



# Boletín

A Publication for Members and Friends of Valiente • May 2006

## Gay LULAC council forms

*Goals include bridge-building with straight Hispanic community*

By Jesse Garcia  
Valiente Secretary

On April 20, the Valiente membership heard about a new LULAC council forming in North Texas with membership made up of solely of Latino LGBT members and their supporters.

Valiente Member Rey De Los Santos, currently Texas LULAC's deputy director for young adults, addressed the group to consider joining a council that will help reach out to the oldest Hispanic civil rights group in the United States.

"As a Latino Gay man, I am often called upon to react to issues that impact one or the other of the communities that I belong to. We need a Gay LULAC Council to act as an 'open' bridge between these two emerging communities that are aware of each other but that often have great misunderstandings about each other," said De Los Santos.

LULAC, which stands for League of United Latin American Citizens, has worked for 75 years to bring about positive social and economic changes for Hispanics in America.

Like many other civil rights organizations, the formation of LULAC came about to combat the prejudicial attitudes and discrimination acts against its community. The rise of LULAC took place in South Texas with alliances forming from San Antonio to Brownsville in the 1920's.

Since then, LULAC has fought to give Hispanic Americans the right to vote, sued to integrate schools and battle in courts to allow Latinos to serve in juries.

Today, LULAC has 700 councils in the United States and Puerto Rico, totalling 115,000 members. The organization's main goals are securing Hispanic Americans' access to education, protecting their civil rights, and increasing their employment.



*Rey De Los Santos is one of the founding members of the LULAC council made up of LGBT Latinos/as and supporters.*

A LULAC member since his high school days, De Los Santos feels that LGBT Latinos and Latinas need to outreach and create opportunities for the leaders of these two communities to come together. "As Gay LULACers we need to especially focus on outreaching to the undocumented immigrant community that understands directly the 'being in the closet' experience that we have all experienced to varying degrees," he added.

To date, 13 members have signed on and paid dues: Zhyla Alvarado, John Ames, Felix Arrieta, Juan Ayala, Gabriel Chapa, Rey De Los Santos, Jesse Garcia, Suzanne Hickman, Don Maison, Patricia Mancha, Cesar Reyna, Fernie Sanchez and Corey Sloyer. Sloyer has agreed to serve as interim president of the chapter. Hickman will serve as interim vice president. Garcia volunteered to be interim secretary. Alvarado as interim treasurer. Mancha will serve as interim parliamentarian.

A quick research found that this council would be the first-ever "Gay" LULAC chapter. De Los Santos says there are already many Gays and Lesbians actively involved in LULAC, but they do not normally express their sexuality since it is a non issue. "LULAC practices a lot of "Don't ask, don't tell," he said. ▽

In this issue:

**Rocio Durcal tribute  
will raise funds  
for Valiente,  
page 2**

**10 Questions with  
Juan Ayala,  
page 3**

**Message from  
the Education and  
Cultural Committee,  
page 4**

Valiente  
PO Box 35332  
Dallas, TX 75235  
www.valiente.org  
contact@valiente.org  
214.521.5342 ext. 1726

## Rocio Durcal to be honored at Valiente fundraisers this week

By Jesse Garcia  
Valiente Secretary

Nearly two months after her passing, the Dallas Latino LGBT community will pay homage to Rocio Durcal, long known as a gay icon and Mexico's version of Judy Garland. Valiente, DFW's LGBTQ Latino/a Alliance, will host two fundraisers next week at Havana's and Hay K Rico that will feature Durcal impersonator and local drag sensation Mimi Casanova.

Casanova, who joined Valiente in 2005, will donate ticket sales and tips from both shows to Valiente.

"Es un honor dar un homenaje a la española mas mexicana," said Casanova, who is originally from Guanajuato, Mexico. Translated, "It is an honor to pay homage to the most Mexican Spanish lady."

Casanova has long been a fan of Durcal who is originally from Spain. Casanova, 31, has fashioned her image to mirror her idol, who passed away on March 25 due to complications with lung cancer at the age of 61.

Durcal adopted Mexico as her home and its music scene. Over her 40-year career, gay fans adored her power ballads and lively music.

Durcal's star grew brighter when she successfully crossed over several genres in the Spanish music world throughout her career.

Local fans have two opportunities to remember the artist: Wednesday, May 10, at Havana's on 4006 Cedar Springs Rd., and Sunday, May 14, at Hay K Rico on 2525 Wycliff Ave. Both shows start at 10:30 p.m. and admission is \$3 per person.

"I think it is important for LGBT Latinos to recognize and pay homage to Latino celebrities who promote diversity and acceptance through their work and through their lives," said Fernie Sanchez, president of Valiente. "As Mexico's equivalent of Judy Garland, Rocio Durcal was one such individual."

Durcal's biggest hits will be featured in an hour-long show.



*Mimi Casanova will headline a tribute to her hero, the late Rocio Durcal, who passed away in March.*

Some of those songs will come from Durcal's biggest decades, which were the 1970s and 1980s when she enjoyed Pan-American success with the likes of Mexican male stars such as Juan Gabriel.

To date, Durcal has sold 30 million albums worldwide. She recorded under the Sony/BMG label.

For Casanova, the performance must be bittersweet. She has dedicated her life to perfecting her Rocio Durcal look and performance that

has made Mimi famous on both sides of the border.

Casanova's Durcal numbers recently won her Miss Denver 2005. Casanova never got to meet her idol, but often saw her in concert.

She hopes her performance will bring back great memories for Durcal's legion of fans in DFW. ▽

Wednesday, May 10, 10:30 p.m.  
Havana's  
4006 Cedar Springs Road  
Dallas, TX 75219

Sunday, May 14, 10:30 p.m.  
Hay K Rico  
2525 Wycliff Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75219

Admission is \$3 per person.  
All proceeds go toward Valiente.

## News Briefs



*At the April general meeting, Patricia Mancha from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service gave a presentation of MyPyramid.gov / Mipiramide.gov, the nation's nutritional guidelines for healthy eating.*

### Valiente gets four new members:

Since April 1, four new members have joined Valiente: Noe Marcello Landeros, Jr., of Plano; Rich Olivarez of Dallas; Sergio Ramirez of Carrollton; and Orlando Vargas of Irving.

### M&F Committee announces winner:

The Membership and Fundraising Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the April Membership Contest. The committee had an excellent response. Kudos goes to Efren Garcia; he recruited a total of three members for April. Garcia will receive a \$50 American Express gift certificate.

### Coming out workshop en Español:

For the first time ever, Spanish speaking members of the LGBTQ community will be able to take part in the Coming Out Workshop, in their native language. The Spanish language workshop is a partnership between Valiente, and the Human Rights Campaign Coming Out Project. The first workshop in the series will begin on Thursday, May 25, at 7 p.m., at Centro de Mi Salud in Oak Cliff. The series consists of seven sessions that cover various aspects of living openly as a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or supportive ally. Registration is \$35 and scholarships are available for those that need the assistance in order to attend. To register or for more information, contact the Education & Cultural Committee. ▽

## Mundo Latino

**A day without an immigrant:**

On May 1, a nationwide boycott of work and purchasing goods and services by the immigrant community and its supporters took place. In Dallas, more than 1,500 marched in front of Dallas City Hall, while several hundred students marched to Kiest Park. Nationwide, police stations reported 1.1 million marchers took to the streets, including 400,000 in Los Angeles and 400,000 in Chicago.

**AIDS funding ignoring minorities?**

The Philadelphia Inquirer reported that AIDS patients in California and the Northeast U.S. receive more federal dollars from the Ryan White Care Act of 1990 than the southern states where high concentration of minority patients living with HIV/AIDS reside. The paper also wrote that more than 50 percent of new patients are Black and 20 percent are Latino. When HIV/AIDS cases are measured per 100,000 residents, several southern states like Georgia and Louisiana rise to the top ten while California registers below. Currently, the Ryan White Care Act spends \$2 billion on health care, drugs and other aid for 500,000 uninsured and those needing assistance in the U.S. to fight the disease.

**Can't get enough of award shows:**

What do Benicio Del Toro, Jessica Alba, Eva Mendes, Rosario Dawson and Robert Rodriguez have in common? Besides being largely ignored by mainstream Hollywood trophy lovefests, they are all up for ALMA Awards for their work in film. The 2006 ALMA Awards will be televised on Monday, June 5, 8:30 p.m. (Central Time) on ABC. The National Council of La Raza created the awards show in 1995 to honor outstanding Latino artists in film, T.V. and music. ▽

# 10 Questions

with  
Juan Ayala

If the Valiente members were to vote for "Most Likely to Succeed," Juan Ayala would definitely walk away with the title. This young man has a bright future (can we say future Senator?). When he is not busy empowering people in the LGBT and Hispanic community to vote, Ayala sits on the board of several groups. He currently serves as Valiente's vice president.

**Boletín: Why are you involved with Valiente? Juan Ayala:** "I know first hand the challenge someone faces by being Gay in the Latino community. I feel Valiente can be a positive force for change in both the Gay and Latino communities."

**Boletín: What do you hope to accomplish with this group? JA:** "I want Valiente to develop leaders who make a difference in both the Latino and Gay communities. I want Valiente to be an organization where people who want to make a difference can come together to accomplish great things, build new friendships, and also have fun."

**Boletín: Where are you from originally? JA:** "I was born in Dallas and grew up here. My family on my mother's side was here for like nine generations on my father's side I am second generation. Both sides trace the families back to Mexico."

**Boletín: What's your educational and professional background? JA:** "I went to Woodrow Wilson High School in east Dallas and then to Trinity University in San Antonio, where I earned a B.A. in Economics. I worked as a stockbroker for my first year out of college and have worked in the telecom industry for the last 10 years."

**Boletín: Who is your idol and why? JA:** "I know this sounds corny but, my idol is really Abraham Lincoln. I think he was someone who brought a combination of integrity and intelligence to politics that we have not seen since."

**Boletín: What is your passion? JA:** "I feel so blessed and lucky to be an American. I think this country and it's imperfect



system represent the best hope for humanity and I want to help others as I have been helped."

**Boletín: Pick one of three: Cesar Chavez, Fidel Castro or Che Guevara. With whom would you like to have a conversation with and why? JA:** "This is the most difficult question as both Cesar Chavez and Fidel Castro fascinate me for very different reasons. With Cesar I would like to talk about how he found the courage to challenge both the powerful and also the apathetic. With Fidel, I would like to see first hand how charming an evil person can be so that I can always remember how easy it is to let passion turn into intolerance and fanaticism."

**Boletín: Where do you see yourself in 10 years? JA:** "I hope to be in public service in one capacity or another."

**Boletín: You registered voters at the Mega March on April 9. How do you plan to motivate the Latinos to turnout in November? JA:** "By reaching out to those we register several times and by speaking directly to issues that impact Latinos such as, education funding, immigration reform and making sure the path to the American dream remains open to all."

**Boletín: You are a die-hard Democrat. Who are you leaning toward supporting for President in 2008? JA:** "I have not made up my mind at this point, the next national Young Democrats of America convention is going to be in Dallas in July 2007. As a result I expect every one of the major contenders will be in Dallas and I hope to make my choice after hearing their case first hand." ▽



Efren Garcia



Joe Hernandez, Jr.

Message from the  
Education & Cultural Committee  
Chairs

Efren Garcia & Joe Hernandez, Jr.

Concerned about a plethora of social issues affecting today's Latino/a LGBTQ community? Do you have a desire to meet other local leaders in the Gay rights movement? Are you bursting with new ideas for future leadership programs? If so, then the Education and Cultural Committee is your type of group!

From issues related to HIV infection and prevention, to domestic violence and substance abuse, the health of Latino/a

GLBTQ men and women is important to Valiente. Equally important are issues concerning immigration reform and social empowerment; the Education and Cultural Committee is dedicated to staying on top of these issues. Current projects include:

**Coming Out Workshop en Español:**

Please see additional information under News Briefs.

**Latino Media Day:** In collaboration with GLAAD, Valiente will sponsor a media day training to increase awareness on the importance of the media and how to use it to further your message. Training is tentatively scheduled for June and information will be provided as it becomes available.

**ALLY Training en Español:** A proposed partnership between Valiente and the University of North Texas, Division of Equity and Diversity, is in the works in an effort to provide the community with a Spanish language ALLY training.

**Voces Valiente:** In June, the Education and Cultural committee will interview prominent LGBTQ Latino/as. From policy makers to pastry bakers, our dedicated group will search out individuals shaping today's world in business, politics, health, and lifestyle. Our first featured celebrity will be Monica Barros – Greene, success-

ful restaurant owner and former contender for Dallas City Council.


Future projects include:

**Health Promotion Handbook:** A listing of Latino men and women who serve in a variety of disciplines whom you can turn to for assistance with your health.

**Latino/a History Project:** A compilation of events and people who helped shape the Latino/a gay rights movement.

**Television Programming:** Latino/a Queers on TV? Can this be? The Education and Cultural Committee is currently seeking a group of highly motivated individuals who are interested in developing television for the LGBTQ Latino/a audience; programming to be aired on DCTV. For further details, contact Leonardo Melo, melo4@hotmail.com

**So, did we leave you craving for more? Concerned we aren't doing enough?** We welcome your feedback and participation. The Education & Cultural Committee meets every fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m., at Cafe Express, located at 3230 McKinney Avenue, Dallas, TX 75204. You may also contact us: Joe Hernandez, Jr., at joehernandezjr@sbc-global.net, and Efren Garcia at gaefren@yahoo.com. ♡



**DFW LGBTQ LATINO/A ALLIANCE**  
**VALIENTE**

Valiente  
P.O. Box 35332 • Dallas, TX 75235  
www.valiente.org

**Boletín** is a monthly publication of Valiente. Views and opinions are those of the members. To contact the editor, e-mail Jesse Garcia at Jgarcia71@aol.com. No portion of this newsletter may be reproduced without permission.

President • Fernando Sanchez  
Vice President • Juan Ayala  
Treasurer • Alicia Molina  
Secretary • Jesse Garcia

\*\*\*\*Remember:

Valiente General Meeting  
Thursday, May 18, 6:30 p.m.  
Havana's on 4006 Cedar Springs Rd.,  
Guest Speaker: AIDS Arms Lifewalk