



Boletín

A Publication for Members and Friends of Valiente • September 2006

Valiente hosts film, art and poetry events for Hispanic Heritage Month

By Jesse Garcia
Valiente Secretary

Call it Hispanic Heritage Month, with a little bit of flare.

Valiente will host a series of events showcasing Latino work in film, art and poetry, as well as a kick-off celebration and meet ups with influential Latinos.

“One of Valiente’s objectives is to increase the visibility and acceptance of the diversity of our culture, history, language, sexuality and spirituality,” said Fernando Sanchez, president of Valiente. “All of the events we have planned for Hispanic Heritage Month were developed with this objective in mind. Our Hispanic Heritage events are open to the public and all are welcomed to attend.”

This is first-ever attempt by a Gay organization in the metroplex to undertake a month-long fete.

Valiente put a special emphasis in recruiting local LGBT Latino artists to showcase their work. The group wanted to celebrate this month from a Gay Latino/Latina point of view.

Organizers are pleased with the entries received to date and cannot wait to promote their work at the events.

• **Film Festival:** On Friday, Sept. 29, at 7:30 p.m., Valiente will sponsor a LGBT-theme film at the Q Cinema Film Festival: “East Side Stories.” The film will play at the Rose Marine Theater, located at 1440 N. Main St., Fort Worth, TX 76106.

• **Poetry Slam:** On Saturday, Sept. 30, 6 to 8 p.m., Valiente will host a “Poetry Slam,” featuring local poets and poetry from famous Latinos. The event will be held at Sueños Sabrosos, 408 N. Bishop, Suite 105, Dallas, TX 75208



Above: (Left to right) Valiente Members Ramiro Rutiaga, Eliseo Duarte and Cesar Reyna attended the Diez Y Seis Kickoff Party at Havana.



Left: “Aztec Idol” by sculpture artist and Valiente member Alicia Molina has been submitted for consideration for Noche Bohemia being held on Oct. 8.

In this issue:

Valiente participates in Lifewalk this October, page 2

10 Questions with Alicia Molina, page 3

Message from the President, page 4

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• **Noche Bohemia:** On Sunday, Oct. 8, 4 to 7 p.m., Valiente will host “Noche Bohemia,” an Art Show featuring LGBT Latino artists throughout Texas. The event will also be held at Sueños Sabrosos.

• **HIV Testing:** On Sunday, Oct. 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Valiente will commemorate “National Latino AIDS Awareness Day” by assisting trained professionals in free HIV testing at Bachman Lake, which located at Bachman Dr. & Northwest Highway in Dallas.

• **Hispanic Trailblazer in Media:** On Thursday, Oct. 19, at 6:30 p.m., Valiente’s October meeting will feature guest speaker Mercedes Olivera from the Dallas Morning News. Olivera was the first nationally-syndicated Latina columnist in the U.S. The event will also be held at Havana’s. ▽

Valiente hopes to raise \$3,000 for AIDS Arms Lifewalk

By Jesse Garcia
Valiente Secretary

Valiente is once again proud to have a team in this year's AIDS Arms Lifewalk.

Members are encouraged to join Valiente's team and show up on the morning of Sunday, Oct. 1, at Lee Park (Lemmon & Turtle Creek) to help out worthy agencies that benefit from funds raised by Lifewalk. The walk/run starts at 1 p.m.

To volunteer for the booth or to run/walk with the Valiente team, e-mail Valiente President Fernando Sanchez at fsanchez@aidsarms.org.

This year Valiente hopes to raise \$3,000. The group has already met 12 percent of its goal: \$370.

If you want to make a donation, visit www.firstgiving.com/Valiente.

Now more than ever, Lifewalk's fund are desperately needed in the HIV/AIDS community. This year AIDS turned 25. Today, more people are living with the disease than dying from it.

It is estimated that 1.6 million people in America have been infected with HIV since June 1981, when the first reported cases surfaced in San Francisco. Included in that number are more than 500,000 people who have died because of AIDS.

Although a public campaign to wipe out the disease along with tremendous fundraising efforts in the 1980s and 1990s to find a cure have brought some public understanding of the disease and acceptance of those affected by it, infections are still numbering in the tens of thousands.

The Centers for Disease Control reports there are 40,000 new infections annually in the U.S. (down from the 150,000 cases reported yearly in the 1980s).

Breakthrough treatment has extended the lives of many with HIV/AIDS. No longer a death sentence, this epidemic is now seen as a chronic manageable disease. But there is still no cure. As a result more federal funding is going toward medical treatment rather than social programs that help patients get access to meals, transportation, housing and financial assistance.

This is where the annual AIDS Arms LifeWalk steps in. This Dallas fundraiser, which attracts 10,000 people, helps raise much needed cash for local agencies that provide those services no longer being fully funded or funded at all.

Since 1991, AIDS Arms LifeWalk has raised and distributed more than \$6 million for AIDS services in Dallas. This year, its beneficiaries are the following:

- Dallas Legal Hospice: The agency gives people with HIV/AIDS free legal assistance to address problems related to, or impacted by, their health.
- The Greg Dollgener Memorial Fund: The fund enhances the lives of people with HIV/AIDS in the North Texas area by providing for critical needs when other resources are exhausted.
- Resource Center of Dallas: The center serves the LGBT and North Texas communities by providing health, HIV and social services; education and advocacy; and support to LGBT individuals and organizations. ▽

News Briefs



(Left to right) Valiente President Fernando Sanchez hands Ivana Tramp a \$300 check for winning the "Impersonating for a Dream" contest. Ivana raised \$126 for Lifewalk in tips during her performances. Other agencies that received funds were AIDS Services of Fort Worth - \$117, Transgender Group GEAR - \$114, and the Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse - \$87. LifeWalk also received a \$300 check from Valiente for being the winning agency.

Valiente's general meeting Oct. 19:

Valiente will meet Thursday, Oct. 19, at 6:30 p.m., at Havana's, located at 4006 Cedar Springs Rd., Dallas, TX 75219. As a reminder, meetings are held every third Thursday.

Five new members join Valiente; three members renew this summer:

This summer Elias Cantu, E.J. Gomez, Paul Hale, Natalie Lopez and Juan Rios joined Valiente. Special thanks to Oscar Gomez, Lucilo Pena and Gregory Pynes for renewing. As a reminder, annual membership is only \$35. To join, contact Membership and Fundraising Chair Cesar Reyna at reyna_cesar@yahoo.com.

Valiente amends group's bylaws:

Valiente's board of directors amended its bylaws to address board members' election and attendance requirements. Updated bylaws will be available at the October meeting for review.

Gay LULAC meets Sept. 26:

Valiente members are invited to Gay LULAC's general meeting being held Tuesday, Sept. 26, 6:30 p.m. at the LULAC Housing Commission Headquarters, 6500 Greenville Ave. #515, Dallas, TX 75206. New members are welcomed. ▽



(Left to right) Valiente Vice President Juan Ayala and former Dallas City Councilman John Loza. Loza was September's guest speaker at Valiente general meeting on Sept. 21. He urged members to seek city board and commission appointments and to get more involved with civic matters. He told the audience that he will seek political office in the future.

Mundo Latino

Uruguay to allow same-sex unions:

Uruguay's congress is putting forth a measure to recognize the legal rights of Gay couples. The law is expected to pass, which would create a civil union registry for same and unmarried opposite-sex couples. The South American country becomes the second nation in the Western Hemisphere to allow same-sex unions (Canada is the first). Three states in the United States have some form of same-sex partnership (Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont). Chile is considering a same-sex measure similar to Uruguay.

MegaVoto headed to Oak Cliff:

Latino leaders and activists across North Texas have united to conduct voter registration drives and voter education leading up to the November elections. A mega rally is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 28, Beckley Courthouse, 410 S. Beckley Ave., Dallas, TX 75203 (Oak Cliff). To volunteer, contact Valiente Member Juan Ayala by phone (214) 632-9085 or by e-mail at jjja613@sbcglobal.net. For more information, visit www.megavoto.org.

Forty percent of Dallas is Latino:

The U.S. Census Bureau puts the Hispanic count in Dallas County at 40 percent. Currently, there are 838,205 Hispanic residents, up from 662,729 in the year 2000. There has been a decrease in white residents in the county, from 1.1 million in 1990 down to 867,730 white residents today.

Federal workforce lacks Hispanics:

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda issued a report to Congress about the federal government's hiring practices, and the group gave the government an "F." NHLA cited growing under representation in federal job ranks of Latinos. Although Hispanics make up 13.5 percent of the civilian workforce, they only account for 7.4 percent of federal workforce. The group blames hiring decreases, lowering retention rates, few Latino senior executive opportunities, and underscored critical under representations in the Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services. If you're interested in a federal career, please visit www.usajobs.opm.gov. ▽

10 Questions

with
Alicia Molina

One of the reasons why Valiente has been so successful is because of the accounting skills of Alicia Molina. Molina, who is the treasurer and the club's sole female on the board of directors, has kept the club's finances in order, keeping track of every receipt and scrutinizing every expense to help prevent waste, and for that the membership is so grateful.

On Oct. 8, the LGBT community will get to see a different side of Molina — her artistic one. She will be one of the artists featured in the Noche Bohemia Art Show, at Suenos Sabrosos, located at 408 N. Bishop Avenue, Suite 105, Dallas, TX 75208. The show runs from 4 to 7 p.m. and is open to the public.

Molina shares with us her future plans and her secret to a successful relationship.

Boletín: Why are you involved with Valiente? **Alicia Molina:** "I like to participate in our community, helping others to go through the process of coming out, or with the other kind of acceptance problems that as Gays we confront."

Boletín: What do you hope to accomplish with this group? **AM:** "Now that I am the Treasurer, it is simple. I would like to have everything on file by the end of the year with the monthly and end of the year reports as well as the taxes."

Boletín: Where are you from originally? **AM:** "I was born and raised in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico."

Boletín: What's your educational and professional background? **AM:** "Right now, I am a student at the University of Texas Dallas campus. My major is business/accounting."



Boletín: Who is your idol and why?

AM: "Well, I really do not have any idols, but I admire many successful businessmen."

Boletín: What is your passion? **AM:** "It is business, since I was little I always dreamed of having my own business."

Boletín: There are not that many Latinas involved with Valiente. What can Valiente do to attract more females to our events? **AM:** "This is the question that I always ask myself, but I haven't found the answer."

Boletín: Pick one: Salma Hayek, Penelope Cruz or Eva Longoria. Which one would you like to meet? **AM:** "I would like to meet Salma. I admire her perseverance, talent and, of course, her beauty."

Boletín: What are your plans for the future? **AM:** "Graduate from school, have a nice job, start my own business, and travel around the world."

Boletín: You have been in a long term relationship for quite some time. What's your secret in keeping a happy home?

AM: "Exactly 15 years. I think that the key is love. I give her my love 100 % every day." ▽

(Left to right) Valiente President Fernando Sanchez and Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. Solmonese attended the HRC Salsa Cocktail event on Aug. 23, which brought together local members of HRC and the Valiente membership. Nearly 200 people attended the two-hour event held at Monica's Cuidad Restaurant on Oak Lawn Avenue.





(Left to right) New Valiente Member Juan Rios and President Fernando Sanchez. Rios, of American Airlines, donated round-trip tickets which Valiente raffled for \$1,000.

Message from the President

I thought I would take a moment to reflect on the events of the past few months and the momentum that continues to grow around Valiente. Thanks to a dedicated core group of passionate, hard-working individuals, Valiente's visibility, acceptance and positive reputation in the community continues to increase.

Most every endeavor that we have undertaken has been a success: the opportunity to address the GLBT Chamber of Commerce, increased visibility in the media, the two tributes to Rocio Durcal, the Lipscomb Elementary School fundraiser, the two GLAAD media trainings we held at the Latino Cultural Center, the "Interpretando Por un Sueño" talent contest which raised funds for four organizations and most recently our collaboration with the Human Rights Campaign at the Salsa Cocktail event.

Valiente members played a prominent role in the formation of the first-ever Gay LULAC chapter, which was created at a Valiente general meeting where Valiente members and others signed on to initiate the formation of the council. Weeks later LULAC National President Hector M. Flores delivered a fiery speech about diversity and justice to chapter members and an overflowing crowd at a reception sponsored in part by Valiente.

We continue to invite prominent speakers to our general meetings with former City Councilman John Loza who spoke in September and Dallas Morning News columnist Mercedes Olivera, scheduled for

October as part of our Hispanic Heritage Month events. I am happy to report that we recently acquired our first corporate sponsor with American Airlines. This relationship will surely increase Valiente's credibility in the community.

With success comes challenges that we will need to address in order for Valiente to continue to move forward. One of those issues concerns the need to increase and diversify our board to assure that Valiente's mission will continue long after the current board is gone. We need to proceed in a proficient manner by making improvements to our website and creating an efficient member database. We also need to start researching funding sources.

I invite you to contact me if you or someone you know is interested in a board position. Become a part of the Valiente's Membership and Fundraising Committee or our Education/Cultural Committee. Whatever you do I implore you not to sit on the sidelines. We need you. Stand up and make a difference!

Thanks,

**Your President
Fernando Sanchez**



Valiente

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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, October 19, 6:30 p.m.
Havana's on 4006 Cedar Springs Rd.
Featured guest: Mercedes Olivera