

### **McAllen's Poet Laureate Welcomed at the January 2014 Meeting**

City of McAllen's Poet Laureate, Olga Valle-Herr read a selection of poems from her recent publication "Pearl Harvest." at the regular January meeting of the local Table. Hostesses for January were Becky Strong and Mariella Gorena, who entertained the members with interesting and informative facts about Chile.

### **March 2014**

The March 4th meeting was held in memory of Norma Woolsey, 1st Associate Director, who passed away suddenly on February 7th. Norma had been a long-time and loved member of the Table. Lily Torrez gave a eulogy in her memory, while white candles were lit. Sylvia Alanis was elected as 1st Associate Director to take Norma's place.

The meeting was hosted by Ambarina Barrera and Eva Campos, whose program was on Costa Rica. Guest speaker was Lily Torrez, who shared a power point presentation of photos taken of those attending the Alliance convention held in Costa Rica in 2010. Table decorations of "carretas de Sarchi" brought from Costa Rica, were provided by the hostesses.

## PART Upper Valley Tables Celebrate Pan American Observance Day April 12, 2014

The Upper Valley Tables enjoyed planning and hosting their traditional celebration of Pan American Day on April 12th at the McAllen Country Club. This year's main hostesses were members of the ASJP Table, who provided creative table decorations that perfectly complemented the chosen theme: *"Connecting the Women of the Americas Through Education"*. Table Director Maria Elena Corona presided. Entertainment, consisting of a Tango and Mexican dance numbers, was provided by the Edinburg members. Their selected guest speaker was Dr. Ida Acuña, whose topic was on Education. Not to be outdone were members of the RGC-Roma Table, who presented a spectacular display of flags, all decked out in their colorful countries-of-the-Americas costumes. McAllen was in charge of the invitations and program. Special guests attending were State Director Lana Harper, ex Alliance Directors General Peggy Clark and Carmen Guerra, Alliance Corresponding Secretary, Margot A. Gonzalez, representing Alliance Director General Elsie Pérez, Area C Director Isabel Vezzeti, State Treasurer Norma Linda Castellano, State Parliamentarian Ina Pool and State Publications Chairman Lily Torrez. Table Directors and members from the Lower Valley Tables; Brownsville I and II and San Benito-Harlingen also joined in the festivities.



*Host Table Directors with State Director Lana Harper (in blue) are: (l-r) Marcia Atwood-Edinburg, Bersave Salazar-RGC/Roma, Mandy Pena-McAllen, and Maria Elena Corono-ASJP*



*Centerpieces created by Gloria Cantu and the ASJP Table members.*



*Mandy Peña with Area C Director Isabel Vezzeti from Brownsville I.*



*Dr. Ida Acuña guest speaker*



*McAllen Table members from left, Iris Treviño, Irma Zavaleta and Yolanda McCarty.*



*Other McAllen Table members from the left, Elizabeth Perkins, Sandra Brown and Norma Ornelas.*



*A spectacular flag presentation was provided by the Rio Grande City/Roma Table members, shown here with State Director Lana Harper (center), dressed in their "costumes of the Americas".*



Special guests with McAllen Table Director Mandy Peña are: Norma Linda Castellano-State Treasurer, Lily Torrez-State Publications Chairman and Ina Pool-State Parliamentarian. In the second picture are: Lily Torrez, Peggy Clark-former Alliance Director General, Margo A. Gonzalez-Alliance Corresponding Secretary, Carmen Guerra-Former Alliance Director General and Mandy.



Alamo-San Juan-Pharr was the main Host Table Members from left are: Raquel García, Mary Bard, Angelita Cantú, Gloria Cantú, State Director Lana Harper, Maria Elena Corona, Hilda Adame, Estela Villegas, Blanca Garza and Delia Soza.



Edinburg Table. Front row: Margo Arevalo Gonzalez, Herminia Martinez, Victoria Martinez, Marcia Atwood, Lydia Chavana, Dolley Flores. Second Row: Tula Gonzalez, Rory Gonzalez, Ida Acuna, Speaker, Fran Barela, Keeley Lewis, Berta Estevis, Mary Margaret Perez, Blanca Garza, Consuelo Carrales, Soledad Guzman, Yolanda Garza, and Tuts Curl.



## *Pan American Round Table of McAllen*

### *Scholarship Awards for 2014 Presented May 6, 2014*



Three outstanding students from McAllen High Schools were honored at the May 6, 2014 meeting of the Pan American Round Table of McAllen. The P.A.R.T. Scholarship Committee, chaired by Violette Metz, worked assiduously to select Kassandra Guajardo of McAllen Memorial High School, Brando Lujan from McAllen High School, and Rosa Mejia from Nikki Rowe High School. Miss Guajardo and Mr. Luhan each gave a brief presentation to members on their accomplishments and their plans for the future. Miss Mejia was unfortunately unable to attend.

PHOTO: left to right, Brando Lujan of McAllen High School, PART Scholarship Chairman Violette Metz, Kassandra Guajardo of McAllen Memorial High School, Committee member Charlene Hertz, PART Director Mandy Peña, and Committee member Sylvia Alanis. Not shown is Rosa Mejia, recipient from Nikki Rowe High School.

## McAllen Table History September 2, 2014

The 2014-2015 year started with a business luncheon on September 2 with Table Director Mandy Pena, presiding. In her report of the Table Directors' meeting held in August in San Antonio, Lily Torrez State Publications Chairman, informed the members of the Executive Board's decision to develop a documentary about the organization, on a State level and to try to have it done by the upcoming State Convention in Laredo in April, 2015, or by the time of the Alliance Convention to be held in San Antonio, commemorating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was initially estimated, that about \$32,000 would be needed to fund the project.

McAllen Table members donated close to \$500, at this meeting, however a goal was set to collect \$1000, from our Table, to help defray the cost of the documentary.

A picture of the group was taken.





***McAllen Table Celebrates 80 Years of History on Founder's Day October, 8, 2014.***

The Table celebrated its 80th anniversary in conjunction with Founder's Day at this meetin. The main speaker for the occasion was Area C, 1st Associate Director Isabel Vezzeti, who brought very interesting stories from her research of the PARTT Archives. Eleven long-standing members of 25 years or more, were honored and recognized with a yellow rose and a gold certificate from the State and signed by State Director Lana Harper.



Seated l-r are: Mary Lou Treviño (26 yrs.), Alice Tavares (49 yrs.), Dardanela Cárdenas (49 yrs.), Kay Moffitt (27 yrs.), Standing: Joyce Smith (26 yrs.), Pam Friend (29 yrs.), Alice Tavares (30 yrs.) and Yolanda Barrera (30 yrs.).

Not present were: Berta Guerra (43 yrs.), Carmen Guerra (44 yrs.), and Maria Teresa Garza (48 yrs.).

At this meeting, the final funding of \$1000 was collected from the membership to contribute to the development of the State documentary.

Founder's Day October, 8, 2014 (continued)



Members Alice Tavares and Dardanela Cardenas, who were, each, honored for their 49 years of active membership in the McAllen Table, cut the Table's 80th birthday cake.



Dardanela Cardenas (right) and Alice Tavares (both with 49 years of membership) with Area C Director Isabel Vezzetti



Founder's Day October, 8, 2014 (continued)



Kathe Tavares-30 years, on the right and Joy Smith-26 years, with Isabel Vezzetti



Mary Lou Trevino (on the right) – 26 years and Kay Moffitt – 27 years.



Founder's Day October, 8, 2014 (continued)



Pam Friend and Isabel Vezzetti



Yolanda Barrera and Isabel Vezzetti

## XXXIV Alliance Convention Oct. 7-12, 2014

### Lima, Perú

The Texas Delegation attended the Memorial Service at the Convention. Shown, front and center, are Alliance Director General Elsie Perez, with Zone I Director Martha Stumbo and State Director Lana Harper.



In the picture below are Ciara Pérez (Edinburg) on the left, three unnamed attendees, Mandy Peña (McAllen) with Elsie Pérez, Josie Cappadona (Edinburg) and Sylvia Alanis (McAllen).





## November 4, 2014 Program Meeting

A very interesting program on the Dominican Republic was presented by Mrs. Sylvia Karam and her daughter, who had visited the island on numerous occasions. Hostesses were Norma Ornelas and Nancy Cosby. Following the program, an induction of three new members was carried out. Shown below are the new members.



New members Alicia Martinez and Emma Salinas, on the right, Table Director Mandy Peña, new member Graciela Cobo, with 1st Associate Director Sylvia Alanis and Parliamentarian Alma De La Garza, who helped with the induction ceremony.

## December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 Mother/Daughter luncheon

The annual Mother/Daughter luncheon was held, with numerous daughters and other guests being present. Speakers for the occasion were Attys. Kin Leo and Kristen Rees, who gave a very informative and interesting revelation on "Immigration/Human Trafficking and its Effects on Women and Children involved".

The "Sweet Adelines" were again on hand to prepare us for the coming Christmas season, with their very enjoyable Christmas Carol renditions.



Shelly with Mom Becky Strong



The "Sweet Adelines"



Laura with Mom Bertha Hinojosa



Eva with Mom-in-law Alice Tavaréz



Kay Moffet in center with daughters-in-law



Ana Maria Moon with daughter Anita



Monica with Mom-in-law Bertha Martínez



Member Yolanda Bararer, third from left with her sister on the left, followed by daughter Victoria and her daughter-in-law



Marissa with Mom Raquel Oliva



Guest Jennifer with Maria Elena Martínez



Dilia Pérez & daughter-in-law Monique

Daughter Audrie, Daughter-in-law Sasha, member BB Crane and daughter-in-law Crane.



Speakers Sylvia Karam and her daughter.





## **January 6, 2015 Meeting**

Dilia Pérez and Carola Chapa served as hostess for the regular **January meeting** with a video presentation of Ecuador. The tables were decorated with red roses and yellow and white daisies, depicting the colors of the country. Maria Luisa Castillo, a native of Ecuador and long-time Texas resident, graciously shared numerous items for display, from her extensive collection of beautiful artifacts from that country.

A straw vote was taken for a new slate of officers for the coming biennium and Director Mandy Peña appointed a nominating committee, headed by Carmen Guerra, with assistance by Dardanella Cárdenas and Lily Tórrez.



Shown, from left to right: Leticia Peña, long-time friend of Ecuadoran artifacts owner Mrs. Castillo, hostess Dilia Pérez, Maria Luisa Castillo (guest), Mandy Peña Table Director and program co-hostess Carola Chapa.

## **February 3, 2015**

State Director Lana Harper was the special, honored guest at the **February meeting**. She shared news about the upcoming state convention in Laredo, to be held in March, and encouraged all to attend.

The Nominating Committee made up of Chairman Carmen Guerra, Dardanella Cárdenas and Lily Tórrez, announced the following slate of officers for 2015-2017: All were nominated by acclamation.

Table Director:	Sylvia Alanis
1 <sup>st</sup> Associate Director:	Mariella Gorena
2 <sup>nd</sup> Associate Director:	Carola Chapa
Recording Secretary:	Raquel Oliva
Assistant Recording Secretary:	Maria Hernandez
Treasurer:	Irma Zavaleta
Assistant Treasurer:	Yolanda McCarty
Corresponding Secretary:	Adelina Garza

Elizabeth Perkins and Sandra Brown served as hostesses and presented a program on El Salvador. The meal served consisted of a cabbage salad, turkey and sweet potatoes, with a delicious Tres Leches cake for dessert.

**March 28, 2015**

### **Observance Day Celebration – Upper Valley Tables**



Standing (l-r): Herminia Martínez-Edinburg, Anna Ramos-RGC/Roma, Raquel García-ASJP, Zoila Pérez and Yolanda Gonzalez-RGC/Roma, Deanna L. Ramírez and Sylvia Alanis-McAllen. Seated (l-r): Edinburg Director Marcia Atwood, ASJP Director María Elena Corona, Immediate Past Director General Elsie Pérez, Bersavé Salazar RGC/Roma Director and McAllen Table Director Mandy Peña.

Officers from the four Upper Valley Tables met throughout the past few months to prepare for a Pan American Observance Day celebration, to take place on March 28, 2015, at the McAllen Country Club. The theme selected was “A Sweet Fragrance of Friendship”.



Edinburg Table Director Marcia Atwood whose Table hosted the event, led the meetings.

The RGC/Roma Table sent out the invitations and also handled the raffle, while ASJP performed the presentation of flags.

Felipe T. Alanis, former Texas Commissioner of Education and the first Hispanic to serve in that role, graciously accepted the McAllen Table's invitation to address the group. Mr. Alanis currently serves as a Senior Partner with Waterford School Services. His talk on "Friendship", very appropriately chosen, was followed by lively entertainment provided by a Folkloric Dance Team from the Parks and Recreation Department of Edinburg.



Tables were gaily decorated with pink napkins on white table cloths and adorned with bird-cage centerpieces, giving the room the atmosphere of a fresh, spring day. The menu consisted of Crepes, wild rice and julienned vegetables wrapped with a carrot strip.

Representatives from numerous Tables from throughout the State, including State Director Lana Harper and three guests from Matamoros were on hand to help make the celebration a great success.



Attending Observance Day celebration – standing l-r: Irma Zavaleta, Mandy Pena, Adelina Garza, Marsha Graham, Sylvia Alanis, Raquel Oliva. Seated: Carmen Guerra, State Director Lana Harper, Past Director General Elsie Perez, Charlene Hertz and Lily Torrez.



**TULA B. SANCHEZ** – Tula B. Sanchez, 79, was called by our Lord on March 25, 2015. Tula attended Holding Institute in Laredo Texas, graduated from Mission High School and held a Bachelor's degree from Pan American College, studying Education and Music. Her love of music and the arts was shown through by her lifelong contributions to the Pan American Roundtable of McAllen, the International Museum of Art & Science Guild, the McAllen Child Study Club, the International Woman's Board, the Octet Choir at Pan American College, and her service as a pianist to El Mesias Methodist Church in Mission Texas. Those who had the pleasure of enjoying her fantastic home cooking, will miss the variety of favorite meals she prepared. She was a loving wife to her husband R.P. "Bob" Sanchez for 55 years, who survives her and a devoted mother. She is also by 3 children, seven grandchildren, her brother Cayetano Barrera M.D., and sister Aida Torres.

Numerous Pan American sisters from the McAllen and Edinburg Tables, who had, earlier, attended the Pan American Observance Day were on hand to say goodbye at her funeral mass, was held at at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in McAllen. Tula had converted to Catholicism just a few years before her death.

**April 7, 2015**

### **Business/Program/Luncheon Meeting**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and the Collect, Director Mandy Peña asked for a moment of silence for member Tula Sanchez and former member Sandra Imhoof, who both passed away recently. Amber Barrera read the minutes of the previous meeting and the roll call for Recording Secretary Patti Myers, who was not present.



Iris Trevino & Adelina Garza

A report on Observance Day Celebration was given. A total of 43 attended, including three ladies from the Matamoros Table.

The program was on Grenada, hosted by Iris Treviño and Adelina Garza. They presented a video about the beautiful country of Grenada and provided a display of the different spices, being that the Island of Grenada is called the "Spice Island". Beautiful magenta bougainvillea centerpieces were used as the table decorations.

Announcements made were of the upcoming State Convention in Laredo, the Observance Day celebration hosted by Brownsville I and II and San Benito, on April 25 at Golden Palms in Harlingen.

Member Nancy Cosby resigned. She will be moving to Austin, TX.

**PART State Convention**  
**“Laredo – Gateway to the Americas”**  
**La Posada Hotel - Laredo, Texas April 9-12, 2015**



Dressed in festive costumes for Pan American Night are: from left: Lily Torrez, Yolanda Barrera, Frances Metcalf, Sylvia Alanis, Mandy Peña, Hortensia Pacheco, Mariella Gorena, Charlene Hertz, Carmen Guerra and Baudelia Crane



Nine members from the McAllen Table attended the state convention in Laredo, Texas. State Publications Chairman Lily Torrez attended the Board dinner held at the hotel on the 9<sup>th</sup> and the rest were on hand for the general meetings from the 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Those attending were Table Director Mandy Peña, 1<sup>st</sup> Associate Director and incoming Table Director Sylvia Alanis, former Alliance Director General Carmen Guerra, past state Scholarship Chairman Baudelia Crane, Yolanda Barrera, Hortensia Pacheco, incoming 1<sup>st</sup> Assoc. Director Mariela Gorena and Charlene Hertz. Former McAllen Table member Frances Metcalf was also a part of the group



Mandy giving her Table report at the general business meeting



Sylvia Alanis and Mandy Peña served as delegates



Lily Tórrez reporting on the publication of the newsletter. Lily will serve as the State Electronics Communications Chairman for 2015-2017



### **May 2015, Business Meeting – McAllen Country Club**

The main order of business for the May meeting was the awarding of scholarships and induction ceremony for incoming officers for 2015-2017.



Outgoing President, Mandy Pena, Irma Zavaleta, Raquel Oliva, Carol Chapa, Mariella Gorena, Incoming President Sylvia Alanis

Long-time member Yolanda Barrera performed the induction ceremony for the new officers for the coming biennium by presenting each of them with a bouquet of flowers and reminding them of their duties. They are as follows:

#### **Incoming Officers:**

Table Director	Sylvia Alanis
1 <sup>st</sup> Associate Director:	Mariella Gorena
2 <sup>nd</sup> Associate Director:	Carola Chapa
Recording Secretary:	Raquel Oliva
Assistant Recording Secretary:	Maria Hernandez
Treasurer:	Irma Zavaleta
Assistant Treasurer:	Yolanda McCarty
Corresponding Secretary:	Adelina Garza
Parliamentarian	Mandy Pena



After recognizing and thanking all officers and table members for their help in keeping the meetings and table business running smoothly in spite of her illness early on, and the subsequent death of 1<sup>st</sup> Associate Director, Norma Woolsey, outgoing Table Director Mandy Peña gave a report on the State Convention held in Laredo in early April. She announced the new slate of state officers and new State Electronics Communications Chairman from McAllen, Lily Torrez. She also reported on the Lower Valley Observance Day, stating that each of the four Tables had made \$250 profit from the raffle, etc. She also reported that she and Hortensia Pacheco had attended the Lower Valley Observance Day in San Benito.

New member Alma Rosa Revez was introduced

Special guests for this business meeting were the scholarship recipients for 2015, their parents and counselors Evelyn Ramos - McAllen High School Counselor; Maryiel Garcia – Nikki Rowe High School Counselor and Isela Herrera – Memorial High School Counselor.

Scholarship Chairman, Charlene Hertz, introduced the three scholarship recipients, who each will be awarded \$2,000. Other members of the committee were Sylvia Alanis, Deanna L. Ramirez and Graciela Cobo.



Picture left to right: Sonia Alonso- mother of Juan Alonso Barcena, Evaristo Garza, Nicolasa Garza Evaristo & Evaristo Garza Jr. Parents of Valeria Garza, Noe Rodriguez - scholarship recipient, his mother Neri Rodriguez and stepfather Mario Quintanilla, Outgoing President Mandy Pena, Sylvia Alanis and Charlene Hertz, Scholarship Committee Chairman.

**Scholarship Recipients:**

Juan Alonso Barcena from McAllen High School, was not present), He plans to major in bio-medicine and be a surgeon.

Valeria Garza, scholarship recipient from Memorial High School, was not present. She will major in pre-med.

Noe Rodriguez - scholarship recipient from Nikki Rowe High School. He also plans to major in Bio-medicine.

Newly elected Director Sylvia Alanis asked members to sign up for a committee of their choice for the coming biennium and scheduled a transitional meeting for elected outgoing and incoming officers, as well as their assistants and for appointed officers.

**May 11, 2015**

**Transitional Meeting of Incoming Officers,  
Appointed members and Committees**



Seated around the table L-R: Mariella Gorena, Carola Chapa, Deanna Ramirez, Marcia Ingram, Mandy Pena, Raquel Oliva, Mary Hernandez, Jane Hereford, Lily Torrez and Leticia Pena. Standing L-R: Irma Zavaleta, Patti Mayers, Sylvia Alanis, Adelina Garza

Continues on next page.....



**August, 2015**

**PART Directors' and State Officers' Meeting in San Antonio**



**Edinburg, Alamo-San Juan-Pharr  
and McAllen Table Representatives**



L-R: Herminia Martinez, Gloria Cantu, Mary Bard, Gloria Garcia,  
Mariella Gorena, Sylvia Alanis.

Seated: Carmen Guerra and Lily Torrez

## September, 2015 Business Meeting



## October 6, 2015 Founder's Day



Standing L-R: Irma Zavaleta, Mariella Gorena, Carmen Guerra, Sylvia Alanis, Raquel Oliva, Carola Chapa. Seated: Sylvia Cardenas, Rosa Alma Rosa R evesz, Sister Norma Pimentel, Jane Hereford and Mary Hernandez

The Pan American Round Table of McAllen celebrated Founder's Day on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the McAllen Country Club. State Director Isabel Vezzetti from the Brownsville 1 Table and PART Members from several Rio Grande Valley Tables attended. The guest speaker was Sister Norma Pimentel, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley. Sister Norma gave a presentation on the plight of immigrant families and unaccompanied minors fleeing Central America and the work of the Humanitarian Respite Center located at Sacred Heart Church in McAllen. The Center has assisted over 30,000 refugees in the past 16 months.



**Founder's Day speaker: Sister Norma Pimentel**  
**Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the RGV**



**Dan Cardenas, Pianist - *Music of Mexico***  
**Founder's Day Entertainment**



**Special Guests at Founder's Day Celebration**



Seated L-R: Sylvia Cardenas and Alma Rosa Revesz (volunteers at Respite Center), Sister Norma Pimentel, Brownsville Table I Director Isabel Vezzeti, Dolly Flores from Edinburg. Standing L-R: Carmen Guerra (past Director General) Maria E. Yzaguirre from Bownsville Table I and Herminia Martinez, Edinburg Table Director



**November, 2015 Business/Program Meeting**  
**Featured Program: Guatemala**



Sylvia Alanis, Table Director, Violette Metz and Minnie Lanham (program Chairmen)  
with Guatemala Consul Alan Perez and guest in the center.



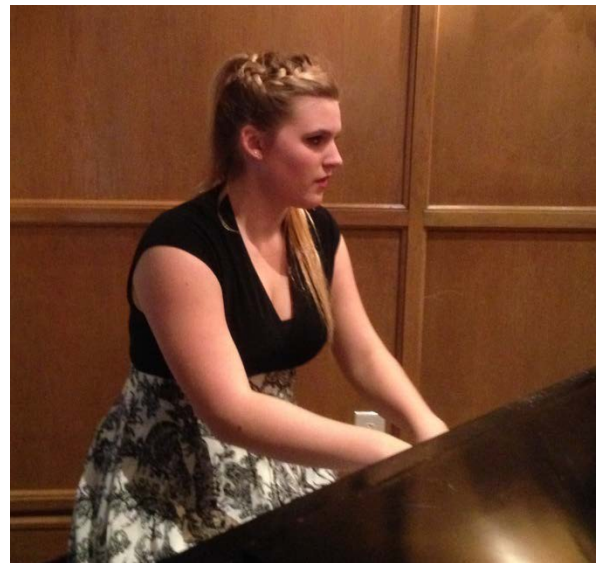
November Induction of new member, Alma Revesz  
presented with a pin by Carola Chapa, Membership Chairman

**December 1, 2015**  
**Mother/Daughter Luncheon**

***PART McAllen members donate to Humanitarian Respite Center.***



Raquel Oliva, Carola Chapa, Mariella Gorena and Sylvia Alanis with Guest Speaker, Bennie Thompson (center), who presented a Christmas poem, "The Unexpected Guest" by Edwin Markham.



Entertainment was presented by  
Aliya Peterson, Pianist, UT-RGV



Donation to the Respite Center presented by Carola Chapa to volunteer workers, Sylvia Cardenas and Alma Rosa Revesz

[Return to McAllen Homepage...](#)