



**PAN AMERICAN ROUND TABLE I
OF
BROWNSVILLE**

Activities of PART Brownsville I
2015-2017

I was installed Director of PART Brownsville I on June 5, 2015 at Valley International Country Club. Conducting the installation was past Alliance Director General Elsie Perez. Immediately after the installation, I conducted the remainder of the meeting. The first item of business was election of Chairmen of the Standing Committees for the next biennium. The following item of business was election of Chairmen of the Special Committees. I was appreciative of the support I received from the members who had accepted their responsibilities of leadership. Their continued dedication throughout this term has been very gratifying.

The summer reprieve from regular monthly meetings was busy nonetheless as we planned and organized for the start of the new PART year. The PARTT Workshop held at the San Antonio Marriott NW on August 15, was extremely helpful. This event was organized and conducted by State Director Isabel Vezzetti, a member of our Table. Procedures and guidelines for all the responsibilities of each Round Table as well as for their Directors were covered. The notebook with this information provided to us has been much appreciated. I have referred to this book many times during my tenure.

Our kickoff luncheon meeting was October 2, 2015, at Camille Playhouse. Lourdes Deytz presented the program on Guatemala, which featured costumes, music, and power point pictures of the country. We enjoyed eating the Guatemalan cuisine. This is a practice that we have continued throughout the term, serving food typical of the featured country of the meeting. We had members attending this event as well as special guests, the Consulate and Vice Consulate of Guatemala. We all posed for a group picture.

Our 83rd Birthday Party, chaired by Irene Gulley, was November 5, 2017, at Casa Grande at Rancho Viejo Country Club. Many members of other Area C Tables joined us at this celebration luncheon, which featured music performed by guitar students from University of Texas RGV, a raffle, and a loteria game. Each attendee was given a "Memories" program with the history of our Table and pictures of all past Directors.

On December 4, 2016, our luncheon meeting was held at Gourmet Central, the location of all subsequent monthly meetings. Suzanne Champion presented the program on Haiti, a country in which she had spent twenty-four adventurous hours several years before. New members Maria Eugenia Ponce and Sylvia Villalobos were welcomed and presented with three roses representing knowledge, understanding and friendship.

Two days later, December 6, we held a Silver Tea at the Brownsville Historical Museum and Stillman House. Chaired by Normalinda Castellano, this event was a fund raiser for our Scholarship Fund. Our members dressed in authentic costumes and guided guests as they toured grounds and buildings of the complex. Musical keyboard performance, Mexican refreshments, raffle and silent auction provided entertainment.

On January 8, 2017, Benilde Olvera presented the program on Honduras. Two guests who had grown up in Honduras also enriched the presentation.

On February 5, 2017, Lillyanna Rodriguez, who is a native of and maintains a home in Colombia, presented the program.

On March 5, 2017, Sandra Maxwell presented the program on Mexico, the focus of which was

Pan American Observance Day was an extraordinarily exciting event on April 3, 2017. A joint luncheon celebration at the McAllen Country Club was hosted by all the Area C Tables. Alliance Director General Maria Eva Manzarraga was present as was State Director Isabel Vezzetti. After this luncheon many of us proceeded to Laredo for the rededication of the plaque on the International Bridge that commemorates the work of the Pan American Round Table.

On May 6, 2017, Maria V. Garza presented her program on Panama at our luncheon meeting. A frequent traveler there, she had much to share with us.

Our annual Scholarship Luncheon was held on June 3, 2016. We awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to deserving graduating seniors from Brownsville who will be attending college in Texas in the fall. Graciela Uhles presented her program on Nicaragua and showed some of the artifacts she collected when she was there.

During the summer break from our regular meetings, we worked on plans for the upcoming year including the 100th Anniversary of Pan American Round Table Movement. Our Table had been given the honor of presenting the Parade of Flags while dressed in native costumes from each of the thirty-five countries represented in the Pan American Alliance. This involved ordering three new flag sets to complete our collection of flags. We also needed to procure costumes from each country, which we were able to do from the costume collections of our members, costumes from the Costumes of the Americas Museum, and costumes of some Caribbean countries that were newly made from authentic fabrics.

On October 7, 2017, we resumed our monthly luncheon meetings with Norma McKnight presenting the program on the United States Electoral College, very timely and informative for this election year.

October 26 - 29, 2016, marked the event for which so many women throughout the Pan American Round Tables of the Western Hemisphere had been waiting, the 35th Convention of the Alliance of Pan American Round Tables. This convention was also the 100th anniversary of the organization's founding in San Antonio, Texas by Florence Terry Griswold. Therefore, it was of special significance that the convention was held there.

The Parade of Flags occurred at the Opening Ceremonies. Members of the other Area C Tables of the Rio Grande Valley joined members of our Table as we modeled the authentic costume, draped with a banner of the county's name, and carried the flag of the country. The audience of representing Pan American Round Tables from throughout the Alliance stood, clapped, took pictures and enthusiastically cheered each country by name as we passed. This, as well as the rest of the convention, was an exciting and memorable experience.

Just a few days later, we were back in Brownsville and celebrating the 84th birthday of our own Table at a special luncheon meeting on November 4, 2016. This meeting was the official visit from State Director Isabel Vezzetti. Guillermina Galonsky presented the program on Peru.

On December 2, 2016, our regular luncheon meeting was held with Elka Jaross presenting the program on St. Kitts and Neves, a most interesting program as this was the first on these countries for our Table. Outreach Chairman Lourdes Deytz-Gamez collected donations for Christmas food baskets for the needy families of Proyecto outside of Matamoros, Tamalipas, Mexico.

On January 6, 2017, our luncheon meeting was held with Nohemi Gonzalez presenting the program on Paraguay. Outreach Chairman Lourdes Deytz-Gamez collected feminine items from our members for residents of the Battered Women's Shelter. This collection and delivery will continue through March.

To raise funds for our scholarship program, a Gala was held at the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art on January 20, 2017. Guillermina Galonsky chaired this beautiful and successful event featuring guitar music, fine food and wine, and an elegant raffle. The special guest and speaker was Dr. William F. Strong who hosts the radio program "Stories from Texas." His stories were most entertaining.

On February 3, 2017, our luncheon meeting was held with Normalinda Castellano presenting the program on Uruguay.

On March 3, 2017, our luncheon meeting was held with Graciela Uhles presenting the program on Venezuela. Treasurer and Finance Chairman Amelia Yznaga reported that her committee had determined that due to the funds raised at the Gala this year, our Table will give six

\$1,000.00 scholarships to deserving high school seniors from Brownsville who will be attending college in Texas in the fall.

Our Table's Pan American Observance Day celebration occurred April 7, 2017.

The 58th Biennial Convention of Pan American Round Tables of Texas convenes on April 21, 2017. Our Table is proud to have Isabel Vezzetti presiding as Director, Normalinda Castellano serving as Treasurer, and Maria Enriqueta Yzaguirre serving as Corresponding Secretary at this event. I am grateful for the guidance and support that these three ladies have given me during my tenure as Director of PART Brownsville I.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia Hale".

Virginia Hale

Director PART Brownsville I

PART Brownsville I Activities

Picture 1 Titled PART I Group Photo

PART Brownsville I began our 2015-2017 term at a luncheon meeting held at the Camille Playhouse where we took this group picture. With the objective of fostering knowledge, understanding and friendship among the women of the Americas, members answer roll call by country with a current event. Each month a Pan American country is featured with a special program given by the member assigned to that country. Lourdes Deytz presented the program on Guatemala at this meeting. Guatemalan music filled the air, authentic costumes and artifacts were displayed and interesting and insightful realities of life in Guatemala were presented. Special guests were the Consulate and Vice-Consulate of Guatemala.

Picture 2 Titled Enjoying the Meeting

Our luncheon meetings are an opportunity for us to enjoy each other's company as well as to learn about our Pan American countries and our organization's ideals. Many of us look forward to eating the tasty food of the featured country of the day. In this environment we plan and conduct business in regards to outreach in the community. The major outreach of our Table is in the awarding of scholarships to deserving high school seniors. This year we also collected donations for Christmas food baskets for needy families of Proyecto outside of Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico. We also collected items for distribution for the Friendship of Women Shelter.

Picture 3 Titled Parade of Flags

October 26, 2017, marked the event that so many Pan American Round Table women had been waiting, the 35th Alliance Convention, which was also the 100th anniversary of the organization's founding in San Antonio. The Parade of Flags

occurred at the Opening Ceremonies. Members of the other Area C Tables of the Rio Grande Valley joined members of our Table as we modeled the authentic costumes of each of the 35 Pan American countries while carrying the flag. The audience of members of Round Tables from throughout the Alliance stood, clapped, took pictures and enthusiastically cheered each country by name as we passed , exemplifying the spirit of “ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR ONE.”

Picture 4 Titled Gala

Each year we hold at least one event to support our scholarship fund. This year we held a Gala at the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art. We were entertained by guitar music, fine food and wine, and an elegant raffle. The special guest and speaker was Dr. William F. Strong who hosts the radio program “Stories from Texas,” which is heard throughout Texas and several other states. The success of this event makes it possible for us to increase the number of scholarships that we will award this year.







