

LA VOZ DE BRAZORIA

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Linda Escobar Continues with Conjunto Music

With over 30 years in the music business, **Linda Escobar** continues to keep alive the tradition of conjunto music. One of her latest CDs is *Llorando en Silencio* with the title song *El Corrido de Kenji*.

She is one of the organizers of the annual **Eligio Escobar Conjunto Festival**. For more information on **Linda Escobar** and her band visit the website: www.linda.escobar.com



Dr. Leticia Garza-Falcon Returns to Austin, Texas

After five years at the **University of Colorado in Denver**, **Dr. Garza-Falcon** has returned to Texas. The author of *Gente Decente* and other publications, she will resume her teaching, research writing career from **Austin**.

She received her undergraduate degree from **California State University Hayward** and her masters degree from **Pan American University** in the valley.



Muñoz Sanchez Looking Forward to Graduating with Ph.D in Education

Janie Muñoz Sanchez believes in distance education. For the past five years she has commuted from her Sugarland home to the **University of Texas at Austin** while working on her Ph.D in education.

She graduated from **UT** in 1994 and then went on to **Carnegie Mellon University** in Pittsburgh for her masters degree in Public Policy in 1997.



Paredes Elected Chair of PRI in Mexico

Beatriz Paredes, a party activist and former college professor in **Mexico City** has just won election as the chairperson of the **PRI, Partido Institucional Revolucionario**.

Once the party in power for over 70 years, the **PRI** was beaten by the **PAN** in 2000 when **Vicente Fox** become the president of **Mexico**. **Paredes**, who is 53 is the first woman to ever hold the post of this 50 million member political party



Justo R. Garcia Marched From Laredo to Austin

Justo Garcia, activista en el estado de **Tejas**, y el encabezado de un grupo llamado **MADRES**, inicio una marcha en **Laredo**, **Texas** en el mes de **Febrero** para atraer atencion a las problemas en las escuelas. El **Senor Garcia** llego a **Austin** el 6 de marzo con cienes de personas con el. Los 240 millas por supuesto causo delor fisico pero ayudo enfocar la atencion en lo que esta pasando en las escuelas.

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Editorial



Alfredo R. Santos c/s Editor

Here is an interesting question we should all ask ourselves. Why is it that after more than 2000 years, the story of a man who was crucified on a wooden cross continues to capture the attention, allegiance and admiration of millions of people? Why is it that **Mel Gibson** can make a movie that brings in millions of people to see once more a story they are already familiar with?

I certainly do not have the answer. But if I had to venture a guess I would say that millions of people around the world continue to believe because the death of **Jesus Christ** is part and parcel of the fundamental beliefs upon which Christianity is built. For millions of people, whether they are professed Christians or only go to church once a year, the idea that a man would die for them remains a powerful testament to the virtue we call love.

To be sure the idea of love has become a commodity that is now sold in the market-place in its various representations. Today the word love is used casually and as a cheap adjective by those who chose to make fashion statements. For the most part, the idea of love and the deep meanings of sacrifice, pain, beauty and purity have been lost in translation.

Yet, during this Lenten season millions of people continue to follow the carpenter and the beliefs he professed. Millions continue the search for the meaning of their lives. Others say they are believers but are afraid to shout it. Others shout it and are not believers.

Be that as it may, as the sun sets and as the sun rises, we are blessed with the gift called life. And after it is all said and done, and as we come to the hour of our death, some of us may be fortunate enough to find peace with ourselves before we say our last good-byes. For those of us who leave behind friends and family, our departure is but the beginning of another journey. And our time on this earth will become but a memory to those with whom we were close. During this Lenten season, look for the light for it shines in places you never would have imagined.

Aqui hay una pregunta interesante que debemos hacer. Por qué después de 2000 años, la historia de un hombre que fué crucificado en una cruz de madera, sigue capturando la atención y la admiración de millones de personas? Por qué un productor de cine como **Mel Gibson** puede hacer una película de **Cristo** y atraer millones de personas a ver una historia que todo el mundo ya conoce?

Yo no tengo la repuesta. Pero si yo pudiera aventurarme a decir algo, yo podría decir que millones de personas alrededor del mundo, continúan creyendo, por que la muerte de **Jesuscristo** es parte fundamental de las creencias, y donde esta construido el Cristianismo. Para millones de personas, sea aquellos que van solamente una vez al año a la iglesia, o aquellos que son van todo los dias, la idea de que un hombre haya muerto por nosotros es un gran legado de Amor.

Para estar seguro la idea del amor se a convertido en un material que se puede comprar en el mercado en diferentes variedades. Hoy en día el amor es una palabra que se usa como un adjetivo barato por aquellos que han elegido hacerla una palabra de moda. Para la mayoría de las personas, la idea del amor, y el significado profundo del sacrificio, del dolor, de la belleza, y de la pureza, se han perdido con el tiempo.

Todavía, durante esta temporada, millones de personas continúan siguiendo el ejemplo del carpintero y sus creencias que él profesó. Millones continúan en busca que es el significado de sus vidas. Otros dicen que son creyentes pero les da temor gritarlo. Otros lo gritan, pero no son creyentes.

Sea como sea, el sol se mete y sale cada día y estamos bendicidos con este regalo que llamamos vida. Y antes de que todo sea dicho y hecho, y que llegemos a la hora de nuestra muerte, somos afortunados, al encontrar la paz con nosotros mismos, dejando atras familia y amigos recordemos que que es solo el inicio de otro viaje, y nuestro tiempo en esta tierra se convertirá en recuerdos para todos nuestros seres queridos. Durante esta temporada de Cuaresma mire a la luz que brilla en lugares que jamas imaginaron.

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Harvard Professors say it takes a community to educate a child

By Corydon Ireland

Harvard News Office

By 12th grade, black students in the United States are four years behind their white counterparts in reading and math scores, according to national statistics that also show Hispanic students falling behind at a similar rate. Yet by the year 2050, the number of blacks and Hispanics in the United States will jump from 26 percent of the population to 38 percent - while whites slip from 68 percent to 49 percent. The combination of lagging academic scores, race, and rising population numbers is "a recipe for social instability," said economist **Ronald Ferguson**, a lecturer in public policy at the **Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy** at the **John F. Kennedy School of Government**.

two decades ago by the **Ford Foundation**, in response to the grim conclusions in the 1983 federal report "A Nation at Risk." At **PEN, Puriefoy** keeps an eye on 83 local education funds (Boston Plan for Excellence is one of them) in 34 states. Collectively, the groups raise \$200 million a year for educational reform: \$4.5 billion since 1983.

From outside the formal public school structure, local education funds help build the infrastructure, leadership, knowledge, and momentum needed to raise faltering student achievement in largely poor, urban public schools. "They create a positive environment for reward," said **Puriefoy** - and "a table where all kinds of groups can come together," including experts from higher education, business, and communities at large.

With the yawning racial achievement gap as a backdrop, two experts looked at ways civic effort - forces largely outside of school systems - can engage the problem. **Wendy D. Puriefoy**, president of the Washington, D.C.-based **Public Education Network (PEN)**, presented a case study from **Mobile County, Alabama**, where not long ago 121 of 127 public schools were on the "state watch" list for at-risk schools. A few years later, she said, with the help of 10,000 people (most from the community outside the school system), only seven schools remain on that list. Changing the performance of public schools, **Puriefoy** said, has to start with public conversations about problems and expectations; grade-by-grade data on academic performance; a specific strategic plan; and exact benchmarks for scoring progress.

The **Mobile, Ala.**, experiment was based on a "theory of action" that draws in a potentially volatile mix of needs from students, school administrators, teachers, and the broader community, she said. It was the most successful of 14 similar initiatives funded by a \$16 million **Annenberg Foundation** grant, said **Puriefoy**, and inspired the first **Mobile County** education bond measure (for more than \$6 million) in 41 years. The results were impressive, but also "intensive and expensive," she said - which raises a question: Can the experiment of **Mobile** be scaled up and used nationwide to close the achievement gap at troubled schools? In a political and funding climate wary of experimentation, said **Puriefoy**, that's unlikely.

For **Puriefoy** the engine for civic involvement in academically troubled public schools is something called a "local education fund," a nonprofit education fund, professionally staffed and independent of school boards. The concept was inspired

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On the Significance of the Lenten Season

Lo Qué Significa La Cuaresma

Lent is the penitential season of approximately 40 days set aside by the Church in order for the faithful to prepare for the celebration of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. During this holy season, inextricably connected to the Paschal Mystery, the Catechumens prepare for Christian initiation, and current Church members prepare for Easter by a recalling of Baptism and by works of penance, that is, prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Even in the early Church, Lent was the season for prayerful and penitential preparation for the feast of Easter. Though the obligation of penance was originally only imposed on those who had committed public sins and crimes, by medieval times all the faithful voluntarily performed acts of penance to repair for their sins.

Ash Wednesday is the clarion call to "Repent and believe the gospel" (Mk 1:15). For the next forty days, the faithful willingly submit to fasting and self-denial in imitation of Our Lord's forty-day fast in the desert. It is in these dark and still nights, these desert-times, that the soul experiences its greatest growth. There, in the inner arena, the soul battles the world, the flesh and the devil just as Our Lord battled Satan's triple temptation in the desert. His battle was external, for Jesus could not sin; our battle is interior, but with a hope sustained by the knowledge of Christ's Easter victory over sin and death.

His victory is our renewal, our "spring" — which is the meaning of the Anglo-Saxon word, "*lengten*" or Lent. In this penitential season we have the opportunity to make an annual spiritual "tune-up", a 40-day retreat with Our Lord. Have we allowed worldly cares and the "daily drama" to obscure our call to holiness? Have self-love and materialism eroded our relationship with God? Then let us renew our efforts, and through our Lenten observance, discipline the body and master it as we "follow in the footsteps of the poor and crucified Christ" (*St. Francis of Assisi*).



La Cuaresma es una época de sacrificio y penitencia, la cual dura aproximadamente 40 días. Eso fué impuesto por la iglesia para preparar la celebración de la Pasión muerte y la resurrección de nuestro señor Jesucristo. Durante esta época santa conectada estrictamente con la Pascua, prepara la iniciación del Cristianismo, los miembros actuales de la Iglesia se preparan para el Domingo de resurrección, recordando el bautismo, el trabajo, las penas y la fatiga extrema que paso Jesús.

Incluso en la Iglesia temprana la Cuaresma era la temporada para la oración, y penitencia para después celebrar el banquete de la Pascua. Aunque la obligación de la penitencia originalmente fué puesta para los que habían cometido pecados y crímenes públicos, pero épocas medievales cumplían voluntariamente sus penitencias para reparar sus pecados.

El Miércoles de cenizas es el llamado para "arrepentimiento y para creer en el Evangelio" (Marcos 1:15). Por los siguientes 40 días los fieles están dispuestos al ayuno y penitencia; Para imitar los 40 días

que Nuestro Señor pasó en el desierto de esta forma nuestra alma experimenta un gran crecimiento. Allí en la arena interna las batallas del alma, del mundo, la carne y del Diablo, es un ejemplo de las tres tentaciones de Jesús en el desierto, pero sus batallas fueron vencidas sin caer en ningún pecado, nuestras batallas son interiores, pero sostenidas por el conocimiento de la victoria de Jesús sobre el pecado y la muerte.

Su victoria renueva nuestro espíritu, cual es el significado de la palabra Anglosajona "*lengten*" o Cuaresma. esta temporada de penitencia tenemos la oportunidad de hacer un ajuste anual en 40 días con Nuestro Señor. Estos 40 días sirven para renovar nuestra creencia y mantener disciplina en nuestro cuerpo, para seguir los pasos de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo."

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Important Dates in Women's History

- 1491 Queen Isabella funds Columbus' voyage which leads to the discovery of the New World.
- 1772 Sybil Ludington rides twice the distance as Paul Revere on the same night, warning, "The Redcoats are coming!"
- 1777 Mary Katherine Goddard publishes the Declaration of Independence in Baltimore.
- 1805 Sacagawea leads Lewis and Clark to Pacific Coast, carrying baby son on her back.
- 1840 Esther Howland prints the first Valentine and patents the brown grocery bag.
- 1848 Elizabeth Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucretia Mott found the National Suffragette Movement which leads to the Right to Vote 75 years later.
- 1849 Elizabeth Blackwell becomes first licensed woman to graduate from medical school. She founds the first hospital with an all female staff for women called NY Infirmary for Women and Children.
- 1866 Susan B. Anthony and Caroline Severance founded the Equal Rights Association.
- 1872 Susan B. Anthony and 27 others are arrested for voting in a Presidential election: a criminal offense for women. Her last words: "Failure is impossible."
- 1892 Senda Bereson Introduces basketball and in 1901 field hockey.
- 1903 Mme. Marie Curie wins the first of her two Nobel prizes for the discovery of radium.
- 1909 Ella Flag Young becomes first woman superintendent of a major public school system (Chicago).
- 1920 **Women won right to vote!**
- 1925 Miriam Ferguson becomes first woman Governor (Texas)
- 1932 Hattie Caraway becomes first woman to be elected to the Senate.
- 1933 Frances Perkins becomes first woman Cabinet member.
- 1935 Edith Wharton becomes first woman to receive Pulitzer Prize twice.
- 1951 Bette Nesmith Graham invents Liquid Paper and markets it herself after IBM refuses to buy it.
- 1955 Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on the bus and becomes the Mother of the Civil Rights movement.
- 1966 First six women qualify for US Space Program.
- 1972 Gloria Steinem develops first foundation for women called the Ms. Foundation for Women.
- 1976 Sarah Caldwell becomes the first woman to conduct at the Metropolitan Opera after Beverly Sills refuses to sing unless Caldwell conducts.
- 1981 Sandra Day O'Connor becomes the first woman Supreme Court Justice. Her first job offer was to be a secretary.
- 1990 Oprah Winfrey becomes the first woman to own and produce her own syndicated tv show.

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

National Women's History Month's roots go back to March 8, 1857, when women from New York City factories staged a protest over working conditions. International Women's Day was first observed in 1909, but it wasn't until 1981 that Congress established National Women's History Week during the second week of March.



In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. Every year since, Congress has passed a resolution for Women's History Month, and the president has issued a proclamation. It is during the month of March that we celebrate National Women's History Month by highlighting some of the accomplishment, milestones and events that have contributed to their legacy in the United States.



Basic Facts and Figures

152 million The number of females in the United States as of Nov. 1, 2006. That exceeds the number of males (148 million).

82.5 million Estimated number of mothers of all ages in the United States.

63 million Number of married women (including those who are separated or have an absent spouse) in 2005.

55 million Number of unmarried (widowed, divorced or never married) women.

26.1 million Number of women 25 or older with a bachelor's degree or more education in 2005

5.6 million Number of stay-at-home mothers nationwide in 2005, up from 4.4 million a decade earlier

2.9 million Number of girls who participated in high school athletic programs in the 2004-05 school year. In the 1973-74 school year, only 1.3 million girls were members of a high school athletic team.

\$58,906 Median earnings of women working in computer and mathematical jobs, the highest for women among the 22 major occupational groups.

