



PANAMERICANA TEXANA

WINTER 2023-24, VOLUME 42, NO. 3

A Message from Our State Director



Cheers to the New Year and New Beginnings!

Many tables across the state navigated through the fall and holiday season with festive celebrations and guest speakers. I was honored to attend several gatherings and I extend my gratitude to each table for making my visits so special. They will serve as delightful memories that I will cherish always.

As Spring approaches, I invite you to attend the 61st PARTT State Convention. The Laredo Table has certainly pulled out all the stops! They're sure to deliver a fun-filled event with live music, shopping, and many, many opportunities to enrich our friendships with PART sisters from around the state. Let's meet there to demonstrate our dedication, unity, and mutual support to the commitment to Pan Americanism we share with our founder, Mrs. Florence Terry Griswold. We must find a way to stay relevant in this ever-changing world of ours. What we stand for is more important today than ever!

Get ready to kick-up your heels in **Laredo under Seven Flags**! See you there!

One for All and All for One ~ Una para Todas y Todas para Una

Margot Arevalo-Gonzalez

Upcoming Events



STATE CONVENTION
LAREDO, TEXAS
APRIL 12 - 14, 2024



ALLIANCE CONVENTION
CANCUN, MEXICO
OCTOBER 16 - 19, 2024



Join us at the
61st Convention of the
Pan American Round Tables
of Texas
at La Posada Hotel in Laredo.
Details at
www.pardt61stconvention.org.

Celebrations Foster Fellowship

This edition of the *Texana* is dedicated to celebrating and fostering fellowship. In the smiles in these photos, we share the joy found in the friendship and community engendered and nourished in our Pan American Round Tables. Across Texas throughout the festive season diverse groups of women gathered in friendship, learning, and service.



In this December photo from Austin, Sylvia Williams, Nidia Salamanca-Speers, and Janet Roberts make merry.

In January our Laredo members wore white in memory of ***Anna O. Haynes*** who lived the Pan American spirit as a member of our organization since the 1940s when she joined the Pan American Student Forum.



In every season, our Brownsville Table radiates the warm welcoming smiles that characterize our Pan American ideal of friendship, learning, and service in furtherance of peace.



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Mitzi Patiño Eastman, Editor

From the Tables of Texas

Alamo/San Juan/Pharr

This year's Humanitarian Project for the ASJP Table is the collection of donations for Children's Haven International. The charity sponsors an orphanage in Mexico with the help of their Thrift Store. Flanked by two proud "Winter Texan" volunteers (wearing t-shirts) are *from left to right* Gloria Cantu, Gela Garcia, Table Director, and Maria Elena Corona.



At their February meeting Raquel Oliva spoke on what it means to be a member of the Pan American Round Table. *Seated left to right* are Teresa Tijerina, Gela Garcia, Table Director, Raquel Oliva, 3rd Associate Director (Area C), and Blanca Garza. *Standing left to right* are Alice De Leon, Talma Benavides, Victoria Loreda, Gloria Cantu, Delia Soza, Maria Elena Corona, Corinne Conquest, Minerva Salazar, and Elena Dos Santos Mycue.

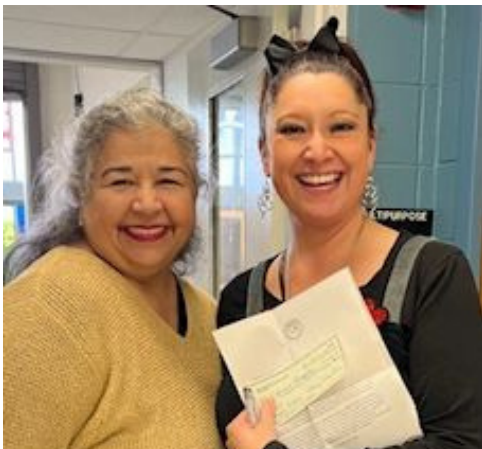
From the Tables of Texas

Austin

This year we're bringing the Pan American vision to life by providing encouragement, service, and support to our community; by learning together; and by doing it all in joyful fellowship.



Members enjoying a pilgrimage to the birthplace of PART, The Menger Hotel in downtown San Antonio. *From the left* are Rosie Reyna, Janet Roberts, Table Director Marian Barber, Lily Torrez, Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza, and Mary Margaret Coyle.



Support Our Schools Chair Rosalía Casteñeda presents Rodriguez Elementary Principal Monica Mills with our check for \$1,200 to support classroom teachers.



PART brings sweet treats and smiles to asylum seekers at Casa Marianella's Thanksgiving Day CONVIVO.

Authors, **Mariana Nuño Ruiz** and **Ian McEnroe**, and **Oscar Cásares** shared creative wisdom and important insights with PART-Austin at our meetings while our monthly **Spanish Coffees** explore topics of wide interest.



From the Tables of Texas

Brownsville



The City of Brownsville Commissioners honored our Table there with a proclamation read by Commissioner Precinct 2 Linda Macias, a PART member honoring the organization for their 90th years of service to the community. *Back:* City of Brownsville Commissioners *below from left,* Gloria Crixell, Member, Marsha Betancourt, Historian, Dr. Lourdes Deytz, Director, Dr. Virginia Wood, Associate Director, Graciela Salinas, Recording Secretary.



At Brownsville's monthly February meeting, we find smiles and focus from *(in the photo at the left)* Ethel Cantu, Guillermina Galonsky and Dr. Irene Gulley and *(in the photo at the right, from the right)* Dr. Lourdes Deytz, Delma Ramirez, Dr. Virginia Wood, Commissioner Linda Macias, engage in the activity prepared by Delma as she presented on her country Peru

From the Tables of Texas

Conroe

September brought Conroe members back-to-school and work .



State Director Margot Arevalo celebrates the January birthdays of Director Gloria Riddle and Associate Director Paula Alexander.

Left to right, front to back are Woody Hearn, Gloria Riddle, Janet Emmons, Janet Iden, Paula Alexander, Jewel Manders, Riki Dewey, Marilyn Sommers, Annette Ferrell, Marcia Reagan, Mary Lou Sartore, Jo Chesney



November birthdays for Marcia Reagan and Annette Ferrell bring smiles.



Conroe's December service project provided holiday gifts to foster family children. Pictured at the left are Director Gloria Riddle and Parliamentarian Marilyn Sommers.

From the Tables of Texas

Corpus Christi



Our Corpus Round Table's September Meeting, held at Elizabeth's Art Museum of South Texas, gathered members in joyful fellowship.



Among members present were (left to right) Darrell Tanner, Cathy Winn, Angie Masciale, Cristina Garza, Mary Alice Gonzales, and Jeanne Adams



In November they were joined by the Beeville Table to hear from Shirley O'Neill, Area B Director and Dr. Gerald Betty, Professor of History at Del Mar College, who spoke on *Mexican Revolutions and Immigration to the US in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries.*

From the Tables of Texas

Edinburg

In October, members visited The Gelman Stained Glass Museum in San Juan, TX to commemorate Founder's Day.



Back L-R are Helen Santiago, Sara Saldana, Sandra Villarreal, Geena Peralez. Front L- R: Elma Ayala, Letty Ramon, Margo Arevalo Gonzalez, and Mary J. Salas.



We joined our neighboring McAllen Table to celebrate the their Annual Mother Daughter luncheon.



We enjoyed a jolly time at our "Ugly Sweater" Christmas Social with dessert recipe and White Elephant gift exchanges and PRIZES for the *ugliest* sweater!



Edinburg members with their holiday tree, *Dreams*, inspired by Florence Terry Griswold's dream of uniting the nations of the Americas.



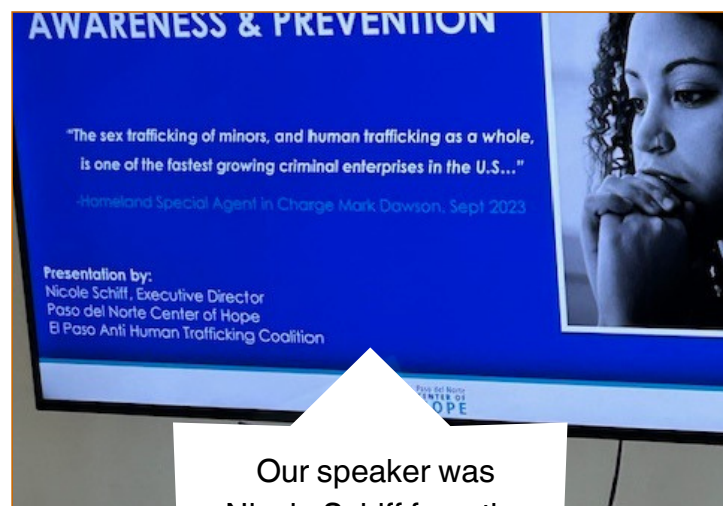
Edinburg's Woman of the Year Marcia Atwood Ply (center) was celebrated for her dedication to and support of PART.

From the Tables of Texas

El Paso



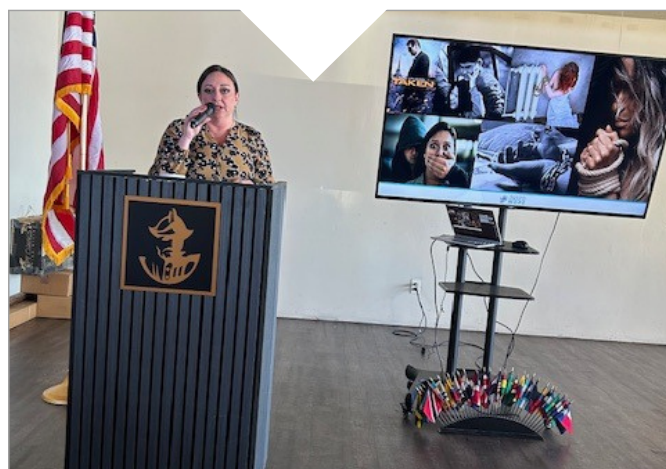
Our well attended meeting was held at Coronado Country Club.



Our speaker was Nicole Schiff from the Paso Del Norte Center for Hope whose presentation on human trafficking was very moving.



Our members and guest speaker made the most of this opportunity to learn, network, and grow.



From the Tables of Texas

Houston



Co-director
Esmeralda Peña Garcia
with musicians,
Jesus & Maria Lozano,
"Bossa II Duo."

73 members of the Houston Round
Table celebrated the season with a
Posada on December 9, 2023

*From left to right ~ As Mary is Camila
Valentina Sosa Chassaigne, and the
Angel is Crystal Meraz, both 2023-4
scholarship recipients.*



Raffles, silent
auction, ticket sales
and underwriting
raised over \$7400.00
for scholarships.



Director of Communications
Janice Greco
inducted onto the Houston
Executive Board by Co-Director
Judge Esmeralda Peña Garcia.

From the Tables of Texas

Laredo



In November the Table considered the topic of *Females as the future of the Honduran government*. Honduran feminists are feeling hopeful for in 2022 the nation was governed by its first female president. Women lead the fight for improvement and change as they and inspire courage in the women of that country. Members celebrated in western attire, voting on the best dressed.



PART of Laredo hosted the *Matachines de la Santa Cruz* in December. Mary Ann Garcia, director of the day, shared the background of the *Posadas* and the traditions that are associated with *Las Fiestas Navideñas*.

January's meeting considered *Malnutrition Among Newborns* in Jamaica and the impact of poor nutrition on the population in general, especially on breastfeeding mothers. Also discussed was the service project, collecting bilingual children's books about the nations of Pan America to be donated to local libraries.



From the Tables of Texas

McAllen

In December, the McAllen Table held it's annual Christmas Mother and Daughter Luncheon joyfully attended by 118 members and guests. (L-R) Margot Arévalo González, State Director, Santa and Mariela Gorena, Director.



in January meeting, Gracie Cobo provided the country program on Peru. The guest speaker (*left*) was Dr. Katherine McAllen, Director of the Center for Latin American Arts, UTRGV.



In November, Elizabeth Cardenas (above) presented on the Country of Paraguay.



The theme of the December meeting was the Legend of Santa Claus. The table centerpieces were from the Santa Claus collection of Yliana Esparza, Table Secretary.



From the Tables of Texas

Rio Grande City/Roma



Mrs. Pee Wee Guerra shares her experience in Argentina during Mrs. Dalinda Pena's presentation to members and guest.



At the Table's festive December meeting, Teresa Perez presented on Barbados and Yolanda Gonzalez on Bolivia.



Rio Grande City - Roma PART Officers (*right*) prepare to greet our Valentines, our members (*left*) for the recent monthly business meeting.



From the Tables of Texas

San Antonio

San Antonio board members meet with Dr. Mary Helen Vera director of the San Antonio College Empowerment Center, to award \$3,000 in scholarships for non-traditional students.



From left - Mary Lanoue, Sylvia Bolado, Peggy Betts, Dr. Vera, Table Director Sandra Brown, Sybil Howell and Diana Durbin.



The new logo for the San Antonio Table was approved by unanimous vote of the membership. Designed by Belkis Lane, it features an image of the Alamo and the date 1916, the date of our founding as the **first** Pan American Round Table.



Members enjoyed a Christmas luncheon at *Panchito's* with guest speaker Dr. Norma Cantú discussing South Texas holiday traditions. Above - our speaker Dr. Cantú, left, with Table Director Sandra Brown.

State Director Margot Arevalo Gonzalez (*right*) at Ruiz-Healy Art Gallery in January with Mary Lanoue, Sylvia Bolado & Molly Montemayor. ~ Maida Perkins, delivers 70 children's books to Perales Elementary School. ~ Agatha Wade with portrait of Tejano hero José Antonio Navarro at his historic home during our walking tour of downtown San Antonio.



In Memoriam



Peggy Lasater Clark

With the members of our Corpus Christi Round Table we honor the passing of ***Peggy Lasater Clark***. Peggy served PART as Table Director, Corpus Christi, Past Texas State Director, and Alliance Director General from 2006–2008, among other posts. Gracious, thoughtful, determined, engaged and kind through all her days, in addition to her commitment to PART, Peggy was continuously and happily involved in many and varied community organizations, most notably the Corpus Christi Junior League, Parkway Presbyterian Church, and the Texas State Aquarium. She proudly fostered friendships across Central and South America through decades of dedication to Pan American Round Table.



With deep appreciation, I thank Raquel Oliva for her tremendous effort in coordinating the first two publications of the Texana of my tenure. Her hard word, diligence, and untold hours at her computer made possible this critical communication with you, our members.

Raquel, thank you for being a **key ingredient to our success.**

~ Margot