



ART & CULTURE

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EDITORIAL

By ROSA BEATO

HAPPY EVERYTHING! We dedicate this edition of the Las Comadres Connect Newsletter to **Art and Culture**. Many of us have talents, skills and abilities that need to be told. Whether you are an entrepreneur starting your own business, a photographer finding that perfect picture, an artist letting the best of you shine through colors or a writer who understands passion and expresses it through words, poetry, songs.

We work to bring meaningful and educational articles to all of our Comadres so that we stay engaged. There're many ways we can connect to our roots and culture when volunteering, or supporting local events, small and local businesses, art galleries, museums; cook together with family, friends and of course during your monthly comadrazos. By cultivating who we are, we don't have to go far to find us.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Comadres Connect! is the quarterly Newsletter for and by Las Comadres Para Las Americas.

Fall/Winter 2024 Newsletter Editor: Rosa Beato
Contributors: Esperanza Beltrán, María Ferrer, Jacqueline Quiñones and Clara Galvano Rivera

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ART & CULTURE



ONE-ON-ONE WITH CYNTHIA LANDEZ

By Rosa Beato

Growing up, I wasn't allowed to cook, but I always watched my mom in the kitchen because I was very curious. She wasn't a traditional Mexican woman because she didn't like cooking. But the few meals she made were awesome and, of course, the family's favorites. She was a firm believer that my sister and I should enjoy our youth and kept us from cooking before we had to. She said we would be cooking for our families for the rest of our lives. I know now that I love to cook but I don't like to do it daily either. So, on those special days, my cooking is truly a labor of love.

During college and early in my adulthood, friends taught me and shared their recipes. After a while I noticed I had a nice little stack of recipes. At that time, I was crafting a lot and making cards. So, in 2006, I took the collection of recipes and made a cute cookbook that I then gave back to those friends as a Christmas gift. It took me 6 months to type them all out, format, print and bind the books. It was a great hit with them all. After that, other friends started sharing their recipes too so they could be part of Version #2.

At a recent Comadrazo, I showed Nora Comstock my old cookbook and I saw a twinkle in her eyes. What I didn't know is that Las Comadres had considered the idea of a cookbook for years but paying a publisher was too expensive. That was how the idea of this cookbook came to be. I'm not a professional publisher or editor, but I have a passion for uniting Comadres, and a cookbook is the perfect means.

I repeated a couple of my recipes into this new cookbook. They are both Christmas recipes for me because I love the holiday season and all the traditions. I featured Gingerbread Cookies and Pan de Polvo Cookies.

My oldest niece Brittany was about five years old when she asked me to make her gingerbread cookies for Christmas. I didn't have a recipe but how could I let her down. So, I scrambled around looking for a recipe. The funny thing is that when we made our first batch, Brittany couldn't stand the smell of the molasses. I thought that would be the end of us making gingerbread cookies but when they came out. I forced her to try one and she loved them. So, now we have been making them for 25 years and it's a family tradition.

2024 marks the twentieth year of my Annual Christmas Cookie Party with my girlfriends. Every first Sunday of December, we come together for a big lunch. We make Pan de Polvo Mexican cookies while we chat about our families, work, and all the good and bad that's happening. We also exchange gifts, and everyone goes home with a tin of cookies.



When working on this cookbook and reading the stories from the Comadres, I noticed the most common thread mentioned is their moms, families and happy times. Food is a great way to strengthen family traditions, triggers good memories and emotions, creates a sense of comfort, celebrate cultural identity and heritage. Food means passing down great family values and traditions.

I have enjoyed hearing from Comadres from all over the United States and from different cultures. I have never met Puerto Rican people and much less eaten their food. So, I'm excited to make some of the recipes.

I asked Las Comadres to include ingredients and cooking instructions, which are typical for cookbooks. But I asked them to also include a story about the recipe, the name of their City's Network and picture of themselves so we could get to know them. I feel those last 3 items make this cookbook a great gift to pass on to their children and families.

I hope Las Comadres enjoy making these recipes for their next Comadrazo or family event and that they continue to make new memories.



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SING ALONG with SOL Y CANTO

By Rosa Beato

WHO AM I?

I'm *Rosi Amador*, born in Puerto Rico to my Nuyorican mom, actress Josefina del Mar and my Argentine actor dad, Jaime Andrada. I started singing as a child and never stopped! The 2024-25 season is my Latin band, [Sol y Canto's](#) 30th anniversary! And the 40th anniversary of singing professionally with my husband New Mexican guitarist/composer *Brian Amador*. I am [Sol y Canto's](#) lead singer, percussionist and manager. Our group ranges from a duet to a quintet and tours nationally, but particularly in the New England area. Our music is best described as a socially conscious jazz-tinged Latin folk music group. The Boston Globe describes [Sol y Canto](#) as "Boston's beloved Pan-Latin music ambassadors". Our mission is to create music and performances that move, delight, excite and connect – connect the audience to the richness of Latin American culture; connect individuals, Hispanic and non-Hispanic, to each other through shared experience of music, poetry, humor and a joyful, playful vibe; and connect us all to our hopes and visions of a better world.

EN TU ORBITA

On September 20th in honor of our 30th anniversary, [Sol y Canto](#) released a new album called "*En Tu Órbita*" (In Your Orbit)! It is available for purchase as a CD with a beautiful booklet with lyrics, translations and inventive handmade drawings by Brian on our website, [solycanto.com](#) and you [can stream it](#) on all digital platforms.

Acclaimed [NPR Radio Station](#) WBUR in Boston featured "*En Tu Órbita*" as one of '14 Albums by New England Musicians to Listen to This Fall'!

A little history: for three decades, we have been crafting our unique blend of socially conscious, acoustic pan-Latin music and poetry. Inspired by the Latin American *Nueva*

canción movement, our songs set contemporary and timeless themes to musical arrangements replete with surprises. They can make you dance, laugh, cry and sigh within the span of a few songs.



"*En Tu Órbita*", features varied Latin rhythms from Colombian cumbia and Cuban son, boleros from Puerto Rico to ballads, among others. Our repertoire consists primarily of inventive originals by Brian Amador and handpicked beloved classics from South America and the Caribbean. With Brian's commanding, intricate guitar playing, Rosi's rhythmic drive on cajón and bongos, soul-stirring rich vocal harmonies and liberal use of vocal improvisation and body percussion, the duo's sound is lush, and on the album, they were joined by top instrumentalists who contributed additional wind instruments, acoustic bass, drums, timbales and cajón.

Rosi hopes you will all join [Sol y Canto's email list](#) to receive occasional concert and music updates as well as RECIPES and cooking videos - Brian Amador is a GREAT chef and the cooking videos are sabrosos! Please follow [@SolyCanto](#) on Instagram and [Sol y Canto on Facebook](#) to help show them you care.

On another note, Rosi and Brian's daughter Alisa Amador, who toured with them as of age 4, is now a 28-year-old bilingual singer-songwriter in her own right, having won the NPR Tiny Desk Contest in 2022. She won singing a song in Spanish- it was the first time the contest honored a song in Spanish! She is currently touring all over the U.S. and will sing in Boston to support the release of her gorgeous (in Rosi's humble opinion!) first full-length album called "*Multitudes*" at the Sinclair in Harvard Square Cambridge on Thursday, December 5th. View her schedule and listen to her music on [alisamador.com](#).





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LAS COMADRES CELEBRATES 25 YEARS!

LIVE! This April. Austin, TX.

Keynote Speaker. Leadership Panels. Fun Breakouts. Delightful Exhibitors.

The Nora Awards!

Registration begins in January.



Support Your Comadres.

Please donate \$25+ to help us with the Worldwide Comadrazo. [Click here](#)

LAS COMADRES COOKBOOK

Recipes from the Heart

Coming soon to a kitchen near you

58 Comadres * 100+ Recipes

Soups, Salads, Main Dishes,
Casseroles & Desserts



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THE BIRTH OF THE VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE

An excerpt from a post on Unpopular Stories of Mexico

By Esperanza Beltran

The story of the Virgin of Guadalupe begins in the latter part of the 13th century in Extremadura in the southern part of the Kingdom of Castile (currently Spain). Gil Cordero, a farmer and resident of this area was about to skin his dead cow near the River of Guadalupe (Guadalupe comes from the Arabic “guada,” meaning water, and “lupe,” meaning wolf, so river of wolves) when Mary, the mother of Jesus appeared to him and pointed to a place where she wanted him to dig. Obedient, Cordero went to the archbishop who, after some insistence, had a group of clergymen accompany Cordero to the site. After some digging, they found a wooden Marian image along with documents that proved that this was the image that had been hidden away during the Muslim invasion of Seville in the 8th century, so the story goes. Although this story is a legend, like that of the Juan Diego in Mexico, what is undeniably true, is that this particular Marian image did come into existence around this time.

As rumors of the apparition of the Virgin of Guadalupe, as she was named, spread through the northern part of the Kingdoms of Castile and Portugal, people began traveling south, leading to many pilgrimages and the eventual formation of the Caminos de Guadalupe, which continue to exist today. Some believe that this story of the apparition was created with the purpose of repopulating an area that had been left almost empty after the Battle of Tolosa in 1212 when the Christians managed to expand their kingdom by pushing the Muslims south into what is now Granada.

By 1435, when Hernan Cortes was born, the Virgin of Guadalupe had become the patron saint of Extremadura. Like many Extremadurians, Cortes was a devout believer



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and admirer of the Virgin. As such, he carried with him a standard with her image on his trip to the new found American continent. Later, after conquering Tenochtitlan, Cortes and his men would plant this standard in the Cerro del Tepeyac, the location where the Mexica went to honor their female deities.

Today, every 12th of December, millions of people travel by foot, car, bike, bus, or any other mode of transportation to pay their respects and gratitude to *La Virgencita*.





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LATINAS OF INFLUENCE

NINE COMADRES RECOGNIZED IN 2024!

By Maria Ferrer



Hispanic Lifestyle

For over 25 years, *Hispanic Lifestyle* magazine has been at the forefront of recognizing excellence within the Latino community. Their Connecting

Latinas of Influence series is a celebration of community leaders across the United States.

I was honored to have been recognized by *Hispanic Lifestyle* as a Latina of Influence in September. I am happy to report that eight other Comadres were also recognized, including my sister, Dr. Charley Ferrer. We are the first set of sisters to ever win this award and in the same year!

I proudly present to you our “**Comadres of Influence:**”

NEW YORK, NY

**Maria C. Ferrer, Executive Director,
Las Comadres Para Las Americas**



Maria joined Las Comadres Para Las Americas in 2006 and immediately felt at home. She found a group of strong, like-minded Latina women who came together in sisterhood and community. She was named Director of Las Comadres Para Las Americas in 2021, and Executive Director in 2023. In the past three years, she has launched the Latinas Speaker series, an Entrepreneur Club, a Marketplace Directory, Las Comadres Kitchen and a Mind, Body, and Spirit series. There is also a monthly Members’ Accomplishments List and coming soon a Comadres Authors Database. Maria has also produced and organized two virtual Worldwide Comadrazos whose keynote speakers have included the legendary Dolores Huerta and Nellie Gorbea, former Rhode Island Secretary

of State. Maria’s goal is to re-connect all Comadre Facilitators worldwide and form a cohesive, multifunctional, multigenerational group of Latina Leaders to serve all members and their communities.

INLAND EMPIRE, CA

**Julia Amante, Author, Educator
Community Servant**



Julia’s journey has taught her to cherish her roots, embrace her Latina heritage, and appreciate the life her parents built in the U.S. She weaves the two cultures together in her novels, illustrating the unique beauty of America. To Julia, being Latina is not a separate identity from being American; her immigrant story is a vital part of this country’s rich history, a sentiment that resonates with readers of all backgrounds

LOS ANGELES, CA

**Julie Delgadillo, Executive Director
Corazón U.S. & Comunidad Corazón A. C. México**



Julie Delgadillo is a non-profit Binational Executive Leader, a Bestselling Author, a Sought-After Confidence Coach, and an Award-Winning Mentor who trains and coaches leaders and communities globally. As Executive Director, Julie oversees communities and teams that provide scholarships for students from kindergarten to college, job and life skills training for adults, and leadership development programs for teens and adults. Julie is a firm believer in leading by example and it’s not uncommon to catch her rolling up her sleeves and wearing a toolbelt to personally contribute to building homes in Mexico for deserving low-income families.



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TEXAS

**Esmeralda Adame Ph.D., President/CEO
Consulting Firm – LLC**



Dr. Esmeralda Adame, a first-generation student, has several degrees including a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, Masters in Business Administration, and a Doctoral degree in Educational Leadership. She is the founder and CEO at Consulting Firm, LLC where she supports organizations by assessing and improving the company’s culture, business processes, and efficiency. When it comes to leadership, she’s the “Leadership Doctor”. Esmeralda is bilingual and provides services both in English and Spanish. She has trained and equipped educational entities, retail, banks, parents, construction companies, young adults, and more.

**Larissa Davila – Executive Director
Economic Growth Business Incubator (EGBI)**



Larissa Davila is an expert in business development, and a business strategist with a focus in multicultural community engagement. She has a passion for helping small business owners use their talents for the benefit of the community while developing their own profitable and sustainable businesses. In 2014, Larissa launched BCO Consulting Group, offering services to micro, small and mid-sized business owners, government agencies and nonprofit organizations around strategic planning, budgeting, pricing strategy, process improvements, market research, marketing services, and bilingual community outreach.

**Mary Ann Kellam – President / CEO
Irving Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**



Mary Ann Kellam is President/CEO of the Irving Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (IHCC). Under her leadership, the IHCC has added several business seminars, Leadership seminars, as well as on-going training for small start-up businesses and existing businesses needing specific assistance or certification as minority-owned businesses. Ms. Kellam has led the chamber to such success that it’s being recognized as one of the most involved Hispanic chambers in the DFW area as their members come from all over the Metroplex. They have received 3 back-to-back Medium Sized Chamber of the Year awards from TAMACC. They have also received 2 grants from the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, for the success of their Power Hour Seminars and the new Spanish Entrepreneurship workshops, La Hora de Poder. The IHCC was selected as the 2021 United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Chamber of the Year.

**Erica Marie Lopez, State Chair
Hispanic Women’s Network of Texas**



In 2014, Erica joined the national law firm of Lineberger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP and serves as a client and marketing liaison. Aside from her professional duties, Erica is actively involved in her community. She serves as the Hispanic Women’s Network of Texas State Chair. The Hispanic Women’s Network of Texas is an organization whose mission is to seek the advancement of women in corporate, public and civic life. HWNT seeks to advance the education, cultural, social, legal and economic well-being of all women through a broader awareness of their role in society, business, and family.



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FLORIDA

Dr. Charley Ferrer – CEO and Founder, Cancer Tamer Foundation



After being diagnosed with breast cancer, Dr. Charley witnessed and personally experienced the apathy and misogyny associated with this disease. Convinced there had to be a better way to deal with breast cancer, she established Cancer Tamer Foundation, based on the philosophy that “you should not be at war with your body.” Charley is the producer and playwright of the award-winning Off-Broadway Sensation *Breast Cancer Diaries*, a dramedy which shares the true stories of women & men diagnosed with this disease, showcasing their fears, challenges, and triumph. The Play recently won First Place in the Regional competition for Dramatic Writing and won Second Place in the National Veteran’s Creative Arts Festival for Short Script.

Dr. Adis M. Vila, JD, MBA, NACD.DC – CEO & Founder, Vila & Associates



Adis Vila is a global CXO with 30+ years of experience driving success for multibillion-dollar public and private sector organizations. She specializes in navigating highly regulated industries and empowering organizations undergoing transformation. Adis is an expert in international business and regulation, with extensive public policy and foreign affairs experience. Her command for driving cross-cultural understanding for businesses is rooted in her personal experience. Cuban-born, Adis came to the US as a political refugee and speaks four languages. She has lived and worked throughout the US, Latin America, and Europe and is a 30-year member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Named a “Leading Latina” by *Hispanic Executive* and a “Director to Watch” by *Directors & Boards*, Adis leverages her governance knowledge gained from serving on the Board of the United States Department of Agriculture’s Rural Telephone Bank and on the Advisory Board of Global Asset Management (GAM), a subsidiary of UBS.



Comadres at the NYC Latinas of Influence Awards



Comadres at the New Jersey Latinas of Influence Awards



(Left) Comadres at the Florida Latinas of Influence Awards



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MUSEUMS THAT CELEBRATE US!

By Clara Galvano Rivera



**NATIONAL
MUSEUM OF THE
AMERICAN
LATINO**

There are many, many museums across the U.S. and in Puerto Rico that offer events and exhibits that focus on our Latinidad. The [Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Latino](#) is based in Washington, D.C. and I believe is the youngest in the country. It was founded in 2020 by an Act of Congress and although there is no building for it yet, they have secured a 4,500 square foot gallery in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. Because it is so young, they are still asking the public for assistance and if you are interested, you can become a member!

Two current exhibitions are [Thrive in Diversity](#) that focuses on Latinos with a disability, and *SOMOS* that explores the beautiful and far-ranging Latino identity. Check their website for more info on current and upcoming exhibitions. The museum strives to give access to Latino art, history and culture through public programs, educational materials and career and leadership development.



Let's travel all the way west and land in sunny Long Beach, California to visit [Museum of Latin American Art \(MOLAA\)](#). A museum that bills itself as "The only Museum in the United States dedicated to modern and contemporary Latin American and Latino Art."

Founded in 1996, the [Museum of Latin American Art](#), serves the Greater Los Angeles area. Besides offering exciting exhibits and educational programs, they offer cultural events that highlight the art within its walls. Interesting note, the site the Museum occupies used to be the home of the Balboa Amusement Producing Company which between 1913-1918 reigned as the #1 silent film studio, producing as much as 20,000 feet of negative film a week!

Current exhibits include *Vermelho Como A Brasa*: Andrey Guaianá Zignnatto, *I Am: New Afro-Latinx Narratives*, Betsabée Romero: *Malacate de Asfalto* and Robert Gumbiner *Sculpture and Event Garden*. These will be available through February 23, 2025. Interesting stuff!



We've been east and west and now here's something exciting in the Midwest!! [El Museo Latino](#) opened in 1993 as the first Latino art & history museum and cultural center in the Midwest. Their website is proud to announce that [El Museo Latino](#) is one of only seventeen Latino museums in the United States. This museum offers exhibits as well as developing educational programs that include lectures, workshops, art history classes, gallery talks, guided visits, and even dance classes. Some of the programs are age specific and others are for adult audiences only.

El Museo Latino has become an important resource and a center for Latino studies in the Midwest. They even have their own dance company, "CHOMARI" Ballet Folklorico Mexicano! Current exhibits include *Presencia y Memoria*, *Frida Kahlo* and *The Blue House* and *Memory Oral Histories*.



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With so many new members joining Las Comadres from Texas, it was hard to pinpoint one museum, but The [Instituto de Cultura Hispanica de Corpus Christi](#) (ICH) sounds interesting and offers a smaller scale intimate museum experience for visitors.

The ICH was founded in 1976 and strives to promote Hispanic culture through the exhibits, as well as events that touch on music, dance, and community. They also award scholarships to outstanding students who attend Texas A&M Corpus Christi and Del Mar College! You can check their website for updates about their offerings: <https://ichtx.org/our-events>.

Comadres can find museums in striking distance of where they live in the U.S. and Puerto Rico and most of them will be hosting holiday events – so explore and enjoy! (See link under “More Museums” for others to visit.)

You might even be inspired to organize a Comadres outing to visit and attend special exhibits and events as a group. Whichever museum you visit, you will come away with knowledge, as well as an appreciation of these institutions that celebrate our culture.



MORE MUSEUMS

By Jacqueline Quinones

This link takes you to a list of Latino museums and Hispanic institutions that have a track-record of exhibits and events of Latino content, like the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago and El Museo del Barrio in New York: <https://museumenvironments.com/latino-museums/>

LATINO FILMS

By Jacqueline Quinones

As Latino film festivals are on the rise, we decided to do some research to find treasures amongst our Hispanic heritage. Check it out!

- [List of Latin American Film Festivals 2024](#)
- [Best Latino Movies to Watch as a Family](#)
- [11 'Must See' Movies that Celebrate Latino History and Culture - Salud America](#)

MUSIC: PARRANDAS

Part of the Christmas Season in Puerto Rico are Parrandas (also known as *asaltos* or *trullas navideñas*). Friends and family form a group called Parranderos to sing Aguinaldo's in their neighborhood. Singing is accompanied by playing traditional and well-known Puerto Rican instruments like *güiros*, *panderetas*, *cuatros*, *maracas* and *palitos*. They choose whom to visit throughout the night starting at 10:00 pm and arrive by surprise. The families who receive the parranderos provide snacks such as pasteles, finger foods and drinks like coquito.

- [What is a Puerto Rican Parranda? \(video\)](#)
- [Canciones Navideñas De Todos Los Tiempos](#)



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COMADRES ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Congratulations to the following Comadres on their Accomplishments.

Dr. Nora de Hoyos Comstock (Austin, TX) – What an honor! The International Latino Book Awards has renamed their Mariposa Award for Best First Book in Fiction after our Nora. This Mariposa Award goes to debut authors and will henceforth be named... The Nora de Hoyos Comstock Mariposa Award for Best First Book, in both the English and Spanish categories!!

Teresa Lara (Los Angeles, CA)–New Job! Teresa accepted a position in USC's healthcare system as Assistant Director of Campus Outreach and Engagement in the Communications/Marketing Department. She's super excited to promote wellness, health accessibility, and to collaborate with partners across both campuses.

Julie Anna Alvarez Rivera (New York, NY) – started a new position as Director of the Center for Career Development at Manhattan University (Riverdale, Bronx, NY) on November 4.

Liliana Andriani (Inland Empire, CA) – was selected as a Spirit of the Entrepreneur Award Finalist by the Inland Empire for Entrepreneurship (IECE) at Cal State San Bernadino. 34 Entrepreneurs were selected from a pool of over 300 nominees.

Cecilia Aragon (Seattle, WA) – Appeared on the CBS show MISSION UNSTOPPABLE, filmed in September 2024. Plus, Cecilia celebrated her 40th wedding anniversary in June! Cheers!

Ileana Araguti (Beaumont, CA) – The Spanish version of her novel SHATTERED PARADISE is now available, PARAISO DESTROZADO. Ileana is working on new novels and is looking for literary representation.

Andrea Arroyo (New York, NY) – Returned from exhibitions in Italy and France, and she invites Comadres

to join her for the opening of her next solo show in NYC, "Faces & Façades," featuring a new series of paintings inspired by the women and architecture of Northern Manhattan. Please join her on October 19, 3-4:30pm, at the [Morris-Jumel Mansion Museum](#). Free and open to all, no RSVP needed.

Gloria Chin (New York, NY) – Launched Synergy Strategy Group, a Strategic Communications and Public Relations Consultancy focused on uplifting minority and women owned businesses, nonprofits and entrepreneurs. With nearly 10 years of television news experience in the #1 media market and 17 years of public relations counsel to c-suite leaders, city leaders, and 2 U.S. Mayors, I am looking to put this experience to use for my community. Adelante!



Larissa Davila (Austin, TX) – was recognized as a Latina of Influence by Hispanic Lifestyle magazine. EGBI, the organization she leads, received the Community Champion 2024 award from the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. EGBI is ranked #1 Business Accelerator in Central Texas by Austin Business Journal 2024.

Nylda Dieppa (Orlando, FL) – Her book, ALBORADA / DAWN: A Cross-Cultural Memoir in Poetry has received an Honorable Mention award from the International Latino Book Awards in the Juan Felipe Herrera Best Poetry Book Award category. Nylda is proud to be in the company of Emanuel Xavier, one of three finalists in the same category and author of LOVE(LY) CHILD. She interviewed him for the Las Comadres Book Club recently.



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COMADRES ACCOMPLISHMENTS (cont.)

Diana Diaz (Hackensack, NJ) – After an impressive 25-year tenure in a prominent bankruptcy law firm, serving as the Chief Operating Officer for the last 10- years, Diana took a bold step forward and resigned to pursue her passion for helping others. Shortly after, she founded her own Legal Research Bankruptcy Consultant Firm and is pursuing her dream of becoming an attorney, laying the foundation for her future law firm. Reflecting on her journey, Diana realized that fear was once her greatest adversary, holding her back from seizing opportunities. However, she has now conquered that fear, emerging more confident and determined than ever to continue her mission of uplifting the Hispanic community. This journey is not just a professional milestone; it's a profound personal transformation that inspires her to forge ahead and make a lasting difference.

Araceli Esparza (Madison, WI) – was named Latina Influencer of the State of Wisconsin by the Wisconsin Latino chamber of commerce.

Laura Esparza (Austin, TX) – After retiring in March 2024, Laura founded a new foundation called A3, devoted to raising and distributing funding to individual artists, musicians, performers and other arts related contractors who offer their work to the Austin public for free.

Eris Garriga (New York, NY) – Has a new Spanish language book coming soon, AGUADILLA EN IMAGENES Y VERSOS.

Ana Gonzalez, OP (Boston, MA) – Is rocking Graduate School at Boston College and on track to graduate with her MA in Theology and Ministry with an emphasis in Latino Pastoral Ministry.

Estella Gonzalez (Tucson, AZ) – Her novel HUIZACHE WOMEN was awarded the gold medal for "Best Popular Fiction" at the International Latino Book Awards ceremony held on Oct. 19 at Los Angeles City College. AND, won the New Mexico-Arizona Book Award for "Multicultural Fiction" on Oct. 2, 2024.

Karina Hernandez-Martinez (Pflugerville/Austin, TX) – is happy to report that she was accepted in [the ACC Fashion Incubator](#) – Designer in Residence program starting this past October.

Raquel "Rachel" Moran Nevarez (Pharr, TX) – Won a Goodwill Scholarship from the Texas Association Court Administration (TACA) for continuing in Certification of Court Administration in the State of Texas for Certified Court Management.

Mireya Perez-Bustillo (Brooklyn, NY) – Her poem, *Going to the Mamos*, was published in *Brownstone Poets 2024 Anthology*. Plus, she will have six of her poems published in *The Poetry Table Anthology 2020-2024*.

Mirta Rinaldi (Forest Hills, NY) – The company she works for, League of Kitchens, is publishing a cookbook that showcases her recipes, along with the recipes of her peers. We are proud and excited to introduce this collaborative book that allows us to share a little bit of our culture and favorite family recipes. We will have a book tour through the end of the year with a big launch event at the Invisible Dog Art Gallery in Cobble Hill on November 13th, 7pm in NYC. All Comadres and friends are welcomed to celebrate our book and taste eight of our instructors' food!

Madeline Vega (Austin, TX) – Was interviewed by the [University of Texas Austin Electrical and Computer Engineering](#) department for Hispanic Heritage Month.

Desiree Zamorano (Altadena, CA) – Her book launch and profile appeared in [Latinitas Magazine](#).





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COMADRE AUTHORS

Congratulations to our **COMADRE AUTHORS** for their latest publications.

MAY

Susana G Baumann (Lakewood, NJ) -- Speak Up! Tell Your Story to Influence Others: A Guide to Storytelling with a Multicultural Approach. This book is also available in Spanish.

AUGUST

Ileana Araguti (Beaumont, CA) – The Spanish version of her novel SHATTERED PARADISE is now available, PARAISO DESTROZADO from New Trends Press.

Rudy Ruiz (San Antonio, TX) – his book THE BORDER BETWEEN US, fiction, was published by Blackstone Publishing. The book is also available in Spanish, LA FRONTERA ENTRE NOSOTROS.

Mireya Perez-Bustillo (Brooklyn, NY) -- Her poem, *Going to the Mammos*, was published in Brownstone Poets 2024 Anthology.

SEPTEMBER

Desiree Zamorano (Los Angeles, CA) – her book, DISPOSSESSED, a historical fiction novel, was published by Running Wild Press.

OCTOBER

Julia Amante (Inland Empire, CA) – her romance book, CHRISTMAS WITHOUT YOU, was published by Wise Writer Publishing.

Glenda Galvan-Garcia (Garden Grove, CA) – debuts with The Whole Enchilada: Mexican Recipes Full of History and Fun. This is a bilingual book – English and Spanish. It covers everything from snacks to main dishes, desserts and drinks.

Nimia Maria Ramos Beauchamp (Bayamon, PR) – self-published a games and puzzle book, [COMBO X-WORD PUZZLE ALTERNATIVE HEALTH 2024](#).

NOVEMBER

Deborah Nevarez-Vivolo (Placerville, CA) – her poetry appears in the INLANDIA: A LITERARY JOURNEY, published by Inlandia Institute. Her flash fiction was published in last year's WRITING FROM INLANDIA anthology.

Mirta Rinaldi (Forest Hills, NY) – her recipes appear in THE LEAGUE OF KITCHENS COOKBOOK from Harper Collins.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!



ART & CULTURE

COMADRES CORNER

LAS COMADRES & FRIENDS BOOK CLUB

OCTOBER

- Craft: Stories I Wrote for the Devil by Ananda Lima
- Chicano Frankenstein by Daniel A. Olivas

NOVEMBER

- Abuelita’s Magical Molcajete by Mole Mama
- The Salvisoul Cookbook: Salvadoran Recipes and the Women Who Preserve Them by Karla Tatiana Vasquez

DECEMBER

- The Volcano Daughters by Gina Maria Barbieri
- There is a Rio Grande in Heaven by Ruben Reyes Jr.
- Jose Feeds the World by David Unger

JANUARY 2025

- The Prince and the Coyote by David Bowles
- Embody Joy by Beatriz Fritzcher

FEBRUARY 2025

- Bird of Four Hundred Voices by Eugene Rodriguez
- Like Happiness by Ursula Villarreal-Moura

For complete book summaries and author bios, visit our website at www.latinolit.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All Comadres welcomed! All via zoom unless otherwise indicated. We will send out the zoom links before each event.

- **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25**
Las Comadres & Friends Book Club Teleconference: interviews with authors Mole Mama and Karla Tatiana Vasquez.
- **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12**
Vision Board Workshop with Julie Anna Alvarez
- **MONDAY, DECEMBER 16**
Las Comadres & Friends Book Club Teleconference
- **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19**
Annual Holiday Concert with Sol y Canto
- **SAVE THE DATE! JANUARY 1, 2025 – NEW BEGINNINGS!**
Launch the New Year with your Comadres. We’ll chat, laugh, cry and celebrate the old and the new and all the endless possibilities we are capable of together.
- **SAVE THE DATE! APRIL 25-27, 2025**
Worldwide Comadrazo, Austin, TX
(see Ad for more details)



IMPORTANT WEBSITES

- [Las Comadres para Las Americas](#)
- Join [Las Comadres & Friends Book Club](#)
- [Las Comadres accomplishments/Las Comadres Blog](#)
- [The Nora Awards](#)
- Subscribe to [Las Comadres YouTube Channel](#)
- [Comadres authors](#) send us your book news

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COMADRAZOS PHOTO ALBUM

Showcasing in person Comadrazos for 2024.



Mid Valley Comadres Network (TX)



SW Austin Comadres Network (TX)



New York City Comadres Network (NY)



Inland Empire Comadres Network (CA)



NW Austin (Cedar Park) Comadres Network (TX)



NW Austin (Round Rock) Comadres Network (TX)

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COMADRAZOS PHOTO ALBUM (cont.)



Upper Rio Grande Valley Comadres Network



San Antonio Comadres Network



SW Austin Comadres Network



NW Austin Comadres Network



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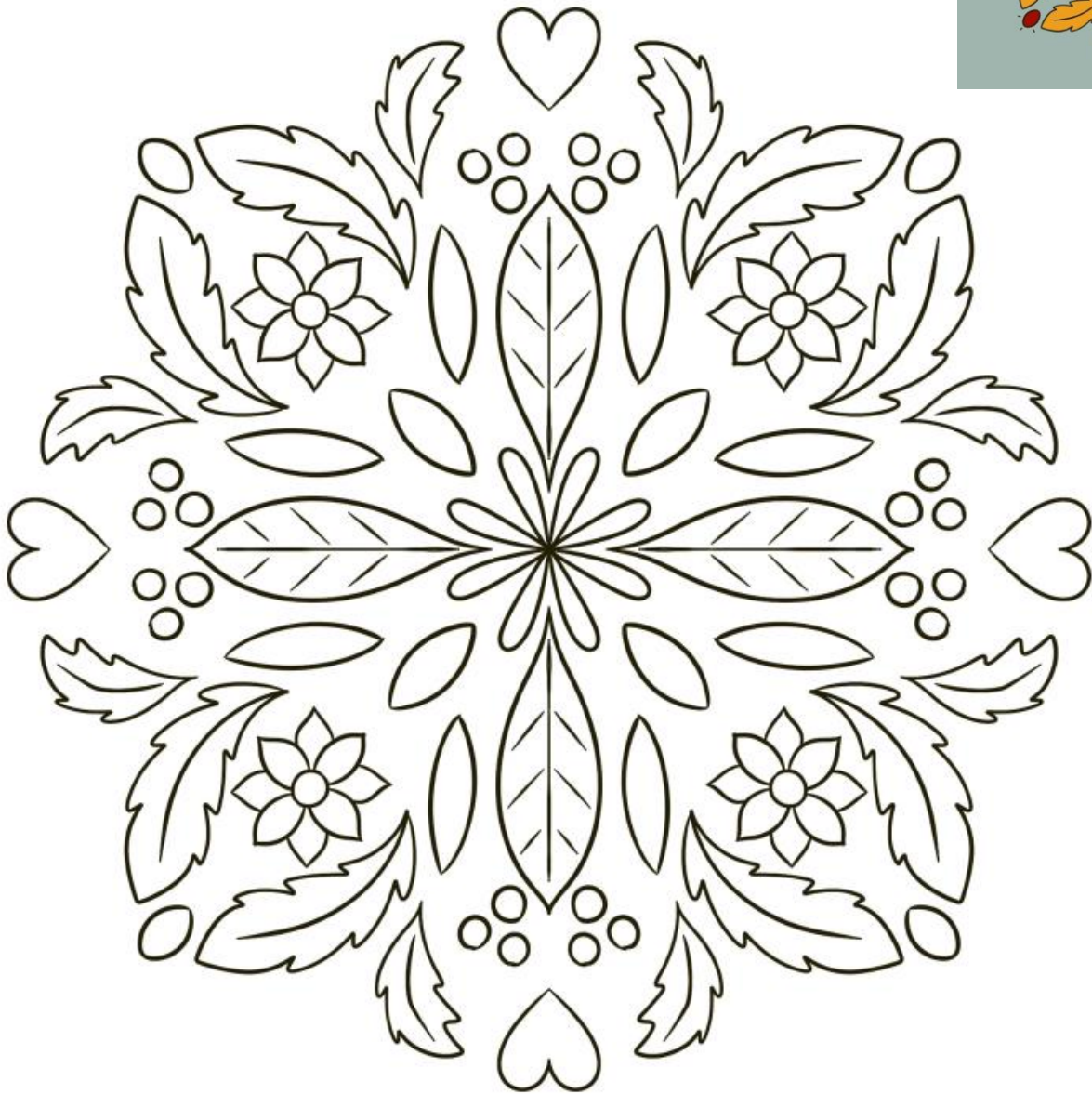


ART & CULTURE

ARTWORK: MEDALLION

(stencil y inspiration)

by Esperanza Beltrán



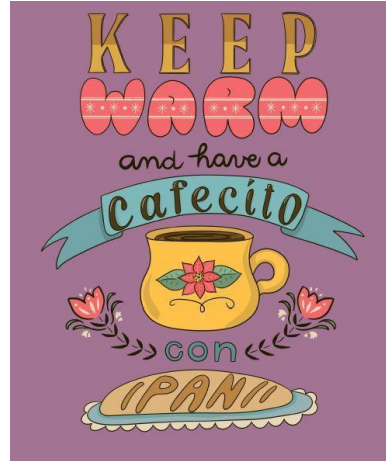


ART & CULTURE

ARTWORK: KEEP IT WARM

(stencil y inspiration)

by Esperanza Beltran





ART & CULTURE

COMADRES PODCASTS



Below is a list of the podcasts/newsletters created by Comadres! I hope you will take time to read and/or listen to the wisdom reflected here. We will update this information to include those who missed the request to share, and we will also post it on the website. Enjoy and share. Many of these podcasts/newsletters are available on multiple platforms: Apple, Facebook, iHeart, Instagram, LinkedIn, Spotify, Substack, Twitter/X, etc.

SALLY ACEVEDO

[Marketing Digital Simplificado](#)

Bienvenido a nuestro blog, tu fuente esencial para lo último en estrategias de marketing digital y redes sociales. Aquí encontrarás información actualizada e insights de expertos sobre una amplia gama de temas, diseñados para mantenerte informado y ayudar a que tu negocio prospere en el dinámico mundo digital. Nuestro blog está aquí para guiarte en cada paso del camino. sallyacevedo.com sallya@soymujer.digital

ESMERALDA ADAME

[Persistence in Adversity](#) (once a month)

Share people's stories of adversity, persistence, ganas, and success.

ANDREA ARROYO

[News from Andrea Arroyo Studio](#)

The newsletter features news about visual artist Andrea Arroyo, with invitations to special events and exhibitions.

MARITERE BELLAS

[Mamas411](#)

A podcast, en español, for Latinx parents that are raising bilingual, multilingual, multicultural children anywhere in the world. Now in its 11th season; listened to in 27 countries around the world.

MARCELA CELORIO

[Ruta USA](#) (twice a month)

"There are many paths, but only one 'Ruta USA.' Through conversations, we accompany immigrants and build bridges between different cultures. We encourage you to reach your full potential, not only for yourself but for the community as well. Our main goal is to cultivate civic leaders who contribute to a culture of sustainability and mutual support."

LARISSA DAVILA

[La Incubadora Podcast](#) (every other Monday)

This bilingual podcast is a project of the Economic Growth Business Incubator. The reason we decided to launch *La Incubadora podcast* is because we see small business success stories every day, we offer practical answers to frequently asked questions, we speak with opinion leaders and experts in their industries and we wanted to create a space so that our entrepreneurs can listen to all this information in their own time.

ALICIA ELATASSI

[The Señora Vibes](#) (once a week)

Welcome to The Señora Vibes Podcast, where your toughest questions meet life-changing tips! Whether you're seeking advice on personal growth, career transitions, relationships, or wellness, Alicia's got you covered! Each episode dives deep into your most pressing questions, offering practical, actionable insights to help you navigate life's challenges with confidence and conviction. Join us for expert interviews, inspiring stories, and a supportive community that's all about embracing our Señora Era together.



ART & CULTURE

COMADRES PODCASTS (cont.)

LOREINNA HERNANDEZ

[Escapades](#) (once a week)

Adventures to overcome Limiting Beliefs Latinas face when we come to the US from a Leadership and foreigner perspective. "Escapades" is a podcast. The focus is on exploring a variety of thought-provoking and often taboo topics. Each episode presents a new "adventure," encouraging listeners to reflect on topics such as vulnerability, intimacy, happiness, and self-care.

MARCELA LANDRES

[E-zine: Latinidad](#) (four times a year)

Latinidad is an award-winning ezine that helps Latinx writers become well-published and features Q&As with authors plus a curated list of contests, calls for submissions, and residencies.

VALERIE MENARD

[PODER](#) (four times a year)

A newsletter for People Organized in Defense of the Earth and her Resources.

DANIA RAMOS

[Timestorm](#) (completed fiction, 3 seasons)

Timestorm is a time-travel fiction podcast series for families. When the Ventura twins are yanked into another dimension, they meet a distant cousin who gives them an extraordinary mission: travel through time to preserve their culture's true history. Along the way, they meet people from Africa, Europe, and the Americas who have left their mark on Puerto Rican heritage.

ANDREA RIVERA

[The Andrea Effect Channel](#)
[Linktree](#) | tr.ee/FghLNreeZX

The podcast addresses mental health wellbeing in the entrepreneurial space for Latinas while addressing generational cycle breaking, millennial movements, thriving vs. surviving and more.



NYLDA DIEPPA

www.nyldadieppa.com/subscribe

"Word Sketches" Newsletter

Nurturing communities of Integrity, Courage, and Service through no-holds-barred storytelling.

MONICA TALAN

[LatinosBuild](#) (four times a month)

A newsletter by TechTranslators that celebrates the achievements of Latinos in technology. Each issue highlights trailblazing innovators, from groundbreaking startups to key industry insights, *LatinosBuild* aims to amplify the voices of Latinos making a difference in the tech world, inspiring the next generation of leaders.

LIXANDRA URRESTA

[Career Switch](#) (twice a month)

A podcast for career changers who are trying to switch industries or professions, or break out on their own. Listen to others who've made their career. Career experts weigh in with their best advice.

[What Rules!?](#) (once a month)

Through inspiring conversations with C-level multicultural executives, we offer rule-breaking strategies and stories for women of color to advance their careers in corporate America.

RACHEL YBARRA

Embrace Any Future (twice a month)

[Apple](#) | [Spotify](#) | [Substack](#)

Embrace Any Future: A financial education podcast for corporate, entrepreneurial, and non-profit leaders seeking greater business knowledge, financial strategies, and wealth-building solutions from a CPA and investor who achieved early financial independence.



ART & CULTURE

MEET THE EDITORS & CONTRIBUTORS

ROSA BEATO



A long-time resident of Boston since 1977, originally from the Dominican Republic. Currently employed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the past 36 years as a Program Analyst. I have spent my entire career with the EPA holding a variety of leadership roles. Team Leader for the IT help desk providing IT support for over 600 employees amongst other major responsibilities supporting the agency. Received many awards throughout the years including two-time Glenda A Farmer Award for Exemplary Technical Support which is amongst the highest recognition in the agency. Co-facilitator of Boston Las Comadres Network for more than 5 years.

JACQUELINE QUIÑOÑES



My name is Jacqueline Quiñoñes and I have been a Comadre for about 10 years. I met a Comadre (forgot her name, she is the one who moved down south) during one of the writers conferences. I enjoy

painting, crochet and cooking. This is a picture of my sweet boy Bonito. He was a stray in my backyard that I rescued. He now lives with me and gives me a reason to get up every morning.

NORA DE HOYOS COMSTOCK



The National /International Founder of Las Comadres Para Las Americas. She is the mastermind behind all things for Comadres. She has also graciously agreed to proofread the newsletter before it goes out.

ESPERANZA BELTRÁN



An editor for over two years and is currently in search of an agent for her debut novel, [OFELIA: AN ORCHID IN THE SIERRA](#), a story based on the life of her grandmother with whom she had a complicated love-hate relationship. She also has a newsletter of her own, [The](#)

[Unpopular History of Mexico](#), in which she shares her findings on Mexican history. Esperanza is also the creator of our coloring pages.

MARIA C. FERRER



She is Executive Director of Las Comadres Para Las Americas and the Las Comadres & Friends National Latino Book Club. In her other life she is a globe-trotting meeting planner who has visited 25+ countries and counting. When not organizing events, Maria is reading, writing and learning to paint watercolors.

CLARA GALVANO RIVERA



She is a Journalist and Freelance Writer. Clara has interviewed business leaders, celebrities, sports figures, and regular laymen about many different subjects. As a Case Study Writer,

her journalism skills equip her with the hands-on experience necessary to interview customers strategically and collect measurable results.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

HAPPY EVERYTHING!