

ABOUT LA VOZ:

The most recent manifestation of Puerto Rican journalism in Chicago, La Voz del Paseo Boricua proudly continues in the legacy of our community's previous newspapers. Founded in 2004,

La Voz del Paseo Boricua, or simply 'La Voz' as it is affectionately called by our readers, is a grassroots bilingual periodical published by the Juan Antonio Corretjer Puerto Rican Cultural Center. We report on stories relevant to our community on a bimonthly basis, disseminating news about local events, programs, resources, and developments. As an alternative source of media, we seek to acknowledge the achievements of the Puerto Rican community at large and to advocate for the preservation of the heart of our barrio in Humboldt Park - our "pedacito de patria" in Chicago.

SOBRE LA VOZ:

La más reciente manifestación del periodismo puertorriqueño en Chicago, La Voz del Paseo Boricua continúa orgullosamente el legado de nuestros primeros periódicos. Fundado en 2004, La Voz del Paseo Boricua, o 'La Voz' según se le conoce cariñosamente por nuestros lectores, es un periódico de pueblo, publicado de manera bilingüe por El Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño Juan Antonio Corretjer. Bimensualmente, divulga historias relevantes de nuestra comunidad, diseminando noticias sobre acontecimientos, programas, recursos, y progresos locales. Como fuente alternativa de medios, intentamos reconocer los logros de la comunidad puertorriqueña al igual que abogar por la preservación del corazón de nuestro barrio Humboldt Park – nuestro "pedacito de patria" en Chicago.













MEET OUR PRODUCTION TEAM



Xiomara Rodríguez PUBLISHER xiomara.rodriguez@prcc-chgo.org

Roberto Sanabria EDITOR IN CHIEF robertos@prcc-chgo.org



Luis Alejandro Molina SENIOR ADVISOR alejandrom@prcc-chgo.org



Matt McCanna PHOTOGRAPHER mattm@prcc-chgo.org

SABOREA la Comida, las Bebidas, y el Entretenimiento... ...Al Fresco



Por La Voz Personal

Durante el fin de semana del 22 de mayo, El Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño realizó una suave inauguración de su festival callejero de verano Al Fresco en el Paseo Boricua. Los eventos del fin de semana incluyeron la bienvenida a

un nuevo negocio propiedad de mujeres puertorriqueñas; (El Fogón De Susana) de Susana Surén, la celebración del primer año de Reina's Cakes como dueña de un pequeño negocio, un mercadillo en la Calle Division desde Western hasta

California, y terminó con un bombazo de La Escuelita Bombera de Corazón el domingo. Este festival callejero continuará con comida, música, eventos y vendedores todos los fines de semana y comenzará con fuerza en junio. Chicago Alfresco se basa en el exitoso programa Expanded Outdoor Dining de la ciudad que brindó a cientos de restaurantes la oportunidad de operar en espacios al aire libre durante la pandemia de COVID-19. Con el apoyo financiero del negocio norteamericano de Diageo, propietario

de marcas como Guinness, Smirnoff y Crown Royal, la Ciudad avanzó para lanzar un programa dedicado a la creación de espacios al aire libre. Se eligieron 15 organizaciones para liderar estos esfuerzos para crear espacios al aire libre atractivos en vecindarios con gran potencial para atraer turismo. El

Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño fue una de las 15 organizaciones elegidas, y usará los fondos para brindar programación familiar y culturalmente informada en Paseo Boricua todos los fines de semana.

Puerto Rican Agenda Discusses the Future of Puerto Rico Town with

Governor JB Pritzker



By Jessie Fuentes

Leaders of the Puerto Rican Agenda met with Governor JB Priztker on May 17th, 2022 to discuss the future of Puerto Rico Town. More than three years before this meeting, leaders of the Puerto Rican Agenda met with the Governor to discuss a vision of community sustainability and growth. The Governor had given leaders valuable insight and his commitment to support this vision. Shortly after that, a partnership of local elected leaders, including Representative

Delia Ramírez, Senator Omar Aquino and Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas, introduced and passed a State Designated Cultural District bill that will make this vision a reality for the Puerto Rican community.

The Puerto
Rican community has
endured gentrification and
debilitating disinvestment
for decades. Puerto Rico
Town is a vision that will
reverse the process of
gentrification and ensure
equitable state and city
resources return to the
Puerto Rican community
within its four pillars:

Education, Health, Housing, and Economic Development. On May 17th, 2022, while he was on the campaign trail, the Governor met with the Puerto Rican Community once again to discuss all of the wins our community and the State have gained in the last four years. Further, with great passion and tenacity, we discussed the much needed work to be done in the next four years. Senators Aquino and Pacione-Zayas sat alongside community leaders to discuss the work we must all put in around early childhood, housing, health, and education in Humboldt Park.

The Puerto Rican
Agenda's leadership
alongside our local elected
officials will work diligently
with the Governor's Office
to ensure Puerto Rico
Town and other disinvested
communities across the
state receive the resources
that they rightfully deserve.

PASEO BORICUA BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

Succulent City: "Plants as therapy"

By Zion Trinidad

Marcus
Kirby is
the owner
of Paseo
Boricua's
"Succulent
City"
located at
2540 W
Division St.
His shop

carries a variety of succulents, tropical, and hanging plants with some meant to be a centerpiece and others being the perfect gift for a loved one. In an interview with Marcus, he expressed his desire to sell plants at an affordable price that can act as therapy for those who need it in a time of stress and isolation. As he admits, the pandemic and subsequent inflation have affected his

business greatly, but

he hopes to open his space as one for the community. When asked what it means for him to have his business on Paseo Boricua, Marcus shared that since he moved to Chicago in 2009, Paseo Boricua and Humboldt Park have been all he has known. As a Latinx business owner, the sense of community that he found here has inspired his dream to open a store for a community that is often priced out of the hobby. He attributes

The PRCC's Small **Business Development** Center for helping him greatly throughout what could be a very difficult process of sole proprietorship. If you would like to shop at Succulent City the storefront is open from II a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends. The best way to see what his store has to offer is by following his Instagram @ thesucculentcity and Facebook the succulent city. Best wishes to Marcus and his business!



Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño Presentó donativo 5 mil Dólares a CLARIDAD Durante 47^{mo} Festival de

Por La Voz Personal

Durante la celebración del 47^{mo} festival de apoyo a claridad, realizado el fin de semana del 28 de abril al primero de mayo, representantes de El Centro Cultural hicieron una presentación de un donativo de cinco mil dólares al periódico de la nación puertor-

riqueña CLARIDAD- el periódico es el más antiguo en Puerto Rico. El Festival fue dedicado al patriota Rubén Berrios Martínez. La delegación de Chicago incluyó a los patriots Oscar López Rivera, Alberto Rodríguez, Luis Rosa, la abogada Jan Susler, como también a Wilfredo Santana, Juan Calderón, y José E López.



5 Años Después 3 R's 4 PR Produce Resultados HITN y Northern Illinois University Donan Equipo Tecnológico Valorado en Más de \$40,000 Dólares a Niños de Loíza

Por Israel Morales Alicea

Casi cinco años después del huracán Maria, la iniciativa 3 R's (Rescue, Relief, Rebuild) for Puerto Rico, todavía sigue produciendo resultados para los dos pueblos adoptados por la Agenda Puertorriqueña Comerío y Loíza como se esboza en el siguiente artículo:

La alcaldesa de Loíza, Julia Nazario Fuentes, recibió hoy en la Escuela Jobos de Medianía a un grupo filántropos de la televisora Hispanic Information Telecommunications Network (HITN) y de la Universidad del Norte de Illinois (Northern Illinois University), quienes

llegaron a la Isla para formalizar una donación de computadoras para uso de los estudiantes de la Escuela Jobos (K-5) y iPads para la escuela bilingüe municipal, Alianza Cacica Yuiza. Concretamente, la donación consiste en 21 computadoras iMac valoradas en \$25,000 y 15 iPads valorados en \$17,000, para un total de \$42,000.

La Dra. Laura Ruth Johnson, del Departamento de Tecnología Educativa, Investigación y Evaluación. señaló que "en Northern Ilinois University estamos entusiasmados por la oportunidad de colaborar con la Alcaldesa Nazario Fuentes y la Escuela Jobos al brindar asistencia y recursos tecnológicos que impacten satisfactoriamente las



necesidades de aprendizaje de los estudiantes en Loíza. En Northern Illinois University valoramos la donación de computadora como el comienzo de construir una relación duradera".

La Universidad del Norte de Illinois es una institución pública ubicada en DeKalb, Illinois y fue fundada el 22 de mayo de 1895 por el Gobernador John P. Altgeld como un recinto satélite de lo que hoy es la Universidad Estatal de Illinois. Hoy en día es una universidad pública independiente, de gran prestigio y más de 25,000 estudiantes matriculados.

Por otro lado, la entidad HITN tiene como misión promover las aspiraciones educativas, culturales y socio-económicas de los latinos en los Estados Unidos mediante el desarrollo y la distribución de contenido auténtico y de calidad, en televisión, en línea, y en la comunidad. HITN fue representado en el evento por Mike Nieves, su presidente y CEO, quien reafirmó el compromiso con la educación de los niños en Puerto Rico desde el mismo origen de la organización, "meta que hemos continuado y hoy reafirmamos con los niños del pueblo de Loíza al proveer de nueva tecnología para continuar sus estudios".

La Alcaldesa Nazario Fuentes señaló que "para nosotros en Loíza la educación, la cultura, y los deportes son prioridad.

Agradecemos inmensamente esta importante contribución de la Northern Illinois University de la televisora hispana HITN en el futuro de nuestros niños. En la misión de superar la brecha digital, continuaremos contribuyendo al acceso a las tecnologías de la información y la comunicación entre grupos de todo tipo".

Los visitantes fueron recibidos además por la Comisionada Escolar del Municipio de Loíza, Danaliz Dávila Fuentes y la Planificadora Municipal, Yeidy Mar Escobar. El evento se transmitió en vivo por Municipio de Loíza en Facebook, donde los presentes detallaron el proceso de donación del equipo y destacaron la importancia que tiene la tecnología en el proceso educativo a todos los niveles.

¡Felicitamos! Equipo "Comunidad y Estudiantes Primero" del LSC (concilio local escolar) Clemente



Por La Voz Personal

Felicitaciones al equipo "Comunidad y Estudiantes Primero" elegido en la Clemente para LSC (consejo local escolar).

El miércoles 21 de abril de 2022, después de las elecciones del consejo escolar local en Clemente, la primera lista de estudiantes y comunidad obtuvo una victoria rotunda. Glenda Guzmán y Leonilda Calderón fueron elegidas como Representantes de la Comunidad y los siguientes padres representantes también fueron elegidos;

-Juanita García

- -Paola Mena
- -Margaret Rivera
- -Tierra Pearson

Este equipo asegurará los cambios educativos necesarios en la secundaria Roberto Clemente por los próximos dos años

Cacica Coronation 2022 Returns to Lead Puerto Rican People's Day Parade



By Tatiana Rodríquez

The Puerto Rican Cultural Center's Trans Empowerment Center cordially invites you to attend the 15th Anniversary of the Paseo Boricua Cacica and Cacique Coronation on June 9th, 2022, at 7 PM at the Segundo Ruíz Belvis Cultural Center. After three years of postponement, this highly anticipated formal gala returns! We are thrilled to host former Cacicas, many of whom were featured on RuPaul's Drag Race, to perform and join in on the festivities. We warmly welcome the LGBTQ Latine community

and beyond to rejoice in this cultural expression and treasured tradition. Crowned Paseo Boricua Cacicas and Caciques are fierce leaders and beloved community staples constructively engaged in modeling inclusive futures for LGBTQ Latines. Join us as we celebrate LGBTQ Latine emerging leaders, showcase the immense talents of prominent, nationally recognized LGBTQ performing artists, and engage in discourse around LGBTQ unity, healing, rights, and resistance.

We look forward to your attendance!

UrbanTheater Company: From Humboldt Park to Puerto Rico



By Iván Vega

On April 8 and 9, 2022 UrbanTheater Company (UTC) presented two sold-out performances of LA GRINGA by Carmen Rivera, our first theatrical production in Puerto Rico. Ten of us traveled to the island where we were welcomed with open arms. LA GRINGA was performed at Teatro Victoria Espinosa in Santurce as part of a crosscultural exchange during the Festival de Teatro Puertorriqueño e Internacional 2022. The

opportunity to
present this play
in our homeland
was a magical
and unforgettable
experience. This
endeavor marks a new
and exciting beginning
for our company to
continue sharing
stories with our beloved

Puerto Rico. We are very grateful for this opportunity brought forth by Chicago Latino Theater Alliance (CLATA), Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, Puerto Rican Arts Alliance, and the National Museum of Mexican Art.



COMMUNITY AS A CAMPUS (C.A.A.C.) BRIEFS:

Hooping for Humboldt Park Tournament is a Classic

By Marvin García

Rowe Girls and Jose De Diego Boys Capture the 2022 Tournament Championship. After two years, the Community as a Campus's Annual Hooping for Humboldt Park Tournament returned to Clemente on March 26. More than 250 students, family members, friends,

and fans filled the stands as they cheered their teams and favorite players. The high levels of joy and excitement reverberated throughout the gym. This year Chase, Jose de Diego, Moos, Yates, and Rowe participated in the tournament. Congratulations to the Rowe girls' team and the boys' team

from Jose de Diego for winning their championship games. A threepoint contest took place at halftime during both championship games. Emiyah Badillo and Dereon Carter from Jose de Diego were the winners.







Special Thanks to Coaches and Supporters

By: José Pagán

On behalf of the entire Community as a Campus team we thank you for your commitment to the Humboldt Park Community and to the student athletes you represent. This tournament had a little bit of everything, from stands full of students and families, to the end of game heroics. Your individual contributions made this event possible.

Special thanks to our CAAC Sports Program Team for making the entire event a great experience. Also, thanks to Carl Hurdlik and FACE for your continued support. Thank to our security team and referees. Six years ago, we started the CAAC Sports

Program. We now see the impact made by our coaches who act as mentors, and guide students to be active and practice sportsmanship that builds a strength of character.

With the basketball season behind most of us, spring sports is now in front of

Families Reflect on Hooping for Humboldt Park Tournament

By: Marvin García

Throughout the game, we took some time to speak with families in the stands and asked them what their thoughts are on the CAAC sports program. Raquel Calderón is a Rowe parent. Her daughter is in 8th grade, and she wishes the league could be extended so players could get more games in,

especially since many were canceled due to COVID or a shortage of players.

Raquel wants schools to put effort into having sports teams because they are needed. Celia Ruíz, parent from Jose de Diego, says the sports program is great because kids are entertained and occupied. She too would like to see the league extended. Shawna, Chase parent, was happy that the tournament was held at Clemente as she is a proud alumna. George Mercado, a Rowe grandfather, absolutely loves the sports program and takes delight in supporting his daughter and granddaughter. He attends all games and looks forward to the league's continued growth.



Join the CAAC Sports Program: Start Planning for the Spring

By: Marvin García

We encourage your school to participate in CAAC Sports and help expand the program. Parents and coaches would like to see their kids play more games and for that we need more schools to participate. COVID played a big role in whether schools had the capacity to participate this year, so we will work to prepare for a much larger league next school year. We would like to thank all participating schools, students, families, coaches, principals, and community members for making this tournament a success.

Middle School Girls' Soccer Season

Started May 4th, we have access to the All State Soccer Field in Humboldt Park I440 N Humboldt Dr, Chicago, IL 60622 Wednesday and Thursday - 3:30pm - 6pm 2 games per day.

Regular season games were played May 4th through May 26th, and the playoff week is May 30th - June 3rd. Championship Games are on June 8th

16" Co -Ed Softball season

This year we will have a fun softball season with an end of season championship celebration/ party.

Little Cubs Field in Humboldt Park More info about this league's next Sports Bulletin

Contact José L. Pagán, CAAC Sports Coordinator Moos Elementary School, 1711 N. California Ave. Chicago, IL 60647



Our Coaches Speak

By: Marvin García

Coach Hervey from Moos says he would definitely like to see teams play more games. He also would like to have access to a larger gym to practice and play as well as two referees at each game. Coach Hervey said that he enjoys being a part of the CAAC sports program and asks fans, parents, and students to keep up the energy because kids need it and love it.

Coach Ward from Jose de Diego decided to teach the boy's team this year to follow in the footsteps of the former coach and to work with kids to show them the game that he loves

(De Diego won the CAAC championship game in 2020). Coach Ward is in his first school year at De Diego where he also serves as a Special Education Classroom Assistant. You can catch Coach Ward by the bench calmly observing and reacting to plays. This is one thing that makes Coach Ward stand out; he is calm and soft spoken but means business. He keeps the players motivated through personal life lessons, encouraging the players not to hold back, and training them to knock out distractions. He is most proud of the boys' team for putting in their all, and securing a victory.

Únete a La Universidad de Padres en Clemente

By: Marvin García

El pasado 12 de mayo, padres y miembros de la comunidad terminaron sus clases de inglés del Truman College en la Universidad de Padres de la Secundaria Roberto Clemente. En colaboración con Truman College, la Universidad de Padres en Clemente ofrecerá una nueva sesión de inglés gratis, comenzando el 29 de agosto. Las clases se reunirán dos veces a la semana; lunes y miércoles de 9:30-12:30, duran tres meses y son completamente gratis para todos los padres y miembros de la comunidad.

Si usted o alguien que usted conozca está interesad@, favor de inscribirse por este enlace: https://bit.ly/
ESL_clases_de_ingles o llame a Clemente al 773-534-4041
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West Park STEAM Academy Chess Club Competes in Tournament



By: Marvin García On May 14th, II students of West Park STEAM Academy attended their first official chess tournament at Nobel Elementary by invitation from Mr. Mathew Kearney, the Executive Director of the Chicago Chess Foundation. Students prepared for two months, practicing on

Tuesdays and Thursdays at the after-school chess club and competed in two different age groups. Although they did not win all their matches, the team did very well overall. Students had a great time interacting with chess players from other schools, and parents were impressed with their performance

considering that it was their first chess tournament. The West Park students have been invited to practice with Nobel Elementary to prepare for next year's tournament. The Chess Club is sponsored by the 21st Century Program and The Puerto Rican Cultural Center; the acting Site Coordinator is Rosaura Oquendo.

PACHS' Success Story: Anthony Rogers

By: Marvin García

In March 2021, Anthony Rodgers was accepted into the Green Community Builders YouthBuild program at Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos High School, the PACHS-GCB program. He came to the program with many personal challenges, including being incarcerated for about a year. Anthony explains: *The program saved my life. In* the training I learned carpentry, drywall installation, finishing and painting, light electrical and plumbing, among other construction skills. I received my NCCER, OSHA, and First Aid certifications. I learned leadership skills by being a member of the Youth Policy Council, where I was able to give input and help with policy decisions.

I also did community service through Habitat For Humanity, where we volunteered to help with construction of low-income housing projects. Also, I graduated from high school, receiving my diploma in the summer of 2021. I accomplished all this while participating in the program. I am now participating in the EQ mentoring and internship program, a partnership with YB-USA. This is a paid internship that may lead to full time employment. I am learning project management and helping to build out custom office spaces for potential tenants. My supervisor is happy with me, and I am also happy and out of trouble. Now I am enrolled at Harold Washington Col-



lege studying information technology. I want to become a computer programmer. The EQ internship is connecting me to their IT department and a mentor for IT.



Emmy Nominated Author Visits West Park STEAM Academy

By: Marvin García Dr. Raquel Ortiz, author of various children's books spent four incredible days at West Park STEAM Academy. Her visit

included classroom readings, a meet and greet with teachers and a book signing event. The featured book at the school was Sofi Paints Her Dreams.



HUMBOLDT PARK BOATHOUSE GALLERY PRESENTS

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44TH PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE

DR. PEDRO ALBIZU CAMPOS PUERTO RICAN HIGH SCHOOL

SATURDAY JUNE 11, 2022

2PM DIVISION & CAMPBELL



A MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE

Welcome to the 44th Annual Puerto Rican People's Day Parade on "Paseo Boricua", and to the La Voz Special Parade Insert

This year we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School (PACHS). For half a century now this school has provided our community's at-risk youth with quality education premised on the principle best expressed in the words of Puerto Rican patriot Rafael Cancel Miranda - "La educación rompe cadenas".

Since 1978 the Parade has grown into one of the largest cultural celebrations in this community; proudly showcasing our rich cultural heritage. The Parade's carnival-like environment features vejigantes, dancing/musical performances, marching bands, and floats, highlighting our area's businesses, political leaders, religious and cultural institutions, as well as the schools represented by the Community as a Campus Initiative.

Additionally, this year we will honor the 20th anniversary of the amazing youth space, Batey Urbano (2002-2022), as well as the life of the world's youngest boxing champion in sports history, our very own Wilfredo Benítez

In recognition of our rich diversity and our commitment to Pride Month, the Puerto Rican People's Day Parade Cacica/Queen is always a transgender person and our Cacique a member of the LGBT+ community.

Following the Parade we urge all our participants to enjoy las Fiestas Patronales Puertorriqueñas in Humboldt Park, which under a new leadership will provide a fresh start with an incredible line up of musical talent from Chicago and Puerto Rico as well as an array of delicious food and a huge family friendly carnival.

I must add that wonderful things are taking

place on Paseo Boricua, if you haven't visited lately I invite you to see how the community is beautifying itself, providing a welcoming environment full of pride, culture, food, and all kinds of pop-up business experiences including iWEPA! Mercado del Pueblo.

I am excited to invite you to be part of this cultural immersion experience. I am looking forward to your participation in the Parade, and to its great success. The Parade will start at 2:00pm on Division & Western, on Saturday June IIth, 2022.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the merchants, individuals, and organizations who sponsored our La Voz Parade issue, and our Parade entrants; particularly a special thanks to our PRCC staff, volunteers, and our production team for their diligent work on our Parade.

¡Muchísimas gracias! ¡Feliz Desfile! - Leony Calderón

44TH PUERTO RICAN GULTURAL GENTTER'S PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE LINE-UP

- THE PUERTO RICAN CULTURAL CENTER
 Foat & Don Segundo Ruiz Belviz & Friends,
 44th . People's Parade Lead Banner, and Flag,
 Dignitaries /Honored Guests- Marching
- · 26th Ward Ald. Roberto Maldonado-Float
- CENTRO INFANTIL CONSUELO LEE CORRETJER-Float
- J. B. Pritzker Governor of Illinois
- VIDA/SIDA /Cacica
- Muévete- marching group
- PRCC Violence Prevention & Intervention-Float
- · Reina's Cakes -Cake Carts and marching group
- Fiestas Patronales Puertorriqueñas
- · Chicago Public Schools FACE
- Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School- Float
- NBC Universal 2 cars

- COMMUNITY AS A CAMPUS-Float
- ROBERTO CLEMENTE COMMUNITY ACADEMY-Float
- Yates Elementary School-Float
- Stowe Elementary School Float
- West Park School Float
- PRCC BUSINESS INITIATIVES. EL MERCADO DEL PUEBLO Y LOS WEPEROS -Marching Group
- · Centro Sin Frontera- marching group
- El Rescate and The Humboldt Park Youth Employment Empowerment Program-Float
- · Sen. Iris Martinez -Float
- BMO Harris Bank N.A.
- WEST TOWN BIKES/CICLO URBANO-Bicycles
- · ComED
- · Ald. Raymond Lopez- marchig group

- · Chicago Teachers Union-Float
- CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO-Float
- Chicago Early Learning Float
- · Chicago Park District-Contingent
- BUILD Float
- Carmen Quiñones for Judge
- · Telemundo-Float
- · Aetna
- DIVVY Lift-Bikes
- Chi Wicker Truck Club
- Los Mismo de Siempre Car Club
- · Los Reales Car Club
- Team Los Dioses Car Club
- Humboldt Park Jeep Club
- Latin American Motorcycle Association



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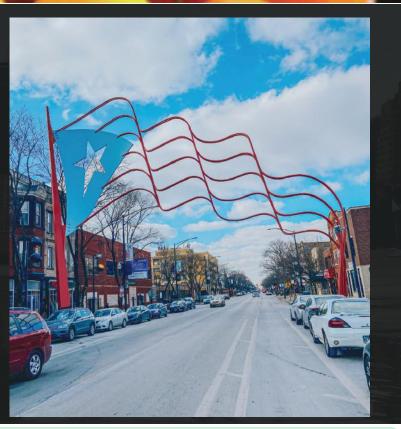
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We are committed to lending a helping hand for the causes that are important to our community. That's why CIBC is proud to support the 44th Puerto Rican People's Day Parade.

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The Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos H.S. Board of Directors Salutes the Puerto Rican Community as we Celebrate the 44th Annual Puerto Rican People's Day Parade.











Evelyn Rivera, Chair, Mike Staudenmaier

Milagros de la Rosa

Milagros Fernandez

Jaime Moctezuma







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FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT DR. MELISSA LEWIS MELISSAL@PACHS-CHICAGO.ORG 773-342-8022



Congratulations on a successful 44th Annual Puerto Rican People's Day Parade.

¡Felices fiestas!, es un orgullo representar a la comunidad Puertorriqueña en Chicago!

Vote Delia Ramirez for Congress Election day is June 28th 2022.

To find out more, visit

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Promoting a Culture of Educational Excellence

Salutes the Puerto Rican Community as we Celebrate the 44th Annual Puerto Rican People's Day Parade. The Illinois Youth Build Coalition Salutes the Puerto Rican Community in Celebration of the 44th Annual Puerto Rican People's Day Parade



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Saluda a la comunidad Puertorriqueña en la celebración de las Fiestas Patronales de San Juan Bautista en Humboldt Park

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SALUTES THE 44TH PEOPLE'S PARADE!



PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE





The Latino Policy Forum celebrates

the culture and contributions of the Puerto Rican community and proudly supports the 44th annual





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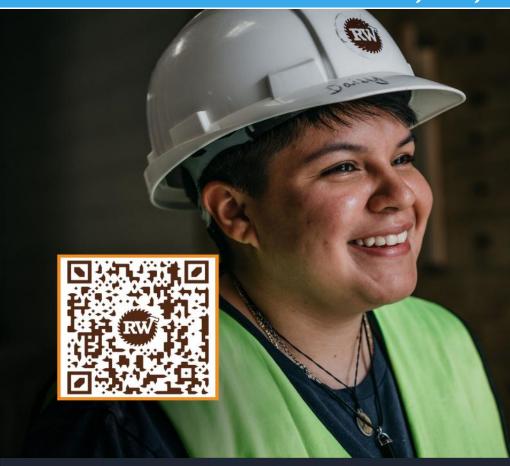
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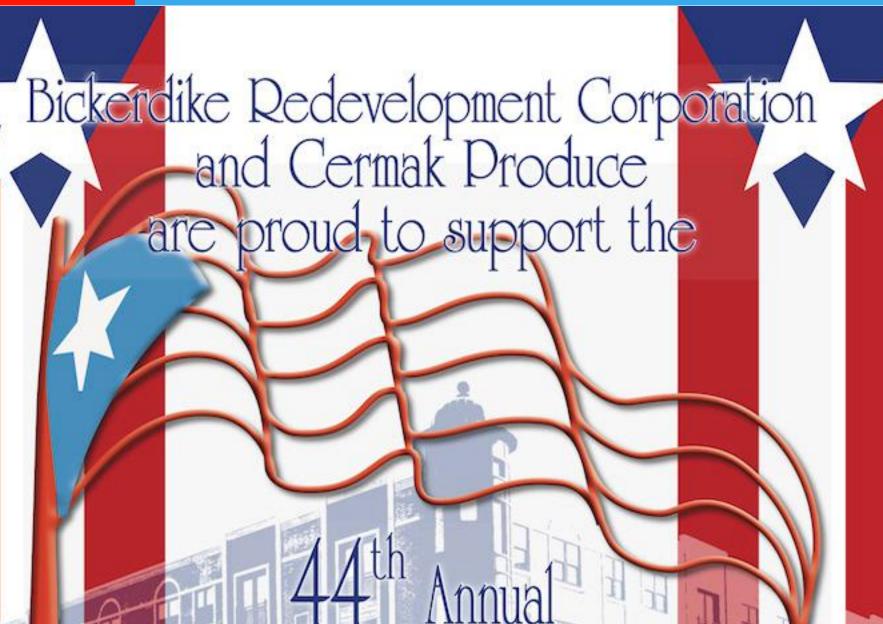
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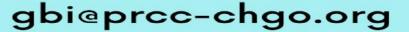
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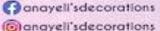
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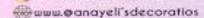
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Puerto Rican Artists "Claim Public Space" with Colorful Murals on Paseo Boricua's sidewalks

By Ayden Marcano

With the combined efforts of the Chicago Department of Transportation and community artists and leaders, Humboldt Park is participating in the Al Fresco Project to help beautify the neighborhood. The project aims to create more interactive city spaces.

"We're painting IO different spots on the sidewalk as part of an initiative with the City to revitalize foot traffic", said artist Cristián Roldán, one of several who are embellishing the Humboldt Park community with artwork and symbols that are indicative of life and culture on the Island. These are painted on Division St. sidewalks along Humboldt Park's Paseo Boricua. Prior to the start of the project, community members participated in a cleanup of the neighborhood by repainting many of the trash cans along the street as well as picking up garbage, and cleaning the sidewalks.

Through these works, the artists' hope is not just to beautify the neighborhood, but to tell stories for the community as well.

"I believe it is more important than anything for those who have lived generations in the Diaspora that they feel something." said artist Rebel Betty when asked about connecting her work with the public to Puerto Rico.

Humboldt Park's Paseo Boricua is a cultural hub and diverse meeting place. It boasts a variety of businesses, restaurants, and community centers. The works from these artists are deeply personal and thoughtful as well as unique in their storytelling – highlighting diverse aspects of the culture.

"If you live in a place more harmonized you feel like you want to spend more time there, more than in a neighborhood that doesn't have those spaces where people can meet, have conversations, exchange ideas." said artist Cristián Roldán.

"Part of it is adding to the collective aesthetic of the public space".

Humboldt Park's Paseo has been a staple of the community for many years, and even though it has been through many changes, artwork has always been a steadfast reminder to celebrate Puerto Rican culture in the neighborhood. By Mina Bloom (Block Club Chicago)

Artists are brightening up the epicenter of Chicago's Puerto Rican community with colorful murals, which pay tribute to the neighborhood's identity.

Artists are painting IO sidewalk murals on Paseo Boricua, a stretch of Division

Street that extends from California Avenues, under the city's Al Fresco initiative, a program aimed at creating "active community spaces" anchored by outdoor dining.

The murals — depicting everything from Puerto Rico's state flower to the Puerto Rican LGBTQ experience — are expected to stay up for a few years, organizers said.

The art project is a way for Humboldt Park's Puerto Rican residents to "claim public space" in the face of rapid gentrification, said Emmanuel Dávila, the director of business initiatives for The Puerto Rican Cultural Center, the organization overseeing the effort.

Housing prices have shot up in the Humboldt Park area and along The 606's Bloomingdale Trail in recent years, driving out longtime Latino residents and



businesses catering to the Latino community.

The murals "let folks know we are still a presence in this community, and we don't intend to give up our culture. We intend to hang on to our culture," Dávila said.

Local artist Cristian
Roldán, who is Puerto Rican, is
spearheading the project.
Roldán said the murals are
an acknowledgement and a
celebration of the area's Puerto
Rican community. Roldán is
painting four of the murals, two
of which are patterned bursts of
color. The rest are being painted
by other local artists Roldán has
worked with before.

"Our public places, where we live, where we create our lives — it's important for us to represent that we're here, and we're part of the population, too," Roldán said. Roldán added in an email, "By selecting four Puerto Rican artists,

including myself, we expect to provide the space for creatives to create meaningful pieces that reflect the collective aesthetics as a means to celebrate culture. contribute to Chicago's

diversity and reimagine the space that we inhabit in a positive and colorful way."

Raúl Ortiz Bonilla is one of the artists Roldán brought on board. Bonilla's mural, on Division just west of Rockwell Street, is done in the artist's signature pointillism style with Puerto Rican themes woven throughout.

The mural's hibiscus flowers — Puerto Rico's national flower — have 78 leaves to represent the 78 municipalities in Puerto Rico, Bonilla said. Steps leading up to a fence are meant to illustrate the barriers Puerto Ricans face and the struggles Puerto Rican nationalist leader Pedro Albizu Campos endured, he said. Albizu is a beloved figure in Humboldt Park and is the subject of other neighborhood murals; a nearby school is also named after Albizu Campos.

Bonilla, who is from the (Continued on page 52)

(Continued from page 51)

southern coast of Puerto Rico, said the response has been "amazing" so far, with neighbors sharing their stories of living in Puerto Rico and Humboldt Park.

"A lot of the old-timers and people open up and want to talk. You hear a lot of beautiful stories, you learn a lot," he said.

Dávila said the art project is just one part of leaders' broader plans to boost economic activity along Division Street and steer more people to the area's Puerto Rican businesses, which have struggled because of gentrification and the pandemic.

The Puerto Rican
Cultural Center is installing
wooden structures along
Division Street that will house
outdoor dining, events and
performances this summer,
called Boricua Village. The
structures should be up by early
June, Dávila said.

Each structure will have its own theme. One near West Town Bikes and a senior housing building will be focused on wellness.

Like the murals, the Boricua Village project is part of the city's Al Fresco program.

The Division Street stretch recently became Puerto Rico Town, a state-designated cultural district aimed at bringing resources to small businesses.

The art project is "one of the first steps in envisioning Puerto Rican Town as a cultural enterprise, using culture to drive the economic engine," Dávila said.

Los Reyes Magos Llegaron a Vieques En Abril



By Irmgard Iglesias

El COVID ha trastornado el quehacer humano mundialmente en todas sus dimensiones. Una de las víctimas de ese mortal virus fue el XXIII Festival de los Reyes Magos de Vieques que siempre se ha celebrado el 7 de enero desde su primera edición en el año 2000. Estando el COVID causando estragos entre nuestra población, se decidió posponer, no suspender, el XXIII Festival hasta que las condiciones lo permitieran.

Dadas las condiciones para celebrarlo, y tomando todas las debidas precauciones, sin mucho ruido ni fanfarrias, llegaron los Reyes Magos a Vieques el pasado sábado 23 de abril. Todos los niños y niñas que llegaron en automóviles con sus familiares o a pie a la plaza

recibieron un juguete no bélico, un libro educativo, el saludo amoroso de sus Reyes Magos y de los integrantes de Columpio Colectivo que también llegaron para entretenernos.

Gracias a las voluntarias y voluntarios que ayudaron, especialmente viequenses, la actividad fue todo un éxito. No pasó desapercibido el hecho de que Mike Nieves, puertorriqueño de la Diáspora y Luis Alejandro Molina, mexicano de nacimiento y puertorriqueño de adopción, viajaron desde Nueva York con el único propósito de participar y ayudar al éxito del Festival. Ya se iniciaron los trabajos para el XXIV Festival, que confiamos podremos celebrar el viernes 7 de enero, del 2023.

¡Están todas y todos invitados!

Bibiana Suárez: De Lata her Womens Exhibit at NMPRAC

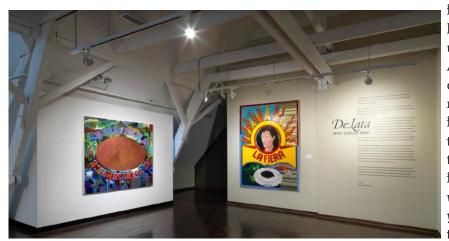
By Zion Trinidad

DePaul Professor of Art Bibiana Suárez's latest exhibit "De:Lata - What Gives Us Away" is a collection that

builds upon her previous work, which analyzed the marketing of Latino culture. In this most recent collection of work, Suárez demonstrates how Latina identities are represented on food packages that line our grocery shelves. Suárez believes that instead of using these labels as a space for stereotyping women and culture, they

should promote truth, and empower the Latinas of the contemporary world.

To demonstrate this, Suárez depicts women such as poet Juanita Goergen, UIC professor Maria de los Ángeles Torres, and accomplished strategist



(Photo from Tom VsnEynde)

Gladys Rosa-Mendoza. These women are powerful examples of Latinas in the

contemporary world as they directly challenge the stereotype that women are only good for cooking. When asked for more detail, Suárez said that many of the

food labels she examined had racist and colonialist undertones. Similar to how Aunt Jemima was a racist caricature of black women, many Latinas depicted in the food industry are illustrated to promote and sell the idea that Latinas are only good for food related work. If you would like to see De:Lata for yourself it can be viewed on the 2nd floor of the National Museum of Puerto Rican

Arts and Culture at 3015 W Division St.

Digitizing the Barrio: PRCC Awarded Three Year Grant to Archive and Digitize Community History

By Michael Rodríguez

For decades, The Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC) had hoped to preserve and archive its history. Now, as the recipient of a three-year, more than \$340,000 grant from the Council on Library

and Information
Resources (CLIR),
which was made
possible by The
Andrew W. Mellon
Foundation, The
PRCC will soon
realize this dream
and an even more
expansive program
that will establish a
community archive
on the history of



Puerto Rican Chicago.

The highly competitive grant is part of the CLIR's "Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives: Amplifying Unheard Voices" program. This program seeks to "deepen public understanding of the histories of people of color and other communities and populations whose work, experiences, and perspectives have been insufficiently recognized or unattended" (https://www.clir.org/hiddencollections/).

The PRCC was able to apply for the grant thanks to several years of archival work. In 2018, it launched the Puerto Rican Chicago Archive project, with support from Northwestern University, DePaul University, and the Urban Democracy Lab at New York University. A team of volunteers retrieved dozens and dozens of boxes from unsecured locations and began a long inventory process. These efforts uncovered three collections of The PRCC.

The first collection contains materials from Juan Antonio and Consuelo Lee Corretjer. The PRCC carries the name of Juan Antonio Corretjer, an important historical figure considered the national poet of Puerto Rico. Consuelo Lee was an educator and author. Juan Antonio and Consuelo

Lee maintained a close relationship with The PRCC and Chicago's Puerto Rican community from the mid-I970s until their deaths in I985 and I989, respectivley. Items in this collection include personal correspondence, written speeches and

essays, poetry books, rare photographs, and funeral programs.

The second collection includes materials on The PRCC's numerous programs and projects, such as Vida/SIDA, its pioneering HIV/AIDS program that provided highly-sought free alternative health care to people living with AIDS, as well as prevention and

education programming to everyone; The Consuelo

Lee Corretjer Childcare, one of Illinois' first bilingual childcare programs; the Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School; Batey Urbano, an urban youth theater; annual PRCC festivals, i.e., Fiesta Boricua, the Puerto Rican People's Parade, and Haunted Paseo Boricua; and the Humboldt Park Participatory Democracy Project, a grassroots anti-displacement initiative. In this collection—the largest in the archive—are barrio newspapers, videos, and photographs of community festivals, event fliers, recruitment materials, meeting minutes, and artifact

materials, meeting minutes, and artifacts (e.g., festival t-shirts and artisanry).

The third collection contains materials on political and human rights movements and campaigns directed by PRCC leaders and community activists, such as the campaigns to free Puerto Rican political prisoners and to end the military testing on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, as well as solidarity and coalitional work on immigration and criminal justice reform. Materials include audio and

audiovisual recordings of mobilizations, newsletters and pamphlets, drafts of speeches and essays, political education curricula, photographs, artifacts (e.g., protest signs), and movement ephemera, such as event programs, posters, and fliers.

With support from the grant, The PRCC will launch Digitizing the Barrio: Documenting and Disseminating the Puerto Rican Experience in Chicago through Community-Based Inquiry. The project is led by Dr. Michael Rodríguez-Muñiz, Dr. Margaret Power, Dr. Ann Peterson-Kemp, and technology specialist, Luis Alejandro Molina—all members of the organization's board. Rodríguez-Muñiz and Power will serve as principal investigators. Shortly, the project will hire a professional archivist and assemble a team of students and community members to begin the process of digitization. Digitized materials will then be placed in a digital repository built on

CollectiveAccess and made publicly available. In addition, the project will sponsor a lecture series on the history of Puerto Rican Chicago, organize two digital exhibitions, including one on the PRCC's 50th anniversary, and establish an archival advisory board, among other initiatives.

Ultimately, Digitizing the Barrio aims to not only preserve important aspects of the history of Puerto Rican Chicago for future generations. The PRCC archive is, in the words of the UCLA archivist Michelle Caswell, an

"urgent archive," an archive for the present. In the face of gentrification and centuries of colonialism, the project will use The PRCC collection and its digitization to build community, deepen roots in our Humboldt Park barrio, and fuel the elaboration of decolonial alternatives.

For more information, email: precarchive@prec-chgo.org.

JUNIO/JULIO 2022

PRCC Mourns The Physical Loss of the Following Beloved Members of our Community: Manuel Fern ☐ndez



By Milagros Fernández

Manuel Fernández moved from Toa Alta, Puerto Rico to Chicago. He worked as a truck driver for Holsum and raised ALL his children and grand children in one building here in Humboldt Park. In 1966, he met his future wife, Aurea

Fernández, at San Juan restaurant at the corner of

Clark and Division. They each brought a child to their union: my mother's son Carlos and my father's daughter Carmencita. They married in 1966 and had two children together-Milagros (Millie) Fernández and Ángel Manuel (Meño) Fernández. He adored his family, especially his grandchildren; he loved to play dominos; and he loved the Cubs. If he had a do over, he would have loved to become a baseball player. You could often find him waiting outside José de Diego to pick up his grand daughters from school or at Nellie's eating his favorite Coquí sandwich. Manuel's life

speaks to a commitment to this community which he held very strongly to; working tirelessly to guarantee that three generations of his family continue to live in this community. May Manuel Fernández rest in peace and may the Fernández family be comforted in this time. To the "Viejito más lindo de Chicago" as my titi Milagros affectionately referred to him-you were deeply loved and you will be missed. Those are the makings of a life well lived. I love you Papi! Your loving daughter, Millie

Jes□s Rodríguez

By Eduardo Arocho

We are saddened to announce that Jesús Rodríguez passed away April 15, 2022, at the age of 53. His cheerful sense of humor, bright smile, and positive attitude will be missed by everyone who knew him.

Jesús was born on December 21st, in Chicago, Illinois to Nélida and Casimiro Rodríguez. Affectionately known as Jesse, he was a loving and devoted son, brother, brother in law, uncle, father, and grandfather.

Jesse was an influence on every life he touched. He worked in the private sector as a

Machinist for over 30 years where he was a dedicated and valued employee. In his spare time, he led the car club "City Life". Established in 1992, Jesse was the founding leader of City Life. He continued in that role until his passing. An enthusiastic traveler that took himself to far-away places like Hawaii and the Philippines, Jesse looked forward to making new friends, learning about their culture, and enjoying their customs.

Jesse genuinely loved people wholeheartedly and he expressed it with his actions. Some of his favorite activities included planning family vacations to Puerto Rico, family cook-outs, and fundraising through his car club to support educational programs and the annual Toys for Tots.

Jesse, you were our rock and we - your family and friends - will miss you. Your passing was sudden and has placed a big hole in our hearts. We will remember and cherish your zest for



life, laughter, and the countless memories you bestowed upon us. The love you had for everyone will never be forgotten. Until we meet again.

Rícardo Alarc⊡n de Quesada : Síempre Con Cuba y Puerto Ríco en el Coraz⊡n



Por Claridad

Nota de redaccion: Nuestro Director Ejecutivo José Elias López tuvo la oportunidad de reunirse con Ricardo Alarcón en dos ocasiones, en el 1978 en la Misión de Cuba en la ONU y en la Misión de Puerto Rico en la Habana para discutir temas relacionado con la campaña para excarcelar presos políticos puertorriqueños.

En CLARIDAD, estamos profundamente entristecidos con el fallecimiento de Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada, revolucionario y diplomático cubano de los más altos quilates, y apasionado y brillante abanderado de la independencia de Puerto Rico y de nuestro pueblo noble y luchador.

La historia de los pueblos siempre produce personajes con afinidades que trascienden las fronteras patrias, y que sienten y padecen como suyas las luchas y dolores de otros pueblos hermanos. Tal fue el caso de Ricardo Alarcón, un cubano excepcional, que hizo suya la causa de nuestra libertad y utilizó su potente voz y la del Gobierno Revolucionario de Cuba, y su considerable capacidad de negociación y persuasión en los más altos círculos de la diplomacia mundial, para labrarle un espacio de solidaridad y esperanza a la lucha por la independencia y autodeterminación de Puerto Rico en el escenario internacional.

Durante décadas, fue la voz solidaria y poderosa que colaboró, junto a todo el espectro de la lucha independentista puertorriqueña, para romper el cerco de la invisibilidad colonial, y abrirse paso en los organismos internacionales que desconocían nuestra historia y nuestra recia trayectoria de lucha por la libertad.

(Continued on page 55)

(Continued from page 54)

Tanto en la Organización de Naciones Unidos (ONU), como en el Movimiento de Países No Alineados, como en los organismos regionales de América Latina y El Caribe, como ante los gobiernos y poises del entonces campo socialista, la Cuba de Marti y de Fidel, por medio de la voz y la presencia de Ricardo Alarcón, fue el mas formidable aliado de los reclamos puertorriqueños por libertad y justicia.

Ricardo Alarcón tuvo una hoja de vida y de servicio extraordinario y ejemplar al Gobierno Revolucionario de Cuba y al pueblo cubano como su embajador en la ONU, Ministro de Relaciones

Toby Emmer

By Rev. Nozomi Ikuta
"There are those
who fight one day and
are good, others fight
one year and they're
better, and there are
those who fight many
years and are very good,
but there are those who



fight their whole lives and they are the indispensable ones." — Bertolt Brecht

In 1992, when I first saw that Bertolt Brecht quote, painted near the front entrance of the old Puerto Rican Cultural Center building on Claremont Ave., I thought it was a nice statement. But at the time, I didn't know anyone who actually fit that description. Five years later, on August 27, 1996, I met Toby after the Not on the Guest List protest at the Democratic National Convention. I had heard of her work for the campaign for Silvia Baraldini, and knew that she was already "very good" -- one of those who had already fought for many years. What I did not know was that she would continue the fight her whole life, and become one of "the indispensable ones." I also did not know that she would become a dear mentor and friend -- or find out that our parents were already decades-long friends and comrades!

Back in the day, the feminists used to say that "the personal is political." I always thought that it meant that there is a coherence between our Exteriores, y como presidente por mas de 20 años de la Asamblea del Poder Popular (Parlamento) de Cuba. Con su inteligencia e integridad, representó la dignidad y claridad de la Cuba revolucionaria, combativa y defensora férrea de su soberanía e independencia frente a la intervención imperialista, e igualmente defensora del derecho de todos los pueblos del mundo al disfrute de su soberanía, libres de ocupación e injerencias imperiales.

Con su partida, Puerto Rico y Claridad pierden no solo un valiente y consecuente defensor, sino un ser humano entrañable y cercano, con quien tendremos siempre una enorme deuda de gratitud.

grand ideals and how we treat each other every day. I understood it conceptually, but Toby lived it -- through texts, visits, and the phone constantly glued to her ear. She was always there for people -- encouraging, comforting, bringing food, checking in. I am sure she was my "best friend." I am equally sure that many, many others feel exactly the same way about her. She was such an amazing friend to so many of us.

A few months ago, a Nikkei friend of Mike Yasutake bequeathed a significant sum of money to the Interfaith Prisoners of Conscience Project in Mike's honor. Toby and a few others of us have kept IPOC alive since Mike's passing. But Toby was the powerhouse and workhorse of our group. Like Mike, she kept in touch and stayed connected with everyone. A few weeks ago, Toby finished lovingly sending letters (and checks!) to each of the political prisoners who have active campaigns, and organizations that support them. Her eyes filled with emotion when she spoke about the privilege of being able to support them in that way. I know that she did many, many extraordinary things as part of her activist work, but it thrills me, and makes this very bitter pill just a little bit easier to swallow, knowing of the love and care she put into that project, and the joy she received back from completing it..

Dearest Toby -- sister, friend, comrade -- my heart aches from the void you are leaving, both for the movement, and for me personally. You are truly Para Juan Mari Bras, nuestro fundador, Alarcón fue un hermano y compañero fiel, y para todas y todos nosotros un respetado mentor y amigo.

Honor, gloria y eterno agradecimiento a Ricardo

Alarcón de Quesada, revolucionario cubano, antillanista

y puertorriqueño por los lazos de la solidaridad y el corazón. Desde la Junta Directive y el Colectivo de Trabajo de Claridad, Periódico de la Nación Puertorriqueña, les extendemos un abrazo al Gobierno Revolucionario y al heroico pueblo de Cuba, ya la familia Alarcón-Perea en este momento de Iuto compartido.

indispensable. I already miss you so much! May your legacy encourage and inspire us all. Abrazos and libertad!

From Aixa Maria Gannon, Bay Area

From the moment I met her, I liked her. Toby was so warm and smiley and alive. She was so appreciative of a small kindness. It was always such a joy to speak to her. So passionate, so hopeful, so present, her optimism was contagious. She had such great energy. I will miss her so much!





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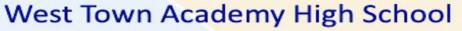
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