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La Prensa Texas

This grass roots publication is the life source for a community that is not easily afforded viable access to diverse and accessible media. San Antonio and the surrounding counties have become accustomed to relevant news brought to them in both English and Spanish since 1913.

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Let's Talk About It "San Antonio Mexican"

By Yvette Tello

Today I had a conversation with a friend from the Valley. She told me a story and asked if I understood what she meant. I answered, "of course I do." She responded, "it's just that you're a San Antonio Mexican so I wasn't sure you would get it. Not that there's anything wrong with that. I hope you're not offended." I laughed. I've been called worse, it takes more than that to offend me, and the truth is, it is not the first time I have heard it. Have you ever noticed the difference between Latinos in San Antonio vs other places? Have you ever been told you are a different kind of "Mexican/Latino?" Let's talk about it...

Reggie Brown: "I am not Hispanic but I can say I've been around the country and actually work with the majority of Hispanics now. Most are from the Eagle Pass area and I've come to the conclusion that the Hispanics here in San Antonio are exposed to a more diverse demographic than Hispanics from other places."

Geronimo Franco: "No offense Gina.."

Alicia Reyes-Barrientez: "I do think that the experiences of those of us who grew up with immigrant parents are very different from those who grew up with parents born and raised here."

Emmitt Jimenez: "Yup."

Delicia Herrera: "Each region has different cultures. Mexican Americans are different from Texas. Differences in New Mexico, California and other areas make our culture unique and beautiful."

Geronimo Franco: "Latinos in L.A. think they are all movie stars."

Anthony De Anda: "I'm originally from the Los Angeles area. Moved here 17 years ago. Yes, San Antonio Mexicans are a little different in my opinion. But it's not a bad thing"

Charles Mario Henry: "Lol. Absolutely San Antonio Hispanics aren't the same as others and the same in other cities. Latinos are versatile."

Frances Potter: "Ignorance is bliss, they just do not get it!"

Chris R. Pelayo: "I only hear the term "Latino" used in politics and TV. All my life here in SA it's been "Mexican" so when I hear someone in real life say "Latino" it sounds odd, especially in the casual company of other brown folk (my term for us hispanics). lol"

Blue Rose Alvarez: " Even more odd is "LatinX". Estos millennials with their emphasis on gender neutral terms. Hijole!"

Melody Mike: "And... as a compliment, San Antonio is different from any other city in Texas. We have, rightfully, our own cuisine that's recognized, Tex-Mex. Tejano music originated from San Antonio, to such a force that the Grammys had to make a category for it. So maybe to the outside looking in, we are different. What I've found is that there is a healthy dose of, well, I wouldn't call it racism but animosity (maybe that's too strong a word) amongst the Hispanic community towards their own due to location and culture. Mexico Mexicans (not all) look unfavorably towards southern and Central Americans and so forth. Also I had family living in Dallas and when I was a kid they referred to San Antonio as "Little Mexico ". I just found these things odd."

Blue Rose Alvarez: "IMHO... anyone who uses the phrase, "No offense", usually follows with something offensive. I've never heard the term "San Antonio Mexican" but I have had trouble communicating with Spanish-speaking Mexicans. My Spanish was learned in my neighborhood (many like to say, the barrio) and basically it consisted of English words made to sound Spanish. I remember being embarrassed when a Spanish speaking

person told me to ask them the question, in English. Also, our Tex-Mex southern style of cooking is very often marginalized and referred to as "not real Mexican food." Sometimes I can't help being offended by these comments but I've never been ashamed of where I was raised. I've taken every opportunity to expand my Spanish language skills (not fluently but fairly improved) and it may not be what folks eat in Mexico but my Tex-Mex cooking is the bomb!"

Vanessa McBryde: "Yes, I've experienced this. An ex co-worker from the valley assumed that because I have a "white" last name and Anglo features that I'm 100% white! I once walked into work with lunch from Chipotle and she said, "What is with YOU white people and Chipotle? It's not real Mexican food! I pointed out that food from the Valley is still technically Tex-Mex and not authentic. I also pointed out that technically her race is White & Ethnicity is Mexican. I explained that I'm 2nd generation Mexican & that I'm half Spanish & Mexican & grew up in Laredo but that didn't matter, I wasn't Mexican enough."

Jennifer Perez: "In general I'm what you call " white wash" due to not speaking Spanish. I've heard there is a difference. Between the Valley and San Antonio. We are considered TexMex. But in reality we all are just indigenous."

Roger Reyna: " I was born in raised on the westside of town along with 6 siblings, although not really exposed to the culture but growing up constantly moving to different parts of San Antonio and exposed to the Art culture at a young age, but with a mixture of Latinos, white, and other ethnic groups as an adult I've been told I act white or preppy back in high school. So this also happens here with our own communities. It's a pretty interesting subject. Although I've never been called not Hispanic enough, there is such a stereotype."

46th Annual Segundo de Febrero Exhibit Chicana/Chicano Reunion Commemorating the signing of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, 1848 Opening Reception: February 2, 2023 6-9PM

By Ruth M. Guajardo

Centro Cultural Aztlan is pleased to present the 46th annual Segundo de Febrero exhibition titled Segundo de Febrero: Chicana/Chicano Reunion. This exhibit will honor the 175th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the U.S.-Mexican War, redistributing the border, and creating a new bicultural population. In this exhibition, an exceptional group of celebrated artists will explore the impact of broken treaties, new borders, and their effects on Latino, Chicano, and indigenous history and culture.

Join us at the opening reception on Thursday, February 2nd, 2023 from 6:00-9:00pm for light refreshments, music and poetry by The Jazz Poets of San Antonio featuring Los Chromies.

The exhibit is free and open to the public and will be on view through February 24th, 2023. Monday-Friday, 10:00am-4:00pm, except for Holidays.

Lead Artist:

Eduardo Garza

Performance The Jazz Poets of San Antonio featuring Los Chromies

Featured artists: Saúl Adan, Santa Barraza, Celeste De Luna, Jose Esquivel, Albert Garcia, Tony Garcia, Hector Garza, Noe G. Garza, Xavier Garza, Carmen Lomas Garza, Luis "Chispas" Guerrero, Joe Lopez, Angelica Mayorga, Peter F. Ortiz, Ben Ortiz, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Rubio, Armando Sanchez, Jose Segura, Raul Servin, Up, Luis Valderas, Andy Villarreal, Liliana Wilson, and Terry Ybanez.

Centro Cultural Aztlan is a community-based organization with a mission to preserve, develop and promote Chicano/a, Latino/a art and culture. The center presents an array of cultural activities that encourages and supports artistic creativity, preserves our local heritage, and makes the arts more widely available to residents of all backgrounds, ages and interests.

For more information, please call Centro Cultural Aztlan M-F, 10:00am to 4:00pm at 210-432-1896 or come by Centro Cultural Aztlan's office is located in the Deco Building at 1800 Fredericksburg Road, Suite 103.

**The Cover Art is by
Noe Gonzalez Garza**

**The Cover Art Photo is by
Dr. Ricardo Romo**

Artist Statement: I was born and raised in Cotulla, Texas in 1961 by and to Antonio Gonzalez Garza and Jesus Fernando Garza Sr. In my early years I attended the segregated "Mexican" school in our barrio named Welhausen, where President Lyndon Baines Johnson taught impoverished Mexican American students in the late 1920's. Being raised in the midst of the Chicano Movement and having worked as a farm worker picking potatoes and watermelons in the grueling Cotulla sun, I committed myself to earn a 4 year college degree one day. Eventually, I graduated from Texas State University in 1983 with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Communication Arts. After graduation I became self-employed in San Antonio for the next 11 years creating visual and advertising art for such companies and

individuals as Anheuser-Busch, HEB, Sony Discos, Capitol Records, Dinah Might Activities, Sosa & Associates Hispanic Advertising, Little Joe Y La Familia, Selena and Los Temerarios and many more. In 1995, I decided to become an educator at the age of 35 so I enrolled in the Region 20 Bilingual Education Alternative Certification and begin teaching and coaching in Cotulla. After 6 years my wife and I decided to return to our beloved San Antonio and I begin teaching visual art at Columbia Heights in the fall of 2002. The rest is history. In closing, I have been happily married for 31 years to my dear wife, Virginia Aguilar Garza and our two beautiful boys, Joshua David and Cesar Noe Garza and last but not least, our only nieta, 5 year old Joshua Liam Garza.

CENTRO CULTURAL AZTLAN PRESENTS:

THE 46TH ANNUAL SEGUNDO DE FEBRERO EXHIBIT: CHICANA/CHICANO REUNION

COMMEMORATING THE SIGNING OF
THE TREATY OF GUADALUPE HIDALGO, 1848

OPENING RECEPTION:

THURSDAY, FEB. 2ND, 2023
6-9PM

PERFORMANCE BY THE JAZZ POETS OF SAN ANTONIO
FEATURING LOS CHROMIES



PARTICIPATING ARTISTS INCLUDE:

LEAD ARTIST: UP

SAÚL ADAN	SANTA BARRAZA
CELESTE DE LUNA	JOSE ESQUIVEL
ALBERT GARCIA	TONY GARCIA
HECTOR GARZA	NOE G. GARZA
XAVIER GARZA	CARMEN LOMAS GARZA
JOE LOPEZ	LUIS 'CHISPAS' GUERRERO
PETER F. ORTIZ	ANGELICA MAYORGA
BEN ORTIZ	ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ
RUBIO	ARMANDO SANCHEZ
JOSE SEGURA	RAUL SERVÍN
LUIS VALDERAS	ANDY VILLARREAL
LILIANA WILSON	TERRY YBAÑEZ

THE EXHIBIT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WILL BE ON VIEW
THROUGH FEBRUARY 24TH, 2023.



These exhibits and performances are made possible by the support of the City of San Antonio: Department of Arts and Culture, Texas Commission on the Arts, The National Endowment for the Arts, AKR Foundation, San Antonio Area Foundation, The Jefferson Woodlawn Lake Community Development Corporation, and the many friends of Centro Cultural Aztlan.



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La Comisión de Cine de San Antonio lanza competencia anual #FilmSA

Por Stacy Norton

Los cineastas jóvenes de San Antonio pueden competir para ganar premios en efectivo y ser parte de una proyección de películas y una ceremonia de entrega de premios en Mission Marquee Plaza.

La Comisión de Cine de San Antonio, una división del Departamento de Arte y Cultura de la Ciudad de San Antonio, anunció hoy el lanzamiento de su concurso anual #FilmSA. El Concurso #FilmSA 2023 es una competencia cinematográfica coordinada por la Comisión de Cine de San Antonio que se dedica a contar la historia de las personas, los lugares y las experiencias compartidas que hacen de San Antonio una ciudad vibrante y célebre para visitantes, residentes y cineastas. El propósito del concurso es inspirar a los jóvenes a explorar el arte y el oficio de hacer cine mientras amplían su conocimiento y aprecio por San Antonio.

La fecha límite para las presentaciones es el 3 de abril de 2023 a las 4 p.m. CON-NECTICUT. Se otorgará un premio de \$1,000 a la participación con la puntuación más alta en cada categoría para los siguientes grupos de edad: 14 a 17 y 18 a 21 años. Cada película ganadora se proyectará públicamente en una Ceremonia de entrega de premios que se llevará a cabo en Mission Marquee Plaza (3100 Roosevelt Ave.) el 6 de mayo de 2023.

“San Antonio continúa siendo reconocida como una de las principales ciudades amigables con el cine, no solo por los proyectos profesionales que se crean aquí, sino también por cómo fomentamos a los jóvenes y apoyamos a

los cineastas y creadores de contenido del mañana”, dijo el ejecutivo del Departamento de Artes y Cultura. Director Krystal Jones. “Este concurso brinda una salida para que los jóvenes aspirantes a cineastas contribuyan a la rica escena cinematográfica de San Antonio usando su voz mientras aprenden habilidades clave para la vida que acompañan a las producciones cinematográficas, como el pensamiento crítico, la toma de decisiones y la colaboración”.

Organizado en colaboración con la Oficina del Patrimonio Mundial de la Ciudad de San Antonio y con el Departamento de Parques y Recreación de la Ciudad de San Antonio, los solicitantes del Concurso #FilmSA 2023 pueden ingresar películas en una de dos categorías: "Patrimonio y calidad de vida" o "Ciudad Parques de San Antonio".

Patrimonio y calidad de vida: Las cinco misiones coloniales españolas de San Antonio (Misiones San José, San Juan, Concepción, Espada y el mundialmente famoso Álamo) fueron declaradas por la UNESCO Patrimonio de la Humanidad en 2015. Las Misiones ahora representan el único sitio del Patrimonio Mundial en Texas y uno de solo 24 en los Estados Unidos. Como resultado de esta designación internacional, ha habido un aumento de visitas e inversiones en el área alrededor de las misiones. La Oficina del Patrimonio Mundial de la Ciudad de San Antonio se estableció para implementar un plan de trabajo, guiado por los aportes de la comunidad, para aprovechar la designación como catalizador del cambio socioeconómico, sin dejar de

ser auténtico para nuestro patrimonio. El tema de este año invita a los cineastas a mostrar su visión del patrimonio que nuestra ciudad histórica ofrece a sus habitantes, explorando específicamente qué se puede hacer para sostener y mejorar aún más la calidad de vida de los residentes de San Antonio.

Las entradas seleccionadas en esta categoría no solo ganarán premios en efectivo, sino que también ingresarán automáticamente en el 7.º Concurso Internacional Anual de Producción de Video de la Organización de las Ciudades del Patrimonio Mundial (OCPM).

“Este concurso no solo es una oportunidad para exhibir a nuestros talentosos jóvenes creativos a nivel internacional, sino que también comparte un vistazo de cómo el patrimonio vivo local de San Antonio se suma a nuestra calidad de vida”, dijo la Directora de la Oficina del Patrimonio Mundial, Colleen Swain. “A través de la lente de nuestra juventud, obtenemos una visión única de las prioridades y la visión del futuro de la próxima generación”.

San Antonio alberga más de 250 parques de la ciudad que incluyen piscinas, gimnasios, cementerios históricos, instalaciones deportivas y centros de recreación, con más de 16,000 acres de espacios verdes y más de 140 millas de senderos. Hay mucho que conocer y amar sobre los espacios al aire libre de San Antonio. Acceder a la naturaleza no tiene que ser una gran aventura a un lugar lejano. La naturaleza nos rodea por todas partes y nuestros parques de la ciudad de San Antonio unen a personas, familias y comu-

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nidades. Esta categoría del Concurso #FilmSA alienta a los jóvenes cineastas de San Antonio a usar el poder del cine para resaltar y mostrar el beneficio de tener acceso a la naturaleza y el valor de los parques de la ciudad de San Antonio.

Cada tema de categoría se divide en dos grupos de edad: 14 - 17 años y 18 - 21 años. Los solicitantes deben ser residentes de San Antonio. Las reglas y pautas detalladas sobre cómo participar en el Concurso #FilmSA 2023 se pueden encontrar en FilmSanAntonio.com.

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ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT BID/PROPOSAL INVITATION

The Alamo Colleges District is receiving sealed bids/proposals prior to 2:00 PM (CST), unless otherwise indicated, on the date shown.

RFQS# 2023-0027 REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK SERVICES

Deadline: February 23, 2023

A Pre-Response meeting is scheduled at 9:00 a.m. CT, February 7, 2023 at Alamo Colleges District, 2222 N. Alamo, Room 100, San Antonio, Texas 78215.

Specifications are available by visiting the Alamo College's District website:
www.alamo.edu/purchasing.

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Spurs Give convoca a subasta en línea

De memorabilia autografiada de Manu Ginóbili

Por Franco

La fundación Spurs Give qué es administrada por la benevolente empresa Spurs Sports and Entertainment [SS&E], anunció su convocatoria para la comunidad de San Antonio y pueda ayudar en la recaudación de fondos en las ventas de memorabilia autografiada por el ex guardia argentino Manu Ginóbili, durante subasta en línea en el periodo del miércoles 25 de enero al miércoles 8 de febrero 2023.

En boletín oficial informativo se indicó que dicha subasta en línea será a beneficio de Spurs Give (también a Spurs Community Impact Initiatives), ayudar en la expansión Spurs Youth Basketball League (SYBL).

La subasta a la vez será con el fin de honrar legado de Manu, aficionados podrán unirse a Spurs Give, para apoyar iniciativas en la siguiente generación de jóvenes líderes.

Qué ayudé a realizar programas más accesibles en la comunidad de San Antonio.

Seguidores de los Spurs, podrá participar en la subasta de valiosos recuerdos firmados por la leyenda (Manu Ginóbili), quién desinteresadamente las donó para una buena causa. Entré los valiosos artículos autografiados se cuenta con playeras del No.20 el cuál cargó en su espalda Manu, por 16 temporadas consecutivas carrera en la qué tuvo la satisfacción de haber colaborado con el plantel dirigido por el estratega

Gregg Popovich, en la conquista de los campeonatos NBA 2003, 2005, 2007 y 2014. Así cómo iconicos carteles en los qué fue captado llegando al aro, en partidos jugados contra Memphis Grizzlies en la temporada NBA 2015-2016. Minnesota Timberwolves, temporada NBA 2011-2012.

Durante la subasta en línea se abrió espacio con el tema "2005 Championship" para la fecha del miércoles 1 de febrero, cuando los Spurs reciban al visitante Sacramento Kings (AT&T Center 7pm). Fecha en la qué los primeros fans con boleto pagado recibirán un muñeco "Manu Ginóbili bobblehead".

Qué viene a ser parte de la colección de la celebración "Spurs 50th Anniversary".

Boletos de admisión para ese partido se podrán comprar o reservar en los sitios: Spurs.com y el Oficial Spurs Mobile App.

La fotografía del muñeco Manu Ginóbili bobblehead es de Franco. Los artículos para la subasta son cortesía de SS&E.



Mom's Texas Centennial Spoon & Remembering the San Antonio de Valero Mission



"Texas, Our Texas." We would proudly sing together, "Texas, our Texas! All hail the mighty State! Texas, our Texas! So wonderful so great!." Mom loved to sing to me. She promised one day she would take me to the Alamo.

When the day came to go to the Alamo, I took a fast bath in the tina; I put on my best clothes and shoes and off we walked to the Beacon Hill bus stop, our destination, the Alamo!

She held my hand as we walked toward the Alamo doors. She told me that we were to be quiet, that men had to take off their hats, because the Alamo was once a Catholic church and many Texans & Mexicans died there. As we walked inside the atmosphere was that of a church, somber. Inside Mom told me the original name of the Alamo; the San Antonio de Valero Mission. She explained the former Catholic Church was in cruciform shape, like most churches. She showed me where the altar may have been and the baptistry room. Missionaries taught the Indians and converted them to Catholicism.

As we walked outside the Alamo, she laid out the 1836 battlefield. Mom said



the battle was bloody, 189 Texans surrounded by over 1,200 Mexican soldiers. All the Texans perished, except for the women, children and slaves.

As we were leaving, I questioned her about the bloody fight between the Texans and the Mexicans. I asked Mom, "Are there any Mexicans left??" She began laughing at me, got down on her knees, held me and told me, "Yes and you are one of them!" I immediately imagined me in a blue, white and red Mexican soldier's suit holding a musket. She then pointed to a big building just west of the Alamo and told me: "Son, on a rainy day you were born four blocks away from the Alamo, on the 21st floor of the Nix building." It was then that my love for San Antonio and the San

Antonio de Valero Mission began.

When I began to attend Catholic grade school on the riverwalk, I would find myself many times at the Alamo. I would read every plaque and at home books on the former San Antonio de Valero mission during its mission years and as a fortress.

I have come to the conclusion there are 4 sides to the 1836 Battle of the Alamo.... the Texan side, the Mexican side, the John Wayne version and the truth.

In 1967, my brother Sonny and I visited the Alamo cenotaph and the Alamo grounds. The cenotaph is the empty tomb dedicated to the defenders of the Alamo. The cenotaph marks one of the spots where the lifeless bodies of defenders

By Rick Melendrez

When I was a preschooler Dad would drive my older brother Sonny to St. Michael's school and it would be just Mom and me at home. Mom would prepare Cocomalt chocolate milk, hot oatmeal and delicious cinnamon toast. No one could make cinnamon toast like her. I'd watch her prepare everything and I'd help set the table.

One morning she took out a special silver spoon. She told me her mother gave this spoon to her when she was a little girl during the

1936 Texas Centennial, in celebration of Texas' 100th birthday. The spoon was shiny with all kinds of engravings on the handle. Engraved were the Alamo, a Texas Longhorn, a tiny bluebonnet, and the 1836-1936 Texas Centennial Seal. The spoon also had a cowboy on a horse tipping his Stetson hat to the Texas Lone Star.

I was happy every time we used the silver spoon! During these special breakfast events she taught me the Texas state song, and we would sing together,

of the Alamo were stacked and burned. On the side of the cenotaph are sculptures of some of the defenders of the Alamo... Crockett, Bowie, Bonham, etc. The sculptor was Pompeo Coppini, it was begun in 1937 and completed in 1939. Since Pompeo Coppini forgot to sculpt any heroes of the Alamo that were of Mexican/Tejano descent or slaves, although their names are engraved, I decided to proudly represent them atop the cenotaph. I was daring, I even climbed atop one of the San Antonio de Valero nichos and posed. Pictures were taken with Sonny's brand new Polaroid Swinger instant camera. If I attempted those pictures now, I would probably become a guest of the Bexar County Jail.

Now let's get back to that Centennial spoon!

In 2014, I was cleaning out a kitchen drawer and came upon the familiar spoon. It wasn't as shiny as it used to be, but it brought back so many memories.

Mind you, back in 2014 Mom was already afflicted with Alzheimers and I was her sole provider. I decided to place the spoon in Mom's morning cereal. Five minutes later, to my surprise Mom began to mumble and sing, "Texas, Our Texas." Just those 3 words she knew to sing. I sang along with her. I am sure Mom went back to those wonderful memories of her childhood.



With this thought I leave you... if you are a Mom or Dad, create memories with your children, no matter how big or small, those memories will live forever.

Oh! And there is one thing I do regret. In the 1970's we were now liv-

ing in El Paso. Mom had told me her mom was born in the 1800's in Village Mills, Texas near Houston. Her family then migrated across Texas in a covered wagon to El Paso. Mrs Bernadine Antone an El Paso teacher and a member of the Daughter of the Republic of Texas, told me that

Mom qualified to become a member of the DRT.

Mrs Antone gave us the paperwork, Mom filled it out and sent it to the DRT in San Antonio. Mom was excited, she told family and friends.

A couple of months later I asked Mom if she heard back from the DRT. Mom replied, "No, son, I guess they didn't want me," I felt for her.

Remember the Alamo.

Rick Melendrez, is a native San Antonian. Melendrez considers himself fortunate to have been born in San Antonio, just 3 blocks from the San Antonio de Valero mission (the Alamo) at the former Nix hospital on the riverwalk and to have attended Catholic grade school on the south-side and on the riverwalk.

Catholic education is very close to his heart. Melendrez attended St. Michaels for five years (1960-65) and then attended St. Mary's School on the riverwalk (1965-68) and onto Cathedral high school in El Paso, Texas.

He is the former publisher of the El Paso Citizen newspaper and former chairman of the El Paso County Democratic Party. He writes a page on Facebook titled "Sister Mary Ruler, Growing Up Catholic In San Antonio". Everyone is invited to read about his San Antonio of the 1960's

You may contact Melendrez via email at rickym8241@aol.com or by phone, 915-565-1663 (landline).

An Inspiring Latino Play: Crystal City 1969



By Dr. Ricardo Romo

Migrant workers on the road to the fields. Photo by Ricardo Romo

David Lozano and Raul Trevino wrote *Crystal City 1969* in 2009, a production which The Dallas Morning News called the “Best New Play” of 2009. Residents from Crystal City learned of its success by word of mouth, but individuals who contributed to the school walkouts that permanently transformed the social and political structure in Crystal City found Dallas too far to travel to enjoy the play. That changed when the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Texas Austin provided a grant to Cara Mia Theatre of Dallas and San Antonio Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center to bring the play to San Antonio’s Westside.

David Lozano, the Executive Artistic Director of Cara Mia, teamed with Raul Trevino to write

and co-direct the play in Dallas fourteen years ago. The opportunity to bring the play to San Antonio may be the best decision of their young careers. The Guadalupe Theatre sold out all five performances within days. I attended a 10am Friday matinee that had standing room only. Lozano, a hard working and energetic director, could be found near the entrance welcoming ticket holders, answering questions about the production and historical interpretation, and pitching T-Shirt sales.

In attendance that morning were individuals who had led or joined the Crystal City walkout of 1969. One of the Crystal City cheerleaders who was denied a spot on the cheerleading squad because her

parents had not graduated from Crystal City High School sat behind me. Mario Compean, one of the Mexican American Youth Organization [MAYO] who helped to organize the walkouts, sat not far from us. On our same row a gentleman and his wife who had participated in the school strike had left Houston at 4:30 in the morning to attend the matinee. Dr. Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez, Director of the UT Austin Center for Mexican American Studies [CMAS], attended all five performances, as did Cristina Balli, Executive Director of the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center.

Lozano told me that the play *Crystal City 1969* is based on the true story of young Mexican-American students in the South Texas town Crystal City who walked out of their high school because they were fed up with discriminatory treatment. The play brings to the forefront the irrational actions, misguided policies, and the neglect of the teachers and administrators assigned to provide South Texas children an education. Before 1969, the

Latino parents, who helped pay the salaries of the teachers and principals, felt powerless to question the education system. The walkouts changed that.

The play begins with a scene familiar to many children and parents of that generation: a child being spanked for speaking Spanish in school. I am from that generation, and because I entered school with little knowledge of English, I knew that the punishment was real. In Crystal City the girls who were spanked by the teacher or principal had to raise their skirts for the spanking.

Crystal City students struggled to succeed academically because many left midway through the spring semester to join their families on the migrant trail. The school made no efforts to adjust academic programs

to accommodate migrant students. After the play, Lozano asked



Opening scene: student about to be punished for speaking Spanish. Photo by Ricardo Romo



Photo courtesy of Cara Mia Theatre.

those attending to share memories and give comments about the production. One of the Crystal City attendees reminded the audience of the many states that migrant families visited picking the crops in order to earn money. Scenes in the play show children as they joined

their parents in the fields working all day, often on their knees.

The play takes us back to a time when Mexican Americans in South Texas were rare members of local school boards and rarely held local political offices. Mexican Americans constituted 87 percent



Students demand fairness in their schooling. Photo by Ricardo Romo



Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center. Photo by Ricardo Romo

of the Crystal City student body in 1968, but only two of the seven members of the school board were Latinos. Former San Antonio Express News writer Carlos Guerra, recalled in a 1975 essay that in South Texas “voting for school board members required a poll tax, but many Latino classmates were too poor to afford lunch or a change of clothes.” Guerra reported that he found “constant reminders of racial inequality in junior high and high school and endured social ridicule.” In the play, a young Latina dreams of becoming a doctor but is discouraged by a school counselor from even thinking of pursuing higher education.

When Crystal City student leaders went before the school board in December 1969 to voice their grievances, they were given little opportunity to speak. The students decided at that point to walk out. Within days, the aggrieved Crystal City High School student leaders

met with Latino college students from San Antonio who were members of the newly formed MAYO led by Jose Angel

Gutierrez, a graduate of Crystal City High School, and Mario Compean, a classmate of Gutierrez at St. Mary’s University. In the week following the failed board meeting and the arrival of MAYO leaders, the student participation in the boycott reached 2,000. David Lozano found a very talented actor, Eddie Zertuche, to play Gutierrez.

In a moving scene in the play three students from Crystal City are invited to Washington, D.C. by United States Senator Ralph Yarborough of Texas to discuss their grievances and issues at their schools. While there, students met with Senators Edward Kennedy and George McGovern who notified the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare [HEW] of the seriousness of the Crystal City situation.

Lozano also included a scene in the play showing the volunteer teachers who went to Crystal City to tutor the striking students.

The play resonated with many in the audience who had attended Mexican American schools in the 1960s when high school girls were told to learn typing and home-making and boys were encouraged to enroll in shop classes. Herlinda Sifuentes attended the Friday matinee performance, and I spoke with her after the play. She was one of the leaders of the Edgewood High School walk out in May of 1968, a year before students walked out of the Crystal City schools.

In 2019 Suzanne Gamboa, a national reporter for NBC News, interviewed some of the Edgewood students who participated in the student walkout of 1968. She wrote, “The student council had begun demanding better supplies such as electric typewriters, building repairs, an overhaul of the curriculum to include Mexican American culture and history, and other changes.”

Edgewood School officials reluctantly met with students on three occasions, but negotiations failed. Gamboa wrote that after a failure to negotiate, “the students staged their walkout on the morning of May 16,

1968, with about 3,000 students leaving classes and hundreds marching to the school district’s offices.”

The Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center should be commended for collaborating with the UT Austin Center for Mexican American Studies to bring the play Crystal

City 1969 to San Antonio. The Guadalupe Theater is located three blocks from Lanier High School, home of the proud Volks. I grew up a few blocks from Lanier, and I know the neighborhood well. Lanier students threatened a walk out in 1968. The school boycott was avoided only through the efforts of Westside community leaders and Texas Senator Joe Bernal. Senator Bernal, a graduate of Lanier High School, successfully led the passage of the Texas Bilingual Education and Training Act in 1973 which offered bilingual education to students learning English.

The Crystal City walkout was a catalyst for social and political change in many South Texas

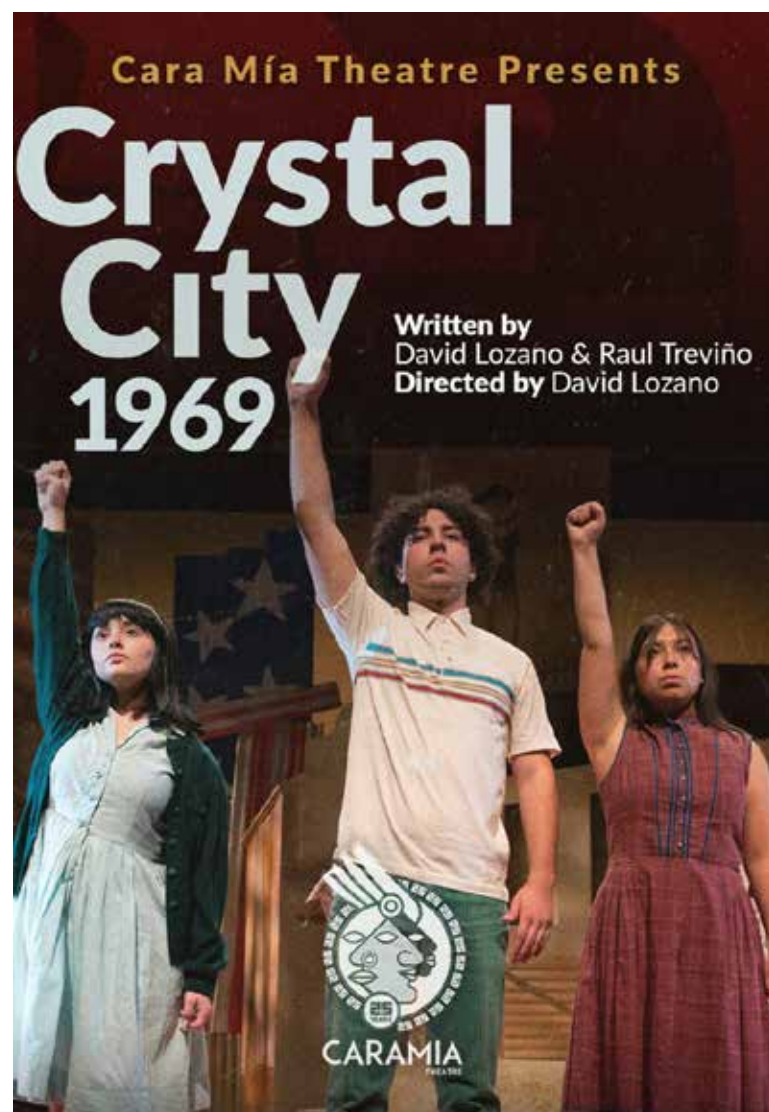


Photo courtesy of Cara Mia Theatre.



MAYO leader Jose Angel Gutierrez speaking to students in Crystal City scene. Photo by Ricardo Romo

towns. MAYO and newly created voter registration organizations, such as the Southwest Voter Registration Project led by former MAYO co-founder Willie Velazquez, helped South Texas residents elect Latino school board members, city council delegates, and mayors. The Crystal City 1969 play reminds us that the struggle

for justice, dignity, and fairness for underrepresented students and their families requires people-power, well-thought-out strategies, and strong leadership. The process for political and social change is seldom easy, but success can lead to a more democratic community.

Astros de líder finalizó temporada Masters Maceteros vs. Balandra gran final Abierta

Por Sendero Deportivo

Con el éxito deseado Liga Potranco categoría Masters 50+, cerró con broche de oro la tercera vuelta jugada en el campo 2 del complejo deportivo y social Potranco Baseball Field del artista Eloy Rocha.

Resultados. El campeón Astros de Pedro Espinoza ganaron a Dodgers de Macario Rosas con pizarra de 11-5 carreras con victoria para Chris Hux, quién puso la foja del campeón en 12 triunfos por 3 derrotas, con lo que fue líder absoluto por segunda temporada consecutiva.

Yankees SA de Luis Velázquez derrotó 10-7 a Rangers SA del Venado Benito Martínez. El último clásico dominical fue ganado por Charros [con pizarra de 10-8 carreras], de Catarino Obregón ante el sublíder Rieleros de Juan Sánchez y el coach Servando Hernández.

El scout Frank Torres quién ostenta el cargo de compilador oficial por la disciplina deportiva que perduro en los 15 partidos del rol regular, en representación del presidente Simón Sánchez, felicitó a directivos de los seis clubes partici-

pantes, seguidores, familiares y del padrino Rafa López (quién hizo su retorno jugando tercera base con el campeón Astros).

Torres, dijo a La Prensa Texas, que para apertura de posttemporada en el campo 2, éste domingo 29 de enero al punto de las 10:30am se enfrentaran Rieleros (#2) vs. Yankees (#3).

A las 2pm Astros (#1) vs. Rangers SA (#4). En series a ganar 2 de 3 partidos.

En partidos del playoffs categoría Abierta dominical Potranco, con sede en campo 1. Los potentes equipos Balandra


del ex ligamayor Ezequiel Pérez, en el tercer partido de su serie doblegaron 7-3 al trabuco Bravos de Jesús Ramirez y Freddy García. Ambos equipos fueron felicitados por los Hermanos Martínez (Kiko y Chiro), padrinos de temporada 2022.

El súper líder Maceteros de Edwin Ortiz Jr y el coach Francisco Navarro, ante Cardenales de Nacho García no sudaron la camiseta al serles otorgado el triunfo bajo el reglamento del "Forefeit". De acuerdo al timonel boricua Edwin Ortiz Jr.

La serie ante Balandra arranca éste domingo 29 de enero en el horario de 1:30pm campo 1. Es probable que en el primer partido abran los lanzadores estelares José López de Maceteros y Anderson Acevedo de Balandra. En esta serie final no hay favoritos para ganar el banderín ya que ambos equipos traen una excelente alineación. En las fotos aparecen: Astros (Foto cortesía). José López de Maceteros. Pedro Espinoza, manager y jugador del campeón Astros SA.

[Fotos de Franco].





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New Bill Aims to Make TCEQ Even Meaner



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By Annalisa Peace

As the 88th session of the Texas legislature gets underway, I review the new bills filed daily to determine how they will affect our shared agenda. This past Tuesday brought one of the meanest bills I have ever seen filed in Texas. SB 471, filed by Senator Drew Springer of Muenster, would require the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality to “charge a person who files a complaint a fee before the commission investigates the complaint if, in the same calendar year in which the complaint is filed, the person has filed at least three complaints with the commission for which neither the commission nor a local enforcement official took enforcement action before closing the file on the complaint”.

Persistent citizen complaints often indicate that the problem has not been fixed, despite the status as determined by TCEQ when closing a case file. We are aware of instances when TCEQ has closed a complaint case file prior to receiving a final report from their own investigators.

For example:

For going on two months, residents of the Grove subdivision at Vintage Oaks, a suburb of New Braunfels, have complained to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) about “a horrible sewer, rotten egg, sulfur, and feces smell” emanating from the Vintage Oaks wastewater treatment plant owned by San Jose Water, a California company that purchased Canyon Lake Water Supply in 2021. Accord-

ing to one resident, the smell “permeates our homes, sinks, stove, air vents, shower drains, and toilets. It is so bad that you can smell it off Interstate 46.”

TCEQ records show that between 11/25/2022 and 1/2/2023, twenty-two complaints about the smell from area residents have been registered. Our research shows intermittent complaints about foul odors coming from this plant have been registered since 2019. Files for all of these complaints, including the most recent, have been “closed” according to the TCEQ Central Registry. Notes for each complaint state: “Action Taken: This complaint has been assigned and will be further investigated by an Environmental Investigator. The investigation data; however, is not available until approved by management.”

Obviously, Senator Springer disagrees that the customer is always right. To add insult to injury, he is proposing that citizens be charged fees for submitting complaints about issues that were never addressed in the first place. To read the full text of SB 471, please visit <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=88R&Bill=SB471>.

Stay tuned for updates on the status of the good, the bad, and – in this case, the ugly – bills being filed. And, please, feel free to let your legislators know how you feel about legislation that affects you.

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Ages 12+ | 8:00am

\$10 General | FREE for Members



Beginner Bird Walk

Saturday, February 25

8:00 - 10:00am

FREE for Members | \$10 for General



NVC Hosts San Antonio Peace Center for the 18th Annual Blessing of the Peacemakers, 2023 Peace Laureates and Launch of Compassionate USA

By Melissa Monroe-Young

Hosted by Northwest Vista College, the San Antonio Peace Center will celebrate the 18th Annual Blessing of the Peacemakers on Sunday, Jan. 29 from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. at the Palmetto Center for the Arts Theater. This event will honor the 2023 San Antonio Peace Laureates and founders of the San Antonio Peace Center: Rosalyn Falcón Collier, Ann E. Helmke and Susan Ives.

The Blessing of the Peacemakers is a multi-faith ceremony featuring music, inclusive and innovative rituals, and inspirational speakers that honors all of the peacemakers in San Antonio. The event marks the beginning of the United Nations 64-day Season for Nonviolence.

The Blessing will also serve as the unveiling for the Compassionate USA campaign, which was recently announced,

Jan. 18, by San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington, DC.

Created by the Alamo Colleges District, the City of San Antonio and San Antonio Peace Center at NVC, Compassionate USA is a people-centered campaign committed to promoting compassion, community healing, and well-being.

The campaign includes a six-part compassionate skills course, paired with videos and a community toolkit designed to develop a foundational skills and practices that reduces suffering and increases well-being and resilience. Official launch date will be June 2023. A video trailer of Compassionate USA will be shown at the Blessing.

The community can attend virtually or in person by reservation at this link:



18th Annual Blessing of the Peacemakers
Peace is Our Birthright

2023 Peace Laureates
Rosalyn Falcón Collier
Ann E. Helmke
Susan Ives

Rosalyn Falcón Collier
Ann E. Helmke
Susan Ives

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/blessing-of-the-peacemakers-peace-is-our-birthright-tickets-471533498387>

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Karolina's Southside

By Ramon Chapa Jr.

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