April 24th 2002

Hispanic News

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ROMELIO RUIZ,
MORENO VALLEY
ACTIVIST, HONORED

Nicolas Kanellos, above, is director of one of the oldest and most esteemed publishing houses in the United States. His latest published book, Herencia, was a ten-year project and compilation of a comprehensive literary collection spanning over three centuries. Kanellos is a keynote speaker with keynote speaker Luis Valdez, writer, director and actor.

Herencia (Meaning "inheritance" or "heritage") is the first anthology to bring together literature from the entire history of Hispanic writing in the United States, from the age of exploration to the present. The product of a ten-year project involving hundreds of scholars nationwide, Herencia is the most comprehensive literary collection available, spanning over three centuries and including writers from all the major Hispanic ethnic communities, and writing from diverse genres.

Here is the voice of the conqueror and the conquered, the revolutionary and the reactionary, the native and theContinue on Page 3

HISPANIC EDUCATION ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION INAUGURATED

Mark Uffer, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center Director, welcomes the guests at the Hispanic Education Advancement Foundation's inauguration.

Hispanic Education Advancement Foundation held its initial inauguration at the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center on Thursday, April 18th with educators and community leaders.

Elizabeth Quintero spoke as a scholarship recipient. "The scholarship helped me to get important things like books and other essentials in order for me to continue in my studies," stated Quintero, a San Bernardino High School graduate and currently enrolled at UCR, majoring in political science and minor in music. "I appreciate the financial help and thank the scholarship foundation. This will go a long way for me. When I graduate, I will return to help the Hispanic Education Advancement Foundation," she said. Cynthia Pineda, also a scholarship recipient, was unable to attend the inauguration event. She wrote a letter of appreciation which was read to the attendees.

Richard Porras, Pacific Bell Vice President for Public Affairs, was keynote speaker at the inauguration of HEAF at the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center and its legal requirements for over a year. "Our aim was to ensure that a permanent organization was in place for continuity," he said.

Mark Uffer, ARMC director, spoke of ARMC and its medical and special services and commitment to serve residents of the county. "We have the most updated medical equipment and Continue on Page 6
MIKE RAMOS MAKING PLANS TO 'CLEAN UP' SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

By Esperanza Allende

Though it is practically a sure thing, Ramos is still campaigning. "We want to remind the voters who we are and what our message is," Ramos said. The message, said Ramos, is this: "I want to create a system where we are victim and witness friendly." He also wants to expand the D.A.'s office by adding more lawyers, investigators and assistant district attorneys, and to attract businesses to the area by cutting down misdemeanor crimes like graffiti.

On the issue of county government corruption, Ramos pledges to "clean this county up." And though he would not go into detail, Ramos said, "We will aggressively prosecute any corrupt officials."

Several of Ramos' ideas for cleaning up the county, and the image of the county, he said can be resolved through a program called "community prosecution." He plans to put a lawyer from the D.A.'s office in community, someone available to help people with legal issues.

"People from the community can go to this lawyer because they know and trust him," Ramos said. Because our (Hispanic) culture is growing by leaps and bounds" in San Bernardino County, Ramos said the community prosecution program could help Hispanics the most. Many Hispanics in San Bernardino County will not speak with law enforcement officials because they fear deportation, Ramos said. He hopes the community lawyers will allay those fears and help the Hispanic community to learn more about the law and their rights.

Ramos said crime victims and witnesses often get frustrated with the system that does not do its best to accommodate them. By adding more support services like counselors, Ramos hopes to make the system more obliging to victims and witnesses.

"I am committed to the safety of our citizens and to seeking justice for those people who have had crimes committed against them, especially children," he said.

Ramos plans to make changes to the budget to add more lawyers, investigators and support staff to the D.A.'s office. "I'm looking to expand our office to keep up the pace and protect our citizens," he said noting that San Bernardino County has the fourth largest population in the state.

Ramos would like to add two assistant district attorneys to the existing one: one in charge of operations, one to deal with administration and the board of supervisors, and one to handle special prosecution in cases like elderly abuse and real-estate fraud. With extra help, Ramos said he could focus on cleaning up the county to make it a better place to live and do business.

"I plan to use the same approach as Mayor Judith Valles," Ramos said. "When you hear the name San Bernardino County that will be a positive image."

His position on the Redlands School Board will be difficult to give up, Ramos said, since he is a strong advocate of education and his two children, Michael and Michele, are students of Redlands East Valley High School.

"It's important to me as a role model to some of our kids to show that with fighting for victims' rights and in a bigger sense, changing the perception of San Bernardino County."

Since contender Dennis Stout dropped his reelection bid, it is unofficially official that Mike Ramos will be elected District Attorney in November making him the first Hispanic D.A. in San Bernardino County history. "I'm excited about the position. I've dedicated my life to public service," Ramos said of his 10 years as a probation officer, 12 years as a prosecutor and seven years on the Redlands School Board. Ramos, a Redlands native and resident, is currently president of the Redlands School Board but will resign in January 2003 when he takes office as D.A. since he cannot hold two elected positions in the same county.
HERENCIA
The Anthology of Hispanic Literature of the United States
Continued from Page 1

uprooted or landless. Of course, readers will find pieces by such leading writers as Piri Thomas, Luis Valdez, and Reinaldo Arenas. But what really distinguishes this anthology is its historical depth and its rich, complex portrait of Hispanic literature in the United States. Beginning with Cabeza de Vaca’s account of his explorations in the New World, the anthology includes a passage from La Florida, a narrative historical poem of 22,000 verses, written by Franciscan friar Alonso de Escobedo, an attack on Mexican stereotypes in the nascent movie industry, written by Nicasio Idar, editor of Laredo’s La Cronica, and an essay about Coney Island written by revolutionary Jose Marti. Embracing Chicano, Nuyorican, Cuban American, and Latino writings, the voices of immigrants and the voices of exiles, Herencia makes a vital contribution to our understanding not only of Hispanic writing in the United States, but also of the great contribution Hispanics have made to the United States.

Nicolas Kanellos is the Brown Foundation Professor of Hispanic Literature at the University of Houston and the Director of Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage, a major national research program. He is also founding publisher of the noted Hispanic literary journal The Americas Review and founder of the nation’s oldest and most esteemed Hispanic Publishing house, Arte Publico Press.

Pictured on right — Cal-State, San Bernardino is sponsoring Victor Villasenor, at the Event centers B & C on May 1, from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM. Villasenor is a well-known author of several books, including Wild Steps of Heaven, Rain of Gold and Thirteen Senses. Villasenor books are based on Mexican background and experiences in the United States. Several CSUSB departments are co-sponsoring the event.

SANTA ANA – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is sponsoring a Small Loan Fair on Thursday, May 2, 2002, from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Workforce Investment/Business Resource Office, 215 North “D” Street, Suite 201 in San Bernardino. This is an opportunity for small business owners interested in loans under $250,000 (including microloans) to meet one-on-one with lenders in the community. On the Spot loan approval for qualified applicants will be available. Information on how to do business with the Federal Government as well as the County of San Bernardino will be provided. Technical assistance on business operations or credit repair will also be available through the Inland Empire Small Business Development Center and the Inland Empire Service Corps of Retired Executives. This is a no-cost event, but registration is encouraged. To register, or for more information, please call Vicki Reynolds at (714) 550-7420, extension 3711 or send an email to vicki.reynolds@sba.gov.

All of SBA’s programs and services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis. Reasonable arrangements for persons with disabilities will be made if requested two weeks in advance. Contact the U.S. Small Business Administration at 714-550-7420 ext. 3711. For more information about all of SBA’s programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800U-ASK-SBA, or visit the SBA’s extensive Web site at www.sba.gov.
AIR FORCE AGGRESSIVELY RECRUITING GRADUATES

The United States Air Force aggressively recruits young men and women graduating from high school or high school graduates interested in the many benefits offered by one of the elite services in the Armed Services.

The Air Force offers basic training, a multitude of military career choices, assistance for a college education, high military pay (compared with foreign armed services), extensive medical and dental care, base recreation, among other benefits, according to Staff Sergeants Tanisha T. Talley and Douglas S. Jordan, recruitment non-commission officers stationed at the local recruitment office.

"We follow an interview process and review the background for each applicant. This process will establish the eligibility of applicants," stated Talley.

Jordan indicated that many young people have been interested in joining the service. "There are reasons why they join. An opportunity to travel, get an education and, at times, the economy is not strong," he said.

"Since September 11th, there has been an upbeat swell of patriotism and many of our young people want an opportunity to serve their country. This is one of the best reasons to join the Air Force," Talley stated.

For information, call at (909) 885-2848 or visit the Air Force Recruitment Office at 711 West 2nd Street, San Bernardino.

HASI
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SAN BERNARDINO, CA. 92401
(909) 888-0149

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8:00AM - 1:00PM on Saturdays

English or Spanish

DUI groups available (Unless already filled) are:
1:00PM - 3:00PM Monday thru Thursday
6:00PM - 8:00PM Monday thru Thursday
8:00AM - 10:00AM, 10:30AM-12:30AM & 11:00AM-1:00PM on Saturdays

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AIR FORCE AGGRESSIVELY RECRUITING GRADUATES

Nick Banks, Rim of The World High School graduate, attends San Bernardino Valley College and wants to provide his family, wife, Jessica and 16 month boy, Taber for a better life. Banks also is eager to further his education in the Air Force and a career in the electronic field. Photos by IEHN

Sergio Rangel likes the Air Force and wants an opportunity to get an education and eventually a good job. His career goals is in law enforcement. Photos by IEHN

Daniel Mees, Rialto High School, wants a college education with an emphasis in science. His career goal is in radiology or nursing. Photos by IEHN

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HISPANIC EDUCATION ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION INAUGURATED

Richard Porras, Pacific Bell Vice President, (third from left) presents a $5,000 donation to HEAP. (I to r) Roberto Redondo, Ofelia Valdez Yeager, Porras, Graciano Gomez, Linda Miranda and Richard Ramirez.

able to provide the most excellent services in the Inland Empire,” he said. ARMC was the sponsor for the event. HEAF’s executive board includes Graciano Gomez, publisher of the Inland Empire Hispanic News, president, Ofelia Valdez Yeager, Executive Assistant to Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, vice president, Linda Miranda, Special Assistant to San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, treasurer, Richard Ramirez, Riverside Community College Vice President for Student Affairs, secretary, Roberto Redondo, consultant and Michelle Davila, Riverside Community College Outreach Specialist, assistant secretary.

HEAF mission is to expand and enhance the postsecondary educational opportunities for Hispanics in the Inland Empire, stated Redondo. “Today, our young Hispanic students are excelling in academics resulting in a greater need to support their financial requirements. As they graduate from high school, it is critically important to encourage them to seek higher educational goals. Our intention is to be a motivational vehicle in their educational goals,” he said.

Pacific Bell was honored for its support of community events in the Inland Empire. Richard Porras, Vice President for Public Affairs, keynote speaker, stated that PacBell policy of supporting activities and educational projects is a high priority. “PAC BELL is cognizant of our corporate responsibility and support groups like the Hispanic Education Advancement Foundation.” Pacific Bell presented Gomez with a donation of $5,000.00 toward the scholarship fund.

Joe Furin, operations manager for Belo Marketing Solutions, the owners of the Press Enterprise, announced the newspaper will be contributing $10,000 to HEAP, establishing a scholarship named after Derek Parra, San Bernardino native and Olympic speed-skating Silver and Gold Medal winner. Belo also owns the Dallas Morning News, the Providence Journal, Denton Record-Chronicle, television stations, cable and interactive media assets. “Belo believes in investing in the community and its people. We strongly support the education of our youth,” Furin said.

HEAF will announce the availability of scholarships to high schools in Riverside and San Bernardino.

For further information contact Graciano Gomez at (909) 381-6259 or Ofelia Valdez Yeager at (909) 788-6675. Donations are being accepted. Mail donations to HEAP, 1558 N. Waterman Av. Ste. D, San Bernardino, CA 92404.

Elizabeth Quintero expresses her appreciation to HEAP on receiving a scholarship. Quintero is a student at UCR, majoring in political science and music.

Dominic Nigro, left, ARMC Marketing and Economic Director and Veronica Martinez, right, relax at the inauguration of HEAP at the ARMC.
HISPANIC EDUCATION ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION INAUGURATED

Dr. Albert Karnig, President of Cal-State, San Bernardino, left, and Dr. Herbert Fischer, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, left, are undoubtedly discussing education at HEAF’s inauguration at the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

Richard Porras, Pacific Bell and Mary Zaneski, retired Pacific Bell Public Affairs Officer, enjoy a laugh at HEAF inauguration.

Joe Purin Belo Marketing Solutions operations manager, announces the Press Enterprise newspaper’s donation of $10,000 to HEAF.

Ray Quinto, Inland Counties Hispanic Roundtable President, left, and David Raley, smile for the camera at HEAF’s inauguration at the ARMC.

Trini Gomez, left, Inland Empire Hispanic News office manager, Norm Nunez, and Cliff Sanchez, Sheriff Department Public Affairs Office, enjoy the hors d’oeuvres at ARMC event.

Erika Quevedo, left, Gabriel Ramirez, New York Life Insurance and Alfredo Gonzalez, KCAL, have a very deep discussion at the ARMC.

Jess Valenzuela, left, representative for Congressman Joe Baca, enjoys a laugh with Ralph Hernandez, right, ARMC Marketing Representative, at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

Next Issue of the Inland Empire Hispanic News May 8th

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The Battle of Puebla
The Cinco de Mayo Celebration

The Cinco de Mayo Celebration is a unique way for California's Mexican community to celebrate a moment in history that marks a victory of independence. The Battle of Puebla, which took place on May 5, 1862, was a decisive victory for the Mexican forces under General Ignacio Zaragoza against the French army commanded by General Louis Latrille. This battle is remembered in Mexico as a symbol of their struggle for independence from foreign occupation.

The celebration of the Battle of Puebla on May 5th is known as Cinco de Mayo. It is held as a national holiday in Mexico to commemorate the victory over the French invasion of 1862. The battle was fought in the city of Puebla, Mexico, and the French were stopped from conquering the country. The day is celebrated with parades, music, food, and festivities that reflect the Mexican culture and history.

Benito Juarez, who can be compared to Abraham Lincoln, led Mexico through the most crucial period of its history - a history which was marred by invasions of foreign powers on Mexican soil. Like Lincoln, Juarez had humble beginnings. An orphan at three, Benito Juarez was born on March 21, 1806 in the countryside that English, French and Spaniards occupied the east coast to collect debts and reparations from the government of President Benito Juarez. Though his liberal government won the free civil strife with the conservatives and the church, Juarez found his treasury bankrupt and the people becoming increasingly discontented. Realizing they could not possibly collect anything from a bankrupt treasury right wards the Cerrro de Guadalupe. With a signal from his general the bugler sounded the alarm with a few loud blasts of his horn. The first column of men and a few women rushed up to the highest point of the Cerrro and lay down on their bellies aiming their muskets towards the intruding troops. Behind the first column another line of marks men stood ready. The infantry captain watched the horizon intently. Thirty two men and a few women were all he had left to train to shoot in volley formation. The captain gave his last instructions: "Check your targets and make your shots count! Then fire at my command!"

When the first column of enemy troops marched over the horizon they struck up so much dust that they could not see clearly what lay in front of them. Many of their rifles hung on their backs for they were not expecting a battle but a peaceful march into the city. Then Captain Camacho shouted his command to fire. The first column let out a loud smoking volley of lead that sent French soldiers scrambling for cover against the smoke and dust.

Meanwhile, the first column moved back behind the second which had already taken their position. At the captain's command another round of fire shot down more surprised French soldiers. From his vantage point General Zaragoza had seen the first assault and was proud of how skillfully Camacho's men and women fought. Then the general remembered what Juarez had said in a letter to the
The Battle of Puebla

The Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Juaristas: "They will defend with honor the cause of their autonomy and liberty." The President was speaking of the heart and soul of Mexico: The "Mestizos" who were a great breed of people with the stubborn determination of the Spaniard and the preserving spirit of the Indian.

The French General Charles Latrille Conde de Lorenz ordered his men to retreat and regroup. By then not wanting his soldiers to exhaust all their ammunition, Camacho called for his troops to retreat back towards the trench. The Mexicans ran as quickly as possible with the enemy in pursuit. One Juarista fell when a ball hit him in the thickest part of his thigh. But two of his comrades each grabbed one of his arms and carried him off.

Beyond the trench lay more Juaristas ready to ambush the French troops as they came charging down the cerro. Many of them fell into the trench as they came running down the cerro's steep slopes. General Diaz ordered his own small battalion to attack the fallen French as they struggled to climb out of the trenches. A loud horrifying cry rose out of the Mexican soldiers. These were the same "gritos" that sent chills up the spines of Fernando Cortez's conquistadores some three hundred and forty years ago.

While some soldiers with rifles began picking off French soldiers, others came down on the invaders with machetes waving fiercely over their heads. The French general seeing his men in a trap finally ordered them to retreat.

The Mexican casualties were taken to the church where an infirmary had been set up by the women and a few priests who sympathized with the Mexican cause. From his vantage point on the wall, Zaragoza viewed the battlefield. About eight hundred French men lay dying and dead on the battlefield and in the trenches. He then turned towards Diaz who stood next to him. "You know they are going to assault us again," Zaragoza said.

"I know," Diaz replied as he looked out beyond the littered horizon. Captain Camacho then reported that he still had twenty four capable infantry men with a half measure of gun powder and lead balls. Suddenly, just as they suspected, the French invaders appeared in the horizon marching towards the Cerro de Guadalupe. As Zaragoza's two brigades went out to meet the enemy, the general looked back at the fortified city and saw many women and older children on the wall with muskets poised, eastward.

Again Camacho's infantry line shot down many of the French soldiers, but the invaders who were now prepared, closed up their ranks and forced Camacho's men to retreat. There was no time to reload a rifle so it was now a hand to hand combat with machetes clanging against bayonets. Suddenly General Diaz' second brigade charged out and flanked the invaders. With the French surrounded, their general finally called a retreat with Diaz in pursuit.

The Mexican troops returned to the city in triumph. The church bells rang out loudly and the magnolia flowers that were intended for the French soldiers were now tossed out before the victorious General Zaragoza and his troops. The people of Puebla celebrated this miraculous triumph for it was the greatest victory for the Mexican people who fought for their country.

Celebrating Cinco de Mayo

"I can be a nurse." Evelyn Barragan Muscoy Elementary

"I can be whatever I want. I can be a teacher, a mother, and an entrepreneur, if I put my mind to it." Christian Sosa Muscoy Elementary

"I can be a veterinarian because I like animals." Kandace Gierman Muscoy Elementary

For CONGRESS (26TH C.D.)
FOR ALL THE PEOPLE
NOT JUST THE PRIVILEGED

MARJORIE MUSSER MIKELS

For CONGRESS
(26TH C.D.)
FOR ALL THE PEOPLE
NOT JUST THE PRIVILEGED

"I can be a photographer because I like to take pictures." Evelyn Barragan Muscoy Elementary

"I can be a nurse." Sarah Rodriguez Cajon High School

"I can be a veterinarian because I like animals." Kandace Gierman Muscoy Elementary

"I can be a photographer because I like to take pictures." Sarah Rodriguez Cajon High School

"I can be a veterinarian because I like animals." Kandace Gierman Muscoy Elementary
Peter Benavidez was honored as a 2002 Champion for Justice for his work furthering the cause of the blind and visually impaired. For the past 10 years he has championed their cause and elevated the community's awareness of the needs of these people. While looking for services for himself, he realized the issue was bigger than he was. He embarked on a crusade to improve access to services, influence education and public policy, provide affordable housing, and supply job training and health services.

In 1992 Mr. Benavidez discovered he had Retinitis Pigmentosa, he had to overcome a multitude of obstacles associated with his disease. Although he was prepared for the major changes that were going to take place in his life, he was not prepared for the discrimination he would face. These were barriers upheld by beliefs and attitudes that not only angered and frustrated him, but also prevented him from obtaining a decent job, continuing a career, and earning a livable wage.

In spite of the difficulty he experienced, Peter continued to navigate the maze of services available from public and private agencies, which were there to provide services to the blind, visually impaired and those with other disabilities. He also began to wonder about the plight of people who were not as fortunate and did not have the education or knowledge he possessed. Instead of allowing the anger and frustration to take over, Peter was inspired to examine the ways he could break down the barriers for the blind and visually impaired. In 1993 he began working with Blindness Support Services as a volunteer doing advocacy work, and counseling. In 1995 the Board of Directors hired him to serve as the Executive Director of Blindness Support Services.

Mr. Benavidez' work is testimony that, "you do not need 20/20 eyesight to have vision." When he became Executive Director of Blindness Support Services, the budget was $10,000, currently the agency’s budget is over $1 million. Blindness Support Services now serves over 1,500 individuals per year, he has 7 internal divisions, operates 12 satellite offices and employs a diverse workforce of 21 individuals. The agency has relationships with the California State Department of Rehabilitation, Western University of Health Sciences, Riverside County Office on Aging, Molina Health Care, Inland Empire Health Plan, Health in Motion, California State University at Los Angeles and 9 senior centers throughout the Inland Empire.

In addition to his work, locally, on behalf of people with disabilities—especially those who are blind and visually impaired—Mr. Benavidez actively participates on a number of boards and commissions that focus on blindness, disability, transportation, diversity, affordable housing and rehabilitation. He is a member of the State of California’s Blind Advisory Committee, the National Rehabilitation Association, the National Association of Multicultural Concerns, the Citizens Advisory Committee for Riverside County Transportation Commission, The Board of Directors of the Riverside Housing Development Corporation, the Latino Network and the Riverside Agency Executive Association. In the fall of 2001, he was selected to participate in the New Leadership Development Advocacy Training Program, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, and Dan Hopkins and Associates, Inc.

Mr. Benavidez obtained a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology from the University of California at Riverside in 1982. He is married and has 3 children. Although he is well known for his accomplishments, this CHAMPION FOR JUSTICE does not hesitate to note that his wife, Connie, is his champion and has always provided him with support and encouragement while he “championed” the cause of others.
SAN BERNARDINO PAROLEE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM (PEP)

The State Parole and Community Service Division provides a Parolee Environmental Program to the City of San Bernardino. Pictured above are parolees painting the Arts on Fifth Art Center under the supervision of parole officers. Other work performed were removing shrubbery, cleaning drain gutters and picking up litter. Photo by IEHN

The Parole and Community Services Division, Region IV, developed a Parolee Environmental Program designed to provide community service within the San Bernardino Area. The program allows parolees who commit minor violations of their parole, such as failed drug tests or failure to report to their respective parole agent, an opportunity to work off the infraction rather than be returned to prison.

The Parolee Environmental Program is a cooperative effort between the City of San Bernardino Mayor’s office, San Bernardino Police Department, and the Parole and Community Services Division. The goal of the San Bernardino Parole Complex is to work with parolees and to give them the benefit of remaining free in the community while contributing to the City of San Bernadino through the city’s community revitalization effort.

Mr. A. R. Martinez, PAIII, San Bernardino #4 Parole Unit has emphasized the importance of creating a program that encompasses the “Community Service” aspect to the Parole Division. “It’s important to let parolees know that they are part of the community and take part in keeping it clean”, states Martinez. The Parolee Environmental Program targets the city’s most blighted areas within a “Crime Belt”. Parolees participating in the program remove overgrown shrubbery, sweep drain gutters and pick up litter along city streets. Most recently, parolees repaired and painted the facade of the San Bernardino Community Cultural Arts Building.

Response from parolee participants has been positive. They are more than grateful to be afforded an alternative for parole violations, rather than be returned to custody. Several of the parolee participants are volunteers. Common theme among volunteers is that they are proud to become part of such a worthwhile effort. It is their way of contributing to the community in a most positive way. Parolee Ronald Lucero has volunteered for every one of the community service projects. “I do this because it makes me feel better as a human being to help my community”, he said.

Martinez and Parole Agents John Belisle, Edwin Martinez, Sam Sambaur and Dwayne Wilson from San Bernardino Parole Unit 4 supervise parolees at the work sites. They ensure that work sites are safe and the parolees are closely monitored and supervised. The interaction between parole agents and their parolees enhances their relationships and provides for improved parole supervision.

San Bernardino Police Department Detective W. Flesher and Officers D. Carlson, M. Roche, A. White, P. Wanco complement our efforts of working as a “Team”, Michael Passmore, District Administrator, said, “Working together enhances both agencies to coordinate and develop expanded network affiliations. The results are an added value to the San Bernardino Parole Complex”.

SENATOR NELL SOTO

SALUTES THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY ON THIS DAY OF FREEDOM AND COURAGE. CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD AND HONOR OUR HISPANIC HERITAGE THAT MAKES OUR CULTURE SO RICH.

Mayor Judith Valles invites you to celebrate

Cinco de Mayo

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"Latinos in Hollywood" is a lavish pictorial exhibit highlighting the history, achievements and participation of Latinos in the Hollywood film industry from its early beginnings to the present. This will be dramatically illustrated through the progression of over 160 rare photographs, not only of actors and extras, but also the behind the scenes personnel, such as producers, writers, choreographers and directors.

Rita Hayworth in "Gilda" (1947)
Job Corps Salutes

Leslie Pelligrini of Kelly Services

Pelligrini has been named outstanding employer partner for her contributions to the Job Corps Western Region. She will be presented with an award in early May in San Francisco. The award is given to only one or two area employers who partner with their local Job Corps centers.

As a partner, Pelligrini conducts thorough interviews with trainees and provides constructive critique.

Kelly Services has provided 240 hours to interview trainees and 1,584 hours to train Job Corps trainees. The facilities at Kelly Services also serve as a school-to-career internship site.

Inland Empire Job Corp Center
3173 Kerry St. San Bernardino, CA 92407
(909) 887-7134
Inland Empire Hispanic News
Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Continued from Page 1

ROMELIO RUIZ, MORENO VALLEY ACTIVIST, HONORED

Pictured above is the family of Romelio Ruiz during the unveiling of his bust and plaque that will be placed in the entrance of the former Moreno Valley Communication Center. The Center was renamed for Romelio Ruiz. Pictured (l to r) is Geraldo Gomez, that sculptured the bust at no cost, Mrs Isaura Ruiz, sons Jairo and Irad, daughter Ibet, Marta Linares, Alma and Isaura, son Romelio, Jr. Maria De Los Angeles, (Romelio Ruiz’ sister) and Asencion De La Torre, San Juan de Los Lagos representative. Photo by IEHN.

ceived his new environment for the betterment of everyone,” Navarro said.

Hispanos Unidos has been an active and viable group in the City of Moreno Valley and the education system. The group, with Ruiz as its president, raised scholarships funds, helped Spanish-speaking families to resolve school-related problems, organized citizenship classes for adults, among other civic and educational activities.

Foremost in Ruiz’ achievement was the development of the Sister City Project between Moreno Valley and San Juan de Los Lagos. The project became the catalyst for ongoing programs between the two cities, including the exchange of young students, visitations between education and civic leaders and most importantly, the interchange and enhancement of cultures which has, to the present, become a solidifying relationship, Chaffin said.

Romelio Ruiz was born on December 17, 1938, in San Juan de Los Lagos and later, he and his family established their residency in Moreno Valley. Thereafter, Ruiz became actively involved in a myriad of community activities with the City of Moreno Valley and Moreno Valley School District. He exemplified a positive influence as a leader and significantly added to the well-being of the total community, commented many in the audience.

Ruiz’ family is widow, Isaura, daughters Ibet, Marta Linares, Alma and sons Irad, Jairo and Romelio, Jr.

Maria Navarro, President of Hispanics Unidos, spoke about Romelio Ruiz and his legacy to the City of Moreno Valley and Moreno Valley School District at the renaming of the Education Center to the Romelio Ruiz Education Center. Photo by IEHN.

being representative of the diversity of culture and ethnicity. “We are proud that many of us came together to honor an individual who gave his best for our community,” he said.

Ignacio De La Torre, representing the mayor of San Juan de Los Lagos, spoke of the relationships between the two cities and that those relationship will continue in memory of Ruiz.

Ruiz’ family is widow, Isaura, daughters Ibet, Marta Linares, Alma and sons Irad, Jairo and Romelio, Jr.

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Aurelio Aguirre, President of the Moreno Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, remarked, at the dedication ceremony, on the diversity of the audience to unite on the occasion of renaming of the Moreno Valley Education Center to Romelio Ruiz Education Center. Photo by IEHN.

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KINDERGARTEN TEACHER MAKES A DIFFERENCE BY EMBRACING DIVERSITY

OAKLAND, CA - Everyday that Tony Gomez walks to his kindergarten class at Garfield Elementary in East Oakland, he appreciates the opportunities and responsibilities afforded by the uniqueness of our state's growing cultural diversity. Passing this understanding on to his young students is a challenge Gomez is more than willing to take.

Gomez is one of California's exceptional teachers as he goes beyond the lesson plan to instill in youthful minds a deeper appreciation of the world and its inhabitants. After leaving San Francisco to work in Washington as a museum educator, Gomez returned home to make a greater impact on his community—he returned home to teach.

"I grew up having friends with last names like Romero, Chen and O'Neil," remembers Gomez, a self described Chicano-Italian. "I valued knowing kids of different cultural backgrounds. I decided to become a teacher because I wanted to be a positive presence in that kind of mix."

Garfield Elementary is indeed a medley of diversity. One-third of the student population is Latino, one-third is African-American and another third is a mix of Vietnamese, Cambodian, Mien, Arab, and Filipino. In a school as diverse as this one, the Kindergarten Club, a collaboration of all the different cultural and language groups by engaging them in activities outside the core curriculum, such as music and the arts, he knew he felt a calling to truly help children develop their skills and passion for learning.

"In the neighborhood where I work there are a number of gangs, both Latino and Asian," says Gomez, a Spanish bilingual teacher. "What we try to do with the Kindergarten Club is present an alternative at a young age. We need to make a concerted effort to allow students to create strong connections and friendships because, as wonderful as the diversity in California is, there is much racism. The club helps kids deconstruct those negative concepts."

Gomez, who earned his credential at the University of California, Berkeley, knew that switching careers would be a big investment of time and money. At times, he wondered if it would be worth it. But as a museum educator he coordinated after-school workshops for kids at cultural and community centers, as well as at museums, he knew he felt a calling to truly help children develop their skills and passion for learning.

"One of the greatest things for me is seeing a child who couldn't even write their name at the beginning of the year emerge as a young reader and writer. To me, that is absolutely thrilling," explains Gomez.

California faces a shortage of qualified teachers largely driven by an ever-expanding student enrollment, mandated class size reduction and the growing attrition of today's teacher workforce as a large proportion reach retirement age. During the next decade California will need to recruit 300,000 people to take on the challenging but rewarding job of teaching the state's children.

The California Center for Teaching Careers (CalTeach) is a one-stop information, recruitment and referral service for individuals considering or pursuing a teaching career CalTeach administered by the CSU Chancellor's Office, can be reached by phone at 1-888-CALTEACH(225-8322), or via the Internet at www.calteach.com. CalTeach also works closely with the California Teacher Recruitment Incentive Program (CalTRIP). Six centers are located in Sacramento, Tulare, San Bernardino, Los Angeles and San Diego. The teacher recruitment centers provide job placement assistance by partnering with local school districts to ensure that teachers are placed in classrooms through a seamless and efficient hiring process. These centers can be reached through the CalTeach helpline at 1-888-CALTEACH (225-8322).

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To all readers of Inland Empire Hispanic News

Assemblymember
John Longville

Joins his Latino friends and neighbors in celebrating their victory over oppression at the Battle of Puebla in 1862

¡Viva!
Cinco de Mayo
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THE 29TH ANNUAL CHILDREN’S CONFERENCE
The 29th Annual Children’s Conference will be held at the Riverside Convention Center in Riverside on April 30, 2002. This year’s theme “The Faces of Families” provides an opportunity to look at innovative ways to assist families. Areas of focus include: preventing child abuse, celebrating the diversity of families, dealing with loss and issues families and teens face.
The one-day event will cost $99. For more information call: Agee Jenkins at Family Service Association (909) 686-3706.

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Metrolink es la vía divertida para ir a celebrar el Cinco de Mayo.
Este fin de semana (viernes 3 de mayo a domingo 5 de mayo) vaya a celebrar el Cinco de Mayo en la Calle Olvera, frente a la estación de trenes Union Station. Tome el servicio del sábado de Metrolink en las Imeas de San Bernardino o Antelope Valley, o el servicio dominical en la línea de San Bernardino.
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