

Las Comadres

PARA LAS AMERICAS



Comadres Lead the Way

WORLDWIDE COMADRAZO

25TH ANNIVERSARY

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

APRIL 25-27, 2025 * AUSTIN, TX

#WWC25 #ComadresLeadTheWay



COMADRES

LEAD THE WAY

comadre | koh-mah-dray |

adj. 1 An honorific title for a woman who demonstrates leadership, uplifts other *mujeres* in a spirit of non-competition, and embodies transformational solidarity to help birth a new world where all can thrive.





MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER Dr. Nora de Hoyos Comstock



Queridas Comadres,

What a milestone! Many of you have been with us since the beginning and it has been a journey. I don't know how to begin to thank you for the support and encouragement you have given this venture. I certainly couldn't have done it alone and the constant presence and support of my husband, Jack Bell, is immeasurable. The many of you who volunteered and continue to be part of the organization made it possible to move forward, with little steps. Our board members, early visionaries, who support our wild hopes and dreams, we honor and celebrate you for staying with us through thick and thin.

I really have no words for what building this organization with you has meant to me. But YOU are Las Comadres. You have made it what it is today and what it will be tomorrow under the leadership of Comadre Maria Ferrer who valiantly stepped up during the pandemic to help make the daunting changes required by losing our email provider of 20 years and the new platforms made possible by the changes in technology. She will be your North Star now, reading the crystal ball to better serve you.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you in building our future.

Nora





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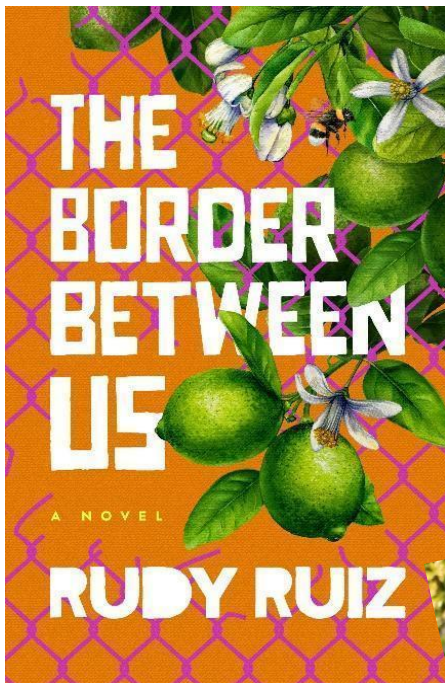
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Founder proud to support by securing a sponsor



www.RudyRuiz.com





MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

Teresa Lara



What began as a spark—just an idea and an email—has blossomed into something extraordinary. Las Comadres Para Las Americas was born from a powerful vision: to connect, empower, and uplift Latina voices across the world. Today, we stand in awe of what that seed has become—thousands of friendships, connections, and a global sisterhood built on trust, love, and purpose.

This weekend, we celebrate 25 years of that vision. A legacy fortified by courage and inspiration. A legacy that created sacred spaces where our dreams could take root, where we lift one another high into the air of the mighty, and where we remind the world of the unstoppable strength of unity.

A heartfelt thank you to Nora de Hoyos Comstock for daring to follow her dream—for believing in the power of connection, for forming everlasting bonds, and for being our North Star. Your unwavering commitment and strength have protected and guided this organization through every season.

To this year's Nora Award honorees—¡Felicidades! Your light shines brightly and continues to lead us forward, embodying the true spirit of leadership and service. To our dedicated planning committee and facilitators—your tireless work, resilience, and behind-the-scenes brilliance have made this weekend possible. We thank you with full hearts.

¡Ánimo! Let us continue to dream boldly, lift each other fiercely, and carry this movement into the next 25 years and beyond. With pride and gratitude,

Teresa



LAS COMADRES PARA LAS AMERICAS

National / International Founder

Dr. Nora de Hoyos Comstock

Board of Directors

President – Teresa Lara

Secretary – Dr. Ana Nogales

Treasurer – Dr. Nora de Hoyos Comstock

Executive Director – Maria C. Ferrer

Previous Board Members

Annabella Arteaga, Ph.D., Austin, TX

Johanna Castillo, New York City, NY

Elizabeth Garcia (deceased)

Bibi Lobo Somyak (deceased)

Lupe Morin, Austin, TX

Audrey Ponzio, Austin, TX

Nimia Ramos Beauchamp, San Juan, PR

Veronica Riversa, Austin, TX

Deanna Rodriguez, New Orleans, LA

Angela Sustaita-Ruiz, Miami, FL

Gloria Williams, San Diego, CA

Irene Williams, Austin, TX

WORLDWIDE COMADRAZO COMMITTEE

Producers – Dr. Nora de Hoyos Comstock & Maria C. Ferrer

Stage Manager – Rosa Beato

Nora Awards Coordinator – Teresa M. Tobin

Vendor Coordinator – Irma Orozco

Housing Assistant – Adriana Castillo Hillwood

Membership Coordinator – Mirtha Gutierrez Perez

Website Coordinator – Dr. Charley Ferrer

Artist – Laura López Cano

Las Comadres Para Las Americas and the Worldwide Comadrazo logos were created by artist **Laura López Cano**.



FROM BOARD SECRETARY DR. ANA NOGALES



Celebrating 25 years is a blessing for us! The opportunity to connect with Comadres has provided crucial support for many during difficult times, it offers a space where one can find inspiration from one another, and redefining purpose from walking hand-in-hand with each other. The continued existence of Las Comadres serves as a testament to the strength of our collective bond and the value we place in our community. We deeply thank Nora for her 25-year vision of creating a heart-to-heart space where women can connect.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARIA C. FERRER



Congratulations, Nora! Your vision for connecting Latinas through community is a reality that has flourished for the past 25-years. I am proud to be a member of Las Comadres and to have the privilege of working alongside you to grow our community and foster sisterhood, friendships and feminine power. Comadres Connect!

FROM THE LAS COMADRES ARTIST LAURA LÓPEZ CANO



First let me try to put into words how grateful I am for being asked to create artwork which would reflect sisterhood and community which cares for each other, and are always there to give a helping hand, an embrace, or share words of encouragement. With the help of Nora, I developed the image of Las Comadres. Women in a loving embrace. For me, being part of this community of powerful Latinas has given me a sense of belonging and connection to mujeres everywhere who support and love each other.





KEYNOTE SPEAKER



LOURDES J. RODRÍGUEZ, DRPH

Lourdes J. Rodríguez, DrPH, is the Chief Executive Officer of the David Rockefeller Fund. She previously served as a senior program officer at the Austin-based St. David's Foundation, one of the country's largest health foundations. Prior to that, Lourdes served as Associate Professor and Director of Community-Driven Initiatives at the Dell Medical School at the University Texas at Austin. She earned her Master of Public Health degree from the University of Connecticut and her Bachelor of Science in Industrial Biotechnology from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.





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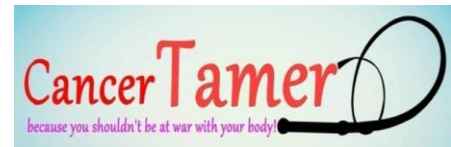
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www.casadelafamilia.com



Lola's Cocina
www.lolascocina.com



Jeannie Diaz Yoga
<https://jeanniediaz.offeringtree.com/>

AGENDA

FRIDAY – April 25

5:00pm -- Welcome Reception

SATURDAY – April 26

8:00am—Registration

9:00—Welcome by Las Comadres Board

9:30—Keynote Address by Lourdes Rodriguez, CEO, David Rockefeller Fund

9:50—Presente! Stepping Up to Leadership (panel)

10:35—Civic Engagement & Environment Leadership (panel)

11:30—AM Coffee break

12:00pm—Charla Entre Comadres Tracks -- Guided Discussions

- Leadership Track—Being an Effective Leader
- Life-Work Balance Track—Self-Care: Creating a Lifestyle for All Ages
- Creative Spirit Track—Discovering your Ingenuity and Creativity

12:45—Lunch

2:00—Charla Entre Comadres Tracks -- Guided Discussions

- Leadership Track—Keeping Your Business Growing
- Life-Work Balance Track—Preparing for Life After 65
- Creative Spirit Track—Latino Writing, Reading & Film

2:50— Charla Entre Comadres Tracks -- Guided Discussions

- Leadership Track—Comadres Connect—Building Your Network
- Life-Work Balance Track—Using AI and Technology to Manage Your Health
- Creative Spirit Track—Destressing & Self-Renewal

3:35—PM Coffee break

4:00—Comadres Leading the Way (panel)

4:30—Nora Awards Ceremony

5:00—Closing Remarks & New Las Comadres Song

Sunday, April 27

8am—Las Comadres Closing Brunch



PANELS

9:50 am – Presente! Stepping Up to Leadership



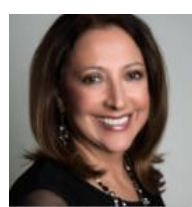
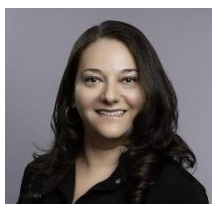
- Maria C. Ferrer – Executive Director of Las Comadres Para Las Americas.
- Monica Muñoz Andry – President and CEO of the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.
- Adriana Vila-Rota – Founder and Director of ConnectARTE, a collective of Latinas in Austin dedicated to the appreciation and promotion of the arts.
- MODERATOR: Mila Rios McCutchen – Retired. Former Director of Public Sector Business Development, and former Regional Analytics Sales Manager for IBM.

10:35 am – Civic Engagement & Environment Leadership



- Susana R. Almanza – Founding member and Director of PODER, People Organizes in Defense of Earth and her Resources, a grassroots environmental, economic and social justice organization.
- Honorable Celia Israel – Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector.
- Honorable LaRessa Quintana – Austin Independent School District Board Member.
- MODERATOR: Olga Campos Benz - Freelance Media and PR Consultant at i-Media Strategies.

4:00-- Comadres Lead the Way



- Dora Maria Abreu – JMT Coach, Technologist, Engineer, STEM Advocate.
- Laura Esparza - Executive Director of A3: Art Alliance Austin, the City's first non-profit Local Art Agency.
- Nancy Flores – Editor and Publisher of *Austin Vida*, and Journalist and Founder of Cultura Media.
- MODERATOR: Dr. Ana Nogales – Owner of Casa de la Familia and Las Comadres Board Secretary.

CHARLA ENTRE COMADRES GROUP A

12 NOON

Leadership Track – Being an Effective Leader



- Viviana Aureille, Tennessee Comadres Network Facilitator.
- Terry Saucedo, Inland Empire Comadres Network Facilitator.



LifeWork Balance Track – Self-Care: Creating a Lifestyle for All Ages



- Geri Luna Wilson, Devoted Exercise Enthusiastic for over 40 years.
- Jeannie Diaz, NYC Certified Yoga and Meditation Teacher.

Creative Spirit Track – Discovering your Ingenuity and Creativity!



Laura Lopez Cano
Las Comadres Para Las Americas Artist.



CHARLA ENTRE COMADRES GROUP B

2:00 PM

Leadership Track – Keeping Your Business Growing



- Rebecca Flores Castro, Multi-Business Owner & Impact Investor and DFW Network Facilitator.
- Isela Hernandez, Founder & President, HERNÁN Mexico.

LifeWork Balance Track – Preparing for Life After 65



- Jenny Acosta, CEO & Founder of Envision Financial.
- Cindy Landez, Project Manager, San Antonio Comadres Network Facilitator.
- Marion Sanchez, City of Austin, Community Engagement Consultant.

Creative Spirit Track – Latino Writing, Reading & Film –



- Tess Tobin, Las Comadres Book Club Project Manager and former President of REFORMA.
- Oddett Garza-Weatherspoon, Austin, Tx Director, Writer and Producer.
- Karen Gonzales, Facilitator of the Las Comadres & Friends Denver Book Club and Co-Founder of the Colorado Alliance of Latino Mentors and Authors (CALMA).

CHARLA ENTRE COMADRES GROUP C

2:50pm

Leadership Track – Comadres Connect – Building Your Network



- Rosemary Guzman Hook, Owner, Hook the Talent.
- Andrea Rivera, Owner, United Strategies Virtual Marketing.



LifeWork Balance Track - Using AI and Technology to Manage Your Health



- Nora Comstock, National / International Founder of Las Comadres Para Las Comadres.
- Rosa Beato, Boston Comadres Network Facilitator.

Creative Spirit Track – Destressing & Self-Renewal



- Rose Costas Dietrich, Founder, Las Comadres Garden Club.
- Imelda Rocha, Facilitator for Las Comadres in Washington, D. C. and now Dallas/ Fort Worth, TX.





Austin Community College offers more than 100 programs in 10 areas of study that lead to career certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, or university transfer. Explore classes that can boost your income, improve your skills, and change your life.

www.austincc.edu



St. David's Foundation is one of the largest health foundations in the United States, funding over \$80 million annually in a five-county area surrounding Austin, Texas. Through a unique partnership with St. David's HealthCare, we strategically reinvest proceeds from the hospital system back into the community, with the goal of advancing health equity and improving the health and well-being of our most underserved Central Texas neighbors.

<https://stdaidsfoundation.org/about/>

IN MEMORIAM



Susana Aleman
Pflugerville, TX



Mary Armesto
Austin, TX



Celia Castro
Austin, TX



Irene Escobedo
Austin, TX



Cecilia "Cece" Flores
Denver, CO



Magdalena "Madge"
Gallegos, Denver, CO



Elizabeth Garcia
Austin, TX



Bibi Lobo
Austin, TX



Yolie Hernandez
Orange County, CA



Socorro Herrera
Los Angeles, CA



Ruth Saenz
El Paso, TX



Blanca "Suzu" Saenz
de Gonzalez, Austin, TX



Rachael Torres
Austin, TX



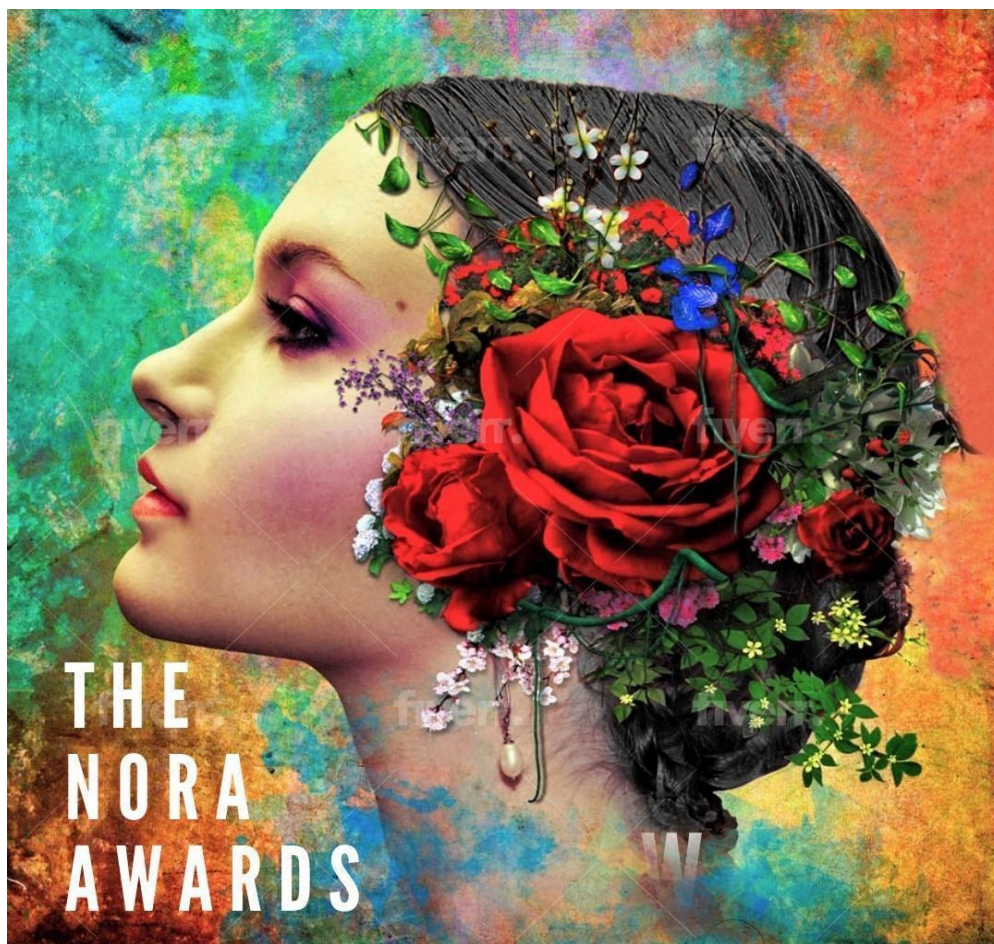
Aileen Schef
Washington DC.

THE BORDER BETWEEN US by Rudy Ruiz



Austin Community Foundation (ACF) mobilizes ideas and resources to strengthen Central Texas. ACF is focused on advancing economic mobility and housing affordability, and it uses varied tools—data, convening, and philanthropic dollars—to implement its strategy. Established in 1977, ACF stewards \$579 million in total assets under management. In 2024, ACF granted \$64 million to the community, mostly through donor advised funds. Learn more about them at www.austincf.org

THE NORA AWARDS



Named in honor of our National/International Founder, Dr. Nora de Hoyos Comstock, The Nora Awards recognizes active Comadres who exemplify the virtues of Loyalty, Generosity, Sisterhood and Kindness.

- The Nora Award for Comadre of the Year is for a Comadre who has helped another Comadre.
- The Nora Award for Comadre Community Service is for a Comadre who has helped her community.
- The Nora Award for Friend of Las Comadres is for a company who continually supports our organization and the Latino community at large.

COMADRE OF THE YEAR FINALISTS



Viviana Aureille, Murfreesboro, TN – Vivi exemplifies the Comadre spirit with her generosity, sisterhood and kindness. I remember a comadre who lived an hour away from Nashville and was going through very hard times. Vivi provided food for her and her children and helped her find a job. This comadre, like Vivi has a special needs child. On another occasion Vivi encouraged us to donate our time to the Community Kitchen in town.



Yolanda Guzman, Edinburg, TX—Keeping us together is a commitment in itself, even for one on ones and group meetings. Yolanda has the energy and drive; and always gives her best. She has been an active Comadre and Facilitator for more than 15 years.



Cindy Landez, San Antonio, TX – The generosity that Cindy exhibits is unmatched. She gives selflessly, whether it's a helping hand, a listening ear, or taking time to organize monthly gatherings and editing the Las Comadres Cookbook. She's always ready to offer her time and resources.



Nydia Marsella, Staten Island, NY – Nydia is a good listener and a good helper and is always willing to help a fellow Comadre. She is a facilitator of the NYC Comadres network, and has just recently volunteered with the Las Comadres & Friends Book Club. Nydia is a Super Comadre, one you can always count on.



Terry Saucedo, Rancho Cucamonga, CA -- Terry Saucedo has been there for many of us one on one. She is a dedicated, devoted, patient, generous and loving Comadre, the perfect example of a Comadre Leader. She has been taking care of the Inland Empire comadres for 16+ years. Even during covid, she stayed connected to her comadres making sure they didn't fall into depression or worse. Terry is available to all her network Comadres and even those across the U.S.



COMADRES COMMUNITY SERVICE FINALISTS



Moni Avila, San Antonio, TX – A dedicated community leader, educator, and advocate whose work is deeply rooted in equity, cultural empowerment, and service.



Jennifer Beauchamp-Ankeny, Salem, MA – A Spanish interpreter for an inner-city courthouse, Jennifer competently and seamlessly eliminates communication barriers so everyone can feel confident that they can adequately express themselves in court.



Gloria Chávez Casas, Harlingen, TX – For the past 25 years, Gloria has overseen the development and recognition of Las Comadres in her community and surrounding cities. She always ensures to involve Comadres from surrounding cities and offers to help them organize a network in their own city.



Sheila Perez-Kindle, Denver, CO – Serves her community through various organizations like the Auraria Historical Advocacy Council and Mile Hi Veterans, who provide educational scholarships. Sheila also works with a dog named Nika to help patients and families at Denver Health hospital deal with traumatic issues.



2025 NORA AWARD WINNERS

COMADRE OF THE YEAR: TERRY SAUCEDO



COMADRE COMMUNITY SERVICE: SHEILA PEREZ-KINDLE



COMPADRE EXTRAORDINAIRE: JACK BELL

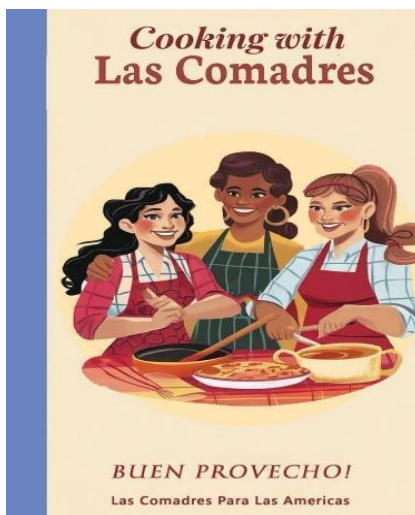
Jack is Nora's husband and Las Comadres' *first* Friend and continuous supporter.



This award has been renamed the
“JACK BELL FRIEND OF LAS COMADRES AWARD”
In honor of Nora’s husband, a Compadre Extraordinaire

WINNER

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



COOKING WITH LAS COMADRES cookbook includes recipes from Members of Las Comadres Para Las Americas. 60 Members. 130+ recipes for Food Lovers everywhere. We have everything from Abuela's Coquito to Lola's Aguas Frescas to Carmen's Codfish Salad to Mari's Puerto Rican Paella to Tamales de Martinez to Hubby's Chicken Pot Pie to Tania's Churros to Our Favorite Pumpkin Flan. We have recipes to delight every palate.

Available in soft and hardcover on Amazon.
Order your [copy today](#).



RECOGNITION AWARDS

Membership Coordinator

Mirtha Gutierrez Perez

Las Comadres & Friends National Latino Book Club Leadership Team

Teresa M. Tobin * Dora Maria Abreu

Karen Gonzales * Nydia Marsella

Las Comadres Newsletter Editors

Rosa Beato * Esperanza Beltran * Jacqueline Lugo

Program Hosts

Jeannie Diaz * Lola Wiarco Dweck

Las Comadres Song

Nila Ornelas

Comadres At Large

Irma Orozco * Diane Mazuca * Adriana Castillo

Terry Saucedo * Cindy Landez * Connie Lopez

HOSTESS AND WELCOMING COMMITTEE

Sally Acevedo

Ernestine (Tina) Balderrama Kubicek

Olga Campos Benz

Eyna Canales-Zarate

Perla Cavazos

Casilda (Casi) Clarich

Nora de Hoyos Comstock

Rose Costas Dietrich

Rosemary Guzman Hook

Connie Lopez

Veronica Marquez

Leonor Mendoza

Susana Morales

Ana Beatriz Muñoz

Adrienne Pulido

Yesenia Ramos

Mila Rios McCutchen

Ruth Rubio

Marion Sanchez

Linda Serrano-Carlos

Adriana Vila-Rota

Susan Warner-Sanchez



OUR THANKS TO LAS COMADRES FACILITATORS

Austin Network – Mirtha Gutierrez, Connie Lopez and Nila Ornelas
Boston Network – Rosa Beato and Debbie Bonilla
Chicago Network – TBD
Corpus Christi/Aransas Pass Network -- Katie Galan, Almira Flores, Hope Rangel, Angie Romero and Sylvia Laurel
Dallas/Fort Worth Network – Imelda Rocha, Rebecca Castro and Mona Chavez
Washington DC Network – Lola Hermosillo
Denver Network – Karen Gonzalez
El Paso Network -- Judith Solis, Alicia Rascon and Margie Brickey
Inland Empire Network -- Terry Saucedo
Los Angeles Network – Teresa Lara
Miami Network – Maria Fernanda Caicedo Sardi
Nashville Network – Viviana Quezada
New Haven Network – Ana Garcia
New Jersey Network – Marilyn Moya and Jackie Melendez
New York City Network – Gladys Ayala-Borjas, Maria Ferrer, Miriam Molina and Nydia Marsella
Orange County Network – Ana Nogales, Monica Rangel and Addy Perez Mau,
Orlando Network – Nylda Dieppa
Portland Network – Ariana Chavarria
Puerto Rico – Abie Benitez
Rio Grande Lower Valley – Brownsville Network, Adela Kowalski-Garza
Rio Grande Mid Valley – Harlingen Network – Gloria Casas
Rio Grande Upper Valley – McAllen Network – Raquel "Rachel" Nevarez, and Alma Quintanilla Castillo
Sacramento Network – Sandra Thompson
San Antonio Network – Cindy Landez
San Diego – South Network – Melody Vela
San Diego – North Network – Sandra Silva Fichter and Laura De Anda

LAS COMADRES & FRIENDS NATIONAL LATINO BOOK CLUB FACILITATORS



North Austin Book Club – Ester Valentin
South Austin Book Club – Laura Esparza, Ruth Rubio and Diane Mazuca
Boston Book Club – Rosa Beato
Dallas / Fort Worth Book Club – Imelda Rocha
Denver Book Club – Karen Gonzales
New York City Book Club – Teresa Tobin
San Diego Book Club – Viridiana Word



BIOS

Dr. Nora de Hoyos Comstock – National/ International Founder of Las Comadres Para Las Americas. Las Comadres began on a sunny day in 2000 in Austin, Texas. The organization is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year. Thanks to Nora's efforts there is a Las Comadres & Friends National Latino Book Club, Las Comadres University, Las Comadres Cookbook, Las Comadres Kitchen and Las Comadres Presents: Mind, Body & Spirit series. Thanks to Nora there are Comadrazos being held from California to New York, from Colorado to Puerto Rico. Learn more about Nora at www.LasComadres.com.

Dora Maria Abreu – JMT Coach, Technologist, Engineer, STEM, Passionate Advocate, Compassionate Mentor and Dynamic Trainer. Dora is also an award-winning children's book author (YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL), and the Social Media Coordinator for the Las Comadres & Friends National Latino Book Club. Learn more about Dora at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dmabreu/>

Jenny Acosta – CEO & Founder of Envision Financial. **Jenny Acosta** is a seasoned real estate investor, realtor, business consultant, and founder of West Coast Property Partners in California. Learn more about Jenny [here](#).

Susana R. Almanza – Founding member and Director of PODER, People Organizes in Defense of Earth and her Resources, a grassroots environmental, economic and social justice organization. Susana was appointed to the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (2021-2024). She has spent her life organizing for the advancement of the underprivileged in the neighborhoods of East Austin and beyond.

Viviana Aureille – Tennessee Comadres Network Facilitator. Vivi is a dynamic and accomplished IT professional with over 15 years of experience. She is also a passionate advocate for children with special needs and has dedicated her time to providing crucial information and support to families, particularly those with children on the autism spectrum. Learn more about Vivi at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/viviaureille/>

Rosa Beato – Rosa is the Boston Comadres Network Facilitator and an editor of the Las Comadres newsletter, Comadres Connect! and a member of Toastmaster International. Learn more about Rosa [here](#).

Olga Campos Benz – Freelance Media and PR Consultant at i-Media Strategies. Olga is one of the most honored anchor/reporters of the Texas airwaves covering the biggest news stories in Houston, Corpus Christi and Austin over the past 30 years. She is also an award-winning author (IT'S NEWS TO ME). Learn more about Olga [here](#).





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Rose Costas Dietrich – Founder of the Las Comadres Garden Club. Rose joined Las Comadres in 2004. She is currently a caregiver with the Visiting Angels.

Jeannie Diaz – Certified 200-hour yoga and meditation teacher. Jeannie is the Hostess of Las Comadres Mind, Body & Spirit series. Her yoga classes focus on breathwork, mindfulness, body positivity and are accessible to all. Jeannie teaches classes in both English and Spanish. Contact her at jnamaste18@gmail.com.

Laura Esparza – Executive Director of A3: Art Alliance Austin, the City's first non-profit Local Art Agency. Laura retired after 17 years as the Division Manager of the City's 12 Museums and Cultural Centers that she ran for the City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department. She is also the Facilitator of the Las Comadres & Friends Book Club, South Austin.

Maria C. Ferrer – Executive Director of Las Comadres Para Las Americas. Maria has been a member of Las Comadres for 18+ years and is one of the Facilitators for the New York City Comadres Network. She sits on the Board of Latinx in Publishing and is a world-trotting meeting planner.

Nancy Flores – Editor and Publisher of *Austin Vida*, and Journalist and Founder of Cultura Media. Nancy is also an alumna of the Hispanic Austin Leadership Program and served on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, and helped relaunch its local Central Texas Chapter. Learn more about her at <https://austinvida.com/team>

Rebecca Flores Castro – Multi-Business Owner & Impact Investor. As COO of My Homeownership Academy and founder of Results Driven Enterprises, she drives innovative solutions across real estate, education, and community development. Rebecca is also one of three facilitators in the Fort Worth Network. Link to her at <https://linktr.ee/rebeccawithresults>

Oddett Garza-Weatherspoon – Austin, TX, Director, Writer and Producer. Odett is the Interim Director, Career Scholars at Austin Community College. Learn more about her [here](#).

Karen Gonzales – Facilitator of the Las Comadres & Friends Denver Book Club and Co-Founder of the Colorado Alliance of Latino Mentors and Authors (CALMA). Learn more about her at [here](#).

Rosemary Guzman Hook – Owner of Hook The Talent. They do full cycle talent acquisition for digital marketing agencies and tech companies. Rosemary is also a storyteller and writer. Learn more about her at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/rosemaryhook/>.

Isela Hernandez – Founder & President, HERNÁN Mexico, a brand of premium Mexican kitchenware and specialty food products. Isela launched the company in New York City in 2008 but is now based in San Antonio. Learn more about her at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/isela-hernandez-3318a86/>

Honorable Celia Israel – Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector. Celia was the first in her family to graduate from college. She was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 2014 and was named “Freshman of the Year” in her first term in the legislature. She also co-founded the LGBTQ Caucus in the Texas House. Learn more about Celia at <https://tax-office.traviscountytexas.gov/about-us/celia-israel>



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Wisdom En Familias, LLC, Leonor Vargas, LMSW-CEO &
Founder proud to support by securing a sponsor

Cindy Landez – Project Manager, KCI Technologies, Inc. and San Antonio Facilitator. Cindy is a strong program and project management professional with a Bachelor's degree focused in Civil Engineering from Texas A&I University. Learn more about her at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/cindy-landez-velasquez-p-e-68694746/>

Laura Lopez Cano – Las Comadres Para Las Americas artist. Laura paints memorable images that represent her culture. She has exhibited in numerous galleries and fine art shows throughout the country and has been invited to display at the United Nations. Learn more about Laura at <https://firstsaturdayartsmarket.com/laura-lopez-cano/>

Geri Luna Wilson – Devoted Exercise Enthusiast for over 40 years. Geri's passion is volunteering for local and non-profit organizations. She is fully retired. Her last job was working with Special Education middle-school children. Follow her on Facebook @GeriLunaWilson.

Monica Muñoz Andry – President and CEO, Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Before that, Monica held tenure at the University Federal Credit Union. She is an effective public speaker and an empowering community leader. Learn more about her [here](#).

Dr. Ana Nogales – Owner, Casa de la Familia and a clinical psychologist with a staff of about 70 bicultural-bilingual mental health professionals. Ana is also the Board Secretary for Las Comadres Para Las Americas. Learn more about her at <https://casadelafamilia.org/about-us>.

Honorable LaRessa Quintana – Austin Independent School District Board Member. LaRessa was named to Austin Woman Magazine's Change Makers List last year. Learn more about her [here](#).



Mila Rios McCutchen – Retired. Previously Director of Public Sector Business Development, and former Regional Analytics Sales Manager for IBM. Mila is a longstanding Comadre.

Andreá M. Rivera – Owner of United Strategies Virtual Marketing Agency, driving growth, innovation and impact in digital business industries. Learn more about her [here](#).

Imelda Rocha – A public sector employee for 20 years and facilitator for the Washington DC Comadres network for more than 10 years. Imelda has been the Fort Worth Comadres facilitator since 2023. She also restarted Las Comadres and Friends National Latino Book Club in Dallas/Fort Worth.

Marion Sanchez – City of Austin, Community Engagement Consultant. Marion is an Austin & San Antonio Airbnb host, dialogue activator, global citizen, culture collector, adventurous person. Learn more about her at <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/biographies>.

Terry Saucedo – Facilitator of the Inland Empire Comadres Network in California for the past 16+ years. This Super Comadre is a strong supporter of Las Comadres and is always available with a helping hand. Terry also helps out with Las Comadres' social media.

Tess Tobin – Las Comadres Book Club Project Manager. Tess has been a proud member of the book club since 2007. She is also a former President of REFORMA. Learn more about her at <https://latinolit.com/latino-book-club/leadership-team/>

Adriana Vila Rota – Founder and Director of ConnectARTE, a collective of Latinas in Austin dedicated to the appreciation and promotion of the arts.



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Business & Community Lenders of Texas

Kenzie Deters

<https://www.bcloftexas.org/>

Fig Factor Media

Amelia Folkes

www.latinasinpr.com

Las Comadres Garden Club

Rose Costas

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Amy Pownall

Tarot.Rodeo

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www.usvmlc.com



Worldwide Comadrazo 2025

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25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

LAS COMADRES SONG

WE ARE FLOWERS / SOMOS FLORES

Written by Nila Ornelas
(to the tune of *Como La Flor* by Selena)

♪ Women united to grow ♪
 Latinas willing to support ♪
 Wanting to create community ♪
 This is how this dream of sisterhood began ♪
 And so, this dream was embraced ♪
 By a comadre ♪
 With heart to search ♪
 For connections (networking) ♪
 But ah, ah, ay ♪
 She didn't imagine ♪
 Ah, ah, ay ♪
 What it would be today ♪
 Celebrating culture and community ♪
 Creating chains of opportunity ♪
 Sharing resources and information ♪
 To serve ♪
 And also, for fun (activities) ♪
 And it has grown ♪
 And it has prospered ♪
 Having groups Across the nation ♪
 Reading together and spending time together ♪
 Ah, ah, ay ♪
 Comadres and hugs ♪
 Ah, ah, ay ♪
 In comadrazos ♪
 And so this dream was embraced ♪
 By a comadre ♪
 With heart to search ♪
 For connections (networking) ♪
 But ah, ah, ay ♪
 She didn't imagine ♪
 Ah, ah, ay ♪
 What it would be today ♪
 Ah, ah, ay ♪
 We are Latinas ♪
 Supporting each other ♪
 And achieving things for our community ♪
 ¡LAS COMADRES PARA LAS AMERICAS! ♪
 ♪
 Copyright © 2025, María Nila Ornelas ♪

♪ Mujeres unidas para crecer ♪
 Latinas dispuestas a apoyar ♪
 Queriendo crear comunidad ♪
 Así empezó este sueño de hermandad ♪
 Y así abrazó Esa ilusión ♪
 Una comadre Con corazón ♪
 Para buscar La conexión ♪
 Pero ah, ah, ay ♪
 No imaginaba ♪
 Ah, ah, ay ♪
 Lo que hoy sería ♪
 Celebrando cultura Y comunidad ♪
 Creando cadenas De oportunidad ♪
 Compartiendo recursos E información ♪
 Para servir Y también de diversión ♪
 Y ya creció Y prosperó Teniendo grupos Por la nación ♪
 Leyendo juntas Y conviviendo ♪
 Ah, ah, ay ♪
 Comadres y abrazos ♪
 Ah, ah, ay ♪
 En comadrazos ♪
 Y así abrazó Esa ilusión ♪
 Una comadre Con corazón ♪
 Para buscar La conexión ♪
 Pero ah, ah, ay ♪
 No imaginaba ♪
 Ah, ah, ay ♪
 Lo que hoy sería ♪
 Ah, ah, ay; Somos Latinas ♪
 Apoyándonos Y logrando cosas ♪
 Para nuestra comunidad ♪
 ♪
 ♪
 ¡LAS COMADRES PARA LAS AMERICAS! ♪
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Membership is free. We read two books a month in English and hold monthly teleconference chats with authors via zoom which are uploaded to our YouTube channel. Our 11th annual Summer Reading List will be released on June 20. Join us !

MARCH BOOKS

THE BORDER BETWEEN US by Rudy Ruiz

LOCA by Alejandro Heredia

--Recording: https://youtu.be/Hh_3UFEXtkQ?si=udu13zQyvzu_iX3K

APRIL BOOKS

DAUGHTER OF FIRE by Sofia Robleda

LAS BUGAMBILIAS: A BILINGUAL QUEER NOVEL by Lalo León

BLACK MESTIZA: POEMS by Yael Melissa Aldana

MAY BOOKS

SPEAK UP! by Susana Baumann

BONITA BADASS by Kim Guerra

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LAS COMADRES KITCHEN

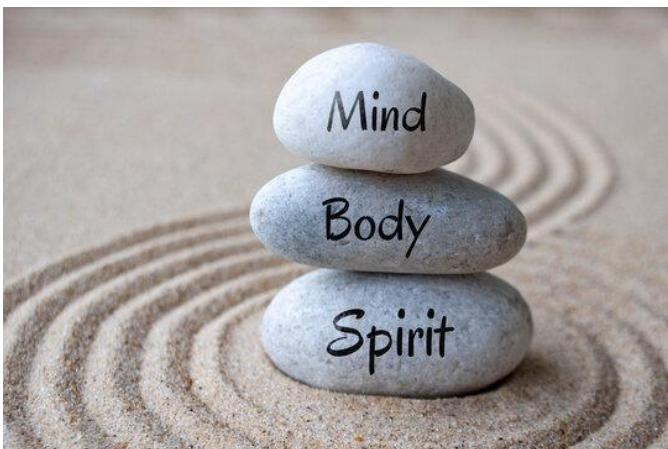


Host: Lola Wiarco Dweck

Fun nights discovering the
wonderful world of cooking !

Host: Jeannie Diaz

We seek ways to create a strong mind,
body and spirit connection.



LAS COMADRES PRESENTS MIND, BODY & SPIRIT

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