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# Boletín

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## Hispanic Heritage Month events set for September and October

This past week Valiente finalized its second annual Hispanic Heritage Month event calendar for September and October.

“Increasing the visibility and acceptance of LGBT Latinos in the community and within our own culture is one of Valiente’s primary objectives,” said Valiente President Fernie Sanchez. “Promoting Latino LGBT related events during Hispanic Heritage Month provides us with a wonderful opportunity to help us achieve this objective.”

The following events are confirmed:

• **Hispanic Heritage Month Launch Party & Speaker Series I:** Saturday, Sept. 15, from 7 to 9 p.m., at Woody’s, located at 4011 Cedar Springs Rd. in Dallas. Light appetizers will be provided. Special guest is The Honorable Lupe Valdez, sheriff of Dallas County, who will talk about Latinos in government.

• **Speaker Series II:** Thursday, Sept. 20, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., at the Resource Center, located at 2701 Reagan St. in Dallas. Featured speaker is The Honorable State Rep. Rafael Anchia, who will talk about the immigration issue plus the need for Latinos to become active in politics.

• **Poetry Slam:** Saturday, Sept. 22, from 7 to 9 p.m., at Youth First Texas, located at 5415 Maple Ave., Suite 221, in Dallas. Light appetizers will be provided. Poets and their original work, as well as readers of poetry from U.S. Hispanic and Latin American artists, will be featured.

• **Noche De Bohemia Art Show:** Saturday, Oct. 13, from 2 to 5 p.m., at the Ice House Cultural Center, located at 1004 W. Page St. in Dallas. Light appetizers will be provided. Event will showcase local artists.

• **Speaker Series III:** Thursday, Oct. 18, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., at the Resource Center, located at 2701 Reagan St. in Dallas. Featured speaker is Univision radio personality Claudia Torrescano, who will talk about media coverage of Latinos and the growth of Hispanic media in the U.S.

All events are free and open to the public. Dress is casual.

“We are looking for artists to participate



*Above: Sheriff Lupe Valdez speaks on Sept. 15. Right: State Rep. Rafael Anchia speaks on Sept. 20.*



in our events,” said Jesse Garcia, Social and Cultural committee chair. “We are calling out for drawers, sculptors, photographers, painters and poets who want to feature their works at our shows. This is an opportunity to get great local artists a spotlight.”

Artists wanting to participate in the Noche De Bohemia, as well as poets who want to perform at the Poetry Slam or people who want to read poetry by U.S. Hispanic or Latin American artists, should contact Garcia by Aug. 24, at jgarcia71@aol.com or at (214) 500-7066.

A committee will decide which works will be displayed. There is limited space, so artists are encouraged to contact Garcia soon.

Valiente will also participate in this year’s Alan Ross Freedom Pride Parade on Sunday, Sept. 16, and AIDS Arms’ LifeWalk event on Sunday, Oct. 14.

The United States observes National Hispanic Heritage Month each year from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, during the dates that many Latin American nations celebrate their independence.

The observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month started in 1988. Before then, there was only National Hispanic Heritage Week, which first went into effect on Sept. 17, 1968. V

## American Red Cross in need of bilingual volunteers in Dallas

The American Red Cross in Dallas is looking for bilingual volunteers, ASAP. Recent disasters in immigrant neighborhoods (floods in Gainesville and fires in Oak Lawn) made it all too clear that the humanitarian agency is in desperate need of Spanish speakers.

Currently, only 20 people out of the 600 who donate their time to the local Red Cross organization speak Spanish.

Alberto Guzman from the Red Cross spoke to Valiente at its July meeting, urging the LGBT Latino community to get involved.

Guzman said Red Cross volunteers do all sort of activities. Like any other organization, the Red Cross has several departments like accounting, facilities, communications, fundraising, planning, preparedness, human resources, emergency response, international and military.

"We need volunteers in all those areas in all levels and capacities. Activities range from filing and clerical duties, to coordination and management of programs," Guzman said.

So what are the qualifications? Red Cross volunteers come from many different backgrounds and socio-economic levels. "We work with each volunteer to find the right activity based on

their skills and experience. Highly qualified personnel might have responsibilities and duties accordingly to their knowledge. Less qualified skilled personnel may do other activities that carry less responsibility or risk," said Guzman.

Proficiency in English, and able to follow directions are the minimum requirements. Even though less than four percent of its volunteer force speaks Spanish, a large percentage of its client base only speaks Spanish, which creates problems during emergency situations.

During the March 11 fire at Harvey's Racquet Club apartments in West Oak Lawn, several immigrant families were left homeless on the street. City buses were ready to take them to shelters but none of the victims boarded, fearing they would be taken away or deported. A



(Left to right): Valiente President Fernie Sanchez, Alberto Guzman of the Red Cross, and Vice President of LULAC 4871 and Valiente Member Arturo Rivas.

language barrier created this confusion, which resulted in people not being helped in their hour of need.

"The main concern is the language barrier; however there are problems even before a Spanish-speaking client decides to come to Red Cross. Many of our clients may have the misconception that the Red Cross is a hospital since the national societies in their countries of origin provide those services. We have had clients walking to Red Cross offices asking for X-Rays

or vaccinations, which reflects the lack of knowledge and dissemination of services provided by the Red Cross in the United States," said Guzman.

So what are the hours like? A volunteer can commit as much or as minimum as he or she wants. "What we need is consistency; meaning that a volunteer who comes once a week for three hours is more efficient than a volunteer that shows up once every other month," he said.

There are several classes to take depending on the track that a volunteer wants to follow, such classes will be individually discussed once he or she decides to start volunteering.

The American Red Cross is located at 4800 Harry Hines Blvd in Dallas. You can call (214) 678-4800 for information or visit [www.redcrossdallas.org](http://www.redcrossdallas.org). ▽

***"We work with each volunteer to find the right activity based on their skills and experience,"***

**Alberto Guzman  
American Red Cross**

## News Briefs



(Left to right): LULAC 4871 President Patricia Mancha and Valiente Board Member Juan Ayala attended the Jose Landa Fundraiser on July 8. As of July 28, \$12,000 has been raised for the widow of Landa. Landa was killed in the Oak Lawn neighborhood on April 16.

**6th Annual Salsa Cocktails by HRC:** Valiente members are invited to the 6th Annual Salsa Cocktails Event being held Thursday, Aug. 23, at 6:30 p.m., at Tijuana Bar and Grill, located at 4900 McKinney in Dallas. For more information, contact HRC Diversity Chair Dr. Jose Gomez at [chivasrega@urbanmatrixlp.com](mailto:chivasrega@urbanmatrixlp.com).

**Potluck Dinner by LULAC 4871:** LULAC 4871 – The Dallas Rainbow Council invites Valiente members to its August meeting that will feature a potluck, spotlighting dishes from everyone's culture. The event takes place Tuesday, Aug. 28, at 6:30 p.m., at the Resource Center, located at 2701 Reagan St. in Dallas. Dress is casual. For more information, contact LULAC 4871 Vice President Arturo Rivas at [rivas1ar@yahoo.com](mailto:rivas1ar@yahoo.com).

**Equality Texas holds lobbying class:** Equality Texas, the nonpartisan LGBT rights organization in Texas, will hold a class on how to lobby your legislators in their district offices. The event takes place at the Resource Center, located at 2701 Reagan St. in Dallas, on Wednesday, Sept. 26, at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Equality Texas Representative Dawnetta Miller at [coract11@yahoo.com](mailto:coract11@yahoo.com).

**LifeWalk Valiente/LULAC Team in need of more volunteers, donations:** Valiente has teamed up with LULAC 4871 to raise funds for LifeWalk taking place Sunday, Oct. 14, at 1 p.m., at Lee Park in Dallas. The team needs individuals to walk and work the booth at the event. You can donate to the team at [www.firstgiving.com/valiente2007](http://www.firstgiving.com/valiente2007). For more information, contact Valiente President Fernie Sanchez at [fsanchez@aidsarms.org](mailto:fsanchez@aidsarms.org). ▽

## Mundo Latino

**Gays going back to the Old World:** On June 28, the Agence France-Presse reported that thousands of Gay immigrants from Latin America are moving to Spain to take advantage of the open society embracing the LGBT community. Specifically, Madrid has become a mecca for openly-Gay people to walk around and be free. The paper credits Spain as being “a world leader in gay rights,” since Socialist Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero came to power in 2004. The country became only the third member of European Union after the Netherlands and Belgium to allow same-sex marriages in July 2005 with a new law that also legalized adoptions by gays and lesbians, reported AFP. Spain has allowed transsexuals to change their name and official gender without the need for an operation in 2007.

**Anthony, Lopez team up for this summer’s must-see Latino movie:** “El Cantante” opens Aug. 3, starring power couple Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony. This picture is a dramatic-biography of Puerto Rican salsa pioneer Hector Lavoe (Anthony), one of the biggest Spanish-language singers in the 1970s. The tale follows Lavoe’s relationship with his love Puchi (Lopez), and his skyrocket to international fame. But even when he has it all, Lavoe is unable to escape the allure of drugs and his personal pain. This film is Rated R, and is 1 hour, 56 minutes long.

**Presidential candidate issues apology for using Spanish Gay slur in 2006:** The only Latino is the 2008 presidential race, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, issued an apology on July 12 for a comment he said was intended to be a joke during a segment with talk show host Don Imus on his syndicated radio program way back in March 2006. The radio show host said one of his staffers claimed that Richardson was “not really Hispanic.” Richardson shot back in Spanish calling the staffer a “maricon,” (“faggot” in Spanish) if he really believed that statement to be true. Richardson explained that in the Spanish he grew up speaking, “the term means simply ‘Gay,’ not positive or negative.” He told the Associated Press, “If I offended anybody, I apologize.” ▽

# 10 Questions

with  
Michelle Lunas

**Boletín: Why are you a member of Valiente? Michelle:** “Strange (and sad) as it may seem there are two things about myself that made me feel I was not as good as everyone else around me – being Hispanic and being transgendered. Moving to Texas along with the growth in popularity of Hispanic celebrities made it ‘cool’ to be Hispanic. Overcoming being transgendered is by no means cool but I look forward to help make it acceptable and hopeful that one day it is as cool as my daughter says it is. Becoming a member of Valiente allows me to be active with others like me who are Hispanic and LGBT.”

**Boletín: You recently came out to your family. What advice do you have? Michelle:** “Be prepared!!! It is important to know what you want to say, how you want to say it and when you want to say it. Hardest of all though is that you yourself must also be prepared for the worst just in case. As for me, I tend to over-prepare so I provided my family with a letter that had what I really wanted to tell them (It’s hard to keep focused when you are nervous and it helped me prepare for my coming out), a medical explanation, a religious viewpoint and a list of sources containing websites, movies and books that would provide them with more information.”

**Boletín: You’re a parent. Have your kids accepted you? Michelle:** “I have two teen-aged daughters that have accepted me much-much better that I thought possible. One awesome aspect of their generation is its openness towards LGBT persons.”

**Boletín: What is the best thing about having children? Michelle:** “There are so many reasons. The unconditional love they have towards me and being able to love someone in return is a big one though and so is being proud of them.”

**Boletín: Where are you originally from? Michelle:** “I grew up in the northwest suburbs of Chicago. I moved to DFW after I graduated from college.”

**Boletín: What is your professional background? Michelle:** “I have an engi-



neering degree – However, I have worked as a programmer and database consultant for the majority of my career.”

**Boletín: Who are your heroes? Michelle:** “Aside from the creativity of Frank Lloyd Wright, the tenacity of Thomas Edison and the attitude of Ellen DeGeneres, I really must say my parents. They started their life together as migrant workers and gave everything they had to fulfill their goal of putting all of their children through college. My father was very involved in fighting for the rights of migrant workers which is where I think I take after him as I am now involved in LGBT rights.”

**Boletín: What is the most courageous thing you’ve ever done? Michelle:** “While coming out to my spouse, children and family took more courage than I thought I had, I think the most courageous thing I’ve done was to accept myself for who I am and love myself for it.”

**Boletín: Where do you see yourself in 10 years? Michelle:** “This is hard to answer. Five years ago, I never-ever in my dreams thought I’d be where I am now! This new life is very new to me and I just focus on where I am now for the most part. But in fairness to the question, if there is still a need ten years from now, I hope to continue to be involved in what I am doing now with the LGBT community and would like to work with Human Resource departments understanding their employees.”

**Boletín: What other groups do you belong to? Michelle:** “Human Rights Campaign is my where I spend most of my efforts – I am part of the DFW Diversity sub-committee. Other groups that I have recently become involved with are National Center for Transgender Equality and Equality Texas. I am also active in a handful of local transgender support groups.” ▽

## Valiente goes quarterly, searches for new board members

In July's general meeting, Valiente's board of directors decided to give the three-year-old organization a radical makeover to pump up attendance and be more strategic in its event planning.

### New Meeting Times

The board unanimously decided to change general meeting times from monthly to quarterly. The new change will also see these gatherings as more "social mixers" than formal meetings. From now on mixers will be held every third Thursday in March, June, September and December.

"The quarterly meetings will be a welcome change for all of us," said Cesar Reyna, Valiente's Membership and Fundraising Chair. "It will allow us to focus our efforts in quality events and allow our members to get more involved."

The quarterly meeting schedule takes effect immediately. There will be no August meeting, but Valiente will gather in September and October during the third Thursday of the month at Resource Center for Hispanic Heritage events planned

before the quarterly mixer's decision was recommended and accepted.

### Quarterly Newsletter

The Boletín newsletter will also run on a quarterly basis, with issues coming out in Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer.

"The quarterly newsletter will allow me to cover three months of activities in just one newsletter. It is a challenge, but I welcome it," said Jesse Garcia, editor of The Boletín. "I encourage anyone who wants to write for the newsletter on current topics affecting the LGBT Hispanic community to submit their work for consideration."

### Larger Board

Valiente board of directors have also decided to increase the size of the board.

Currently, the board of directors is made up of its elected officers: President Fernie Sanchez, Vice President Jerry Martinez, Treasurer Rey Franco and Secretary Ben Leal, plus board members Juan Ayala, Jesse Garcia, Cesar Reyna and Jose Reymundo. Three of the board members' terms are up this December. Valiente hopes to fill

anticipated vacancies, plus grow the board to a dozen directors.

"Finding and recruiting capable board members continues to be a major challenge for Valiente," said Valiente President Fernie Sanchez. "I know there are qualified and talented individuals out there that can help this vibrant organization to continue to move forward. Taking a leadership role in any organization can be a rewarding experience as it offers numerous opportunities for professional and personal growth. I will gladly meet with anyone interested in taking a leadership role with Valiente."

Women and transgender members are encouraged to apply.

The Board of Directors is also open to non-Latino and straight allies who want to further Valiente's mission: to mobilize the Dallas/Fort Worth Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning community to foster pride, promote community building and involvement, and increase advocacy. ▽



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](mailto:Jgarcia71@aol.com). No portion of this newsletter may be reproduced without permission.

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