



Boletín

A Publication for Members and Friends of Valiente • June 2007

National Latino/Latina LGBT group forms in Washington, D.C.

This past spring, a national organization advocating for Latino and Latina Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender human rights was formed in Washington, D.C.

Several activists in the LGBT Latino movement came together to become "Unid@s" on April 2007.

Its committee consists of Gael Gundin Guevara as Trans Chair, Sandra Telep as Female Chair, Pedro Julio Serrano as Male Chair, Lorenzo Herrera y Lozano as Secretary, Cristina Martinez as Treasurer, and Jorge Cestou as Chair of the Resource Development Committee. Serrano and Telep agreed to an interview with the Boletín:



In April, Unid@s formed in Washington, D.C., to advocate at the national level for LGBT Latinos and Latinas.

In this issue:

Latino Culture Center showcases Pedro Almodóvar films this summer, page 2

10 Questions with Jesse Garcia, page 3

LGBT Community comes together to hold fundraiser for family, page 4

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Boletín: What motivate you to get involved with Unid@s? Pedro Julio:

"I have been an activist with the Latin/o and Puerto Rican LGBT communities for more than 10 years. When LLEGO closed its doors, I was invited to be part of the Sigamos Adelante Steering Committee, which led to the creation of Unid@s."

Sandra: "Like so many Latina/o queer people, I faced a gap between the communities that represent my identities. I think there is a lack of understanding around the intersection of issues. For example, LGBT organizations aren't vocal enough about immigration issues and many times LGBT issues are overlooked in Latino spaces. It doesn't just end at the LGBT-Latino intersection, I wanted to part of an organization that understands the wide range of issues our communities face - including feminism, economic justice, environmental protection, and peace."

Boletín: Why is it important to have a national LGBT Hispanic organization? Sandra:

"I think that when it comes to LGBT issues the Latina/o community is underestimated. Many people assume that the Latina/o community isn't an ally on LGBT issues, when in reality our strong sense of family and first hand understanding of discrimination makes the communities natural allies."

Boletín: What are some of the events you're planning for 2007 or 2008? Pedro Julio:

"We are currently working on our strategic plan for the next two years, focusing on identifying founding sources and building an organizational structure to make this effort sustainable. We will continue to outreach to all Latina/o LGBT communities around the U.S. and Puerto Rico."

Boletín: Tell us about your background. Sandra:

"I work for an organization named Pride At Work, which is the LGBT constituency group of the AFL-CIO. We work with labor unions and LGBT organizations around issues affecting LGBT working people." **Pedro Julio:** "I'm currently the Communications Coordinator for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. I'm also a member of the Board of Advisors of the Puerto Rican Initiative to Develop Empowerment (PRIDE). I also founded Puerto Rico Para Tod@s (Puerto Rico for All), an organization that advocates for LGBT equality and social justice in Puerto Rico."

Boletín: If Valiente members want more information on Unid@s, who can they contact? Pedro Julio: "I invite all of you to visit our website www.unidoslgbt.org and if you have questions or want to be a part of Unid@s, email unidoslgbt@gmail.com." ▽

Cine en El Centro presents 'The Pedro Almodóvar Collection'

This summer Cine en El Centro presents the "The Pedro Almodóvar Collection" at the Latino Cultural Center, located at 2600 Live Oak St., in downtown Dallas. The screenings are free and open to the public. They will be held every Saturday at 2 p.m., running from July 7 to Aug. 18. Pedro Almodóvar Caballero was born Sept. 24, 1951, in Spain. He is a director, screen writer and producer. He is the most successful and internationally known Spanish filmmaker of his generation.

July 7: "Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios"

Pedro Almodovar broke into the art-house mainstream with this wild, manic comedy about a gaggle of women and their various problems with men, be they married lovers, cheating husbands, fiancés, or terrorists. Almodovar's long-time leading lady, Carmen Maura, stars as an actress who's just been dumped by her married lover. In the midst of trying to track him down for a face-to-face confrontation, she crosses paths with her lover's son, his unbalanced wife, and his new girlfriend. Adding more fuel to the fire is the hapless friend who got involved with a terrorist and is now being hunted by the police. This film has English subtitles, is R rated and lasts 89 minutes.

July 14: "Todo sobre mi madre"

After her son is killed in an accident, Manuela leaves Madrid for her old haunts in Barcelona. She reconnects with an old friend, a pre-op transsexual prostitute named La Agrado, who introduces her to Rosa, a young nun who turns out to be pregnant. Meanwhile, Manuela becomes a personal assistant for Huma Rojo, an actress currently playing Blanche DuBois in a production of "A Streetcar Named Desire." This film has English subtitles, is rated R and lasts 101 minutes.

July 21: "Hable con Ella"

Marco is in love with Lydia, a female bullfighter who is gored by a bull and sent into a coma. In the hospital, Marco crosses paths with Benigno, a male nurse who looks after another coma patient, a young dancer named Alicia. From Benigno's gentle attentiveness to Alicia, Marco learns to take care of Lydia, but from there, the story goes in directions that deftly manage to be sad, hopeful, funny, and creepy, sometimes at the same time. This film has English subtitles, is R rated and lasts 114 minutes.



Director Pedro Almodóvar of Spain.

Aug. 4: "La flor de mi secreto"

Pedro Almodóvar created this misfired, rambling comedy about a romance novelist whose crumbling marriage has left her depressed and unable to work. At a low point, she writes a scathing indictment of her own books which are penned under another name; with no one realizing critic and author are one and the same. This film has English subtitles, is R rated and lasts 106 minutes.

Aug. 11: "Matador"

An ex-bullfighter who is getting turned on by killing, a lady lawyer with the same problem and a young man driven insane over-religious upbringing - are the main characters in this stylish black comedy about dark sides of human nature. The film has English subtitles, is NC-17 rated and lasts 106 minutes.

Aug. 18: "La Mala Educación"

Handsome, enigmatic Ángel arrives at the Spanish movie offices of director Enrique Goded and happily proclaims that he's actually Enrique's long-lost school chum Ignacio, an announcement that is both less than convincing and more than it seems. Ángel, a novice actor, pitches a semi-autobiographical screenplay in which he's determined to start a revenge-laden reflection of the doomed love he and Enrique shared as boys before a pedophile priest cruelly intervened. This film has English subtitles, is NC-17 rated and lasts 106 minutes.

For additional information please call (214) 671-0045 or visit www.dallasculture.org/latinocc. V

News Briefs



(Left to right): Valiente Vice President Jerry Martinez is pictured with the new president of LULAC 4871 Patricia Mancha and new Vice President Arturo Rivas. LULAC 4871 will hold a membership mixer on Wednesday, July 4, at 3 p.m. at 3827 Stockton Lane, Dallas, TX 75287. Valiente members are invited.

Valiente members meet June 21:

The June mixer of Valiente takes place Thursday, June 21, at 6:30 p.m., at Havana's, located at 4006 Cedar Springs Rd., in Dallas. The guest speaker this month is registered nurse Mark Myer, who is working on a PhD dissertation which focuses specifically on Latino Gay men. He will be recruiting Latino Gay men for his research project.

Human Rights Campaign holds a diversity mixer on June 27:

The Human Rights Campaign Diversity Committee cordially invites Valiente members to its "Summer Mixer" on Wednesday, June 27, at 7 p.m., at Monica's Aca Y Alla Restaurant, located at 2914 Main St. in Dallas.

Valiente searches for artists and poets for Hispanic Heritage Month:

Valiente will once again sponsor Hispanic Heritage Month this fall. Artists are invited to participate in an art show being planned for Saturday, Oct. 13. Valiente is looking for photography, paintings, drawings and sculptures by artists in the LGBT Latino community and its allies. There will also be a poetry slam scheduled on Saturday, Sept. 22. For more information, contact Jesse Garcia at jgarcia71@aol.com. Deadline for entries is Sept. 1.

LULAC 4871 meets May 22:

LULAC Council 4871 - The Dallas Rainbow Council meets Tuesday, June 26, at 6:30 p.m. at the John Thomas Gay and Lesbian Community Center, located at 2701 Reagan St. in Dallas. For more information, visit www.lulac4871.org. V

Mundo Latino

Hate crimes in Texas are dropping:

On June 18, the El Paso Times reported that hate crimes were dropping in Texas. The number of hate crimes statewide dropped 6.4 percent from 264 in 2005 to 247 last year, as reported in the annual "Crime in Texas" report by the Texas Department of Public Safety. The majority of hate crimes in Texas were anti-Black with 99 cases, followed by 38 anti-Gay cases and 35 anti-Hispanic offenses, according to the report.

Columbia to offer same-sex rights:

On June 15, The New York Times reported that Colombia is set to become the first Latin American country to give established Gay couples the same rights to health insurance, inheritance and social security benefits as heterosexual couples under a bill passed by Congress and is expected to take effect soon. The Colombian Congress's lower house passed the bill, 62 to 43, on June 14. The Senate passed a similar version back in April. The two chambers must now agree on unified text before sending it to President Álvaro Uribe, who is expected to back the law.

Thousands activists march in Rome:

On June 17, 365gay.com reported that tens of thousands of Gay rights activists marched through the streets of Rome this past weekend marking Gay Pride and demanding legal rights for same-sex couples. The march featured banners criticizing the Vatican for waging a campaign to derail efforts to grant legal rights to same-sex couples, such as hospital visits and inheritance rights. The Italian bill stops short of legalizing Gay marriage, as was done in other European countries, such as Spain. It is yet to be taken up by the parliament.

Costa Rican lawmakers propose same-sex civil unions law in June:

On June 19, Reuters reported that Costa Rican lawmakers proposed legalizing same-sex civil unions in a bill introduce that day. The bill, though, might find difficulty passing in the strongly Roman Catholic country. The bill would allow inheritance, power over medical decisions, and bereavement leave. The bill doesn't give same-sex couples full marriage status or allow couples the right to adopt. ▽

10 Questions

with
Jesse Garcia

Jesse Garcia has been invited to moderate a tolerance session at the National League of United Latin American Citizens Convention on July 12 in Chicago. The session will talk about LGBT issues and acceptance within the Hispanic community. Garcia has been active in LULAC ever since Valiente helped launch the first-ever LGBT LULAC chapter back in May 2006.

Boletín: Why did you join Valiente?

Jesse: "I wanted to belong to a social/educational group that I could learn from and create new friendships. I wanted to bond with other LGBT Latinos and Latinas who share similar goals and interests. I'm very pleased with the group and its leaders."

Boletín: What is your function in

Valiente? Jesse: "I serve as the social and cultural committee chair. I locate speakers for our general meetings, tap into events that Valiente can partner with, and help put on Valiente's Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration."

Boletín: What can we expect at this year's Hispanic Heritage Month? Jesse:

"To date, we confirmed the kickoff party on Saturday, Sept. 15, from 7 to 9 p.m., at Woody's, located at 4011 Cedar Springs Rd., Dallas, TX 75219. Our special guest at the party will be Sheriff Lupe Valdez. The evening will launch a month-long series of events that include an art show, poetry slam, speaker series at our general meetings and our annual LifeWalk participation. We're in the process of finalizing those events."

Boletín: Where are you from originally?

Jesse: "I'm originally from Brownsville, Texas, born to Mexican-American parents. I lived there for 18 years and left to San Antonio to attend college."

Boletín: What is your professional

background? Jesse: "I graduated with a B.A. at Our Lady of the Lake University, and earned an M.A. at St. Mary's University. Both degrees are in communications. I'm actually in my field of study, working in marketing and public relations for the federal government."

**Boletín: Who are your heroes? Jesse:**

"Three ladies: Hillary Clinton for being resilient in the face of adversity; Madonna for being able to still command attention after 25 years in the business; and my mom for teaching my sister and me a strong work ethic, not to rely on others and always believe in ourselves."

Boletín: Where do you see yourself in 10 years? Jesse:

"Hopefully married with children and a mortgage, working the turkey leg booth at the Pride Picnic. Or single, cranky and running the city of Dallas."

Boletín: What other groups are you involved with? Jesse: "I'm president of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas and secretary of LULAC 4871. I volunteer with other groups, but Valiente, Stonewall and LULAC are my current passions."

Boletín: Why is it important to volunteer? Jesse:

"It means a lot to a group when you give your time and effort. Having people show up to do the hard work needed to move a project or an idea along is what makes a group successful."

Boletín: What is your next big project? Jesse:

"I'm getting venues set up for Valiente's Second Annual Hispanic Heritage Month. We had a great experience last year and we want to replicate the fun we had. The local artists and poets were so inspiring. If any artist out there wants to perform at the poetry slam or show their painting, photography, sculpture or drawing at our show, contact me at jgarcia71@aol.com." ▽

LGBT community comes together to help out widow

Family of Oak Lawn ATM murder victim in need of financial help

Leaders of Dallas' LGBT community finalized plans this week to hold a benefit fundraiser for the widow and baby of Jose Omar Landa, the young man who was murdered on his birthday in the popular Cedar Springs Gay entertainment district on April 16.

The community will hold a benefit show on Sunday, July 8, at 8 p.m., at the Round Up Saloon, located at 3912 Cedar Springs Rd.

The show will feature an all-star cast of Dallas' best entertainers, as well as civic officials. The suggested donation at the door is \$5.

"This event has two purposes: local talent will help raise money for a family in need, and the night will also have a safety aspect to it," said Jesse Garcia, spokesperson of LULAC Council 4871. "We're

going to have city councilwomen Angela Hunt of District 14 and Pauline Medrano of District 2, whose districts border on Cedar Springs road, along with the Dallas Police Department, to talk about safety issues and crime prevention for residents and patrons of Oak Lawn."

Councilwoman Medrano will read a statement from Landa's widow, Alicia, who is very grateful that the LGBT community is helping her and her seven-month-old baby.

A bank account has been set up by the Cathedral of Hope to collect funds.

For those who cannot make it to the July 8 event, you can make a donation at the Dallas National Bank, located at 2725 Turtle Creek Blvd. in Dallas, to the account "Cathedral of Hope for the benefit of Alicia Luvianos."

"We are pleased to be able to partner with LULAC and the Dallas Tavern Guild," said Rev. Dr. Jo Hudson, Rector and Senior Pastor of Cathedral of Hope. "As a cathedral, it is part of our mission to

provide resources for the community. If our participation helps to ensure the safety of our neighborhoods then we will have succeeded in that mission."

Michael Doughman, Executive Director of the Dallas Tavern Guild said, "I feel that this is an important time for our community to show genuine concern as well as support for this family, so painfully torn apart. It is also a time for us to recognize that life is fragile and best lived in a spirit of unity and caring for all people. The Dallas Tavern Guild is completely committed to support of this event and views it as a way to build a bridge of unity over a deep chasm of hurt and sorrow."

"I am so grateful to the Cathedral of Hope, Dallas Tavern Guild and Michael Doughman for partnering with LULAC 4871 to help out this young woman and giving us a venue for the LGBT community to come out and show their support and compassion for this family," said Garcia.

For more information, you can email LULAC4871@aol.com. ♦



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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 • Jerry Martinez
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 Secretary • Ben Leal

****Remember:

Valiente Mixer

Thursday, June 21, 6:30 p.m.

Havana's on 4006 Cedar Springs Rd.