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Pluma Fronteriza: Newsletter of Chicano(a)/ Latino(a) Writers of the El Paso and Cd. Juárez Border Region

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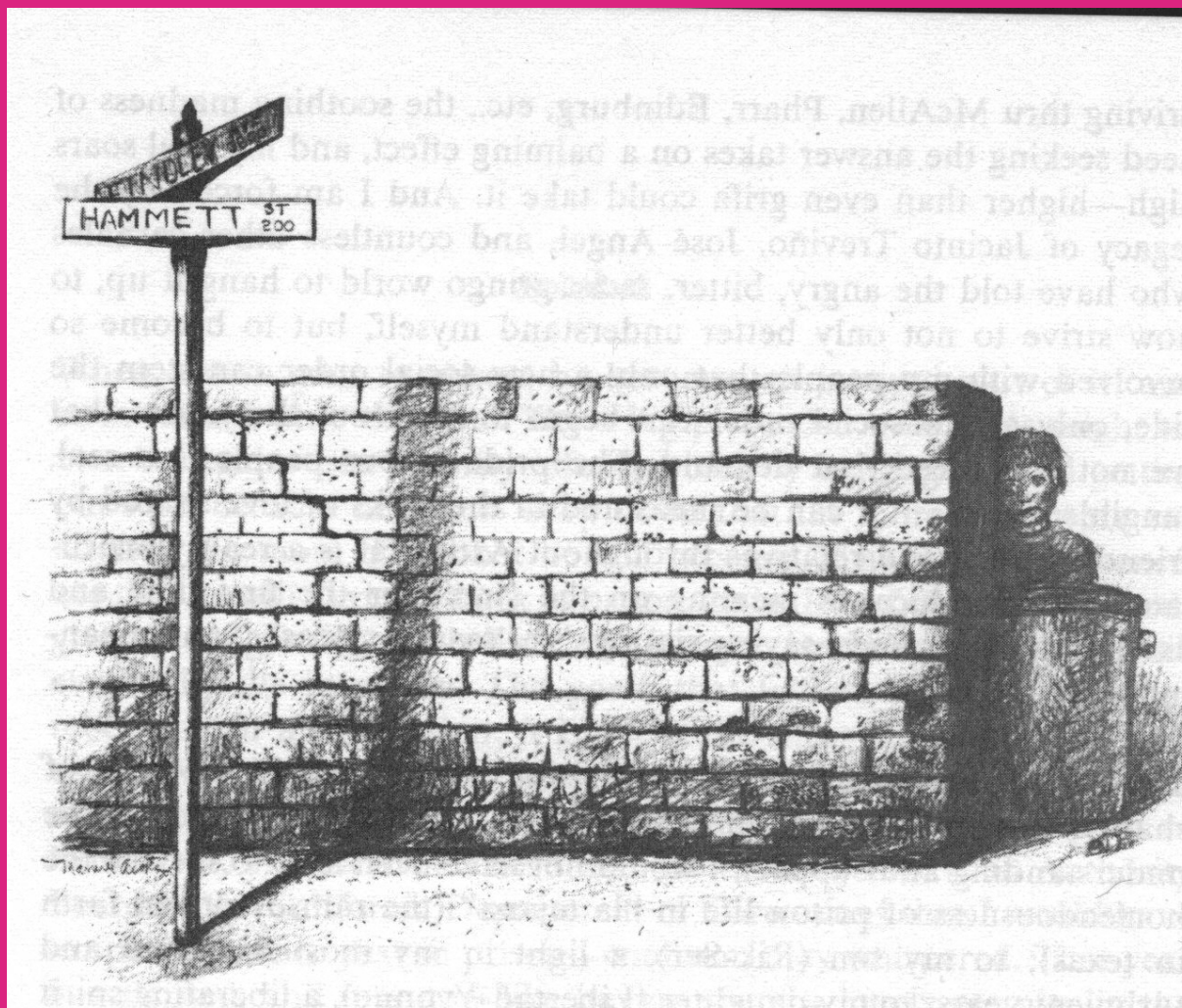
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Pluma Fronteriza

Newsletter of Chicano(a)/Latino(a) Writers of the El Paso and Cd. Juárez Border Region



Inside: El Barrio Del Diablo, Part 2, p.6; Time & Place with Betsy Smith, p. 4

New books from El Paso, Las Cruces, Cd. Juárez:

- Pete Flores WWII Story; New Poetry by Jesus Tafoya, p. 9
- Selfa Chew's newest; Digging the Past with David Carrasco, P. 9;
- Ben Sáenz' in paperback; Latina Mistress with R.F. Sanchez, p. 10
-



NEWS

Morton Invades Poland

Carlos Morton headed off to Poland last year. He was named Distinguished Fulbright Lecturer for Poland for 2006-2007 and will be teaching Ethnic Theatre of the U.S. an American Studies program at Maria Curia Skłodowska University in Lublin. During June of 06,



Jorge Huerta, Josefina López, and Morton toured Germany under sponsorship of U.S. Consulate and USIS (no, not the C.I.A. says Carlos) talking Chicano Theatre. They spoke at the U. of Greifswald, Humboldt University, Regensburg University, Bomberg University, America Haus in Munich, and Frankfurt University. Carlos has taught and spoken at the following since arriving in Europe: Featured Speaker, "Annual International Conference of the Polish Association for American Studies," arsa, Poland. Speaker, University of Wroclaw, Poland. Speaker, Zamosc Teacher Training College Speaker, Warsaw School of Social Psychology Speaker, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland. Speaker, Warsaw University, Poland. Speaker, Berne University, Switzerland. Featured Speaker, "Cultures in/of Mobility," Potsdam University, Germany. Speaker, Tübingen University, Germany. Speaker, Würzburg University, Germany. Erlangen University, Germany. Speaker, University of Nitra, Slovakia. Speaker, University of Presov, Slovakia. Speaker, University of Debrecen, Hungary. Speaker, University of Nyiregyhaza, Hungary. Speaker, College of Eger, Hungary. Speaker, College of Miskolc, Hungary. Speaker, University of Vienna, Austria. Minsk Linguistic University, Belarus. Speaker, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic.

Albino Carillo Enters the Blogosphere

Albino Carillo who was born in El Paso, entered the blogosphere. Go to: www.

(Continued "News" on page 5)

Did You Know?

WWII Story

Though Ken Burns was leaving us out of his World War II documentary, we're making up for it. Texas Western Press will be publishing part of **Pete Flores'** book *On the Wings of An Angel* in an upcoming book. It is the story of his half brother, who was a paratrooper in WWII. Flores is publishing the entire book which we will tell you more about in our new books section.

Barrientos leaves the Philly

We heard somewhere that Tanya Barrientos, author of *Frontera Street*, left the *Philadelphia Inquire*. We've lost contact with her, so if anyone has any leads, send us an email.

Save the Barrio

For those who are not yet aware - pasodelsur.com has been posting much of our recent news and observations (other than articles) in the UPDATES section. Here's a direct link: www.pasodelsur.com/updates.html. This section has evolved to form a sort of timeline/news/thought of the day segment. You can get to UPDATES from the homepage on the upper right section of the page.

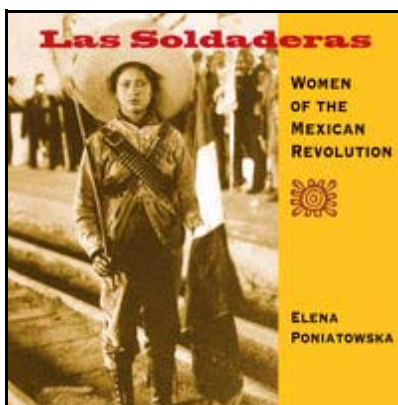


A Look Outside El Chuco: Trinidad Sánchez, Jr.

Before **Trinidad Sánchez, Jr.** passed, he had just released his new book *Jalapeño Blues* on Floricanto Press (ISBN 2006 9780915745722).

Adelitas: Cinco Puntos republishes *Las Soldaderas*

I first bought this book in Mexico, a wonderful book of photos of women in the Mexican Revolution. Kudos to **Cinto Puntos** for putting it out in English: *Las*



(Continued in "Did You Know?" on page 17)

Cover: Hammet Blvd.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



OVER 30 YEARS OF MOVIMIENTO

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Chicano Studies

Trends and Chisme

Dear Friends,

A little after our last issue, our great friend Trinidad Sánchez, Jr. passed way. We had been hoping for the best. Trini, as we called him, had gotten sick once before. Trini leaves a gap in Chicano Poetry. As Ricardo Sánchez labeled him the heir of poets like Abelardo Delgado.

I remember at UTEP, student returning from the CAMAC conference at Texas A&M and toting a poet who had spoke there. They all had copies of "Why Am I so Brown?" and "Who Am I?" I didn't go to that conference, so I looked Trini up, check out his book and quickly became a fan.

When I track down Trini's email, I wrote him. He was now living in Denver, the hometown of his wife Regina, who was the daughter of one of the Crusade for Justice's co-founders.

I remember asking Trini if he knew Lalo Delgado, they lived in the same town.

He responded, "Lalo my hero!"

It seems a distant memory now, my clerkship in Colorado during which time I met Trini and other Colorado or adopted Colorado writers. Trini and Regina were always quick to offer their home whenever I was in Denver. Trini and I spent many a night having deep conversation. Memories of good writers and bad. People who treated him well and did not. The responsibilities of a Chicano poet. Pat Nixon and Chicano writers.

Trini became our hero to many of us, reminding us of Chicano poets of greater strength and power. Pluma Fronteriza will miss him.

As we ended our last issue last summer, powerful rains his El Paso and gave it floods not seen in decades. Some of the barrios we have written about were flooded and now the future of those barrios seems bleak as the city offers to buy houses and clear them out.

On the other side of the coin, the struggle to save Segundo Barrio goes on. We should have listened with more scrutiny as Mayor John Cooks would stress "This Land Is My Land" when singing the Woody Guthrie song.

As for Libros, Libros, we will be putting two issues out this summer. One will focus on books released in the last 6 months of 2006. The second will be books in the first half of this year. Keep reading folks.

Con la causa,

Raymundo Elí Rojas

Pluma Fronteriza is 'Going to Home to El Paso' starting in May 2007. We'll be moving to EPT. Please take note of our new postal address.

Time & Place



Backwater Blues

by Bessie Smith

recording of 19

from The Complete Recordings, Vol. 3 (Columbia/Legacy C2K-47474),

When it rained five days and the skies turned dark as night
When it rained five days and the skies turned dark as night
There was trouble taking place in the lowlands at night

I woke up this morning, wouldn't even get out of my door
I woke up this morning, wouldn't even get out of my door
Enough trouble to make poor girl wonder where she gonna go

They rowed a little boat, about five miles 'cross the farm
They rowed a little boat, about five miles 'cross the farm
I packed up all my clothing, throwed it in and they rowed me along

It thundered and it lightened and the winds began to blow
It thundered and it lightened and the winds began to blow
There was a thousand women, didn't have no place to go

I went out to the lonesome, high old lonesome hill
I went out to the lonesome, high old lonesome hill
I looked won on the old house, where I used to live

Backwater blues have caused me to pack up my things and go
Backwater blues have caused me to pack up my things and go
'Cause my house fell down and I can't live there no more

Hmm, I can't live there no more
Hmm, I can't live there no more
And there ain't no place for a poor old girl to go

Public Domain

Note: This was one of Smith most successful records; it was recorded just before the catastrophic great Mississippi flood of 1927;

Note : backwater, mostly old river beds which are left to take the excess flood water to relieve pressure on the levees (embankments). As the height of the water is excessive, however, breaches in the levee walls are deliberately made at certain points to allow particular areas to flood and thus lessen the pressure of water. These are the "backwaters," which occur in the St. Francis Basin to the west of the river between Memphis and Helena, in the great Yazoo-Mississippi Delta north of Vicksburg, in the Tensas Basin west of Natchez, and at other selected points.

El Paso/Cd. Juarez/Las Cruces Floods—YouTube Links:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7s4g_B31Y8&mode=related&search=

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSdJGI-8JuY>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dnV8OOIEpA&mode=related&search=>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nt8GXQ3v32A&mode=related&search=>
El Paso Flooding Tribute

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5ZL58xMlrg&mode=related&search=>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6aZD6tRvimM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrPTjKjPZVA>

SIGN MY BOOK

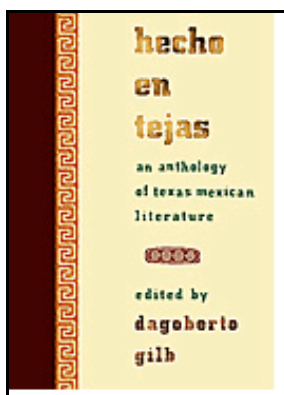
PERFORMANCES, CONFERENCES,
BOOK SIGNINGS, READINGS &
OTHER NEWS

Gilb takes *Hecho* on the Road

Dagoberto Gilb has been on the road promoting an awesome anthology he edited, *Hecho en Tejas*. In February, he presented the book in San Marcos; in March in Houston, La Oreja, San Benito, and El Chuco. He was in Austin on May 1 (joined by **David Gárza** and **Alejandro Escovedo**). It was celebrated in San Marcos at the Southwestern Writers Collection at Southwest Texas State University. The event included a panel discussion with **Tino Villanueva**, **Carmen Tafolla**, **raulsalinas**, **Benjamin Alire Sáenz** of UTEP, moderated by **Tony Díaz**. At lunch, there was a performance by Conjunto Áztlán followed by a panel discussion with Dago, **Sandra Cisneros**,

Macarena Hernández, **Christine Granados** (of El Paso) moderated by **Arturo Madrid**. The

keynote addresses/readings were given by Dago and Cisneros with introduction by **Rolando Hinojosa**. There was also a book signing with all authors & a performance by **Santiago Jiménez, Jr.**



Dago also hit the hometown at the end of March and was joined by El Pasoans **Sergio Troncoso**, **Saenz**, **Alicia Gaspar de Alba**, **Granados**, **Richard Yañez**, **Tammy Gómez**, **Norma Cantu**, and

Sheryl Luna. At a later diner, they were joined by Gárza. Other cities Dago has visited pushing his anthology are Laredo, Arlington (joined by **José Angel Gutierrez**, **Macarena Hernández**, **Gómez**, **Tafoya**, **Gárza**, and **Hinojosa-Smith**), Forth Worth (joined by **Jiménez**, **Gutierrez**, **Hernández**, **Gómez**, **Tonantzin Canestaro-García**, **Granados**, and **Gárza**), Austin (joined by **Hinojosa**, **Granados**, **Roberto Ontiveros**, and **Diana López**), the Valley (joined by **Erasmus Guerra**, **Granados**, **Hernández**, **Ontiveros**, **Tony Díaz**, **Arturo Longoria**, **Rosa Pérez**, **Emmy Pérez**, and **López**).

Legendary Chicano(a) Literary Critic visits

In April, Chicano(a) literary criticism scholar **Juan Bruce-Novoa** was in El Paso for the inaugural "Las Pláticas" lecture series presented by Chicana(o) Studies at EPCC. Bruce-Novoa from the University of California at Irvine delivered a lecture entitled "The Rhetoric of Survival: Tracing a Tradition of Chicano Cultural Production."

Talk in Mesilla: **Gabriel Alonso de Herrera** on Ancient Agriculture



The Cultural Center de Mesilla sponsored a plática/talk by **Estevan Arellano** in December 06. The talk offered a history of the Acequia/Mother Ditches of New Mexico, as well as address the classic book, *Ancient Agriculture: Roots and Application of Sustainable Farming* by **Gabriel Alonso de Herrera**, recently translated by **Arellano** (Gibbs Smith Publishers).

Legendary Chicana artist **Judith Baca** visits EPT

In October, the El Paso Museum of Art and Public Art Program hosted a breakfast discussion with **Judith Francisca Baca**, Director and Founder of Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC), Venice, CA. It was a panel

(Continued from "News" page 2)

elespejofumeroso.blogspot.com. Also check out another online link Albino sent us for this online magazine: www.maverickmagazine.com.

Chavas de Pan Am

Emmy Pérez tells us that she is teaching Creative Writing at UT-Pan American now. The new MFA program just got approved and she will be sending us some info on it. After her visiting gig at UTEP came to an end, Pérez had a small grant in El Paso to work with incarcerated and underserved young adults. Emmy tells us she has not completely moved out of El Paso, as she still keeps a house in Ysleta in her mom's old neighborhood where her family lived for centuries.

www.womenwriterscollective.org/emmy.html.



Alicia Gaspar de Alba

Alicia Gaspar de Alba's mystery novel *Desert Blood* won a couple of big awards: **Lambda Literary Foundation Award for Lesbian Mystery** and the **Latino Book Award for English-Language Mystery**.

Desert Blood is being translated into Italian as *Il deserto della morti silenziose: I femminicidi di Juarez* (which means Desert of The Silent Dead: The Feminicides of Juarez). Her new historical novel, *Calligraphy of the Witch*, is forthcoming.



Where Devils Fear to Tread: Barrio Del Diablo, Part II

Bad Reputation

Diablo had a notorious reputation for gangs, but several of the residents say this was sometimes overblown. Ricardo Sánchez especially chastises the characterization of the local *pachucos* as vandals. Lucy Fisher-West remembers the young men loitering on the corner, but sees them in a positive light as singing with guitars. Sánchez also speak of this in his poem “Homing”

i saw remains
of cinderblock fences
where my brothers, Sefy and Pete,
would strum guitars and sing....

Ester



Woodlawn Addition: Modern day corner of Boone and Delta facing Mt. Franklin — the Paisano housing project once filled this lot that U.S. Customs now uses

Pérez says this was even going on in her time in the *barrio* remembering her house at Hammett Blvd. and Central. “I remember a Dona Juana, whose porch the boys would gather on to sing.”

Sánchez describes *Diablo*’s gangs in more detail saying, “Nobody wanted to go in.” He said “batos” from the X-9 gang protected this *barrio*. X-9 vato, what’s that? Sánchez said they were “una gavial de chamacos torpes y encabronados” y “ellos hacían sus cositas, aún ese tipo de jugar con la vida como si fuese la vida nada mas que un chiste.” Who could describe them better?

The gangs had a lot of pride in for the *barrio*. They were always at sport games, always in the stands cheering the sport teams on. “They took pride in our representing el *Diablo*,” says Al Soto. He adds, “Most gang battles I remember were over women...sometimes old family feuds,

but mostly internal, a few external over territory, encroachment.”

Describing pre-World War II *Diablo*, Ester Pérez says that there were “good and bad and in between just like you find in any *barrio*.” “They were good-hearted people,” says Perez, “who got bad feelings just like any other people. It was a good neighborhood, especially during the Depression — everybody was poor, so we were all the same.” Sadly, Pérez says, she thinks it was the war that made many people leave the *barrio*. “The men went away to war and then came back to their wives or got married.” “They saw,” Perez adds, “how good life was outside of the *barrio* and they did not want to return. I married a veteran right after the war and we took off to California.”

However, by the post-WWII era, the *pachucos* had already been born in El Paso and *Diablo* was affected. Quoting Juan Urrutia who lived on Findley Ave., Morales says the “Scorpions were on Cypress Street, the X-9s in the El Diablo *barrio*...and the Beboppers near Zavela School.” Tinajero has his memories of *Los Dominos*, which first began as a social club, and the 7-11, though he is not sure if they were from the area. He added that there was also the X-13 and DDT.

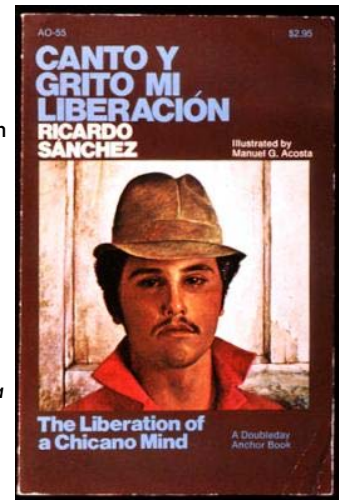
Smuggling and Prohibition

Being next to *La Isla* made the el *Barrio del Diablo* a frequent visiting place for those who cut holes in the fence to come look for work. Fisher-West even describes her mother helping a crosser hide in their backyard. Her mother later scolded him and then fed him. In Flores’ book *Guardians of the Gate*, describes how *Diablo* was a

thoroughfare of smugglers. Like the border region of Sonora and Arizona, *La Isla* was a no-man’s land with dangers.

When employment was low, some *Diablo* residents turned to smuggling or serving as spotters, especially during Prohibition.

During the 1920s, the *barrio* only



Pioneer Renaissance Poet Ricardo Sánchez landmark book speaks of *Diablo*; illustrator Manuel Acosta was also from this *barrio*

(Continued in “*Diablo*” on page 7)

(Continued from "Diablo" page 6)

went west a little past Hammett Blvd. and only went as far south as Oak Ct.

S. Boone as you went south became East Dump Rd. leading to the disposal plant. Paisano Drive did not exist in name yet. However, there were squatters' shacks within *La Isla*. The island, as well as the *barrio*, was witness to some gun battles between smugglers and U.S. Border Patrol. Smugglers used the levees of the old riverbed as protection in their gun battles.

Flores explains how there was a "Chinaman's House," as it was known then using the now derogatory description, at old International Marker 6 and Copia Street, a little west of *Diablo*.

Lucy Fisher-West describes life in Barrio Del Diablo in her award-winning book

The house served as a safe house for smugglers. The Chinaman, Flores said, worked the fields in the Chamizal. As *barrio* kids played on the island, the Chinese man often gave them fruit and corn.

Flores describes one Fernando de La Vega of *Diablo* who served as a guide for smugglers. In 1932, he shot a U. S. Border Patrol agent and was subsequently sent to the federal prison in Kansas. The agents had shot him and when de La Vega returned to the *barrio* after his prison term, he was remembered as always walking with a limp. In one sentence, Flores even calls *Diablo* "Devil Backyard."

Zavela

Fisher-West lived in *Diablo* in the 1950s. She describes how her mother made her cross the bridge each day to attend school in Cd. Juárez as opposed to Zavela School. This was until the authorities found out what was happening and stopped the practice. Her family lived at the 3300 block of San Antonio Street with the canal at the house's back. Fisher-West describes her home in *Diablo* having a room for her father's great love: books. At a home show at the Coliseum, he brought an Encyclopedia Britannica making her the only child at Zavela with a set.

Zavela was built in 1925 at 1915 N. Hammett Blvd. and named after Lorenzo de Zavala, the Republic of Texas' first vice president and recent subject of many books. (Morales 10). The school was built for a 300-student capacity. (Morales 10).



St. Xavier's pier in the background from Paisano Drive
One of the last remnants of Diablo

Fisher-West has fond memories of teachers at Zavela like Miss Ross, Mrs. Wisman, Mr. Yturralde, and Josephine Nagel.

Morales dates Navarro Elementary School being constructed in 1961 at 1295 Hammett Blvd. (Morales 23). It was named after José Antonio Navarro.

Henderson Intermediate

Diablo residents had to walk two miles to get to Henderson Intermediate. However, walking to Henderson wasn't fun. "You were in another *barrio*," Soto says, "it was a 'clash of cultures between 'los del diablo' y 'los del Ascarate'." He remembers his first T dance as a sixth grader and learning to play the saxophone at Henderson. "I remember a Mr. Hirsh, I think an English teacher at Henderson Intermediate. I remember good grades meant field trips to Silver City, Ruidoso, the Blank Range between Silver City and Truth or Consequences. Mr. Ellis was the social studies teacher."

La Jeff ("La yeff")

If you lived in *Diablo*, you most likely attended "La Jeff." That's Jefferson High School, for those of you not from EPT. Soto has several memories of Jeff: "Walking 1 mile to 'la jeff', Freshmen football, marching band, the Friendship trip to Chihuahua, Mexico...and being told you were 'Yankees' and 'Comunistas.'" Professors LaFerrell and Felipe Ortego would take turns teaching at La Jeff before they made it big.

Paisano Projects

When one mentions el Barrio del Diablo in El Paso, what

(Continued in "Diablo" on page 21)

Barrio Del Diablo

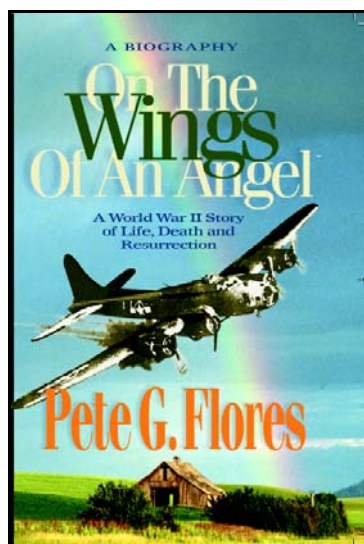


Map is a recreation and not to scale. C. 1950s

New books with an El Paso, Las Cruces, and Cd. Juárez connection

Pete Flores tackles WWII story

Pete Flores story of Joe Pino, one of the most intriguing and emotional stories ever to come out of World War II, will be out soon. After a brief training period Pino became a tail gunner in a B-17 Super Fortress, one of the allies' most dangerous weapons. Tragedy struck in the early morning of Sunday, February 6, 1944 when the bomber on which Joe was assigned was shot down and crashed into a small village in France on its seventh mission. After the crash, Pino was declared dead. His body was buried in the cemetery in Villers-Cotterets, France during the height of the war. His adopted mother was informed of his death. Not long after, a death certificate and medals of honor were presented to her at a special ceremony held in a United States Army base, Ft. Bliss, Texas. Fifty years later, a young man in France



conducted an extensive global search for Pino. The grandson of one of the war's separatists had discovered that Joe was actually rescued, had survived the crash, and was kept hidden from the enemy. The search led him to the lone survivor of the crash of fifty years earlier. This biography details the amazing account of the life, death, and resurrection of a man called Joe, his rescuers and the dramatic effect it had on the townspeople of a small village in France.

Pete G. Flores is an award winning Graphics Designer and published writer. He is the author of *Guardians of the Gate* a true account of border Patrolmen, and *Harness the Mule* a story of drug trafficking. Flores is currently reediting *Harness the Mule*.

Mexican poet releases newest

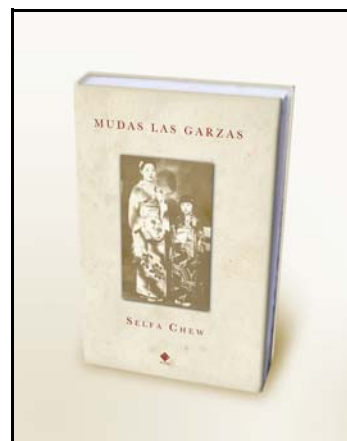
Jesus Tafoya put a new poetry book last fall call *Réquiem en re menor*. Is a long poem in memory of his father. He presented it in November 2006 in Alpine, TX.

Award Winner Puts Out New Book

Selfa Chew has just released a new book called *Mudas las Garzas*: En 1941 sucede el ataque del imperio japonés a Pearl Harbor. Entre las varias consecuencias del conflicto bélico mundial, Estados Unidos solicita al

gobierno de México la movilización de todas las personas de origen japonés radicadas en tierras mexicanas. La vida de Suriko Matsushita y su familia se ve afectada de manera irreversible al tener que entregar a los hijos más pequeños en adopción para salvarlos de la persecución y la pobreza.

La experiencia de los Matsushita se entrelaza con la de otros japoneses mexicanos que fueron obligados a subsistir en campos de concentración. Entre acusaciones de espionaje e historias de amor que llevan a los personajes a vivir diversas formas de exilio, percibimos los matices del destierro a través de sus poemas, declaraciones policiales, reportes militares, entrevistas y fotografías.



Here is a comment by Saúl Ibargoyen:

"Mudas las Garzas oscila entre novela breve y sucesión de cuentos y resulta infrecuente en la literatura mexicana. A partir del inicio del conflicto bélico en el océano Pacífico, ocasionado por el ataque del imperio japonés a Pearl Harbor en 1941, y la consecuente respuesta de Estados Unidos, este país solicita al gobierno de México la movilización de todas las personas de origen japonés radicadas en tierras mexicanas.

La situación es descrita en este dramático relato con base en entrevistas orales, recopilación de documentos oficiales, informes de la policía, testimonios diversos, etcétera, que al ser transformados por la escritura artística (aunque en la Advertencia inicial se sugiere que hay también transcripciones textuales), adquieren dimensión de trascendencia. El procedimiento del autor se basa en buena medida en lo que Mijail Bajtin ha denominado "discurso polifónico", es decir, la aplicación de varias voces o discursos que se entretajan en función de la diégesis o historia narrada y que al mismo tiempo que definen a los personajes emisores, le dan al relato la estructura más adecuada.

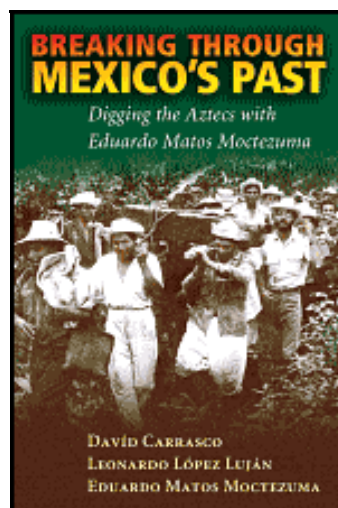
Carrasco on Mexican Archeologist

David Carrasco has put out *Breaking Through Mexico's Past: Digging the Aztecs with Eduardo Matos Moctezuma* (Hardcover)(University of New Mexico Press Feb 16, 2007 ISBN 139780826338310) with Leonardo López

(Continued in "New Books" on page 10)

New Books with an El Paso Connection, continued from P. 13

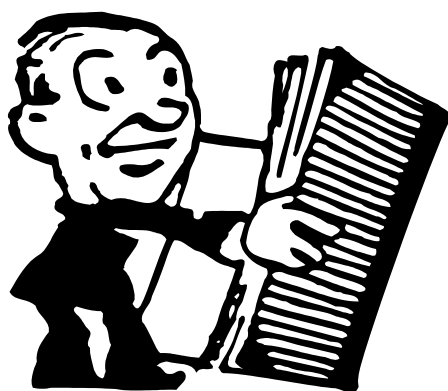
Luján and Eduardo Matos Moctezuma. This is biography



of Mexico's award-winning archaeologist, Eduardo Matos Moctezuma, is based on a series of interviews conducted by David Carrasco and Leonardo López Luján, respected Mesoamericanists in their own right. Born in 1940 Mexico City, Matos Moctezuma's father was a diplomat from the Dominican Republic and his mother was a Mexican national. Thanks to his father's career,

Eduardo was exposed to other cultures throughout Latin America and he learned to appreciate all that each had to offer. Carrasco and López Luján demonstrate Eduardo's determination to recover Mexico's cultural past. In addition to secondary archaeological projects, he recently supervised the Teotihuacan Project, where he conducted important excavations at the Pyramid of the Sun, and he is currently general coordinator of the Templo Mayor Project. He served as director of the Templo Mayor Museum (1987-2001) and the National Museum of Anthropology (1985-1987). Matos Moctezuma has received many awards during his career, including the first H. B. Nicholson Award for Excellence in Mesoamerican Studies from the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University. The life of celebrated Mexican archaeologist Moctezuma tells of a man rising to the challenges of life and a man who has eloquently spoken to the importance of understanding the roots of civilization. Carrasco is the Neil L. Rudenstine Professor of Latin American Studies, Harvard Divinity School and Department of Anthropology. www.unmpress.com.

Cinco Puntos Press released *The Shadow of the Shadow*



The Shadow of the Shadow follows four men who meet to play dominos in a hotel bar in Mexico City in 1922. They are a motley group — a gun-toting poet who makes a living writing advertisements for patent medicine, a radical Chinese-Mexican union organizer, a lawyer who represents prostitutes, and a newspaper crime reporter who churns out pages of copy "like links of sausage in a chorizo factory."

Left to their own devices, the group would have waited out Carranza's presidency in their own quietly besotted fashion, ignoring the betrayal of the Mexican Revolution. But they witness a series of strangely related murders and begin to suspect a conspiracy involving the oil-rich lands of the Gulf Coast, greedy army officers, and American industrialists.

Critics have hailed *The Shadow of the Shadow* as the best of Paco Ignacio Taibo II's historical novels. Issues of oil, American imperialism, extortion, and government corruption give the novel a distinctly contemporary ring. www.cincopuntos.com.

Benjamin A. Saenz to publish another

Ben will be putting out *A Perfect Season for Dreaming* (Hardcover), an ages 9-12 book on Cinco Puntos Press in May (ISBN 1933693010). www.cincopuntos.com. Also a paperback edition of this novel *In Perfect Light* (Rayo) will be published in August. www.rayo.com.



Floricanto Press Book takes place in EPT

Latina Mistress by R.F. Sánchez (ISBN 9780915745913). Publisher's description follows: A story is about young and pretty undocumented women in El Paso, Texas, who unknowingly fall or conveniently acquiesce to the sexual demands of their male employers, who most happen to be Anglo Americans.

Much what has been written about El Paso and the southwest is about its history, its settlers, its movers, and its heroes.

Latina Mistress, however, is about ordinary people, illegal aliens, their loves, hates, beliefs, and more importantly their circumstances. The events which take place in the novel intersect the Hispanic and Anglo worlds, with their own good and evil characters.

This novel follows the long tradition of historical fiction

(Continued "New" on page 11)

(Continued from "EL PASO CONNECTION" page 10)

in the sense that all the anecdotes told here are actually true, although the names have been changed to protect the guilty. The author gathered these very human stories through years of observation as well as personal experience and much research.

The author and his wife, Helen, actually knew personally Berta, one of the tragic heroines of this novel. He also interviewed scores of males and females of both cultures attesting to the accuracy of the story.

What is a young and beautiful illegal alien to do to survive two alien worlds, the Hispanic and Anglo worlds, with their own good and evil characters? The answer is shivering in its clarity: whatever is required. This novel depicts the dramatic lives of two beautiful sisters, both illegal aliens, and how some people take advantage of their weakness and their sex.



In this sense this novel is a classic tale of what has always occurred with the disadvantaged all along; the powerful taking advantage of the weaker and more disadvantaged members of society.

Although the novel starts with the arrival of the two pretty young women in the United States, dramatic events unleashed, which change the lives of these women.

Some of these circumstances are simply traumatic, others are downright heart-breaking, and some others are happy events, which they must undergo before setting roots in this country.

As in real life, not every immigrant coming to the United States makes it, in this novel; Rosario did, but not her sister, Berta. Some characters in this novel are truly lovable, others quite detestable; all nevertheless are quite human.

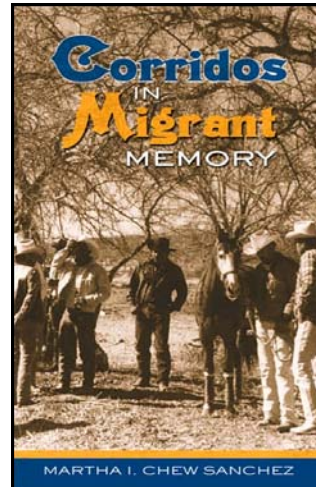
The reader weeps at times, is angry at times, rejoices at times, but at the close you will find a new meaning for what is meant for a *Latina Mistress*. www.floricantopress.com.

Corridos in Migrant Memory

Check out Martha I. Chew Sánchez' *Corridos in Migrant Memory*: Corridos are ballads particular to Mexican traditions that are used to analyze or recall a particular political, cultural, and natural event important to the communities where they are performed.

As part of the cultural memory, many of the most popular corridos express the immigrant experience: exploitation, surveillance, and dehumanization stemming from racism and classism of the host country. The corrido helps

Mexican immigrants in the United States to humanize, dignify, and make sense of their transnational experiences as racial minorities. *Corridos in Migrant Memory* examines the role of corridos in shaping the cultural memories and identities of transnational Mexican groups.

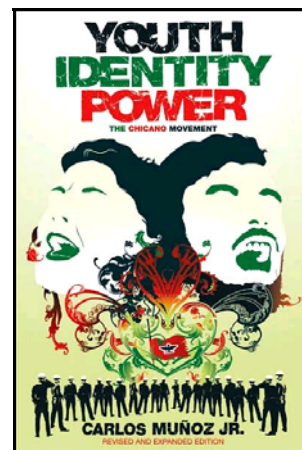


These narrative songs, dating from the earliest colonial times, recount the historical circumstances surrounding a model protagonist whose history embodies the everyday experiences and values of the community.

The everyday experiences and cultural expressions of Mexican-Americans and Mexican immigrants have not found their way into textbooks in Mexico or in the United States. Originally of the El Paso/Cd. Juárez region, Chew Sánchez' study provides a foundation upon which to build an understanding of the corrido. Chew Sánchez is assistant professor of global studies at St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York.

Expanding on a classic

This summer, Carlos Muñoz, one of Chicano thoughts most astute political scientists, will be putting out an expanded edition of his classic *Youth, Identity, Power: The Chicano Movement*, (Paperback)(Verso; 2 edition July 1, 2007 ISBN: 1844671429). This book is a must for every political library. *Youth, Identity, Power* is a unique exploration of the origins and development of Chicano radicalism in the United States. Born in El Paso's Segundo Barrio, Muñoz, Jr., himself a leader of the Chicano(a) Movement of the 1960s, places the movement in the wider context of the political development of Mexicans and their descendants in the US. Fully revised and updated throughout, *Youth, Identity, Power* fills a significant gap in the history of political protest in the United States, and makes a major contribution to the history of the cultural development of the Chicano population as a whole.

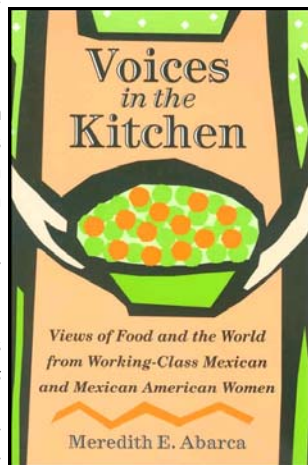


Abarca on Food

(Continued in "EL PASO CONNECTION" on page 12)

(Continued from "EL PASO CONNECTION " page 11)

Last year, UTEP Professor Meredith Abarca released ***Voices in the Kitchen: Views of Food And the World from Working-class Mexican And Mexican American Women*** (Rio Grande/Rio Bravo: Borderlands Culture and Tradition) (Paperback) (Texas A&M Univ Press ISBN 1585445312). Description follows: Through the ages and across cultures, women have carved out a domain in which their cooking allowed them to express themselves, strengthen family relationships, and create a world of shared meanings with other women. In *Voices in the Kitchen*, Abarca features the voices of her mother and several other family members and friends, seated at their kitchen tables, to share the grassroots world view of these working-class Mexican and Mexican American women. www.tamu.edu/upress.

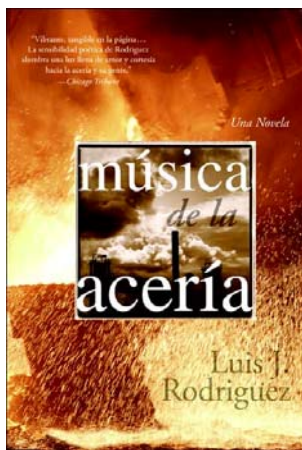


The Book that Started it All: REPUBLISHED

Remember that the Delgado family has republished the classic *Chicano: 25 Pieces of a Chicano Mind* by Abelardo B. "Lalo" Delgado. It is the first anthology of Chicano(a) poetry to be published during the Chicano Renaissance period. There are several copies of Lalo last two books, *La Llorona* and *Living Life on His Own Terms: The Poetic Wisdom of Abelardo "Lalo" Delgado*, still available for a \$12 donation to Lalo's wife, Lola Delgado. Send check or money order for \$12 plus \$2 shipping and handling to 6538 Eaton, Arvada, Colorado 80003. Make payable to "Dolores Delgado."

Spanish Language version of *Music of the Mill*

Rayo published a Spanish version of Luis J. Rodríguez' *Music of the Mill: Musica de la Acería: Una Novela* (Paperback) (February 27, 2007 ISBN 978-0060842529) has been released. Publisher's description: Mientras el boom cultural e industrial de la Segunda Guerra Mundial dio a luz una nueva California, surgió a su vez una poderosa industria de acero, y con ella vino el potencial de cumplir los sueños modestos de los trabajadores dispuestos a



arriesgar sus vidas en el calor feroz de la acería. Para los Salcidos, la acería de Nazareth se transformó en una maquina de supervivencia. Luis J. Rodríguez relata la evolución simultánea de esta familia americana y la empresa enorme que los impulsó adelante — desde las unidades optimistas y cohesivas buscando estabilidad y prosperidad a las entidades desintegradas cuyos sueños hace rato habían perdido su brillo. Abarcando seis décadas, la novela transmite el drama, la adaptabilidad y el humor en la vida de la clase obrera durante una época poco conocida en la historia americana.

Lost in Translation: Not Rosario Sanmiguel

Rosario Sanmiguel has translated *Quedando Bien / Fitting In* (Paperback) by Bernardo Anilú (Author). Now available in a Spanish translation, this short story collection by popular young adult author, Anilu Bernardo, takes us from the soccer field to the seashore. Her spunky Cuban-American protagonists navigate the uncertain waters of adolescence in Miami. The stories' protagonists juggle the traditional burdens of middle school and high school coupled with the stresses of living those burdens in a foreign culture.

Bernardo crafts a panorama of intelligent and spirited young girls struggling to find a place for themselves. Like when Sari wants to talk about boys and school with her friends instead of babysitting for Grandma, who always asks her to translate the most embarrassing things . . . or when Clari stews in her room after she's grounded because the snippy old woman next door complained about Clari bending her stupid fence. . . or when Mari turns in a homemade diorama in a contest where her work must compete with all the store-bought iridescent paper and underwater photography that parents with money can buy...

Bernardo shows that it's tough enough to be caught between the two worlds of childhood and womanhood, but when a Cuban girl must cross the bridge between two cultures to fit into a foreign environment, she faces a league of other headaches as well. The young girls in this collection don't let the cultural challenges define them. Instead, with a little resourcefulness and strong spirit, they manage to, in the words of one character, "break out" of themselves and the limits that culture puts on them. Anilu Bernardo is the author of two award-winning novels: *Jumping Off to Freedom* (Piñata Books, 1996) and *Loves Me, Loves Me Not* (Piñata Books, 1998), which was named to the American Library Association's 2000 YALSA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults and The New York Public Library's 2000 Books for the Teen Age. She currently lives in Plantation, Florida with her family.

Miraculous Air in paperback

C.M. Mayo's widely-lauded memoir, *Miraculous Air: Journey of a Thousand Miles through Baja California the*

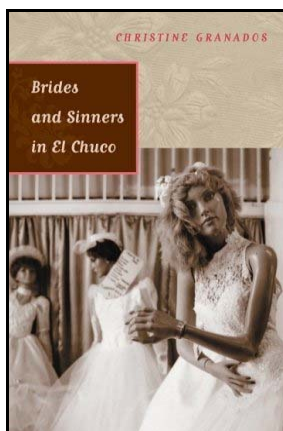
(Continued in "New Books" on page 14)

KUDOS

Another El Paso Win: Granados wins the Alfredo Cisneros Del Mora Foundation 2006 Award

The Alfredo Cisneros Del Moral Foundation announced the winner of the 2006 Award. El Pasoan Christine Granados was awarded a grant for \$11,091.

Christine Granados was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. She is a stay-at-home mother of two sons, a freelance journalist, and an author. Her collection of short stories, *Brides and Sinners in El Chuco*, was published by the University of Arizona Press in the spring of 2006. She is a graduate of UT El Paso's School of Communications and the MFA creative writing program at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. Granados lives in Rockdale, Texas, and writes a column for The Rockdale Reporter.



The Alfredo Cisneros Del Moral Foundation was created in 2000 to honor the memory of Sandra Cisneros' father, an upholsterer. "My father lived his life as an example of generosity and honest labor," Cisneros has written, "Even as he warned us to save our centavitos, he was always giving away his own. A meticulous craftsman, he would sooner rip the seams of a cushion apart and do it over, than put his name on an item that wasn't up to his high standards. I especially wanted to honor his memory by an award showcasing writers who are equally proud of their own craft."

Child of Many Rivers and Ringside

Lucy Fisher-West's *Child of Many Rivers* won a WILLA Finalist Award from Women Writing the West at their conference in October, and it was a finalist for the 2006 Writers' League of Texas Violet Crown Award. Winners and finalists were on a panel at the Texas Book Festival in Austin in October. David Romo's *Ringside Seat to a Revolution* won the Violet Crown Award in the same non-fiction category. Child was in. In the past year, *Ringside* won the Western Writers of America's Spur Award, the Western Literature Association's Tomas J. Lyons Award, and the Latino Literacy Now's Best Nonfiction Award.



Promotion

Congratulations to Alicia Gaspar de Alba who has been promoted to Full Professor at UCLA.



A book already heavy with awards

Sheryl Luna's poetry collection *Pity the Drowned Horses* was recently named a finalist for the Colorado book award.

In September, Sheryl Luna was in Chicago reading at the PALABRA PURA BILINGUAL POETRY SERIES. She read with Leon Leiva Gallardo & Tato Laviera at the California Clipper, 1002 N. California, Chicago.

Café Quetzalcoatl

Authors Amalio Madueño of Taos, NM and Lee Merrill Byrd of El Paso debut their new books last September at the Café Quetzalcoatl. Also during October 06, Segundo Barrio's native sons and poet warriors John Estrada and Juan Contreras read kick off Chicano Heritage Month with an evening packed with live music, celebration, and dance. Carlos Flores later visited on Oct. 13.

Carlos Flores Comes Home

Carlos Flores returned home to tour the hometown promoting his new book *Our House on Hueco* (see Carlos Morton's review on page). He performed at such places as Café Quetzalcoatl, where he was joined by poets Ray Lara and writer Richard Yañez.

Josefina López returns to the Sun City

Internationally-known playwright Josefina López was in EPT in November for several events. www.josefinalopez.com. She gave a workshop entitled "Unleashing the Wild Side" at The Little Temple located on the EPCC Rio Grande Campus and a lecture entitled "Real Women vs. Reel Women" at the Transmountain Forum Theater. Her play "Real Women Have Curves" was performed (directed by Cornelia Patterson) also at the Transmountain Forum Theater. Her visit was sponsored by El Paso Community College & UTEP Women's Studies; Theatre, Dance, & Film; Creative Writing; Chicano Studies, Women's Resource Center, and Languages and Linguistics.

New Books continued, from pg 12

Other Mexico, came out this April in paperback on Milkweed Editions. www.milkweed.org. "A luminous exploration of Baja California, from its southern tip at Cabo San Lucas to its 'lost city' of Tijuana... [Mayo] takes the fiction writer's impulse and blends it with the instincts of a journalist to create a work of nonfiction that elides into modern myth" -- *Los Angeles Times Book Review*. www.cmmayo.com.

El Paso's Theaters

Cynthia Farah Haines, former film and Chicano(a) Studies professor at UTEP, published a new book *Showtime!: From Opera Houses to Picture Palaces in El Paso* (Texas Western Press). A book release party was held in March 06 at the newly renovated Plaza Theatre.

Plays by Solís

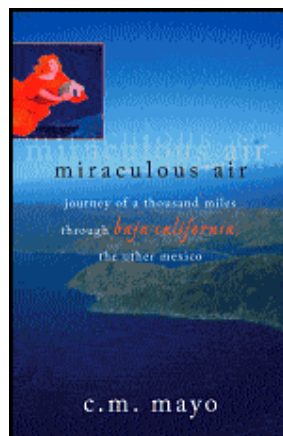
Plays By Octavio Solís (ISBN 0881452580) was published on Broadway Play Publishing Inc. This collection contains three full-length plays: "Santos & Santos," "El Paso Blue" and "El Otro": "Solís' dark, rapturous look at the immigrant experience is not something you'll easily forget. www.broadwayplaypubl.com/Solis%20cover.htm. Also, remember that Broadway Press published two of **Octavio Solís'** play in trade editions: "La Posada Mágica" and "Man of the Flesh."

Malinche's Daughter

Michelle Otero's essay collection *Malinche's Daughter* was published on Momotombo Press (www.momotombopress.com). Otero read at Notre Dame University with other Momotombo Press authors, at Clínica La Fe in EPT at a Tumblewords workshop, at UTEP in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and at the Border Book Festival (www.borderbookfestival.org) in Mesilla, NM in April.

EPT Historian Puts Out Another One

El Paso Historian **Fred Morales** has self-published a history of Aoy School in El Paso, titled by the same name. The book opens with a biography of Olivas Villanueva Aoy, who arrived in South El Paso in 1877 and opened a school for children. See Leon Metz' review at: www.elpasotimes.com/



[apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050627/COLUMNISTS20/506270314/1072/ARCHIVES](http://apps.pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050627/COLUMNISTS20/506270314/1072/ARCHIVES). Other self-published titles from Morales include *History of Transportation in the El Paso/Juárez Region*, *Dates and Events in Chihuahuista History*, *El Paso and Juárez During the Mexican Revolution*, *Smeltertown*, *El Segundo Barrio*, *History of Downtown El Paso*, *Ciudad Juárez (El Paso del Norte)*, *A Short History of South El Paso*, and *The Mexican Revolution Trail of El Paso and Juárez*. Morales is quickly becoming our best underground historian.

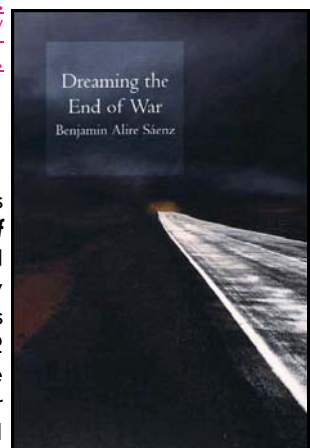
Flores' First

In March, Texas Tech University Press published El Paso native Carlos Nicolás Flores' first novel, *Our House on Hueco* (2006 ISBN 0896725731). In this book, 10-year-old Junior is thrilled and a bit nervous about moving from an El Paso *barrio* to the house his father purchased in an Anglo part of town. His mother, who speaks only Spanish, is somewhat less thrilled, especially when she finds out the family will be living in the *subterráneo* — a dark, unfinished basement — until the white family renting the house above moves out. As the ever-optimistic Pop works to improve his family's situation by adding an apartment to the back of the house, Junior and his little brother make friends with Tim and Kim, the children living above them. But soon tensions erupt and these conflicts reshape Junior's relationships with family and friends, and threaten the new world his father is striving to create. www.ttu.edu/BookPages/0896725731.html.



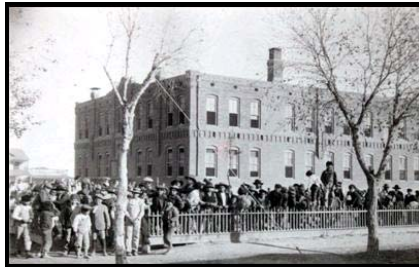
Sáenz' Dreams

Copper Canyon Press has put out *Dreaming the End of War* (2006 ISBN 1556592396) by Benjamín Alire Sáenz. This gripping suite of 12 dreams, infused with the conflict along the border of Mexico and the United States, traces humanity's addiction to violence and killing — from boys stepping on ants to men shooting animals, men shooting women, men shooting enemies. The dreams begin in a desert landscape where poverty and wealth grate against each other, and the ever-present war becomes "as invisible as the desert sands we trample on." The dreams, however,



move toward a greater peace, with Sáenz providing an unforgettable reading experience.

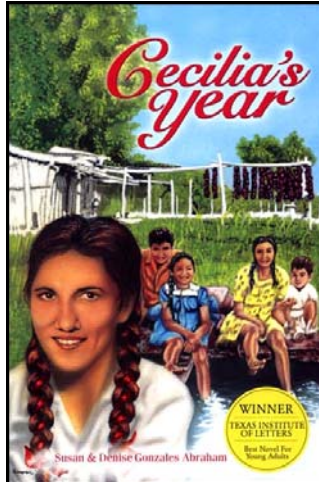
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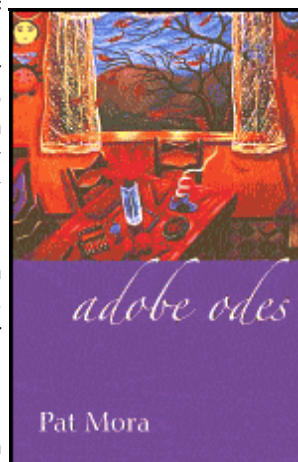
Cecilia's year

Cecilia's Year by Susan González Abraham and Denise González Abraham — a historical novel set in the Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico just after the Great Depression. The novel's title character struggles to balance the demands of life on her family's farm with her ambitions of education and a life in the big cities she reads about in magazines and novels. Deeply rooted in the culture and traditions of the American Southwest, *Cecilia's Year* is also strongly reminiscent of YA classics like *Anne of Green Gables* and *Little House on the Prairie*.



Pat Mora's Odes

Pat Mora has put about *Adobe Odes*. Publisher's description: "Wine-sipping syllables, a communion of bones, impetuous pinches of *chile*, and parrot-sassy guacamole. With a mélange of aromas and tastes, colors and sounds, award-winning poet Pat Mora invites readers into her home in this new collection of forty-nine odes. Inspired by Pablo Neruda's *Odas Elementales* and reinvented with a Latina identity, Mora celebrates the ordinary in lyrics that are anything but. Together with her deft handling of symmetry and meter make her poetry uniquely insightful, subtle, and elegant. Sprinkled with Spanish and plenty of spice, each ode is a sensory flurry of mind and body. Together they make a cauldron of flavorful, simmering language. They are meant to be savored as they slowly stir the soul."



In memoriam

Steve Crosno, veteran DJ www.stevecosno.com

www.stevecosno.com

Ana Osante, first secretary of UTEP Chicano Studies

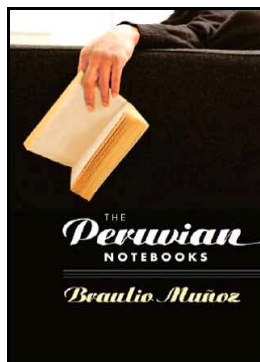
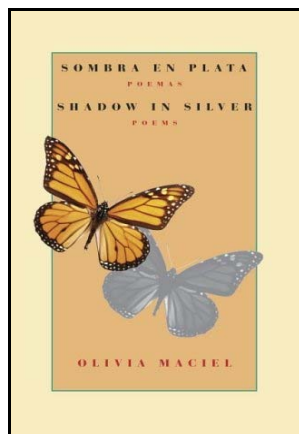
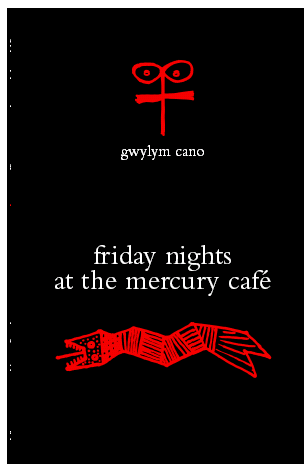
Libros, Libros: New & Recommended Books

Friday Nights at the Mercury Café (Chapbook 2005), Gwylm Cano. "Poetic journey of one of Denver's prominent Chicano poets. Cano journeys to the Friday night conspiracy of poetic connivers at the Mercury Café open mic, Denver's oldest." - Raymundo Elí Rojas. To order, email gwylmcano@hotmail.com.

Sombra en plata: poemas / Shadow in Silver: Poems : A Bilingual Edition (Hardcover) (Swan Isle Press Dec 2005), Olivia Maciel; Kelly Austin, tran. In her fourth book of poems, Mexican-born Olivia Maciel lyrically evokes another America. She writes with the critical and contemplative eye of a poet, revealing mystery and beauty in places dark and light, near and far. The richly allusive language of *Sombra en plata / Shadow in Silver* is a terrain at times steep, fevered, and sensual: a harmony of words scented of earth and sky. Her poems are catalysts for transformation, challenging the reader with a vision of a world where myth and the quotidian are intimately intertwined. Exploring complex and unpredictable landscapes, Maciel is both a guide and fellow traveler on a fascinating journey through memories and emotions. Maciel eloquently draws from both collective and personal histories, and this new bilingual compilation will be a pleasure to turn to again and again. www.swanislepress.com/intro.html.

The Peruvian Notebooks by Braulio Muñoz on the University of Arizona Press' Camino Del Sol series.

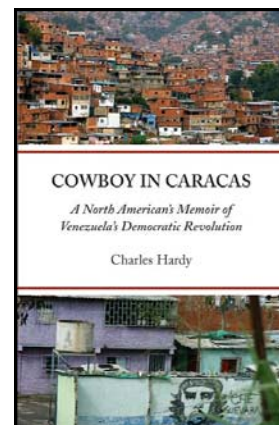
"This lyrical, deeply affecting novel portrays the life of an undocumented Peruvian immigrant to the United States and his struggle and failure to achieve the "American dream." Although Antonio Alday Gutierrez dreams of great success when coming to America, he accepts work as a security guard at a



shopping mall and lives in a modest apartment. To soften the bleak reality of his disappointing life, Antonio invents a privileged Peruvian past to mislead his new American friends. He also sends letters to his family in Peru boasting of a thriving business and large home. This double deception leads Antonio to commit an act of desperation to conceal the drab reality of his new American life.

Cowboy in Caracas: A Personal Account of Venezuela's Democratic Revolution (Curbstone Press ISBN 1931896372 2007), Charles Hardy.

No president today is more controversial than Venezuela's Hugo Chávez Frías. Elected in a landslide in 1998, he promised a peaceful revolution. That peaceful dream became a nightmare when Chávez was overthrown in a coup d'état in 2002. Surprisingly, he was brought back to power by his supporters, mostly barrio dwellers, within forty-eight hours. Although Chavez continues to be dogged by controversy, he stays in power because of these supporters who see themselves as active participants in a democratic revolution. As a former Catholic priest who has lived in Venezuela for the past twenty years and spent eight of those years in a cardboard-and-tin shack in one of Caracas' barrios, Charles Hardy is in a unique position to explain what is taking place. This book gives the reader insight into the Venezuelan reality, using an anecdotal presentation drawn from the writer's personal experiences. www.curbstone.com.



Healing with Herbs (Univ. of New Mexico Press 9780826339614) Eliseo "Cheo" Torres. Timothy L. Sawyer Jr., Editor. *Healing with Herbs and Rituals* is an herbal remedy-based understanding of *curanderismo* and the practice of *yerberas*, or herbalists, as found in the American Southwest and northern Mexico. Part One, "Folk Healers and Folk Healing," focuses on individual healers and their procedures. Part Two, "Green Medicine: Traditional Mexican-American Herbs and Remedies," details traditional Mexican-American herbs and cures. These remedies are the product of centuries of experience in Mexico, heavily influenced by the Moors, Judeo-Christians, and Aztecs, and include everyday items such as lemon, egg, fire, aromatic oil, and prepared water. Symbolic objects such as keys, candles, brooms, and Trouble Dolls are also used. Dedicated, in part, to *curanderos* throughout Mexico and the American Southwest, *Healing with Herbs and Rituals* shows us these practitioners are humble, sincere people who have given themselves to improving lives for many decades. Today's holistic health movement has rediscovered the timeless merits of the *curanderos'* uses of medicinal plants, rituals, and practical advice. www.unmpress.com.

(Continued from "Did You Know" page 2)

Soldaderas: Life Blood of the Revolution. Cinco Puntos Press is proud to present the English edition of a remarkable collaboration between Mexico's best independent press, Ediciones ERA, and Mexico's Institute of Anthropology and History. The photographs of *Las Soldaderas: Women of the Mexican Revolution* and Elena Poniatowska's commentary rescue the women of the Mexican Revolution from the dust and oblivion of history. These are the *Adelitas* and *Valentinas* celebrated in famous *corridos mexicanos*, but whose destiny was much more profound and tragic than the idealistic words of ballads. The photographs remind Poniatowska of the trail of women warriors that begins with the Spanish Conquest and continues to Mexico's violent revolution.

New Chicano Art Magazine



Be sure to cover the new *Chican@ Art Magazine* published by Laura Molina in Los Angeles. It is a great first class production.

www.chicanoartmagazine.com.

Joe Olvera to retire

Joe Olvera has told *Pluma* that he is retiring and working on an E-book, *Sin Fin: A One Way Ticket to Cuba?* *El Paso Times* reporter Diana Washington Valdez will be the publisher. The book should be out shortly. Texas A & M is interested in purchasing Olvera's literary papers and historical accounts. Olvera was one of the poets to be published off of *El Paso Mictla Press* back in the heyday of Chicano(a) poetry. Olvera is one of our last reminders of poets like Ricardo Sánchez and Lalo Delgado.



Olvera says he is working on another book, *Mea Culpa*, a book of essays. Many of Olvera's columns/essays are highly controversial and continue to be so, but his book will be even more controversial. Olvera's says "some of my essays will absolutely blow peoples' minds, and that's great. That's what I'm trying to accomplish, to make people think about religion, politics, Chicano Lit and other aspects of Chicanismo in a new light, a positive, yet challenging look at the world, especially our world."



El Pasoans in Spain

Carlos Morton and **Alicia Gaspar de Alba** both gave us reports from the V International Conference on Chicano Lit in Alcala de Henares, Spain (May 22-25, 2006) where over 30

papers given on Chic Lit, one third from the USA, one third from Spain, and the rest from Germany, Poland, Italy, Greece, Ireland, Sweden, etc. Speakers included Morton, Gaspar de Alba, and **Luis Valdez**. Odalys Nanin screened her film on Sor Juana Inez de la Cruz "The Nun and the Countess." This is a theatrical adaptation of Gaspar de Alba's novel, *Sor Juana's Second Dream*. You can actually log on to the website for the conference if you're interested in getting more information on speakers and papers. **Tiffany Ann López** gave a paper on **Josefina López**, and an Italian scholar gave a paper on **Gulliermo Gómez Peña**.

Where are they Now: Miguel Juárez & Víctor Macías



Miguel Juárez is now the Librarian/Curator of Hispanic/Latino Studies Collections at Texas A&M University at College Station. The *vato* is from El Chuco and it had been a while since we last knew his whereabouts. Miguel is the author of the book *Colors on Desert Walls: The Murals of El Paso* (1997). Historian, **Víctor Macías** lets us know that he is still at the University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse.

Rigo's Other blog

Novelist, poet, and *El Paso Times* book reviewer **Rigoberto**

Authors and publishers — Please send books for review to the address on page 3. Some books may be reviewed for national publications. Please send creative literature (poetry, prose, novel, essay, memoir, biography) and academic non-fiction. **We do not review self-help book, diet books, or "Hispanic" Alberto González type books.**

Editor / layout — Raymundo Elí Rojas

Copyediting — Noemí Herrera

Mistakes / Errors — Benjamín Dejo

Gonzáles sent us a heads up about another part of the web he is blogging. Check it out at: www.poetryfoundation.org/dispatches/journals/index.html#Monday. "Friends, I am blogging about all things poetical and political. Drop in. Drop a response." — Rigo.

Tameme metamorphosis

C.M. Mayo has informed us that *Tameme* (www.tameme.org), originally a bilingual (English/ Spanish) literary journal she founded is being revived as a bilingual chapbook series. The first chapbook is a short story by Mexican writer **Agustín Cadena**, translated by Mayo. The title is "**Carne verde, piel negra / An Avocado from Michoacan.**"

New Journal

Christine Granados asked if we can help promote a new journal coming out of her alma mater Southwest State University in Texas: **The Front Proch Journal**. So to www.frontporchjournal.com, check it out and submit your stuff.

Carlos Callejo Interview

Check out this interview with El Paso artist Carlos Callejo: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=5174935911009382751>.



A look outside of El Paso: Trinidad Sánchez still winning

Happy news from St. Mary's University! The late Trinidad Sánchez, Jr. has won an award posthumously from the President's Peace Commission (PPC), The Art of Peace Award. The PPC is 21 years old now, and is given to people who promote peace and human understanding through their art. The award was awarded in March and was combined with the annual President's Peace Concert. Poets/friends of Trino's read from his work. Interspersed will be musical pieces.



The culmination will be a speech honoring Trino's work and then the personal presentation of the award, a plaque that incorporates a piece of art by Bro. Cletus Behlmann. Regina Chávez y Sánchez, Trino's widow, has

also set up a charitable foundation in Trino's name and a quarterly newsletter. If you would like to be added to the e-mailing or mailing list, please send your e-mail and/or mailing address to here e-mail address below. The purpose of the newsletter is to promote Chicano poetry and advise of publications and honors Trino receives from his death forward. The University of Texas at San Antonio and St. Mary's University will publish one of Trino's books next year. There will be an event honoring Sánchez at Wayne State University in Detroit April 5, 2007. More to follow.....

Contact information:

Regina Chávez y Sánchez
Trinidad Sanchez, Jr. Memorial Foundation
827 Park Avenue West #203
Denver, CO 80205
(303) 954-0954

April's Border Book Festival was a blast

Featured writers included **Poets Against War**, that features the work of some of the U.S.'s top poets including **Martín Espada**, who also serves as Master of Ceremonies, **Sherwin Bitsui**, **Richard Shelton**, **Connie Voisine**, **David Dorado Romo**, **Nancy Green** and Mexican writers **Selfa Chew** and **Osvaldo Ogaz**. Also at the festival were **Malín Alegria**, author of *Estrella's Quinceañera*; **René Colato Laínez**, author of *Loteria* and *Rene, the Boy*; **Mónica Brown**, winner of the 2004 Americas Award for children's literature, author of *My Name is Celia*, about Celia Cruz. The Premio Fronterizo Gala featured **Sandra Cisneros**. The Premio Fronterizo was awarded to Espada.

Other featured writers included: Reyna Grande, author of *Across A Hundred Mountains*; **Sherwin Bistui**; Navajo poet and recent winner of the Whiting Poetry award, **Richard Shelton**, University of Arizona professor and director of the longest running prison writing workshops in the U.S.; Mexican poet **Osvaldo Ogaz** who is Arts Director of La Escuela de Mejoramiento para Menores in Juárez, a Juvenile prison; and Chinese Mexican poet **Selfa Chew**. Also there were **David Dorado Romo** and **Connie Voisine** an assistant professor of creative writing at New Mexico State University and author of *Cathedral of the North*, winner of the 2001 AWP Prize in Poetry. **Rus Bradburd**, author of *Paddy on the Hardwood* offered a Plática/talk on fiddling and basketball that features Irish music by the Deming Fusiliers. Poet, translator and historian **Estevan Arellano** gave a plática/talk on Ancient Agriculture and writers **Steve Beisner** and **Melinda Palacio** offered a Family Story writing workshop, "Remembering Who We Are." Participants who join the workshop will have their work featured on Ink Byte, an online zine.

Other featured festival artists include **Micaela Seidel**, puppeteer, writer and fabric artist and **Michelle Otero**

Don't miss next year's festival. Keep up at www.borderbookfestival.com.

Book review

Childhood in El Paso

By Carlos Morton

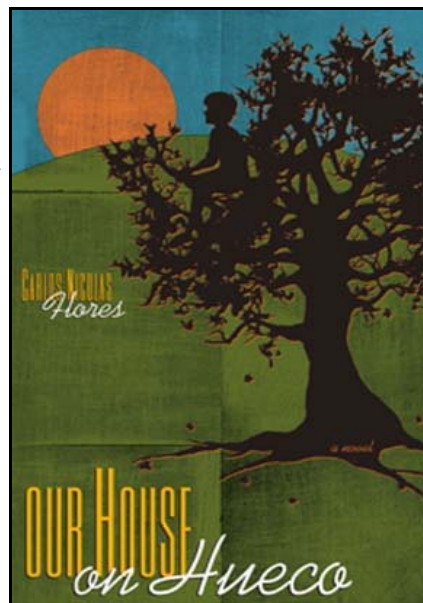
CARLOS NICOLÁS FLORES, *OUR HOUSE ON HUECO*, Texas Tech University Press, 2006, 234 pages.

Think of this new book by Carlos Flores as a Chicano "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Vato." The only part I didn't like was the title. No, Flores wasn't trying to "imitate" Sandra Cisneros. The editors at Texas Tech University Press changed what used to be called "The Mulberry Tree," a much better title about growing up in El Paso in the 1950's. The seed for this grew out of a conversation the author had with his wife Dora who suggested he write "an inspiring and uplifting book" for young readers. This Flores has done in a moving and extremely well crafted way.

It's a marked departure from Flores' earlier work where the main character, Americo, is ever present. Told from the first person, "Our House on Hueco" looks at the world through the eyes of a precocious ten year old boy. Junior and his family have just escaped from the El Segundo Barrio with its *tirilongos*, violence and poverty to a house near Five Points in the Anglo part of town. But they are so poor the father, a displaced U.S. Veteran of Puerto Rican descent, has the family of four living in a one room *subterráneo* or basement with a makeshift kitchen and no bathroom. They rent out the top part of the house to an Anglo serviceman and his family in order to pay the mortgage. Junior's mother, a humble woman from Juárez, feels humiliated because they have to ask permission from their *gringo* tenants to use the bathroom. Mom, by the way, is deeply suspicious of any *gringos* although we never learn why.

However, Junior and his little brother Rafa make friends with the *gringitos* playing "pirates," with the whites playing the English and the Mexicans playing the Spanish pirates. Mom makes extra money ironing the Sergeant's uniforms. One day during an argument with Pop over his alleged womanizing she burns a jacket which causes Sarge to make some disparaging remarks about Mexicans in general and Mom in particular. Junior overhears this, feeling the pain and rage (a la Ricardo Sanchez) of growing up Mexican. Meanwhile Pop gets beaten up by some Mexican co-workers who are jealous of his seeming prosperity and even burn part of the house on Hueco Street down.

This is a real growing up on the border story, with its interplay of Latino and Anglo, a world that Flores, based in Laredo, Texas, has experienced all his life. It echoes the humor of Tony Burciaga like when Mom tells Junior: "Dile al gringo que no soy una zanahoria" because Sarge keeps calling her "sanoria" instead of señora. It's about *la mera Chicanada*, not some pretty little tale about so called Hispanics who happen to live on a street named after an exotic tropical fruit.



Carlos Morton is professor of Chicano Studies and Theatre at the University of California, Santa Barbara

Other news

Authors Return home

Pluma Fronteirza was glad to have Carlos Flores return to El Paso. While viisting, he read from his bookall across the city including at a fundraiser for "EL Paso Counts," El Paso Community College, UTEP, Quetzacoatl Café, at a Tumblewords workshop, and his alma mater Austin High School. He also went up the road to the Cultural Center de Mesilla

John Rechy was back in the hometown to read from his works back in September. The acclaimed author and UTEP alumnus John Rechy gave a reading of his works at Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center at UTEP. He was honored for his contributions to literature with a gala at the Tomas Rivera Conference Center, UTEP

Sign My Book, cont. from p. 5

discussion with Brain Campbell, Special Asst to the Director Philadelphia Mural Arts Program (MAP); Timothy Drescher, Berkeley, CA; and Melissa Nelson, Community Outreach Manager, Dallas Museum of Art.

Michelle Otero reads in Austin

In October, Red Salmon Arts presented a reading and book signing by the author of *Malinche's Daughter*, Chicana writer **Michelle Otero**. Otero was raised along



the U.S.-Mexico border in Deming, New Mexico. As a Fulbright Fellow, she taught creative writing workshops for women survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Oaxaca, Mexico. She is a founding member of **The Women Writers' Collective**, an El Paso based group that highlights the talents of women writers and artists while raising awareness of women's issues. A graduate of

Harvard University and Vermont College, she lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. To contact Michelle Otero, visit: www.womenwriterscollective.org.

3rd Annual A River of Voices Rising

The 3rd Annual A River of Voices Rising reading was held in October 2006 at the Center Against Family Violence. Stay tuned for other events of the **Women's Writers Collective** at www.womenwriterscollective.org/calendar.html.

Tejanos visit the Big Apple:

Christine Granados and **Sergio Troncoso** read along with **Rigoberto González** (who reviews books for the *El Paso Times*), at several locations in the Gran Mansana in November 06. Joining them were writers **Erasmo Guerra**, **Ada Limón**. Granados, Troncoso, and Guerra are featured in Dagoberto Gilb's latest anthology *Hecho en Tejas: An Anthology of Texas Mexican Literature*, which was just published by University of New Mexico Press. The event was hosted by Puerto Rican poet **Urayoán Noel**.



Al Soto gives Tumblewords Workshop in EPT

Al Soto gave several **Tumblewords workshop** in the home town in October. Soto manages several Chicano/Latino/Mexicano cultural and political electronic bulletin boards. He recently was a panelist in the Epiphany Events Literary Festival, and presented several creative writing workshops in the Tumblewords Project. Soto's work has

been published in *Chrysalis 2004*, *Muse II* and *Muse III*, and others poems are forthcoming. Professionally he works as a business consultant and teaches entrepreneurship. By avocation, he strives to facilitate the development of developing writers, artists, and film makers. As such, he is active in Tumblewords Project, Meta4, and various other literary groups, as well as slams and open mikes in the area. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Soto's hobbies include flying light and ultra-light airplanes, Aztlán history and myths from around the world, as well as rejuvenating at local area hot springs.

EPCC Events

In October, at El Paso Community College's "La Noche de Cultura," featured was the Art Work of **Francisco Romero** & a Literary Performance by **Denise Chávez**.

Carlos Flores Returns Home

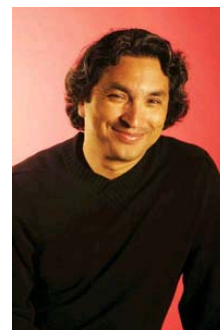
Carlos Flores visited the hometown at the end of last summer reading from his book *House on Huaco Street*.

Granados visits Dallas

Christine Granados read in Dallas in October 06 at the Dallas Public Library. She read from her book *Brides and Sinners en El Chuco* with **Diane Gonzáles Bertrand** and **Diana López** as part of the Texas Latino Voices series presented by the Texas Center for the Book. Also that month, she spoke at the Southwest Writers and Artists Festival at Texas A&M University, College Station.

Playwright Octavio Solis

Octavio Solis' new play "Marfa Lights" premiered at West Texas State University A&M in Canyon, Texas in October 06 and then at St. Mary's University in Moraga, California in November 2006. In August 2006, the nationally-renowned company Cornerstone Theatre presented the premiere of "Lethe," Solis' new play for seniors and caregivers, at the Presentation Theatre on the campus of the University of San Francisco. Solis' play "Gibraltar" premiered at Thick Description theatre in November, and in December, "La Posada Magica," his annual Christmas play opened at South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa, CA.



Pluma editor mediated a panel called "Growing Up Beef: KU Students Discuss Meat-Packing Towns"

Raymundo Elí Rojas mediated a panel on beef towns for the University of Kansas Student-Labor Week last spring. Check out Sylvia Maria Gross' story: KANSAS CITY, MO (2006-08-21) "As two gubernatorial candidates of Kansas both came out in support of a state policy making

(Continued in "SIGN MY BOOK" on page 26)

(Continued from "Diablo" page 7)

most comes to mind is the "Diablo projects." Their real name was the Paisano Projects, which were at the corner of Hammett Blvd. and Paisano Drive. Pérez places these as being built before or right at the beginning of WWII. Morales has them already existing by 1953:

Prieto, Caulfield and Webber streets ran through the project. Webber was named for an individual who owned property south of this ear near the Webber banco. This housing project was built in June 1952 as 'Project Tex 3-4' or 'Paisano Place.' It comprised fifty-six brick buildings, providing homes for 306 families, close to 1000 people.

"Those projects are now gone...replaced with open development spaces, and U.S. Immigration transportation inspection and border crossings to and from Mexico," says Al Soto. The projects would host outdoor movies and kids could play ball in the project basketball courts. The projects were witness to "groovy" backyard parties playing 45 rpm records. This is where kids learned to dance, boyfriends and girlfriends matched up, kids played "free fall all football" at grass park area at the Paisano end. Soto remembers the president's "fitness" program and looking back on it describes the program's true goal was to get barrio kids ready for Viet Nam.

Tinajero remembers some *presidio*-style apartments elsewhere in the *barrio*.

Barrioing around

There was a neighborhood baseball team, more of sandlot league called Old "Sunkings" baseball team. In the *barrio del Diablo* there were such businesses such as The Hammett Store, Hammett Dry Cleaners, a store called Popocatepec, which they called "El Pop," at Paisano Drive and Hammett Blvd. El Popo was a place of frequent snow cones, or *raspas*, for hot El Paso days, or *daze*.

Soto remembers staying up late and watching cars of people going to concerts or functions at the Coliseum. For a fee, they would take care of your car, 50 cents to \$1.00 per car. They would watch the cars so that there was no "stealing cars or their hub caps, no breaking in to cars, or slashing of tires."

"The hardest part," says Soto, "was finding a flash light to flag cars into your parking area, but the best part was listening to James Brown from the outside." Soto describes other lollygagging, such as walking the Franklin Canal when it was empty and looking for crawdaddys, being a patrol boy at Bursleson Elementary. "We had a lot of absent fathers," says Soto. "I remember that, but we managed for ourselves and became our own culture. Some thought not to have a father was natural. Later, it was not acceptable to be raised without a father, but back then, no one cared. Knowing that there was a lot of alcoholics, maybe it was a blessing not having drunken fathers around." Pérez on the other hand says, "My mother was very strict with us. She would always hold our hands

outside. She would not allow us to talk to boys."

Fisher-West describes *Diablo* having its houses as a mix of house yard, junkyard, and farm. People kept animals, raising chickens and fighting cocks.

The street, Tinajero, puts it, was his playfield. "I remember playing baseball in the street, *pate el bote, quemada*. We had a real good time because we did not know we were poor." Sometimes families went by last names and nicknames. When you said "Los Martinez," Tinajero says you knew who about they were talking. "There were 'Los Hueros.'" Pérez remembers names of families, like the Pérez called "Los Peewas," the Salcidos, Torres who were musicians. She remember artist Manuel Acosta, the Tinajeros, the Morenos, the Sotos."

"Barrio boys married barrio girls," says Pérez. "Many got married right before their husbands left for serve in World War II." "Then those men that were left," adds Pérez, "the women saw them, the 4-Fs, as damaged goods. They couldn't get a girl. However, it was a change for us girls too because all the Mexican men were gone, but many gringo soldiers were brought into Ft. Bliss during the war, so we started dating them!" A typical date back then include going to Washington Park or Downtown, but Perez states some families like hers were strict. "Many romances took place in the alleys, sneaking out and meeting boys."

Mentioned earlier, Perez remembers the projects being built just before World War II. "Before La Jeff and Burlson, all of us went to la Bowie," says Pérez. Perez remembers songs like "Hace un año" and "Canción Mixteca" ringing out from the *barrio*. "Oh, we were a musical family," says Ignacio Tinajero. We were all into rock n' roll in the 1950s, but we were still fond of song like 'Adios mi chaparrita' and 'La bartola,' plus that was the time of the *trio románticos*."

Diablos

Al Soto recalls waiting for homeruns and pop up fouts. They could use the ball as souvenirs or a free ticket to get into the field. He says balls would collect in the Franklin Canal just over the outfields and the south entrance where pop up foul balls behind home plate. Morales places Dudley Field being built around 1925. Before that, there seems to have been a baseball field in its location. At the beginning of reaseach for this article, Dudley Field, our childhood minor league baseball stadium was still standing. A year later in 2006 when I returned home, it was gone.

Washington Park and The Coliseum

Washington Park was a local attraction for *los del Diablo*. It was dedicated in 1923, though Rafael Torres, author of *Return to Aztlán* mentions Charles K. Hamilton, "The Birdman," flew into El Paso in his plane earlier. Torres says Hamilton "fascinated all those who watched him fly briefly just above the cottonwood trees in Washington Park...the first man and machine to fly in El Paso.

Upon landing, Hamilton had to drag his feet on

(Continued in "Diablo" on page 22)

Diablo continued from p. 20

the ground to avoid crashing into a fence; the planes didn't have any brakes in those days." Torres even describes "seen world famous birdmen" putting on an aviation show at Washington Park in 1911. It featured a racetrack.

However, most popular to Diablo residents was its swimming pool. Soto remembers how on the 4th of July, the pool would host a diving for watermelons in which you had to dive from the high board. In addition, you could have picnics in the park area that is now the El Paso Zoo. Perez looks back even earlier in her life with one of her fondest memories was the park's playground. The park also had amusement and rides. Soto tells Washington Park being the place of his first kickoff return, softball games, and right field homeruns over the fence. There was also a Boys Club. Morales describes the trolley, or streetcar, came to Washington Park and would circle the park. Morales also put a clubhouse and nine-hole golf course being built around 1906 near the land that is now Dudley Field.

In 1925, the Rio Grande overflowed swallowing a good deal of South El Paso leaving 300 people without homes. The flood also left many people living east of Washington Park, "especially Ascarate...ruined by floodwaters." Morales describes Major Jackson from Fort Bliss ordering "relief quarters to be set up in Washington Park for the refugees." However, by 1925, Washington Park had a "zoo, tennis courts" and the swimming pool of memory to many (Morales, 10). In addition, the city build Dudley Field. (Morales, 10). The Fiesta de las Flores was held yearly at the baseball field at Washington Park. LULAC still hosts the fiesta annually, though the last time I went it had moved to the Coliseum's parking lot and it just wasn't the same.

The El Paso Coliseum, which has gain notoriety of late, as the stomping grounds of the late professional wrestler Eddie Guerrero, was first built as the Livestock Exposition and Rodeo building in 1942. After a contest promoted by the *El Paso Herald-Post*, says Morales, it was renamed the "El Paso Coliseum." "I remember Italian prisoners being kept at the Coliseum," says Perez. "And before that, there was a big lake where the Coliseum now is." Morales dates the POWs at the Coliseum starting in 1943 and going until March 1944. Morales also indicates, "To the west of the Coliseum water often gathered in a large pond," which may be the lake Pérez speak of (Morales, 18).

DizzyLand

It was an unfortunate stench and *Diablo* was located near the sewage treatment plant, called "Dizzyland" or "Disneyland" by many *Diablo* residents who tell of the dizziness they would get from the stink. It is easy to imagine the stench. The old and new water treatment plants were nearby. Before the 1940s, the trash disposal center was nearby with its incinerator. The yearly rodeo beginning in the 1940s brought the stench of animals and their excrement, so attests Soto. Starting in 1964, says Morales, "more than 10,000 cattle" would feed at the old

Peyton Packing Co. on Cordova Island. (Morales 25). "Payton slaughtered 500 cattle and 100 hogs daily," writes Morales. "When the breezes were from the wrong direction, many residents living near the packing company complained of the annoying odors from the feed lots."

The Chamizal Treaty

Morales states that the International boundary Water Commission "established an information center at 913 S. Hammett Street to assist Córdoba Island residents..." This may have been where Abelardo B. Delgado worked out of when he worked for the commission. When the government began buying people out of their houses, not all went peacefully. Morales describes a Mrs. Valentin Hernández of 3520 Oak Ct., as well as other residents petitioning for land on the north end of the island. (26). Later, Enrique and Margarita Meza of 3425 Delta filed a suit in federal court against the commission. I am not sure this house was part of *Diablo* though. Nevertheless, by 1965, Morales indicates most that lived on Cordova Island had already made plans to move. This with met with some tears by some and "good riddens" by others.

However, with the Chamizal Treaty, several facilities were uprooted.

Morales describes the City sanitation fill transferred to Delta, and I'm sure the *Diablo* resident were happy about this. The sewage treatment plant followed. It "had to be replaced because the new boundary divided the plant from the drying pits and other water and sewage systems had to be installed..." (26).

The U.S. Border Patrol headquarters that use to be on the Island was transferred. Also transferred were Navarro Elementary School, Córdoba Gardens, and parts of Woodlawn. The neighborhood homes in Córdoba Gardens were



demolished. When the land became part of Mexico, Morales says it was used as a "multi-acre sports arena...." (28). The new river channel cut most of Córdoba Gardens off from the rest of *Diablo* territory.

Navarro Elementary School, found itself on the Mexican side after the Chamizal Treaty and was renamed

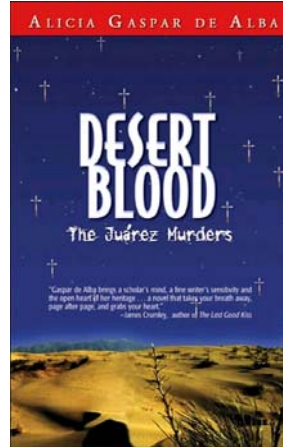
(Continued in "Diablo" on page 23)

Diablo continued from p. 20

"Adolfo Lopez Mateos Preparatorio."

The border highway project began in 1966. According to Morales, the first stretch was built between S. Latta St. and Coles. Delta Drive was extended to cross the US side of Cordova Island. A connection from Cordova Island was connected to I-10 and to what is now the Patriot Hwy (Hwy 54). Ester Pérez says many of the families relocated because of Hwy 54 and went to El Paso's lower valley.

Morales describes how this connection "was routed from Córdoba Island across Alameda Avenue, Frutas Street, Rosa Street, Durazno Avenue (near the Lincoln barrio), and then over Gateway East Boulevard, the I-10 frontage road and dipping down passed under Yandell Drive as it became the depressed section of the North-South Freeway." (parentheses comments added.) This "interchange," as Morales calls it, was built near St. Francis Xavier at 519 S. Latta Street. Unfortunately, some houses had to be demolished. With these Interstate system structures, the neighborhood around St. Francis Xavier became an enclosed one with the 3700 and 3800 blocks of Findley and San Antonio Streets and the 400 and 500 blocks of Stevens, S. Latta and Gateway South streets." (Morales 29.) Nevertheless, even after the building to the bridge, there were still houses directly east of the port of entry center and even west of the water treatment plant south of Delta Drive. (picture in Feb. 1969 in Morales). However, by the end of the 20th Century, the land east of the port of entry was quickly being converted into use for semi-truck inspection.



Vélez remembers San Xavier in Stories from the Barrio and Other 'Hoods

El Diablo

Barrio del Diablo in El Paso shares its nickname with various "barrio del Diablos" all over the world. Lubbock, Texas has or a *Barrio del Diablo*. Chilean poet Jesús Sepulveda writes of a *barrio del Diablo* in his country. I have heard of one in Cali, Columbia. It was not unusual for the Devil to appear in South Texas, as well as Presidio, as shown in Carmen Tafolla's story "La Purísima" or in Arestio Brito's the *Devil in Texas*.



Tomás Rivera also takes a turn in his story "It Was a Silvery Night" from his classic book *...y no se lo tragó la tierra*. This story was recently turned into a play by El Paso's Carlos Morton. Then there is other references like Hell's Kitchen on "New York City's West Side between 14th and 52nd Streets, and Eighth Avenue and the waterfront, and the Tenderloin just to the east...." Hitting even closer to home is El Paso's *Segundo Barrio* which had *presidio* tenements called *Sies Infernos* (Six Hells), where poets such as Juan Contreras were raised. There are several explanations why the *barrio* was called "El Diablo." Soto says the *barrio* might

have been named mostly for the fear, and mystic of the fierce fighters of *el Barrio del Diablo*. Some were boxers or trained in boxing and athletic. "A lot of us were athletic and feared for that prowess. That was exemplified on the playing field. *El Diablo* sports teams dominated most sports we were in."

However, Ester Pérez remembers a much older use of "Diablo," well before WWII. This coincides with the description that Fred Morales gives in his book saying the name goes back to 1928. Morales says Franciscan fathers:

used to gather a congregation on Sunday to worship along the Rio Grande about a half-mile from 519 S. Latta Street where the St. Francis Xavier Church

(Continued on NEXT PAGE)

DEL DIABLO TERRITORY

now stands. Cedar groves were plentiful in those days and the Franciscans constructed 'pistas' out of the branches to shade the people from the sun. As the story goes, every time a group gathered to pray, a strong gust of wind would blow away the branches, but the group continued to pray. On day a father cried, '*Estas son hechera del Diablo*,' or "these are the works of the devil," hence the name *Barrio del Diablo* was given to the area

So were the memories of El Barrio del Diablo. Some good some bad, just like any other barrio as Ester Perez says. And why not, wasn't el diablo once good before he got kicked out of heaven and became bad.

FIN

NOTES

1. Sánchez, Ricardo. *Canto y grito mi liberación: The Liberation of a Chicano Mind* Soul. "Desmadrazco," p. 35.
2. Interview with Alejandro Rojas, Nov. 7, 2000.
3. Sánchez, Ricardo. *Canto y grito mi liberación: The Liberation of a Chicano Mind* Soul. "Mina o Quina." p. 119.
4. Email interview with Al Soto.
5. Interview with Ester Pérez, September 2005.
6. Interview with Ignacio Tinajero, Summer 2004.
7. Morales, Fred. *Córdova Island*, self published, 2002, 19.
8. Morales, Fred. p. 4.
9. Historian Leon Metz in his book *El Paso: Guided Through Time* also mentions the importance of Hammett Blvd., 168.
10. Córdova Island, or La Isla, was a island of land created by the shift of the Río Grande. The shift left a dry riverbed on the north (around Paisano Drive) and the Río Grande on its southern boundary. When the river shifted south, it left a large chunk of land belonging to Mexico on the north side of the river. *La Isla* was divided by a border fence or markers at several locations. The river shift left land in dispute, not only between the two countries but also by various land owners and later the *ejido* land distribution.
11. Morales, 21 (Sic.).
12. Fischer-West, Lucy. *Child of Many Rivers*, Texas Tech Univ Press: Lubbock (2005), 95.
13. The Chamizal Treaty was a landmark and peaceful end to the long dispute over *La Isla*. The treating was signed with great fanfare including visits and signature by both countries' presidents.
14. Sánchez, Ricardo. *Hechizospells*, Creative Series Chicano Studies Center Univ. of California, Los Angeles: Los Angeles (1976), 35.
15. Morales, Fred, 4.
16. Morales, 4.
17. Morales says the addition stretched to "Frutas Street and the G.H. and S.A. railroad on the north, Steven's Street to the west, Boone Street on the east, and Oak Street and the Río Grande to the south." (Sic.) 4.
18. Morales at 5. Also see García, Mario T., *Desert Immigrants: The Mexicans of El Paso, 1880-1920*. Yale Univ. Press (1982).
19. Morales, 5.
20. Morales, 6.
21. Villegas, Adrian. "Barrio Daze," text taken from performance (1998).
22. Morales, 9.
23. Morales, 18.
24. Morales, 18.
25. Morales, 18.
26. Morales, 19.
27. *Ibid.*
28. Morales, 17.
29. *Hechizospells*, 145-8. In Ricardo Sánchez book *Canto y Grito mi liberación*, El Paso artist and former *Barrio del Barrio* resident, Manuel Acosta made several sketches for the book, which can be seen as being sketches of *Barrio del Diablo*.
30. Del Diablo Territory
31. El Paso Sewage Plant near *el diablo*
32. Flores 14.
33. *Ibid.*
34. 50.
35. Morales 14.
36. *Ibid.*
37. Morales 16.
38. *Ibid.*
39. A History of St. Francis Xavier Church, reprinted in Morales (2002).
40. Vélez, Margarita. *Stories from the Barrio and other 'Hoods,'* Writers Club Press: Lincoln (2001), 15.
41. *Ibid.*
42. Vélez, 49.
43. Fischer-West, 68.
44. *Ibid.*

40 Years Ago, He Help Start It All

With These 25 Pieces,
A Renaissance in Chicano Poetry was Started

The Delgado Family has republished an edition
of the first anthology of Chicano(a) poetry in
the Chicano Renaissance

Chicano: 25 Pieces of a Chicano Mind

By the late Poet Laureate of Aztlán

Abelardo B. "Lalo" Delgado

Poems include "Rio Grande," "La Huelga," "La
raza," "el 16 de septiembre," "el barrio," "la
revolución," and the ever popular "Stupid
America"

*lalo — fat gut, cool soul chicano
wearing Tejano hat
and
your bearing recalls
brown powered bears growling...
- Ricardo Sánchez*

Please send money order for \$14.00 (\$12.00
+ \$2.00 Shipping and Handling) to: 6538
Eaton, Arvada, Colorado 80003. Make checks
or money orders payable to "Dolores
Delgado." PF asks you consider making
financial donations to Lalo's widow in excess to
the books cost. Thank you.

Publishings

Roberto Pérez Díaz, Joe Olvera, Granados

The *Bilingual Review* Vol. 27, No. 3 recently published Roberto Pérez Díaz' short story "Strike Out!" Check out this wonderful article by Joe Olvera on *The Newspaper Tree*. Click [HERE](#) to read. I guess I missed this in the *EP Times*, but CLICA sent it over to us: "Author Christine Granados, whose most recent book is titled "Brides and Sinners in El Chuco," sent her thoughts on the death of Freddy Fender: www.elpasotimes.com/breakingnews/ci_4500155. The El Paso Times doesn't keep archives anymore so try to catch this on the web somewhere.

Ortego still on a roll

Dr. Felipe Ortego y Gasca's article "Mexican American Literature: Reflections and a Critical Guide" was included in the 3rd edition of *Chicano Studies: Survey and Analysis* which is edited by many of the Chicano Studies professors at UTEP. Ortego also signed an article on "Chicano Poetry" in the 2006 *Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Poets and Poetry*, Volume 1: A-C, 265-268. He also published "Education Standards in an Age of Diminishing Resources," *Chicano Critical Review*, on-line publication for Chicano Issues, March 18, 2006 and "Rules of the Game: How to Succeed in Life," *Chicano Critical Review*, on-line publication for Chicano Issues, March 25, 2006. Other recent publications include:

- "Reflections on More Than Half a Century of Teaching," *Tomorrow's Professor Digest*, on-line publication of the Stanford University Center for Teaching and Learning, Volume 4, Issue 7, May 17, 2006. Reprinted in *SANTEC Newsletter* in collaboration with Thutong, South Africa Education Portal, May 18, 2006. Also reprinted in *Drazhev's World*, May 19, 2006. And reprinted in *Teaching Matters: Newsletter of the Center for Teaching Effectiveness*, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Volume 6, Fall 2006.
- "Lest Darkness Overtake Me" (memoir from *Bravo Road*—an autobiography in progress) *Newspaper Tree*, El Paso, Texas, May 29, 2006.
- "Lies Like Truth: Discourse Issues in Language," *Plagiarism: Journal of Cross-Disciplinary Issues in Plagiarism, Fabrication, and Falsification*, on-line peer-reviewed publication of the Office of Scholarly Publications, University of Michigan, Volume 1, June 26, 2006. Hard copy in *Plagiarism Annual*, 2006.
- "Melting Pot Too Spicy?" commentary published in the *Maui Weekly.com* (Hawaii), July 13, 2006.
- "Con Ganas Ganas! The Fire Within," *Chicano Critical Review*, on-line publication for Chicano Issues, August 5, 2006. Text of Keynote presentation at the College Assistance Migrant Program, First CAMP Academic Recognition Banquet, "Harvest of Hope: The Ganas Factor," Texas A&M University-Kingsville, April 22, 2006.

He also presented "Making the Grade: Freshmen Students and the ISB Model—Developmental Patterns in Information Seeking Behavior of First Semester University Students in HSI Institutions" (with Dr. Gilda Baeza Ortego, Report of a research proposal), 3rd Annual Conference on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Center for Teaching Effectiveness, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, April 7, 2006. For the Hispanic Heritage Month Program this year (September 16-October 12), he presented a Brown Bag Lecture on "Demography and Destiny: Hispanic Texas in the 21st Century—Implications of Minority to Majority Shift in the Tejano Population. Ortego was also reappointed for a third year (2006-2007) to the Advisory Board of the Mayborn Literary Non-Fiction Conference hosted by the Graduate School Journalism at the University of North Texas.

Muse

Pluma has been informed that the *Muse* is finish! It includes EPCC Non-Profit Poetry Club chapbook review and *MUSE* covers history. Included are Amalio Madueno, Carlos Del Campo, Audyn Quintana, Jesse G. Herrera, Donna Snyder, Betty Ruiz, Nancy L. Green, Diego Salazar, Juan M. Perez, Ray Ramos, Alonzo Sotelo, Manny Garcia, Louis Ruiz, Uriel Marquez, Josh Ronquillo. www.myspace.com/lesliexxx.

Hecho in Tejas by Chucotes

We'll talk more about Rigo's anthology of Texas writers in our new books by El Pasoans section., but to mention the El Pasoans included:

- Sergio Troncoso had his story "A Rock Trying To Be A Stone" published.

Sign My Book, cont. from p. 19

English the official language, some University of Kansas students disagree. In a panel on campus about the meat-packing industry, three students talked about growing up in the immigrant communities surrounding slaughterhouses and plants. Here are some excerpts from that conversation; the moderator was KU law student Ray Rojas, and participants were graduate students Crystal Viurquez and Rebecca Crosthwait, and law student Leo Prieto." <http://tinyurl.com/jtq8b>. Here it is again -- try pasting it into your browser. www.publicbroadcasting.net/kcur/news.newsmain?action=article&ARTICLE_ID=957250§ionID=570.

Or here's a shorter link: <http://tinyurl.com/jtq8b>.

First Great Southwest Book Fair

The First Great Southwest Book Fair took place in September, much to the criticism of many Chicano(a) writers of EPT for the lack of Chicano(a) presence. The event is chaired by Asia Zaragoza and sponsored by KTSM-Channel 9 and the Adair Margo Gallery of El Paso. The fair was hosted by the El Paso Saddleblanket. Thirty seven authors participated including Coach Don Haskins, Laurie Beth Jones, Billie Sol Estes, Wyman Meinzer and Leon Metz.

BorderSenses Open Mic

BorderSenses & the El Paso Public Library hosted a Poetry Open Mic / Slam for Young Adults at the end of June last summer at the El Paso Public Library Downtown. Teens and young adults are invited read their poetry with special guests Hip hop artists GETTONESS & "FUNKY BLESSED." It was hosted by Poets **Emmy Pérez & Ray Ramos** of BorderSenses' Spoken & Written Word Poetry Project. BorderSenses' Spoken Word project is partially funded by a City of El Paso Arts & Culture grant. BorderSenses' Spoken & Written Word Poetry Project for El Paso Youth & the Lower Valley Branch Library also hosted a Spoken Word Poetry Reading & Workshop for teens/young adults - featuring **Griselda Liz "La Rana" Muñoz** in July 06 at the Lower Valley Branch Library. Griselda Liz "La Rana" Muñoz is a spoken word poet and social activist born and raised in El Paso, TX. She writes mostly about contemporary political themes affecting Mestizo society today, with a pro-Chicana stance. She was the first place winner at the poetry slam at the Texas Street Rasquache Festival in November 2005 & has performed for famed social justice activist leader Dolores Huerta and opened for "The Visionaries," a nationally known and touring spoken-word hip-hop crew. Most recently she read alongside poet Jimmy Santiago Baca at Club 101.

For more information on this special reading and workshop, please visit BorderSenses at www.bordersenses.com & www.bordersenses.com/spoken_word or contact Project Director, Emmy Pérez at eperez@bordersenses.com.

BorderSenses and Sage Literary Alliance also presented in December "A Poetic Night and Open Mic" at Mangos Eatery (7106 North Mesa).

More at EPCC

El Paso Community College Spring Arts Festival presented "Howls in the Desert: Mujeres Escritoras," a Literary Event featuring **Sehba Sarwar** and Special Guest Readers, in March. Sehba Sarwar's critically-acclaimed, first novel, *Black Wings* was published in 2004 through Alhamra Publishing. Born in Karachi, Pakistan, Sehba is presently based in Houston, Texas, where she serves as Founding Director of Voices Breaking Boundaries, a non-profit multi-media arts organization, and co-hosts a radio show and is involved in the anti-war/ pro-immigration movement. Recipient of several artist awards from Houston's Cultural Arts Council, Sehba's fiction/poetry has been published in anthologies in the US, Pakistan and India. She contributes to *The News* and *Chowrangi* while working on a second novel. The book signing and reception was hosted by EPCC PaPaGayo Literary Center and Women Writers' Collective (www.womenwriterscollective.org). Also, poets **Javier Huerta** and **Selfa Chew**, along with fiction writer **Juan Alvarez**, read in El Paso at Ripe's Cafe at 7pm.

Ana Castillo reads in the valley

In February 07, **Ana Castillo** performed at NMSU and also gave a workshop. www.anacastillo.com/ac/index.html.

Rocío Cerón visit

In September, the Creative Writing Department at UTEP hosted two bilingual poetry events featuring **Rocío Cerón**, a poet, publisher, and cultural promoter from Mexico City. First, Cerón gave a lecture titled "Poetry Deliveries: Getting Poetry to the People" and later that evening she gave a poetry reading. Rocío Cerón has published several books of poetry, including *Basalto* and *Apuntes para sobrevivir al aire*. She is co-editor of the anthology *El decir y el vértigo. Panorama de la poesía hispanoamericana reciente (1965-1979)*. Her poetry has been frequently anthologized, most recently in *Los mejores poemas mexicanos*. The recipient of many grants and literary awards, Cerón has published essays on literature and art in a number of journals. She currently edits *Ediciones El Billar de Lucrecia*, a press dedicated to contemporary Latin American Poetry, and is also co-founder of the collective *MofínPoeta*, which has recently produced *Urbe Probeta*, a CD of poetry and electronic music.



Luna takes the wind out of the Windy City

(Continued in "SIGN MY BOOK" on page 13)