The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

(Publisher's note: The following article was published in the Inland Empire Hispanic News in the December 7, 1988 issue, commemorating the Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12. The article was written by Rebecca Gil. Religious research was by Deacon Joe Rios of St. Catherine's Church, Rialto.)

Every December, Hispanic Catholics throughout North, Central and South America pay special tribute to Mary, Mother of Christ, by celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe...the beginning of preparation for Christmas. The Virgin Mary is honored as LA REYNA DE MEXICO, LA ESPERANZA DE LAS AMERICAS...

Why this adulation? How did this special bond come about?

The year was 1531 and 39 years prior to that date, Columbus had discovered the "new world," planting the flag of Spain and the Cross of Christ in America. Since that time, the proud Aztec nation, conquered by the sword of Hernando Cortez, had been suffering under an oppressive system. Their spiritual world, their temples, and their way of life, had been destroyed. To the Aztecs, it seemed as though hope was lost.

On December 12, the Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego, a very poor Aztec Indian convert to the Catholic faith. She commanded Juan Diego to go to the bishop and inform him that a church be built for the Indians. She said, "I ardently desire that a temple be built in my name so that I may show and give all my love, compassion, help and defense." Juan Diego went to the bishop and related the message of the Virgin Mary. However, the bishop did not believe Juan Diego, an Indian.

But the Virgin Mary told Juan that she had chosen him as her messenger and she commanded him and talk to the bishop, indicating that she would give Juan Diego a sign.

During midwinter, beautiful roses grew on the hillside and Mary instructed Juan Diego to pick the roses and fold them in his telma (an apron made of cactus fiber). He followed the instructions, believing that the roses would be the sign.

He, again, went to the bishop and unfolded his telma to present the roses, and to the astonishment of everyone present, the image of the Virgin Mary appeared on the coarse garment.

On the garment were the features of the Virgin Mary as an Indian, with the same skin color as Juan Diego. Her head was looking downward in the Indian position of humility and her hands were folded. She wore a black band around her waist, indicating that she was with child.

Following the apparition of the Virgin Mary on December 12, 1531, over eight million Aztecs converted to the Catholic faith. It is said that upon viewing the telma, Aztecs understood that Mary was offering them, (the Indians) the gift of her son.

Today, the significance of this miracle still inspires many Hispanics. Frances Ayala of Our Immaculate Conception Church in Colton says that the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, "Is a very special day to all the Mexican people, because God sent his Mother to especially appear to the nation of Mexico. We feel chosen because she chose a timid man, the poorest of the poor."

This thought is echoed by Fred Nerio of Chino who feels the apparition was a sign to the poor people that "God still loves them." He says that it is a reminder to him that there is more to life than just accumulating material things, that there is a higher purpose.

Comparing the situation in Mexico in 1531 to Hispanic life today, Marco Gutierrez of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Joe Baca Announces Candidacy for State Assembly seat

Joe Baca, 44, local businessman and San Bernardino Community College Board of Trustee member, announced his candidacy for the State Assembly District 62 (formerly the 66 Assembly District).

"In announcing my candidacy, I offer Democratic voters, and all voters, a leadership to resolve the most critical issues facing the hard-working, middle class majority, and every citizen in the Assembly District. We are in a serious recession where men and women are being laid off at every level of industry and commerce. We need to restore the economic of our state and our nation," he stated.

Mr. Baca recently won reelection at the San Bernardino Community College Board where he garnered the second highest vote in a field of eight candidates. This will be his fourth term of office.

Continued on page 8
Congressman George Brown warns California Medi-Cal Funds Threatened by Bush Admin.

California could lose hundreds of millions of dollars in Medi-Cal funds under changes in regulations proposed by the Bush Administration.

Rep. George Brown (D-Ontario, Riverside, San Bernardino) today announced his strong support for legislation to prevent the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) from restricting state Medicaid financing options.

"These regulations, if approved, would produce severe cuts in health services to those who need them most: poor families, their children and the elderly," said Rep. Brown.

Brown's announcement came after a House Committee approved the legislation, entitled Medicaid Moratorium Amendments of 1991, by a 28-17 vote. The bill is expected to come to the floor for a vote next week.

HHS has proposed limiting Federal matching funds to states which use provider taxes, voluntary contributions and intergovernmental transfers to pay for their Medicaid programs.

California could lose as much as $800 million.

"This could deny thousands of needy Californians access to health care and create serious hardships for California's already overburdened hospitals and patient centers," said Rep. Brown.

On October 15, Brown signed a letter with 26 other members of the California delegation, urging HHS Secretary Louis Sullivan to withdraw the proposed regulations.

"We should focus our efforts on preventing Medicaid abuses, rather than restricting state options to raise Medicaid funds," Rep. Brown said.

HCFA is expected to issue a final rule as soon as possible after January 1, 1992. The agency is accepting written comments in response to the proposed rule until November 12, 1991. Comments can be mailed to the following address: Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: MB-022-IFC, P.O. Box 26676, Baltimore, MD 21207. In commenting, please refer to file code MD-022-IFC.

Brown is the Chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and is a senior member of the House Agriculture Committee. He chairs the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment and is a member of the Task Force on Crime and Drugs of the Democratic Caucus.

Area library literacy programs funded

RANCHO CUCAMONGA - Senator Ruben S. Ayala announced today that four public library jurisdictions in the 34th Senate District have received a total of $84,555 in grants to either begin new or continue existing Families for Literacy programs aimed at breaking the cycle of illiteracy.

A list of grant awards and agencies are as follows: Colton Public Library, $20,555; Pomona Public Library, $4,000; San Bernardino County Library, $30,000; and the San Bernardino Public Library, $30,000.

"The Families for Literacy program seeks to enrich and expand current efforts of the California Literacy Campaign in a number of innovative ways, with an emphasis on work with adult learner families with preschool children," Ayala said.

A number of libraries have developed programming partnerships with child development, day-care and health care resources. Many have developed close ties with existing programs through local school districts.

Others have made linkages with GAIN programs providers, while still others have targeted very specific, high-risk neighborhoods in which to work.

State Fellowship applications ready

Senator Bill Leonard (R-25th) today announced the availability of applications for the 1992-93 California State Senate Fellowship Program.

"The Senate Fellowship Program is an excellent opportunity for people to gain first-hand knowledge of the legislative process and state government. The Program offers valuable training no matter what career goals one has," Leonard said.

The Fellowship Program allows college graduates to become full-time senate-staff members working in a senator's capitol office or committee for eleven months. Fellows participate in academic seminars with Senators, senior staff members, journalists, lobbyists, and state government officials. Fellows receive 12 graduate credits from California State University, Sacramento, for this seminar work.

Fellows are paid a stipend of $1,560 per month, plus health and dental benefits. Eighteen fellowships will be awarded by the Senate Rules Committee in May. The application deadline is February 19, 1992.

All persons graduated from college by June of 1992 may apply. There is no preferred major, and one need not be a recent graduate. Individuals with advanced degrees or those in midcareer are urged to apply.

Executive Fellowships

Senator Bill Leonard today announced the availability of applications for the 1992-1993 California Executive Fellows Program.

This Program provides college graduates with the opportunity to become full-time Executive Branch staff members for 11 months in Sacramento. In addition to work responsibilities, the Fellows participate in academic seminars with legislators, senior staff members, journalists, lobbyists, and state government officials.

Applications for the program are available through Senator Leonard's district office at 400 North Mountain Ave., Suite 109, Upland, CA 91786. The office can be reached toll-free at 1-800-282-4889.

Joe Baca Announces Candidacy for State Assembly

From page 1

The State Realignment Panel has published the redistricting of the congressional, senatorial and assembly districts. The new 62 Assembly District has 372, 499 population with 39.1 Hispanic population.

"I am committed to work for every citizen in the district with priorities on education, socio-economic and health problems which are critically effecting everyone of us."

Mr. and Mrs. Baca reside in Rialto with their four children. He received his BA in Sociology from Cal-State, San Bernardino.
Congratulations

School custodian: a lifesaver

Courtney Martin, a student at Vermont Elementary School, San Bernardino, takes the opportunity during a photo session to thank Angel Jimenez, the school’s custodian, for saving her life when she was choking during a lunch session. Mr. Jimenez, learning the Heimlich maneuver from the phone book and reading the district’s employee handbook, said he applied what he had read and was glad she started breathing after a big hug and a slap on the back. “When you’re working with kids, you never know when an emergency may happen. It’s just part of my job to keep order and help the kids when I can,” he said.

Manuel Ahuero named S.B. County Director of Real Estate Services

San Bernardino County’s Board of Supervisors announced the appointment of Manuel Ahuero as Director of the Real Estate Services Department, Public Works Group, replacing Tim Kelly who was recently appointed Assistant Administrative Officer for General Services Group.

Mr. Ahuero has more than 16 years of management experience in county government, adult education and community-based organizations. He has been in the office of aging since 1986 and in 1990 served as the interim director of the County’s Mental Health Department.

A graduate from Cal-State, Hayward with a BA degree, and UCLA with a master’s in social work, Mr. Ahuero’s administrative responsibilities will include appraisal and acquisition of properties, assistance in relocating facilities, disposal of surplus properties, and the negotiation of leases for all county agencies and special districts.

Previous professional experiences include: Project Director, Volunteers of America; Deputy Director, National Association for Hispanic Elderly; Project Director, Los Angeles School District Active Senior Citizen’s Program; Senior Planner, Los Angeles County Area on Aging; and Associate Planner, National Chicano Social Planning Council.

Mr. Ahuero’s professional affiliations are: National Association of Social Workers, Trabajadores De La Raza, National Council on Aging, and Rotary Crossroads.

Manuel Ahuero S.B. Co. Director Real Estate Services

California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce name Riverside’s Mario Perez Regional Vice President

ANAHEIM, CA - The California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce (CHCC) has elected Mario Perez as its new Vice President-Southern Region, at its Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting, held in Anaheim on Saturday, November 16. Perez currently serves as the President of the Greater Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He is 65 years old and is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel. He also serves as the Chairman of the Riverside County Coalition of Hispanic Chambers of Commerce.

As the State Vice President, Perez will assume responsibility of assisting with the growth and development of any new Hispanic chambers of commerce in Southern California. In addition, he will chair regional meetings of current Hispanic chambers that exist in Ventura County, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Fontana, Riverside, Pomona, Ontario, San Diego, Coachella Valley, San Jacinto Valley, Perris Valley, Orange County, and Moreno Valley.

Make a Difference... Register to Vote

Everyone is cordially invited to a Pre Christmas Celebration and Fundraiser for Joe Baca

Candidate for 62nd Assembly District

La Casita Cafe - 385 N. "E" Street, San Bernardino
Donation $25.00

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Javier Dominguez, Redlands 9th grader, selected to ride Kiwanis Rose Parade Float

Alfonso Javier Dominguez, a 9th grade student from Qement Junior High School in Redlands, has been selected to ride in the Kiwanis Rose Parade Float on New Year's Day in Pasadena.

Javier (as he is called) was selected to represent the Inland Empire Future Leaders Program by submitting an essay telling why he should be selected, "I want to be in the Rose Parade because I want other Latinos to see that we can succeed."

Trying to succeed for the 15 year old youth is a life-long goal in which he has set for himself. He is determined to go to college and get his degree in architecture. His second goal is to continue his education by attending the University of Guadalajara and get his degree in Mexico.

"I will probably practice my profession in Mexico because I feel more comfortable in that environment, which is a lot different than in the United States. The people are more friendly, they have a closer relationship with each other and there are less problems, like drugs, gangs and crime, than in the United States."

Born in Guadalajara, the family, consisting of father Jose, mother Eva, brother Marcos and sisters Ruth, Maria and Teresa, immigrated to the United States in 1989. "My father still has a business in Guadalajara, but my mother wanted to come to the United States, so here we are," he said. Three other brothers stayed in Guadalajara, Juan and Luis are operating the family business, and Jose is an architect.

Being here in the United States has been very hard for Javier. "I was put back two grades in school here. English is a very hard language, but it is mandatory in Mexico, which is taught at a very early age in school! Also, there is a lot of discrimination here, with some teachers and administrators, and the Anglo students make fun of Hispanics and Asians because we can't speak English to well, and they call us racial names. My counselor, Mr. Montanez, has been very helpful and gives me good advice."

Javier says that his mother worries about gangs and drugs in school and he avoids the temptation by being involved in different programs, sports and leadership organizations, which keeps him very busy.

One of the programs that he is involved in is the Inland Empire Future Leaders Program. The organization for eighth and ninth grade students was founded in 1985 for the purpose of promoting and assisting Hispanic youth to develop leadership skills; encouragement to stay in school; involvement in school, church and community activities; motivational workshops for academic excellence and establishing

Continued on page 6
If you receive government checks, you need Basic Checking.

Basic Checking is a special checking account for people receiving assistance from the following government programs:
- Supplemental Security Income (Federal)
- Social Security
- Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)
- Women, Infants and Children (State program)
- California unemployment
- General Relief

Basic Checking provides a safe place for your money... and provides you with valuable banking services:
- Up to 10 checks paid and 2 in-branch or by mail deposits during a statement cycle
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The initial deposit is $25 and the monthly service charge is just $4 when you maintain an average daily balance of $25 in the account.* It's safe. Writing checks is much safer than carrying cash. And you won't have to buy money orders or pay to have your benefit checks cashed. What's more, you always have proof of payment with Basic Checking.

Protect your checks from loss or theft. Ask for Direct Deposit Service to have your benefit checks automatically deposited on time into your Basic Checking account. With Direct Deposit, there's no danger of your checks being lost or stolen. And Direct Deposit Service is free! Ask about it when you open your account.

Come in soon. Bring your next benefit check to one of our convenient branches listed below. Protect your money with Basic Checking.

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Corona 91720 Fontana 92335 Fontana 92335 Indio 92201 Riverside 92503

*If more than 10 checks are paid or more than 2 in-branch or by mail deposits are made or the average balance falls below $25 at any time during the statement cycle, the service charge is $7.50 for the statement cycle.

Arts Foundation grant applications open

The application period for grant requests to The Arts Foundation of San Bernardino County is open now until the deadline January 6, 1992.

To receive a grant application, call (714) 387-5997. Only qualified non-profit agencies with a two-year history of providing arts programs within the County of San Bernardino are eligible to apply for grant funds.

In all, $95,000 is the pool of funds available for this year's "Grants Program" operated by the county-wide, comprehensive arts programming and service agency.

The grant pool is funded by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, and the City of Ontario—and The Arts Foundation administers the program and process for review and awards of grants. The Arts Foundation uses a peer panel as does the California Arts Council in making its award determinations.

The Arts Foundation of San Bernardino County is a non-profit, county-wide umbrella agency which offers its own programs, workshops, and provides support and develops awareness for the arts community throughout the county. The Foundation is under the umbrella of the California Arts Council and is designated as that agency's State-Local Partner here.

In addition, the Foundation has provided arts scholarships to more than 20 youngsters in the past three years.

Major funders include the California Arts Council, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, TARGET Stores, corporations, businesses, foundations and individual donors.

For more information, call Patie Pate, Executive Director, (714) 387-5997.

From R. Gordon Young

Assessor issues "Tax Scam" warning

R. Gordon Young, Assessor, San Bernardino County warns homeowners that there is an organization called "Property Tax Assessor Records Corp." that is attempting to charge homeowners a $35.00 fee for a service provided by his office at no charge.

When a new homeowner acquires property, Young states that "His office sends a homeowners exemption claim card that allows for a reduction of $7,000 assessed valuation." The firm, Property Tax Assessor Records Corp. is attempting to duplicate the service and charge the unsuspecting homeowner $35.00.

Upon receiving a homeowners exemption claim form from the County Assessor, Mr. Young urges all property owners to complete and return the form in a timely manner. Once the homeowners exemption claim has been applied for, the homeowner does not have to apply again unless he has acquired a new residence which he occupies. Again, the County Assessor will send you a new homeowners exemption claim form.

Any property owner who already receives the $7,000 homeowners exemption and has paid the $35.00 fee to Property Tax Assessor Records Corp. are urged to write, "Property Tax Assessor Records Corp." at P.O. Box 851, San Bernardino, CA 92402 for a full refund.

Young states, "The organization soliciting the $35.00 fee is in no way affiliated with the Assessor's office."

Grand Terrace Elementary School

Spanish speaking Parents Learn English

Spanish speaking parents of students attending Grand Terrace Elementary School are learning English with the help of school staff members.

Lupe Arias, who serves as the school's bilingual aide, and teacher Rosemary Albizo have been volunteering their time on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to teach basic English skills.

In addition to learning to speak English, the parents also are learning more about the school. School goals and rules are explained during the lessons. Principal Theda McGee said.

The lessons also are designed to motivate the participants to take a formal English as a second language class and to possibly seek employment. Albizo, a fifth and sixth grade teacher who formerly was a teacher in Colton High School's Career Center, helps the parents complete job applications properly. McGee said.

Rose Parade Float Ride

From Page 4

higher educational goals. The rate for higher education entry for Future Leader members in 1986 and 1987 is 87% and 85%, respectively. The program is directed by Dr. Tom Rivera, Cal-State, San Bernardino. Since 1985, 750 Hispanic students have participated in the program.

For further information on the 1992 summer program may be obtained by contacting Dr. Tom Rivera, Cal-State, San Bernardino at (714) 880-5044.

"The Future Leaders has helped me to better myself in a lot of ways, and I think the solution for Hispanic students..."
San Bernardino Fire Department
Issues Christmas tree warnings

As the Christmas Holiday draws near, the San Bernardino City Fire Department wants to remind everyone to be extra careful and fire safe this holiday season, especially around your Christmas tree. Although it is not a requirement to treat your personal Christmas tree with flame retardant, in many places of public assembly the law does require that Christmas trees be treated with an approved flame retardant.

Christmas trees must be treated with an approved flame retardant in any assembly building holding more than 50 persons, and in all educational facilities, institutional buildings, hotels, and common areas of apartment complexes. These requirements apply to all churches, theaters, schools, day care centers, nursing homes, hospitals, adult care centers, hotels, common areas of apartment complexes, and restaurants and drinking establishments holding more than 50 patrons.

If you are placing Christmas trees in any of these listed occupancies, be sure to check for proof of flame retardant treatment. The fire code requires that a tag be affixed to the tree. This tag must show the State Fire Marshal Seal of Approval, the name and registration number of the person responsible for treatment, chemical retardant name and date of application.

Failure to have properly treated Christmas trees and large decorations in public assembly areas is a violation of the Uniform Fire Code. Occupants will be required to remove all untreated materials and may be cited by the Fire Department for failure to comply. These regulations help ensure that the holiday season is a safe and happy one for all the residents of San Bernardino City.

For more information, contact the San Bernardino City Fire Department at (714) 384-5388.

Christmas trees to be recycled into mulch
San Bernardino County and its cities, along with other participating agencies, are sponsoring the Second Annual Christmas Tree Recycling Program for county residents. Last year, the program diverted over 45,000 trees from county landfills. This year, the goal is 90,000 trees.

Many of the cities are providing curbside pickup through their waste haulers, and the county is encouraging haulers serving the unincorporated areas to offer the same services they are offering to their city customers. Tipping fees will be waived for haulers bringing in clean loads of trees at ten county locations between December 26, 1991, and January 12, 1992. Locations include landfills and transfer stations at Colton, Mid-Valley, Milliken, San Timoteo. Members of the public may also bring their trees to those locations.

The trees will be ground into mulch at the landfills. The mulch will then be available for those who want it. A number of cities will have locations where residents can pick up the mulch once it’s available.

If you would like flyers for your Christmas tree farm or lot, contact your city. People may also call 1-800-722-3873 for specific information on what’s being done in their area.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

The Sheriff's Department Group conducts group testing quarterly. At that time applications are taken. The next test is to be announced. For more information contact the Job Hotline of the County's Resources Department at (714) 387-5611.

For more information, contact:
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Dept.
(714) 387-3750
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer
Teenage Risk Taking Behavior and AIDS

Studies done by Centers for Disease Control and the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health suggest that teens are either not being reached by AIDS education (now mandated in 29 states), or have not allowed their knowledge to affect their behavior. Ninety percent of the young people, between ages 12-25 who were studied knew how AIDS is transmitted, and 86% were aware that condoms can reduce the risk of AIDS. Yet the majority had not changed their activities or admitted to such risky behavior as unprotected sex and drug use including shared needles.

Kaiser Permanente provides an important community service to better educate teens about these risks using live musical theater. Secrets, a 40-minute stage play written specifically for teenagers combines the power of live theatre and the reinforcement of room teaching to get the message across. Acted out by a troupe of five young professional performers, the goal of the program is to teach teens in their own language about the tragedy of AIDS and how to prevent it. The show has been seen by more than 13,000 teens at San Bernardino County schools and more than 285,000 in Southern California. It is playing successfully in 6 out of 12 Kaiser Permanente Regions across the country.

Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Fontana also offers free to the public a variety of AIDS resources which include videos, books and pamphlets through the Health Learning Center. Kaiser Permanente also provides health information over the telephone through the Health Phone. For more information about AIDS resources at the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Fontana please call (714) 427-6110. For information regarding Secrets or Kaiser Permanente's other Health Education Theatre Programs please call (818) 405-3194.

Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program provides comprehensive health care to more than 2.3 million Health Plan members in Southern California and more than 6.5 million nationwide, including more than 300,000 people in the Inland Area at the Fontana medical center and at outpatient offices in Claremont, Colton, Loma Linda, Montclair, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, and San Bernardino.

Free health check-ups are available for children birth to 21 years on Medi-Cal and children birth to 19 years, whose families meet the income guidelines. For example: a family of 4 can have an income of $2,333 per month, or $26,800 yearly before taxes and still qualify.

The Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program of San Bernardino County Department of Public Health has 19 clinic sites all over the county and can refer to over 100 participating private doctors.

For more information regarding doctors, financial eligibility, or clinic locations near you, call (714) 387-6499 or 1-800-722-3777.

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In order to give children the best start in school, California State law requires children entering kindergarten to be up-to-date on their immunizations, and children entering first grade to have a complete health check-up.

The health check-up can be done 18 months in advance of entrance into first grade. However, parents are advised to schedule physical exams before their children enter kindergarten, so that the physical may be completed at the same time as any needed immunizations. Schools require immunizations and health check-up documentation, so parents should make certain the doctors provide the necessary certificates.

Stories from the Los Angeles Children's Hospital describe the problems and successes that children experience with the disease. The program is to teach teens in their own language about the tragedy of AIDS and how to prevent it. The show has been seen by more than 13,000 teens at San Bernardino County schools and more than 285,000 in Southern California. It is playing successfully in 6 out of 12 Kaiser Permanente Regions across the country.

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Church in San Bernardino feels that the similarity is striking. The Indians were persecuted by the Spaniards, they were slaves. Marco explains, "Now, I see the same thing. There is so much persecution in this world, even within our own race, between Latinos coming in and the ones already here. We have the same problems, history repeats itself and we don't learn from it.''

Fellow parishioner, Dominita Medina agrees saying that when she first came to California from Mexico, she was laughed at because she spoke a different kind of Spanish. "I was a housewife and had no time to go to school. I had to learn English by myself."

Working hard to keep the message of unity and hope alive, Marco and