



# PANAMERICANA TEXANA

## The Pan American Round Tables of Texas Newsletter

2016 Fall Edition Volume 39 no. 4

**"Honor our Past, Celebrate our Present and Plan the Future"**



**Isabel G. Vezzetti,  
State Director**

Dear Pan American Sisters,

Those of us who attended the 35th Convention of the Alliance of Pan American Round Tables witnessed the celebration of the centennial of the Pan American Round Table Movement with a historic and excellent documentary presented by the PARTT Historical Committee chaired by Janet Roberts; a job well done that will live for many years that will fro many years to come. This documentary is an excellent tool that all of us can use to carry the message of Florence Terry Griswold. Many thanks to all that gave of their time, talent, and money to this project.

At this centennial year comes to a close, we continue to honor our past and the many women that came before us and continued the work of our Founder, Florence Terry Griswold. They were instrumental in getting us to the place we are today. We also continue to celebrate the 100 years of the birth of the Pan American Round Table Movement. It is still going strong and will continue to do so for we were founded on three strong virtues: knowledge, understanding and friendship.

As we embark into our next centennial, we do so with great humility and pride in all the work that lies before us. We live today in a world similar to that of 1916, modern but still with similar problems. We must call on our three founding virtues to continue the work of Florence Terry Griswold to attain a lasting peace and friendship amongst the women of the Western Hemisphere.

Pan American round Table of Houston will be leading us into our next centennial by hosting the 38th PARTT Convention at the Westin Oaks (Galleria) on April 21,2017 thru April 23, 2017. This will be the time to renew our commitment to the Pan American Round Table Movement and to plan its future. Be a part of it! Make plans to attend. Consider giving of your time and talent to this centennial organization by running for a state office or serving on a state committee. It is by sharing your energy and talent that we will continue to grow until we are all "One for All and All for One".

Abrazos,

Isabel G. Vezzetti

PARTT State Director

# Pan American Round Tables of Texas



Associate Director, Susanne Champion conducted Oct. 7th Meeting.

## Brownsville I



Brownsville I Celebrate their 84th Birthday (L-R) Nohemi Gonzalez, Suzanne Champion, Ginny Hale, Director, Isabel Vezzetti, PARTT State Director, Maria Garza, Amelia Yznaga



Norma McKnight presented program on United States at Oct. 7th Meeting.

## Dallas III



Dallas III members proudly display their Peace Banner on May 21, 2016 Meeting



(L-R) Carmen Peffly & Director Anna Maria Hodges

## Dallas III—April Meeting—Pan American Day



Dallas III members celebrate Pan American Day

## Eagle Pass—March Meeting



Eagle Pass members attend March meeting

## Laredo—October 12th Meeting



New Member Ceremony (L-R) Edna de Anda Peña, Annie Ochoa, Table Director Diana C. Rodriguez, Anita Villarreal Lopez & Leonor Gutierrez



Celebrating Mardi Gras at Eagle Pass March Meeting (L-R) Rosa Castillo, Lydia Lerma, Marge Munt & Alicia Charles



Eagle Pass members attend Pan American Day event (L-R) Alicia Charles, Norma Paniagua & Susan Villanueva



# Pan American Round Tables of Texas



Houston Table member receives City Proclamation for Legal service. (L-R) US Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, Rosalinda Peterson Esmeralda Garcia & Sylvia Garcia



Members attend Houston Hispanic event. (L-R) Guillermo Diaz, Susan Huston, Esmeralda Garcia, Belinda Postman Kaylani, Nelly Fraga (honoree's wife) & Nabila Attia



Center-Felix Fraga was honored by Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner who was also the first scholarship recipient of the PART of Houston. Many Houston table members attended this event.

## Conroe –October Meeting



Seating (L-R) Charlotte Field, Jeannette Defee - Second Row (L-R) Marcia Reagan, Woody Hearn, Director Becky Judah, Cheryl Fullen - Third Row (L-R) Jo Chesney, Annette Ferrel, Paula Alexander, Nancy Smith, Barbara Landry - Top Row (L-R) Jean Heasley, Paula Schoope, Mary Lou Sartore, Cheryl Jett



Houston Table members visit a local television show to promote the Houston PanAmerican Round Table history & vision.

## Alamo/San Juan/Pharr– Spring Tea



Standing (L-R) Talma Benavidez, Yolanda Ramirez, Delia Soza, Estela Casares, Blanca Garza, Maria Elena Corona, Yolanda Martinez, Mary Bard, Elva De La Garza & Mary Talboys - Sitting (L-R) Lilia P. Cruz, Yolanda Anders, Gloria Cantu, Director, Aida Lazo, & Raquel Garcia

## San Benito –September Meeting



San Benito members make fans to be used at the Alliance Convention. Seated (L-R) Nora Garza, Gloria Salinas, Sylvia Peña Casares, Elva Morales - Standing (L-R) Rosie Reyna, Lupita Muñoz, Angie Gonzales, Mary Torres, Mercedes Ramos & Dolores Montiel



McAllen Table members who participated in the Parade of Flags at Alliance Convention Opening Ceremony. (L-R) Lily Torrez, Graciela Cobo, Sylvia Alanis, Hortencia Pacheco & Linda Garza

## Del Rio –September Meeting



Seated (L-R) Elaine Lemp, Anne Beitel, Lisa Romero, Deidre Chattler & Shannon Graham - Standing (L-R) Lila Losoya, Maria Ramirez, Patricia Nicosia, Carolina Guajardo, Ameelies Castro-Rios, Enriqueta Eaton, Julia Beavan, Guillermina Slover, Dora Alacala, Harvest King - Back Row (L-R) Christine Foley, Scarlett Elkins, Moira Graham, (hidden-Trish Munoz) & Dee Moore





# XXXV Convention of the Alliance of Pan American Round Tables

October 26—29 2016 San Antonio, Texas



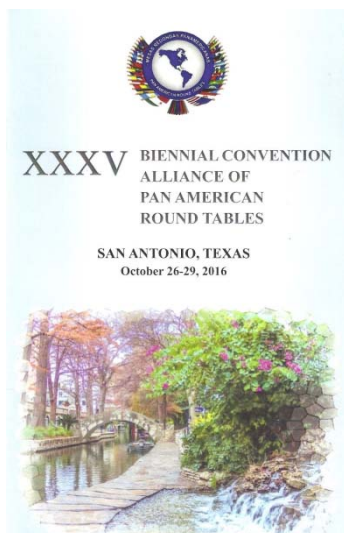
Celebrating 100 Years



Isabel G. Vezzetti PARTT  
State Director at Convention



Convention Candle lit at  
General Assembly Meeting



Portrait of Florence Terry  
Griswold by Artist Maria de  
Mexico-Yolanda Menchaca



Alliance of the Pan American Round Tables Zone I Representatives



Parade of Flags participants a family affair— Sisters:  
Sara Castellano Saldaña, Gloria Castellano Moore,  
Josie Castellano Cappadona, Margot Arevalo Gonzalez,  
and Letty Arevalo Gonzalez



Unveiling of Portraits of past Alliance Director General- \_\_\_\_\_  
Ana Maria Macedo, Norma Rios de Flores, Carmen Guerra, Maria  
Eva Muñoz de Manzarraga, Elsie Perez, Mona Mendoza & \_\_\_\_\_





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Celebrating 100 Years



Last thoughts of Florence Terry Griswold recited at the Hour Of Memory Ceremony



Alliance of Pan American Round Tables 35th Biennial Convention attendees of Hour of Memory Ceremony.



Alliance of Pan American Round Tables Directors 2014-2016



Louise Atkinson,  
Chairman of the  
Organizing Com-  
mittee



L-R-Delegates— Deidre E. Chatter, Del Rio,  
Esperanza Deutsch, Eagle Pass, Herminia  
V. Martinez, Edinburg



Delegates L-R-Nora Varela de Peña,  
Laredo & Sylvia Alaniz, McAllen



Lana Harper and Peggy Clark visit with  
members from Miami. L-R— Lana Harper,  
Omnis Bastos Acebo, Peggy Clark, (Past  
Alliance Director General and Past PARTT  
State Director) Vainey Aponite.  
Standing L-R-Luisa Cajina, Haydee  
Izquierdo and Idalia Alvarado.

## 2016-2018 Alliance Directors

Director General——Nhuy Gutierrez Vilches  
Ass. Director General—Sylvia Williams—Austin, Tx  
Recording Secretary— Silvia Calleja  
Treasurer- —————Martha Miles Stumbo-El Paso, Tx  
Historian———Jani Merechal de Mendoza  
Official Translator——Ina Pool—Laredo, Tx  
Director Zone I———Lana Harper-Eagle Pass, Tx  
Director Zone II———Mariqueta Melo Churchill  
Director Zone III A——Magdalena Santos de Tamez  
Director Zone III B——Isabel Bernardo Ferreras  
Director Zone III C——Lina Mary Florey Folan  
Director Zone IV——Hazel Silva de Fernandez  
Director Zone V——Ada Rosas de Escobar  
Director Zone VI——Maria Inez Montaldo de Figueriras







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## Brownsville I



Brownsville I Models for Parade of Flags at the Open Ceremonies—(L-R) Peggy Klinger, Nohemi Gonzalez, Nurith Galonsky, Sylvia Garza, Lucy Willis, Frank Averill (Representing George Washington), Amelia Yznaga, Virginia Hale, Gloria Moore, Suzanne Champion, Normalinda Castellano, Lourdes Deytz-Gamez, & Irene Gully



Ladies in Vintage dresses at Pan American Night (L-R) Alicia Cantu-Laredo, Lana Harper—Eagle Pass, & from El Paso—Martha Stumbo, Mary Jo Ponsford Melby & Carolyn Breck

## Austin



Sitting (L-R) Carmen Guerra, Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza, Sylvia Williams, Janet Roberts Standing (L-R) Rose Ann Reeser, Gloria Munguia, Louise Reeser, Esther Diaz, Mary Aldrich, Beatriz de la Garza, Maricarmen Nasr

## Austin



Sylvia Williams, Past PARTT State Director, welcomes guests and introduces Head Table at Opening Ceremony



Past Alliance Director Generals, Elsie Perez and Carmen R. Guerra enjoying the Alliance Convention Pan American Night.



Ladies visit Florence Terry Griswold gravesite in San Antonio.





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## Brownsville I



Ladies enjoying Pan American Night –Seated (L-R) Normalinda Castellano, Isabel Vezzetti, PARTT State Director, Sandra Maxwell, Irene Gulley– Standing (L-R) Melia Yznaga, Elka Jaross, and Ruth Kulesa, Brownsville II

## Austin



Austin ladies enjoying Gala Dinner  
Seated (L-R) Janet Roberts, Gloria Mungia  
Standing (L-R) Mary Ann Palka, Mary Aldrich, Esther Diaz, Maricarmen Nasr, and Carmen Guerra

## Laredo



(L-R) Mary Ann Garcia, Alicia Cantu, Nora V. Peña, Amelia Ramirez, Ana Flores and Yamilet Villanueva

## Alamo/San Juan/Pharr



(L-R) Yamilet Villanueva, Yolanda Anders, Blanca Garza, Aida Lazo, Mary Bard, Maria Elena Corona, Gloria Cantu

## McAllen



Cowgirl enjoying posing with steer at Texas Night Dinner

Ladies enjoying Pan American Night  
Sitting (L-R) Graciela Cabo, Mandy Peña, Sylvia Alanis, Sandra Brown, Rosario Pope  
Standing (L-R) Ana Maria Moon, Linda Garza, Hortencia Pacheco, Lily Torrez, Raquel Oliva

*A Saga of the Pan American Round Table Movement and Tribute to  
Founder Florence Terry Griswold  
composed by Lily Torrez*

"Mamacita we're so hungry, greatly frightened and so far away from home.  
"Please tell us, Mamita, are we ever to return?"  
but home was in a whirlwind of political disorder  
and from Mexico they're forced to flee across the northern border.

Through the years of revolution and the dictator on the run,  
when banditry abounded—all armed with loaded guns,  
the Federales and Villistas unleashed their frightful might  
which led to death and madness—inflicting untold strife.

The anguished mother wept aloud as she heard her children's pleas.  
Bitter tears streamed down her face as she longed and prayed for peace.  
"Oh Lord", she cried, "where's safety, where's succor to attain?"  
"Send down your tender mercy and solace for our pain."

The Good Lord sent an angel who heard and saw their plight,  
and knew of the upheaval that gave reason for their flight.  
The angel's name was Florence, her heart filled with compassion,  
was deeply moved to right the wrongs and swiftly sprang to action.

She rallied 'round the refugees, gave them comfort, food and shelter  
then called for reinforcements from close friends and other benefactors,  
Thus, Griswold's dream of unity, through hardship and defiance,  
an international movement forged—a Pan American alliance.

A recipe of friendship mixed in a cultural atmosphere  
formed her vision for the Americas of the Western Hemisphere.  
Sprinkled generously with knowledge, tossed with formal education,  
simmered slowly through the years—an international sensation!

So that was the beginning in the year nineteen-sixteen,  
In the town of San Antonio where the first Table was seen  
of the Pan American Table Round where equality, like treasure,  
When "All For One and One For All" became the one true measure.

The movement spread like wildfire and by nineteen-twenty-two  
four Tables in the Lone Star State were joined by others, too.  
Soon Washington, New Mexico and Oklahoma states  
were joined by the Republica in nineteen-twenty-eight.

Central, North and South America not to be outdone,  
rounded out the union and molded into one.  
Building paths of understanding, of mutual respect and more,  
thus, the Alliance was established back in nineteen-forty-four.

One hundred years have slipped away—a century full of wonder,  
yet Griswold's ideals are living still while our hearts of her grow fonder.  
We recognize her sacrifices, reap the fruits of said foundation.  
Her great impact so deeply felt on past and future generation.

Yet even more needs to be said of much personal enrichment  
that blesses members, one and all, through service and commitment.  
Inspired by her example we hone our skills and talents,  
so as to use them and to share them, thus attain life's perfect balance.

Two books have now been written and a documentary film produced  
extolling all your virtues, Griswold, and the solidarity you fused.  
Throw wide your heavenly window and receive earned adulation.  
Bask lavishly in your achievements in meritorious celebration.

Florence Terry Griswold, you we honor, we applaud and we salute  
for your courage and tenacity—those essential attributes  
that propelled you into awesome roles as a patriot, an idealist, a dreamer,  
You will remain forever our role model and our true outstanding leader.



*Lilly Torrez from McAllen won First Place in the  
English category for the Alliance Special Commission  
of Cultural diffusion Poetry Contest "Cien Años De  
Amor Y Paz"*

*PARTT 38th State Convention  
April 21—23, 2017  
The Westin Oaks Houston at the Galleria  
5011 Westheimer - Houston, Texas 77056  
[westin.com/oaks](http://westin.com/oaks)*

Pan American Round Tables of Texas

Website

**partt.org**

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