voces Project as Presenter

Dr. Lucía M. Suárez is an Associate Professor of Spanish and Latinx Studies and the director of the Latino/a Program at Iowa State University. This year she will be one of the guest presenters at the Voces of a Pandemic Symposium sponsored by the University of Texas Oral History Project.

Dr. Suárez’s presentation features the work done in the U.S. Latino/a Studies class and a Hispanic serving high school, focusing on Latinx lives through oral histories along with the process of making visible Iowa Latinx life stories in education.

Lucía M. Suárez has written and taught extensively on the literary production of the Caribbean and its Diaspora authors, claiming their islands and framing their identities through memory and emotion, within a human rights context. Through her research, writing and teaching, she examines the politics of belonging and exclusion, more specifically the dynamics of social mobility through the arts, literature, literacy, dance and performance.

At Iowa State University, she teaches all levels of Spanish language, Textual and Media Analyses, oral history, the Senior Seminar on Latinx Memoirs, and diversity courses such as Introduction to Latino/a Studies (online and face to face). Enthusiastically, she encourages all her students to be compassionate, informed, local and global citizens.

She is the author of The Tears of Hispaniola: Haitian and Dominican Diaspora Memory (Florida University Press, 2006), co-editor, of The Portable Island: Cubans at Home in the World (Palgrave McMillan, 2008), with Ruth Behar. Dr. Suárez earned her Ph.D from Duke University in 1999 and bachelor’s degree from Hunter College in 1991.

José R. Irizarry Inaugurated as Austin Seminary’s Tenth President

The Reverend Dr. José Ramon Irizarry was inaugurated as Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary’s next president on March 31, 2023, at University Presbyterian Church, Austin. A native of Puerto Rico, he is the first non-white individual to hold this position over Austin Seminary’s 121-year history.

Prior to his presidency, Dr. Irizarry served as Vice President of Education at the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). A scholar in the field of practical theology, Irizarry taught at Villanova University and has held teaching and administrative positions at various educational and theological institutions including The University of Cambridge (Visiting Fellow), Lutheran School of Theology, the Pacific School of Religion, and McCormick Theological Seminary.

He earned degrees from the University of Puerto Rico (BA), McCormick Theological Seminary (MDiv), and Northwestern University (PhD) as well as professional certifications from the Università per Stranieri di Perugia, Italy, Boston College, and Cornell University.

José R. Irizarry

Saxophonista Fito Olivarez Passes Away in Houston, Texas

Famous Mexican musician and singer Fito Olivarez passed away at the age of 75. Born Rodolfo Olivares in Tamaulipas, Mexico, in 1947, he was a saxophonist known in the Latino music industry for big cumbia hits like "Juana La Cubana," "Agüita de Melon," and "El Chicle," which are considered must-plays at weddings, quinceañeras, and other celebratory events.

The musician started playing professionally at 16 and wrote music for a variety of groups. He then formed Fito Olivares y su Grupo La Pura Sabrosura in Houston in 1980.

Lily Zamarripa-Saenz Appointed to ESB-MACC Board

Lily Zamarripa-Saenz has been appointed by Mayor Kirk Watson of Austin, Texas to serve on the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Board. Lily comes from a large East-Austin family that blazed inroads into Austin’s political climate. She’s a Graduate of Texas State University w/a degree in PR & a minor in Sociology.

Dr. Emilio Zamora Receives Lifetime Award from UT

Congratulations to Dr. Emilio Zamora who is the recipient of this year’s UT William C. Powers Jr. Lifetime Service Award. Dr. Zamora served as the President of the Texas State Historical Association from 2019-2020 and is a co-founder/member of Academia Cuauhtli, a cultural revitalization program for elementary children in collaboration with Austin ISD.
Pensamientos

Bienvenidos otra vez a La Voz. Hay tantas cosas que merecen comentarios no se donde empezar. Bueno en la portada de este emjor de tenemos a Eva Longoria y seria Searching for Mexico, so I guess I will start with that.

Over the couple of weeks Eva Longoria has been hosting a series on CNN called Searching for Mexico. The series features various regions of the country and highlights the food from each region. As I watch it, I like many of the viewers are amazed by the combination of ingredients and manner in which the food is prepared.

At the same time that I am watching each episode, I think back to my youth and realize how ignorant I was. Ignorant as in “not knowing.” My understanding of Mexican food was your standard tacos, enchiladas, rice and beans. I remember growing up and my mother serving us chalupas. I was about six years old and I called them flat tacos. I thought I hit the jackpot when I discovered carne guisada.

As a teenager in the Chicano Movement in Uvalde, Texas, I learned real quick to hang out with the chunky guys because after a meeting or a picket line, we were going to eat. (The older fat guys always had money for eating out.)

When I moved to Houston in the late 1970s, I got a job as a waiter in a Mexican Restaurant/Club. On the menu were all kinds of things I never had heard of before. For example, “chimichangas.” What is a chimichanga I asked the head waiter. He looked at me and explained that it was like a Chinese egg roll because it was deep fried. When I saw one up close, it said to myself, this is like a burrito but deep fried.

Throughout the years I must admit that my culinary education has improved a lot. And I have traveled to various parts of Mexico but to tell you the truth, I am still a bit cautious about eating food that I don’t know much about. As I continue to watch this series I am looking for something I can suggest to my daughter that we should try in the kitchen. This six part series airs on Sundays on CNN.

Cambiando de Tema

The Blanton Museum at the University of Texas at Austin has recently acquired part of Gilberto Cardenas and Dolores Garcia art collection. This 5,000 piece collection by some of the most notable Chicano artists in the country is a treasure that should be seen by everyone. The Blanton recently hired Claudia Zapata as its first Associate Curator of Latino Art.

Cambiando de Tema

On page 9 you will find a story from The Daily Texan, on Dr. Monica Munoz Martinez. She has been in the news quier a bit in the last two years. First as a recipient of a MacArthur Grant and most recently as Woman of the Year by the publication USA Today. We are very proud of Dr. Martinez and all that she has accomplished in her career.

Cambiando de Tema

On page 10 is a short story on the Austin Hispanic Hall of Fame. This an effort by community activists to recognize and remember those activists who have made a difference in Austin, Texas.

There are literally hundreds of men and women who have worked over the years to improve the quality of life of La Raza in some capacity. They have have done it quietly sometimes without pay or publicity. A number of them have sacrificed more than their families ever suspected. And they did it because they knew it was the right thing to do and needed.

The Austin Hispanic Hall of Fame is an effort to say thank you and shine a light on what these folks have contributed to the community. A working group has been meeting to work out the logistics and details of thisw project. Contact Alfredo Santos c/s for more information. (512) 944-4123

Cambiando de Tema

My last comment is about the recent passing of my younger brother Tommy Santos. Tommy, pictured below at age 10, was five years younger than me which means he was 65 at the time of his passing.

I, like many family members are still processing his passing. You will find his story on pages 14 thru 17 in this issue of La Voz. It is said that time can be a great healer. If this is true then I will have to wait a long time. One does not forget a person who has been a part of your life for years.

Por cualquier pregunta, llamanos: (512) 944-4123
Officials say Brandon Daniel was intoxicated and walked into the Walmart on I-35 and Parmer and began causing a problem in the store. Officer Padron responded and tackled Daniel and both fell to the floor.

During the struggle, Daniel pulled a gun from his pocket, shot Padron, and then fired at store employees. Two employees tackled Daniel and used Padron's radio to notify dispatchers of the shooting. 40-year-old Padron died in the store. He left behind two daughters, ages 6 and 10 at the time. He was later buried in his hometown of San Angelo.

In November 2014, Austin ISD honored Padron by dedicating an elementary school in his name. Padron Elementary opened up in August 2014 on West Rundberg in North Austin. It had been a manufacturing warehouse facility that was renovated into AISD's largest elementary school with 57 classrooms.

Brandon Daniel denied appeal

The state's highest criminal court has upheld the conviction and death sentence of cop-killer Brandon Daniel. Daniel went on trial in February 2014. He was found guilty of capital murder and sentenced to death. He had initially asked that his appeals be dropped to expedite his punishment. In 2016, the state's highest criminal court upheld Daniel's conviction and death sentence.

Five years later, in October 2021, Daniel was found dead in his cell. The 33-year-old was found unresponsive in his bunk at the Polunsky Unit in Livingston. Correctional officers and EMS tried to resuscitate him but were unsuccessful. Officials did not believe Daniel's death involved foul play.
CNN Original Series will premiere **Eva Longoria: Searching for Mexico** on Sunday, March 26 at 10pm ET/PT on CNN. Produced by **RAW**, the film and television company behind the two-time Emmy® Award-winning **Stanley Tucci: Searching for Italy**, the six-part series follows award-winning actress, producer, director and activist **Eva Longoria** across the many vibrant regions of **Mexico**, revealing its unique and colorful cuisines.

“I am so excited for viewers to tune in and see firsthand what I love so much about Mexico – the food, the people, the cultures,” said **Eva Longoria**, Host and Executive Producer. “This journey allowed me to further appreciate and fall in love with my roots and I feel so honored that CNN entrusted me with this unforgettable, once in a lifetime, experience.”

Executive produced by **Stanley Tucci**, **Searching for Mexico** invites audiences to journey with Longoria across the lands of her ancestors as she explores how Mexico’s rich culture, landscape, and history have helped shape its cuisine, loved the world over. This season, **Longoria** surveys the cutting-edge gastronomic fare of Mexico City; discovers Mayan influences in Yucatan cuisine, including the slow-cooked cochinita pibil; and ventures to the home of Latin America’s chocolate trade, Oaxaca, where she samples the velvety chocolate mole. As **Longoria** enjoys a festive carne asada in Nuevo Leon, traditional birria stew in Jalisco, and walks in the footsteps of her own ancestor, Lorenzo Longoria, in the exact spot in Veracruz where he arrived 400 years ago, she unlocks the secrets behind Mexico’s most treasured and sometimes surprising dishes. **Searching for Mexico** will regularly air Sundays at 9pm ET/PT.
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One of the Largest Private Collections of Chicano and Latino Art Comes to Blanton Museum

More than 5,000 works of art by U.S. Latino artists are now at the Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin as part of an initiative to expand the museum’s focus on Latino art. The artworks come from the Gilberto Cárdenas and Dolores Garcia Collection, one of the largest private collections of Chicano and Latino art in the world.

The Blanton, known for its collection of American contemporary art and one of the oldest and most distinguished collections of Latin American art in the U.S., has long been committed to exhibiting and researching Latino art, even before such efforts became more prevalent. This is one of the reasons Cárdenas, a former UT Austin professor and pioneer in the field of Latino art, and his wife Dolores Garcia, a UT Austin alumna who worked to advance Latino arts and academic programming at the university for 30 years, selected the Blanton to receive more than half of their collection.

“For decades, Gilberto Cárdenas has supported and championed Latino and Chicano artists, built an important collection, and consistently encouraged museums to feature Latino art,” said Museum Director Simone Wicha. “Latino culture is an essential part of U.S. culture, especially here in the Southwest, and our shared commitment to representing and amplifying Latino history and voices through art prompted me to begin this collaboration with Gilberto and Dolores.”

During the next five years, the Blanton will research and digitize all the artworks. In keeping with Cárdenas’ efforts to encourage greater representation in museum collections across the country, the Blanton will select works to donate to institutions nationwide, though the majority will remain at the museum to maintain the collection’s narrative thread and serve as a resource for UT’s student body and faculty as well as the wider public community.

“As part of a public research university, providing first-class education to more than 60,000 students, and a Hispanic Serving Institution, the Blanton plays a critical role in the educational and research work of this community,” Cárdenas and Garcia said in a statement. “We are confident that the research undertaken by the curatorial staff and the exhibitions and publications that result will represent a valuable contribution to the body of knowledge and understanding of this aspect of American art.”

Alongside the collection, the Blanton will welcome a new associate curator of Latino art, who will be fundamental in the research and presentation of these artworks. This new curatorial role will also help advance Latino studies across the UT campus by supporting faculty members, helping to train the next generation of historians of Chicano and Latino art, and developing educational and exhibition programming. The position is funded by Advancing Latinx Art in Museums, a new initiative supported by the Ford Foundation, the Getty Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Starting next month, visitors to the Blanton will be able to see many of the artworks from the Cárdenas/Garcia Collection in two new Latino art galleries on the museum’s upper level. The inaugural exhibition in the new galleries opened in March and will feature portraits from the collection by Chicano artists.
Southwest Texas Oral History Center
www.oralhistoryswt.org
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Rogelio M. Muñoz
Dr. Monica Muñoz Martinez Named Woman of the Year

USA Today’s Women of the Year project recognized UT professor Monica Muñoz Martinez as a national honoree for her work shedding light on the history of Mexican Americans in Texas during the 20th century.

The project honors influential women who leave positive societal impacts with former first lady Michelle Obama, the women of the 118th Congress, and Sandra Day O’Connor, the first female Supreme Court Justice, among the other honorees.

Martinez pioneered Mapping Violence: Racial Terror in Texas 1900-1930, a digital project which serves to rediscover and focus on stories of racial violence in Texas. She also spearheads Refusing to Forget, a nonprofit organization which brings attention to the state-sanctioned violence toward ethnic Mexicans along the U.S.-Mexico border in the early 20th century.

“It’s a uniquely important practice as a historian, that I need to bring together and find archival materials that can help humanize the victim of a lynching, for example,” Martinez said. “That requires going into local archives and interviewing relatives. Learning and pulling from different resources to have a fuller point of view is so important and satisfying in different ways.”

The two projects largely drew inspiration from research initiatives she oversaw during her time teaching at Brown University and developing her postdoctoral research at UT’s Center for Mexican American Studies, Martinez said. Her work comes amidst recent calls from historians for more inclusive storytelling within the field.

Walter Buenger, Texas State Historical Association’s chief historian, said he worked with Martinez in several capacities for over five years. He said he believes Martinez’s work embraces dignity, honesty and accuracy.

“When teaching on Mexican American history, Martinez said emphasizing mindfulness brings about meaningful discussion with students. Kassandra Araque, a student in Martinez’s History of Mexican Americans in the U.S. class, said they appreciate the open and informative approach to education.

“(Martinez) does a really good job of making the subject real, because we don’t really learn about Mexican history in America,” journalism sophomore Araque said. “But with her, I know

this isn’t a Wikipedia page I’m reading. She almost always has her own story or some sort of context.” Martinez said she hopes students continue to make personal connections to a more complete history in a way that will benefit their families and communities.

“There’s been a long-standing call for more inclusive histories that tell the fuller story of Texas and incorporate Mexican American studies,” Martinez said. “The vast majority of Texans think students should have access to truthful accounts of the past, even if that requires honest or difficult conversation. Generations of students deserve to learn from those histories.”
Austin Hispanic Hall of Fame

The Austin Hispanic Hall of Fame is a project being sponsored by several community organization. (PODER, Raza Round Table, HABLA, LA PRENSA and La Voz Newspapers.

The purpose of this project to recognize and remember the community activists who over the years have worked to improve the Hispanic community. Some have passed on and some are still with us. It is our hope that we might start out small and induct 5-8 individuals at a time.

The Austin Hispanic Hall of Fame will have an internet presence at: www.austinhispanichalloffame.org and at Angie’s Mexican Restaurant where portraits of the inductees along biographical sketches will be placed along the interior walls. The nominations for the hall of fame will open on May 1st. and close on June 30th. The nomination form will appear in this newspaper and be available on-line. Contact Alfredo Santos c/s if you would like more information or are interested on being on the advisory committee. (512) 944-4123
At the 15th Annual Cesar E. Chavez "Si Se Puede!" Awards Dinner, PODER recognized Amanda Carrillo, Sergio Castellanos, Paul DiFiore, Alyssa Fabian, Venessa Fuentes, Lauren Ice, Alexia Leclercq, Kimberly McNeely, Marisa Perales, & Blythe Randolph, as individuals that continue the struggle for justice. Individuals that help keep the spirit of Cesar E. Chavez alive.

Councilwoman Vanessa Fuentes stated about the event: “I was INCREDIBLY honored to attend PODER's Cesar Chavez Awards Ceremony. Where, I alongside other local leaders, were recognized for their continued commitment to our communities. I especially want to highlight the efforts of Amanda Carrillo and Blythe Danner. These D2 Austinites helped lead the inspiring grassroots campaign against the construction of AUS' jet-fuel tanks. Thank you for your continued service to nuestra gente. You'll always find an ally in your D2 Team.”

ABOVE: United States Congressman Greg Casar, Austin City Councilmember José Velasquez, Austin City Councilwoman, Vanessa Fuentes and Travis County Attorney Delia Garza
Activists Come Out to Honor

A beautiful and powerful Event by UNITED BY OUR ROOTS honoring the life, legacy and 96th Birthday of César Chávez at Parque Zaragoza.

Gracias to the UNITED BY OUR ROOTS COALITION: Amigos de Parque Zaragoza, HABLA, Eastside Guardians, PODER, HABLA y VOTA Action Fund, George Morales, Travis Co. Constable Pct4, HOT Tejano, MAS Cultura, Fiesta Austin, Raza Round Table, Del Valle Community Coalition, AFSCME Local 1624, LULAC VII, Mexicanos 2070 & Council Member José Velásquez And to all the sponsors, speakers and student organizations that performed today!

#SiSePuede

RIGHT: Natalie Valdez, Austin ISD student and HABLA Volunteer, Chris Vasquez-Valdez HABLA Volunteer and Stephanie Gatica Volunteer Coordinator United by Our Roots Coalition

ABOVE: Paul Saldaña, Jane Rivera, Gilberto Rivera and Del Valle ISD School Board Trustee Susanna Ledesma Woody.
Cesar Chavez in Austin, Texas

**ABOVE:** Austin City Councilman José Velasquez and Judge Denise Hernandez, Travis County Court at Law # 6

**ABOVE:** Paul Saldaña and Alicia Perez-Hodge hold the United Farm Workers Union of America flag.

**ABOVE:** Back row: George Morales, Travis County Constable - Pct. #4, Al Duarte, Stephanie Gatica, Del Valle School Trustee Susanna Ledesma Woody, Fred Tobias and Robert Ledesma, Front row: Paul Saldaña, Dr. Angela Valenzuela, Manor ISD Trustee Ana Cortez and Perla Cavazos, Centyral Deputy Administrator at Central Health.
by Alfredo Santos c/s

Sixty Five years ago (in 1957), mama came back from the hospital. My sister Molly Ann and I could see through the living room window she carried a bundle in her arms. We ran to open the front door and mama stepped inside. Grandma Anita was right behind her.

We were very excited because we knew inside that bundle was a brand new baby. Mama went into our bedroom and laid the baby down. She unwrapped the blankets and we could see it was a boy. He appeared to be asleep. “Mama, what are we going to call him?” I asked. My mother said in a calm voice but with a big smile, “I think we are going to name him Robert.” “Robert?” I exclaimed. “No mama.” I protested, “Let’s call him Tommy.” I had a friend in kindergarten named Tommy and wanted to call this new baby Tommy. My mother noted my objection but didn’t say anything.

Pretty soon the name Tommy started to stick. As the months went by we were happy to have a new baby in the house. The smell of baby powder wafted through the house. But there was something else going on mom and grandma did not want to tell us.

Our father was sick and any years later mom would tell us our father was getting these tremendous headaches and spent long periods in the restroom. Starting in April of 1958, mom and grandma were taking him to St. Joseph’s Hospital for blood transfusions. It was in the middle of June when the doctors told them he had was a very rare kidney disease. His body was not responding well to medicine or the blood transfusions. In July, the doctor told mom he only had a few days to live and to go ahead and admit him to the hospital.

The Life and Times of Tommy

The following day I ran home from school to check on Tommy. Again, he was asleep. Molly Ann, who wasn’t in school yet, was sitting next to Tommy and was keeping an eye on him. As the weeks passed we learned to keep the noise down. Television was still a brand new experience for us and we kept the volume down. Molly Ann and I also had to be quiet from time to time because our father was ill and had to check his blood pressure often. Our grandparents were regular visitors and grandma cooked for us often.

As time went by and relatives would come over to visit, they would ask about the new baby. We said, “You mean Tommy? He is growing but he sleeps a lot.”

Our father, John G. Santos died on July 19th, 1958 in Stockton, California. He was 31 years old. Tommy never had a chance to know him as he was only 7 months old. After our father passed away, my mother’s side of the family in Uvalde, Texas wanted her to come back to Texas. My father’s side of the family, which had settled in Stockton, wanted her to stay. My mother wasn’t sure what she should do. As she grappled with closure, she sold the house and we moved to another part of Stockton. It took about a year for mama to make up her mind. Finally, she decided it was time to go back to Texas and start over. Her new reality was that she was now a widow with three small children.

The Train to Uvalde

It was 1960. We took the train from Stockton to Los Angeles and it was there she surprised us and said we were going to Disneyland for a few days. My grandparents had accompanied on the trip. We had a great time and there are home movies someone shot of us on the rides and at the hotel.

After a few days we went back to the train station and it was there that mom told us we would now be traveling without our grandparents. “They are going back to Stockton,” she said as we cried softly knowing our lives were about to change. We rode the train to Uvalde and ate sandwiches my mother had made and packed into a suitcase. Many relatives met us in North Uvalde at the train station. For the next several months we lived with my grandma Lolita on Ft. Clark Road. Living in Texas was a very different experience. Everyone spoke Spanish and it was very hot. Mama found a job while Molly Ann, Tommy and I were left in the care of Grandma Lolita. My Aunt Elia, who also had kids around Tommy’s age helped to care for him.

The Last Time We Saw My Father Alive

One day my mother and Aunt Elia took us to Garner State Park for the day. We did all the traditional things like swim, explore and we rented paddle boats. We (a bunch of us) were on this paddle boat and Tommy was in the middle. I don’t remember who was holding on to him but all of a sudden someone screamed, “Tommy fell into the water!” We looked around and out of the corner of my eye I saw my mother stand up on the side of the paddle boat and execute the most graceful swan dive I had ever seen. She went into the water and in about 8 seconds, she popped back up with a slightly water logged Tommy. He gasped for air until he realized he was now safe. We reached out and pulled him aboard.

As the years passed Tommy grew only slightly. Grandma Lolita was concerned but mama reassured her that everything was OK. After a few months of staying with Grandma Lolita we moved into a house a few doors down owned by Nena Ramirez. I think my mother said the rent was 35 dollars a month. As Tommy got older he joined the Cub Scouts.
Robert “Tommy” Santos

The 1970s were a tumultuous time for our family. We had a school walkout in April of 1970. Mama wouldn’t let Molly Ann or Tommy participate in it. In fact, mama was against the walkout. She, like a number of parents, were afraid they might lose their jobs if they supported the walkout.

After the walkout, I went back to California and managed to get into college. Molly Ann would write me letters keeping me informed of what was going on in Uvalde. In one letter she began to tell me mom was changing.

Mama Was Changing
She said mom was campaigning for Alonzo Villarreal who was running for school board. In another letter she told me mom was on the radio making commercials encouraging people to turn out and vote and even wrote an editorial piece for a local Chicano newspaper. (Arriba El Barrio)

Mama was also taking classes at Southwest Texas Junior College in Uvalde. Molly Ann was now going to school in San Marcos at Southwest Texas State University. Mama had become a community activist.

The Summer of 1972
In the summer of 1972, mama and the whole family came to Stockton and attended summer school at San Joaquin Delta College. Tommy spent the summer hanging out at the bowling alley which was not too far away from my grandmother’s house. What I noticed about Tommy was he had grown like a weed. He was no longer a little boy.

The following year my mother graduated from Southwest Texas Junior College and transferred to the University of Houston. She moved the whole family to Angleton, Texas because her sister Elia had relocated there in 1968 with her family. Tommy, David and Dolores enrolled in the Angleton Independent School District and Tommy soon got a job at McDonald’s. On Tuesdays he would treat the family to dinner.

In 1975, Tommy graduated from Angleton High School and my mother graduated from the University of Houston with a bachelor’s degree and a teaching certificate.

Mama’s First Teaching Job
Mama got a job teaching in Rosenberg, Texas and the following year she decided to move back to Uvalde. She had been told by friends there were teaching positions open. That summer of 1976, mama was at the school administration building in Uvalde to check out possible teaching jobs. The superintendent saw her in the hallway looking at the bulletin board and asked her what she was doing. Mama told him she graduated from college and was now a certified school teacher. She told him she was going to apply for one of the teaching positions she saw listed on the bulletin board.

Superintendent Byrom told her to come into his office. According to my mother in an interview many years later, he told her to close the door when she came in. He said, “Molly, we are never going to hire you to work in the Uvalde public schools and you know why. So don’t waste your time applying.” My mother said she was heartbroken when he told her this and slowly got up and left his office. Mr. Byrom had effectively shattered her dream of being a teacher in Uvalde. Mama scrambled found a job as a teacher in La Pryor, Texas and made the daily 19 mile commute.

A Broken Christmas
That Christmas of 1976, my grandmother Anita and I came to Texas for the holidays. We would play poker and other board games and catch up on what everyone was doing or had planned. The second week we were there my mother broke the news Tommy was leaving the following day. We asked, where is he going? My mother said that she had bought a house in Angleton and became good friends with the Castillo family. Mrs. Castillo was the sponsor. Then came little league. Now Tommy was starting to grow more.

Cindy Flores recalls Tommy during their days at Sacred Heart Catholic School.

One of my first memories of Tommy is that of very young blue eyed 7 year old in Mrs. Shepard’s class. “I remember getting special Valentines cards from this cute little boy but, of course, growing up with 4 brothers, I thought all boys had cooties! But we still became friends despite my feelings about boys. Tom was my classmate for many years until he and his family moved away from Uvalde. I’ll never forget the parties at his house (my first luau) and family functions. (His mom’s brother married to my moms sister) We had so much fun together.

I came back from California in 1965. I was 13 and Tommy was 8 years old. I remember we used ride our bikes over to Lowe’s Furniture Store and waited until mom got of work at 5:00 p.m.. We would hide and as she got close to the car we would yell out surprise. We put the bikes in the trunk and rode home with her. While we were five years apart in age what comes to mind is that Tommy inherited my electric trains. Actually, he inherited all my toys. In the fall of 1965, my mother figured out how home financing worked and had a new house built on Ft. Clark Road. We were very excited because it was on a big lot and it had central air and heat. We spent many hours at night moving dirt and doing landscaping work. It was at this house that mom would throw these huge Hawaiian Luau.

The 1970s – Changing Times
and that at the end of the school year she was going to move back. Tommy was going now to find a job and help set up the house. My grandmother and I were stunned by this news.

A few days later, my mom announced Molly Ann would also be leaving for Angleton to find a job and help Tommy. My grandma Anita and I did not realize how dire the situation was in Uvalde. A few days later we drove back to Los Angeles. My grandmother caught a plane back to Stockton.

About two weeks later grandma called me in Los Angeles. I was in graduate school at UCLA at the time. She was crying and very upset. She said she couldn’t stop thinking about how things in Uvalde were falling apart for my mother. She said she was going to fly to Texas and go and stay with Molly Ann and Tommy and help them with the house. We ended our telephone conversation and I too began to rethink what I was doing. I was in my first year of an MBA program. I decided I should be doing more to help. I quit the program and came back to Texas also.

Moving Once Again
The school year ended and mama sold the house on Ft. Clark Road. We finished packing up the house and drove to Angleton, Texas pulling a U-Haul trailer. Once again my mother found herself having to start over. Molly Ann had secured a management job with Sears. Tommy worked in construction and soon found me a job with his crew. My Aunt Elia lived across the street from us and so the sense of family began to set in. Mama quickly found a teaching job with the Angleton Independent School District. Tommy enrolled at Alvin Community College. It was at ACC that Tommy met Rick Noriega. I remember Rick telling me he had Tommy in one of his classes and was shocked to discover that this blue eyed kid could speak Spanish, and not just regular Spanish but street Spanish al estilo Uvalde! Tommy and Rick became close friends and remained so until the end.

In 1979, I moved to Houston. I was teaching at a Catholic school and working as a waiter at night. Tommy also moved to Houston in 1979 and I got him a job as a waiter. Tommy and I were roommates for most of the 1980s. We lived in southwest Houston at first but then moved to the Heights (when it was cheap) Tommy was attending the University of Houston Downtown and working in the computer field. After one year of teaching, I got my taxi cab license and Tommy decided he would try it out also. He went and got his cab license and would drive my taxi on the weekends. A number of our friends from Uvalde came to Houston during this time and also became cab drivers. Among them were Bart Flores and Richard “Rata” Garcia.

Cindy Flores again recalls Tommy:
“I had just moved to Houston at the age of 23. All alone not knowing anything of the single life in Houston. Then here comes this tall blue eyed boy to my rescue!! Because of him, I met new friends. I learned about jazz and Houston began to grow on us. Yes, jazz has since become a favorite of mine thanks to Tommy. Every Saturday we would go to hear a great jazz player who played on Westheimer. (I felt like a groupie.) I will never forget our singles trip to Cancun! Guys and gals clubbing, boating, snorkeling and of course, drinking! Woo hoo! What a life! I r e m e m b e r when he met and married the love of his life, beautiful Nelly. She was so beautiful, smart and perfect for him. I was so happy for Tommy. He deserved the best. Tommy has always been a special friend, like family but even more!”

When Tommy got married in 1989, it was a big affair. Mama and grandma were very proud him. We were all very happy for him. On the facing page is a photo from that special day.

In 1991, my grandma Anita was felled by a stroke in Stockton, California in early April. My Uncle Richard asked if I could come and help with her care. At the time I was a graduate student at the University of Delaware. I took a leave of absence and flew to California.

“I don’t believe Grandma is going to be able to come back home.”

When I arrived my grandmother was in a nursing home. The following week my mother arrived in Stockton. I took her to see my grandmother and when we came back to her house, mama said she didn’t think my grandmother would be coming home. Over the next few days my mother connected with relatives in Stockton and apprised them of her situation. Then we received a phone call from Texas, it was Tommy’s wife, Nelly.

She said Tommy and her were in Mexico on a vacation when he suddenly collapsed. The doctors checked him out and recommended they return to the United States immediately. When Nelly called us in California my mother answered the phone. After a minute or so I could see she was starting to shake. I took the phone and Nelly told me it was serious. X-rays revealed Tommy had a tumor in his brain. The doctors were going to operate the next day. We told Nelly we were coming
Robert Tommy Santos

The tumor was in fact cancer. The months that followed were filled with more doctor visits and different tests. After all was said and done Tommy was given five years to live. Nelly was still in law school at the University of Houston and Tommy encouraged her to complete the program. While the five year date came and went. Tommy would go on live 27 years more than what the doctors had originally predicted. He held on and gave it his all. Mama visited Tommy as often as she could and like many Mexican mothers, she wished she could do more to help him get better but realized over time that Tommy’s time on earth was in God’s hands.

The five year date came and went. Tommy would go on live 27 years more than what the doctors had originally predicted. He held on and gave it his all. Mama visited Tommy as often as she could and like many Mexican mothers, she wished she could do more to help him get better but realized over time that Tommy’s time on earth was in God’s hands.

The five year date came and went. Tommy would go on live 27 years more than what the doctors had originally predicted. He would live to see his two children, John Thomas and Victoria, grow up and graduate from Texas A&M University. Tommy had a lot friends and at his funeral service people came from all over to say their last good-bye. While Nelly called his funeral a celebration of his life, I am sure the tears for that “little boy” will flow for many years to come. We will forever miss him and never forget him. Tommy Santos - ¡PRESENTE!
Comisión de Calidad Ambiental del Estado de Texas

SOLICITUD. Gram Vikas Partners, Inc., 214 West Bandera Road #114-474, Boerne, Texas, 78006 ha solicitado a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental del Estado de Texas (TCEQ) para el propuesto Permiso No. WQ0016281001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0144011) del Sistema de Eliminación de Descargas de Contaminantes de Texas (TPDES) para autorizar la descarga de aguas residuales traidas en un volumen que no sobrepasa un flujo promedio diario de 300,000 galones por día. La planta está ubicada aproximadamente 0.2 millas al oeste de la intersección de County Road 341 y County Road 442 en el Condado de Medina, Texas 78861. La ruta de descarga es del sitio de la planta directamente a Hondo Creek. La TCEQ recibió esta solicitud el 10 de enero de 2023. La solicitud para el permiso estará disponible para leerla y copiarla en Biblioteca Pública de Hondo, 2003 Avenue K, Hondo, Texas antes de la fecha de publicación de este aviso en el periódico. Este enlace a un mapa electrónico de la ubicación general del sitio o de la instalación es proporcionado como una cortesía y no es parte de la solicitud o del aviso. Para la ubicación exacta, consulte la solicitud. https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper?marker=99.144444,29.380277&level=18

AVISO DE RECIBO DE LA SOLICITUD Y EL INTENTO DE OBTENER PERMISO PARA LA CALIDAD DEL AGUA

PERMISO PROPUESTO NO. WQ0016281001

En la lista de correo de las personas a lo largo del condado que desean recibir los avisos y los que están en la lista de correo que desean recibir avisos de esta solicitud. El aviso dará la fecha límite para someter comentarios públicos.

COMENTARIO PUBLICO / REUNION PUBLICA. Usted puede presentar comentarios públicos o pedir una reunión pública sobre esta solicitud. El propósito de una reunión pública es dar la oportunidad de presentar comentarios o hacer preguntas acerca de la solicitud. La TCEQ realiza una reunión pública si el Director Ejecutivo determina que hay un grado de interés público suficiente en la solicitud o si un legislador local lo pide. Una reunión pública no es una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso.

OPORTUNIDAD DE UNA AUDIENCIA ADMINISTRATIVA DE LO CONTENCIOSO. Después del plazo para presentar comentarios públicos, el Director Ejecutivo considerará todos los comentarios apropiados y preparará una respuesta a todos los comentarios públicos esenciales, pertinentes, o significativos. A menos que la solicitud haya sido referida directamente a una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso, la respuesta a los comentarios y la decisión del Director Ejecutivo sobre la solicitud serán enviados por correo a todos los que presentaron un comentario público y a las personas que están en la lista para recibir avisos sobre esta solicitud. Si se reciben comentarios, el aviso también proveerá instrucciones para pedir una reconsideración de la decisión del Director Ejecutivo y para pedir una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso. Una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso es un procedimiento legal similar a un procedimiento legal civil en un tribunal de distrito del estado.

PARA SOLICITAR UNA AUDIENCIA DE CASO IMPUGNADO, USTED DEBE INCLUIR EN SU SOLICITUD LOS SIGUIENTES DATOS: su nombre, dirección, y número de teléfono; el nombre del solicitante y número del permiso; la ubicación y distancia de su propiedad/ actividad con respecto a la instalación; una descripción específica de la forma cómo usted sería afectado adversamente por el sitio de una manera no común al público en general; una lista de todas las cuestiones de hecho en disputa que usted presente durante el período de comentarios; y la declaración “[Yo/nosotros] solicitamos una audiencia de caso impugnado”. Si presenta la petición para una audiencia de caso impugnado de parte de un grupo o asociación, debe identificar una persona que representa al grupo para recibir correspondencia en el futuro; identificar el nombre y la dirección de un miembro del grupo que sería afectado adversamente por la planta o la actividad propuesta; proveer la información indicada anteriormente con respecto a la ubicación del miembro afectado y su distancia de la planta o actividad propuesta; explicar cómo y porqué el miembro sería afectado; y explicar cómo los intereses que el grupo desea proteger son pertinentes al propósito del grupo.

Después del cierre de todos los períodos de comentarios y de petición que aplican, el Director Ejecutivo enviará la solicitud y cualquier petición para reconsideración o para una audiencia de caso impugnado a los Comisionados de la TCEQ para su consideración durante una reunión programada de la Comisión. La Comisión sólo puede conceder una solicitud de una audiencia de caso impugnado sobre los temas que el solicitante haya presentado en sus comentarios oportunos que no fueron retirados posteriormente. Si se concede una audiencia, el tema de la audiencia estará limitado a cuestiones de hecho en disputa o cuestiones mixtas de hecho y de derecho relacionadas a intereses pertinentes y materiales de calidad del agua que se hayan presentado durante el período de comentarios.

LISTA DE CORREO. Si somete comentarios públicos, un pedido para una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso o una reconsideración de la decisión del Director Ejecutivo, la Oficina del Secretario Principal enviará por correo los avisos públicos en relación con la solicitud. Además, puede pedir que la TCEQ ponga su nombre en una o más de las listas correos siguientes (1) la lista de correo permanente para recibir los avisos de el solicitante indicado.
Who is Hispanic?

BY MARK HUGO LOPEZ, JENS MANUEL KROGSTAD AND JEFFREY S. PASSEL

Debates over who is Hispanic and who is not have often fueled conversations about identity among Americans who trace their heritage to Latin America or Spain. Most recently, the 2020 census has drawn attention to how Hispanic identity is defined and measured. The once-a-decade head count of all people living in the United States used a new approach to identify who is Hispanic and has provided fresh details about how Hispanics view their racial identity.

So, who is considered Hispanic in the U.S. today? How exactly are Hispanics counted? What role does race play in deciding who is counted as Hispanic? And how do surveys incorporate the various terms people use to describe their Hispanic identity, such as Latina or Latinx?

How many Hispanics are there in the U.S. today?

A line graph showing that the U.S. Hispanic population reached more than 62 million in 2021

Note: Population totals are as of April 1 for 1970-2010 and July 1 for 2011-2021. Hispanics are of any race.


PEW RESEARCH CENTER

How are Hispanics counted in government surveys, public opinion polls and other studies?

Before diving into the details, keep in mind that some surveys ask about Hispanic origin and race in separate questions, following the current practice of the Census Bureau:

One way to count Hispanics is straightforward: Hispanics are those who say they are Hispanic, with no exceptions. Pew Research Center uses this approach in our surveys, as do other polling firms such as Gallup and voter exit polls.

The Census Bureau largely counts Hispanics this way, too, but with some exceptions. If respondents select only the “Other Hispanic” category and write in only non-Hispanic responses such as “Irish,” the Census Bureau recodes the response as non-Hispanic. However, beginning in 2020, it widened the lens to include a relatively small number of people who did not check a Hispanic box on the census form but answered the race question in a way that implied a Hispanic background.

To be continued
Bienvenidos a Todos Aquí estamos para servirle.
Aquí tenemos la mejor steak a la mexicana.
Nomás preguntale a Alfredo Santos c/s

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¡Viva Cristo Rey!: An Oral History of the Roman Catholic Community in the Flats of Lower East Austin (Mexican & Mexican-American Community of Austin, Texas) Paperback – November 14, 2022

¡Viva Cristo Rey! is an oral history of the Roman Catholic Mexican and Mexican-American community that came to inhabit a flood plain in the “flats” of Lower East Austin after its displacement from downtown Austin over a century ago. Situating this community within the larger contexts of the history of Austin and the persecution of “Mexicans” throughout Texas and the Southern United States, the nearly 100 interviews of this work highlight the resiliency of a community that finds great hope and strength in its faith. Largely written by persons now marginalized by Cristo Rey Roman Catholic Church, this work concludes with a reflection on the past ten years since the “unnecessary schism” that resulted in 2012 as a consequence of the Roman Catholic Church’s treatment of its clergy and laity at that time, which, in turn, resulted in the birth of Holy Family Catholic Church, Austin’s only truly inclusive Catholic community.


From bestselling author of the remarkable memoir The Distance Between Us comes an inspiring account of one woman’s quest to find her place in America as a first-generation Latina university student and aspiring writer determined to build a new life for her family one fearless word at a time.

As an immigrant in an unfamiliar country, with an indifferent mother and abusive father, Reyna had few resources at her disposal. Taking refuge in words, Reyna’s love of reading and writing propels her to rise above until she achieves the impossible and is accepted to the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Although her acceptance is a triumph, the actual experience of American college life is intimidating and unfamiliar for someone like Reyna, who is now estranged from her family and support system. Again, she finds solace in words, holding fast to her vision of becoming a writer, only to discover she knows nothing about what it takes.

Journey of A Chicano: From Campesino to University Professor, Community Organizer and Activist Kindle Edition by Cirenio Rodriguez Ph.D (Author)

Journey of a Chicano® is an inspiring personal narrative of Dr. Cirenio Rodriguez’s coming of age during the Chicana/o Movement. It explores his experiences growing up in rural Mexico, working as a farmworker in the agricultural fields of California, facing discrimination as a non-English speaking student in Los Angeles, and becoming a political and social activist.

The book covers his journey through academia, community activism, and elected public office, showcasing the impact of his life's work on the Chicana/o community. This memoir serves as a testament to Dr. Rodriguez's perseverance and dedication to social justice, and is an exemplary guide for young Chicana/os and a valuable read for all. Dr. Rodriguez is a language university professor and elected officia

amazon
**Calendar of Events**

April 11th, 2023 - ReThinking Reies Lopez Tijerina in the Chicano Movement - Guest Speaker Ramón A. Gutierrez - Main Campus of the University of New Mexico, in Albuquerque, New Mexico

April 15th, 2023 - Let’s Win the Future - Join us in supporting the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Gala! The #GAHCCF raises funds for College Endowments established at area universities. Your ticket includes entry and dinner at the beautiful Austin South Park Hotel (former Omni South Park), a fabulous live and silent auction, music by the Nash Hernandez Orchestra and casino play!

April 22nd, 2023 - Town Hall Meeting featuring State Representative Lulu Flores, Austin City Councilwoman D3 - Vanessa Fuentes and flautas. What time? 12:00 noon to 1:30pm Where? 7684 Solari Dr. 78 Food and drinks will be provided.

May 5th, 2023 - Mexic-Arte Museum is proud to announce its first ever Cinco de Mayo Luncheon on May 5 at the Thompson Hotel. The luncheon will gather downtown businesses and stakeholders to celebrate, promote and learn about the Mexic-Arte Museum, the Cinco de Mayo historic event, and the 5th Street Mexican American Heritage Corridor and District. Mexic-Arte is celebrating thirty-nine years in Austin with critically acclaimed exhibitions, an expanding art collection, exemplary education programs, exciting cultural events, and a growing permanent collection. The Luncheon benefits the Mexic-Arte Museum and its programs. Interested in being a Sponsor? For more information, contact Adrienne Brown at adrienneb@mexic-artemuseum.org. To purchase tickets, visit http://ow.ly/hR5O50Nz6Y3

**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.

**Who**

Quién

**What**

Qué

**Where**

Dónde

**When**

Cuando

**Why**

Por qué

**Are you sure?**

¿Estás seguro?

**The Truth**

La verdad

**That’s a lie**

Eso es mentira

**That is not correct**

Eso no es correcto

**You can’t say that**

No se puede decir eso

**Why not?**

¿Por qué no?

**Who gave you permission**

Quién te dio permiso

**I will never believe it**

Nunca lo creeré

**Lets go find out**

Vamos a averiguarlo

**I am serious**

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Southwest Texas Oral History Center
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HABLA y VOTA Action Fund
Prop A & B Forum
Saturday, 4/22, 9:30 to 11 AM
SW Key Community Room, 6002 Jain Ln, Austin, 78721
Come learn about the differences between Prop A and Prop B
Agenda
9:30AM Networking
10:00 AM Prop A & B Speaker and Q&A
Key Election Dates
Last day to register to vote: April 6
Election day: May 6
Early voting: April 24 - May 2
HABLA y VOTA Action Fund
Contact us at: hablayvota@gmail.com
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