



## ACTIVITIES

The Pan American Round Table of Houston is unique in our city. Members are women of widely diverse backgrounds who share a common goal: to bring people of the Western Hemisphere into a closer union of friendship, understanding, and knowledge.

At our first meeting in October, we had great fun learning about the history of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century silver jewelry industry in Taxco, Mexico, in a presentation by one of our own members, Carmen Armstrong. Her lecture, "The History of Taxco Silver Jewelry Production", included a discussion of the arrival of William Spratling in the 1920's and the subsequent development of the silver jewelry industry in Taxco. We learned that the jewelry produced in Mexico during the 1920's and 1930's, like other art work at the that time, was strongly influenced by pre-Columbian aesthetics. Radically different from anything previously produced there. The lecture also covered the subsequent establishment studios by well known names as Hector Aguilar, Los Castillo, Antonio Pineda, Sigi Pineda and Margot de Taxco.

Scholarship Director Irma Diaz-González once again hosted a beautiful Christmas Posada featuring homemade tamales and carols in her lovely River Oaks home. Proceeds benefitted the PART Houston Scholarship Fund. Members brought books and toys for the children at Ripley House and Neighborhood Centers.

In January Dr. Ernesto Calvo, University of Houston Professor, presented a lecture titled, "Women and Politics in the Southern Hemisphere." Dr Calvo is originally from Argentina. It was very interesting to be reminded about how many women been influential in politics in the Southern Hemisphere.

Pan American Day 2009 was truly a celebration, with "Traditional Music of Pan American Nations" performed by members of Sur. Many of the Latin American Countries were represented by their Consuls General or their Honorary Consuls. We also were graced with the presence of many prominent guests from the community such as Ms. Joanne Downes –from the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, Ms. Jenny Bailey from the Mayor's Office, Mr and Mrs Robert Hopkins from the US Department of State, as well as Mr JP Rose from Amegy Bank, one of the 2008-09 scholarship donors.

At our May 2009 Scholarship Day, we celebrated our commitment to education with a record of nine \$1,000 scholarships, surpassing last year's effort. The scholarships were awarded to nine outstanding students from area High Schools in Houston. Recipients gave inspirational addresses telling us about their goals and reminding us that it really is "One for all, and all for one."

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