



EDITORIAL

Rosa A. Beato

As we look ahead to 2026, I see a year filled with connection, purpose, and growth for **Las Comadres**. Our circle has always been about more than friendship — it’s about sisterhood, support, and showing up for one another and our communities.

This new year, I envision us **connecting more, engaging in our communities and playing a big role performing community service**. Let’s open our circle and invite others in. Imagine if each of us brought two more comadres into our network — two more voices, two more hearts, two more sources of strength and laughter. Together, we can build something even more powerful: a network that uplifts, empowers, and reminds every woman that she’s not alone.

But our vision doesn’t stop at connection. It extends into community service — walking for a cause, volunteering, lending our time and hands to those who need us. Whether it’s raising awareness for health initiatives, supporting local families. Our presence can make a difference.

Let 2026 be the year we expand our reach, deepen our impact and celebrate our sisterhood not just in words, but through action. Because when comadres come together — to connect, to serve, to dream — we create a ripple of love and strength that touches everything around us.

Here’s to building **communities, connections, more service**, and more comadres in 2026. The future is brighter — because we’re building it together.

PLANNING OUR FUTURE

*Al mirar hacia el 2026, veo un año lleno de conexión, propósito y crecimiento para **Las Comadres**. Nuestro círculo siempre ha sido más que amistad: se trata de hermandad, apoyo y de estar presentes unas para las otras y para nuestras comunidades.*

Este nuevo año, me imagino más conexión, participaremos activamente en nuestras comunidades y desempeñaremos un papel importante en el servicio comunitario. Abramos nuestro círculo e invitemos a otras a unirse. Imaginate que cada una de nosotras trae dos comadres más a nuestra red — dos voces más, dos corazones más, dos fuentes más de fortaleza y alegría. Juntas, podemos construir algo aún más poderoso: una red que eleve, empodere y recuerde a cada mujer que no está sola.

Pero nuestra visión no se detiene en la conexión. Se extiende al servicio comunitario — caminar por una causa, ser voluntarias, ofrecer nuestro tiempo y nuestras manos a quienes nos necesitan. Ya sea creando conciencia sobre iniciativas de salud, apoyando a familias locales. Nuestra presencia puede marcar la diferencia.

Que el 2026 sea el año en que amplíemos nuestro alcance, profundicemos nuestro impacto y celebremos nuestra hermandad no solo con palabras, sino con acciones. Porque cuando las comadres se unen — para conectar, servir y soñar — creamos una ola de amor y fortaleza que toca todo a nuestro alrededor.

*Brindemos por construir **comunidades, conexiones, más servicio** y más comadres en el 2026. El futuro es más brillante — porque lo estamos construyendo juntas.*

In this newsletter you can expect:

Editorial

Announcements | Anuncios

NEW Advisory Board
Nueva Junta Asesora

Mind, Body and Spirit
Mente, cuerpo y espíritu

The Book Club turns 20!
El club de lectura: 20 años

International Latino Book Awards
Premios Internacionales del Libro Latino

LC Kitchen Series
Serie de cocina

Three Kings Day NY
Día de Reyes en NY

Comadres Highlights
las más destacados

Comadrazos

Editors & Contributors
Editores y colaboradores



Announcements | *Anuncios*

HAPPY
new year

SAVE THE DATE | SEPARA LA FECHA

**NEW BEGINNINGS
COMADRAZO**

Thursday, January 1, 2026
via zoom, 2pm ET

Start the New Year with a toast with
Las Comadres.

BYOB. Bring your own beverage.

Toast to the new year, and join one of the
fun interactive workshops. There will be an
Open Forum at the end to share affirmations
and goals for 2026.

Zoom link will be emailed closer to the date.

Check your time zone:

11am PT; 12pm MT; 1pm CT; 2pm ET

PROGRAM

- 2:00PM: Welcome Toast & Announcements
- 2:30PM: Workshops (1hr)
- 3:30PM: Open Forum
- 4:00PM: End Comadrazo



place your order or scan QR code
<https://amzn.to/42ZogJ6>

\$7.99 each



order one for yourself, or
for someone you love

Watch for Journal Prompt Fridays!



ALL profits go to
Las Comadres Para Las Americas



Mind, Body & Spirit | *Mente, cuerpo y espíritu* with Jeannie Díaz

by Esperanza Beltrán

You teach in both English and Spanish. What have you learned from that experience that could help the Las Comadres stay connected to both its roots and the next generation?

JD: It was one of the comadres that actually motivated me to teach in Spanish. We practiced together several times until it was right (tailored to a specific class for her job) and I am thankful for that because I never knew how to communicate anatomy before so it stretched my vessel and knowledge. I haven't studied Spanish that much since college 20 plus years ago. But through that I noticed the beauty of language. I would encourage all comadres to take any movement class in Spanish or support Latina yoga instructors on Youtube/socials because there aren't many. For the next generation I would say keep on exploring- don't stop stretching in any way as it keeps you limber. Don't limit yourself because of age. Be limitless. Draw, use your fingers, try something new & creative.



Yoga and meditation are practices of stillness, yet growth often requires change. How do you balance those two forces, and what can Las Comadres learn from that balance as it plans for the future?

JD: Every year (or when I can) I sign up for a certification or lessons in meditation, yoga and wellness to stay sharp. Reflection is key without that there will be no change in your mind, body and spirit. Being open to receive new information is also key.

If you could design a class, event, or ritual that speaks directly to the next generation of Hispanic women—something that connects them to both heritage and modern life—what would it look like?

JD: I would host affordable wellness retreats for different ages. I find that older women feel a certain way about attending retreats - so let's change that! These will be held in different Latin countries co-focusing on clean eating from that island and culture. Yoga movement- different techniques. Maybe even focusing on different issues like menopause, diets, relieving skin issues. With interactive workshops inviting people to bring something that represents their culture and photo of one person in life that needs healing from disease. Also providing a giveaway bag with staples from that country (ex., gifting a pilon). Working as a collective community is also key to creating different events. This has actually been my dream and in my mind the last few years.

As I am writing some of my answers I now noticed that I feel inspired by the last couple of segments from [Las Comadres Mind Body and Spirit Youtube channel](#).

NEW Advisory Board for las Comadres
Nueva Junta Asesora para las Comadres

As **Las Comadres Para Las Comadres** begins its 26th year, the Board of Directors has formed an Advisory Board to help shape the future of Las Comadres through strategic planning, programming, outreach, and digital engagement. The Advisory Board will be divided into four focus areas: membership, programming, social media and back-office data processes. Advisory Board Members will serve a one-year term. The focus areas are being supervised by the Board -- Teresa, Ana, Nora and Maria.

There will be an update on the Advisory Board at the **New Beginnings Comadrado on Thursday, January 1, 2026.** (Check your time zone. Zoom link sent closer to the date.)



The Las Comadres & Friends National Latino Book Club one-on-one with Teresa “Tess” Tobin, Project Manager *by Rosa Beato*



CELEBRATING THE PAST

What high points have defined the book club's journey over the last 20 years?

Feedback from members is very positive. Each month, we host interviews with two authors, offering our members the opportunity to engage directly with writers whose work they admire. Our members are deeply supportive of the club's mission and look forward to discovering new books each month. The books have been so rich in content and different in their own way. A very enjoyable ride that has continued over the years.

Can we highlight any memorable books or discussions that have had a significant impact on the club?

Over the years, we have had the privilege of interviewing some of the most influential voices and pioneers in Latine literature, including Esmeralda Santiago, Julia Alvarez, and Sandra Cisneros, among others. We also have taken pride in providing a platform for emerging writers who have recently published their first books, helping them reach new audiences. There have been too many memorable books to just name a few.

How has the membership changed over the years, and what have been the most significant shifts in our reading preferences?

As life has become increasingly busy, finding time to sit and read can be a challenge. However, the growing popularity of audiobooks has allowed more members to enjoy our monthly selections and actively participate in discussions through our monthly podcast.

#ReadLatinoLit

REFLECTING ON ACHIEVEMENTS

What accomplishments are we most proud of as a book club?

Reaching our 20th anniversary is a remarkable milestone. Our continued growth and enthusiastic membership are a testament to our shared love of Latine literature and community. We will continue to offer fresh voices and new perspectives and promote the joy of reading.

How have we contributed to our community or local literary scene over the past two decades?

For twenty years, our book club has played a key role in promoting authentic Latine voices and stories that go beyond traditional immigrant narratives. We've encouraged readers to explore both established and emerging authors, supporting the publishing industry not only through book purchases but also by writing reviews that help give these authors greater visibility. The number of published Latine writers and genres has grown, but not enough and only represents about 7% of published books. But we are proud of our participation in this growth and will continue to give voice to our Latine authors.

LOOKING AHEAD

What are our goals for the next five to ten years?

We remain committed to promoting Latine authors and providing them with a space to discuss their work and creative process. With many aspiring writers among our members, we also offer webinars on how to get started in publishing, writing tips, and emerging trends in literature.

Are there any new genres or authors we want to explore in the upcoming years?

Our club is always eager to discover new voices and explore diverse genres that reflect the richness of the Latine experience. There has been an increase in speculative fiction including sci-fi, fantasy and alternate worlds. Also, a new movement in Latino Futurism has emerged which builds on imaging futures with rootedness in Latine identities and culture. We continue to read fiction, non-fiction, mystery, thriller, romance, poetry and many more.



What strategies can we implement to attract new members and keep the club vibrant?

We plan to continue expanding our outreach through our monthly podcasts, offering author panels, and community partnerships while creating engaging opportunities for new members to connect with our mission and each other. We also have begun to highlight and give voices to our aspiring Comadre writers and our published authors.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Are there any special events planned to celebrate the anniversary?

Celebrating our 20th anniversary is momentous. We are planning special events that **honor our history, our members, and the authors** who have shared their stories with us. We are planning quite a few **events such as a recognition reception, readings of Comadre authors and author panels discussing the history and evolution of Latine writing over the years.**

Would we consider starting a mentorship program for newer readers or clubs?

That is an excellent idea. Our monthly podcasts and author interviews already serve as a model for new clubs, and a mentorship program could further strengthen our literary community.

MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

How can members contribute to shaping the future of the book club?

In April 2025, Las Comadres hosted a well-attended workshop at the Worldwide Comadrazo in Austin, Texas. Events like this provide valuable opportunities for members to share ideas, connect with peers, and help shape the future direction of the club. It is also important to note that the interviewers on our podcasts are all Comadre book club members, so this give them the chance to be more involved. We are always looking for volunteers and getting more book club members involved.

We look forward to continuing **our mission of celebrating Latine authors, discovering new talent, and fostering a vibrant community of readers and writers.** I would like to **thank the Leadership Team of the Las Comadres and Friends National Latino Book Club** who volunteer their time to make the book club flourish and grow. As we say over and over, without them we could not exist.

[Become a book club member today](#)

#ReadLatinoLit

Books of the Month |
Los libros del mes

Shop for your books
Sign-up for our Monthly Podcast/Teleconference

SEPTEMBER

The Bewitching

by Silvia Moreno-Garcia

~~~

**Ramas Y Raices:**

**The Best of CALMA**

by Colorado Alliance of Latino Mentors & Authors

[listen to podcast](#)

**OCTOBER**

**Los Muertos:**

**Day of the Dead Fiction**

by Adela Pineda Franco

~~~

Vanishing Daughters

by Cynthia Pelayo

[listen to podcast](#)

NOVEMBER

The Witches of El Paso

by Luis Jaramillo

~~~

**I'll Give You a Reason**

by Annell Lopez

**DECEMBER**

**Salt Bones**

by Jennifer Givhan

~~~

Latina Superheroes:

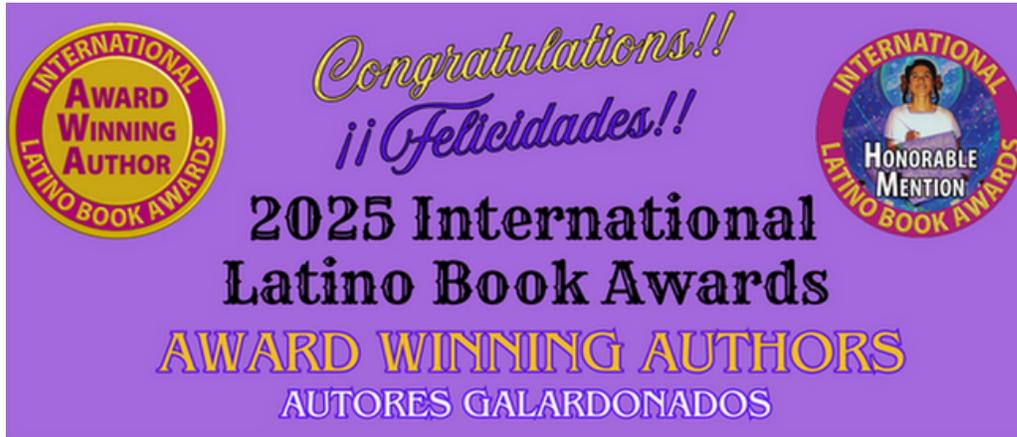
Jalisco & Santa

by Kayden Phoenix



2025 International Latino Book Awards

Premios Internacionales del Libro Latino 2025



‘Tis the Season of Giving

#GivingTuesday, December 2

The 27th Annual Celebration of the International Latino Book Awards (ILBA) was held on October 25 at MiraCosta College in Oceanside, CA. Kudos to founder and creator **Kirk Whisler** for another successful event – the largest awards in the USA celebrating achievements in Latino Literature. Two hundred twenty-two judges volunteered to read the 5,000 books entered in 87 categories. Winning authors were presented with gold, silver and bronze medals.

One of the evening’s presenters was Las Comadres’ own National / International Founder **Dr. Nora de Hoyos Comstock** for whom two awards are named:

- The gold medal winner of *The Nora de Hoyos Comstock Best First Book -Fiction* – Spanish was *DRAGON. LA FAMA Y OTROS INFIERNOS* by **Milagros Lozano Mantilla**.
- The gold medal winner of *The Nora de Hoyos Comstock Best First Book -Fiction* – English was *THE ORCHID: THE SECRET CODE OF MODERN GODDESSES* by **Rocio Aquino & Angel Orengo**.

View the complete list of the [2025 ILBA winners](#).

Learn more about [Empowering Latino Futures](#) and the ILBA.

Please consider making a donation of \$25/ \$50/ or more to Las Comadres this upcoming

#GIVINGTUESDAY

**December 2
or anytime**

[Make your donation](#) using your credit card.

For donations less than \$25, mail a check or money order payable to:

**ACF, Las Comadres Fund
c/o: Nora Comstock
3103 Loyola Ln, Austin, TX 78723**

Your contribution helps pay for the programs, website updates, software, y mas!

**Eternally grateful,
Las Comadres Board**
Teresa Lara, President
Ana Nogales, Secretary
Nora Comstock, Treasurer
Maria Ferrer, Executive Director



Las Comadres Kitchen Series | *Serie de Cocina*

one-on-one with Host Cindy Landez

by *Jacquie Quinones*

Hostess Cindy Landez Velazquez was pleased to share that the **Las Comadres Kitchen Series** was relaunched on Tuesday, September 23, 7pm CST.

Season 2 is on! Episode 1 is on the Las Comadres YouTube channel.

"I had the pleasure of working with many of you during this past year to create the Cooking with Las Comadres cookbook and I'm excited to continue in the next part of this venture," said Cindy.

"If you submitted a recipe and are interested in cooking one of your cookbook recipes while I interview you, please contact me: [Cindy Landez Velazquez](#).

"We would meet a couple of times before the actual date to make sure we have all the details worked out." Buen Provecho!



Season 2 is Back!

Mark Your Calendar!

(dates/times subject to change)

Check your time zone

5pm PT | 6pm MT | 7pm CT | 8pm ET

Zoom link emailed the day before

All recipes taken from cookbook

[Cooking with Las Comadres](#)

- **EP1: aired Tuesday, September 23**
 - *Gingerbread Cookies (pg. 139)*
- **EP2: Wednesday, November 19** featuring **Dr. Sylvia E. Klinger**, nutritionist and award-winning author.
 - *Sweet Potatoe Nachos con Pico de Gallo (pg. 39)* – pictured above
- EP3: February 4
- EP4: April
- EP5: June
- EP6: August

Missed any episodes?
[Catch up on SEASON 1](#)



Three Kings Day Celebrations in NY | *Celebraciones del Día de Reyes en NY*

By Clara Galvino Rivera

Three Kings Day (***Día de Los Reyes***), also known as *Epiphany*, is celebrated by Puerto Ricans living in cities and states with large Boricua communities – New York City, Chicago, Orlando, Philadelphia, Connecticut, and Hawaii. As other Latinos have arrived in these communities, they have found the various Reyes celebrations welcoming.

In New York City's El Barrio, or Spanish Harlem, preparations for [El Museo del Barrio's](#) 48th Annual Three Kings Day Parade and Celebration are well under way. The first event is a Three Kings Day Parade Kick-off Breakfast featuring the chosen “reyes o reinas,” honorees and local politicians. It's free, and you need to RSVP well in advance. This year it will take place **January 6, 2026, from 8:30am-10:30am**. Get there early if you are planning to attend because it gets very crowded!

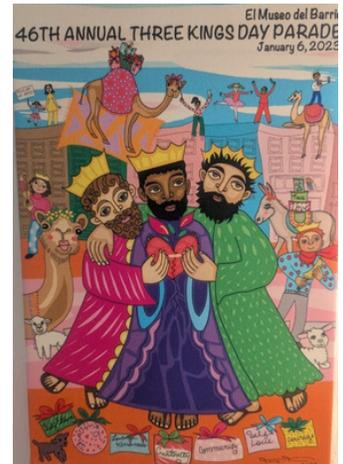
After the Kick-off breakfast, those participating in the parade start gathering and assembling. [The Parade kicks off at 1:30pm until 3pm, on 106 and Park Avenue](#) and you can watch real live camels, gigantic puppets that represent the three wise men (*Gaspar, Melchor and Balthazar*), floats, various school groups, and many musical offerings as they pass by. Last year, the *Puerto Rican BombaYo dance company*, the *Brazilian women's drum line Fogo Azul*, and other performers brought their art and music to those watching the parade.



Carved Wooden 3 Kings by
Marta Iris Rodriquez-Olmeda

The theme for the 2026 parade is: **“¡Pa'lante, Siempre Pa'lante!** (“*Forward, Always Forward!*”) and was inspired by the legacy of the Young Lords and “the enduring traditions of cultural resistance and mutual care in East Harlem.” After the parade, El Museo usually has an indoor celebration featuring musical performances in the theater. [El Museo](#) is located at 1230 5th Avenue at 104th Street on Manhattan's Museum Mile.

Each year [El Museo](#) chooses an artist to create a poster for the parade. In 2023 they asked Boricua artist Tanya Torres. An original rendering of the poster on canvas is hanging on my living room wall! We also have other Reyes related artwork we have collected from artist members of the [Puerto Rican Institute for the Development of the Arts \(PRIDA\)](#). Some of the pieces are part of our décor year-round but definitely are highlighted during the holiday season.



If you would like to expand your collection of hand-made art and also do some gift shopping for loved ones, (think hand-made jewelry, soaps, books autographed by the authors, Christmas ornaments, vejigante masks, aprons, t-shirts, you name it, you can find it!) attend the **20th Annual Puerto Rican Artisans and Authors Fair on November 22 at Boricua College's Manhattan Campus located at 3755 Broadway 155th Street and Broadway from 11am to 5pm**. The Fair typically includes some live music and dance performances. Bonus, you can cross the adjacent plaza to visit the [Hispanic Society Museum and Library](#) to enjoy their exhibits for free.



Three Kings Day Celebrations in NY | *Celebraciones del Día de Reyes en NY*

By *Clara Galvino Rivera*



3-D Kings framed artwork

by Olga Ayala

Other offerings in New York City include [Teatro SEA](#)'s performances in the Loisada (Lower East Side) neighborhood of their production "*Dream of Kings/Sueño de Reyes*" (December 13 – January 5, tickets need to be purchased in advance). [Teatro SEA](#) also hosts a celebration on January 6 from 3-5:00pm during which there is a parade, hundreds of children receive free gifts from the Reyes and musical performances keep the spirit festive. The January 6 event is free for all to attend.

Those living in the broader Diaspora, like many Nuyoricans, also keep the Three Kings traditions alive with music and food. We enjoy pernil, arroz con gandules, and pasteles, arroz con dulce and coquito too – not just on Nochebuena but saving some for January 6th! We love listening to (and participating in) parrandas in East Harlem like those led by Los Pleneros de la 21. Our communities know that our holiday decorations stay up through 3 Kings Day! We take no responsibility for those sad trees discarded on December 26th.

Share your DIY projects

Comparte tu proyectos

We invite you to share your fun and easy DIY projects! Projects can be while connecting your comadres, family or with your community. We will share on each **Comadres Connect** newsletter and social media. Use [Google Docs form](#) to upload your pictures and let us know all about your project ideas.



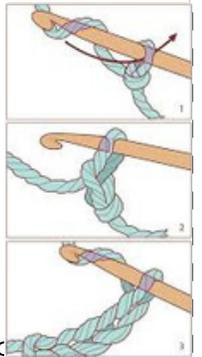
SUBMIT BY JANUARY 31, 2026

DIY CROCHET

YouTube Videos

[POINSETTAS](#) (en Español)

Love this tutorial because she goes slow, counts and is very detailed. Send us a pic if you make it.



[PUFF STITCH](#)

Its easy and takes about 15 minutes or less to make.

You can use them as gift tags

[SNOWFLAKE](#) (en Español)

You can make it for the holidays as well as for any winter project you might be crocheting as a gift for a friend, colleague or family member.

¡Feliz Navidad!



Comadres Highlights



Julieta Corpus, Donna Poet Laureate

by Esperanza Beltrán

As Donna's first Poet Laureate, what was the moment you realized the weight and beauty of this new role—and how has your community responded so far?

JC: Last night, in fact, I held my first writing workshop, and the only attendees were an elderly couple and a library employee. This is when I realized that as the first Poet Laureate in this city, it will be one of my responsibilities to reach out to my community and awaken their interest in what poetry has to offer.

Your work often flows between English and Spanish. How does being a bilingual poet shape the kind of stories, emotions, and histories you want to elevate during your laureateship?

JC: I am proud of my Mexican heritage, and this reflects in almost every poem and short story I write. Being bilingual is the bridge which connects me with this area of the United States where a large percentage of the residents are bilingual. This forms an almost immediate connection between my listeners and me whenever I share poems in both languages, especially those poems which contain stories passed down from my mother, Julia Vielma, whom I lost to cancer in 2011. One of my projects as Poet Laureate, in fact, is to meet with Donna's elderly and encourage them to record their stories for posterity as poems, memoirs or short stories. I would then seek a way to publish an anthology with their voices sometime in the near future with the support of the city mayor, David Moreno.

You were named Poet Laureate in October 2025. What responsibilities or projects are you most excited to bring to the city of Donna in this new chapter?

JC: Exactly what I just answered in the previous question, to meet with part of the city's elderly population who want to share their stories and guide them to write them as poetry, memoirs, or short stories. I was blessed to have

people in my life who told me their stories, and then I transformed them into poems so that others can read them. I'm sure that others out there would welcome the same opportunity.

You've collaborated with incredible writers like Ire'ne Lara Silva. How have those experiences influenced your goals now that you're carrying a laureate title yourself?

JC: The wonderful poet **Ire'ne Lara Silva** has taught me that there's power in the simplicity of language and that evocative words hold a special kind of power over the reader or listener. I have been translating her poetry and short stories since 2010 and have learned so much from her unique way of telling a story and structuring a poem that nowadays, she is my inspiration as a newly appointed poet laureate.

What does it mean to you personally—and culturally—for Donna, a border town with deep roots, to have its first Poet Laureate?

JC: It has brought me joy and hope, along with a sense of urgency because even though I will hold this title for three years, there is much that I want to share with my community. I was born in Mexico and came to the U.S. in 1978 at almost eleven years old. This means that I spent my entire childhood surrounded by my culture, speaking only in Spanish, reading in Spanish, singing in Spanish, and praying in Spanish. Learning English was a challenge because my tongue sometimes refused to twist and bend to words I needed for communicating needs, thoughts, questions---until I finally conquered it.

Learning English was a challenge because my tongue sometimes refused to twist and bend to words I needed for communicating needs, thoughts, questions---until I finally conquered it. As this city's first Poet Laureate, I want people to know me through my poetry and short stories and then realize that they, too, can start writing their own stories in either language or in both: TexMex.



Julietta Corpus (cont.)

by Esperanza Beltrán

In your teaching at South Texas College, what themes or needs do you see emerging from young writers that you hope to support as Poet Laureate?

JC: The most immediate need I see in my high school students is that their voices must be heard through their writing. In my courses, I build a small space for poetry because this is how I get to know who they really are, deep down inside of their souls. I wish I could write poetry with them every day. Those kids have sorrows they want to unburden, and the best way to do this is through poetry.

Many of your poems have appeared in publications like *La Revista de la Academia Norteamericana de la Lengua Española*. How do accomplishments like this inform the way you want to mentor or uplift local voices?

JC: Every time one of my poems is published, I feel extremely honored and overjoyed because it means that another door has opened for another reader or readers who, perhaps, are also writers or have always wanted to write. I want to inspire them to do exactly that---to write their own stories.

Las Comadres has long been a space for connection, empowerment, and creative sisterhood. What do you hope the organization continues doing—and what new directions would you love to see it take over the next few years?

JC: Las Comadres is such a welcoming organization, and I am so lucky to have been invited to be part of it all. Thanks to Alma Quintanilla for sending me a message one day and letting me know that this organization existed and that I was welcome there. I hope that it continues welcoming new members all the time for much-needed connection, empowerment, and especially the creative sisterhood aspect. As far as new directions, I really cannot think of anything else that they're not already carrying out and doing it so successfully!



How can literary communities like Las Comadres support your work as Poet Laureate, and what role do you think we can play in amplifying the stories of the Rio Grande Valley?

JC: I welcome opportunities for meeting with groups of Comadres from all over the nation and sharing my passion for the written word. I would love to guide writing workshops in cities outside of the Rio Grande Valley, for example. I would also love it if writing retreats were in place for people like me to take advantage of and enjoy those quiet spaces for writing.

If you imagine a young girl in Donna picking up a pen for the first time because she saw you become Poet Laureate, what message or encouragement would you want her to hear?

JC: Write about everything you see around you which awakens your curiosity or moves you to feel something: sadness, awe, and joy. Ask your elders for stories about their childhoods, their adventures as young adults, their trials and tribulations, their worries and hopes and then transform their stories into poems or short stories. Never stop being curious about Mother Nature because she has many lessons to teach us, writers ...but especially, for us poets. And read everything that lands on your lap! Read all the time because those books will fill your fountain with extraordinary words---tu fuente de palabras.



Comadres Highlights

Spotlight on Creativity: Meet Fashion Designer *Karina H. Martínez*

by Jacqueline Quinones



We are excited to feature Karina Martínez, a proud Comadre since 2006 and an inspiring Latina fashion designer whose story is rooted in tradition, resilience, and artistry.

From Durango to Design: A Creative Journey

Born and raised in Durango, Mexico. She grew up surrounded by the sewing, knitting, and crocheting. Traditions passed down through generations of women in her family. As one of six siblings—4 of them sisters—she fondly remembers her mother creating beautiful clothes for all of them. Her earliest designs came from childhood imagination: tiny dresses for her dolls made out of old socks. She learned to crochet and knit at the age of eight, discovering a source of peace and relaxation that still fuels her creativity today.

Karina has a Fashion Design certificate from [Austin Community College](#) and volunteering for the Austin Fashion Week led to her own show in Nov 2023. The Incubator program at the college has been very instrumental in teaching her the business side of fashion among many other strategies needed to make her business successful. Karina works with local businesses and designers, and is proud to say many of them are Mexican owned. Her fashion line is inspired by looking at what women are wearing as well as following other big designers, Pinterest and saving images.

Karina's goal when she designs is to make women feel stylish, graceful and put together. Most importantly she likes to incorporate her Mexican heritage into everything she creates. This is reflective even in the name she chose for her fashion brand which is Lorenza, named after her father's mom. You can find her work on instagram at [the_lorenza](#). Her website [thelorenza.com](#) is currently under construction.

She credits the ACC Fashion Incubator with giving her invaluable business experience—everything from planning production to understanding the financial and marketing aspects of fashion.

Karina's fashion brand, **Lorenza**, is lovingly named after her paternal grandmother. Her designs draw inspiration from the women she sees every day, major fashion houses, Pinterest finds, and an ever-growing archive of imagery and ideas.

Her mission is simple, create clothing that helps women feel stylish, graceful, and beautifully put together—while celebrating **Mexican culture**.



bold black-and-white checkered vest inspired by Wednesday Addams.



Karina H. Martínez (cont.)

by Jacqueline Quínonos

Tradition and Imagination

Karina's work blends creativity with heritage. Among her standout pieces are:

A Frida Kahlo–
inspired dress rooted
in the traditional
huipil silhouette



A pink-and-white huipil
created from an upcycled
bedspread showcasing her
talent for transformation
and sustainable design

Words of Wisdom for Aspiring Designers

“Start by taking sewing classes. Learn all the techniques. Understanding the foundations will take you far.”

Her advice reflects her belief that skill, study, and passion form the backbone of any creative career.

What's Next for Karina

Karina is preparing for a grand opening and ribbon cutting of her online store this December in Austin, where the community will be able to try on and purchase her designs in person. For those outside of Austin, her website is currently in development.



- [Las Comadres Para Las Americas](#)
- NEW! Latina, Live...Love...Journal. [Order your journal](#) today!
- [Cooking with Las Comadres cookbook](#) **SAVE \$10, Dec 1-7**
- [Las Comadres Tshirts](#)
- [Las Comadres & Friends National Latino Book Club](#)
- [Las Comadres Bookshop](#)
- [Las Comadres Accomplishments](#)
- [Comadre Authors List](#)
- Subscribe to the [Las Comadres YouTube Channel](#)
- [The 2025 Nora Awards](#)



Comadrazos





Más Comadrazos





Newsletter Editors | *Editoras de boletines informativos*



ROSA A. 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 more than 10 years, has been the co-facilitator of the Boston Las Comadres Network along with Debbie Bonilla. During the last 12 years, she has been line dancing with NE Soul Line Dance Network where dance is part of building and connecting and community. I love the outdoors, hiking, fitness and LIVE, LOVE to TRAVEL.



ESPERANZA BELTRÁN

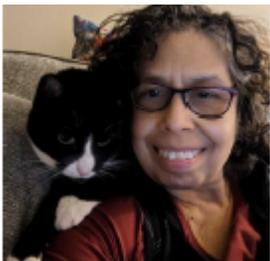
An editor for over two years and is currently in search of an agent for her debut novel, *OFELIA: AN ORCHID IN THE SIERRA*, a story based on the life of her grandmother with whom she had a complicated love-hate relationship. She also has a newsletter of her own, *The Unpopular History of Mexico*, in which she shares her findings on Mexican history. Esperanza is also the creator of our coloring pages.

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS



NORA DE HOYOS COMSTOCK, PhD

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.



JACQUELINE QUINOÑES

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.



MARIA 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.



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

Contact us / Visit our websites

Comadresconnect@gmail.com or info@lascomadres.com
www.LasComadres.com and www.LatinoLit.com

Support Las Comadres Para Las Americas
Donate Today!