



October 2007  
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# Panamericana Texana

The Pan American Round Tables of Texas • Austin, Texas USA

## Message from State Director Sylvia Williams

The 53<sup>rd</sup> State Convention in Austin was a successful and very enjoyable event. Convention Chair Janet Roberts led a group of dedicated and hard working women who did a splendid job of welcoming and graciously hosting 127 registered members to the convention. All 21 Texas Tables were represented by 35 delegates and 14 alternates. We were joined by 4 Table members from New Mexico, 1 from California, Alliance Director General Peggy Clark, and 2 Alliance representatives from Mexico. The able leadership of State Director Jean Hager, and the participation and enthusiasm of so many members from around the state made this an outstanding occasion.

Numerous volunteer opportunities and activities compete today for our attention and time. For the past several years membership in the state

organization has declined. So much so, that our organization is smaller in 2007 than thirty years ago. Naturally there is concern about the future of the Pan American Round Table, but size does not determine the effectiveness of an organization. The care and commitment of individual members determine its effectiveness, and it is those efforts that will keep PART alive and thriving.

Today we have the gift of technology--through technology we have the opportunity to be stronger and more influential. We can now bond together to inform, communicate, exchange ideas instantaneously, help and support one another, and promote Pan Americanism on a real time basis. We face challenges, of course, but there are so many new opportunities now to move



this organization forward, opportunities our founders little imagined 91 years ago. PART will live and thrive as long as we change and adapt to meet the demands of today. Let us work together toward a more cohesive, responsive and committed state organization.

Thank you for electing me as your State Director. It is an honor and privilege to serve this wonderful organization. I look forward to our time together and to becoming acquainted with members throughout Texas.

## Message from Alliance Director General Peggy Clark



This summer I met so many wonderful Pan American sisters in Costa Rica and Mexico at their National Association conventions. In Costa Rica, Bill and I visited Alajuela, San José, Cartago and Limón, site of the Costa Rican convention. In Mexico, I visited Querétaro for the Alliance Board meeting, Tesquiquiapan, Celaya, Salamanca,

Irapuato, Guanajuato, Leon, Veracruz for the Mexican convention, Piedras Negras, Ciudad Acuña, and Nuevo Laredo.

As a result of traveling in Mexico with Pan American Woman 2006 Delia P. de Plata and Alliance Parliamentarian Carmen Guerra, both past Directors General, I now have greetings to use for opening and closing ceremonies, work sessions and articles for various publications. Alliance Translator Ina Pool translates my correspondence and speeches.

We have wonderful husbands supporting us. Number one is my husband Bill who will join me for the Peruvian portion of my South American trip. The husbands of

Gloria Sosa (Alliance Zone IIIB director and coordinator of the Alliance Board meeting), Edith "Yeye" Cardenas de Perez Treviño (Alliance Zone IIIA director and President of the National Association of Mexico) and Beatriz Sepe (Vice Chairman of the Alliance Nominating Committee) in particular, graciously and with good humor, performed crowd control duties and acted as chauffeur, organized dinner for eight tired Pan American sisters and entertained the DG's husband.

Join me for the XXXI Biennial Alliance Convention in San Jose, Costa Rica September 16-20, 2008. (See *Message continued* on page 6.)



## State Board Awards Scholarships

The Florence Terry Griswold (FTG) Scholarship Committee awarded three scholarships at the Board of Trustees Meeting in Austin, Texas, on March 23, 2007, during the State PART Convention.

Fourteen qualified applications were received for the FTG Scholarship I. This \$4,000 scholarship was awarded to Lilian Lie Nohara from Brazil, a doctoral student at the University of Texas El Paso in biology with a 4.0 GPA. She plans to return to Brazil upon graduation to pursue high quality research on tropical infectious diseases.

Five qualified applications were received for the FTG II scholarship. This \$2,500 scholarship was awarded to Ashley Dyan Ross of Texas A & M University. A doctoral student with

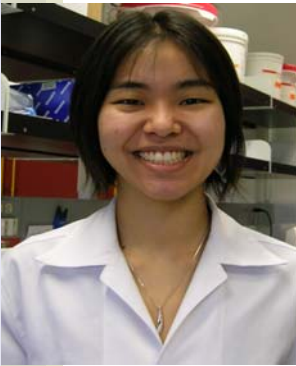
a 4.0 GPA, Ashley is studying the comparative politics of Latin America. She will use the scholarship money to live with a host family in Costa Rica to study language and culture.

The scholarship committee also awarded the Melba Dawson Scholarship of \$3,500 to Lisa Benjamin. Lisa is from Trinidad & Tobago and a doctoral student at Texas A & M University studying epidemiology with a 3.5 GPA. Lisa intends to return to the Caribbean/Latin America region to work in her field.

The committee members were Dorothy Schatzman (Chairman), Kay Leech, Gladys Cummins, Jean Hagar, Elsie Perez, Margie Gillette, and Geri Rice.

**Table Directors and Members of PART Texas:** Your Tables can honor a speaker or memorialize a Table member by sending a donation to the State Scholarship Fund. Members too can make a contribution to the Scholarship Fund! All memorials and honorariums are acknowledged by the Scholarship Committee Chairman to both the donors and those honored.

Send checks to: PART Texas Treasurer Mary Alice Magana,  
1415 Highland, McAllen TX 78501



From top: Ashley Ross, Lisa Benjamin, Lilian Lie Nohara.

## Viaje a Queretaro

By Margie Gillette, Zone I Director

Fourteen members of the Pan American Round Tables of Texas enjoyed the warm hospitality of Querétaro, Mexico, during the Second Meeting of the Alliance Board of Directors held on June 30 and July 1, 2007, at the Hotel Mirage. The Board Meeting, hosted by the Querétaro Table and Zone IIIB Director Gloria Sosa de Muñoz, was convened by Director General Peggy Clark from Corpus Christi. She gave an overview of her visits to the Mexican National Board Meeting in Puebla; the Texas State Convention in Austin; the New Mexico State Convention in Las Cruces; and the National Convention in San José, Costa Rica, where she met with the 2008 Alliance Convention Committee to review the sites for the upcoming convention.

In addition to the delicious meals served at the hotel, attendees were able to enjoy a trip to the Peña de Bernal to see a 350-meter monolith. They were entertained by a program of native and mariachi music, and a fantastic Sound and Light show featuring fountains with water and colored lights programmed to classical and popular music. The last day, members toured the historic colonial downtown of Querétaro.

After the Board Meeting, several Texans visited San Miguel de Allende. Director General Peggy Clark continued her official duties at the Mexican National Convention in Veracruz on July 4<sup>th</sup>.



## Hour of Memory Honors Deceased Members

On March 25, 2007, during a moving Hour of Memory presided by Debra Evans of the Austin Table, members attending the State Convention honored recently deceased members of the Pan American Tables of Texas:

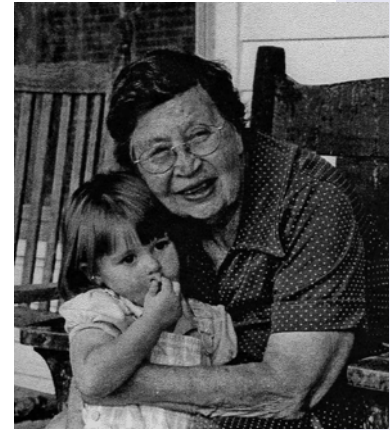
**Alamo/San Juan/Pharr:** Tiva Sánchez, Frances Riley **Austin:** Nancy Blythe, Betsy Smythe Brown, Emily Boyd, Mary Dent, Clarice Neal, Beth Northrup **Beeville:** Jeanne Jones Hause, Pat Jackson **Brownsville I:** Nena Roser, Lucy Eileen Roberts **Conroe:** Viva McComb, Margo Truran. Etta Margaret Hill, Lyn Haily, Nell Clyburn, Lorayne Willis **Corpus Christi:** Jennie V. Clark\*, Eulalia “Lala” De Leon, Janet Hurst, Topsy King\*, Dale Pitcairn [\*Founding members] **Dallas III:** Kay Lynn **Edinburg:** Margaret Looney, Lillian F.

Noyes, Ray **Schalaben El Paso/Juarez:** Kathryn M. de la Vega, Carmen H. de Mascareñas, Ellen Platt, Elizabeth Clayton Zinn, Margarita Gomez, Nancy Qualls, Gretchen Robb, Carmen Rodarte, Margarita Rascon Escudero, Charlene Watkins Green, Beatrice Meneses **Fort Worth I:** Marie G. (Susie) Ehmann, Mary Samson **Houston:** Helen Worden, Gretchen Truitt **Laredo:** Bea Allen, Woncelle Dublin, Margarita V. Gonzalez, Molly M. McGrew, Carmen Valls Nelson **Rio Grande City/Roma:** Cresencia “Chata” Barrera, Olivia Treviño **San Antonio:** Louise Arnold, Frances Kallison, Johnnie Maly, Amalie R. Perkins **San Benito:** Chrissie Bucklin.

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*“A Service of Worship and  
Celebration for the Lives  
of Our Pan American  
Round Table Sisters”*

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The Pan American Round Table of Austin dedicated the 53<sup>rd</sup> State Convention to the memory of **Clarice Georgette Hollman Neal**, 1920-2004, a tireless member of PART from 1947 until her unexpected death in 2004. She served as Austin table director in 1961-62.

### *Table Director Workshop in San Antonio*



Twelve Texas table directors gathered on August 17, 2007, at the home of Louise Actkinson in San Antonio for a Table Director Workshop organized by State Director Sylvia Williams, Geri Rice and Sarah Jane Wise of Corpus Christi, and Louise Actkinson of San Antonio.

The attendees are, front row, left to right, Margo Arevalo-Gonzalez, Edinburg; Nancy Smith, Conroe; Nidia Salamanca-Speers, Austin; Susana Schwarm, Brownsville I; Molly Morrill, Beeville; Lily Torrez, McAllen; back row, left to right, Ana Sandoval, Alamo-San Juan-Pharr; Patricia Rodriguez, Houston; Louise Actkinson, San Antonio; Rita Thacker-Gomez, El Paso; B.J. Kershaw, Corpus Christi; and Lana Harper, Eagle Pass.

*"Let us work together  
toward a more cohesive,  
responsive and committed  
state organization."*

## State Board Officers and Committees

**State Director:** Sylvia Williams (Austin)  
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**1st Associate Director (Area A):** Gloria Mata  
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**3rd Associate Director (Area C):** Baudelia "B.B."  
Crane (McAllen) [baudeliacrane@aol.com](mailto:baudeliacrane@aol.com)  
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**Past Director:** Jean Hager (Brownsville II)  
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**Publications:** Chairman Laura Gutiérrez-Witt  
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**Scholarship:** Chairman Louise Actkinson  
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Members: Diana Rodriguez (Laredo)  
[tmr1943@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tmr1943@sbcglobal.net); Eunice Ingles  
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**Youth Groups:** Chairman Dorothy  
Schatzman (El Paso) [dorteet@juno.com](mailto:dorteet@juno.com)  
Members: El Paso Table Members

Are you interested in learning how to start a  
Youth Group in your community or school?  
For information, contact Youth Group Chair  
Dorothy Schatzman or State Director Sylvia  
Williams.

## Table Members View Botero Exhibit in San Antonio

*Photo: front row, from left: Peggy  
Clark, Sandy Renfrow, Ninfa Bosquez,  
Geri Rice, Jane Wicker, B.J. Kershaw;  
second row: Yolie Calley, Sylvia  
Williams, Chela Storm, Esther Read,  
Kay McBrayer, Darlene Conoly,  
Susan Matthews; back row: Judy  
Dominguez, Monica Mejia, Louise  
Actkinson. Photographer, not shown:  
Brittan, Sylvia Williams's daughter.*



Members of four Texas tables met in San Antonio this summer to view the Botero exhibit at the San Antonio Museum of Art. The day trip began with lunch at Club Giraud followed by visits to the Botero exhibit, the Southwest Craft Center, and the San Antonio Central Library. The delightful day of friendship and camaraderie ended with a Mexican dinner and margaritas.

## *Houston Table Celebrates Pan American Day Featuring "Traditional Costumes of the Americas"*

Alliance Director General Peggy Clark addressed Pan American Round Table members from Brownsville 1, Conroe, and Houston and the Pan American Consul Generals being honored at the April 16 Pan American Day celebration in Houston. The program was "Traditional Costumes of the Americas," featuring rare embroidered dresses from the Costumes of the Americas Museum founded by PART Brownsville I. Museum Directors Kaye Kimberling, Lita Pashos, LeeAnn Greer, and Janet Vaughan modeled the costumes, along with members of PART Houston, and Director General Clark and Alliance Secretary Gloria Riddle. The Colombian Consul General added two colorful costumes with Colombian models. Members from Houston and Conroe hosted Consul Generals at their tables to make them feel welcome. Consul General Veronica Pena of Ecuador brought her parents to the celebration. Narrator Lita Pashos told fascinating stories about the costumes. Costumes from 15 nations were presented, and the Consuls General were honored to see their countries' flags making a colorful backdrop on the Junior League of Houston Ballroom stage.

*Photo: Mr. Fraga; l-r, Irma Diaz-Gonzalez, Director Patricia Rodriguez, Diana Herrera, Adrienne Moreno, Cinthia Milian, Ana Flores, Ginny Trevino, Nicole Alvarado, and Dulce Negreros..*



*From left: Kaye Kimberling (Costumes of the Americas Museum Director), Alliance Secretary Gloria Riddle, Alliance Director General Peggy Clark, Janet Vaughan, narrator Lita Pashos (Museum Acquisitions and Education Director), Houston Director Patricia Rodriguez, former Houston Director Monica Wright, and Houston Scholarship Chairman Irma Diaz-Gonzalez.*

### *Houston Table Awards Scholarships*



The Pan American Round Table of Houston celebrated Scholarship Day on May 15<sup>th</sup> by awarding seven scholarships. The speaker was Mr. Felix Fraga, the winner of the very first PART Houston scholarship who later became District H city councilman, HISD trustee, vice president of Neighborhood Centers, and winner of a Lifetime Achievement Award. He and Alice Vick, who helped to set up the first Maude Cashin scholarship, enjoyed reminiscing about PART's early days. The Houston table has been celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the first Pan American table and the 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Houston table by honoring Florence Terry Griswold and Maude Cashin and the founders of the Houston table.



## The Pan American Round Tables of Texas

PANAMERICANA  
TEXANA

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.PARTT.org](http://www.PARTT.org)

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**THE PAN AMERICAN  
ROUND TABLES  
OF TEXAS**

2602 Forest Bend Drive  
Austin, Texas 78704 USA

## *Dates to Remember*

**April 4-5, 2008**—PARTT Executive Board Meeting in Fort Worth (Southlake), Texas, at the Hilton Hotel Southlake.

**September 17-20, 2008**—PART Alliance Convention in San Jose, Costa Rica, at the Barceló Palacio Hotel.

**March 20-23, 2009**—PARTT State Convention in Brownsville, Texas, at the Holiday Inn.

## *Message continued...* (from page one)

Our theme is *Communication—Our Bridge to Knowledge, Understanding and Friendship*.

Let us plan for the future of our great organization so that the work that we do will further the goals of our founder Florence Terry Griswold “to bring into closer union the women and children of the Western Hemisphere and to develop a higher civilization through mutual knowledge, understanding and friendship.” Let us make what we do relevant to the 21<sup>st</sup>

century—to work for education of all our children, to work for peace in our families, within the membership of each Table, among our Tables, in our communities and among the nations, and to help make our environment and our peoples healthy.

Remember we are more than 6,000 women and youth in 212 Tables in 17 countries and Puerto Rico, and we have been in existence almost 91 years. The future is shaped by what we do today.

