

# PANAMERICANA TEXANA

## THE PAN AMERICAN ROUND TABLES OF TEXAS

2023 FALL EDITION, VOLUME 42 No. 2



### MESSAGE FROM THE STATE DIRECTOR

#### ***Greetings!***

Whew! Despite this summer's record-setting temperatures, I hope it was a time for rest, relaxation, and rejuvenation as we ready for this coming year's schedule of activities and celebrations. Let's pray the hottest days are behind us as we look forward! Regardless, the weather did not deter many of us from participating and planning for this coming year's activities. This past year was an amazing journey for me as I set out on visits. Each table received me wholeheartedly and provided me the opportunity to speak to their members about our legacy and the future of Pan American Round Table.



The 2nd Annual Leadership Seminar (P.A.R.T. 2) held in San Antonio on September 23rd proved to be an informative experience. The fifty women in attendance representing 15 of our tables were comprised of table directors, board officers, and members interested in gaining perspective and valuable information pertaining to The Pan American Round Tables of Texas. Special Recognitions to the following presenters: Diana Pena (Laredo), "Navigating the Webpage"; Letty Ramon (Edinburg), "Ideas for: A Successful Calendar Year/Membership"; Alma De La Garza (McAllen), "Special Presentation Programs"; Ana C. Flores (Laredo), "Help Us Spread the Word- State Scholarships" and "Protocol Is In Order," Rosa Maria Vida, Ph.D. (Laredo), "Governmental Instruments, What's That?"; Marie Adams (Corpus Christi), "Importance of Table ECC Chairperson"; and Lourdes Deytz, Ph.D. (Brownsville I), "What Makes A Good Leader?" and "Getting Off to a Good Start" and "Table Director's Timeline" provided by yours truly.

The immediate feedback from attendees was that it was a triumphant success! I would encourage those in attendance to share this information with members through presentations that highlight topics most relevant to your table's needs.

Additionally, I extend a sincere thank you to Sandra Brown, Table Director of San Antonio, for giving us the cordial welcome to San Antonio, Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza, Zone I Director, for delivering greetings and best wishes for a successful workshop from Jani Marichal de Mendoza, Alliance Director General.

Also, Area Directors Carmen Guerra, Raquel Oliva, JoAnn Jensen, and Zone 1 Director Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza for providing the generous door prizes.

The month of October celebrates Founder's Day! I visited Eagle Pass earlier this month, I was reminded of Mrs. Griswold's adventuresome childhood not too far from there on the La Pendencia Ranch, the settlement that forged her ideals and dreams of a united world. We remain thankful for her vision and tenacity.

"One for All and All for One" "Una para Todas y Todas para Una".

*Margot Arévalo-González, State Director*

## State Officers



**Carmen Guerra**  
1st Associate Director  
Area A



**Margot Arevalo-Gonzalez**  
State Director



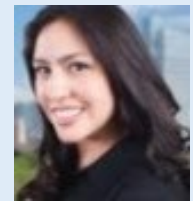
**Raquel Perez Oliva**  
3rd Associate Director  
Area C



**Shirley Wyatt**  
2nd Associate Director  
Area B



◆ **PARTT Leadership Seminar** ◆



**JoAnn Jensen**  
4th Associate Director  
Area D



**Susan N. Elias-Assi**  
Recording Secretary



**Mariella Gorena**  
State Treasurer



**Lucy Mancha**  
Historian



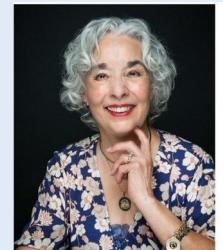
**Leticia "Letty" Ramon**  
Corresponding Secretary



**Rosa Maria Vida, Ph.D.**  
Parliamentarian



**Ana P. Flores**  
Scholarship



**Martha Miles Stumbo**  
Past State Director

Table members attended from throughout Texas and gathered for dinner the night before the Leadership Seminar.





## Area A - Austin



Austin PART Table Director  
**Marian Barber**



Abbie Rutledge (left) and Janet Roberts (right) sell raffle tickets for a fund raiser at our Oct. 3, 2023 meeting.



## Austin Table Raffle Fund Raiser

Carol Hayman (Left) was the lucky winner of the exquisite Frida doll for the raffle fund raiser which was donated by Julia Subervi (Right).



**Spanish Coffees**  
Chair Angelita Mendoza-Waterhouse describes upcoming Spanish Coffee programs.



## Area A - Conroe



**Pan American Day Celebration** at Carriage Inn, Conroe, April 11, 2023. Table Members and guests L-R: Annette Ferrell, Mary Margaret Coyle, Mary Lou Sartore, Paula Alexander, Vickie Stewart, Riki Dewey, Woody Hearn, Michelle Crane (behind, guest), Marcia Reagan, Jean Heasley (behind), Jewel Manders, Jo Chesney, Mari Riddle (guest), Marilyn Sommers, Janet Iden (guest), and guest. Seated: Carmen Guerra, Gloria Vidal Riddle, Amalia Rodríguez-Mendoza and Janet Emmons.



**Hour of Memory**, Carriage Inn, May 9, 2023 Table memorializing our deceased sisters: Jeanette DeFee (Left), Becky Judah (Center), and Paula Schoppe (Right).



**Installation of Officers**, was held on May 9, 2023, Carriage Inn, Conroe, Texas Janet Emmons (Installer), Gloria Riddle (Director), Paula Alexander (Associate Director), Jo Chesney (Recording Secretary), Jean Heasley (Corresponding Secretary), Woody Hearn (Treasurer), Marilyn Sommers (Parliamentarian), Annette Ferrell (Historian), Riki Dewey (Custodian)



Executive Board Meeting, Cypress, Texas, June 13, 2023. Seated Left to Right: Jo Chesney, Marilyn Sommers, Gloria Riddle, Paula Alexander.



**Pan American Day Celebration** was held at the Carriage Inn, Conroe, April 11, 2023

Amalia Rodríguez-Mendoza, Alliance Zone 1 Director (Left) Gloria Riddle, Conroe Table Director (Center) Carmen Guerra, State Area A Director (Right).



## Area A - Houston



The PART-Houston Table held its 2023-2024 Installation Board Ceremony at the Tanglewood Ballroom on July 2, 2023. State Director Margot Arevalo — Gonzalez swearing in Table Directors Barbara Van Postman (left) and Judge Esmeralda Peña García (right).



PART Houston Officers and Committee Chairman: Top Row, left to right Table Directors Barbara Van Postman and Judge Esmeralda Peña García; Secretary/Interim Communications Director Susan Huston; Middle Row, left to right: Historian Kathleen Gabriele; Parliamentarian Mary Closner; Membership Dr. Carolina Jimenez. Bottom Row, left to right: Programs and Arrangements: Cinthia Milian; Alumni Coordinator, Catherine Louvier; Scholarships, Dr. Julissa Martinez-Alcantar and Kay Frazier, Treasurer.



September Member Mixer

## Area B - Laredo



The Laredo Table held our new member orientation on July meeting. We wore traditional Mexican clothing and enjoyed a delicious meal.



We celebrated our Pan Americanism during September by asking our Table members to wear royal blue and a fascinator or hat. It was great seeing everyone again, discussing our plans for the year, and a beautiful induction ceremony. We had 50 members and guests in attendance.



The Executive Board met this summer to plan our upcoming year.



For our October meeting, the Table members wore pink in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. We honored two Table members who are breast cancer survivors.

## Peace March





## Area B - Corpus Christi



Our December meeting was **"Remembering Peggy"**. We were joined by State Director, Margot Arevalo -Gonzalez who read a resolution honoring Peggy's life and accomplishments as a member of the Pan

American Round table on the local, State and Alliance levels. We were also joined by members from the Beeville table as well as Sylvia Williams, Past Alliance Director and Peggy's daughter and daughter-in-law via Zoom.

Left to right: Geri Rice, Marie Adams, Christina Garza, Lucinda Garcia, Margot Arevalo -Gonzalez, Laura Berlanga, Joan Wolfe, Glenna Sue Wood, Yolanda Villarreal. Josephine Miller, Louise Hall (Beeville). Yvonne Aldama, Peggy and Past Director General on TV screen.



We are looking forward to an exciting new year with our Pan American sisters. Meet our newest members! Leah Olivarri, Diana Broyles, Carmen Blumberg, and Elvia Aguilar .



Left to right: Geri Rice, Marie Adams, Christina Garza, Lucinda Garcia, Margot Arevalo -Gonzalez, Laura Berlanga, Joan Wolfe, Glenna Sue Wood, Yolanda Villarreal.

## Area B - San Antonio

**60th State Convention**  
– Part of San Antonio's delegation to the State Convention in June 2022: (L- R) Agatha Wade, Sharon Gee, Diana Durbin.



**Business meeting** – Members attended a business meeting at the home of Yvonne Kylstra in May 2023.



Several Table officers attended the **State Leadership Seminar** in San Antonio on Sept. 23: (L-R), Sharon Gee, Jeanne Koplan, Mary Lanoue, Sandra Brown, and Bea Dracoulis.

San Antonio Table Director Sandra Brown with **guest speaker Monica Dahlby** who gave the program presentation on her family's coffee farm in El Salvador during the Oct. 20th meeting.



**PART San Antonio -October 20, 2023**  
Members and guests attended the first meeting of the year.





## Area B - Eagle Pass

The Eagle Pass Table celebrated Founder's Day with State Director Margot Arevalo-Gonzalez and guests from the Piedras Negras, Coahuila Mexico Table. The group discussed a U.S./Mexico PART Altar de Muertos contest spearheaded by the Mexican Consul of Eagle Pass to be held October 28th at the Fort Duncan Ruins.



## Area C - Alamo-San Juan-Pharr

**Scholarship recipients, May 2023** - two students from PSJA Thomas Jefferson T- Stem High School were awarded each \$1000 scholarship. Pictured L to R : Lyana De Leon , H. S. Financial Officer; Delia Soza, Scholarship Chairperson; Diana C. Mancía-Hernandez student planning to major in Nursing; Eddie Yanes, student planning to major in English /literature; Gloria Cantù, Table Director.



**Installation of Officers 2023 - 2025** (L-R) Gloria Cantu, Parliamentarian; Elena de Los Santos Mycúe, Corresponding Secretary; Corinne Conquest, Asst. Treasurer; Idolina Vela, First Associate; Maria de los Angeles "Gela" Garcia, Table Director; Margot A. Gonzalez, State Director; Velia Sosa (standing for Alice De Leon), Historian; Maria Elena Corona, Recording Secretary; Talma Benavides, Chaplin; and Maria Teresa Tijerina - Flag Custodian.



**Margot A. Gonzalez, State Director officiated during the installation of officers.** L-R: Raquel Oliva, Assoc. Dir.-Area C; Maria Elena Corona, Rec. Sec.; Margot Arévalo Gonzalez, State Dir.; and Gloria Cantu, Parliamentarian.



**Celebrating Hispanic Heritage month, September 14 to October 14, during the September meeting.** Table members brought and souvenirs. L-R: Elena Mycúe, Victoria Loredo, Jane Garcia, Maria Elena Corona, Gela Garcia, Talma Benavides, Gloria Cantu, Delia Soza and Corinne Conquest.

**Celebrating Fall during the October meeting**





## Area C - Brownsville I



**Scholarship Awards:** Pan American Round Table 1 Brownsville held a reception at the Brownsville Historic Museum Mary Yturria Room, honoring 18 students with \$1,500 to \$2,000-dollar scholarships. Dr. Lourdes Deytz-Gamez welcomed the students and their families. Dr. Deytz-Gamez gave her Director's Message by emphasizing the importance of giving thanks and appreciation to their parents and teachers who helped guide them. The Scholarship Committee Chair Dr. Gulley introduced the students and highlighted their education goals in pursuing their degrees in Medicine, Architecture, Computer Science, and many more. Their parents were proud and gleamed at their accomplishments.



Pan American Round Tables of San Benito and Brownsville celebrated the **Pan American Observance Day** on April 15, 2023, featuring the History of Mariachis with special speaker Diana Guillen. The event was held at the Harlingen Country Club. State Director Margo Arevalo was in attendance,

as well as 56 members, along with other Tables including McAllen, Edinburg, Rio Grande City-Roma, and Pharr. L to R: Elva Morales, Director-San Benito, Berta Peña, Treasurer PART 1 Brownsville, Margo Arevalo, State Director, Lupita Muniz Chaplin, Letty Ramon, Director-Edinburg, Dr. Lourdes Deytz-Gómez, Director-Brownsville.



The City of Brownsville Commissioners honored Pan American Round Table 1-Brownsville with a proclamation read by Commissioner Precinct 2 Linda Macias, a member of the



organization. With the Brownsville City Commissioners standing in the background, the members posed for a photo honoring the organization for their 90 years of service to the community. Macias was proud to belong to a great organization started in 1932 by Bessie Kirkland Johnson. The proclamation stated the Brownsville PART's nine decades of promoting "mutual understanding and friendship among the women of the Western Hemisphere, giving academic scholarships to local graduated high school students. Dr. Lourdes Deytz, PART 1 Director, expressed her gratitude "on behalf of my sisters", she said. "We want to continue with that legacy of loving our culture and getting the youth to continue to love our Hispanic culture."

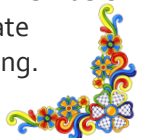
## Area C - Edinburg



The Edinburg Table welcomed **Edinburg City Mayor Ramiro Garza, Jr.**, who spoke on the many diverse programs available to the citizens of Edinburg during their September meeting on the 20th. Pictured above are L to R: Ciara Perez, Recording Secretary; Margot Arevalo-Gonzalez, State Director; Leticia A. Ramon, Table Director; Mayor Ramiro Garza Jr; Sara Saldana, 1st Assoc. Director; Chiqui Guerra, Treasurer; Josie Cappadona, Protocol Chairman.



The Pan American Round Table of Edinburg members celebrated the induction of five new Associate Members at their September General meeting.



During the May meeting, Edinburg Table Director Letty Ramon presented special awards. Some of the awards were for attendance, helpfulness, community outreach, and legacy. Josie Cappadonna won the "Legacy Award", which was described as being a member who has had over 5 family members in Pan American Round Table.



## Area C - McAllen



The McAllen Table welcomed 6 new members to the Table. As of September the Table has 70 members.

Berry Fritz invited her daughter as a guest for the Mother Daughter banquet. (L- R) Jennifer Fritz Alcalay, Berry Fritz, Raquel Oliva, Myrna Rodriguez and Thelma Santos.



A banquet for Scholarship recipients, their families, and school counselors was held in May. Through fundraisers, the Table

awarded three scholarships to McAllen High School students. Members Sony Rego and Irma L. Garza donated scholarships through PART- McAllen to two Sharyland High School graduates.

For the September meeting, past Directors Sylvia Alanis, Mandy Pena, Alma de la Garza, Violette Metz, and Yolanda Chapa provided members with an orientation on the Pan American Round Table structure, Constitution and Bylaws. Raquel Oliva developed the Power Point Presentation. Violette read her award winning poem "A Tribute to Florence".



Margot Arévalo-Gonzalez, State Director, participated in the October Founder's Day meeting.



**Attending the September and October meetings were:**

Debra Flores and  
Darda Cardenas

Elizabeth Cardenas, Thelma Santos,  
Alejandra Vela and Carm Elliott.

## Area C - Rio Grande City - Roma

### Installation of Officers 2023-2-025

Nereyda Guerra- Table Director  
Soila Garza Perez - Associate Director  
Idani Salinas - Recording Secretary  
Leida Reyes - Corresponding Secretary  
Nydia Benitez - Treasurer



The Installation ceremony was conducted by Raquel Perez Oliva, Area C Associate Director, assisted by Mariella Gorena, State Treasurer and McAllen Table Director.



May 11, 2023 Meeting



State Leadership Seminar

Right to Left: Nereyda Guerra, Director, Soila Perez, Associate Director, Dee Cavazos, Parliamentarian, and Rosa Paulson, Past Director.



## Area C - San Benito

**Pinning Ceremony** of the three present and past Directors Elva Morales, Table Director Angie Gonzales, Past Table Director Mary Torres, Past Table Director



**Scholarship Awards:** San Benito Scholarship- Cristian Villarreal Harlingen High School and presenter, Glendora De Leon, Scholarship Chairman.

**Observance Day: San Benito Table Members**



**Observance Day:** San Benito Table Director, Elva Morales and Lourdes Dietz, Brownsville Table Director.

Glendora De Leon, Decoration Chairman and Elva Morales, San Benito Table Director.



## Area D - El Paso



Bambina Roe, Sydney Goltz Burton, Leslie Beckoff, and Letty Parker.



Sydney Goltz Burton, Table Director, Leslie Beckoff, and Julie Kallman.



Elouise Wieland, Marilyn Silverstein and Martha Miles Stumbo.

**Membership Goal:** Leslie Beckoff and Julie Kallman



Lunch break during the Leadership Seminar  
San Antonio, Texas



## Area D - Fort Worth



### October Luncheon

Our "Catrina" presenter. L-R: Vivian Alifano, Kathy Ehmann-Clardy "Catrina", and Jo-Ann M Jensen.



Clara Arteaga, "Catrina", and Yaneth Arteaga de Calderon.



**Becky Kolar 1923-2023**  
*100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for Becky Kolar*

She loved music. This is a photo of Becky with the Dickens Carolers .



## Area B - Del Rio



### Area B - Beeville



State Director, Margot Arevalo-González conducts the Beeville Table installation of officers in May.



May meeting of the Beeville Table

### State Officers and Committee Chairpersons attend the Upper Rio Grande Valley Observance Day



L-R First Row: Mariella Gorena, Treasurer, Carmen R. Guerra, Past Alliance Director, Margot Arevalo-Gonzalez, State Director, Carmen Guerra, 1st Assoc. Director Area A, Raquel Oliva 3rd Assoc. Director Area C: 2nd Row Rosa Maria Vida, Parliamentarian, Diana Pena, Webmaster, Letty Ramon, Corresponding Secretary and Ana Flores, Scholarship Committee Chairperson.



## Table Directors 2023-2024



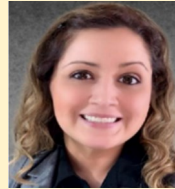
**Alamo-San Juan-Pharr**  
**"Gela" García**



**El Paso**  
**Sydney Goltz Burton**



**Austin**  
**Marian J. Barber, Ph.D.**



**Fort Worth**  
**Rachel A. Ortiz**



**Beeville**  
**Shirley Wyatt**



**Houston –A**  
**Esmeralda Peña García**



**Brownsville I**  
**Lourdes Deytz-Gámez, Ph.D.**



**Co-Houston –A**  
**Barbara Van Postman**



**Conroe**  
**Gloria Riddle**



**Laredo**  
**Kimberly J. Alexander**



**Corpus Christi**  
**Susanne Bonilla Harrold**



**McAllen**  
**Mariella Gorena**



**Del Rio**  
**Scarlett Elkins**



**Rio Grande City/Roma**  
**Nereyda Guerra**



**Eagle Pass**  
**Elva Benavidez**



**San Antonio**  
**Sandra Brown**



**Edinburg**  
**Leticia "Letty" Ramon**



**San Benito**  
**Elva Morales**

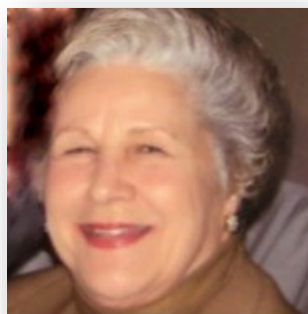


# IN MEMORIAM



**Rebecca (Becky) Flores Kolar**  
**1923-2023**

Becky was an engineer at General Dynamics and took great pride in working on the F16 Fighting Falcon. She was a long time member of The Pan American Round Table of Fort Worth II, having served as Director, and many other offices over the years. She was an integral part of the merging of both Fort Worth Tables and remained active with Fort Worth I. Becky loved music and was loved by all. We enjoyed celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in May and she will be missed.



**Mary Kay Bonneau Moffitt**  
**1935-2023**

Kay was a member of the McAllen Table for 36 years. She joined the Table in 1987 and served as Table Director from 2001- 2003 and served in multiple leadership capacities. She was awarded "Woman of The Year" in 1984 by the McAllen Monitor. Kay was a woman who loved adventures, whether scuba diving, underwater photography, skiing the slopes, tennis, dove hunting, or travel. Kay had a zeal for life, loved traveling, and loved to have fun!



**Aida B. Torres**  
**1934 - 2023**

Aida was a member of the McAllen Table for 26 years. She joined the McAllen Table in 1997 and served as Table Director 2003-2005. She was an educator in the US and in Venezuela. She had a passion for history and genealogy.



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***Raquel Perez-Oliva, Editor***

