



Volume 7, Issue 1

Spring 2010

## Sembrando 2009 - 2010 Pa' Mi Gente

*Inside this issue:*



On December 13th, 2009, we presented our bilingual musical Pa' Mi Gente. The musical was presented at the Davis Auditorium in the Texas School for the Deaf. Pa Mi Gente narrates the journey of Maria, a young Puerto Rican woman that lives in Spanish Harlem and struggles to find her place in the world. The families and friends that joined us on that day enjoyed not only to a great theatrical performance but also a great musical treat with numbers including bomba, plena and salsa, accompanied by great choreographies. Last but not least, we were lucky enough to have beautiful performances from Ballet Afrique, a contemporary dance company based in Austin,

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Texas.

The story of Pa' Mi Gente travels back and forth between Maria's childhood and her young adult life. Also, the audience is treated to flashbacks from the life of a real-life historical character who encourages and inspires Maria in her journey: Celestina Cordero Molina. Celestina also visits Maria and teaches her valuable lessons about not quitting her dreams and about the importance of helping others. Celestina Cordero was born in Puerto Rico on April 6, 1787 and dedicated her whole life to educating poor girls. Throughout her life, Celestina struggled to become certified as a teacher, something that women were not allowed to do in those days. Her goal was finally achieved in 1820, when she was finally granted the title of teacher. On the picture to the right you can see a scene from the play in which Maria, still a child, is interacting with Celestina. *See inside for more pictures and information.*



## Saludos from the Founding Director



Saludos!

Our Spring Season opened with three back to back events that showed Central Texas that Puerto Ricans really know how to party!

The Parranderos de Austin kicked off the season with Fiesta de Reyes, and our Youth Dancers, backed by PRFDance Musicos, performed for the Three Kings. Two weeks later, PRFDance invited the Parranderos to help close the Holiday Season with a lively celebration of Octavitas that brought in a full-house of visitors, from Dallas to Houston, and collected donations for earthquake-stricken Haiti. For Valentine, parents dressed up and enjoyed an old-fashioned, Pot-Luck Family Salsa Party with their kids!

We are halfway through the semester and excited about things to come. Up ahead, Joaquin Nieves and members of Guateque de PR will be training our performing company in Master-Level topics of traditional music and dance. Students will likewise have their own personal class experience with folklore masters direct from Puerto Rico! Nieves, the toughest dance director who has trained me since 1998, will return with Guateque in June and merge with

PRFDance in a joint-performance, Celebrando 2010. In April, we will be holding a Taino Areyto for the Kalpulli Tlalteca people of Mesoamerica who will come to Austin to complete a three year journey -- and fulfill a prophesy -- with the gift of original maiz to the Taino people who invented its name. With the greatest honor and respect, we, the children of the Taino of Boriken will accept this gift and plant it on our sacred land in Boriken.

The hottest current topic in our Puerto Rican community is the Census. Judging by the growing numbers of banderas hanging on car mirrors today, our Big State of Texas is going to be greatly surprised how many of us are here! The 2010 Census will be HISTORIC because Boricuas who further identify as Taino will reverse the 1800 Census (to Spain) that eliminated the Indio category and erased on paper the existence of thousands of Taino still living in the mountains of Boriken. Across the US and Puerto Rico, thousands are planning to let the world know: "We, the Taino are still here." The Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center is an all-volunteer run nonprofit (501C3) affiliated with the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture for our offering of authentic, high-quality, cultural programming. In this hectic age where families are divided by commitments that take them in different directions, PRFDance is a rare place where they can participate TOGETHER in music, dance classes and performances in a wholesome, clean family atmosphere. Alone in Austin and homesick for home? Our PRFDance family will adopt you! Moving to Austin? Your family is already here! PRFDance is the



Ambassador of Puerto Rican culture in Central Texas. We are very proud to share the joy of our rich traditions with our community, and hand down our cultural heritage to the next generation! Thank you for being a part of it!

Con cariño, naboria daca (su sevidora)

Dr. Ana María Tekina-eirú Maynard, Founding Director

# Fall 2009/Spring 2010 Highlights

## 2nd Annual Taino Family Camping Trip

Our 2nd Annual Taino Camping Trip took place on Oct 9-12, 2009. The majestic beauty of Pedernales Falls, Texas, served as the background for this activity in which our students and their families got better acquainted with our heritage and traditions. For this event, the last event in our Celebrando 2009 - Taino Project, we received a visit from the Concilio Taino Guatu Ma Cu A Boriken, which came to Austin to help us teach our community about the traditions of our Taino heritage. Cacibapil, the Concilio's Cacike, got everyone involved in educational activities. We will not soon forget the great time we



had hiking in Pedernales... we ended the whole thing with an areito!

## Octavitas 2010 with Parranderos de Austin

On Sunday, January 24, 2010, the Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance partnered with The Parranderos de Austin for the "Octavitas" celebration. This performance event was free and open to the public. Hundreds attended from our local community, as well as families from as far away as Dallas, Killeen, and San Antonio.

This celebration and performance event demonstrates once again our commitment to share our culture with our community and pass down our beautiful heritage to a new generation!



### *Ballet Afrique*



This ballet company contributed to our beautiful play. As we know, Caribbean rhythms are deeply influenced by African rhythms. During the whole play, the audience had the opportunity to experience not just a powerful story but also a visual experience. The bomba, plena and salsa music dialogued with the Afrique performance in a way that was full of energy and beauty.



### *Pa' Mi Gente—The Musical*



These pictures present some of the scenes from the play. A play like this one is hard to put together, especially because at times we had more than 15 actors/musicians on stage simultaneously. Fortunately, this crew did a great job and everything from the several days of rehearsals to the final performance was a complete success.

PRFDance focuses on children and teaching them about our heritage and, that is why our plays are filled with children characters. For us, they are the future and the reason for our work.



## Upcoming Performances

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE presents:



### Esperanza de la Herencia 2010

In partnership with the Mexican American Cultural Center

May 20, 2-4 pm @ the Mexican American Cultural Center

Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance brings the rich heritage of Puerto Rico to Austin with a new performance event, *Esperanza de la Herencia*, dedicated to our cultural center Youth. This live music and dance production will showcase more than 50 of our own dancers, musicians, and performing arts students, and will include special performances by our professional-level performing company, PRFDance. Children are the hope of the future. We hope that the children who participate in our programs develop a love for our culture that will last a lifetime, and will continue to celebrate and transmit this joyful heritage to future generations. This event will be in partnership with the Mexican American Cultural Center and will be free to children of all ages under 18. Adults, \$5 suggested donation.



## PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE & CULTURAL CENTER

### Performing Arts & Culture Programs

#### Traditional Dance Classes with Cultural Lessons

- Adults - Mondays, 6-7pm
- Youth Beginner/Intermediate - Saturdays, 10-11am
- Youth Intermediate/Advanced - Saturdays, 11-12pm
- Junior Company - Saturdays, 12-1pm
- PRFDance Company - Mondays, 7-8pm

#### The Coquis "Brinca y Canta" Class - Saturdays, 12-1pm

##### Music Program

- Youth/Beginner Percussion - Saturdays, 10-11am
- Youth Choir, All ages - Saturdays, 9-10am
- Student Music Ensemble - Saturdays, 9-10am
- Company Percussion - Thursdays, 6-7pm
- Professional Music Ensemble - Thursdays, 7-9:30pm

#### Salsa Socials & Workshops - See website for schedule.



#### Class Descriptions:

**TRADITIONAL DANCE & CULTURE** - (ages 5 and up, schedule above). These naturally bilingual classes teach traditional dances such as *Bomba*, *Plena*, *Seis* and *Danza*, as well as *Salsa* and other modern dances relevant to our culture and celebrations. Class material is taught at an age/skill-appropriate pace and complexity. Lessons begin with the basics, building on knowledge from previous classes towards a full-length choreography. Lessons on Puerto Rican culture, history, games and songs are added to enhance appreciation of Puerto Rican traditions. Semesters culminate in a Performance Recital.

#### THE COQUIS "BRINCA Y CANTA" CLASS - (ages 0-4)

Saturdays, 12-1pm. Adults are having as much fun as the children in this program targeted for young children and their favorite adult (parent, grandparent, etc.). This program teaches early childhood music including songs in Spanish, basic rhythm, creative movement and traditional childhood games in a family-style, mixed-age class based in our cultural heritage. This non-performance program gives children a musically rich learning experience from which (starting at age 5) they can graduate into our Youth Dance, Choir Program, or both! To encourage family togetherness, note that an accompanying adult is welcomed and required for this class.

**YOUTH CHOIR** - Saturdays, 9:00-10am. This naturally bilingual class teaches traditional and popular Puerto Rican songs to children and teens. Semesters culminate in a recital with our very own PRFDance Musicos.

**PERCUSSION CLASS** - Youth/Beginner (Saturdays, 10-11am) and Company (Thursdays, 6-7pm) classes cover traditional percussion rhythms from Puerto Rico, such as *Bomba* and *Plena*, as well as other afro-caribbean percussive rhythms relevant to our culture. Instruments taught include *barriles*, *panderos*, *congas*, *tambores* and small percussion. Lessons on Puerto Rican food, language, history, and more are added to enhance the base appreciation of Puerto Rican culture. Semesters culminate in a Recital.

**MUSIC ENSEMBLE PROGRAMS** - Students (Saturdays, 9-10am) and Advanced/Professional (Thursdays, 7-9:30pm). These programs teach Puerto Rican compositions to those demonstrating a proficiency in instrument, percussion, or voice. They are targeted for students through professionals interested in learning authentic orchestration of Puerto Rican music and traditions. The Professional Music Ensemble (professional-level musicians already fully skilled and knowledgeable in Puerto Rican music, folklore, and traditions) offers opportunity to work on performance quality material, keep polished, or improve technique and orchestration skills. Semesters culminate in a Recital.

For more information and registration, call 512-251-8122 or see our Website: <http://www.prfdance.org>



## 2009/2010 PRFDance Sponsors & Familia Members

### SPONSORS

- Fluxion Scenic & Light
- Crown Trophy
- Country Inn & Suites
- Ruta Maya Coffee
- National Endowment for the Arts
- City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division
- The Texas Commission on the Arts
- The Institute of Puerto Rican Culture
- Target
- Fiesta Mart Stores
- IBM

### FAMILIA MEMBERS

#### Padrinos (\$1000+)

- Julie & Dea Ramirez
- José & Rose M. Irizarry
- David & Ana Maria Maynard
- Gladys & Ty Oksuzler (Chevere)

#### Padres (\$500+)

- Luz Arroyo
- Victoria Crawford
- Stephen Pruitt
- Mickey & Judy Golden-Bentley

#### In-kind Support & Volunteers:

- María Capestany
- Fernando Rivera
- Zera Thompson
- Ruta Maya Importers

#### Hermanos (\$250+)

- Noe & Rosa Montoya

- Pedro & Melinda Rivera
- Adam Rosario

#### Tios (\$100+)

- Roger & Maricarmen Nasr
- Elizabeth & Brandon Mirabel, I9 Sports
- Federico & Julia Subervi
- Jenny Deleza
- Gertrude Maynard
- Gisselle & Bassel Bekdache
- Luna Piena/Von Schimonsky Family & Julieta

#### Amigos (\$25+)

- Jessica Montoya
- Edwin Baez
- Rupert & Joann Reyes
- María Tureyguanani' Maynard
- Aaron Vélez & Miladys Romero
- Adrienne & James Hogan
- Rita Ricardo
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- Jaime King
- Al Hollenbeck/Irongate
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- Armando Alvarado
- Jorge Tamayo / Health & Life /Salud y Vida Weight Loss
- Habana 6th St./Yesbel
- Silvana Gianetti
- José Ángel Gómez
- Silvyia Zuniga/Julia Salazar

We're on the web!

[www.prfdance.org](http://www.prfdance.org)



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### *Pastelón de Papas*

*Por: Yadira Izquierdo*

6 raciones

Ingredientes:

2 libras de papas

1 cucharadita de sal

2 huevos batidos

4 cucharadas de harinas

2 tazas de picadillo

1 1/2 taza de queso rallado

Lave, pele y hierva las papas. Luego maje las papas. Añada la sal, los huevos y la harina a las papas majadas. Divida las papas en dos porciones. Ponga una parte de las papas en un molde previamente engrasado. Asegúrese de cubrir bien todo el molde con las papas majadas. Eche el picadillo y distribuya de forma uniforme. Cubra con el restante de las papas y eche el queso rallado. Colóque en el horno a 350 F por 30 a 40 minutos.

¡Que lo disfruten!