

Trinidad and Tobago Kick-Start PART Programs for the New Year



McAllen Table member, Yolanda McCarty presented a delightful and informative program on the islands of Trinidad and Tobago at the general meeting on **January 2nd**.

Mrs. McCarty provided members with copies of a map, pointing out that the location of the dual-island Caribbean nation is very close to Venezuela, and although the islands share many natural aspects, such as birds, vegetation and climate, they both boast of distinctive Creole traditions and cuisines. Trinidad's capital hosts the annual, world-famous carnival featuring Calypso and Soca music, while the smaller island of Tobago is known for its beaches and Main

Ridge Forest Reserve. Following her introduction of the dual islands, Yolanda shared a lovely video showcasing the people, resources and the magnificently colorful "Carnaval".

McAllen Table Enjoys **February** Program on the United States of America

The majority of the members of the McAllen table were pleased to find that they could successfully



answer questions from a quiz regarding historical facts about the United States. Long-standing member, Yolanda Chapa, cleverly devised this engaging program while serving as hostess for the February meeting, which showcased the U.S. In addition to the quiz, Yolanda also presented a beautiful and informative video about our Nation's Capitol, making everyone feel proud of our heritage.

Centerpieces displaying the American flag, very appropriately decorated each table, and a menu of roast beef, mashed potatoes and apple pie was served.

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Alliance Director General Visits McAllen Table in **March 2018**



L-R: Sylvia Williams, Carmen Guerra, Delia P. De Plata, Nhury Vilches, Elsie Perez and Mariella Gorena. Back: Berry Fritz, program presenter

Alliance Director General Nhury Gutierrez Vilches traveled all the way from Chile to pay the South Texas tables a visit. Accompanying her to the regular March meeting in McAllen were Associate Director Sylvia Williams from Austin, Delia Perez de Plata, previous Woman of the Year from Reynosa and past Directors General from the Valley, Elsie Perez and Carmen Guerra. They were warmly welcomed by Table Director Mariella Gorena.

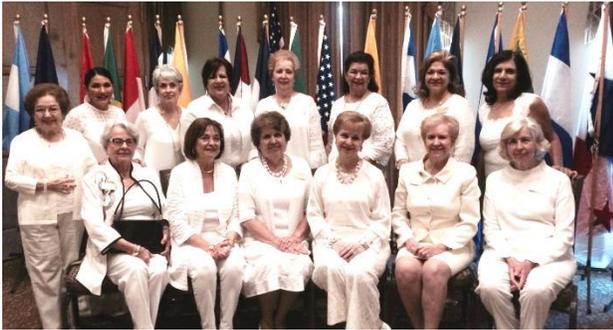
Three guests from the Alamo-San Juan-Pharr Table were also present to enjoy learning interesting facts and getting a glimpse of Uruguay through a power point program. Hostess for the month and program presenter was Berry Fritz, shown here holding the country's flag and yellow roses.



In her address to the members, Mrs. Vilches expressed her pleasure at being able to visit with the Tables from South Texas and extended an invitation to a Leadership workshop that she was to present in Brownsville.

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Pan American Observance Day Celebrated by Four Upper Valley Tables



About 200 members and guests of the four PART Tables of the Rio Grande Valley enjoyed meeting and greeting each other for the celebration of the 2018 Pan American Observance Day on **April 14th** at the McAllen Country Club.

Dignitaries present were State Director Dee Moore, Corresponding Secretary Anne Beitel, Zone I Director Lana Harper, Area C Director Herminia Martinez, Past

State Director Isabel Vezzetti and Past Alliance Director General Elsie Perez. Also present were several members of the Reynosa, Mexico Table.

Hostesses for the occasion were members of the Rio Grande City-Roma Table, with Director Maria Cavazos as moderator. McAllen Table members, coordinated by Alma De La Garza, were in charge of the Parade of Flags.

The selected theme of “Passport to the Americas” was artfully carried out through the table decorations provided by members of the RGC/Roma Tables. Miniature suitcases were used as centerpieces, with even smaller boxes in the form of suitcases, filled with candies, doubly serving as favors for each attendee. Agendas were cleverly designed to resemble authentic U.S. passports.

ASJP Director Raquel Garcia introduced singer Carlos Gonzalez, who with his guitar, entertained the group with several songs from Mexico and Brazil.

Representing the Edinburg Table, Elsie Perez introduced the keynote speaker for the event, Esperanza Zendejas, Superintendent of the Brownsville Independent School District. Mrs. Zendejas delighted the audience by sharing some of her personal experiences and great efforts in her quest to achieve her goals and some of her life’s accomplishments.

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McAllen Table Awards Scholarships



Director Mariella Gorena, Deanna Ramirez, Graciela Cobo, Samantha Alvarado, Alejandra Sanchez, Latifah Kuffesh, Mary Hernandez & Elizabeth Cardenas

Very deserving and outstanding students from each of the three McAllen high schools, were awarded college scholarships by PART members at their regular meeting in **May**. Accompanied by their respective school counselors and by their parents, all will attend the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley.

Opening remarks were, eloquently, delivered by committee Chairman Deanna Ramirez, who stressed the importance of, and the impact that education has on a student's formative years.

Scholarship committee members Graciela Cobo, Mary Hernandez and Elizabeth Cárdenas, each took turns introducing the recipients. Mary presented Samantha Alvarado, a student at McAllen High School, who has distinguished herself as a violinist. Her excellence as a musician gained her a role in an all-regional orchestra. She plans to major in Music.

Alejandra Sanchez was introduced by Graciela Cobo, who stated that Miss Sanchez is a great example of motivation and sacrifice. Her parents brought her to the U.S. from Cuba, just three years ago, but she has, nevertheless excelled academically in spite of all obstacles. Alejandra will graduate from Memorial High School and will pursue a Medical degree.

Elizabeth was pleased to present Latifah Kuffesh, whose parents migrated to the U.S. from Palestine. Latifah will be graduating from Nikki Rowe High School and plans to major in Business with an emphasis on Graphic Design. Her ambition is to impact the whole world through her talents and efforts.

Shown here, L-R are: Nikki Rowe Counselor Maryiel García, Samantha Alvarado, Alejandra Sanchez, Latifah Kuffesh, McAllen Counselor Nelda Gutierrez and Memorial Counselor María Carrillo.



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McAllen Table Holds Final Meeting of 2017-2018

The end-of-the year meeting in **June** for the McAllen Table proved to be a busy and lively one. It started with an inspiring, updated report from the members of the Scholarship Committee concerning the three recipients who were each chosen to receive a \$2000 stipend this year.



New members: (l-r)
Elizabeth Garza, Annette

That report was followed by biographical readings of two prospective members who were, subsequently, approved for membership. Emotionally moving letters were then read by Corresponding Secretary Cecilia Martinez from Violette Metz and Hortensia Pacheco, requesting a change in their status from Active to Sustaining.

In other business, Director Mariella Gorena and 1st Associate Director Raquel Oliva presented several revisions to the Standing Rules, which the members approved.



Director Mariella Gorena (l)
and Corresp. Sec'y Cecilia

Birthday celebrants for June and July were congratulated on their upcoming birthdays and just prior to the adjournment of the meeting photos were taken of the new members who joined the Table this year: Elizabeth Garza, Annette Franz, Susan Phillips and Thelma Santos (not present).

The meeting was concluded following a very thorough and attention-getting Power Point presentation of the Year-In-Review designed by 1st Associate Director Raquel Oliva, assisted by new member Elizabeth Garza, at the computer.

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Pan American Round Table of McAllen

September 4, 2018 Meeting

McAllen Table PART members met for the first business meeting of the year at the McAllen Country Club. Five new members and one transfer member from the Edinburg table were welcomed.

President Mariella Gorena gave a report on the State meeting she attended recently, and announced that McAllen was the site chosen to host the State convention in 2021. She also mentioned that Carmen Guerra, Alma De La Garza and she are planning to attend the Alliance Convention in Bolivia in October.

Following the meeting a group picture was taken, as seen below, and an orientation session, led by Mariella, Violette Metz and past Presidents Sylvia Alanis and Alma De La Garza, was held for the new members.



PART of McAllen group photo September 4, 2018



Orientation Committee: Back L-R: Mariella Gorena, Alma De La Garza, Violette Metz and Sylvia Alanis. Front L-R: New Members: Thelma Santos, Annette Franz, Irma Garza, Rachel Loman, Graciela Alanis and Suzan Phillips.



Officers L-R: Sylvia Alanis, Emma Salinas, Raquel Oliva, Mariella Gorena, Cecilia Martinez, and Graciela Cobo

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McAllen Table Celebrates Founder's Day

October 2, 2018



Raquel Oliva

Raquel Oliva, First Associate Table Director presented a visual historical rendition of "Pan Americanism and the Pan American Round Table" to commemorate this year's Founder's Day celebration.

It all started with the Monroe Doctrine, delivered in 1823 by President James Monroe, for the purpose of stopping Europe from colonizing the Americas. This led Secretary of State James Blaine to push for a Pan American Union to provide for a common defense so as to preserve the independence of new Latin American nations. A series of Inter-American conferences followed throughout the 1800s, thus establishing a Pan American Union, later reconstituted as the Organization of American States in 1948. Florence Terry Griswold borrowed this

concept to establish the Pan American Round Table in 1916.



Raffle Committee members: Carol Chapa, Mariella Gorena, Elizabeth Cardenas, Myrna Rodriguez, Graciela Cobo, Bertha Martinez, Hortensia Pacheco



Raffle items

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McAllen Table Presents Venezuela

November, 2018

The regular November meeting of McAllen PART started with an enthusiastic and rousing welcome by all



members present, on behalf of Carmen Guerra, who was chosen as “Pan American Woman of the Year” at the recent Alliance Convention in Bolivia. This was followed with a brief description and picture presentation by Delegates Alma De La Garza and President Mariella Gorena regarding convention events and their subsequent visit to Peru.

Hostesses of the month, Victoria Guerra (right) and returning table member Thelma Santos, then showcased the country of Venezuela as their program. Speaker Adelmarie Licea (center), a native of Venezuela, who at the age of 17 left the country with her family for the United States, shared pleasant memories of happy times growing up in her country of origin. She displayed pictures of native birds with their strikingly colorful plumage, and a variety of equally beautiful orchids, their national flower, by means of a power point presentation. She also made it a point to state that the people of Venezuela are a happy people, as displayed through their music and dance and they continue to retain an unwavering optimism that their country will, again, return to the happy and prosperous state that it once enjoyed.

Following a savory Thanksgiving meal, the six new members of the table received their membership pins and were officially inducted as members. Shown here are: Left to right: Thelma Santos, Graciela Alanis, Rachel Loman, Annette Franz, Suzan Phillips and Irma Garza



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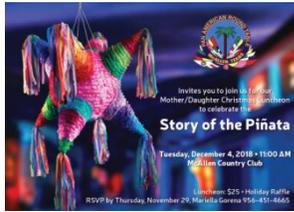
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McAllen PART Continues Annual Tradition of **December** Mother/Daughter Luncheon

Members of the McAllen Table were honored to welcome members of the Edinburg, Brownsville, ASJP Tables and other guests, including daughters and daughters-in-law of numerous local members, to the annual Mother/Daughter luncheon on **December 4th 2018**.



Alma De La Garza



The program, presented by long-standing table member Alma De La Garza, was “The Story of the Piñata”. Tracing its origins to China, Alma explained how the piñata has evolved and become a source of gaiety and joy, enhancing birthdays, festivals and other special celebrations in many countries, especially in Mexico and South America.

Festive and traditional piano melodies, played by Don Cárdenas echoed throughout the room, as friends gaily greeted each other in friendship, while also scrutinizing raffle items and purchasing tickets, adding to the scholarship fund. Member Elizabeth Garza happily announced that more than \$1000 dollars had been raised, thanks to their generosity.



Suzan Phillips, Mandy Peña and Lily Torrez, seated.
Bertha Martínez, standing.



Berry Fritz, Mariella Gorena, Guest, Bertha Martínez, Hortensia Pacheco, Elizabeth Cárdenas, Gracie Cobo, Adelina Garza and Thelma Santos



Standing: Alma De La Garza, Irma Zavaleta, Rosa Revez, Ana Moon. Seated: Rosario Grajales, Rosario Pope, Bertha Hinojosa, Ana Maria Moon



Myrna Rodriguez, Mariella Gorena, Gracie Cobo, Carola Chapa and Elizabeth Garza (seated)

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Discovering Colombia's Diversity is the Program for **January 8, 2019**



One of McAllen Table's newer members, Annette Franz, shown on the left, with her daughter-in-law's assistance, opened up a new aspect about the country of Colombia that few of us had ever heard of before. Through her missionary work Annette discovered the women of the Wayuu tribe in La Guajira region of the country. These humble women produce masterpieces of hand woven bags and accessories, which have become some of the most sought-after pieces in fashion. With the funds Annette raises for the villagers by importing and selling these, one-of-a-kind works of art, she is able to provide much-needed relief to help their villages preserve their cultural heritage for future generations.



To the left is a sampling of the amazingly colorful bags, hats, scarves and other accessories made by these creative women. Rosie Cardenas, on the right, won a bag given as a door prize.



In other business, Irma Zavaleta reported on Costa Rica and Elizabeth Garza on the Dominican Republic. Director Mariella Gorena announced that the State Convention is to be held on April 29 through the 31st in Ft. Worth and urged all to plan on attending. Prior to adjourning the meeting, a straw vote was taken to come up with a slate of officers for the next biennium.

January 21, 2019 Working on Archive Material

In late January, members of the Technology Committee met at the home of Committee Chair, Lily Torrez, to work on the preservation of the table archives and prepare them to be transported to the archives at UTSA Library. All major pictures and important documents had previously been scanned into flash drives, and will be available locally for anyone interested in perusing the information.

Shown in the photo are (l-r): Elizabeth Garza, Mary Bard (ASJP Table), Suzan Phillips, Director Mariella Gorena, Sylvia Alanis, and Raquel Oliva in the forefront. Lily Torrez was the photographer.



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McAllen PART Meeting Showcases Barbados

February, 2019



Alejandra Vela presented an enlightening program on the country of Barbados on Feb. 5th. A power point presentation prepared by co-hostess, Raquel Oliva, showcased a comprehensive picture of the country through its people, culture and history. Additionally, all members present received a Barbados coconut bread recipe.

Prior to the meeting, individual pictures were taken of all members by Julia Oliva, shown here taking a picture of Jane Hereford, which are to be included in the yearbook for the coming biennium. This action was deemed necessary, to

help the numerous ladies who have joined in the past year, to identify all new and present members. Two other names were presented to be considered for membership and everyone had the opportunity to welcome Yliana Esparza, as the newest member of our table.



In other business, Dilia Perez (on the left) gave a report on Ecuador and Elizabeth Cardenas reported on El Salvador.

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Celebrating Bolivia

March 5, 2019

The McAllen table had a busy business/program meeting on **March 5th**. Two guests were introduced and two others, Velda De La Garza and Mary Villarreal, were enthusiastically welcomed as new members.

Scholarship Committee Chairman, Deanna Longoria Ramirez updated the members on the progress of the Scholarship Committee and Sylvia Alanis, representing the Nominations Committee, presented **the** slate of officers for the next biennium, as shown below.



The 2019-2021 officers are: l-r: Elizabeth Cárdenas, Recording Secretary; Mariella Gorena, outgoing Director; Myrna Rodriguez, 2nd Associate; Raquel Oliva, Incoming Director; Graciela Cobo, 1st Associate and Ofelia Estevis, Treasurer.

The highlight of the meeting was the program on Bolivia, hosted by Leticia Peña and Noelia Ramirez. Leticia gave an interesting rendition about the country through a narrative and the use of a brief video. She concluded the program with the modeling of Alpaca and Vicuña ponchos and capes, as well as colorful ruanas and shawls. She also displayed other textiles from that country. Alma De La Garza narrated the modeling and gave her personal impressions of the country, where she lived for a few years and also acknowledged the presence of a real Boliviana, Rosario Grajales, who has been a member of the table for a number of years.



Modeling are: l-r: Mariella Gorena, Bolivia native Rosario Grajales, Lily Torrez, Hostesses Leticia Peña and Noelia Ramirez and Alma De La Garza

Elizabeth Garza updated the membership regarding the progress of the Archives Committee: Following the task of cleaning up and rearranging the books of memory into acid-free sleeves and placing them in uniform



The Archives Committee l-r: Elizabeth Garza, Raquel Oliva, Carmen Guerra, Mariella Gorena, Suzan Phillips, Sylvia Alanis and Lily Torrez.

notebooks, Lily, Raquel and Elizabeth, took advantage of Spring Break at UTRGV, to use the Library's special scanner to transfer the files into a USB file.

Scanning the twenty nine books alone, took two, six-hour days; however, the whole project took approximately 60 hours, total.

The remainder of the project is to correct the errors on the scanned images, deposit a copy at the UTRGV Library Special Collections and keep two or three copies with members. The original, hard copies are to be transferred to UTSA Library Archives, where they are to be stored.



Yay, we did it!!

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Pan American Day Observed by Rio Grande Valley Tables

April 13, 2019

Pan American Round Table members spent a “Day at the Derby” on Saturday, April 13, decked out in colorful spring garb and glamorous hats at the McAllen Country Club “Downs”. Approximately 100 ladies from throughout the state and Mexico enjoyed the outing.

Joining the members from the four hosting tables of Alamo/San Juan/Pharr, Edinburg, McAllen and Rio



Standing (L-R) Maria Cavazos, Mariella Gorena, Margo A, Gonzalez Seated: Raquel Garcia, Sylvia Williams, Martha Stumbo, Carmen Guerra

Grande City/Roma were: honored guest Martha Stumbo, State Director from Fort Worth; newly appointed Alliance Director General Sylvia Williams from Austin and three past Alliance Directors General: Delia Pérez de Plata from Reynosa, Peggy Clark from Falfurrias and Carmen Guerra, 2019-2020 Alliance Woman of the Year.

This year’s theme had been selected by Elsie Pérez, past Alliance Director General from Edinburg, who passed away on April 1st

Soloist Erika Muñoz had the ladies dancing in the aisles with her Boogie Woogie and Swing songs from the 30’s and 40’s, in addition to her excellent renditions that ranged from Barbara Streisand to Billy Holliday and others in between.



Erika Muñoz



Manuel Hinojosa

Speaker for the occasion was Manuel Hinojosa, former educator from Edinburg, who introduced and told the story of honorary guest Heriberto (Herbie) Hinojosa, the first Hispanic jockey whose fame was in line with that of the top horse jockeys of the day.

Mr. Hinojosa, who is presently a Valley resident, received an appreciative and rousing standing ovation.



The colorful presentation of flags was done by the Roma/Rio Grande City Table members



Herbie Hinojosa

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McAllen Table Holds First Meeting of 2019-2020

September 3, 2019

Members of the McAllen Table, joyfully, greeted each other at the busy, first meeting of the year, after a hiatus of two months. The meeting took place in the elegant ballroom of the Cimarron Country Club in Mission, due to renovations currently being made at the McAllen Country Club.

Table Director Raquel Oliva presented a list of committee appointments for the next biennium, as well as the results of a survey on proposed revisions to our bylaws, etc. which had been presented in June. Several recommendations, that resulted in a tie, will be taken into further consideration, by the various committees, for a final decision.

Long standing members Dardanella and Sylvia Cárdenas and Christina Barrios were warmly welcomed back, after their long absences due to family matters. New members Carm Elliot, María E. Villarreal, Velda De La Garza and Lisa Ramírez were introduced and welcomed, bringing the number of table members to 72. Three other members, Norma Ornelas, Irma Zavaleta and Adelina Garza were approved for a change of status from Active to Sustaining membership.

Myrna Rodriguez announced that the table archives would, henceforth, be kept in a well-air conditioned place in McAllen and would, therefore, not have to be transferred to UT at San Antonio for storage.

The meeting concluded with an invitation from the Alamo-San Juan-Pharr to join their table on September 26, in celebration of their 70th anniversary. Also, good wishes were expressed to all members who celebrated their birthdays during the summer months.



Standing l-r: Sylvia Alanis, Rosario Grajales, Dilia Pérez, Mary Alice Magaña and Christina Barrios. seated



Standing L-R: María Villarreal, Myrna Rodríguez, Elizabeth Garza, Lily Tórrrez, Ofelia Estevis, Raquel Oliva, Berry Fritz, Adelina Garza, Suzan Phillips, Graciela Cobo, Mariella Gorena, Carmen Guerra. Seated: Sylvia Cárdenas, Dardanella Cárdenas, Mary Lou Treviño, Hortensia Pacheco and Violette Metz.

McAllen PART Celebrates Founder's Day McAllen Country Club - October 2, 2019

Francisco Guajardo, new Director of Museum of South Texas History in Edinburg, the first Hispanic to assume that position, was this month's special speaker. Mr. Guajardo spoke of his goals to address the previous lack of focus at the museum, on the importance of Hispanic contributions to the history and development of South Texas. He also reminisced about his involvement in creating an educational awareness in Hispanic students, during his teaching career, of opportunities available to them, which they had always considered closed to them.



Table Director Raquel Oliva presented Bertha Martínez with a bouquet of flowers on the occasion of her change of membership status from Active to Sustaining. This was to recognize her dedication to service as decorator for special meetings throughout the past 19 years of membership.



In Memoriam of Maria Theresa Garza, member since 1966, who passed away on September 24, 2019



Ana Maria Moon (right) introduced special guest, interim Mexican Consul, Socorro Jorge de Cholula, center. Director Raquel Oliva

McAllen members attending the A-SJ-P 70th anniversary celebration in late August are (l-r): Raquel Oliva, Myrna Rodriguez, Carola Chapa, Mariella Gorena, Mandy Peña, Carmen Guerra, Aida Lazo (A-SJ-P Director) Lily Tórrrez and Maria Villarreal.



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McAllen Revisits Argentina

November 12, 2019



Appropriately decked out in a black Gaucho hat and black boots, speaker Lily Tórrrez took members down memory lane by sharing unique and interesting aspects of Argentina and its regions. She also shared a presentation of numerous photos of members who attended the two Alliance Conventions held in that enchanting country in 2004 and 2012. The objectives of her presentation were, not only to inform, but also to encourage or entice new members and non-convention attendees, to join in the fun by participating in future conventions.

Hostesses Rosie Cárdenas and María Villarreal displayed interesting Argentinian items, while Raffle Chairman Myrna Rodriguez, provided numerous raffle items to increase the scholarship fund.



Rosie Cardénas, María Villarreal and Lily Torrez



Additionally, five new members were inducted and pinned by Director Raquel Oliva. Next to Raquel on the left are, Mariella Gorena standing in for Carm Elliott; Ileana Esparza, Velma de La Garza; Sylvia Alanis standing in for Lisa Ramirez and María Villarreal.

Director Raquel Oliva asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of dear friend and member Cecilia Martínez, who suddenly and unexpectedly passed away in October.

Cecilia had been a member of the McAllen Table since 2014 and during her membership of five short years, she managed to serve as second Associate Director from 2017-2019.

Cecilia will be greatly missed!



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McAllen Table Celebrates
Annual Mother/Daughter Luncheon and 85th Anniversary
December 3, 2019



Attending the luncheon(l-r) are: Guests Sasha Crane, Debbie Aliseda, Audrey Crane with Mom Baudelia Crane, members Velda de la Garza and Thelma Santos



Table Directors present at the celebration were: Dalinda Peña-RGC/Roma, Aida Lazo-ASJP, State Director Martha Stumbo, Raquel Oliva - McAllen and Mary Ann B. García-Laredo



Emilio Santos and his fellow-musicians, the Siete Leguas, entertained the members and guests with their Mariachi music.



Mary Peña with Mother-in-law Mandy Peña



Lily Tórréz shared a historical power point presentation with pictures of members and events since the table's inception in 1934 to September, 2019.

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