

STAYING CONNECTED NEWSLETTER

Roberto Maestas Honored by Seattle

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Roberto Maestas, leader and co-founder of El Centro de la Raza, passed away September 22 at age 72. Maestas was born in New Mexico in a small farming community and settled in Seattle in the 1950s. He was educated as a teacher and taught at Franklin High School before pursuing a graduate degree at the University of Washington in 1968.

At the University, he became involved with the Chicano student activism, the black freedom struggle, and farm worker organizing in the Yakima valley. Maestas led a movement for Latino rights in the 1970s, and helped form a program at South Seattle Community College for Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language (ESL) to cater to the city's growing Latino community in the early 1970s. When funding for the program was abruptly cut-off in the fall of 1972, Maestas, his fellow teachers and students, and a number of community activists peaceably occupied the abandoned Beacon Hill School and negotiated its conversion into a community center, El Centro de la Raza.

El Centro played a prominent role in local solidarity campaigns with Central America during the 1970s and 1980s. Maestas also co-founded the Minority Executive Directors' Coalition in the 1980s with fellow "Gang of Four" colleagues Bernie Whitebear, Larry Gossett, and Bob Santos.

King County Councilman Larry Gossett issued a statement saying:

"Roberto was the pre-eminent leader and political activist of our time when it comes to all the important movements for social change which have taken place in

Sonia Palma created a Power-Point presentation with a photographic celebration of Maestas' life. At the event a poem by Raul Sanchez was read:

Roberto Es El Centro

*Thunderous voice,
Friendly,
Echoes through hallways
El Centro, in the center
Building bridges, smiling
Shaking hands, shaking
spirits
His presence demands
respect
He owned his struggle*

*Civil rights fighter
Giving unconditionally
He loved the earth
Alone in the world
The dust of Saint
Augustine
Long gone
Himself a migrant farm
worker
Dug his hands*

*In this warm earth
Chicano Firme!
Your example lives
Justice now!
Justicia ahora!
Roberto contigo
La Lucha Sigue
Siempre!*

Raul Sanchez



the Pacific Northwest over the past 40 years. When Native Americans struggled for fishing rights in the late '60s and early '70s, Roberto was on the front line.

"When Black construction workers rose up in 1969 and demanded a fair share of construction jobs in our community, Roberto was there. When poor and disenfranchised Latinos organized to improve their community, Roberto was there to lead the struggle to create El Centro de La Raza."

Mayor Mike McGinn ordered flags be lowered to half staff in honor of Maestas.

A tribute to Maestas took place at the Human Rights Day celebration, December 9.

The Seattle Human Rights Commission issued Resolution No. 10-03 in recognition of the legacy of Roberto Maestas.

You can visit Roberto Maestas' Tribute website to learn more about this amazing leader and to share your experience and stories:
http://www.respectance.com/Roberto_Maestas/

The purpose of the Latino City Employees organization is to encourage professional excellence, provide resources, and to advocate the objectives of Latino City employees

Carmen Martinez receives Latino Heritage Award

The City of Seattle Latino City Employees organization awarded the Latino Heritage Award to Carmen Martinez. Mayor McGinn and Sonia Palma delivered the award during the Latino Heritage Award Reception and Celebration. McGinn and Palma were joined by Acting Deputy Superintendent of Seattle Parks and recreation Eric Friedli in praising and introducing Martinez during the sixth annual presentation.

The event took place on Thursday, October 14 at Seattle City Hall. The event began at 11:30 a.m. and was followed by The Seattle Fandango Project, sponsored by Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs.



Martinez is a Recreation Program Specialist with the Seattle Parks and Recreation department. Martinez works at the South Park Community Center and is a South Park resident. She has been a member of the South Park Community Center for over 10 years.

Martinez is a model supervisor for various programs throughout South Park and is recognized by the South Park Community as a valuable asset to the Community Center because of her unique ability to continuously encourage and appropriately guide not only her colleagues but also her program participants. Her work is focused on youth development. Martinez has become the "life line" for many kids in the community.

"She is always looking for new and innovative ways to offer educational yet engaging programs to her site

and has established a reputation for creativity and originality when it comes to quality program planning", said Jacque Larrainzar.

The Latino Heritage Award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the Seattle Latino community by displaying leadership, initiative, creativity and dedication. Through their contributions, award recipients inspire others to be involved in the Latino community and make a difference.

Congratulations, Carmen!



A fun book to read: "Damas, Dramas, and Ana Ruiz" by Belinda Acosta, a Quinceañera Club Novel

Recipe Corner: Sopa Paraguaya



Despite the title, this recipe is not a soup. It is actually a hearty cornbread, flavored with cheese and onions. In Paraguay it is traditionally served as an accompaniment to soups and grilled meats, but it also makes a great addition to the breakfast or brunch table.

Ingredients:

8 tablespoons butter
1 large sweet onion, finely chopped
1 cup farmer or cottage cheese

1 cup grated muenster cheese
2 cups cornmeal
2 cups corn kernels, grated
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup milk
6 eggs, separated

Directions:

1. Heat half the butter in a skillet and cook the onions over moderate heat until tender but not brown
2. Set aside
3. Combine the remaining butter with the farmer's or cottage cheese and mix until thoroughly combined
4. Add the Muenster, onions, cornmeal, corn, salt, mil, egg yolks and mix thoroughly
5. Beat the egg whites until soft peaks form and fold them into the batter

6. Pour the batter into a greased and floured 10" by 13" (25 cm x 30 cm) baking pan and bake in a preheated 400F (200C) oven for 45 to 55 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.



LCE 2010 Accomplishments

2010 was a year of transition for our City. Facing a difficult budget situation people were worried and sometimes unable to participate in many extra-curricular activities. Nevertheless, LCE continued to work toward maintaining a link with Latino colleagues. Among LCE's accomplishments this past year we can count:

1. As part of the "Coalition of City Affinity Groups", LCE contributed to the Seattle Police Department's restructuring of RSJI practices and training
2. Staffed and provided outreach

at Latino Events such as Hispanic Seafair, Dia de los Muertos

3. Continued fostering relationships with other organizations, such as El Centro de la Raza
4. Collaborated with other City Affinity groups on the SMT Ethnic Art Gallery and the Summer Picnic
5. Partnered with the Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs to host the 2010 Latino Heritage Award Ceremony
6. Paid tribute to Roberto Maestas during the Human Rights Day celebration event sponsored by Seattle Office for Civil Rights on December 9, 2010

7. Delivered weekly e-news and published quarterly newsletters to membership and supporters

8. Created a Facebook page
9. Promoted community volunteer opportunities
10. Jointly with HOLA members, offered ongoing bi-weekly Spanish Speaking lunches

Thanks to everyone who participated!

The National Urban League Turns 100!



The National Urban League celebrated its 100th anniversary at the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle's 11th annual benefit breakfast on December 3, 2010. The event

was held at the Washington State Convention Center with the theme "I AM EMPOWERED."

The event keynote speaker was esteemed public intellectual Dr. Cornel West.

The Urban League's mission is "through public advocacy, providing services and developing strong business and community partnerships, the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle will strive to empower, enable, and assist African Americans, other people of color and disadvantaged individuals in becoming self-sufficient."

The League provides services through five departments: Educa-

tion, Employment, Housing, Youth Initiatives and the Contractor Development and Competitiveness Center.

Services include after-school tutoring and children's programs, youth violence prevention, employment placement and counseling, first-time homebuyers counseling and financial literacy workshops, and business operations training and support services for historically underutilized contractors.

The Seattle Department of Transportation hosted a table at the event and LCE's Sonia Palma attended.

*Peruvian writer
Mario Vargas
Llosa received
the 2010 Nobel
Prize in
Literature*

Upcoming events

LCE Quarterly Membership Meeting

March 3, June 2, Sept. 1, Dec. 1
Noon—1:00 p.m.
SMT 2750

Spanish Speaking Lunch

Learning Spanish: Tuesdays
Conversational Spanish: Thursdays
Noon—1:00 p.m.
2nd floor, Columbia Tower
Tables outside the Complete Office Solutions store.

4 Seconds to Death!

Inquest into the Shooting death of John T.

Williams

January 10-14, 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
King County Courthouse
401 5th Avenue, Seattle

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration 2011

January 13, Noon
5th Avenue Theater
1308 5th Avenue, Seattle

Shadows, Raincoats and Monsters

Dance Company Whim W/Him
January 14-16
Intiman Theater
201 Mercer Street, Seattle Center

Seattle Latino/a Networking Professionals Meet-up Group

February 16, 6:00 p.m.
Hyatt at Olive 8
1635 8th Avenue, Seattle

For additional information on all LCE events, visit our website:
http://inweb.ci.seattle.wa.us/LCE/LCE_Events.htm

Find us on Facebook: Latino City Employees



Latino/Hispanic Q4 Holidays

Date	Originating Country	Celebration Name	Tradition Description
October 12	U.S. Latin America	Día de la Raza, Day of Our Race, Columbus Day	La Raza refers to mixed race. The celebration of Columbus' arrival to the Americas is met with mixed opinion in the Hispanic/Latino culture. Some view it as tragic and some celebrate their mixed heritage
October 18	Peru	Señor de Los Milagros, Our Lord of Miracles, The Holiday of the Purple Christ	The celebration stems from a 1746 earthquake that destroyed Lima, Peru, but left standing a painting of the Purple Christ. Today, Peruvian-Americans celebrate this holiday in New York and Patterson, New Jersey with outdoor food festivals, street processions, and masses
November 2	Mexico, Central America	El Día de los Muertos, Day of the Dead, All Souls' Day	On this day, it is said that the spirits of the dead come back for family reunions. The families honoring their dead set up altars in their homes or visit their loved-one's cemetery plot and decorate it with food, flowers, and candles
November 19	Puerto Rico	The feast of Nuestra Señora de la Divina Providencia, Our Lady of Divine Providence	A story is told that seven formerly wealthy merchants vowed poverty and service to God and prayed to be fed. Two baskets of food appeared at their door and they attributed the miracle to the Virgin of Divine Providence. The virgin is Puerto Rico's principal religious icon. At the church of Saint Barbara in Brooklyn, NY, a statue of the virgin is on permanent display
November 20	Mexico	Revolution of 1910 Anniversary	On this date the Mexicans revolted against dictator Porfirio Díaz. The revolution resulted in one million Mexicans dead and another million immigrated to the United States
December 12	Mexico	Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe, Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe	The Lady of Guadalupe, is the patron saint of the North Americas, a symbol of marriage of European and Indian blood and beliefs. Through the years, she has also stood for cultural affirmation, political unity, and freedom from oppression
December 16-24	Latin America, Spain	Las Posadas o Novenas	The celebration commemorates Mary and Joseph's search for a place to stay in Bethlehem. During this time, family and friends visit one another and enjoy traditional foods and singing
December 24 and 25	Latin America, Spain	La Nochebuena and Navidad, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day	Latinos celebrate Christmas Eve and Christmas attending midnight mass, preparing elaborate meals, and decorating the home along with lighting luminaries (outdoor Christmas lanterns with candles in paper bags)

A million thanks to Virgie Wehr for her contributions to LCE as she steps down from the leadership team. A warm welcome to Cecilia Ugas-Downey as the new LCE member at large

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