

# Table Talk — Sobremesa

PART of Austin Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2017

Vol. 5.2

## Message from the Director

Greetings to all of you, dear PART Sisters, and I hope you are enjoying a relaxing – or exciting – summer.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your 2017-2019 Table Director. I have thoroughly enjoyed my participation in PART and look forward to serving as your Director. While it's a bit daunting to assume this responsibility, I have wonderful and inspiring models to follow and everyone has been supportive and encouraging. So, here we go!

In 2016, we celebrated the Centennial of the Pan American Round Tables and now we embark on our second century. We have lots of exciting plans for our upcoming biennium, and have already started to work.

First, we will be developing a mission statement for our Austin Table – a pithy statement of what we're all about. We kind of know, but we need to be able to articulate it concisely and use it to guide our actions.

Second, we are organizing to better coordinate the fundraising for our important projects – Scholarships, Special Projects and Outreach. Did you know that in the last biennium, thanks to your generous support, our Table awarded \$12,000 in Scholarships, over \$10,000 in grants to community non-profits, and over \$1000 to projects at Rodriguez Elementary school! We have a lot going on and we want to keep it up. Janet Roberts will chair this effort and you'll be hearing more about it in the fall.

Third, but really most important, we want to make sure that we are integrating our new members into the life and work of PART Austin.

We have talented, energetic women joining us each year, and we need to make sure they find a home at PART. We want each member – longtime or new - to feel welcomed, needed and appreciated.



And, we will distribute business information in writing to make the business portions of our luncheon meetings much shorter. That way, we can enjoy more of our programs and being with each other. Everyone ok with that?

Beyond those priorities are many excellent ideas and suggestions for the coming year, and I'm committed to working hard for our movement and for all of you.

And, of course, I'm committed to fun. This is a group that knows how to enjoy each other's company and we have much to celebrate.

I look forward to seeing you at our October luncheon as we begin our 2017-2018 year. In the meantime, feel free to call or e-mail me with questions, ideas or just to chat.

¡Adelante, hermanas!



## *New Officers Installed*



The installation of officers at the May luncheon was a very special occasion. These outstanding women have graciously volunteered their time to lead our organization. Pictured here are:

Assistant Treasurer – Mary Ann Meigs Historian – Martha Chapa

Past Director – Janet Roberts

Reading the Oath – Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza

Treasurer – Mary Aldrich

Corresponding Secretary - Patricia Salamian Recording Secretary – Marian Barber

Nominating Committee Chair – Maria Seidner

Not pictured: Director – Rose Ann Reeser; Associate Director – Yolanda Guerrero Goodman

Parliamentarian – Cynthia Keever.

Congratulations! We wish you a successful year!



## Special Projects Award Recipients



Patty McCabe, Julie Martinez Ballesteros, David Swincher, and Judith Dullnig accept awards for their organizations.

PART of Austin continues to support community organizations through its Special Projects. This year, PART presented awards to Casa Marianella/Posada Esperanza, Manos de Cristo, St. Louise House, Storybook Project, and BookSpring. Here, receiving their awards are Patty McCabe, Julie Martinez Ballesteros, David Swincher, and Judith Dullnig. To prepare for next year, Special Projects Chair, Alegria Hibbetts, Ann Laubach, and Cecily Rodman hosted a benefit concert for Special Projects on April 13 at the home of Ann Laubach. Anton Nel, pianist, and Mela Sarajane Daley, soprano, performed brilliantly. The event raised \$5,000!



Mela Sarajane Daley, soprano, and Anton Nel, pianist

## Austin PART Scholarships



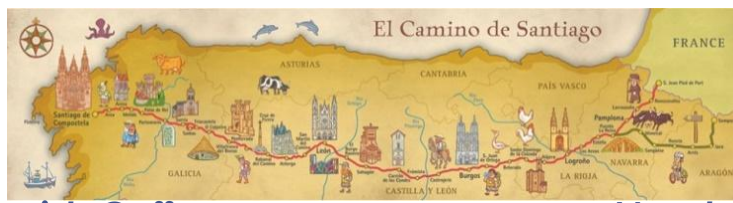
Esther Flores and Nina Hernandez accept scholarships from Janet Roberts and Mary Gawron

Each year the Pan American Round Table of Austin provides three scholarships to deserving Latin American students. The 2017 scholarships were presented at the April meeting. Scholarship Committee Chair, Mary Gawron, presented the Mitty Guerra Scholarship to Esther Flores and the Jeannie Hunter Hackett Scholarship to Nina Hernández. The Charles Wilson Hackett Scholarship was presented, in absentia, to Daniela Gomes da Silva.

Thanks to the efforts of Mary Gawron, Angie Robles and Maricarmen Nasr, students were able to complete and submit the scholarship applications online through our website. As expected, with the online applications easier to access and process, the number of applicants increased this year. We have moved to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!







## Spanish Coffees

At the January coffee, Martha Cotera spoke about *Tejanas en la Guerra de la Independencia de Texas y Mexico*. In February, Rose Potter—UTeach professor at UT—talked about success in college. Then, in March, Elizabeth



Miriam Ward

Gunz gave a presentation on Art in Latin America. The April coffee featured a great presentation by member Miriam Ward about her one-month pilgrimage along the Camino de

Santiago in Spain. She not only brought pictures and the clothing she wore, but also some wonderful stories of places and people she met along the way. Many of us were ready to pack up and go!

## Membership Meetings

At the January meeting, Victoria de Francesco Soto, PhD presented a fascinating analysis of the 2016 Election.

In February, Dr. Virginia Garrard-Burnett educated us on Human Rights in Guatemala.

In March, Laura Donnelly talked about Latinitas' Media and Technology Youth Programs. Our April meeting was packed full of activities – Pan American Day Celebration, Scholarship Awards and introduction of New



Victoria de Francesco Soto

Members. In May, Special Projects Awards were presented and new Officers were installed. Don't miss out on these great events!



Virginia Garrard-Burnett



Janet Roberts confers honorary membership to Beatriz de la Garza, who will soon move to New Mexico.



### **Welcome New Members!**

PART was pleased to welcome new members at the April meeting. Membership Committee Chair, Maline McCalla, introduced:

- Rosalía Castañeda (former Executive Director of AVANCE)
- María Gertrudis Escobar (retired educator from Corpus Christi and sister of Ines García)
- Rachel Ruiz (formerly with Communities in Schools)
- Irma Gutierrez (formerly with the Public Policy Committee of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and sister of Laura Gutierrez-Witt)
- Deloise Vazquez (lifetime educator and current member of St. Edward's Master singers).

Not pictured is Rosie Reyna, who transferred to our table last March after moving to the Austin area.



### **Rodriguez Elementary School**

Eighty-five fifth graders graduated from Rodriguez Elementary School in May. To help introduce them to careers they might never have considered for themselves and to stress the importance of staying in school, PART Austin worked with the school faculty and staff to present "CAREER DAYS". Over four days in late May, the students heard from scientists, language interpreters, police officers, a veterinarian, many different kinds of engineers, a foreign service officer, and a master auto technician. The kids designed towers and hovercraft, got to know their campus police officers, appreciated the benefits of being bilingual and learned about being diplomats in their daily lives.

Many of our PART sisters volunteered their own expertise, time and money to make this event a great success again this year. Special thanks to Mary Aldrich, Rosalia Castaneda, Mary Gawron, Yolanda Goodman, Carol Hayman, Margie Kidd, Mary Ann Palka, Rosie Reyna, Linda Rivera, and Janet Roberts. Helping with Career Days is a great way to see PART in action and to get to know some of your PART sisters. Join us next May!

*Rose Ann Reeser and Sylvia Williams*

*Pan American Outreach Co-Chairs 2015-2017*





## Pan American Day

We had another festive Pan American Day celebration at the April membership meeting. Thanks to the organizing efforts of the Pan American Day Committee, we were treated to music by a lovely family mariachi band, including a charming little violinist.

As usual, there were many beautiful traditional costumes to be seen.



Esther Diaz,  
Connie Cantú,  
Maricarmen Nasr

Angela Bracken, Laura Gutierrez-Witt, Martha Chavez, María Gertrudis Escobar, guest.



Gloria Munguía,  
Denise Foester, Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza



Lala Niemeyer, Kathy Sowash





Lucinda Hutson, Yolanda Guerrero-Goodman

Ann Finch, Janet Roberts, guest



Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza, Rachel Ruiz, Sylvia Williams



American Round Table in the Texas Archives alongside the official documents of the State of Texas.

A **Texas Senate Resolution** was read and presented by Texas Senator Eddie Lucio on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 in recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pan American Round Table. A reception at the Capitol preceded the "Reading of the Resolution" and was attended by Director General Nhury Gutierrez Vilches and table members from throughout Texas. This resolution placed the Pan



THE SENATE OF TEXAS  
STATE SENATOR EDDIE LUCIO, JR.  
DISTRICT 27

Best Wishes,

*Eddie Lucio, Jr.*



# The Senate of The State of Texas

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 346

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the Pan American Round Tables of Texas on the occasion of the organization's 100th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, The Pan American Round Table Movement began in 1916 as an endeavor of Florence Terry Griswold; a truly compassionate Texan, she was determined to help the women and children who had fled Mexico and had sought refuge from the perils of revolution by making their way to San Antonio; and

WHEREAS, Pan Americanism was born as a result of the Monroe Doctrine, which was issued to protect citizens of the Western Hemisphere; the Pan American Round Table was created with a mission to foster peace, mutual understanding, knowledge, and friendship among all the people of the Western Hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Pan American Round Tables of Texas has 20 chapters across the state; members actively promote the international organization's mission of service by awarding local and statewide scholarships, and over the years, these scholarships have made a difference in the lives of countless individuals; and

WHEREAS, The Pan American Round Table has a special place in our state's unique history, and under the exemplary leadership of state director Isabel Vezzetti, the Texas chapters have contributed greatly to the international organization's success; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby commend all the members of the Pan American Round Tables of Texas for their outstanding work promoting peace and mutual understanding among the people of the Western Hemisphere and extend to them best wishes on the occasion of the organization's 100th anniversary; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for this organization as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Lucio



Dan Rutch  
President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the  
above Resolution was adopted by  
the Senate on April 18, 2017.

Patsey Saw  
Secretary of the Senate

Eddie Lucio, Jr.  
Member, Texas Senate



## **Dues Are Due**

Our annual dues are \$60, with \$10 designated for scholarships and \$10 designated for special projects. The remaining \$40 supports Rodriguez School activities, PART of Texas, the Alliance and the Texas Florence Terry Griswold Scholarship, as well as administrative costs for the PART of Austin table.

If you have not paid your dues for 2017-18 yet, please do ASAP. You can pay the dues in one of three ways:

1) You can mail a check for \$60 made out to PART of Austin to:

Mary Ann Meigs  
3810 Bonnell Drive  
Austin, Texas 78731

2) You can charge the dues to your credit card over the phone at a cost of \$63. Call Mary Aldrich at 512-329-5074.

3) You can make the payment through our website at a cost of \$63:

- go to <https://austinpanam.com/>
- at the bottom of the page, on the black area next to the map, click on the link that says Pay Dues Here for 2017-2018.
- fill out the information as requested
- when you submit your payment, you will receive an email confirmation as your receipt.

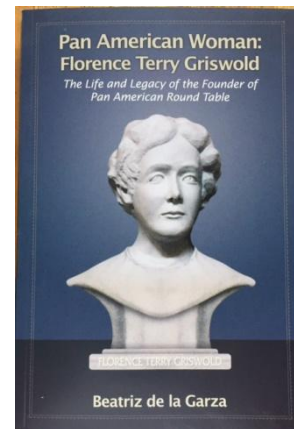
We thank you for your continued support of PART's mission.

## **PART of Austin Yearbook**

Once again, Maricarmen Nasr will be working on the yearbook over the summer. If your address, phone number or e-mail has changed, please let her know ASAP by sending e-mail to [maria.g.nasr@gmail.com](mailto:maria.g.nasr@gmail.com).

## **Purchase the Book**

If you have not yet, we encourage you to buy one or more copies of the book "Pan American Woman: Florence Terry Griswold" written by our member Beatriz de la Garza. It is a bilingual edition: English and Spanish. For information on cost and to place an order, call Mary Aldrich at 512-329-5074, or e-mail at [mlaldrich@mac.com](mailto:mlaldrich@mac.com).



## ***In Memoriam***

***Donna Johnson***

***and***

***Myra Lea Summers***

*passed away this Spring.*

*Both were sustaining members of  
PART of Austin.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with  
their families.*