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

Boletín

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Valiente hosts holiday party, honors community members

Valiente will hold its third annual Holiday/Anniversary Party on Thursday, Dec. 13, at 7 p.m., at Havana's, located at 4006 Cedar Springs Rd. in Dallas.

At this year's celebration, Valiente will hand out three awards to members who contributed to the community in 2007.

Valiente Award:

The Valiente Award goes to someone who has helped both the LGBTQ and Latino/a community in North Texas.

"This year's recipient without a doubt has helped both communities tremendously. Whether it's a voters' registration drive, helping to deliver meals during the holidays, an immigration march, or campaigning for a political candidate on a hot summer day, Jesse Garcia is always there," said Fernie Sanchez, president of Valiente. "Jesse has contributed countless hours to all the organizations that he represents."

Garcia is president of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, serves on the Valiente board of directors and is secretary of LULAC 4871.

Member of the Year:

The Member of the Year award is presented to a member who has supported the organization during the past year. This year's recipient is Dr. Jose Gomez. Gomez, a Valiente member and who is on the Human Rights Campaign Board of Directors, has not only been a strong supporter of Valiente, but has also made it a personal goal of his to partner with the Latino/a community.

"During the past six years, he has organized the successful HRC Salsa Cocktail, an HRC diversity event intended to include the Latino/a LGBTQ community," said Sanchez.

Bravo Award:

This year the Valiente board of directors voted to introduce a new award. The Bravo award will be presented to members who have gone above and beyond and contributed to the group either in service, recruiting members or fund raising.

"We are proud to present this award to



Above: (Left to right) Valiente President Fernie Sanchez, Univision Radio Host Claudia Torrescano and Valiente Award Winner Jesse Garcia.

Right: Member of the Year Dr. Jose Gomez.

Below: (Left to right) Bravo Award winners Roman Smith and John Cramer.



John Cramer and Roman Smith. Cramer and Smith, both Valiente members and LGBTQ community leaders, rose to the call of duty," said Sanchez. "In October of this year, they hosted a fundraising party at their town home in Oak Lawn. This event raised over \$1,500 for the organization and 10 new members joined Valiente." ▼

GLAAD hires new Spanish-language media program representative

Earlier this month, Valiente's board members met with the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) Spanish-language media program representative Chuy Sanchez.

Sanchez was in town to meet with area Spanish dailies *Al Dia* and *La Estrella*, plus the Univision and Telemundo television affiliates. He also took the opportunity to meet with local LGBT Latino activists to form partnerships.

Sanchez, whose hometown is Chicago, is a first generation son of immigrant parents from Guanajuato, Mexico. He holds a bachelor's degree in cultural and interdisciplinary studies from Antioch College, a master's degree in performance studies from New York University and a master's degree in acting from the Actors Studio Drama School.

Boletín: What are your goals in your new position? Sanchez: "GLAAD's Spanish-Language Media Program works to increase the number and quality of LGBT Latino images in Spanish language news and entertainment media. GLAAD uses a combined strategy of providing media literacy trainings to Latino/a LGBT activists and journalists, garnering media attention for major events, conferences and Pride festivals, and exposing defamation when it occurs. The goals for 2008 include building the communication and collaboration that we've established over the years with local LGBT Latino/a organizations and media outlets in the Dallas area. We intend to continue providing pitches and ideas to local and national media outlets including Univision, Telemundo, Azteca America, the Spanish language papers and the morning Spanish language radio shows to promote and ensure fair, accurate and inclusive representation of the LGBT community as a means of eliminating homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation."

Boletín: How often do you plan to visit DFW? Sanchez: "Spanish Language Media targets each city where there is an important Spanish language market like Dallas. The frequency of our visit depends on the need for our direct intervention on a local media related issue or a training that may need to occur with media outlets and/or a local Latino/a LGBT organization."



(Left to right): Journalist Sergio Chapa, Valiente President Fernie Sanchez and GLAAD Media Representative Chuy Sanchez.

Boletín: How were you received by the local media? Sanchez: "We visited with Univision/Telefuturo, *Al Dia* and Telemundo in Dallas. Because we have created real relationships of mutual benefit and respect with media companies, we can successfully pitch articulate spokespeople and timely human-interest stories to increase LGBT visibility in mainstream media. In 2007, GLAAD successfully pitched 10 LGBT Latino-focused segments to the producers of *Mapiando*, a television series featured on *Azteca América*. We helped develop the concepts and provided spokespeople to discuss issues including domestic violence, what it means to be LGBT and Latino, and marriage equality. This is noteworthy because *Azteca América* reaches 87 percent of the total Latino viewers in the U.S. and is the fourth largest Spanish language TV network."

Boletín: What is your impression of the DFW and the LGBT community? Sanchez: "We had a wonderful time in Dallas. The organization, activity and leadership within the LGBT Latino/a community is impressive. We left with a sense of commitment from the community to change the hearts and minds of all. The Dallas Latino/a LGBT community is a good model for regions where the community is at the beginning stages of organizing."

Boletín: If someone sees or hears something offensive in the media, how can they contact you? Sanchez: "Folks may report an incident on our web site (www.glaad.org), email me directly sanchez@glaad.org or call 1-800-GAY-MEDIA." ▼

News Briefs



State Rep. Rafael Anchia (center) spoke to the Valiente membership in September about public service, the need for immigrants to become citizens and how he has worked to build bridges between the Hispanic and LGBT community.

Noche Valiente raises \$900-plus:

On Nov. 23, Valiente member Mimi Casanova hosted "Noche Valiente," a night of shining stars benefiting Valiente at Havana's night club. Along with her marvelous performance, also strutting the stage that night were Leslie Monroy, Ziomara Devine and Koco Channel. A total of \$464 was raised for the group, consisting of a suggested donation of \$3 which was requested at the door along with the tips collected by the performers. An additional \$230 was donated from Guardian Angel Medical Supplies that night, as well as a contribution from Hector Contreras in the amount of \$250.

Fall fundraiser brings in \$1,560:

On Oct. 16, Valiente members John Cramer and Roman Smith hosted a fundraiser event at their town home in Oak Lawn. Delicious hors d'ouvers and drinks were served to Valiente members and guests. The event was attended by 40 of their closest friends. A total of \$1,560 was raised that night. Valiente also recruited 10 new members. Special thanks to John and Roman for hosting this fundraising event.

LULAC 4871 hosts holiday party:

Members of Valiente are invited to LULAC 4871's holiday party being held Thursday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m., at the home of Ramiro Pacheco. His home is located at 1124 S. Montreal, in Dallas. Dress is casual. To RSVP, email LULAC4871@aol.com. LULAC 4871 would like to thank the membership of Valiente for its support this past year. ▼

Mundo Latino

Uruguay now allows civil unions:

South American nation Uruguay will become the first country in Latin America to allow Gay couples to enter into civil unions *nationwide* thanks to legislation ratified on Nov. 29. Even though the civil union will not be called “marriage,” it would grant same-sex couples social security, pension, inheritance, and parenting rights that heterosexual couples enjoy.

Immigration a hot button issue:

As expected, immigration has dominated U.S. presidential debates, mainly Republican forums, which call for everything from deportation to building a wall. The Drum Major Institute for Public Policy, a non-partisan, non-profit think tank, reports that the average immigrant pays \$1,800 more in taxes than he or she receives in government benefits -- a lifetime tax contribution of \$80,000 more than the immigrant's immediate descendents receive in benefits. Undocumented immigrants alone are estimated to have contributed nearly \$50 billion in federal taxes between 1996 and 2003. For more information on immigrants in America, visit www.drummajorinstitute.org.

One million more voters in 2008:

Using September 2007 Census Bureau data and projecting from 2004 voting behavior, the nonpartisan Pew Hispanic Center estimated there would be 8.6 million Hispanic voters next year — one million more than in 2004. Primaries in Texas take place in March 4, 2008. The General Election takes place Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008.

U.S. not prepared for new citizenship applications, fees triple for some:

In December, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced a backlog in the processing of applications for citizenship and immigration benefits. Newspaper reports estimate it will take 16 to 18 months to become a citizen, a process that regularly takes six months. What caused 2.5 to 3.5 million applications to flood the CIS office this summer? Immigrants tried to beat the June 30 deadline, before processing fees went up. The cost of becoming a citizen jumped from \$330 to \$595, and the cost to apply for legal residency rose from \$325 to \$930. ▽

10 Questions

with
Jose Reymundo

In 2007, Jose Reymundo joined the board of directors of Valiente, bringing a first-generation American perspective to the board and a great personality to work with. Reymundo is a former doctor, academic director and school teacher. He now works in the HIV/AIDS field and hopes to impact the local community with prevention and awareness programs.

Boletín: Why are you a member of Valiente?

Jose: “Because this gives me the opportunity to be myself, a Hispanic Gay male, and also to provide assistance and guidance to our Hispanic LGBT community in Dallas.”

Boletín: What are some projects you have worked on this past year?

Jose: “I worked with Fernie Sanchez, the president of Valiente, on putting together a Spanish workshop about coming out. The workshop was held at the Cathedral of Hope throughout September and October. We’ve also worked on a home buying seminar at the Cathedral of Hope.”

Boletín: Where are you from?

Jose: “I am originally from México. I grew up in México in a small town across the border from Texas. I moved to the United States in the 1990’s.”

Boletín: What do you miss the most?

Jose: “My family and my friends I grew up with and also a good, warm home meal.”

Boletín: What is your academic and professional background?

Jose: “I moved to México City, where I graduated from the university and I completed my medical degree and worked for a few years in Victoria City in Tamaulipas as a medical doctor. In 1990, I moved to the United States to follow one of my goals, which is to continue my medical experiences, but I started college in Richmond, Virginia, and I completed my bachelor’s degree to become a Spanish teacher (grammar and literature language). I worked for 15 years as a Spanish teacher in a high school and at a community college. Dur-



ing the summers, I was a director of a Spanish academy in Virginia. Then I moved to Dallas two years ago, where I start teaching with the Dallas Independent School District at Skyline High School for one year, but it was time for me to have a change of career so I start working with AIDS Arms, Inc.”

Boletín: What is your current profession?

Jose: “After working as an intake specialist for a year, I started a new position with AIDS Arms as a lead prevention programs coordinator.”

Boletín: Who are your heroes?

Jose: “My biggest heroine is my grandmother, who lived 102 years. She taught me about life, to enjoy every moment, and to always go to bed with a prayer or thanks if it was a good day.”

Boletín: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Jose: “I see my life, in the next 10 years, being a role model to the Hispanic community affected with HIV/AIDS.”

Boletín: What other groups are you involved with?

Jose: “At this moment I am very involved at AIDS Arms, Inc. with social activities and fundraising events in the community.”

Boletín: What are your goals with Valiente?

Jose: “To reach the Hispanic LGBT community by developing workshops, prevention programs for HIV/AIDS and recruit new members to help strengthen the organization.” ▽

TransAmerica: Latino community embraces the art of drag

This past summer, Time magazine labeled the city of Dallas as the “Lavender Heart of Texas,” for its openness toward its LGBT citizens. But recently, Dallas’ Hispanic community has embraced the art of drag in their neighborhood restaurants.

This new phenomenon, where a female impersonator is replacing the mariachi to entertain patrons, was covered by local reporter Sergio Chapa.

“I first learned about these shows when I went to eat lunch at the Taqueria La Condesa off Maple Avenue and I saw a flyer for Mimi Cassanova’s Friday night show,” said Chapa, who works for local paper Al Dia. “I went with some friends a couple weeks later. We looked around and we were the only Gay people in there!”

The restaurant was filled with straight Mexican cowboys and couples, he said.

“I couldn’t believe they enjoyed the show and were giving tips and everything. We had a good time and Mimi told me that they’ve been doing good business

in local taquerias for years.”

Chapa looked into the trend and was amazed by the number of performance groups, restaurants and the large heterosexual audiences they attracted, including children and grandmothers.

So is this a new venue to make money for hard working female impersonators or a way to win over the hearts and minds of the Latino community? Chapa said most performers do this for the love of the art.

“It’s true. They work hard and you can see it in the attention and detail they put into their outfits, choreography and shows,” he said. “The performers know they are breaking down social taboos and barriers but say they are entertainers first.”

Some performance groups have contracts with several restaurants allowing the performers to work full-time.

Chapa eventually got his front page story “Tacos y Tacones” in Al Dia, which also ran prominently on the newspaper’s website.

GLAAD, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance

Against Defamation, which works hard to promote a better image of the LGBT community, helped Chapa with proper terminology in Spanish and was so happy with the outcome that it nominated the story for a GLAAD Media Award.

“When Sergio Chapa approached us about helping with terminology for the story we were excited to work on what seems to be a unique phenomenon to the region,” said Chuy Sanchez of GLAAD. “The media outlets I met with in Houston and San Antonio were interested to see if it was happening in their local areas. They are interested in covering the story. ‘Tacos and Tacones’ is a wonderful opportunity for people to be exposed to a positive story involving the transgender community, performance and the Latino family. We had the opportunity to participate in one of the shows and it’s absolutely newsworthy. The interaction between transgender performers and families presents a wonderful dialogue about how Latinos/as receive and interact with the LGBT community.” ♡



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P.O. Box 35332 • Dallas, TX 75235

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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.

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