

## COMADRES LEAD THE WAY!

### 2025 WORLDWIDE COMADRAZO: Scenes from the Worldwide Comadrazo & 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



By Maria Ferrer

*I truly cherished the sense of sisterhood and connection that came from having so many amazing women come together for this special comadres event. I'm deeply grateful to the wonderful hosts who so generously opened their homes to us. It was a joy to meet new comadres and create such meaningful memories together.*

– Sonia H.

Comadre Sonia is correct when she mentions cherishing the sense of Sisterhood and Connection that prevailed over the Worldwide Comadrazo & 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in Austin, Texas.

The day began with a Proclamation from Austin's Mayor Pro Tem Vanessa Fuentes declaring Saturday, April 26, Las Comadres Para Las Americas Day. What an honor! What a milestone! All thanks to our National/International Founder Dr. Nora de Hoyos Comstock. Her energy, her love for this organization shines and has created a global sisterhood connecting Comadres everywhere that has endured for 25 years.

200 Comadres –many in tiaras and silver footwear – participated in the Worldwide Comadrazo from across the US, Mexico and Puerto Rico. We heard



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## LINKS TO KNOW

- Website: <https://lascomadres.com/>
- Book Club: <https://latinolit.com/>
- YouTube Channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/lascomadresparalasamericas>
- Bookshop:  
<https://bookshop.org/shop/lascomadresbookclub>



## WWC25 continued

from distinguished speakers about leadership skills, life-work balance and the creative spirit. We discussed everything from building your network to keeping your business growing to preparing for life after 65 to using AI and technology to manage your health to destressing and self-renewal.

Everywhere you looked there were Comadres chatting, hugging, engaging, and shopping.

Congratulations to the WWC Committee for a job well done -- Irma Orozco, Diane Mazuca, Rosa Beato, Tess Tobin, Adriana Castillo Hillwood, Dr. Charley Ferrer, and Mirtha Gutierrez Perez. Nora and I put the program together, but thanks to these Comadres the Worldwide Comadrazo was a hit. Check out the Comadres Photo Album in the back.

Here are some fun links to peruse at leisure, including Lourdes Rodriguez’ heartfelt keynote speech:

- [Click here](#) for the WWC Commemorative Book
- [Click here](#) for Lourdes Rodriguez’s keynote speech
- [Click here](#) for the 2025 Nora Award Winners
- [Click here](#) for the Vendor List
- [Click here](#) to view our Sponsors

**Comadres are leading the way – locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.  
Thank you for being part of our success!**

**#WWC25 #ComadresLeadTheWay  
#LasComadres**



## NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

**Esperanza Beltran &  
Jacqueline Quiñones**

Incredible how time goes by so quickly. We can't believe this is the 10th Edition of our Las Comadres Newsletter. The newsletter staff has been working diligently since 2021 to bring you great resources, interviews of highly accomplished Latinas and the list of Latino books we read from our book club. You might want to check out the bookmark coloring page from Esperanza, one of our editors. Color it in, cut it out and use it to read a book from the list we have provided. Your help would be greatly appreciated by sharing the Recruitment page that invites our sisters to join Las Comadres. Remember to get your copy of Cooking with Las Comadres and check out what some comadres are saying about the recipes they have tried.

Summer is upon us, therefore we wanted to share some gardening tips and ways you can celebrate Fathers Day as well as YouTube videos for summer projects that are easy to make. Don't miss it, check it out!

This edition is dedicated to "Latinas in Leadership" which is why the 25th Worldwide Comadrado was titled "Comadres Leading the Way" which was from April 25-27 in Austin, Texas. This is our first in person worldwide Comadrado after COVID. So grateful to all who traveled to join us. In this newsletter we have included some captivating and inspirational pics. Take a few minutes to learn about the well-deserved winners of the Comadrado Awards and help us honor them.

Esperanza and I (Jacqueline) worked together on this edition and did it with lots of love, spirit and ganas. We also enjoyed feeding off each other's energy with creative ideas to engage you. Hope you enjoy it and feel the sense of community and sisterhood that we share.

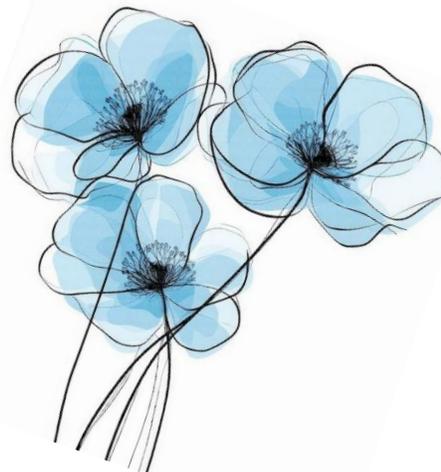


We leave you with some Leadership affirmations to inspire the potential in you:

**"The Latina in me is an ember  
that blazes forever."  
By Sonia Sotomayor**

**"We have to be visible.  
We are not ashamed of who we are."  
By Sylvia Rivera**

**"You are not lucky to be here.  
The world needs your perspective.  
They are lucky to have you."  
By Antonio Tijerino**





## 2025 THE NORA AWARDS WINNERS



Winners were announced live on Saturday, April 26, at the Worldwide Comadrado and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in Austin, TX.

The Nora Awards, named in honor of our National/International Founder, Dr. Nora de Hoyos Comstock, recognize Comadres who exemplify the virtues of Loyalty, Generosity, Community, Sisterhood, and Kindness. The Finalists were nominated by their fellow Comadres.

### Congratulations to all the Winners!

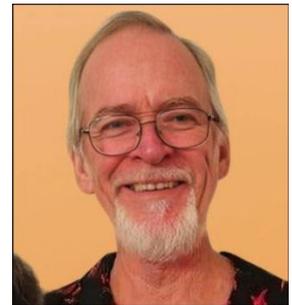
The 2025 Comadre of the Year award goes to Comadre **TERRY SAUCEDO** from Rancho Cucamonga, CA/Inland Empire Comadres Network.



The 2025 Comadre Community Service award goes to Comadre **SHEILA PEREZ-KINDLE** from Denver, CO / Denver Comadres Network.



A newly minted Compadre Extraordinaire Nora Award was presented to **JACK BELL**, Nora's husband, for his endless support of Las Comadres Para Las Americas for the past 25-plus years. In his honor, Las Comadres has renamed the Friend of Las Comadres award to the "Jack Bell Friend of Las Comadres" Nora Award.



The first "**Jack Bell Friend of Las Comadres**" Nora Award was presented to the Austin Community College, an organization that continually supports Las Comadres Para Las Americas and the Latine community at-large. This winner was chosen by the Board of Directors. Accepting the Nora Award was Dr. Susan Warner-Sanchez.



**COMADRES LEAD THE WAY!**

## SPOTLIGHT: COMADRE GLORIA CHIN

by Rosa Beato

### Personal Journey & Leadership; Challenges & Overcoming Barriers; Future & Legacy



Gloria Chin launched Synergy Strategy Group, a Strategic Communications and Public Relations Consultancy focused on uplifting minority

and women-owned businesses, nonprofits, and entrepreneurs.

#### **Q. What inspired you to take on a leadership role in your community, and start your own consulting company, and how did your background influence that decision?**

GLORIA: Wherever possible, I proudly proclaim I am from The Bronx. I always say I am a proud product of the poorest congressional district in this country. Growing up surrounded by countless examples of adversity and poverty was - and continues to be - at the core of my journey and serves as a continuous source of inspiration. It is a joy, privilege, and high honor to be a public servant and help create the change I needed when I was younger. I have been fortunate throughout the course of my life to have had cheerleaders and mentors in my corner.

As a leader now, I believe it is truly a gift to be part of someone's success story and pay it forward.

As for Synergy Strategy Group - my new strategic communications and public relations consulting company, the focus is to bridge the gap that exists with minority business owners and entrepreneurs with regard to their public speaking, public relations, and strategic communications needs. As someone who can relate to their backgrounds and lived experiences, the goal is to ensure their stories, visions, and missions are told authentically and effectively. It can also be a lift for small businesses to afford established communications counsel. Recently, I had the privilege to work with a female Puerto Rican vegan Chef and cookbook author from The Bronx, a female minority Executive Coach from California whose work centers around holistic practices, and a Latino male therapist who is centering his work on teens of color. This is why I believe in servant leadership and gravitate towards working in government. I'm fortunate to have witnessed examples of great female leadership, and grateful to have the opportunity to be audacious in the leadership roles I've had in service of others.

#### **Q. How do you handle resistance or skepticism when advocating for community needs?**

GLORIA: I have found that approaching resistance and skepticism from a place of curiosity rather than from any negative space can neutralize the temperature and provide a window of opportunity to keep the conversation productive. I have also found that a combination of sharing experiences to establish a sense of camaraderie helps. So does relying on data.

**Q. How do you empower and mentor other Hispanic women to step into leadership roles within their communities?**

GLORIA: I show up how I can and when I can. I attend affinity group meetings and network while there. I mentor fellow minorities and women. I serve as a panelist or speaker when asked. If other women see the example, then one day they will likely be that example for someone else. There really is something inexplicably beautiful about being part of someone else's success. If I can show up and just remind them that they're not alone, that they matter, and that support does exist, I have no doubt they can do whatever they set their minds to.

**Q. What systemic changes would you like to see that would make it easier for Hispanic women to take on leadership roles in their communities?**

GLORIA: Far too often, we hear someone say they wish they would have known that sooner - or that they wish someone had taught them something sooner. I'd love to see more women of color in general networking and volunteering to be involved in younger women's lives. Networking may seem daunting for many! My trick is to either go with someone or ask other participants about themselves. Also, volunteering can be an hour a month or even once a quarter. I'm currently mentoring two minority females, and may take on a possible third, and am starting to search around for board opportunities. I see board service the same way I see my career - all part of my hope to continue on with servant leadership.



**Q. What legacy do you hope to leave for the next generation of Hispanic community leaders?**

GLORIA: I hope that, by showing up authentically every day and doing the best I can, I am able to inspire at least one other woman. To continue to be their authentic selves, to take a chance on themselves, to "shoot their shot", and to always say to themselves, "If not now, when" and "If you don't ask, you don't get." Adelante!

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**AFFIRMATION**

*I am worthy of love, joy and belonging.*



**CHARLA CON COMADRE  
SHEILA PEREZ-KINDLE:  
PERSONAL JOURNEY and  
LEADERSHIP**

by Diana Lopez Atencio



***CONGRATULATIONS TO COMADRE  
SHEILA FOR WINNING THE  
2025 NORA AWARD FOR COMADRE  
COMMUNITY SERVICE!***

There are many people that I admire who are still doing work in the community, who have shown us how to lead! The community in West Denver, where I was born, was displaced to build a college campus. In 1969, a bond issue passed to forcibly remove our entire self-sustaining, working-class community through eminent Domain. The neighborhood united with a multi-front Westside Coalition to fight against the planned takeover, which narrowly passed. We became displaced, separated through systematic destruction. As a child, I started to

see what community engagement looked like, even though I did not understand it then.

My mother, for example, who was a member of that Coalition, also testified before the U.S. Supreme Court in DC, representing the people of Denver regarding the landmark Keyes Case to desegregate DPS. Our family was subjected to death threats! Months later, several buses were bombed. This was a time when many major Civil Rights issues were flaring up around me as a child and teenager. Our family picketed and boycotted stores and businesses to support the UFW. My brother was a student at West High School when the 1969 West High School walkouts occurred. There was a lot of unrest! Our people were responding to injustice and inequality!

I am currently volunteering with an organization by the name of Auraria Historical Advocacy Council (AHAC), with community, faculty, and students, on the Auraria Campus (from where we were forced to leave). It is our mission to tell the history of what occurred there over 50 years ago. We want to welcome back the long-lost community, uplift, and regain the sense of belonging! We have worked hard to get scholarships granted to the displaced, as well as their descendants, in perpetuity.

Recently, after forcing the issue, our group was recognized/named by the Auraria Board of Directors to oversee 9th St., where the park and 13 of the original houses remain on campus. This process was an uphill battle. Due to this agreement and understanding between AHAC and ABOD, I see the impact our group has made in gaining recognition for some of the most vulnerable, loving people. We are also fundraising to have a peace and healing garden created! We know our ancestors are with us!

As a woman, I feel that if something is important to you, you must face the challenge even if there are other obstacles to overcome and something new to learn. When navigating challenges, we must keep the push going



forward once we have momentum, especially if initial communication doesn't meet with satisfaction. It is not always easy, but keep striving! It is important to keep the discussion or other forms of communication going even when there's resistance/skepticism. Continue with advocacy and community engagement with what and who you believe in, and try to hear differing viewpoints with openness and a caring heart.

Through encouragement and education, we train and empower each other! We can continue to learn, and we must educate our families and our youth about our rich history. If we can flourish and celebrate our wins and lament our losses together, we will grow.

One common goal of our group was achieved when, during our initiative to be recognized by the Auraria Board of Directors, we strategized on how to mobilize and rally former community residents to attend board meetings, which was remarkably effective!

I was fortunate to have grown up in a loving two-parent household! As an Indigenous Mexicana, who also has Española and Chinese heritage, I have been heavily influenced by the beautiful roots, the sacred gift of dignified people who came before me, and the hardworking, caring individuals I work closely with now. I try to give a voice to people to encourage positive change for the future.

Preserving Cultural history and heritage plays a major and essential role in all of my present

work because many have worked before us to get to where we are now. We must remember the past to get to the future. When collaborating with community groups, we must educate and develop ongoing strategies with all of those affected, especially our youth.

There have long been systemic barriers to education, which is one area that I would hope to see improve. I currently also work with Mile Hi Veterans on the Education Committee to fundraise for scholarships for Veterans and their families. I believe that education provides access to opportunity.

I hope that the history of the old Westside community, now named Auraria, carries on. I want my mother, Josephine Perez's dedication to the people of her community to be remembered. I want to improve the lives of everyday people through teaching communal responsibility. We owe it to each other to show up for each other. Remember that your work can positively impact other people and educate the youth to keep the fire burning.

Another way that I am being intentional is by belonging to Las Comadres Para Las Americas Book Club, reading super Latino Authors. It is a terrific way to celebrate our history and heritage, and a wonderful way to connect with Comadres from all social classes.

**Gracias for the opportunity to tell my story!**



**ONE-ON-ONE WITH COMADRE  
AURORA ANAYA CERDA:  
Comfort through stories & play:  
Children's book drive**

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by Maria Ferrer



*I learned that taking action, even in small ways,  
can create a meaningful impact.*

– Aurora Anaya Cerda

Wildfires raged through the major Los Angeles area in the first week of January 2025. One Comadre mobilized immediately. Aurora Anaya Cerda monitored the news and social media, and shared resources and pertinent evacuation and shelter information on her own social media for Comadres and Friends in need.

In response to the devastating LA fires, many families have lost their homes and the comforts that bring joy and connection. Aurora knew that for children, resources like books, art supplies, and games are vital tools for healing and creativity. The Comfort Through Stories & Play: Children's Book Drive aims to provide these items to children and youth affected by the fires. This initiative is crucial because, for children who have lost so much, access to books, art, and games can be a source of comfort and a way to process their emotions.

**Q: How many books did you collect?**

AURORA: I lost count after 3,000. The response was overwhelming—books came in from across LA County and Washington, DC, and the drive quickly grew beyond what I initially imagined.

**Q: Did you deliver the books to different shelters/libraries/homes?**

AURORA: I distributed books to a Care Camp run by LA Parks and Recreation, set up to support displaced families. I am still working with teachers and nonprofits to get the remaining books into the hands of kids and in classrooms.

**Q: Were you scared about the fires reaching your home? Your community?**

AURORA: My family and I were fortunate to be at a safe distance. But I had Comadres and friends who had to evacuate, and others lost their homes, which made the devastation feel very personal. I wanted to do something tangible to support those affected.

**Q: When and how did you decide to help?**

AURORA: The fires broke out on Tuesday, January 7, and by the following Monday, the book drive was up and running. I knew that in times of crisis, comfort and a sense of normalcy were just as important as emergency aid. Books provide that—offering an escape, a way to learn, and a reminder that even in the hardest moments, stories connect us.

I quickly mobilized, reaching out to small businesses to serve as drop-off sites, creating a digital flyer, and using social media to get the word out. What started as a small effort grew rapidly, thanks to an outpouring of support from friends, colleagues, and strangers. Two high schools joined in, organizing their own book drives. Five small businesses stepped up to collect donations. The momentum was incredible, and in just a few weeks, thousands of books had been gathered.

But this was never just about me—it was about a collective response. It was a testament to the power of community and how quickly people come together in the face of devastation. It showed that service doesn't always have to be planned in advance; sometimes, you just have to take the first step, and the rest follows. This book drive reinforced what I've always believed: that in moments of crisis, kindness and action matter. When we work together, we can make an impact far beyond what we ever imagined.

**Q: How were you monitoring the fires?**

AURORA: I used a mix of sources: Watch Duty - a fire tracking app, TV updates, and Social media, where people were posting real-time evacuations and resource needs. By staying informed through multiple sources, I was able to not only track the disaster but also respond effectively, identifying where books and supplies could have the greatest impact.

**Q: What is one thing you learned about yourself during the fires?**

AURORA: I learned that taking action, even in small ways, can create a meaningful impact. At first, I didn't have a grand plan—just the belief that books could provide comfort during a time of uncertainty. But as the drive gained momentum and I saw the community rally behind it, I realized how much we can achieve when we act with purpose and heart. It reinforced the importance of stepping up, no matter how big or small the effort might seem.

**Q: What did you learn about people in general?**

AURORA: I learned that in times of crisis, the community always shows up. People are deeply compassionate and will find any way they can to help. The book drive wasn't just about collecting books—it became a way to create connection, to offer comfort, and to provide a moment of escape for those who needed it most. It was a beautiful reminder that, when we come together, we don't just provide material support—we offer



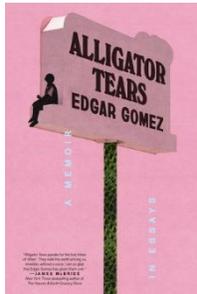
hope, healing, and a reminder that we are never truly alone.

UPDATE: This Spring, Aurora launched a mobile bookstore and native plant shop— Bloom Wild Bookshop. She will carry banned books, BIPOC literature, and California native plants. Aurora states: This is more than a shop—it's a movement. Follow Aurora and her Bloom Wild Bookshop mobile at IG@BloomWildBookshop.



**BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!**

**The Las Comadres & Friends  
 National Latino Book Club**  
 announces its Books of the Month



**MAY BOOKS**

**SPEAK UP!** by Susana Baumann  
**BONITA BADASS** by Kim Guerra

**JUNE BOOKS**

**ALLIGATOR TEARS** by Edgar Gomez  
**ABUELA LORE** by Isabella Santana

**JULY BOOKS**

**BROTHER BRONTE** by Fernando Flores  
**MALINALLI** by Veronica Chapa

***COMING SOON!***

**11<sup>th</sup> annual  
 SUMMER READING LIST !**

**Releases June 20**

**HAPPY READING**

**ALWAYS READ LATINO LIT**

**A KNOWING DEEP**

**by Mireya Perez-Bustillo**



The strange news came to her  
 when she was alone  
 But who could she tell?  
 Who would believe her  
 and what would people say?

Then she remembered what  
 she had been told  
 that she wasn't alone  
 that they were there for each other  
 leaning on one another  
 and she remembered the one  
 who had told her that  
 dear Isabel who had said  
 We are here, dear one  
 "Comadres Connect"  
 that's us!

And she felt that joy filling her  
 las comadres weaving us  
 together in laughter and hope!

Mireya Perez-Bustillo's poetry searches for that "other voice" expressed through entrapment and oppression. Her work appears in Revista del Hada, Caribbean Review, and Americas Review, among others. Her novel, Back to El Dorado, a Latina-coming-of-age story, was published by Floricanto.

## COCINANDO CON LAS COMADRES

From its launch this past December, the Las Comadres cookbook has been a hit!

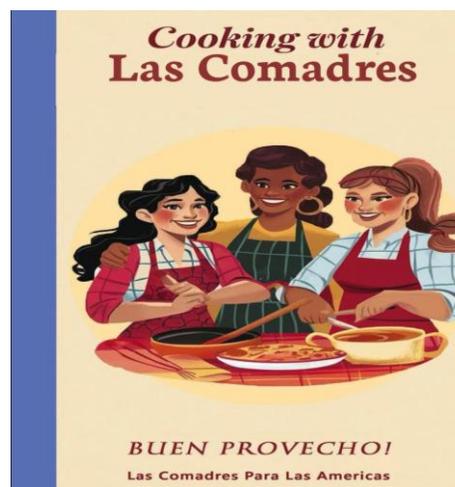
### COOKING WITH LAS COMADRES

includes 130+ recipes from 60 Members of Las Comadres Para Las Americas. It has 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. The reviews have also been delicious; see below.

You Can Make So Many Wonderful Latino Foods Yourself: A Latino Cultural Culinary Journey --**AILEEN**

This is a wonderful compilation of recipes that includes stories from Comadres from all different Latino cultures, about the recipes and what each has meant to their family and friends. The recipes represent many of the most wonderful traditions and experiences and are practical, easy to prepare for those who do not spend a lot of time in the kitchen. With the stories, you can taste the rich flavors and shared experiences. I have collected piles of cookbooks, but this one has brought me back to the kitchen with anticipation. The love of recipes for the tasting! --**CARMEN**

I am a Comadre from the NYC network! It has been a great pleasure to have shared such a recipe for all to discover. This book will be a fantastic addition to any kitchen!!! Great recipe book --**ANA RC**



It's full of wonderful easy to follow recipes. Very cute that all the recipes have a little back story to them with a photo of the contributor. Made a few, and the instructions were perfect and they tasted delicious. Easy and great variety of recipes from many countries! --**A FOODIE**

I love Cooking with Las Comadres. It's Spanish comfort food. This is becoming my go-to for quick delicious recipes and snacks. Cooking with Las Comadres is fun! --**LIZA**

It has room to add new recipes and notes on the back of the book, brilliant! Comfort Food Latina Style --**CHARLEY**

I am enjoying all the shared stories and recipes. There are so many good ones, and the variety is plentiful and diverse. There are meat dishes, soups, salads, rice, tamales, pastelones, puddings & flans. I've starred five already that I want to try first. Buen provecho! -- **DIANA**

**COOKING WITH LAS COMADRES** cookbook is available in soft and hardcover.  
[Order your copy today!](#)

## A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CHINA POBLANA

by Esperanza Beltrán



When I was little, my grandmother had a set of China Poblana dolls. Each one stood inside a clear plastic cylinder, dressed in colorful, sequined fabric with pitch-black braided hair. I always wanted to play with them, but they were off-limits—display only.

Someone, probably my dad, told me they were called Chinas Poblanas. For years, I assumed they were just cute dolls. It wasn't until I recently saw wrapping paper with the same doll on it that I started digging into their story.

Nueva España (Mexico) had trade ties with Asia since the 1500s. By 1565, the Trans-Pacific Trade Route connected Manila to Acapulco. Spanish galleons brought silk, spices, porcelain, and people: merchants, sailors, workers, and even slaves. All were referred to as “chinos,” regardless of whether they came from China, India, or the Philippines.

Many women arrived wearing bright silk garments, which they further embellished with sequins and mirrors during the long sea voyage. Some became known for their beauty and company, giving rise to slang like “*ir de picos pardos*.” Eventually, this fashion fused into the recognizable China Poblana look.

One woman in particular—Catarina de San Juan—became iconic. Born in India, enslaved in Manila, and brought to Puebla, she became known for her visions and healing abilities. After she died in 1688, locals began to venerate her, though the Catholic church quickly tried to erase her memory. Still, her story lived on through surviving texts and paintings.

By the 1800s, President Porfirio Díaz encouraged national pride through cultural dress. Women across Mexico participated in a contest wearing versions of the China Poblana dress—sequins, color, and all. That's how the style became a national symbol, later made even more famous by Marilyn Monroe and Jackie Kennedy.

Another well-known Mexican art form inspired by Chinese art is the blue Talavera, also popularized by Pueblan artisans. What did New Spain bring to China? Silver, which China used to make currency, sweet potato, which helped many families survive the Great Chinese Famine, and tomato, which they used to invent ketchup.

My grandmother's dolls are long gone, but their story lives on. Do you have a china poblana story? Share it on my Substack, recently renamed Tinta y Miel.

**Want to read more?** Visit [tintaymiel.substack.com](http://tintaymiel.substack.com) or for free bookmarks, [click here](#).



## GARDENING TIPS

by **Tess Tobin**

- *Look for plants that grow best in your region indoors and outdoors*
- *Light is important. Check if your plants thrive in sun, partial sun, or shade. For indoor plants, place them in direct light or little light*
- *Check the soil regularly for moisture with your finger. Soil dries up quicker in the summer.*
- *When buying plants, check to see if they are safe around your pets and children.*
- *Use shredded leaves as fertilizer*



**Las Comadres has a Garden Club** in Austin, Texas and they are going to start expanding into other states via zoom. If you are interested in joining the Garden Club, email **Rosa Costas** at [rcostasvidal@yahoo.com](mailto:rcostasvidal@yahoo.com)

## ARTS & CRAFTS



Here's a fun summer project – Chenille wire flowers. Have fun with your Comadres or grandkids! [Click here](#) for YouTube video link.

## CELEBRATE FATHER'S DAY THE COMADRES WAY

Ideas for celebrating the Father in your life.



- *Make a photo album where your Dad or your Husband is the star.*
- *Recreate a memorable moment of your childhood or your kids' childhood.*
- *Take him to his favorite restaurant.*
- *Have a family gathering and make their favorite foods, share stories about their life, ask family members to bring some printed pics, and make a collage together.*
- *Create an altar with their picture. Flowers and any other objects that are representative of who they were (i.e, clothing, jewelry, etc).*
- *Have a picnic at their burial site and bring flowers.*
- *Send a mass in their name.*
- *Make a donation in their name to a charity.*



## COMADRES NETWORKS NATIONWIDE

### NEW Comadres del Este Network Puerto Rico



### Boston Comadres Network



### Fort Worth Comadres Network



**Tennessee Comadres Network  
(their Comadrazos are in Spanish)**



**Rio Grande Valley -Harlingen Comadres Network**



## PHOTOS FROM THE WORLDWIDE COMADRAZO

### Welcome Reception



### Comadres Networks came in groups!

Here are the Comadres from the Inland Empire (left); New York City Comadres (bottom left) and Nashville Comadres (right).



## MORE PHOTOS FROM THE WORLDWIDE COMADRAZO

**Tiaras R Us!**



**Nora & Maria share hug**



**Comadres Connecting !**



**Farewell Brunch**

**#ComadresLeadTheWay**



## MEET THE EDITORS



**ROSA BEATO** A long-time resident of Boston, originally from the Dominican Republic, Rosa is the youngest of 7 siblings and mother of one child (Johnny) and grand dog (Zorro). For the last 10 years, she has been the co-facilitator of the *Boston Las Comadres Network*

along with Debbie Bonilla. Member of the Dominican Development Center working to improve the lives of immigrants and social justice. Assist in the planning of the annual international women's conference since 2017. During the last 12 years, she has been line dancing with NE Soul Line Dance Network where dance is part of building and connecting with the community. We recently celebrated our 15<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. I love the outdoors, hiking and fitness.



### 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 part of the Leadership Team of 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.

### JACQUELINE QUINONES

It's been 10 years since I joined Las Comadres after I attended a writers' conference.. I enjoy going out with friends, dancing, passionate about cooking and having opportunities to demonstrate my creativity. 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.



## CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

### NORA DE HOYOS COMSTOCK

She is 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.



### DIANA LOPEZ-ATENCIO

Has been a member of Las Comadres for several years and is excited to now help write the Comadres newsletter. She loves her life thanks to her steadfast belief in the hope and power that La Virgen de Guadalupe provides. Her loves include her esposo of 19+ years, her sons, her fur baby Denali and a gecko with an attitude, Leo. Diana loves spending time with familia and friends, meditating, praying, writing, talking to familia in Guatemala, playing or teaching her pack of furry baby clients and spending time in Colorado's natural surroundings.



**TERESA M. TOBIN** She is the Project Manager of Las Comadres & Friends National Latino Book Club and an avid gardener.





*This was an ad from the David Rockefeller Fund, one of the sponsors of the 2025 Worldwide Comadrazo. We loved it so much, we had to share again. #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.

