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CINCO DE MAYO ACTIVITIES, P. 5

## Latina author tells tales to spellbound library audiences

By Kevin Milliken, La Prensa Correspondent

April 21, 2015: Latina author and activist Sandra Cisneros gave a unique perspective on Latino life in the U.S. today and her own travels through life during a three-day stay in Toledo, which included at least three appearances—at a tea fundraiser, at the McMaster Center of the downtown main library, and a talk before 450 fans at the Stranahan Theatre Wednesday evening, April 22.

The latter appearance is part of the *Authors! Authors!* lecture series put on by the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library and The Blade.

"Every story is medicine, every book is medicine," Ms. Cisneros told the crowd. "A part of them is born in you, not immediately, but eventually, gradually. Even sadness has its place in the universe."

The 60-year old Chicago-born author, who now lives in Mexico, read parts of her works and lectured for about an hour. Ms. Cisneros first gained fame for *The House on Mango Street* (1984), which was followed by *Caramelo*. She has also written several books of poetry and fiction and was awarded a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship, a five-year, no-strings-attached reward given to individuals who show exceptional creativity and the prospect for more in the future. Recipients are permitted to pursue creative, intellectual, and professional activities.

She read excerpts from *Have You Seen Marie?*, a story in which she verbally assumed about a dozen characters. Her books have been translated into more than 20 languages and published internationally.

The evening before, Ms. Cisneros made a special ap-

pearance at the main branch of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, an event attended by Latino leaders and librarians alike.

"I thought I was an activist attorney, but she's greater than her books explain that," said *Jesús Salas* from *Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE)* in his introductory remarks. He was among a Latino delegation who picked her up from the airport. Attorney Salas was recently selected to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the library.

"This woman is a conspiring person," joked *Baldemar Velásquez*, founder and president of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), who has known Ms. Cisneros for almost two decades.

The two first met during a MacArthur Fellowship event in Chicago. Ms. Cisneros convinced him to help organize a reunion of all Latino winners of that fellowship in San Antonio. The group planned events all over the city—at universities, high schools, and libraries. Ms. Cisneros is credited as the founder of the *Latino MacArthur Fellows*, or "Los HYPERLINK <http://www.sandracisneros.com/amuraymanusp/McArts>"

*Velásquez* related a tale of when the pair was part of a group inside the Alamo—and *Velásquez* was telling what he called the "true history" of that battle, which was slavery. The FLOC founder recalled telling a group of people that Texas wanted the Mexican territory to add it to what would become a slavery state, while Ms. Cisneros kept warning him that Texas Rangers were standing behind them.

The author later clarified

the group was part of a "peace circle" praying for that "true story" to come to light because "it cast such a dark shadow on so many people's lives."

"He was my guest and I didn't want him to get arrested," she said to laughter from the crowd.

"She's always getting me in trouble anytime we're together, but it's a good kind of trouble," said *Velásquez*. "It speaks to her life as a kind of person whose heart really goes out there. She's really renowned and she could very easily glide by the literary circles on all these accolades and prizes and awards. But she uses that prestige to call attention to people who are struggling and suffering. That's why she captured my heart the first time I met her."

Ms. Cisneros paid homage to librarians and others who work in libraries at the start of her presentation.

"This is such a violent time, where communities who haven't been in contact with each other are coming into contact and without the right perception in a time of fear," she said. "People are making wrong decisions and reacting from this place of fear. I think we need to remember there are people who are working toward knowledge and peace-making. I think anytime you allow people to read a book or come into a beautiful building like this that is a safe place, a refuge for the mind—that is an act against violence, a peacemaking act."

Ms. Cisneros called herself "a product of the Chicago public library" system, who saw value in books "because she had no idea you could buy a book." She sought refuge in libraries as a place she called "a quiet house" from the noise of her own home



Sandra Cisneros

and the trauma and troubles of her neighborhood. She recounted how her mother always took her to a library on Saturday and a museum on Sunday.

"I thank you for the work you do every day to make peace," she said to the librarians in attendance.

But the McMaster Center event did not start without a bit of drama. Earlier in the day, the downtown library branch closed due to a bomb threat. A 17-year-old student left a handwritten note beside a computer. He was later arrested by Toledo police on felony charges.

Ms. Cisneros also appeared at a "high tea" put on by *The Campaign for Migrant Worker Justice* at the Sweet Shalom Tea Room, 8216 Erie St., Sylvania, on Monday evening, April 20. 30 people paid \$200 per ticket to attend the exclusive event. Proceeds will help fund the *FLOC Homies Union* program, which seeks to help train at-risk youth in life and job skills, as well as develop them as leaders within the Latino barrios of Toledo.

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## SAVE THE DATES:

Sunday, June 7, Midwest Tejano Radio.com hosting Tejano bands at fiesta in Saginaw. Read La Prensa for further details. Or visit [www.laprensa1.com](http://www.laprensa1.com) or [www.midwesttejanoradio.com](http://www.midwesttejanoradio.com)

Sunday, August 9, Latino Day with the Toledo Mud Hens, hosted by La Prensa and SAO.

Saturday and Sunday, August 8-9, Festival Latino, downtown Columbus, Visit: [www.festivallatino.net](http://www.festivallatino.net)

Saturday, September 5, MidWest LatinoFest in downtown Toledo.

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## Adelante's Cinco de Mayo run/walk is on May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Adelante, Inc. will be conducting its first 5K run and 1 mile fun-walk on Sunday, May 3, 2015. This event helps support the programs and social services at Adelante.

The race will start and finish at Pearson Metropark in Oregon, Ohio. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and the race begins at 10:00 a.m., rain or shine. The tax-deductible registration fee is \$25 for all the 5k and \$15 for the 1 mile fun walk. Online Registration at: [mathlete/Cinco](http://mathlete/Cinco) de Mayo 5K. For more information visit the Adelante website at [www.adelantetoleado.org](http://www.adelantetoleado.org) or <https://www.facebook.com/Adelante5K>. Or call 419-244-8440.

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## CINCO DE MAYO ACTIVITIES, P. 5



### 2015 Cinco de Mayo Little Queen

Pictured left to right; Dutchess II Araseli Sánchez, Dutchess I Julieza González, Princess Xzadriana Natal, Queen Faith Laurenti

### MMS announces 2015 Cinco de Mayo Little Queen

Lorain, April 19, 2015: Marie Leibas of the Mexican Mutual Society has announced the order of the contestants of the 2015 Cinco de Mayo Little Queen event:

**Queen Faith Laurenti** is 6yrs old and attends kindergarten at St. Anthony's School. Faith likes cheerleading, basketball, and crafts. Her parents are Kelly Glass & Drew Laurenti. Her maternal grandparents are Cathy Arenas & Desi Aranbula. Her paternal grandparents are Kim & Bob Laurenti.

**Princess Xzadriana Natal** is 6yrs old and attends kindergarten at Horizon Science Academy. Xzadriana likes science and baseball. Her parents are Amber & Pedro Natal. Her grandparents are Robin & Donald Williams. Her paternal grandparents are Fausta & Pedro Natal.

**Dutchess I Julieza González** is 8yrs old and attends 2nd grade at Lorain Community Elementary. Julieza likes dance, art, and music. Her parents are Cynthia Martínez & Juan González. Her grandmother

is María Lupe Martínez.

**Dutchess II Araseli Sánchez** is 9yrs old and attends 4th grade at Helen Steiner Rice School. Araseli likes math, softball, and the violin. Her parents are Virginia & José Sánchez. Her maternal grandparents are JoAnne Barrios & Luis Acevedo. Her paternal grandparents are Raymundo Sánchez & Sofia Diego.

The Little Queen and her Court will rein in the 18th Annual Cinco de Mayo Parade on May 2, 2015. The Parade begins at St Francis Church, 2143 Homewood Dr.

and ends at the Mexican Mutual Courtyard where the Celebration continues with the Coronation of the Queen and court. 2014 Little Queen, Mileena Rivera will be on hand to assist with the crowning.

There will be Mexican food and cash bar; piñatas for the children. Entertainment is provided by D.J. Pepe Rivera and Alma de Mexico Dancers. Back by popular demand is Toledo's Yvonne & Grupo Fuego for your music and dancing pleasure. The public is welcome to attend.

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## El líder César Chávez recibe homenaje de la Marina de EEUU

Por SCOTT SMITH

KEENE, California, 23 IV 15 (AP): Al cumplirse el jueves 22 años de su muerte, el líder sindical y defensor de derechos civiles César Chávez recibió un reconocimiento distinto a los que se han hecho: honras fúnebres por parte de la Marina de Estados Unidos en su tumba en California.

“Sé que nos mira desde arriba”, dijo su hermana Rita Chávez Martín, de 89 años, después del saludo con salva de fusilería y toque de trompeta. “Su espíritu está aquí”.

La bandera que cubría su tumba fue entregada a la viuda de Chávez, Helen.

Conocido por su humildad, Chávez nunca buscó el reconocimiento de haber liderado batallas para mejorar los sueldos y condiciones laborales de trabajadores agrarios. Pero en este aniversario de su muerte recibió plenos honores por su servicio en la Marina poco después de la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

Nacido cerca de Yuma, Arizona, Chávez dirigió marchas, boicots y huelgas de hambre para llamar la atención sobre la suerte de los trabajadores rurales pobres y sobre explotados.

Fundó la Asociación Nacional de Trabajadores Agrarios, precursora de la actual Trabajadores Agrarios Unidos.

La consigna que creó para los trabajadores, “sí, se puede” fue la que adoptó luego Barack Obama en su campaña presidencial. Su nombre aparece en murales, e innumerables calles y parques llevan su nombre.

Mirtha Villarreal-Younger, subsecretaria del Departamento de Asuntos de Veteranos y veterana del ejército, dijo que cada parque o calle que lleva el nombre de Chávez es una luz de esperanza para los latinos.

“Cada uno tiene el poder de realizar tareas aparentemente imposibles a pesar de nuestros orígenes humildes”, dijo. “César abrió el camino. Nos mostró cómo hacerlo”.

La idea de llevar a cabo la ceremonia fue de un integrante actual de la Marina que se enteró de que el dirigente sindical no recibió el homenaje a los integrantes de las fuerzas armadas cuando murió, de acuerdo con la Fundación César Chávez.

La Fundación, junto con el Servicio Nacional de Parques de Estados Unidos,

que se hace cargo de la tumba, se encargaron de la ceremonia.

La Marina ya ha hecho reconocimientos a Chávez. En 2012 botó un barco de cargo al que bautizó USNS César Chávez.

Los organizadores informaron que la ceremonia del jueves es una oportunidad para mostrar a la gente que el dirigente, en cuya trayectoria no se ha destacado su papel como integrante de las fuerzas armadas, militó en la Marina poco tiempo después de la Segunda Guerra Mundial, y eso le ayudó a convertirse en el organizador y luchador social que hoy se conoce.

“César sufrió discriminación en la Marina y en su país durante la década de 1940”, informó la fundación en un comunicado.

“Pertenció a una generación de latinos y personas de color que volvieron a casa tras servir en las fuerzas armadas durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial, decididos a ver que en el país por el que sacrificaron se cumpliera la promesa de igualdad y libertad. Eso lo motivó a defender los derechos laborales y civiles a partir de principios de la década de 1950”, agregó.

## Latinoamericanas demandan por aislamiento en Texas

Por SETH ROBBINS, Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, 23 IV 15 (AP): Tres inmigrantes latinoamericanas detenidas en Texas interpusieron una demanda el jueves, en la cual argumentan que las mantuvieron aisladas en represalia por la huelga de hambre que efectuaron en protesta por su arresto y por las condiciones de vida en el centro de detención.

Las tres mujeres, que han solicitado asilo, forman parte de una demanda colectiva presentada contra funcionarios del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE, por sus siglas en inglés) y contra el operador privado de las instalaciones en Karnes City, al sureste de San Antonio. Las mujeres dicen que las mantuvieron aisladas en el área médica del centro.

Autoridades del ICE indicaron el miércoles durante un recorrido de las instalaciones que ni mujeres ni niños fueron mantenidos aislados dentro del área médica, y que allí nunca se usa el aislamiento como forma

de castigo. Los funcionarios también negaron que las mujeres hayan efectuado una huelga de hambre, la cual consideran comienza luego de no ingerir alimentos durante nueve ocasiones seguidas.

Las instalaciones albergaban a 183 mujeres y niños el miércoles, la mayoría de ellos centroamericanos que cruzaron la frontera con México sin autorización. Fue posible ver a niños en un área de juegos, tomando clases en un salón e ingiriendo su almuerzo en la cafetería.

Decenas de miles de inmigrantes de Centroamérica cruzaron la frontera sur de Estados Unidos a mediados del año pasado, la mayoría mujeres con niños y también menores sin un acompañante adulto.

De acuerdo con la demanda, a fines de marzo, unas 80 mujeres decidieron protestar por su detención con una huelga de hambre e hicieron circular una petición para hacerlo en Semana Santa. Entonces funcionarios del ICE amenazaron separarlas de sus hijos y “las acusaron de

ser malas madres porque no estaban alimentando a sus hijos”, afirma el texto judicial.

Dos de las mujeres que participan en la demanda afirman que fueron colocadas en habitaciones a las que sólo se podía aplicarles el cerrojo desde el exterior y que se les sometió a un interrogatorio.

La demanda pide un mandato judicial que le ordene al ICE y al operador de la prisión, The Geo Group, que suspendan las represalias y permitan que las mujeres protesten pacíficamente.

En un comunicado anterior, el ICE ha afirmado que “respetamos completamente los derechos de toda la gente a expresar su opinión sin interferencia, y a todos los detenidos incluidos los que están en instalaciones residenciales para familias como la de Karnes—se les permite hacerlo”.

Interactivo AP: <http://hosted.ap.org/interactives/2013/reforma-migratoria>

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**OCHLA, NAMI, ABLE, United Way, Adelante join forces on Healthcare Training**

By Kevin Milliken, La Prensa Correspondent

The United Way of Greater Toledo hosted a special Spanish-language training session for faith-based and Latino community leaders on Friday afternoon, April 24, 2015 at its downtown headquarters. The health-related training session was a joint effort by the Ohio Commission on Hispanic-Latino Affairs (OCHLA), ABLE, and Adelante, Inc.

"We want to start creating a network of people who work with the community, touch base with them so we can have them guide people into the healthcare system," said Georgina Alvarez, OCHLA's development center officer. "When those faith-based leaders arrive at the hospital for a domestic violence situation, for instance, they really don't know how to guide the stakeholders, their followers, correctly. Our idea was to start getting closer to them so we can give them enough information to have on-hand for helping others."

The end result is a grassroots network for Spanish-speaking families to obtain the proper services they need, especially in a crisis situation. Training session participants were given a number of handouts on a variety of services available locally, ranging from mental health to legal aid to domestic violence.

"For example, a Catholic priest encounters a beaten woman and begins to go more into the faith issues than the protection of that victim," explained Ms. Alvarez. "So that victim goes on, because they trust the faith-based leaders. The priest does not have the information to guide this per-

son to an expert or a place that can help them with those related special issues.

"In domestic violence, you have spiritual support, but you also need legal protection and guidance on how to protect yourself. These women could get into very difficult positions or even killed."

As a result, a lot of health-related or other issues may go untreated if the Spanish-speaker cannot get the right help at the right time.

"It can't be just someone to translate for you. It has to be a professional who can guide you correctly," emphasized Ms. Alvarez. "It must be the right channel, because they do not know what to do. Usually, mental health issues are very taboo for Latinos and they manage health issues starting with the parish. They don't want many people to know and keep it low-profile. They look for help with a priest or a counselor they trust."

OCHLA executive director Lilly Cavanaugh also attended the session, which was conducted in other Ohio cities such as Lorain, Cleveland, and Columbus throughout April.

Dr. Richard A. Paat and Carly Miller spoke about the programs for migrant farmworkers and their families who travel to Northwest Ohio. Jesus Salas discussed legal aid programs available through



Carly Miller

Advocates for Legal Equality (ABLE). Anita Martinez-Folger presented mental health and mental illness programs and support groups that can be accessed through NAMI-Toledo.

Wendy Avina and Meyling Ruiz provided an overview of Adelante's programs and services.

Guisselle Mendoza, Adelante executive director, pointed out access to health care and insurance remain problems for Spanish-speaking families locally. Cultural competence among healthcare providers also must continue to be addressed.

"You may have a machine that may be speaking in your language, but it may just literally translate. You might be offending someone and they might not have that trust factor," she said.

"People don't understand why all the cousins and the mom and everybody else all have to come into a medical appointment. That's a part of being culturally competent."

"I think the goal of OCHLA is to have one voice and bring us all together in bringing issues that are affecting Latinos in Toledo to the forefront," said Ms. Mendoza. "Not just here's a band-aid and go—it's really about listening to our community and their needs. The top ones that keep coming up are language access and professionals who aren't culturally competent."

Adelante and its bilingual staff constantly get calls to translate for Spanish-speaking families that find themselves in difficult situations. "It's every day—language and interpreting and transportation," said Ms. Mendoza, and "it's not just healthcare systems such as Mercy, ProMedica, and Paramount who must do a better job of training their staff and providing more translation."

"It's frustrating, but it's also encouraging, because it's not only Adelante now saying these things," said Ms. Mendoza. "You also have OCHLA and the library and the mental health board that are bringing this back to the community in community surveys being translated in Spanish. I think a

small effort has been done, but a bigger effort should be done consistently. It has to be a system change all across the city, the county—not just a few agencies doing it."

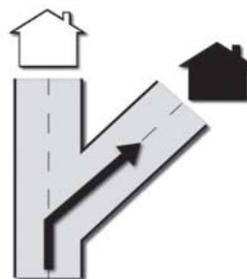
Ms. Mendoza is hopeful that Welcome Toledo-Lucas County can make a dent in the problem as the initiative seeks to be a more welcoming community to immigrant families. Translation issues will be a big part of helping those families assimilate into the community. Many public agencies and providers have yet to make that transition, so "Adelante plans to be a vocal part of that initiative."

"Have we had it trickle down to our community? Not really, because we still get



OCHLA executive director Lilly Cavanaugh

calls," said Ms. Mendoza. "That's not to say we don't want to be part of a solution, but that's a conversation that has to happen. I want to make sure the Latino voice and needs are being heard."



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TOLEDO ZOO & AQUARIUM



## DPS hosts Two-Day Technology Fair, inviting hundreds of students, parents, and residents to learn about technology offerings district-wide

DETROIT: Hundreds of students, parents, and local residents will attend *Detroit Public Schools'* third annual *Two-Day Technology Fair* on Wednesday, April 29, 2015, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Thursday, April 30, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at A. Philip Randolph Technical High School, 17101 Hubbell St.

The fair will feature student-led technology and robotics demonstrations, interactive booths for attendees of all ages, breakout sessions, a showcase of technology vendors including HP, Toshiba, SMART, Promethean, Microsoft, and more.

Microsoft Office suite will be offered to all DPS employees at no cost during the Technology Fair. The Office 365 benefit from Microsoft Corp. allows DPS staff to download Microsoft Office up to five PCs or Macs, and Office apps on other mobile devices, including iPads and Windows tablets, to prepare them for college and careers and get their work done at anytime from anywhere. Full details

on the partnership will be provided during the *Two-Day Technology Fair*.

One of the activities planned is an *Hour of Code in the Classroom* where students will showcase their skill-set of writing computer programs. Adults are also invited to learn how to write computer programs, as well as many other offerings including technology-focused giveaways, heavy-duty construction equipment simulators, and dozens of technology demonstrations by schools including *Cass Technical High School, Davison Elementary-Middle School, Gompers Elementary-Middle School, A. Philip Randolph Technical High School, JROTC programs, and West Side Academy*.

The Detroit Tigers Mascot Paws will be onsite April 29 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. and students will enjoy a *Techie Photo Booth Kiosk* from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. both days. This event is presented by the DPS I.T. Division as part of Technology Month to showcase the district's vast technology



offerings and to empower Detroit Public Schools staff, students, parents, and community members with facts and tools that will improve their understanding and increase interaction with technology information and devices used to protect and educate students.

All DPS staff, students, parents, community members, and business partners are invited to attend. Technology giveaways and prizes will be provided each day for students and adults.

Throughout the month of April, the DPS Division of Technology and Information Services has hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual *Spring into Technology: April is Technology Month* initiative. As part of Technology Month, *free weekly Parent Computer Training Workshops* were offered with both *English and Spanish courses*. The courses were free and registration was required. Through the Parent Computer Training Workshops, parents learned essential computer skills.

## Eighty-three Detroit Public Schools staff members headed to U-M for intense training and planning with top international experts

April 28, 2015: This week 21 *Detroit Public Schools Principals* and teachers, along with 18 academic/curricular leaders, 24 additional educational support leaders and the entire DPS Cabinet are among 83 school district leaders who will participate in a customized two-and-a-half day leadership/organizational development training conducted by international experts from the Stephen M. Ross School of Business at the *University of Michigan*.

The *Michigan Ross Team*, led by Dr. Kim Cameron, the William Russell Kelly Professor of Management & Organizations in the Ross School of Business and Professor of Higher Education in the School of Education, and Dr. Robert Quinn, the Margaret Elliott Tracy Collegiate Professor in Business Administration in the Ross School of Business, are conducting all aspects of the program at no charge to the district. This is part of a new partnership with U-M Ross to accelerate the district's strategy planning and reinvent and transform the district's business operations to support high achieving schools over the course of the next year.

"The bottom line is that we must restructure the services that the District provides to schools and families to focus on academic success, first and foremost, and to ensure that our schools' progress not only continues, but accelerates," said DPS Emergency Manager *Darnell Earley*. "The critical work being undertaken by the U-M Ross and DPS teams is tangible proof of my 10-Point Management Plan in action and, I am certain, will help guide our way to moving the District toward long-term financial stability and educational competitiveness."

The DPS team members headed to U-M on Tuesday have been identified as "positive energy innovators" and will spend these extended sessions at the Ross School, as well as time in Detroit with follow-up visits to DPS by Ross faculty over the coming months, as part of a new tailored executive leadership program designed to set a clear path forward for the district's efforts to restructure its operations and re-engineer

the way the District provides services to and supports its schools and students.

"Our aspiration in partnering with the Detroit Public School System leaders is to help provide a leadership foundation that will produce extraordinary performance in DPS," said Professor Cameron of the University of Michigan's *Ross School of Business*. "The positive energy and commitment exemplified by DPS leadership is an important prerequisite in helping a system that has been struggling become a benchmark for the rest of the nation."

The Michigan Ross faculty members partnering with the District have successfully assisted leaders to achieve high levels of performance in such diverse organizations as Oracle,



Bank of America, the National Intelligence Agencies, U.S. Army General Officers, Prudential, Pfizer and the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development, along with dozens of others.

As part of the training program, the DPS leadership team, under the direction of Emergency Manager *Darnell Earley*, has committed to:

- Create a high performance environment;
- Provide the tools, resources and technology to accomplish work activities;
- Utilize comprehensive performance management in a clear and transparent decision process, and;
- Recognize and reward behaviors that reinforce a lean, agile performance-driven culture.

**NOTICE:**

The Diocese of Saginaw will be hosting the **Mexican Consulate from Detroit for a Mobil Consulate Day on Saturday, June 20, 2015** at the Center for Ministry, 5802 Weiss St., Saginaw, MI 48603. Representatives from the Mexican Consulate will offer services to renew Mexican passports, consular identifications, health and educational information among other services. **All interested must schedule an appointment by calling 1-877-639-4835.**

**AVISO:**

La Diocesis de Saginaw va a recibir al **Consulado de México en Detroit para un Consulado Móvil el sábado el 20 de junio de 2015** al Centro para el Ministerio, 5802 Weiss St., Saginaw, MI 48603. Los servicios que se proporcionarán serán la expedición de pasaportes, matrículas consulares, orientación en casos de protección consular, información en materia de salud, educación, concursos de dibujo infantil, entre otros. **Para solicitar el servicio, los interesados deberán hacerlo a través de citas llamando al número telefónico 1-877-639-4835, donde también les informaran sobre los requisitos.**

**Annual Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser & Event**  
**Thursday, April 30, 2015**  
**5:30-9:00 p.m.**  
**El Camino Real**  
**Sylvania & Douglas**

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## Reported events scheduled to mark Cinco de Mayo (May 5<sup>th</sup>)

By Kevin Milliken, La Prensa Correspondent

The Latino communities in the North Coast area of Ohio will celebrate *Cinco de Mayo* in several unique ways over the next couple of weeks—including new additions to existing events and at least one new event. Anyone having such events should email a summary of the event for next week's edition of La Prensa to [rico@laprensa1.com](mailto:rico@laprensa1.com)

### CLEVELAND AREA

• The City of Cleveland's Community Relations Board will be hosting its *Cinco de Mayo* event on May 5, 2015, 11:00AM, at the Cleveland City Hall Rotunda, 601 Lakeside Avenue, with entertainment by *Mariachi Santa Cecilia*; U.S. Congresswoman *Marcy Kaptur* (OH-District 9) is the keynote speaker. Lunch will be served. For registration call 216-664-6248.

### LORAIN AREA

• The Mexican Mutual Society, 1820 E. 28<sup>th</sup> St., Lorain, will be hosting its 18<sup>th</sup> Annual *Cinco de Mayo Celebrations and Parade* on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, which includes presentation of its Queen and Court. Preguntas? Call *Marie Leibas* at 440-288-0144 or *Dave Flores* at 440-308-6044.

### TOLEDO AREA

• *El Camino Real* restaurants will be hosting several events, starting with Satur-

day, May 2<sup>nd</sup> festivities. Celebrations continue through May 5<sup>th</sup>.

• *Adelante, Inc.* is hosting its first-ever *Cinco de Mayo 5K run and one-mile fun walk* at 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 3, 2015 at Pearson Metropark, 761 S. Lallendorf Rd., Oregon. Race day registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The 5K race is \$25 and the one-mile course is \$15. There will be a limited number of t-shirts given out on race day. Online registration is available until April 29 at [imathlete.com](http://imathlete.com).

• The *Latino Peace Officers Association of Northwest Ohio* will be the beneficiary of a taco lunch to be held Friday, May 1, 2015, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Latins United hall, 706 S. St. Clair St., Toledo. For a donation of \$6, diners will receive three tacos, rice, and beans. Refreshments and spirits also will be available for purchase. This is the third year for the taco fundraiser. Last year's event netted about \$500.

"The reason for the fundraiser is to help with baskets for the needy during the holidays, fingerprinting for the children, and other things we can help with in the community," said *Linda de la Peña*, vice president and an association member for 18 years. She works as an administrative assistant for Lucas County Sheriff John Tharp.

The association currently has 27 members. Much of the group donates time to provide security at *Midwest Latino Fest* and other events.

• The Lucas County

*panico-Latino Democratic Caucus* expects the largest crowd ever for its annual *Cinco de Mayo* dinner fundraiser on Thursday April 30, 5:30 to 9 p.m. The dinner will be held at *El Camino restaurant*, Sylvania and Douglas. Tickets are \$25 per individual, \$40 per couple. There will be a cash bar. The event normally raises about \$2,000.

"Our focus has always been about embracing and encouraging the Latino community and making sure we can support Latino candidates," said caucus president *Lisa Canales*. "This event is our signature event."

*Lucas County Auditor Anita López* will emcee the event with *Rep. Dan Ramos (D-Lorain)* and *Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson* among the evening's guest speakers. Caucus officials expect about 200 people to attend.



Lucas County Auditor Anita López

"The state Democratic Party has noticed what we've been doing here in Lucas County," said Ms. Canales. "They've noticed what we've done in the last

year-and-a-half with what we've done to recreate what this caucus is all about. They've decided they want to put something together."

Ms. Canales went to Columbus in late March for an organizational meeting of the *Ohio Hispanic-Latino Democratic Caucus*, which was attended by about ten other people from across the state. The group's mission will be to provide the Latino community with a stronger, united voice in politics and in Ohio's communities as they seek to build a better future for Latinos in Ohio and across the nation.

"They're going to use our event as their kickoff, so we have people coming from all over the state that will be there to support our event," said Ms. Canales. "We're really happy about that."

For the first time, the event will feature a special awards ceremony honoring *Usevio "Chevo" Torres*, *Ismael "Izzy" Ortiz*, and *Sue Cuevas*. The trio is being honored in the categories of community service, service to veterans' affairs, and community development, respectively.

Torres is being honored for his longstanding union ties and service as a Lucas County sheriff's deputy, as well as breathing new life into *Latins United* as



Mexican Mutual Society's 2014 queen Mileena Rivera with MMS's Marie Leibas.

the organization's president.

Ortiz is being recognized by the Caucus for organizing Toledo's first visit of the "Moving Vietnam Wall," which drew more than 20,000 area residents over a seven-day period. He was also responsible for helping with 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations of the Korean War, organizing welcome home festivities for Marines returning from Iraq and National Guard soldiers coming back from Afghanistan, and ensuring that the graves of all area veterans are respectfully decorated with American flags every Memorial Day. The former Marine and Vietnam veteran came home to serve his community during a distinguished 30-year law enforcement career.

Ms. Cuevas is being honored by the Caucus for her work in establishing and growing the *Nueva Esperanza Community Credit Union (NECCU)*, which has fulfilled a growing need for banking

services and financial literacy within the Latino community. NECCU established its charter in 2010 with seven board members and zero loans. Today, the credit union has established itself with the community as a \$1.5 million credit union with 495 members, 85% of whom are Latino, and a loan portfolio of \$794,000.

"There are a lot of amazing people out there that have done stuff or are doing stuff," said Ms. Canales. "Cinco de Mayo is a big celebration of what we've accomplished, but it's also a time we need to celebrate our own people right here. It's important to go back and honor those that have been serving us for years."

The *Cinco de Mayo* dinner also will be the debut of the custom-made "Latino Strong, Toledo Pride" t-shirts the caucus is selling for \$20 each. Pre-ordered shirts will be available for pick up at the event.

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**TUESDAY MAY 5TH**  
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TACO EATING CONTEST 7PM  
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DJ JIM LIEBER-SOUNDS OF MUSIC-

## Rep. Kaptur contests Japan trade deal in House floor speech

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 24, 2015: Congresswoman *Marcy Kaptur* (D-OH) went to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives yesterday to contest any trade agreement with Japan as part of the secretive *Trans-Pacific Partnership*.

Serious concerns continue to surround efforts to rush such a deal through Congress before Representatives have a chance to exercise their Constitutional responsibility to review it. Rep. Kaptur's speech came less than a week before Japan's Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, is scheduled to meet with President Barack Obama and to deliver an address before Congress.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, the U.S. trade deficit with Japan displaced 896,600 U.S. jobs in 2013 alone. Fifty two percent, or 466,000 of these jobs, were in manufacturing with 13.3 percent or 118,800 jobs just in motor vehicles and parts.

Ohio was among the hardest hit states, losing 50,900 jobs due to the trade deficit with Japan that year. Ohio's 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional district ranked #30 among all 436 U.S. Congressional

districts with 3,400 net jobs displaced due to the 2013 U.S. trade deficit with Japan.

Rep. Kaptur's full remarks: "*Congress has spent this past week trying to 'fast-track' trade promotion authority and the new Trans-Pacific Partnership proposal for trade agreements with several nations in the Pacific. Why rush such a significant piece of legislation that cedes Congress's Constitutional authority to the executive branch? Meanwhile Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe and President Obama are scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup> to further fast-track this agreement.*"

"*Rushing this process is an easy tactic to try to silence a reasonable opposition. But based on our country's history of making trade deals that drive up our trade deficit and outsource millions of U.S. jobs, the American people should be alarmed. I and many others are sounding that alarm.*"

"*Japan is one of the most significant partners in this agreement and is the world's second largest currency ma-*



Marcy Kaptur

*nipulator and one of the leading protectionist markets in the Pacific. They have much to gain from a weak trade agreement.*

"*Japan is the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest automobile market, but 96% of that market belongs only to Japanese automobiles. Since 2000, we've been able to sell 183,000 cars there. Guess how many they sold here: 16.3 million. That's 89,000 to one.*"

"*There's something wrong with trying to work a deal that rewards a country whose markets are closed. We need a new trade model that creates jobs in America again and does not reward currency manipulators and protectionist markets.*"

## National Park Service announces \$183,403 for Cuyahoga Valley National Park

WASHINGTON, DC, April 23, 2015: The National Park Service (NPS) announced \$26 million in federal support for more than 100 initiatives including \$183,403 for the *Cuyahoga Valley National Park* to build the park's first off-road single track bicycle and hiking trail.

"Building and maintaining these trails will help protect Cuyahoga National Park and encourage visitors and community members alike to

come out and enjoy this local treasure," said Rep. Marcy Kaptur. "We are blessed to have this National Park in our own backyard, promoting healthy activity in our community, encouraging tourism and helping strengthen our connection with nature. Continuing investment in the park and surrounding area will help establish it as a coastal-wide destination that draws in tourists from near and far."

According to the National Park Service, this federal sup-

port will be matched by \$198,687 from the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park to build the East Rim Trail, "a 21<sup>st</sup> century recreation opportunity [that] will become part of a network of major regional long distance bicycle and hiking trails including Summit Metro Park's Bike & Hike Trail, the Towpath Trail, the Buckeye Trail, and the Cleveland Metropark's Emerald Necklace Trail."



## OBITUARIES



### CHRISTOPHER PATRICK NAZARIO JR.

Christopher Patrick Nazario, Jr., 34 yrs., a resident of Lorain, OH, passed away Saturday, April 18, 2015 at Mercy Regional Medical Center in Lorain, following a sudden illness. He was born May 12, 1980 in Lorain. Christopher was a lifetime resident of Lorain, and attended Admiral King High School. He was employed at Northfield/Oldcastle Company in Sheffield Village. His hobbies included sports, music, and cooking. He loved dogs and cats, especially Zya his dog and his cat Dino. He loved physical work such as landscaping and helping his family with maintenance around their homes. Christopher enjoyed spending time with his family, especially with his niece Kayla.

Survivors include his parents Christopher P. and Debbie Nazario (née: Ponorica); brother Michael Nazario all of Lorain; niece Kayla Nazario; paternal aunt Angie Nazario; maternal grandmother Norma Ponorica (née: Shippe); paternal step grandmother Pet Nazario; maternal uncle Anthony Ponorica; maternal aunt Kim Risdon (Rob); his godfather Mark Nazario and godmother Valerie Buckley; many aunts, uncles and cousins. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather George Ponorica in 2009; paternal grandfather José Nazario in 2009; paternal grandmother Margaret Nazario (née: McCabe) in 1994; and his uncle Joe Nazario in 1995.

## WGTE's Toledo Stories Premieres New Documentary, The Toledo Fair Housing Center

On Thursday, April 30, 2015 at 8:00 p.m., WGTE Public Television will premiere a new installment in its long-running "Toledo Stories" series, "The Toledo Fair Housing Center."

The U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1968 made it illegal to refuse to sell or rent a place to live to anyone because of his or her race, color, sex, religion, national origin or disability. But that didn't prevent discrimination, which is why the Toledo Fair Housing Center (TFHC) was established seven years later.

Founded in 1975 by Marcie Fein, the Women of

the Old West End, and League of Women Voters to fight blockbusting and other discriminatory practices that were destroying Toledo's neighborhoods, TFHC is a national leader in expanding equal housing opportunities for everyone.

Hosted by former WTOL news anchor Chrys Peterson, "Toledo Stories: The Toledo Fair Housing Center" tells the 40-year history of TFHC, recognized nationwide for its fair housing investigation, enforcement and training. The half-hour documentary highlights landmark cases and outreach programs.

Today, TFHC continues its work to ensure fair housing, lending and insurance practices throughout the city, including battling housing and lending discrimination cases involving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered residents, who are unprotected by federal law, or by state law in either Ohio or Michigan.

The documentary was shown at last Thursday's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala of the Toledo Fair Housing Center, directed by Michael Marsh. The venue was the Valentine Theatre with catering by Giorgio's.

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### Marc Anthony starts entertainment company for Latino artists

MIAMI, April 23, 2015 (AP): Musical artist *Marc Anthony* is forming a new entertainment company called *Magnus Media*.

Focused on leveraging the power of top Latino content creators around the world, the Miami-based company announced Thursday that it will be involved in artist management, music publishing, digital content creation, film and television production and entertainment marketing.

Anthony said in a release: "Magnus is a company that is long overdue. It's simple, really. Latino artists are among some of the world's biggest brands."

Anthony has partnered with veteran talent agent *Michel Vega* to serve as the new company's chief executive officer.

• **Exclusiva AP: Marc Anthony lanza Magnus Media**

MIAMI, 23 IV 15 (AP): *Marc Anthony* comenzará una nueva etapa como empresario de entretenimiento.

El superastro de la salsa anunció el jueves el

lanzamiento de *Magnus Media*, una compañía que invertirá en los artistas y los ayudará a establecer vínculos directos con grandes marcas.

"Magnus es una empresa que viene necesitándose desde hace tiempo", dijo *Marc Anthony* el jueves en un comunicado enviado de manera exclusiva a The Associated Press. "Una gran variedad de artistas latinos son considerados entre las marcas de más relevancia en el mundo. Sin embargo, desafortunadamente, muchos de mis colegas y los nuevos artistas que están en desarrollo, no han contado con el apoyo para poder convertir esa influencia en negocios a largo plazo".

Las unidades operativas incluirán una compañía de manejo de artistas, una editora musical, creación de contenido digital, cine y televisión, un sello discográfico y una división de mercadeo para impulsar a los grandes creadores de contenidos latinos en Estados Unidos y el mundo, dice la misiva.

*Magnus Media, LLC.*, con sede en Miami, se centrará en el desarrollo de nuevas empresas y esperará un nuevo puente para la creación de



contenidos así como para el desarrollo comercial.

Para la formación de la empresa, *Marc Anthony* se asoció con el veterano agente de talento *Michel Vega*, quien fungirá como director general.

*Marc Anthony*, nacido en Nueva York de origen puertorriqueño, ha vendido más de 12 millones de discos alrededor del mundo y ha ganado premios que incluyen seis Grammy y un Latin Grammy. Recientemente anunció la creación de la fundación benéfica *Maestro Cares*, dedicada a la construcción de orfanatos en Latinoamérica. También tiene su propia línea de ropa y accesorios y es dueño minoritario de los Miami Dolphins.

### Rep. Kaptur on 'Seniors, Retirement Security' at forums

CLEVELAND, April 27, 2015: Congresswoman *Marcy Kaptur* (D-OH) delivered opening remarks at the 2015 *White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA) Midwest Regional Forum* and at *Senior Voice!*, a Rally on Retirement Security in Cleveland.

Both events featured discussion and testimonials on various issues affecting older US-Americans including retirement security, access to quality healthcare services, healthy aging,

long-term care services and support, and protecting older US-Americans from financial exploitation, abuse, and neglect.

"Former U.S. Senator and Vice President *Hubert Humphrey* of Minnesota once advised that the moral test of government is how it cares for its people—from the dawn of life to its twilight," said Ms. *Kaptur*. "During my years of service, I have been privileged to vote for strengthening the Social Security system for this and future generations, in-

cluding Medicare and disability insurance for all families.

"Cleveland is honored to be one of five host cities for the 2015 *White House Conference on Aging*. The discussions taking place here today will help move our region and our country in a positive direction on important issues, helping to ensure a safer and more secure retirement for generations to come."

According to Ms. *Kaptur*, this year marks the 50th anniversary of Medicare, Medicaid and the Older Americans Act as well as the 80th anniversary of Social Security. Last year, 15.6 percent of US-Americans were covered under Medicare. As of December 2013, there were 1.75 million Ohioans age 65 or older, of which 89.7 percent received Social Security benefits. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Social Security lifts more than 620,000 of Ohio's seniors out of poverty every year.

*Rep. Kaptur* added, "For 80 years, Social Security has protected millions of seniors from the danger of outliving their savings, once one of our nation's greatest problems. There is so much we can achieve when we work together with this kind of visionary purpose."

On the Internet: <http://www.whitehouseconferenceonaging.gov/>

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### FIRST FRIDAY

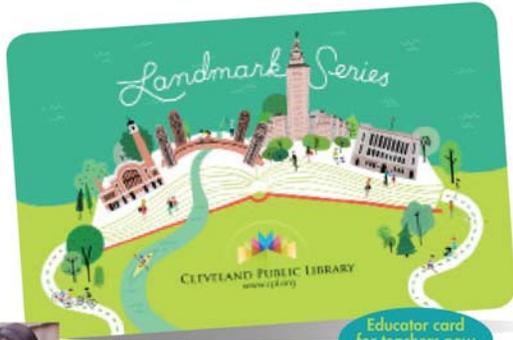
**May 1, 2015: 6 PM to 9 PM**  
**Celebrate Latino & Latina Art & Culture**  
Food & Beverages complimentary



## Historical Cinco de Mayo

# Cleveland Landmark Series Card #2 Now Available!

Cleveland Public Library introduces the second of its Cleveland Landmark Series library cards. The card depicts important Cleveland landmarks created by freelance illustrator, Julia Kuo.



"I have included landmarks most Clevelanders will recognize, but have also drawn in some of my own memories."

Educator card for teachers now available!



## MEXICAN MUTUAL SOCIETY (MMS) CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION! Saturday, May 2, 2015

*A day of family fun is planned:*

9:00 pm. 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual El Centro Cinco de Mayo 5K Race in collaboration with the Mexican Mutual Society.

On-site registration at 7:30 am. at Bur Oak Park, 6150 Ford Road, Elyria. Visit the El Centro website for registration form and race details.

4:15 pm. Mexican Mutual Society's Cinco de Mayo Parade is hailed as the second largest parade in the City of Lorain, second only to the Lorain International Parade! The parade will begin at St. Frances Cabrini Church (former St. John's Church) Route 57 and Homewood Drive, travel west on Homewood Drive, north onto Clinton Avenue, west on E. 31<sup>st</sup> Street, north on Pearl Avenue to East 29<sup>th</sup> Street where parade will disband and meet at Mexican Mutual Society courtyard, 1820 East 28<sup>th</sup> Street.

• During the parade, a wreath will be placed at the Hispanic Veterans Memorial in Oakwood



Park, corner of Clinton Avenue and East 31<sup>st</sup> Street

• TV Coverage of Parade by Lorain City Schools, Channel 20

• Mexican food prepared by the Immigration Reform Association (formerly HOLA) with proceeds to benefit MMS Scholarship Fund

• Children's games and piñata

5:45 pm. **Welcome.** Courtyard of Mexican Mutual Society Club.

• Color Guard and Presentation of Flags

• United States and Mexican National Anthems

• Introductions

6:15 pm. **Little Queen Coronation.** Introduction of Little Queen Contestants: **Araseli Sánchez, Faith Elizabeth Laurenti, Julieza González, and**

**Xzadriana Natal**

6:45 pm. **Cultural Dance Program** featuring **Alma de Mexico Dancers**

7:00 pm. **Announcements**

• Little Queen Raffle Drawing

• Winners of the **El Centro & MMS Scholarship 5K Race**

7:30 pm. **Dance and Entertainment** featuring the lively Tejano music of regional favorite,

**Yvonney Grupo Fuego!**

Dance to the music of the newly released CD, **Nosotros.** Cost is \$10 per person.

**Public is invited to attend the fun filled Cinco de Mayo Fiesta!**

For further information regarding events, call 440-277-7375.

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**Sunday, August 9,**  
**LATINO SCHOLARSHIP DAY**  
 WITH THE TOLEDO MUD HENS,  
 hosted by La Prensa and SAO.

**Saturday, September 5,**  
**MIDWEST LATINOFEST**  
 in downtown Toledo.

**Celebrate Cinco de Mayo on May 5, 2015 with the Ohio Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs (OCHLA), which is hosting Legislative Day at the State House in Columbus**

The U.S. Assistant Secretary for Housing and Equal Opportunity, *Gustavo Velásquez*, will be the keynote speaker and YOUR State Representatives, including our very own Representative Barbara Sears, will be answering questions as part of a panel. *Register today!* The cost is only \$15 and pays for your lunch. Don't let your concerns go unheard; register to join the movement. Register at: <https://2015ohiohispaniclegislativeday.eventbrite.com>

**Venue:** Ohio Statehouse, Columbus, Ohio.

**Date:** May 5, 2015, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Ask about OCHLA's LVD scholarship opportunities!

**Event Agenda**

- 9:00** Registration
- 9:30** Welcome Remarks
- 9:45** Morning Workshops
  - A. Engaging Your Legislators
  - B. A Guide to College Credit Plus and Ohio G.R.E.A.T Programs
  - C. MBE/EDGE Certification Workshop
- 10:30** Break
- 10:45** Legislative Panel
- 11:30** Keynote Speaker - Mr. Gustavo Velásquez, Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Luncheon and Community Expo
- 12:00** Afternoon Workshops:
  - A. Best Practices for Non-Profits on Community Development;
  - B. Ohio Civil Rights Commission Services and Resources;
  - C. Registering Your Small Business, Building a Business Identity.
- 2:00** Final Workshops:
  - A. Immigration Update: DACA/DAPA;
  - B. Micro-Lending Opportunities for Your Business.
- 3:00** Closing Remarks/Surveys.

OCHLA has a small number of scholarships available to individuals looking to participate in Legislative Visit Day.

For more information, contact [andrea.lewis@ochla.state.oh.us](mailto:andrea.lewis@ochla.state.oh.us) or (614) 728-8364. For questions on how to participate in the Community Expo, contact [lair.marin@ochla.state.oh.us](mailto:lair.marin@ochla.state.oh.us) or (614) 728-8344.

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100% pure beef and melty American cheese. A recipe for love at McDonald's!

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**i'm lovin' it**

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**La Diferencia and Ricardo Castillon**  
 from San Antonio; extra value with entertainment by the Villegas Brothers of Adrian.

**Saturday, May 2: Los Temibles;**  
 extra value with **Rapper David Sánchez Jr.**  
 Scheduled Entertainment subject to modification.  
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### 13TH ANNUAL

# WALK ROCK & RUN

SATURDAY | MAY 2 | 2015

3-mile Walk & 5k Run  
 begin and end at the  
 Rock and Roll Hall  
 of Fame and Museum

Register online now at  
[www.diversitycenterneo.org](http://www.diversitycenterneo.org)  
 or on event day @ 7:30am

All registered participants gain FREE entry to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, Great Lakes Science Center, and USS COD Submarine Memorial. For more information visit [www.diversitycenterneo.org](http://www.diversitycenterneo.org) or call 216-752-3000.

Wristbands for entry to the museums distributed ONLY until 10am.



# DIEGO & FRIDA

EL SE ENAMORÓ DE LA INDUSTRIA DE DETROIT  
 ELLA ODIABA A LA ALTA SOCIEDAD DE DETROIT  
 EL VEÍA LA POESÍA EN LAS FÁBRICAS  
 ELLA VEÍA LA POBREZA EN LAS CALLES  
 EL CREÓ AQUÍ SUS MURALES MÁS FAMOSOS  
 ELLA APENAS SE ARRANCABA SU CARERA

DIEGO RIVERA  
 FRIDA KAHLO **EN DETROIT**  
 DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS



**15 DE MARZO AL 12 DE JULIO**  
**BOLETOS DISPONIBLES EN DIA.ORG**



The exhibition has been organized by the Detroit Institute of Arts. Generous support for the exhibition has been provided by Bank of America. Additional support has been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Henry and Mary Ellen Bellamy Kahlo Foundation. Above: ©2014 Frida Kahlo Corporation. All rights reserved.

## Manfred: "Nos veo jugando partidos en Cuba"

NUEVA YORK, 23 IV 15 (AP): El comisionado del béisbol cree que Grandes Ligas realizará partidos de exhibición en Cuba la próxima pretemporada, y espera que pronto los peloteros de la isla que juegan en Estados Unidos puedan volver a su país al terminar la campaña.

"Nos veo jugando partidos en Cuba", dijo *Rob Manfred* el jueves en una entrevista con los editores deportivos de The Associated Press. "Espero que la situación en cuanto a cambios concretos de normas federales nos permita jugar algunos partidos de exhibición en Cuba la próxima primavera".

Mientras cada día más peloteros cubanos fichan contratos multimillonarios en las mayores, el béisbol ha sido cuidadoso a la hora de tender lazos hacia Cuba tras el anuncio en diciembre de que los gobiernos de ambos países empezarán a normalizar sus relaciones diplomáticas después de más de medio siglo.

Manfred había dicho anteriormente que en algún

momento incluso se discutió la posibilidad de sostener partidos de pretemporada en la isla este año, aunque no hubo tiempo suficiente para realizar los trámites necesarios.

Cuba, una isla apasionada por el béisbol, albergó a equipos de Grandes Ligas en la pretemporada durante varios años antes de la revolución de Fidel Castro, quien prohibió el deporte profesional en 1962.

"Creo que ese es el punto de partida más probable para nosotros. Le hemos dicho al gobierno estadounidense que estamos más que dispuestos a tener un papel cuando ellos crean que es apropiado, y creo que Cuba presenta unas posibilidades muy interesantes para nosotros en el futuro".

Entre los cambios ya implementados por Grandes Ligas se encuentra la eliminación del requisito de un permiso especial de la Oficina de Control de Activos Extranjeros (OFAC, por sus siglas en inglés) para que los peloteros cubanos exiliados en terceros países pudiesen firmar contratos con equipos

estadounidenses.

Ahora, estos jugadores sólo tienen que firmar una declaración jurada en la que dicen que no volverán a Cuba.

Manfred indicó que le gustaría tener más claridad sobre la situación de los jugadores que salen de Cuba, legal o ilegalmente, para que las mismas reglas apliquen a todos. Incluso, que eventualmente los peloteros puedan regresar a la isla al final de la temporada.

"Hemos estado en conversaciones con OFAC y otras agencias federales involucradas para tratar de averiguar si hay unas reglas más uniformes que se puedan aplicar a los jugadores cubanos, quizás medidas que les permitan jugar aquí y volver a Cuba", señaló. "Obviamente, eso involucra leyes federales importantes que aplican a otros negocios además de Grandes Ligas".

"Nuestra meta es seguir la pauta del gobierno federal mientras estas políticas sigan evolucionando, y ojalá lleguemos a una situación en la que tengamos acceso más libre al talento cubano".

## NBA abre un puente con el pueblo cubano

Por ANNE-MARIE GARCIA, Associated Press

LA HABANA, 23 IV 15 (AP): *Dikembe Mutombo* encostó de corta y media distancia, de lado y de frente, mientras media decena de jugadoras cubanas lo miraban con admiración antes de tratar de imitarlo, todos sudando en una calurosa tarde tropical.

Las gradas de la cancha de basketbol de la Universidad de la Ciencia y la Cultura Física del Deporte, están repletas de jugadores y espectadores, de periodistas y demás cubanos que no se quieren perder la oportunidad de ver las estrellas de la NBA y algunos entrenadores de alto nivel.

*Steve Nash* y *Dikembe Mutombo* comenzaron el jueves a impartir talleres de basketbol a jugadores cubanos, y de esa forma la NBA se convirtió en la primera liga profesional de Estados Unidos que incursiona en Cuba desde que ambos países anunciaron el restablecimiento de sus relaciones diplomáticas.

"El basketbol es un puente que puede unir personas y culturas, por eso estoy muy contento de estar aquí", afirmó *Mutombo* en la inauguración de los talleres que impartirá hasta el próximo domingo junto con entrenadores de la NBA.

Las banderas de Cuba y Estados Unidos ondearon en el aula magna de la Universidad, mientras directivos del basketbol cubano y de la NBA escucharon los himnos de los dos países ante más de un centenar de basketbolistas cubanos de ambos sexos.

Terminada la ceremonia, *Mutombo*, *Nash* y la comitiva se trasladaron a las canchas de basketbol de la universidad, donde comenzaron a impartir una clase de basketbol a los jugadores del equipo nacional de la isla. *Ruperto Herrera*, presidente de la federación cubana de la disciplina, catalogó la actividad como "la gran fiesta del saber del basketbol en la isla".

Vestido con un pantalón corto negro y una camiseta azul marino, *Mutombo* se paró debajo del aro para mostrarles a los jugadores cómo encataba el balón de

lado y les pidió que lo imitaran. Les hizo repetir el trabajo uno contra uno debajo del aro, mostrando algunas mañas siempre con una gran sonrisa y una desconcertante facilidad.

"Cuba es un viaje histórico, y estamos contentos de haber abierto este puente con el pueblo cubano", manifestó *Mutumbo*, miembro del Salón de la Fama del basketbol y embajador global de la NBA.

*Nash* también intervino con sus consejos al igual que *James Borrego*, entrenador del Magic de Orlando, ambos observando con atención el desempeño de los cubanos.

El base canadiense, quien se retiró esta temporada de la NBA, señaló que su participación en la gira es con el ánimo de "dar más ayuda para que el basketbol continúe creciendo" en la isla. El ex Jugador Más Valioso elogió el talento de los jugadores cubanos, aunque indicó que les falta "roce internacional".

La presencia de la NBA en la isla se produce después que el pasado 17 de diciembre, los presidentes *Barack Obama* y *Raúl Castro* anunciaron el restablecimiento de las relaciones entre los dos países. Hace dos semanas, los mandatarios se reunieron en Panamá.

*Mutombo*, con golés de 2.18 metros y miembro del Salón de la Fama del basketbol estadounidense, consideró que la "histórica visita a Cuba será una oportunidad fantástica de enseñar los valores de nuestro juego" y señaló en particular que el basketbol "enseña respeto, disciplina y colaboración".

Sentado en las gradas *Esteban Martínez*, jugador del equipo nacional de la isla, espera su turno para entrar a la cancha.

"Me fascina la efectividad que tienen en el tiro, eso pienso preguntarle" señaló el jugador de 27 años. "(Las clínicas) son una gran oportunidad de aportar nuestro granito en estas circunstancias en que se anunciaron retomar las relaciones entre Cuba y Estados Unidos".

El joven *Felipe Chávez*, de 16 años que juega con el equipo de La Habana, no se pierde un movimiento de los estelares de la NBA, y consideró que es "una experiencia muy grande para desarrollarnos, trabajar lo técnico y lo mental" pero también para soñar.

"Me gustaría llegar a un alto nivel de mi deporte y eso es la NBA", recaló *Chávez*.

Ambos, como los demás cubanos, se esforzaron en la cancha para ser uno de los dos jugadores que la NBA elegirá junto con un entrenador de Cuba para participar en un campamento de "Basketball without Borders" ("Baloncesto sin Fronteras"), un programa global de la NBA y la FIBA para desarrollar a los talentos, en República Dominicana en una fecha por definir, según informó *Alberto García*, director regional de FIBA Américas.

En Cuba el deporte rey es el béisbol, pero el basketbol también tiene su historia pero la selección masculina ganó la medalla de bronce en los Juegos Olímpicos de 1972, en tanto las damas están entre las mejores del continente.

En el marco de los cambios emprendidos por el gobierno cubano desde hace unos años, los deportistas cubanos pueden insertarse en ligas profesionales extranjeras, como lo han hecho hasta la fecha sobre todo peloteros, pero *Mutumbo* auguró que las puertas se abrirán en un futuro también para los jugadores de basketbol.

"Los peloteros cubanos tuvieron otras oportunidades... espero que en los próximos años los jugadores de basketbol tendrán las mismas... los basketbolistas cubanos necesitan más roce internacional y a medida que se vayan desarrollando tendrán posibilidades reales de jugar en equipos de la NBA u otros elencos internacionales" recaló *Mutumbo*.

Pero hasta el momento el embargo económico que Washington mantiene sobre la isla desde hace más de cinco décadas es el obstáculo para que los jugadores radicados en la isla puedan firmar contratos en Estados Unidos.

## Basketball diplomacy: NBA greats teach Cubans basketball

By ANNE-MARIE GARCIA, Associated Press

HAVANA, April 23, 2015 (AP): Basketball great *Dikembe Mutombo* sank baskets from seemingly every position on the court Thursday as a half-dozen Cuban players watched admiringly on the first day of an NBA training camp aimed at boosting the game's popularity on the communist-run island following the declaration of detente between Washington and Havana.

The flags of Cuba and the United States flew at the Havana university where the four-day camp began Thursday. *Steve Nash*, a former MVP, and *Mutumbo*, a Hall of Fame inductee, were joined by former WNBA player *Ticha Penicheiro* and NBA coaches in teaching the more than 100 athletes in attendance.

"As you know, basketball is a sport that can connect people, give them a bridge for cultural change," *Mutumbo* said. "I'm glad that we're about to build this bridge that will help so many young men and women here in Cuba to develop the game of basketball."

The NBA is the first U.S. professional league to visit

Cuba since the detente announcement. Basketball is arguably fourth most-popular sport, after baseball, boxing and soccer.

Cuba's men's team finished third in the 1972 Olympics and its women's teams dominate *International Basketball Federation (FIBA)* play in Latin America, but basketball has been one of the Cuban sports hardest-hit by players' departures for other countries. It's widely perceived to be at a historic low point on a national level.

That doesn't deter thousands of young Cubans from taking to street courts and abandoned lots to race between improvised hoops mounted on posts or over trees. The NBA and FIBA plan to renovate three courts as part of the four-day event.

"Our job is to expand our game globally," *Mutumbo* said. "It's a very historical trip."

After he and *Mutumbo* coached players on a series of skittles, *Nash* lauded the Cubans as talented but lacking international experience.

Waiting his turn on the court, Cuban national player

*Esteban Martínez* said he was fascinated by the NBA players' shooting efficiency.

"That's what I'm thinking about asking them about," the 27-year-old said.

*Felipe Chávez*, a 16-year-old player from Havana, watched every one of the players' movements, calling it "a great opportunity to develop, to work on technique and the mental aspect of the game." "I'd like to get to the top level of my sport and that's the NBA," he said.

All the Cuban players were hoping to be picked for a "Basketball without Borders" NBA and FIBA training camp to be held soon in the Dominican Republic.

As part of his move to engage Cuba, President *Barack Obama* this year did away with a requirement for athletes to request U.S. government permission before heading to Cuba for a sports event. Participants in competitions and exhibitions now have blanket permission to travel to Cuba, along with 11 other categories of travelers such as academics and people participating in religious activities.



## El Centro de Servicios Sociales Upcoming Events May 2015

**April 2015** – El Centro will be assisting in completing online HEAP applications. Monday - Thursday's, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; call 440-277-8235 to schedule your appointment.

**May 2** – *El Centro's 2nd Annual Cinco de Mayo 5k Run/Walk* registration starts at 7:30 a.m. with race beginning at 9:00 a.m., at Bur Oak Park, 6150 Ford Road, Elyria; cost for this event is \$20 per person but \$10 for kids 12 and under.

For more information on any of these events please contact El Centro at 440-277-8235.

## MEXICAN MUTUAL SOCIETY (MMS)

### May 2015 Fundraiser Events

Continuing the "SAVE THE CLUB!" Campaign by family and friends of the Mexican Mutual Society, 1820 East 28<sup>th</sup> Street, Lorain, the following fundraiser events are planned for April 2015 to support the Club's operation:

**CELEBRITY BARTENDER NIGHT.** Every Friday night from 6-9 pm. Join in the fun on Friday nights with the Celebrity Bartenders when the crowd goes wild and the big bell rings as the tip donations role in for the Mexican Mutual Society! The public is welcome to come in and support the Club and your favorite bartender. May celebrity bartenders are: TBA.

The public is welcome to come in and help fill the tip jar! Delicious Mexican food will be available from Hector's Kitchen.

**Annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration.** Preparation is presently underway for the *Cinco de Mayo Celebration* on May 2, 2015. Advertising space is available in the Commemorative Celebration Program Booklet. E-mail: flores0078@yahoo.com for information.

**2015 Membership Drive.** Help sustain the Mexican Mutual Society through a Social Membership open to the public for only \$10. Membership forms are available at the Club.

Hall rentals available. Call 440-277-7375 for information.

All fundraisers are open to the public!

# FLOC Associate Members group renamed LOBOS

By Monica Morales

The Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) held their most recent Associate Members meeting on April 16th, 2015, with many community supporters including: Toledo Councilwoman Theresa Gabriel and Toledo Police Sergeant Richard Treviño.

The meeting was called to order by FLOC President Baldemar Velásquez, who then introduced Father Landgraff who opened the meeting with a prayer.

First on the agenda was a presentation by the FLOC Homies Union. A group of three students and two instructors performed a skit of an actual event that occurred where a FLOC Homie member was harassed by police when being pulled over. This incident was role-played as an example of how to properly conduct oneself in such situations.

As announced in previous Associate Members meetings, a police task force focus group was formed. The focal point of the task force is to generate a code of conduct for both the law enforcement and community members to abide by during any interaction.

The skit coincides with what the focus group has been learning and what the group, which includes members of the FLOC Homies Union, will be sharing with the community. The primary goal with the code of conduct and the focus group is to improve the relationship between law enforcement and the commu-

nity. In order to make this neighborhood feel safer, first step is to establish trust between the two entities.

The three tips given by the group during the skit were:

1. Never give a police officer permission to search your vehicle, or person. You have nothing to gain by giving them permission. You have the right to say: "I do not consent to a search." If police officer feels he/she has probable cause, the search may proceed without your consent, but the role of the civilian is to make the officer give some other justification for the search besides consent.

2. Do not give the police a reason to pull you over. Follow the law. When driving, have your driver's license and proof of insurance and vehicle registration. Do not be doing anything illegal that could harm yourself or others while driving. Know who's in your car and know whose car you're getting into.

3. Be respectful. When being pulled over, exercise your rights in a cooperative manner. Do not escalate the situation or give the officer any reason to react with aggression. Control yourself.

"The focus group still has much more information to learn and to share with our community members, but, we wanted to show our Asso-

ciate Members what we have been working on. These tips could prevent people from getting tickets or criminal charges, and could even save lives," said Peter Meinecke, FLOC Homies Union program manager.

FLOC organizer Ramón Pérez encouraged anyone who has experienced or witnessed any harassment by law enforcement officials should report the incident on [five0watch.com](http://five0watch.com). "This website was created to record any unlawful incidents. The reporting will be reviewed and then the focus group will work together with our law enforcement liaison to investigate further," stated Pérez.

Next on the agenda were



Ramón Pérez and Peter Meinecke

several announcements: President Velásquez announced that FLOC would be hosting a writer's workshop for any young and upcoming writers with internationally renowned author Sandra Cisneros.

Before the invitation was extended to the public,



Velásquez invited any Associate Member that was interested in attending. The workshop was held on April 20th at the FLOC headquarters, 1221 Broadway Avenue, Toledo. He also informed the attendees of the High Tea with Sandra Cisneros Fundraiser that was held on April 20th at the Sweet Shalom Tea Room, 8216 Erie St., Sylvania; the proceeds from the fundraiser were used to fund the FLOC Homies Union employment program.

The 2nd announcement was a call to action. Members were encouraged to rally and support the March on Reynolds Campaign. President Velásquez invited attendees to join FLOC as they march outside of the Reynolds American Headquarters Tobacco on May 7, 2015 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Free transportation would be provided to and from North Carolina. A bus would be leaving from the FLOC office on the evening of May 6th and return on May 7th after the demon-

stration.

For the 7th year, FLOC has been pressuring tobacco companies to sign an agreement guaranteeing freedom of association in their supply chain. In the last two years, FLOC has been in discussions with tobacco companies around a solution to the abuses in NC tobacco fields; however, the industry would rather implement programs that only touch the surface of the issues in the NC fields rather than sign an agreement with FLOC, so workers can negotiate their own solutions.

"Until they sign an agreement, this campaign continues!" exclaimed Mr. Velásquez. To reserve your spot and join the fight to bring justice to tobacco workers, call 419-243-3456 x 2.

A second call to rally was announced to support the fight against discrimination and racial profiling. Please support the Rally against Racial Profiling by border patrol and rural law enforcement agencies. The rally will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 between noon and 1:00 p.m., rain or shine.

FLOC invites supporters to meet outside of the Federal Courthouse on 1716

Spielbusch Ave, Toledo. FLOC staff invites the public to join them as the trial begins at the Federal Courthouse and help them denounce the profiling of Latinos in NW Ohio by local law enforcement and ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement). Many documented and undocumented Latino Families have been stopped, detained or arrested, simply for being brown. Support immigration reform that allows a pathway to citizenship for families of all ethnic backgrounds.

Finally, all dues-paying Associate Members that attended the April 16th meeting voted on a name for the community organization. The FLOC Associate Members group is now named **Latinos Organizing Barrios-LOBOS**. The members voted from a list of names collected from attendees of past Associate Members meetings. The meeting was brought to a close with prayer.

The date of the next Associate Members/Latinos Organizing Barrios meeting will be announced. As always, FLOC extends thanks and gratitude to members and supporters.

¡Hasta La Victoria!

## The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Cinco de Mayo Parade

Saturday, May 2, 2015

**Presented By**  
**The Mexican Mutual Society**

Parade Kicks Off at 4:15 PM  
Parade Line Up at 3:15 PM  
In Oakwood Park, Behind the National Guard Armory in South Lorain  
Please Enter on 36<sup>th</sup> St. From Clinton Ave.

The Parade will take a brief stop to place a Memorial Wreath on the Hispanic Veterans Memorial at 31<sup>st</sup> Street.

The Mexican Mutual Society Invites all community organizations to participate and celebrate with us in our community parade by walking, marching, entering a float, or classic vehicle.

The parade will start at Homewood Dr. & Grove Ave., travel to Clinton Ave., and turn north onto 31<sup>st</sup> St. The Parade will then turn west and travel to Pearl Ave. turn north and end at 29<sup>th</sup> St. and Pearl Ave., near the Mexican Mutual Clubrooms.

MEXICAN MUTUAL SOCIETY

1820 EAST 28<sup>th</sup> ST.  
LORAIN, OHIO 44055

FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER FOR THE PARADE  
PHONE 440-288-0144

### Join Unison Behavioral Health Group for "Passport to Hope" May 16<sup>th</sup>

To bring attention to the growing number of individuals in our community who struggle with mental health and substance abuse issues, **Unison Behavioral Health Group** will host "Passport to Hope" on Saturday, May 16, 2015, from 6-10 pm at the Manor House located at Toledo's Wildwood Metropark.

Guests will have the opportunity to tour the world through dance and food. In addition to the international grazing stations and silent auctions planned, professional dance instructors will be leading classes throughout the evening.

A limited number of tickets are available for \$50/person. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Diane Geisbuhler at 419-936-7557 or [dgeisbuhler@unisonbhg.org](mailto:dgeisbuhler@unisonbhg.org). Event details can also be found at [www.unisonbhg.org](http://www.unisonbhg.org). Proceeds will benefit services at Unison Behavioral Health Group where nearly 7,000 adults, adolescents, and children receive behavioral health and substance abuse treatment every year.

CITY OF CLEVELAND  
Mayor Frank C. Jackson

# SAVE THE DATE

City of Cleveland's Community Relations Board Celebrates...

# CINCO DE MAYO

MAY 5, 2015

ENTERTAINMENT BY MARIACHI "SANTA CECILIA"

CLEVELAND CITY HALL ROTUNDA  
601 LAKESIDE AVENUE  
11:00AM

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

FOR REGISTRATION PLEASE CALL 216-664-6248

## Dominicana honra a Perú en su XVIII FERIA del Libro

Por EZEQUIEL ABUI LOPEZ, Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, República Dominicana, 23 IV 15 (AP): Cerca de 430 editoriales participarán en la XVIII FERIA Internacional del Libro de Santo Domingo, que este año honrará a la literatura peruana, aunque con la ausencia de algunos de sus reconocidos escritores.

El embajador de Perú, Enrique Palacios, adelantó que su país presentará una nutrida delegación de escritores y "una tonelada de libros" durante los 11 días de exhibición que comenzaban el jueves por la noche y que además de literatura incluye muestras de teatro, música, cine y gastronomía.

Entre los más de 20 escritores, poetas y narradores peruanos invitados se encuentran *Alonso Cueto, Augusto Higa Oshiro, Carlos Garayar, Enrique Verástegui, Jorge Eduardo Benavides e Iván Thays.*

A pesar de ser la figura literaria con vida más reconocida de Perú, el laureado con el premio Nobel Mario Vargas Llosa no estará presente "porque tiene otros compromisos", explicó esta semana en conferencia de prensa el ministro de Cultura, *José Antonio Rodríguez*, ante los cuestionamientos de la prensa por la ausencia del escritor.

"Uno de los primeros

invitados cuando se escogió a Perú fue el señor *Mario Vargas Llosa*. ¿Cómo dejar fuera a este escritor?", insistió el ministro al negar las versiones periodísticas de que el novelista no fue convocado por sus críticas al proceso de desnacionalización de descendientes de haitianos que realiza el gobierno dominicano.

Vargas Llosa cuestionó en un artículo titulado "Los parias del Caribe" la sentencia del Tribunal Constitucional dominicano que ordenó en 2013 abrir juicios individuales para anular la nacionalidad de las miles de personas nacidas entre 1929 y 2007 de padres extranjeros que no tuvieran permiso de residencia, en su gran mayoría de origen haitiano.

El escritor calificó la sentencia como una "aberración" y la comparó con las leyes del III Reich destinadas a anular la nacionalidad alemana a los judíos radicados en ese país.

En rechazo a la postura del escritor, grupos nacionalistas solicitaron el año pasado que el gobierno lo declarara como persona no grata y quemaron en hogueras ejemplares de su novela "La fiesta del chivo", en la que narra pasajes históricos de República Dominicana durante la dictadura de *Rafael Leónidas Trujillo* (1930-1961).

Uno de los hijos del

escritor, *Gonzalo Vargas Llosa*, concluyó a finales del 2014 su función como representante de ACNUR en el país en medio de críticas de grupos nacionalistas y por presiones del propio gobierno debido a su postura sobre la desnacionalización.

Otra de las ausencias en la feria del libro será *Santiago Roncagliolo*, quien habría declinado la invitación.

El escritor dominicano radicado en Estados Unidos *José Carvajal* divulgó en su blog que Roncagliolo le confió que sí fue invitado pero que dijo "no voy a ferias del libro de países donde se censuran libros". Roncagliolo confirmó sin más detalles la veracidad de la información en un correo electrónico a la AP.

La novela "Memorias de una dama" de Roncagliolo, que de forma presunta está basada en secretos de una acaudalada familia dominicana de origen italiano, nunca fue distribuida por la casa editorial Alfaguara en República Dominicana.

La XVIII FERIA del Libro también rendirá homenaje al escrito dominicano *Manuel Rueda*. El ministro de Cultura adelantó que celebrará actividades para recordar a los recién fallecidos *Eduardo Galeano* y *Günter Grass*.

## Latino HUD Official attends Fair Housing Center 40<sup>th</sup> Premiere

By Kevin Milliken, La Prensa Correspondent

Toledo Fair Housing Center officials welcomed *Gustavo Velásquez*, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity to the agency's 40th Anniversary Gala and documentary premiere at the Valentine Theatre on Thursday evening, April 23. Nearly 400 people attended the formal event.

"I am aware of a couple of big cases that have come out of this organization and so that is why I'm really looking forward to seeing this documentary," said Velásquez in his opening remarks.

"How this organization has advanced its work of providing equal opportunity in housing in this area and the opportunity to share with you what our priorities are and make sure we are in sync with the things they are doing on the ground."

Velásquez was nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate last fall to work directly under HUD Secretary *Julian Castro*, the popular former mayor of San Antonio and labeled by many to be a rising star within the Democratic Party.

Just last week, HUD reached voluntary compliance agreements with a Missouri housing authority after federal investigators found the agency failed to provide persons with disabilities and individuals with limited English proficiency meaningful access to its HUD-funded housing programs.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. In addition, Title VI of the Civil Right Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

"(The) agreements demonstrate the department's ongoing commitment to ensuring that eligible families have equal access to HUD-funded housing programs, regardless of whether they have a physical disability or don't speak English well," said Velásquez in a statement. "HUD will continue to work with public housing authorities to help them meet their obligation to comply with federal laws."

That kind of policing will become increasingly important in the Glass City for both HUD and the Toledo Fair Housing Center, as the Latino population continues to grow. Toledo's Latino residents now comprise ten percent of the city's population, with an estimated 20,000 undocumented individuals living in the metro area. Most of those undocumented families are non-English speaking, according to the Welcome Toledo-Lucas County initiative.

Mr. Velásquez is a native from México but he has lived in the United States for decades. He served as the Special Assistant to the



CEO Michael P. Marsh addresses board member Julia Bryant

undersecretary of Planning, in the Mexican Department of Agriculture, and as Regional Coordinator in the Office of Environmental Compliance in the Mexican Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Prior to his federal appointment, Velásquez was executive director of the *Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC)*, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit dedicated to serving thousands of Latino immigrants and other underserved populations to gain the necessary skills and capital to start and maintain their own businesses. LEDC also advocates for and supports communities to secure affordable and accessible housing.

Velásquez also spent seven years as director of the *District of Columbia Office of Human Rights*, where he led the enforcement provisions of one of the most comprehensive non-discrimination laws in the country. He also served 2003 to 2007 as DC's director of the Office of Latino Affairs.

Prior to moving to the nation's capital, Velásquez served as both operations director and director of the Division of Families and Neighborhood Development at *Congreso de Latinos Unidos*, the leading social service provider to Latinos in Philadelphia.

He has served on numerous boards and advisory groups at local and national levels, with an emphasis on civil rights and educational organizations, as well as issues for the advancement of Latinos in the U.S. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in political science and public administration, as well as a master's degree in government administration. Velásquez also completed the university's Wharton School of Business Executive Program, Strategic Management and Organizational Transformation. He now lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife and two children.

The Toledo Fair Housing Center started when a group of women, including Congresswoman *Marcy Kaptur*, in the Old West End noticed housing discrimination occurring in their neighborhoods. They formed a board and obtained funding.

The Toledo Fair Housing Center is a now a non-profit civil rights agency dedicated to the elimination of housing discrimination, the promotion of housing choice, and the creation of inclusive communities of opportunity.

The agency filed more lending lawsuits in its first decade of existence than the U.S. Dept. of Justice, according to *Shauna Smith*, the original executive director of the Toledo Fair Housing Center who is now the president/CEO of the *National Fair Housing Alliance* in Washington, DC. The center also filed the country's first sexual harassment in housing complaint and brokered what Ms. Smith called "landmark real estate settlements."

"The Toledo Fair Housing Center pioneered very important lending cases, appraisal cases, sexual harassment cases, as well as some insurance cases," Ms. Smith said during a press conference before the documentary premiere. "Now the center is working closely with us to bring suits against the banks for not maintaining foreclosure homes in communities of color the way they do in white communities."

*Michael P. Marsh* is the current president and CEO.

A Cleveland attorney that specializes in fair housing, *Diane Citrino* of the law firm of Giffen & Kaminski, attended and informed *La Prensa*: "I was inspired to see the sweeping scope of what the Toledo Fair Housing Center has accomplished from its founding to the present. It is always good to be reminded how together we can accomplish so much in the fight for housing justice." Attorney Citrino speaks Spanish and has handled numerous housing cases involving Latinos.

Toledo Fair Housing Center board member *Louis Escobar* and *Theresa Morris*, a staff member of Congresswoman Kaptur's office, also attended the gala event, along with *Rico Neller* of *La Prensa*. *Georgio's Café International* next-door to the Valentine Theater, catered the elegant affair.

The WGTE documentary, entitled "The Toledo Fair Housing Center," traces the history of the fair housing center and its roots, as well as tells stories of the landmark cases the agency has won and its relationship with national organizations. The documentary will be featured as part of the public TV station's "Toledo Stories" series and is scheduled for airing on Thursday, April 30 at 8:00 p.m.

*Westfield Insurance* provided \$40,000 in funding to underwrite both the celebration and making of the documentary. Several company executives were in attendance at the anniversary gala.

On the Internet: <http://www.toledofhc.org/>

## Orlando to host huge Latino Expo in 2016

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP): Orlando will be hosting one of the largest gatherings of Latino leaders next year.

The *National Council of La Raza (NCLR)* said Wednesday it had chosen Orlando for its annual conference in 2016. La Raza officials say

Orlando was picked because it has one of the fastest-growing Latino communities in the nation and is located in the nation's largest swing state, when it comes to presidential politics.

The conference will take place at the Orange County Convention Center. The

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**NCLR NATIONAL LATINO FAMILY EXPO**

conference also includes a *Latino Family Expo*.

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# LA JUNTA ELECTORAL ESTARÁ ABIERTA PARA LA VOTACIÓN ADELANTADA ESTE FIN DE SEMANA

Se invita a los electores a que aprovechen las horas de votación adelantada del último sábado y domingo antes de la Elección Primaria del 5 de mayo. La Junta estará abierta para la votación adelantada en las siguientes fechas:

- Sábado 2 de mayo de 8:00 a.m. a 12:00 p.m.
- Domingo 3 de mayo de 1:00 p.m. a 5:00 p.m.

Hay aproximadamente 120,000 personas en 14 municipalidades que son elegibles para votar. La mayoría de los electores decidirán asuntos en esta Elección; los únicos candidatos están en el Distrito Cuatro de Parma, donde hay dos personas que se presentan en una Elección Primaria del Partido Demócrata del Consejo de la Ciudad.

"La votación del fin de semana es una buena alternativa para las personas que trabajan durante la semana y no pueden salir de su lugar de trabajo el Día de las Elecciones para volver al lugar de votación de su vecindario", comentó Pat McDonald, Director de la Junta Electoral del Condado de Cuyahoga. "Animo a los electores a aprovechar la votación adelantada, hay bastante estacionamiento gratuito y no hay filas. También estamos abiertos para la votación adelantada entre semana de 8:00 a.m. a 5 p.m. hasta el 1 de mayo, a los electores que trabajan en el centro les será cómodo emitir una papeleta durante su hora del almuerzo", comentó McDonald.

Se Está Acercando La Fecha Límite para Devolver las Papeletas del Voto por Correo:

A las personas que emitan papeletas por correo se les recuerda que las papeletas votadas deben estar mataselladas el 4 de mayo o

antes.

La fecha límite para devolver las papeletas en persona es el 5 de mayo a las 7:30 p.m. Las papeletas **no se pueden** depositar en los lugares de votación el Día de las Elecciones. Las papeletas que no se envíen por correo sólo se pueden devolver en persona a la Junta Electoral.

Los electores pueden utilizar una urna electoral ubicada en el estacionamiento de la Junta Electoral en 2925 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland. La urna electoral segura está disponible las 24 horas al día.

Es importante que los electores estén preparados para depositar sus papeletas el Día de las Elecciones

mediante la confirmación de su distrito, distrito electoral y lugar de votación. Los electores pueden llamar a la Junta al 216-443-VOTE para comprobar su información electoral o verla por Internet en: [www.443vote.com](http://www.443vote.com) y haz un clic en español. Los centros electorales estarán abiertos entre las 6:30 a.m. y las 7:30 p.m. el Día de las Elecciones.

**Municipalidades en esta Elección:** Bay Village, Beachwood, Brooklyn, Cleveland Heights, Garfield Heights, Highland Hills, North Randall, Olmsted Falls, Orange, Parma (Distrito 4), South Euclid, University Heights, Warrensville Heights, & Westlake.

## IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



**Cleveland Clerk of Courts  
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and the BMW**

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**La Sagrada Familia  
7719 Detroit Ave.  
Thursday, May 28th  
4pm**

*first 100 visitors serviced*

## Regional Director of Development Make a Difference in the Lives of Others

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) a Toledo based non-profit law firm that provides high quality legal assistance in civil matters to low-income individuals and groups, seeks a creative, energetic, and outstanding individual to serve as Regional Director of Development. ABLE partners with Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO) to provide a full range of legal services in western Ohio. The Regional Director of Development is responsible for the development and implementation of an enhanced annual campaign and event in the Toledo area, major gift and planned giving campaign, volunteer engagement and community collaboration, targeted prospecting and outreach, and stewardship activities.

### Position Requirements:

Candidates should have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent work experience; law experience or degree is a plus. 3 to 5 years fundraising and development leadership experience, business development and/or related field required. Supervisory and leadership skills required. Must have excellent verbal and interpersonal skills, including public speaking, excellent writer, and a passion for fundraising. Proficiency with fundraising software and experience with social media highly preferred. A commitment to the mission of ABLE and LAWO is a must. Candidate should be highly organized, creative and a self-starter with a high degree of dependability, trustworthiness, and loyalty. Must be able to mentor and to coach, motivate, and work effectively with people, work with diverse individuals in an inclusive, collaborative environment, and work effectively in a team oriented, collaborative decision-making environment. Attention to results and accountability. Must be accessible for meetings before and after normal work hours and willing to travel as necessary

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Depends on experience. Excellent benefits.

How to Apply:

Please submit a cover letter, resumé and three professional references in one document to: [Philanthropykimberly@alysterling.com](mailto:Philanthropykimberly@alysterling.com)

**\*\* Only Applications submitted via email will be accepted\*\***

Equal access to ABLE offices is available. Those applicants requiring accommodation in the interview/application process should contact us at the e-mail address listed above. EOE



## NATIONAL TRAIN DAY TOLEDO

**Saturday, May 2, 2015 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Toledo Amtrak Station, 415 Emerald Ave. & Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza

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TrainDay Toledo: 419.241.9155 | [www.tmacog.org](http://www.tmacog.org)

## MidWest Latino Fest

in downtown Toledo.  
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With a commitment to improving the human condition, The University of Toledo and University Medical Center are seeking qualified candidates for the following positions:

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- Radiology Tech Asst
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- Phys Ther Asst Lic I
- Pharmacy Intern
- Food Service Worker
- Pharmacist
- Physical Therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Medical Assistant
- Physician Assistant – Orthopaedics
- Clerkship & Curriculum Coord. – Psychiatry
- Performance Improvement Director
- House Supervisor
- HRTD Consultant
- Manager, Work Control Center
- Manager, Electrical Maintenance
- Manager, JC & Electrical Compliance
- Sr. HRTD Consultant

The University of Toledo offers an excellent salary and benefit package, which includes the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System and State Teachers Retirement System for faculty with employer contribution, medical coverage, paid sick and vacation time, tuition to UT is waived for employees and their eligible spouses and dependents and 10 paid holidays.

For a complete listing of our openings and desired qualifications or to apply, please proceed to our website at <https://jobs.utoledo.edu>

We ask that applications and required documents be submitted electronically. UT and UTMC are EO/AA employers and educators M/F/D/V

**Adrian Public Schools Head Start Early Childhood Programs** is accepting applications for Bilingual (English/Spanish), Preschool Teachers and Family Support Coordinators. Applicants must be bi-lingual both oral and written. Teachers must have at least an Associate's degree in Early Childhood. Family Support Coordinators must have a Social Work degree with case-work experience. Visit [www.theadrianmaples.com](http://www.theadrianmaples.com) to view employment opportunities or call 517-263-2468 for more information.

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To apply, please proceed to our website at <https://jobs.utoledo.edu>

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Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for Information Technology Manager. For complete details of the position and to apply, visit our website at [www.lucasmha.org/employment](http://www.lucasmha.org/employment). **Only online applications received at the above website will be accepted.** This is a Section 3 covered position and HUD recipients are encouraged to apply. Please note on your submittal if you are a LMHA Public Housing resident or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. **NO PHONE CALLS.** Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, sex, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



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**PEDAL BOAT CONCESSION WORKER**

Metroparks of the Toledo Area has an opening for an individual to operate pedal boat concessions at Pearson Metropark. Requires HS diploma or equivalent, driver's license; minimum age 18. May through September; up to 16 hours per week. \$8.10/hr. Application must be submitted online by May 6th at [www.metroparkstoledo.com](http://www.metroparkstoledo.com). EOE

**Felipe Martinez**  
 Solutions Specialist

Verizon Wireless  
 2953 Navarre Ave.  
 Oregon, OH 43616

Phone 419.764.8520  
 Fax 419.693.5311

[felipe.martinez@verizonwireless.com](mailto:felipe.martinez@verizonwireless.com)

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Board of Directors that Sealed Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for:

**TOLEDO EXPRESS AIRPORT  
 Parking Lot Equipment Upgrades  
 11013 Airport Highway  
 Swanton, Ohio 43558**

This contract is for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the TOLEDO EXPRESS AIRPORT Parking Lot Equipment Upgrades located at 11013 Airport Highway in Swanton, OH 43558, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, to the Port Authority at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

Bids will be received at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604 until Thursday, May, 14th, 2015, at 2:00 PM, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The project "TOLEDO EXPRESS AIRPORT Parking Lot Equipment Upgrades" is for removal of existing equipment and installation of new automated revenue control equipment at all access points for the long and short term parking lots. Project includes removal of existing and installation of about 10 barrier gates, 6 ticket dispensers, and 3 pay in lane devices. All network and computer equipment to be supplied for a complete working system as part of this project. The engineers estimate for the base bid and alternate 1 of this project is \$280,000.

Plans, Specifications, Instructions to Proposers, and Forms of Proposal and Contract are on file and may be obtained by contacting Gilda Mitchell with the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority at either 419-243-8251 or [gmitchell@toledoportauthority.org](mailto:gmitchell@toledoportauthority.org).

Please note that there will be a pre-bid meeting for all prospective bidders on Tuesday, May 5th, 2015 at 10:00 AM in the office of the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority at Toledo Express Airport, 11013 Airport Highway, Swanton, Ohio 43558. **Attendance is helpful, but not mandatory.**

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# 500+ attend CHIP's 20<sup>th</sup> Hispanic Leadership Conference and Gala

By Kevin Milliken, La Prensa Correspondent

More than 500 Latino leaders and those who work with the Latino community received a call to action at the 20th annual Hispanic Leadership Conference held Saturday, April 25, 2015 at Lorain County Community College's Spitzer Conference Center.

The annual conference went beyond the normal aspects to re-energize and refocus the crowd. Co-organizers Mike and Dina Ferrer wanted their final conference to "connect people to causes they care about."

The leadership event is hosted each year by the Lorain County-based PAC—Coalition for Hispanic/Latino Issues and Progress (CHIP). The conference theme was "Abriendo Puertas," or "Opening Doors," according to CHIP President Tim Carrion.

The day commenced with saluting the colors by Lorain HS's Army JROTC, the national anthem sung by Angelica Davila, and invocation by Dr. Mildred Figueroa (Christian Tabernacle Church).

That morning conference participants received an earful from some of the event's main speakers including: Enrique Morones, executive director of the Border Angels; Baldemar Velásquez, founder and president of the Toledo-based Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC); and Dr. Celia Williamson, a University of Toledo professor who also serves as president of the National Research Consortium on Commercial Sexual Exploitation and director of UT's Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute.

Speakers also included Dr. Nelson Soto (Provost & VP Academic Affairs, Union Institute & University; theme was Education); Dr. Raquel Ortiz Rodríguez (Professor Author, Borica College; theme was 'Establishing Identity'); Toinette Parrilla (Director, Cleveland Public Health; theme was Latino Health); and Lilleana Cavanaugh (Exec. Director, Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs; theme was Latina Empowerment).

**All seven also presented afternoon workshops.**

Of the seven, Morones, Velásquez, and Dr. Celia Williamson brought a different facet to the immigration debate during their Saturday morning speeches—deaths in the desert, human trafficking, and labor exploitation. Each presenter challenged the crowd to make a difference in the "human face" of immigration.

"The person who is going to make the difference in this world is each one of us," Morones told the audience. "You are not the future. They are the present. They are the ones showing the way today. They're the ones who stepped out of schools to talk of the need of the DREAM Act, for immigration reform. They're the ones risking it all in front of authorities, saying we're not afraid. They're the ones showing us the way."

The Border Angels founder told the crowd his group started in 1986 with just one person, but now numbers 5,000—

working in every U.S. state. The group got its name in 2001, when he was introduced as "The Border Angel" by a Miami TV host. That was also his last year as an executive with the San Diego Padres major-league baseball team.

"Border Angels would like to start a club here in Lorain, here in Ohio," he said.

Morones spoke of *Operation Gatekeeper*, an effort by the federal government to build a wall between San Diego and Mexico in 1984, the same year President Reagan issued the famous words: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall," a reference to the Berlin Wall.

He stated that 11,000 immigrants have died trying to cross the border there, referring to it as "The Wall of Death." That prompted the Border Angels in early 2006 to take a caravan of cars to travel 10,000 miles across the country, stopping in 40 cities on the way to and from Washington, D.C., to tell the nation what was happening to undocumented immigrants.

The effort led to huge protests in several U.S. cities and effectively stopped federal legislation that would have stopped education and social service benefits to the children of undocumented immigrants.

"We said let's rise up in protest, peacefully, and let our voices be heard," he said. "We have to continue with that spirit, because people are being persecuted every single day. Every day, two people die because they have no legal way of entering the country."

Morones invited young Latino leaders to join his group in such activities as placing water in the desert for immigrants, visiting day labor camps where people hope to get work, and veteran's activities. He continuously cited a theme: "The Power of One."

"Many of these veterans are now deported. People who fought for this country—World War II, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan—broken tail light, no papers, deported," he said matter-of-factly. "It's hard to believe, but this is happening now."

Morones told the group he had to leave immediately after the conference to fly back to San Diego for a Sunday event, where children would line up in Friendship Park to be able to hug their deported parents. In closing, he asked the group to stand and bow their heads for 43 seconds for the 43 students missing in Guerrero, Mexico.

"I want you to also think for those 43 seconds about the people crossing the border right now, simply looking for a better life," he said. "They cannot get a visa because we don't have humane immigration reform. Congress keeps blocking that bill. So we need to get out and vote."

Morones pointed out 250 million undocumented immigrants seek a better life for their families worldwide each year, most of them not trying to cross the U.S. border. He stated US-America's immigration problem pales in comparison to many countries across the globe.

**Dr. Celia Williamson and human trafficking**

Dr. Williamson called human trafficking "one of the human rights and social justice issues of our lifetime." She



Dr. Celia Williamson

stated the crisis can take two forms: women trapped in sex trafficking as a slave trade or labor trafficking where immigrants work for little or no wages at all.

Dr. Williamson stated 800,000 people are taken across borders worldwide each year, an estimated 17,500 of those brought into the U.S. annually in the sex and labor trafficking trade. 300,000 US-American children are at risk of being lost to sex trafficking. One-third of those youth will be sold into the sex trade.

"Labor trafficking victims are looking for a way to take care of themselves and their families," she said. "They're often vulnerable and have very little skills, other than the will to work and an opportunity in the United States. Many think they're coming here to be a nanny or a maid or to work in a restaurant. Many end up becoming a domestic slave for no or little pay."

Most of those immigrants end up trapped in a factory working 12-hour shifts every day, working in nail salons, engaged in door-to-door magazines, or forced to work in strip clubs or massage parlors. Some are only paid in drugs.

"No one even knows they're here. Victims have to earn their freedom, so they have to pay their debt to a trafficker. It's called a debt bondage system," she said. "You may work seven days and get \$50 and some of that money sent home to your family, which thinks you're working in a restaurant, with only \$10 put toward your debt of \$10,000. It's designed for you to never really pay off your debt and earn your freedom."

Dr. Williamson related a Toledo incident last year of a woman trapped in a home as a domestic servant who tried to send money home to her children in another country. The labor traffickers were on their way to kill her five children when she was rescued, while the FBI was on the way to the airport with her children to get them out of their home country and on their way to the U.S.

"That's when we're notified the kids are coming to this country. They need clothes, they need food, they need housing, they need a van, they need pencils and pens, and they need to be enrolled in school," she said. "So we go to work trying to find all those things, so that when they come to the U.S., they can feel welcome and they can help."

Dr. Williamson and her supporters also had to work at the state and federal level to get laws passed that see trafficking

victims as true victims, not undocumented immigrants, prostitutes, or criminals. Now a federal law recognizes those victims if they've been involved by "force, fraud, or coercion." But she pointed out a lawyer and social worker both are needed to prove that claim.

Dr. Williamson pointed out human trafficking victims are trapped through fear "and are not allowed to quit" because of threats from their captors to their lives or those of family members. She stated research shows victims suffer "trauma bonding" or "Stockholm syndrome," where captives form a bond with their captors and start to see life from their perspective instead.

"You become isolated and the only voices you hear are your traffickers. So you become very interested in them being happy and satisfied. If they're happy, you keep breathing," she said.

"So when the police kick in the door to rescue victims, those victims often are not relieved, they are not happy," said Dr. Williamson. "In fact, they think you've made a horrible mistake, because you as a police officer could not possibly understand all the layers and levels and complexities of the threats they are under."

Ohio has set up task forces specifically to deal with the psychological and other damage done by human trafficking rings. She stated organized crime, mom-and-pop shops, and even legitimate businesses are involved in those "underground networks." Entire rings must be broken up all at once so a raid is not just a temporary setback, only to be set up again the next week.

"So we're asking you to put this issue on your plate, to be cautious, to be the eyes and ears and understand that this is happening in our community," said Dr. Williamson. "I challenge you to educate yourself, your grandchildren, your nieces and nephews, and to make this a priority."

**Baldemar Velásquez on slavery, boycotts, racial profiling, NAFTA, and workers' rights**

"I guess I work on both ends of these people's work, because the time for action for me was not today, it was yesterday," said Baldemar Velásquez, founder and president of the Toledo-based Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC). "It has always been yesterday. For the Mexican people who are fortunate to get across the desert, even when they're thinking about coming across, those are the people I'm organizing."

Velásquez called the situation facing Mexican immigrants one of "corporate design" that he stated dates back to 1848.

"It's always been about money. It's always been about resources. It's always been about land. It's always been about

water—and the rich wanted to capture the entire West," he said. "The Republic of Texas—the fight over those territories was always about whether those were going to be slave territories or not slave territories. That was the fight. Mexico had already outlawed slavery when the battle of the Alamo took place."

The FLOC founder and president told the crowd legendary Alamo heroes like Jim Bowie sold 39 slaves in Louisiana in order to buy a tract of land in Texas.

"That's why he was fighting. Let's get history right," said Velásquez. That was a rotten trade deal with Mexico. It was a rotten trade deal then. It's a rotten trade deal now. To heap more misery upon a heap of misery, add the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)."

The FLOC president blamed NAFTA for placing "mechanized and subsidized" U.S. farmers against "dirt farmers" from Mexico in a competitive trade situation where the U.S. dumped corn crops across the border without tariffs. He stated his belief the Mexican farmers didn't stand a chance under NAFTA, which displaced those farmers and only made the immigration worse.

"You displace three million people. Where do you think those three million people are going to go? They have to go someplace to live," he said. "They had to go somewhere they could feed their kids and send money home to feed, clothe, and educate their kids. In Mexico, they don't have social welfare programs. They don't have food stamps. If you don't work, you don't eat."

While recalling FLOC's victories with Campbell's Soup and other companies on behalf of migrant farmworkers by using the boycott, Velásquez outlined his group's current battles with worldwide tobacco giants, such as RJ Reynolds, who buy their products from the fields of North Carolina and southern Ohio.

"You know we've got 1,000 small tobacco farms in southern Ohio? 90 percent of the workforce on those tobacco farms is undocumented," he said. "They were all trafficked. They all paid money to get sneaked across the border. The ones who were lucky to get a (guestworker) visa, that's a slave-labor program."

Velásquez stated he even had to argue with national AFL-CIO union leaders about the situation, because most labor groups were against the guestworker visa programs. He also briefed the crowd on the original fight with Campbell's Soup and the philosophy behind that eight-year effort for better working conditions, because it's still relevant today.

"The stoop labor that we do, we should be able to feed, clothe, and educate our own families. We shouldn't have to be begging at clinics and other places for a handout," he said, his forceful voice rising with passion. "We're hard-working people. The welfare should go to the disabled who for an unfortunate reason cannot work. We're talking about hard-working people in those labor camps—and by God, if I have anything to say about it, they're going to get a fair day's pay for

a fair day's work because we don't want charity, we want justice!"

Velásquez invited the crowd to participate in FLOC's third annual shareholder's protest at the RJ Reynolds headquarters in North Carolina May 7. He stated the second call to action would come June 16, with a protest outside the federal courthouse in Toledo to mark the start of a trial involving a lawsuit FLOC and other groups filed against the U.S. Border Patrol alleging racial profiling of migrant farmworkers.

"Here in Ohio, we have the same border problem as they have in the South—Arizona and Texas," he said. "Those cops up there are not profiling Canadians coming across the lake. They're looking for brown people."

Velásquez also asked for help with a labor-organizing campaign in the Norwalk, Ohio area, involving undocumented immigrants and farmworkers who hold a guestworker visa in that area of north central Ohio.

The FLOC founder will travel to London, England next week to meet with British American Tobacco (BAT) leaders, who are now putting pressure on Reynolds to settle their differences with the migrant farmworkers' union. BAT owns a 42 percent stake in Reynolds tobacco operations in the U.S.

Velásquez called it a five-year struggle to get their attention, but told the audience both tobacco companies will now sit down at the negotiating table.

"We'll go everywhere we have to in order to knock down those doors," he said. "We're not going to knock on the doors to open those doors of opportunity. We're going to kick the doors down and say we want justice for the people here in America. We're going to stop the exploitation of the undocumented people!"

The above described presenters drew massive rounds of applause for their speeches and the work they have done for nearly 30 years apiece to fight and draw attention to their causes. The speeches were followed up by more in-depth workshops that afternoon.

Over the past two decades, more than 14,000 individuals representing hundreds of organizations have attended the annual Hispanic Leadership Conference. Afternoon workshops featured topics included education, disease prevention and Latino health, as well as establishing identity and Latina empowerment. The conference is meant to help attendees learn how to join in actions and connect with those working to improve the lives of the Latino community.

The day had also featured a few surprises. Local students painted a 7-foot-by-2-foot canvas portrait of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor under the watchful eye of New York City muralist María Dominguez. Students also performed a surprise flash mob dance routine for the night program. They had practiced the routine earlier in the day.

The evening Gala at DeLuca's Place in the Park included entertainment by Karen Paz Labra of Youngstown (mariachi), comic relief by Nuyorican Bill Santiago, and music by Sammy De León y su Orchestra of Cleveland.

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