

# Table Talk — Sobremesa

PART of Austin Newsletter

Summer 2019

Vol. 7

## A Note from our Immediate Past Director

Two Whirlwind Years – Sped by in a Flash  
Wow. How to summarize my two-year term as  
Director of this wonderful PART table in one  
column? Can't be done, so let me just say this:

Thank you.

Thank you for being so generous with your  
time, talents and money.

Thank you for your care for each of our sisters  
as we navigate life's ups and downs.

Thank you for your care for our larger  
community of people in need.



Thank you for marshalling your  
resources to bring  
excellent speakers  
who help us grow  
in knowledge and  
understanding of  
ourselves and of  
“these our neighboring  
countries”.

Thank you for stepping up to do all of the  
sometimes mundane tasks that keep us going.

Thank you for rolling with the punches when  
things don't always go as planned.

Thank you for your love of a good time together  
– wine, women and song!

Thank you for being the brilliant, creative,  
energetic and committed women that you are -  
always positive and supportive – ready with  
ideas and with the follow-through to make  
those ideas into actions that support our  
mission.

Thank you for entrusting me with the  
leadership of this fine organization for the past  
two years.

*Doing our PART  
for Team  
Brownsville and  
Casa Marianella*

*See next page for  
details.*

Serving as director has deepened  
my appreciation for each of you  
individually and for what we can  
accomplish together. And finally,  
thank you to Yolanda and the new  
slate of leaders who have taken the  
torch and will carry us forward  
through the next two years. I look

forward to being part of the team!

Mil gracias, amigas.

Rose Ann

*One for all and all for one!*

*Una para todas y todas para una!*

## A Message from our Director Elect

### Planning for the Future

I am very honored to serve  
as the Director for the  
Austin Table, an  
outstanding group of  
dedicated and dynamic

women. This year with your help, I plan to  
build on the many accomplishments and the  
positive momentum of the past few years. Rose  
Ann Reeser did a fantastic job as our Director  
and will now serve as our Immediate Past  
Director. I aspire to rise to her level of



excellence. Rose Ann and I have met to pass the torch, so to speak, and will continue to work together.

Marian Barber, Patricia Salamian, Mary Aldrich, Mary Ann Meigs, Cynthia Keever, and Nancy Bowles all provided exemplary service as Executive Officers. Janet Roberts and Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza served as great co-chairs on the Fundraising Committee. Some of these officers will continue to serve for the next two years.

**This summer, we are busy planning for all phases of next year's activities.**

- The PART 2019 Program Survey was sent out June 17<sup>th</sup> to get feedback so we can evaluate our PART programs and better achieve our mission. The results of this survey will enable us to make informed decisions on most aspects of our programs.

- The new Program committee will meet at the end of June to brainstorm ideas for speakers and topics for future luncheon meetings.
- The Fundraising committee met and came up with a game plan for fundraising activities for the coming year.
- The Communication committee is working on the PART Newsletter and the Yearbook for next year.
- The Courtesy committee is getting bids for new name tags for all members.
- On June 1, we hosted a farewell Happy Hour for Beatriz De la Garza, our longtime and honorary member. Everyone had a great time visiting as well as enjoying good food and margaritas at Santa Rita Cantina. Beatriz and her husband Marley are moving to New Mexico.
- Our Summer happy hour event in July will be announced soon. We hope to see you there!

Yolanda Guerrero-Goodman

### **Doing Our PART**

The very needs that prompted Florence Terry Griswold to organize PART in 1916, exist on our southern border today. We have seen the terrible news and agonize over the deaths and mistreatment of people who want no more than the safety offered under our US asylum laws.

How can we best mobilize our PART Austin resources to help alleviate the suffering? Many fine organizations and individuals are working hard in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Learn some ways you can help.

Join your PART Austin sisters on **Tuesday, July 16, from 2-4pm** at Santa Rita Cantina, 1206 W 38th St, for a discussion of specific ways we can help support Team Brownsville and Casa Marianella. Watch for more information in PART News.



## *Installation of New Board Members*



From left to right: María Seidner - Nominations Committee Chair;  
Marian Barber - Corresponding Secretary; Maria Zuniga - Recording Secretary;  
Sylvia Stern - Associate Director; Yolanda Guerrero-Goodman – Director;  
Mary Aldrich – Treasurer; Paige Castañeda - Assistant Treasurer; Nancy Bowles – Historian;  
Rose Ann Reeser - Immediate Past Director; Carmen Guerra - Parliamentarian (unable to attend)



Rose Ann ends her reign with beautiful flowers from nominations chair Maria Seidner.

## 2019 Special Project Awards

The Special Project Awards recipients attended our May meeting to acknowledge the PART of Austin donations. Each non-profit organization was awarded \$1500 and took the opportunity to mention volunteer opportunities and describe how our grant will be used.

Jill Gonzalez, of Women's Storybook Project of Texas-- volunteer to go to a jail to take books and record inmates; the grant will buy more books and to publish the Spanish version of their signature book, *The Invisible String* by Patrice Karst.

Katie Montgomery, of St. Louise House-- volunteer to help set up apartments for new residents; the grant will service the Spanish speaking women they serve by providing translators and Spanish speaking counselors

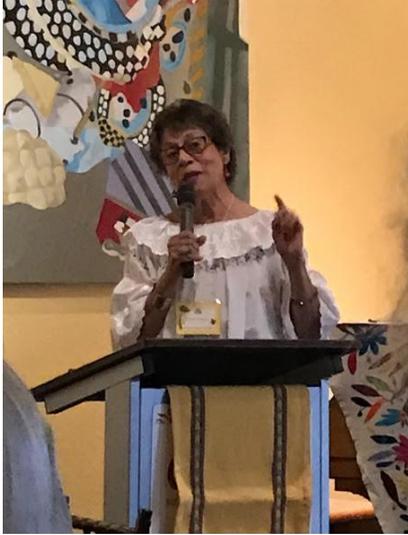
Julie Ballesteros, of Manos de Cristo-- volunteer at their clothing, food, and education programs. This grant will help Manos to address the dental needs of so many deserving children, adults, and seniors at an affordable price.

Jennifer Long, of Casa Marianella-- volunteer driving residents, preparing and serving meals at the kitchen. As migrant teenagers turn 18 years old, they are moved from children's detention centers to adult ones. The grant will help to transport them from the Texas border to Austin where they will receive the support they need.

We also donated to BookSpring and to the Rodriguez Elementary school library for the purchase of Bluebonnet Books.



Left to right: Jill Gonzales - Women's Storybook Project of Texas;  
Edna Piña Santos - Special Projects Committee member;  
Katie Montgomery - Saint Louise House; Julie Ballesteros - Manos de Cristo;  
Jennifer Long - Casa Marianella; Ann Finch - Special Projects Committee Chair.



### **Spanish Coffees 2017-2018**

Spanish Coffees once again proved to be a fun, exciting, informative and very important part of the Austin Round Table. Not all Tables have Spanish Coffees. As I have traveled and talked to members of other Tables in Texas, their interest has been piqued to start a Spanish Coffee.

In October of 2017 a very large group of us met at Angela Bracken's beautiful home where we each shared our summer experiences. Some of us traveled far; others barely left Austin, but we all listened intently as each one spoke in Spanish, of course. Co-hostesses: Laura Gutierrez-Witt, Candy Becker and Rosie Reyna.

Thanks to Patricia Anderson who hosted the January 2018 Spanish Coffee at her very interesting home. Alina Flores had us laughing in stitches as she read and led a discussion centered on the short story, "El guardagujas." The story was so intriguing that even those who didn't attend read the story after hearing how much fun we had discussing the mysterious experiences of a train traveler. Co-hostesses were: Maricarmen Nasr, María Seidner, and

Kathy Sowash.

Maria Woody not only hosted Spanish Coffee in February, but she was also the presenter! She spoke in Spanish and showed slides of her previous summer's exciting trip to Portugal. Several of us were ready to jump on the next flight to Portugal after listening to Maria. Co-hostesses: Alina Flores, Denise Foester and Angie Robles.

March found us at Martha Chavez' home in Round Rock. It was a long way to drive, but Martha's hospitality and the presenter, Chief of Police in Pflugerville, Jessica Robledo made the long trip more than worthwhile. We learned about the experiences that led Ms. Robledo to her current position as she related "My Story." What a lady! Co-hostesses: Lala Neimeyer, Gloria Munguía and Rose Ann Reeser .

The last Spanish Coffee of 2018 met at Lucinda Hutson's most interesting home with her wide array of herbs and flowers. Lucinda has written two recipe books on how she uses her plants to prepare tasty drinks and meals. Never miss an opportunity to visit Lucinda! Co-hostesses: Esther Díaz, Connie Cantú and Gloria Mata Pennington.

### **Spanish Coffees 2018-2019**

We gathered for the first Spanish Coffee of 2019 at Connie Cantú's home, where we had a fun recap of everyone's summer travels. Co-hostesses: Louise Snell, Nancy Bowles and Denis Foester.

Our January 2019 event





Alejandro Pedemonte speaking about The Challenge of Being an Hispanic Artist in Austin



Adiós to Alina Flores who is moving to San Diego. To quote Carol Burnett's sign-off song, "We're so glad we've had this time together."



Dr. Logan Wagner teaching us about General Bernardo Reyes

had to be cancelled because of illness of our dear hostess, Georgette Escutia.

In February we met at Rosalía Castañeda's clubhouse for a stimulating conversation with Alejandro Pedemonte on The Challenge of Being a Hispanic Artist in Austin. He shared his perspective as an actor, director and theatrical producer who founded the first Spanish theatre company in Austin in 2002, "Proyecto Teatro." Co-hostesses: Gloria Mata Pennington, Patricia Flores, Kathi Thomas.

March found us at Rose Ann Reeser's lovely "treehouse." Alina Flores and Gloria Munguía led us through a Spanish writing exercise from a recent workshop presented at the Mexican Consulate by Ethel Krauze. Co-hostesses: Maricarmen Nasr, Esther Díaz and Lala Niemeyer.

In April, we gathered at Kathy Sowash's clubhouse for a fascinating presentation by Dr. Logan Wagner on *The Life and Times of Mexican General Bernardo Reyes* by Vic Niemeyer, late husband of our own Lala Niemeyer. We learned about General Reyes' role as President Porfirio Diaz' "fixer".

Thanks to all of the hosts and co-hostesses who make Spanish Coffees so successful. A special thank you to Maria Seidner who has always been willing to lead Spanish Coffee as she did in April in my absence. We do have something unique in Spanish Coffee. My hope is that it will continue to thrive under the leadership of Diana Ferguson for the 2019-2020 year!

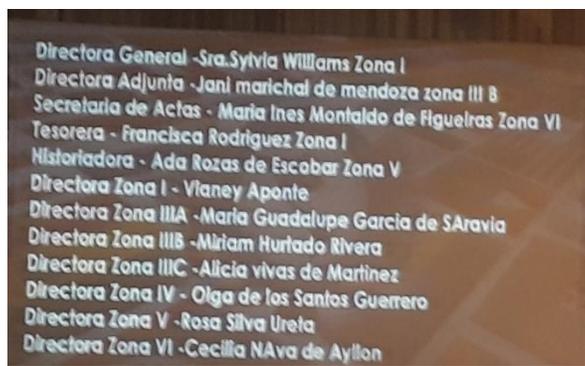
~ Gloria Munguía



## Part Alliance Convention – October 2018 Cochabamba, Bolivia



The 36<sup>th</sup> Alliance Convention in Cochabamba, Bolivia will be forever remembered for the warm welcome, the generosity of our Bolivian sisters and the grand celebration of our organization and its accomplishments. It served to remind me of what is possible in the future. ~Sylvia Williams



Our own Sylvia Williams was elected Director General of the Alliance of Pan American Round Tables for 2018-2020.



Walking to the Hour of Memory.



Carmen Guerra, Sylvia Williams, Nhury Gutiérrez Vilches, Delia Plata



Noche Panamericana Bolivian and Peruvian Dancers

## Rodriguez Elementary School

Fifth graders at Rodríguez Elementary School had their career days on May 21 and 22, 2019. PART invited 21 professionals from the Austin area to share their experiences in their individual fields: Peace Corps, surveyor, pharmacist, lawyer (PART sister Rose Ann Reeser), Cisco Systems, science, veterinarian, computer analyst, event planner, public health educator, dog trainer, judge, Austin Police Department, Travis County Sheriff, and Austin Fire Department. The 75 students participated in “hands-on” activities, Power Point presentations, play acting activities, and other formats. The speakers also shared their world travels’ including their experiences with the Peace Corps; the challenges in getting their higher university education; and challenges in achieving their life goals. The students had time for “question and answer” sessions that at times “flooded” the adults in the room. When we as adults might have judged that the students were not listening, they would ask questions that were well thought out and planned. Career Days 2019 once again met and exceeded expectations.

## Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee has really worked hard this year and has been able to give a little extra to the recipients of Special Project awards and scholarships.



The ecstatic winner, Joni Ragle.



Janet Roberts sells tickets for the Milk and Honey Spa gift certificate donated by Maria Zuñiga. The May raffle raised \$570!

## PART Scholarship Winners



Katiuscia Koch (Brazil) – Mitty Guerra Memorial Scholarship

Andrés Miranda (Mexico) – Jeannie Hunter Hackett Memorial Scholarship

Ricardo Velasco Trujillo (Colombia) – Charles Wilson Hackett Memorial Scholarship



Scholarship Winners with Scholarship Committee members María Seidner, Phyllis Schenkkan, Mary Gawron, and Irma Gutierrez.



Greg Espey – 1977 PART Austin Scholarship Recipient came to thank PART for making such a difference in his life.



## Pan American Day 2019

*A warm salute to my friends and fellow Pan American Sisters. United, let us carry the banner of Pan Americanism forward with pride, courage, love and devotion, and continue to share the legacy of our founder, Florence Terry Griswold, to bring about understanding, peace and goodwill among the American nations. "One for all and all for one!"*  
~Vianey Aponte-Uss, Zone I Director

*Today, April 14, we dedicate to Pan Americanism, an ideal which began in the mind of Simón Bolívar in 1830. It was initiated in Texas in October of 1916 by our founder, Florence Terry Griswold, based on the quest for knowledge, understanding and friendship. Today, the Alliance of Pan American Round Tables, consisting of 206 Tables from Washington,, D.C. to Argentina, is a Civil Society of the Organization of American States.*

*On behalf of the 1,000 members of the State of Texas Pan American Round Table, I salute the purposes and precepts of Pan Americanism.*

~Martha Miles Stumbo, PARTT State Director



## Programs 2018-2019

**OCT 1**

PART Film: "One For All, Una Para Todas"

**NOV 5**

"Implications of the López-Obrador Administration In Mexico-USA Relations"  
Speaker: Carlos González Gutiérrez  
Consul General of Mexico



Carlos González Gutiérrez  
Consul General of Mexico

**DEC 3**

Holiday Musical Program

**JAN 7**

"Violence and Its Influence In Mexico and Latin America"  
Speaker: Dr. Ricardo Ainslie



Roberto Paolo Riggio, Juan Antonio de los Ángeles, and Ana Cantú of Canto – Frente y Perfil

**FEB 4**

Update On Our Scholarships  
Speakers: Scholarship Recipients

**MAR 4**

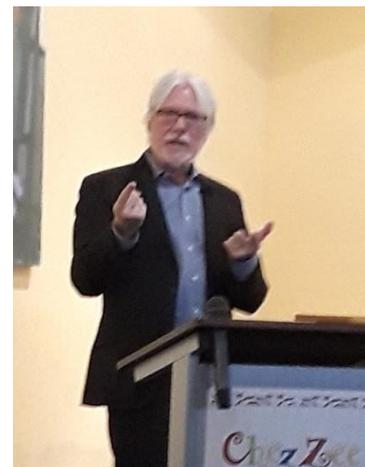
"The Art Of Colonial Latin America At The Blanton Art Museum"  
Speaker: Rosario I. Granados



Rosario I. Granados

**APR 1**

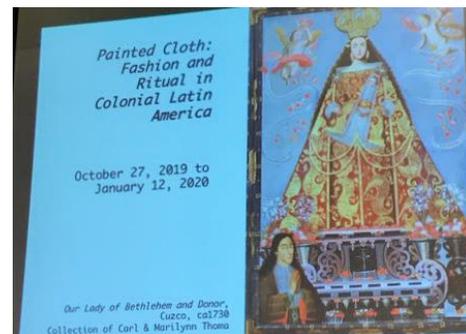
Pan American Day Celebration  
Scholarship Awards  
Introduction of New Members



Dr. Ricardo Ainslie

**MAY 6**

Special Projects Awards  
Installation of Officers



## PART Website Features



The PART of Austin website is located at [www.austinpanam.com](http://www.austinpanam.com).

When you need information about PART of Austin activities and cannot locate your yearbook, remember that our website is a great source of information. Besides having the luncheon and Spanish Coffee schedules, our officers and committees, the website also provides many conveniences:

- the scholarship applications can be filled online
- you can pay your dues using your credit card
- there is a DONATE button
- information and maps for the luncheons
- and now you can even pay for your luncheon ahead of time!

The new luncheon payment option is so convenient! If you are attending the luncheon, **after you reply YES through the evite**, click on the link provided in the MESSAGE FROM HOST section. Enter your name and credit card information as requested and submit. You will get an e-mail confirming your purchase which will be your proof of payment to show at the luncheon registry table. There is a \$1 convenience fee, so the cost will be \$26 instead of \$25. You may also pay through our website and click on the link under LUNCHEON PAYMENT on the home page.

## Evite – Invitation to Luncheons

Our invitations to the luncheons are provided through the free web-based invitation site, evite.com. You should receive the invitation via e-mail about 10 days before the luncheon with information about place, date, time, program, menu, and cost.

**The Luncheon Committee needs your cooperation to be able to notify the restaurant on time.** Please,

- Reply to your invitation even if you are not attending.
- The number of guests is the number of people attending the luncheon. If you are the only one attending, the invitation will reply as 1 guest. If you are bringing guests, then enter the number of people attending, including yourself.
- If you have to change your RSVP or the number of guests, please change your reply using Evite. Open your invitation again, select RSVP again and click the "Change Reply" button. Select your new reply, add a comment if you wish, change the number of guests if needed, and then click the "Update Reply" button.
- If you have questions about the luncheon, call the hostess at the phone number provided.

If you are not getting the Evite invitation in your inbox, please notify the Luncheon Committee at [partaustinluncheon@gmail.com](mailto:partaustinluncheon@gmail.com) as soon as possible. The committee is aware that some of you are having problems and there are some workarounds. Also, check your spam or junk/bulk mail folders and adjust any filter settings as needed. Also, to further ensure delivery of the Evite invitation, please add [info@mailva.evite.com](mailto:info@mailva.evite.com) and [amazonses.com](http://amazonses.com) to your email "safe" list, and make sure that both sites are not on your "blocked users" list. If you are behind a firewall, the settings may need to be adjusted as this can also prevent Evite notifications from being delivered.

## In Memoriam



We were sad to announce the passing of Dr. Wayne Holtzman in January and of his wife and PART sister Joan Holtzman two months later in March.

Joan joined PART Austin in 1958 and was an active member for many years. She had been a Sustaining Member for the past several years. Dr. Holtzman was a great friend of our Table. Over the years the Holtzmans hosted many Spanish Coffees and meetings in their home, and Dr. Holtzman was always there to do the welcoming duties. He also attended several of our meetings at the Women's Club. Both Wayne and Joan were very helpful when our Table hosted the State Convention in Austin in 2007.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Holtzman family.

Link to Dr. Holtzman's obituary:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/statesman/obituary.aspx?n=wayne-holtzman&pid=191373533&fhid=5106>

Link to Joan's obituary:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/statesman/obituary.aspx?n=joan-king-holtzman&pid=191785445&fhid=5106>

PART presented a donation to Rodriguez Elementary in memory of Gus Garcia.



Elsie Perez passed away on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. She was a long time member of the Edinburg Table and held many leadership roles with her table, PART Texas and the Alliance of Pan American

Round Tables. She was a past PART Texas State Director and a past Director General of the Alliance (2011-2014).

She was a friend and mentor to many of our PART Texas leaders and we will miss her. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

Link to Elsie's obituary:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/themonitor/obituary.aspx?n=elsie-perez&pid=192101795&fhid=8133>

Gus Garcia, Austin's first elected Hispanic mayor, died December 17, 2018, at age 84.



His wife of 58 years was our PART sister, Marina Garcia.

He was the first Hispanic member of the Austin Independent School District board and its first Hispanic board president; he served on the Austin City Council for more than

10 years and on the Austin school board for six years; he was also a member of Austin Community College's first board when the district created the college in the 1970s.

"He was in essence a loving and happy person. And those qualities translated into the way he led." ~ *State Representative Kirk Watson*. His obituary can be found at:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/austin-tx/gustavo-garcia-8091671>