

Center for Multicultural and Gender Studies

MCGS Newsletter, Sept/Oct 2004

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*Adobe Acrobat Files

**September 15 - October 15 is
Hispanic Heritage Month**

A History of the Celebration

In 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim a week in September as National Hispanic Heritage Week. The observance was expanded in 1988 to a month long celebration (Sept. 15-Oct. 15). During this month, America celebrates the culture and traditions of U.S. residents who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean. Sept. 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries — Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.

Did you Know?

29 million U.S. residents age 5 and older speak Spanish at home. Spanish speakers constitute a ratio of more than 1-in-10 U.S. residents. Among all those who speak Spanish at home, more than one-half say they speak English "very well."

for more information: [click here](#)

**Diez y Siez de
Septiembre:**

Did you know?

50% of the Hispanic-origin population lives in California and Texas. California is home to 11.9 Hispanics, and Texas to 7.3 million.

2004 Tomas Rivera Award is awarded to Yuyi Morales for: Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book

This year's winner of the Tomas Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award is the children's picture book, Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book. Just a Minute, written and illustrated by Yuyi Morales, is an original trickster tale in which Grandma Beetle outwits the skeleton Señor Calavera and spends her birthday with a table full of grandchildren and her surprise guest!

This spirited tribute to the rich traditions of Mexican culture is the perfect introduction to counting in both English and Spanish.



Yuyi Morales

This award is conferred annually for the most distinguished book published in a calendar year that depicts the Mexican American experience. The award is sponsored by the College of Education at Texas State University - San Marcos and endowed by a grant from Anheuser Busch Companies, Inc.

The purpose of the award is to honor and recognize authors and illustrators that create quality children's literature reflecting the Mexican American values and traditions. It is hoped that the award will gain attention of the teachers, librarians, and parents so that all children can be educated, inspired, and entertained through reading.

Related Sites

- [Tomas Rivera Award Site](#)
- [Yuyi Morales official web-site](#)
- [Chronicle Book Site for Just a Minute](#)

Every 16th of September is the Mexican Fiesta celebrating Mexico's independence from Spanish rule.

After Columbus "discovered" America, the Spaniards (who funded the trip) began to carry out expeditions to find gold and riches from the faraway land. After the conquest of the Aztecs and their capital, Tenochtitlan, the Spanish ruled Mexico for the next three centuries. The new colony was named *Nueva España*, New Spain.

The years that followed brought many deaths to the indigenous Mexicans. Previously unknown diseases spread through the natives. This, coupled with the merciless workload imposed by their conquerors, killed almost half of the population in just over a century of Spanish rule.

Discontent began to grow among the *Crillos*, the offspring of Spaniards (from Spain) born in Mexico. When Napoleon invaded Spain in 1808, the *Crillos* used the confusion in their "mother country" to seek their independence. They plotted to begin their war in early October of 1810, but their plans were discovered a month early. They decided to start the revolt immediately.

In the early hours of September 16th, 1810, father Guadalupe Hildago, accompanied by several conspirators, rang the bell of his church, calling everyone to fight for their liberty. This war of independence lasted another 10 years.

Latino Heritage Booklist*

Picture Books:

- **Albert, Richard.** *Alejandro's Gift.*
- **Anaya, Rudolph.** *The Farolitos of Christmas.*
- **Barbot, Daniel.** *A Bicycle for Rosaura.*
- **Bunting, Eve.** *A Day's Work.*
- **Bunting, Eve.** *How Many Days to America?*
- **Cazet, Denys.** *Born in the Gravy.*
- **Climo, Shirley.** *The Little Red And and the Great Big Crumb: a Mexican Fable.*
- **Cowley, Joy.** *Gracias, the Thanksgiving Turkey.*
- **Dorros, Arthur.** *Tonight is Carnival.*
- **English, Karen.** *Speak English for Us, Marisol.*
- **Fine, Edith Hope.** *Under the Lemon Moon.*
- **Freschet, Gina.** *Beto and the Bone Dance.*
- **Havill, Juanita.** *Treasure Nap.*
- **Johnston, Tony.** *Day of the Dead.*
- **Josse, Barbara.** *Ghost Wings*
- **Lattimore, Deborah Nourse.** *Frida Maria: a Story of the Old Southwest.*
- **Mora, Pat.** *Pablo's Tree.*
- **Mora, Pat.** *Tomas and the Library Lady.*
- **Morales, Yuyi.** *Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book.*
- **Soto, Gary.** *Chato's Kitchen.*
- **Soto, Gary.** *Chato and the Party Animals.*
- **Winter, Jeanette.** *Josefina.*
- **Yacowitz, Caryn.** *Pumpkin Fiesta.*

I Can Read & In-Between Fiction

- **Lewis, Richard.** *All of You Was Singing.*
- **Anaya, Rudolfo.** *Maya's Children: The Story of La Llorona.*
- **Bertrand, Diane Gonzalez.** *Family.*
- **Casilla, Robert.** *First Day in Grapes.*
- **Johnston, Tony.** *Uncle Rain Cloud.*
- **Soto, Gary.** *Snapshots from the Wedding.*

Notable Hispanics through the last century:

Desi Arnaz, Cuban-born musician and actor, best remembered for the song "Babalu" and for his role as Ricky Ricardo in the television series *I Love Lucy*. In addition to this recognition of Arnaz as perfect comic straight-man for Ball's genius, however, he was one of Hollywood's most perceptive, and powerful, producers in television's early years.

Cesar Chavez, Labor leader born in Yuma, AZ. A migrant farm worker in his youth, he attended 65 elementary schools and never graduated from high school. He became a community and Labor organizer of agricultural workers in the 1950s, and in 1962 founded the National Farm Workers Association, based in California and the Southwest among the mainly Chicano (Mexican-American) and Filipino farm workers.

Sandra Cisneros, born 1954, this Mexican-American author writes about Mexican and Mexican American women who find strength to rise above the poor conditions of their lives. These types of characters have not been presented so clearly in writing in the past. Her ability to write about these strong characters come from her childhood; growing up in poverty, Cisneros was one of seven children and spent a lot of time by herself. Her older work has recently been republished under the title: *Vintage Cisneros*.

Gloria Estefan has achieved worldwide acclaim and popularity as a singularly exciting pop singer. Estefan and the Miami Sound Machine grew from a Latin-inspired band, whose primary audience was in Spanish-speaking countries, to a group that enjoys international fame and success. Despite the groups popularity with English-speaking listeners, the Estefans have not forgotten their roots; they are always working on Spanish-language projects.

Antonia Hernandez is the president and general counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), a Latino civil rights organization. She has become a highly visible advocate for the nation's large and growing Latino community. Her opinions and advice on how a given issue will affect U.S. Hispanics/Latinos have often been featured in newspaper editorial pages, national magazines, television talk shows, and numerous other media outlets.

- **Tripp, Valerie.** *Meet Josefina.*
- **Wisniewski, David.** *Rain Player*

Fiction

- **Ada, Alma Flor.** *Where the Flame Trees Bloom.*
- **Alvarez, Julia.** *How Tia Lola Came to Stay.*
- **Beatty, Patricia.** *Lupita Manana.*
- **Delacre, Lulu.** *Salsa Stories.*
- **Hurwitz, Johanna.** *Class President.*
- **Jimenez, Francisco.** *The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child.*
- **Mikaelsen, Ben.** *Sparrow Hawk Red.*
- **Mohr, Nicholasa.** *Going Home.*
- **Montez, Marisa.** *Crazy Mixed-Up Spanglish Day.*
- **Rodriguez, Luis.** *It Doesn't Have to Be This Way: a Barrio Story.*
- **Soto, Gary.** *The Pool Party.*
- **Soto, Gary.** *Jesse.*
- **Temple, Frances.** *Grab Hands and Run.*

Non-Fiction

- **De Paola, Tomie.** *The Lady of Guadalupe.*
- **Atkin, S.Beth.** *Voices from the Fields: Children of Migrant Farm Workers Tell Their Stories.*
- **Anaconda, George.** *The People*
- **Rodriguez, Luis.** *Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.*
- **King, Elizabeth.** *Quinceanera: Celebrating Fifteen.*
- **Johnston, Tony.** *The Tale of Rabbit and Coyote.*
- **Bierosrst, John.** *Latin American Folktales: Stories from Hispanic and Indian Traditions.*
- **Gerson, Mary-Joan.** *Fiesta Feminina: Celebrating Women in Mexican Folktales.*
- **Harper, Jo.** *Legend of Mexicatl.*
- **Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane.** *Las Posadas: A Hispanic Christmas Celebration.*
- **Paulsen, Gary.** *The Tortilla Factory.*
- **Anaconda, George.** *The Folk Arts.*
- **Soto, Gary.** *A Fire in My Hands: a Book of Poems.*
- **Soto, Gary.** *Novio Boy: A Play.*
- **Freedman, Russell.** *In the Days of the Vaqueros: America's First True Cowboys.*

Biography

- **Cockcroft, James.** *Diego Rivera.*
- **Cruz, Barabra.** *Ruben Blades: Salsa Singer and Social Activist.*
- **Krull, Kathleen.** *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez.*
- **Miriam-Goldberg, Caryn.** *Sandra Cisneros: Latina Writer and Activist.*
- **Carter, David.** *Salvador Dali.*
- **DeVarona, Frank.** *Miguel Hidalgo Y Costilla: Father of Mexican Independence*
- **Cruz, Barbara.** *Frida Kahlo: a Portrait of a Mexican Painter.*
- **Goodnough, David.** *Pablo Neruda: Nobel Prize-winning Poet*
- **O'Brien, Steven.** *Pancho Villa.*

for more information visit the Fresno County Public Library at: <http://www.fresnolibrary.org/child/>

*a selection from Children's Services, Fresno County Public Library

Mario Molina has been involved in developing our understanding of the chemistry of the stratospheric ozone layer and its susceptibility to human-made perturbations. He has received several awards for his scientific work, including the 1995 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, which he shared with Professors F. S. Rowland and P. Crutzen for their work in atmospheric chemistry. He is also pursuing interdisciplinary work on tropospheric pollution issues, working with colleagues from many other disciplines on the problem of rapidly growing cities with severe air pollution problems.

Congresswoman **Nydia M. Velazquez** has made history several times during her tenure in Congress. In 1992, she was the first Puerto Rican woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. In February of 1998, she was named Ranking Democratic Member of the House Small Business Committee, making her the first Hispanic woman to serve as Chair of Ranking Member of a full committee in the history of the House.

Gary Soto was born and raised in Fresno California and the author of ten poetry collections for adults, most notably New and Selected Poems, a 1995 finalist for both the *Los Angeles Times Book Award* and *The National Book Award*. His recollections Living Up the Street received a *Before Columbus Foundation 1985 American Book Award*. He is one of the youngest poets to appear in the *Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry*. For the Los Angeles Opera, he wrote the libretto for an opera titled *Nerd-landia*. He serves as *Young Peoples Ambassador* for the California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) and the United Farm Workers of America (UFW).

The Top Ten Hispanic Surnames in the U.S.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Garcia | 6. Gonzalez |
| 2. Martinez | 7. Perez |
| 3. Rodriguez | 8. Sanchez |
| 4. Lopez | 9. Rivera |
| 5. Hernandez | 10. Ramirez |

Hablas Español?

- *Barrio* refers to a block or an area of several blocks. It also means neighborhood.
- *Anglo* is a white American. It is not a condescending term.



[Printable Calendar of MCGS & Related
TSU-SM Events](#)

