



Pan Americana Texana

The Pan American Round Tables of Texas

McAllen, Texas USA

Message From Director Sarah Jane

2012 Summer Edition Volume 37 no. 2

It has been an amazing year! This past summer I accepted the gift of the copyright to Pan American Round Tables, written by Lois Marchbanks and gifted by her daughter Sarilee Marchbanks Ferguson. Geri Rice's husband, Attorney Stuart Rice from Corpus Christi, donated his time to write the document.

In July, 2011 I represented PARTT at the Alliance Board meeting in Puebla, Mexico. In the fall and spring Corresponding Secretary, Yolie Calley, and I traveled to the following Tables: Brownsville I -79th birthday celebration, Laredo, Beeville, Rio Grande City-Roma for their "Noche de Villancicos", a Christmas Posada, San Antonio, Austin, Ft. Worth I, Dallas III and the Pan American Day celebration of the Upper Rio Grande Valley Tables, Alamo-San Juan-Pharr, Edinburg, McAllen and Rio Grande City-Roma. We were warmly welcomed, graciously entertained and met incredibly gifted women wherever we traveled. Because of a broken wrist I had to suspend travels for 5 weeks so Yolie & I look forward to visiting the remaining Tables in May and next fall.

My heartfelt thanks to all Associate Directors who have worked diligently throughout the year visiting their Area's Tables. Fort Worth II decided to disband and the majority of the members merged with Fort Worth I.

I am grateful to my Board, Advisory Committee, Table Directors and PARTT members for your efforts, dedication and hard work that continues to make PARTT what it is today. I look forward to all Tables reporting that their information is up to date on our web page by the time of our Convention in Eagle Pass, April 21-24, 2013, where "Yee Ha meets Ole!" *Sarah Jane Wise*



2013 State Convention Plans



Lucy Mancha, Table Director and Laura Rodriguez from the Eagle Pass Table shared their plans with the Executive Board at the March meeting in Laredo, regarding the 56th annual convention planned for March 21-24 in the Border

city of Eagle Pass.

Registration fees will be \$200 per person and \$175 for guests. Hotels contracted are the Marriot, the Holiday Inn Express and the Hampton Inn, with an average price of \$89.95 per night.

The Planning Committee is working hard to make this a memorable and fun event. They hope to provide a comfortable setting for greeting old and new

acquaintances and to ensure the continued growth of the Pan American Round Tables of Texas.

Some of the fun possibilities are: a tour and wine-tasting to the winery in Del Rio and a visit to the only casino in the State of Texas.

At the Sunday luncheon a raffle is to be held to support the Florence Terry Griswold Scholarship Fund. Although local members and merchants are donating items for

this purpose, the Table kindly requests and welcomes one item from each Table for this event.

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Laredo Officers Host State Board Meeting

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Laredo officers hosting the State Board meeting are: Seated left to right: Dr. Rosa Maria Vida, Scholarship chairman; Alicia V. Cantu, past Director; Ana Flores, Director; Angela Manni Hachar, 1st Associate Director; Diana Rodriguez, 2nd Associate Director. Standing: Bettina Muñoz, Guardian of the flags; Eva Porras, Historian; Cordelia Flores, Corresponding Secretary; Cecilia M. Vela, Parliamentarian; Diana Czar, Treasurer and Patricia Sepesi, Recording Secretary.

Ana Flores-Laredo, Lily Torres & BB Crane-McAllen, Louise Actkinson-San Antonio, Margo A. Gonzalez-Edinburg were attendees at the Board meeting.



The PARTT Board meeting was held at the Embassy Suites in Laredo on March 3 and 4. All officers, Area Directors and Standing Committee Chairmen reported on their activities during the year.

Jo Ann Jensen reported that Fort Worth II Table has disbanded, thus reducing the number of Texas Tables to 20.

The Nominations Committee was appointed as follows: Area A: Susan Houston & Carmen Guerra. Area B: Gloria Riddle & Diana Czar. Area C: Maria Enriqueta Yzaguirre & Rosa Paulson. Area D: Fifi Heller-Kaim & Imogene McCaskey.



Officers and Committee Chairpersons attending the board meeting in Laredo

El Paso Reminisces on Founder's Day & Awards Scholarships



Table Director, Ann Jackson & Patricia Kidney as Eugenia Shuster

Members of the El Paso Table were surprised with a "blast from the past" On Jan. 17th. Founder, Eugenia Shuster, who started the Table In 1921, visited the group's luncheon, as portrayed by Patricia Kidney. The luncheon, held at the Woman's Club of El Paso, was in celebration of Founder's Day, where past directors were honored. Current director is Ann Jackson.

At their February meeting the El Paso Table awarded scholarships to the following lucky scholars: Alejandra Leon-Masters student in Business Administration, Karen Paola Herrera-

Psychology Major, Jorge Anibal Sierra Fonseca -Biology Major, Marco Antonio Favela- Finance & Economics (Business) Studies, Zenia Alejandra Garcia-Masters in Mechanical Engineering and Nancy Jackson Rivera.



Zenia Garcia, Jorge Sierra & Nancy Jackson Rivera

Happy 95th to San Antonio!



Deena Bird, Beatrice Dracoulis and Sharon & Richard Homuth stand by the commemorative plaque in the Gardens of the Menger Hotel recognizing the formation of P.A.R.T.

San Antonio Table members and guests met at the Menger Hotel on October 16th to celebrate a very significant anniversary of the founding of our noble organization.

The auspicious occasion was held in the Minuet Room; the very room and date of 95 years ago, where Founder Florence Terry Griswold held the first PART organizational meeting.

Mr. Ernesto Malacara, Director of Public Relations for the Menger Hotel, spoke on the history of PART's association with the Menger.

Following the celebration, members gathered in the hotel gardens to view the plaque commemorating the event and to honor Mrs. Griswold for her care and concern for others in their hour of need.

79th Birthday For Brownsville I & 69 for Brownsville II



Table Director Isabel Vezzetti, Area C Director Margot Arevalo Gonzalez, Associate Director General Elsie Perez, State Director Sarah Jane Wise, State Scholarship Chair BB Crane & State Corresponding Secretary Yollie Calley.

Table I of Brownsville celebrated its 79th birthday on November 5, 2011. The celebration was held at noon, at La Cantera. Attendees were treated to games of "Mexican Chalupa" (Bingo) with great prizes for the winners. Numerous state dignitaries, and many Pan American Sisters from Area C were in attendance.

Brownsville Table II combined its 69th anniversary celebration with a Christmas Tea on December 3, 2011, making it a very special party for all.



Left to Right- Secretary/Parliamentarian Jean Hager, Associate Director Yoli Roberts, Table Director Linda Marin, Corresponding Secretary Ruth Kulesa, Historian Gale Avery and Treasurer Lou Garza

Hasta La Vista



Frances Metcalf

Frances Metcalf, esteemed and invaluable member of the McAllen Table, will be moving from the Valley to San Antonio, in the immediate future, to be closer to her family and where, she states, “she will no longer have to worry about a leaky roof or other home maintenance trivia”.

Frances is the daughter of Kaleta Vannoy, the founder of the McAllen Table in 1934. She has been a faithful member and tireless worker of our organization since 1971. She has also been a source of leadership, inspiration and ready advice to all of her fellow-members.

Her accomplishments in P.A.R.T. are numerous, including that of holding the highest office as State Director from 1987-1989. Prior to that she had also served in the following State offices: Recording Secretary, Area D Director and Associate Director. She also served as Treasurer of the Alliance for two terms, from 1988-1992.

At the local level Frances served as Table Director, Associate Director, Recording Secretary and also worked on many committees and appointed positions. During the celebration of their Silver Jubilee In 2009 her fellow Table members recognized Frances for her dedication and loyalty throughout the years by presenting her with a certificate of distinction. To bid her adieu McAllen Table members presented Frances with a certificate of appreciation, at their regular meeting in May, and designated her as an Honorary member of the Table. We would like to say to Frances, “The Valley Tables will miss you greatly, but we hold you to your promise of seeing you at the 100th year celebration in San Antonio”! Good luck in your new home!



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Scholarships

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San Antonio Scholars



Dr. Karen Diaz, Chairperson of the Scholarship Fund and Table Director Saundra Payne are shown here with Anna Christina O'Reilly, Our Lady of the Lake student, on the left, and Yvonne Busby, student of UTHSCSA, School of Nursing, on the right. They were presented with scholarship awards at a luncheon meeting held on Feb. 17, at the Oak Hills Country Club. in San Antonio.

Melba Dawson Award

The State Scholarship Committee, chaired by Baudelia Crane from McAllen, selected **Sandra Cañas** from Chiapas, Mexico to receive the \$2000 Melba Dawson Scholarship award.

Sandra's PhD dissertation project in Anthropology, at UT Austin, examines indigenous peoples' struggles for urban space and citizenship in Southern Mexico, specifically in San Cristobal De Las Casas. This area has become a key strategic site within the region and is one of the main targets of new developmental projects. Her goal is to apply for a position at research centers located in San Cristobal. She wishes to combine an active involvement with the community where she conducted research for several years, so as to develop programs oriented to support marginalized indigenous people living in the City.



Sandra Cañas

Florence T. Griswold Award Recipients



Paula Andrea Gonzalez from Cali, Colombia was the recipient of the 2012-2013 **FTG Scholarship I** in the amount of \$2,500. She is currently a Ph.D. student in the Computational Science Program at the University of Texas at El Paso, working on mathematical models applied to epidemiological problems.

Her main objective is to do research and to work with health decision makers in her country so as to find solutions for the many social and health-related problems that exist in Colombia.

Miss Gonzalez has attended the Mathematical and Theoretical Biology Institute at Cornell and has worked in the Universidad Autonoma de Occidente. She desires to return to her country to share her knowledge by teaching and by doing research in Mathematical Biology.

FTG Scholarship II, in the amount of \$2,000 was awarded to **Sulamita Mora**, whose family is from Michoacan, Mexico. She is a Masters student of Clinical Social Work at the University of Texas in Austin.

Her passion for learning led her to the field of Social Work as her career and to be an advocate for human rights issues, such as human trafficking, immigration, domestic violence, etc. Her goal is to counsel families in Central and South America.

As her final field placement, Sulamita has been accepted to "Nuestros Ahijados" in Antigua, Guatemala, an organization that offers education, medical services and much more to the people of the San Felipe Slums. Her duration of 4 months in Antigua will enable her to be more confident as a professional and to improve her research skills.

Eagle Pass Founders Day



Eagle Pass Members seized the opportunity to raise Breast Cancer Awareness by presenting a skit at their Founder's Day celebration in October, at the Ft. Duncan Medical Center. Participants were, L-R: Elva Benavidez, Pepita Lopez, Gracie Vargas, Marge Munt, Rosie Castillo, Rosella Even, Director Lucy Mancha, Juliet Martinez and Joan Garcia.

Austin Table Adopts School



The Outreach Committee of the Austin Table hosted a special breakfast in December, honoring the 80 teachers of the Rodriguez Elementary School. The Table adopted this school since its inception, mainly because it was named in honor of Hermelinda Rodriguez, a former Table member, and possibly the first Hispanic superintendent in Texas.

Conroe



Members Bettye Wakefield, Joan Tharp and Jeannette DeFee look forward to their Christmas Luncheon



Rio Grande City/Roma



Rio Grande City/Roma Table members paid a visit to the residents of the Retama Nursing Home in Rio Grande City, in December, 2011. Several high school students joined the group with their guitars and led the group in singing Christmas Carols.

Observance Day in the Rio Grande Valley

San Benito Hosts Lower Valley LUNCHEON

Pan American Round Tables of the lower Rio Grande Valley celebrated Pan American Observance Day with a luncheon at the Golden Palms' Texas Room. This year San Benito Table hosted the event.

(l to r) Elva Morales, Director of the San Benito Table, Isabel Vezzetti, Director, Brownsville I, and Linda Marin, Director of Brownsville II, do some chatting before the event.



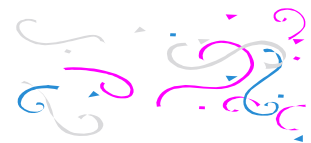
(l to r) Olga Gavito of Brownsville I, Elva Morales—San Benito Director, and Mary Lou Lozano, San Benito member and former Table Director



Elsie Perez, Alliance Associate Director General, spoke to the audience on the meaning of "Pan American Observance Day".



Luipta Muñiz from San Benito PART in deep conversation



Upper Valley Event Celebrated in McAllen



L-R: ASJP Director Anna Sandoval, Area C Director Margot A. Gonzalez, Guest Speaker Judge Ana Lisa Garza, State Director Sarah Jane Wise, Assoc. Dir. General Elsie Perez, Edinburg Director Dolly Flores, McAllen Director Alma De La Garza & RGC/Roma Director Rosa Paulson,

Alamo, San Juan, Pharr Table members with Director Sarah Jane Wise

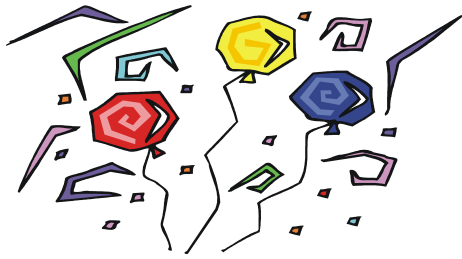


The Upper Valley Tables of Alamo/San Juan/Pharr, Edinburg, McAllen and Rio Grande City/Roma held their celebration on April 21st at the McAllen Country Club, hosted by the McAllen Table. Edinburg Table members did the presentation of flags and Rosa Paulson, RGC/Roma Director, introduced guest speaker Judge Ana Lisa Garza, whose entertaining talk about the many hats that women wear, or the many roles they play, tied in with the theme of "Hats off to Pan Americanism."

Special guests in attendance were State Director Sarah Jane Wise, Yollie Calley and Susan Matthews from Corpus Christi, along with Associate Director General Elsie Perez. The hosts were especially pleased to welcome six guests from Miguel Aleman, Tamaulipas. ASJP was responsible for the raffle and door prizes.



Special guests from Miguel Aleman with Associate Director General Elsie Perez



Corpus Christi Pan American Day Fiesta



Jeanne Adams &
Past State Director Geri Rice

The Corpus Christi Table held their 2012 Pan American Day Fiesta on April 17 at the home of Jeanne Adams. About 75 members and guests were in attendance, including State Director Sarah Jane Wise and Alliance Zone I Director Ina Pool.



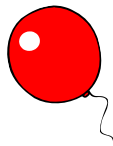
Past State Director and Alliance Advisor,
Peggy Clark, Richard and Manette Scanio
and Bill Clark



Geri Rice, Susan Matthews,
State Director Sarah Jane Wise &
Zone I Director Ina Pool



Peter Perkins, Mary Jo Branscomb,
Dora Perkins



Annette Morgan,
Esther and Nolan Read



December Events



Christmas Party and silent auction were held at the home of Eagle Pass Table Director Lucy Mancha - Pictured are: Del Rio Associate Director Dee Moore, Del Rio Asst. Treasurer Elaine Lemp, Eagle Pass Director Lucy Mancha, Eagle Pass Parliamentarian Esperanza Deutsch, Del Rio Table Director Lisa Romero, Del Rio Treasurer Deidre Chattler, State Resolutions Chairman Ina Pool (Laredo), and State Historian Lana Harper (Eagle Pass).



Remembering Laura In Happier Times

Director Lucy Mancha, Magali Rodriguez, Laura Rodriguez and Rosa Isela Valderrama.

"Eagle Pass News"



Eagle Pass PART members presented Christmas gifts to nursing home residents - PART members: Juanita Flores, Maria Moncada, Pepita Lopez, Lydia Lerma, Romelia Guajardo, Christmas Project Committee Chairman Rosi Castillo, and Graciela Vargas.



The Good That We Do

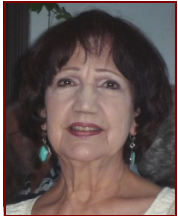
Rio Grande City/Roma Domestic Violence Vigil



Table Director Rosa Paulson, pictured center left, with two other RGC/Roma Table members.



Message From Zone I Director, Ina Agraz Pool



Dear Alliance Zone I Texas Table Members:

These two years have gone by quickly and sadly, my duties as Alliance Zone I Director will end soon in October at the XXXIII Alliance Biennial Convention to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 17-21, 2012.

I want to thank all the Texas Tables for their support and friendship offered to me as I traveled throughout our vast Zone. It was my pleasure to meet some of you for the first time and also being able to greet prior dear friends.

I attended your meetings, your celebrations and events and was always impressed by your organization, dedication and attention to detail.

Congratulations to all of you for your hard work in continuing to expand the dream of our founder Florence Terry Griswold. I encourage you to continue your endeavors on behalf of the Pan American Round Tables of this great State of Texas.

Let us continue being:

‘ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR ONE ‘

‘UNA PARA TODAS Y TODAS PARA UNA ‘

Faternally,

INA AGRAZ POOL

CONROE



Showing artifacts at their January meeting, is Conroe Table member Ahia Shabaaz, who shared her experiences from travels to Haiti. The purpose of her visit there, was to help the local people who are still suffering from the effects of that country's devastating earthquake of three years ago.



Yolanda Barrera, Yoli McCarty and Leticia Peña, program presenters with Table Director Alma De La Garza

McAllen Presents



Members Yolanda McCarty and Leticia Peña, representing the United States, served as hostesses for the regular business meeting and luncheon held on February 8, 2012 at the McAllen Country Club. Their informative and entertaining program was on facts about the presidents of the United States, which was greatly enjoyed by all present.



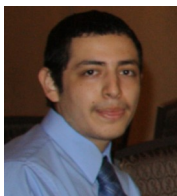
Elizabeth Perkins



Some members who were present are: seated l-r, Bertha Martínez, Aida Torres, Yolanda Barrera, Alma De La Garza, Dardanela Caárdenas, Carmen R. Guerra, Dr. Yvonne Quintanilla, Leticia Peña. Standing: Patti Mayers, Irma Zavaleta, Rosario Grajales, Marsha Ingram, Alice Tavaréz, Sylvia Alanis, Charlene Hertz, Lily Tórrez, Becky Strong, Adelina Garza, Norma Ornelas and Mary Lou Treviño.

Scholarships Awarded

Scholarship Chairman Amy Seitz presented scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each, to three deserving students. each representing one of the three McAllen High Schools. The students were accompanied to the presentation/luncheon by their parents at the McAllen Country Club on May 1, 2012. Mrs. Seitz stated, "We are very proud of these students and happy to award them scholarships for their Freshman year."



Ezequiel Juarez
Will graduate from McAllen High School as this year's Salutatorian. He is an IB Scholar, as well.

Ezequiel was an active member of the McHi marching band and plans to attend the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg. His career plans are in Mechanical Engineering and physics. He was accompanied to the presentation by his mother, Maria Ramos.



Brenda Rivera
Is a student at Rowe High School and plans to enroll at UTPA and major in Education and Speech Therapy for children..

Brenda played the violin in the Mariachi Band and made all-region orchestra.

Raymundo and Saturnina Rivera, her proud parents, attended the presentation.



Rafael Guerrero
Has been a student at Memorial High School, where he played Clarinet in the wind ensemble

band. His plans are to attend the University of Texas-Pan American and major in Biology. Future plans are to attend Medical School and study to be a Pediatrician. His parents are Rafael and Maria Guerrero.

Austin



These photos are highlights from the Spanish Coffee Program that Austin hosts monthly for members and friends.



Visit By State Director Elsie Perez



Houston On The Move



Scholarship recipients with Director Susan Sanchez in the center, in black, next to Scholarship Chairman Irma Diaz Gonzalez, in white, at their May, 2011 luncheon.



Celebrating Pan American Day April, 2011. L-R: Zone I Director Ina Pool, Magalis Forgarty, Director Susan Sanchez, Director General Ana Maria De Macedo and Director Marlyn Greiner.



Installation of officers took place in June, 2011 by Alliance Director General Elect Elsie Perez, far right. Seated L-R: Director Elect Marlyn Greiner and Director Susan Sanchez with the new slate of officers.



The first summer social was held in June, 2011 at the home of Marsha Capan Kahan. Marsha delighted everyone with her singing performance of "Besame Mucho". Carlos Monsanto contributed with his piano playing



Musicians and attendees at the annual Posada Dec., 2010



Irma Diaz Gonzalez Prepares food for the annual Posada to raise funds for scholarships. December, 2010

In Memoriam



LAURA RODRIGUEZ

EAGLE PASS:

Laura Rodriguez, past Table Director of Eagle Pass, passed away on April 20th at her home. We were blessed to have such a wonderful friend and Pan American member. Laura was the daughter of Eagle Pass PART founding member and past Director Mrs. Cecilio Rodriguez, Jr. and the niece of founding member Antonia "Toni" Becker.

Laura was chairman of numerous committees and held several offices throughout the years as a member of the Eagle Pass Table. At the time of her death, she was enthusiastically working on the State Convention to be held in Eagle Pass next year. She was always there for all of us, and there are no words to express how much she will be missed. Laura's smile will shine forever in our hearts.



SELMA BURANDT

Alamo, San Juan, Pharr:

Selma Marie Sorenson Burandt, member and former Director of the Alamo, San Juan, Pharr Table passed away on July 21, 2011 after suffering

a stroke.

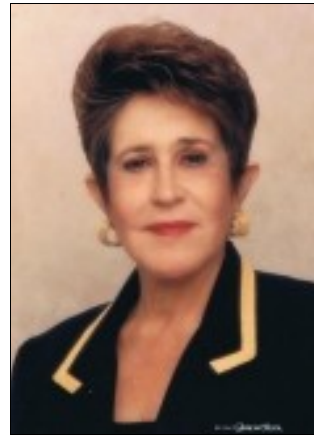
Born July 8, 1926, Selma was one of five children, whose parents, Selma S. and R. J. Sorenson, were one of the pioneering families of Pharr. Selma taught school for 32 years, and upon her retirement volunteered for various leadership positions and received many honors.

She is survived by Norman, her husband of 62 years and their five children.



**"TO LIVE IN HEARTS
WE LEAVE BEHIND,
IS NOT TO DIE."**

Carmen Spishakoff



McAllen:

Carmen Ulloa De Spishakoff, long time member of the McAllen Table died on April 3, 2012 from complications due to lung cancer.

She was born on July 15, 1931 in Sonora, Mexico. Her late husband Leonard

Mark was a USDA attaché, and they lived in Africa, Mexico and eventually McAllen, where she became a real estate broker.

She is survived by one son, Dr. Leonard Spishakoff and his wife Dinora of Illinois, 5 nieces and nephews, and 8 grandchildren.

