

NEWS AND PROFILES CONNECTING THE LATINO AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MINNESOTA

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*¡Feliz Navidad!
Merry Christmas!*



Preserving Latin American Christmas Traditions in New Homeland

By Manny Gonzales

Published December 18, 2011
Fox News Latino

She remembers as a little girl her mother singing the songs of the novena and the procession from one relative's home to another back in her native Bogota, Colombia. Now living in Miami, 35-year-old Liliana Vanderbiest will relive one her of childhood traditions when she and friends bring the practice of the novena, daily prayers nine days before Christmas, to the United States.

"It seems like my generation is like the first generation who has grown up without these traditions and needs to really work to revisit them before they're lost with time," said Vanderbiest, a financial analyst in Miami. "Like a lot of people who have come from Latin American countries and have been here a long time, we either forget the traditions from back home or are just too busy to go back to them."

Indeed, many Latin American countries have their own traditional observances around the Christmas holidays, most of them deeply rooted in Catholic traditions. And many newly immigrated Latinos have let observances like the novena or la posada, a Central American tradition where neighbors act as pilgrims and travel from home to home to sing and pray, fall by the wayside as they acculturate to North American Christmas traditions.

"Like a lot of people who have come from Latin American countries and have been here a long time, we either forget the traditions from back home or are just too busy to go back to them."

- Liliana Vanderbiest from Miami

Some, like Vanderbiest, who is making it a point this year to do the novena with a newly immigrated friend from South America, are making concerted efforts to bring those traditions to the U.S.

Of all the different Latin American Christmas-time traditions, la posada is probably the most widely recognized, especially in areas of the U.S. where there are large concentrations of Mexicanos.

In Sacramento, Calif., La Raza Galeria is holding the first large organized posada events in the city's history this year. Executive Director Marie Acosta said the organization was focusing on Mexican traditions because of the predominant concentration of immigrants from there in that city.

She expected a few dozen to attend the first posada, which reenacts the pilgrimage of Mary and Joseph from Bethlehem, but around 150 people took part.

"We discovered that there is a need and a desire and a huge gap in the community for anything that redeems cultural heritage, particularly around the religious observances this time of year," Acosta said. "It's definitely a sign that our culture and heritage has not received its due diligence for whatever reasons. It's good to see such an outpouring of support and participation from the younger faces in the crowd."

Maite Velez-Couto, 32, fondly recalls the parrandas during her childhood in Puerto Rico. Since moving to Miami though, her Christmas traditions have been limited to making cultural dishes and serving them at work.



Latin American holiday traditions like posadas are brought over to the U.S.

"Back home, for the parrandas, every household had to be prepared to receive people at any time of the evening and be fully stocked with rum and music," Velez-Couto said. "It's a great tradition, but something that would be kind of tough to pull off here."

"I think in some form or another we do try to keep some traditions alive whether it's in singing the songs or other religious experiences, but food and music are the easiest ways to keep the traditions going," she said.

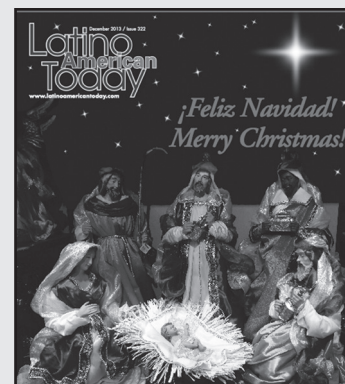
Manny Gonzales is a Denver-based writer and communications professional.

Photograph source: Getty Images

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Latino American Today**



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Merry Christmas!

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ALMAS students help change West St. Paul tobacco ordinance



Pictured above from the left: ALMAS students who presented to the West St. Paul City Council: Marquís Vásquez, Crystal Espinoza, Erick Cordova, Andrea Galván and Tony Salazar-Mejia.

On Monday, Oct. 28, with help from Henry Sibley ALMAS students, the West St. Paul City Council unanimously voted to update their retail tobacco licensing ordinance. Among other changes, this update requires that area vendors selling electronic cigarettes obtain a tobacco license from the city and makes the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors illegal.

According to The Association for Nonsmokers - Minnesota (ANSR, <http://www.ansrmn.org>), who also supported the ordinance changes, the West St. Paul tobacco ordinance did not previously include electronic cigarettes because they are such a new and distinct product. Electronic cigarettes were first introduced in the U.S. in 2006.

"It is important for students, like the ALMAS group, to be involved in combating the influence of tobacco. Teens are the target of a large portion of the industry's marketing and promotion," said Alicia Leizinger, a program and policy specialist at ANSR. "Testifying in support of stronger tobacco ordinances is one way teens can take the power back from the tobacco industry and feel pride and ownership in the improvements they've helped to make in their communities."

ALMAS Advisor Robert Hanson said students in the group have been interested in reducing teen smoking and tobacco use for many years. When the students heard that the West St. Paul Police Chief had presented a proposal to the City Council regarding electronic cigarettes, they instantly wanted to become involved.

Throughout the Council's discussions regarding the changes to the City's tobacco licensing ordinance, ALMAS students shared information and statistics on the dangers of e-cigarettes, as well as their own personal stories about the negative impact tobacco has had on their lives or those close to them.

"This was a great experience for our students," Hanson said. "They were able to see that they can and should work to make a difference in their local community and that our local leaders are interested in what they have to say."

Beyond the ban on the sale of e-cigarettes to minors, the recent updates to the West St. Paul ordinance require that all tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, be kept behind the counter or in a locked cabinet. The new law also prohibits sampling within the indoor area of any establishment with a retail tobacco license. This sampling prohibition means that electronic cigarettes may not be "vaped" or "sampled" inside tobacco retailers. West St. Paul now joins other cities across Minnesota in regulating the sale of e-cigarettes and prohibiting indoor sampling.

ALMAS, which stands for Anglos Latinos Motivated to Succeed, is a student group at Henry Sibley High School. The group meets outside of the school day and focuses on service, leadership, cultural heritage and more. The ALMAS students who presented to the West St. Paul City Council include Tony Salazar-Mejia, Crystal Espinoza, Andrea Galván, Erick Cordova and Marquís Vásquez.

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Republican Jessie Rodriguez elected to Assembly for 21st District

By Jesse Garza of the Journal Sentinel

Rodriguez, outreach coordinator for Hispanics for School Choice, received 4,546 votes, and Coppola, a United Way fundraiser and former member of Milwaukee's Social Development Commission, received 3,520, according to preliminary results.

Rodriguez will replace Honadel, who held the seat for a decade before his resignation in September.

Rodriguez has lived in the area for a decade. She is married to Aaron Rodriguez, who writes a blog for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and is a Franklin resident.

She immigrated to the United States from El Salvador with her family as a child and is a 2002 graduate of Marquette University.

The race drew more than \$100,000 in independent expenditures by special-interest groups, big-name political endorsements and attention from party activists.

The Amerian Federation for Children, a school voucher advocacy group, spent \$45,647 promoting Rodriguez, and the pro-business Jobs First Coalition spent \$24,000 opposing Coppola. The left-leaning Greater Wisconsin Fund spent \$30,815 for Coppola's campaign.

Those independent expenditures are more than the candidates themselves raised or spent, according to state records. Coppola raised nearly \$25,000, and Rodriguez raised almost \$48,000 through Nov. 4.

The district includes Oak Creek, South Milwaukee and part of Franklin.



Republican Jessie Rodriguez defeated Democrat Elizabeth Coppola on Tuesday in a special election for the 21st District Assembly seat vacated by former Rep. Mark Honadel (R-South Milwaukee).

Dennis Nguyen get key endorsement from Minnesota Senators

Minnesota Secretary of State Candidate Dennis Nguyen announces Minnesota Senate endorsements

Businessman Dennis Nguyen, candidate for Minnesota Secretary of State, released a list of 23 endorsements from members of the Minnesota Senate today.

Nguyen said, "I am humbled and honored to be endorsed by such a large and diverse group of Minnesota State Senators. They represent every corner of our great state of Minnesota: the Twin Cities metro, the suburbs, and out-state Minnesota. They understand that we need to get Minnesota moving forward again."

"I intend to make the Secretary of State's office the one stop shop for job creation and capital formation in the state of Minnesota. We can construct a new public private partnership with the Office as the hub of a 21st century Minnesota economy—an ecosystem designed to bring together entrepreneurs, investors, lawyers, accountants and bankers to create new sustainable, middle class jobs. In addition, leveraging our technology today, we will expand elections access while simultaneously ensure elections integrity."

Senator David Senjem (Rochester) adds, "Being a non-political, solutions-oriented businessman, Dennis brings a set of fresh eyes to the Secretary of State's office. The fact that he has secured the overwhelming support of the Senate Republican Caucus after just 3 weeks of campaigning indicates that the depth and breadth of support he has accumulated. His big tent campaign will resonate well in all parts of Minnesota and my Senate colleagues and I look forward to campaigning with him."

The twenty three Senators are:

Senator Bruce Anderson
Senator Michelle Benson
Senator David Brown
Senator Roger Chamberlain
Senator Gary Dahms
Senator Paul Gazelka

Senator Dan Hall
Senator David Hann
Senator Karin Housley
Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen
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Senator Julie Rosen
Senator Carrie Ruud
Senator David Senjem
Senator Bill Weber
Senator Torrey Westrom



Dennis Nguyen

Holiday Events in the Twin Cities

It might not be Rockefeller Center, but if you're in Minnesota it's the next best thing. This Saturday marks the start of Wells Fargo Winter Skate and Winter Courtyard. Throughout the season, folks will be able to take to the ice at the Landmark Plaza while surrounded by the sparkling charm of downtown St. Paul. Open-skate hours are almost daily, and a trip to the rink serves as a great energy killer for kids before or after a trip to the Children's Museum or Children's Theatre Company. For grownups, it's a fun date activity before heading to a cozy nearby restaurant. Meanwhile, Rice Park will also be a winter wonderland, with thousands of LED lights sparkling in the park. Things kick off this Saturday at 4 p.m. with skating demonstrations, live music, performances from local theater groups, a tree-lighting ceremony, and fireworks. Free; \$5 to rent skates (or free with Wells Fargo check card or credit card). For more info, visit www.wellsfargowinterskate.com/skating-info. The rink is closed Christmas and New Year's Day

Price: \$5 skate rental; free with Wells Fargo check card or credit card

Wells Fargo Winter Skate

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. every Mon., Tue., Wed., Thu. until February 2 @ Landmark Plaza

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Wells Fargo Winter Skate

Celebrate this Holiday Season at Target Holidazzle!

Once again it is time to bundle up, pick up the family, and head to Target Holidazzle! 'Come See the Night in a Whole New Light' at Target Holidazzle with illuminated floats, music, celebrity Grand Marshals, and of course, Santa in his sleigh! Every year since 1992 when the first parade marched down Nicollet Mall, over 300,000 spectators converge on Downtown Minneapolis to celebrate this Holiday tradition.

The 2013 Target Holidazzle will run Friday, November 29 to Saturday, December 21. Thrilling crowds on Nicollet Mall from 12th Street to 4th Street, this free parade runs Friday and Saturday nights at 6:30 p.m. Brave the cold and watch streetside or keep warm in the Holidazzle Hot Seats.

The 2013 Target Holidazzle will run Friday, November 29 - Saturday, December 21.



IBEW Holiday Lights in the Park

IBEW Holiday Lights in the Park

5:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. daily until January 1 @ Phalen Park

Hunting through neighborhoods in search of homes decorated for Christmas is a holiday tradition for many. But for those looking to save a little on gas this year, the IBEW Holiday Lights in the Park offers a sure thing. Now in its sixth year, the event turns Phalen Park into a winter wonderland friends and family can enjoy from the warmth of their car. On display will be over 60 huge light installations and moving sculptures, such as archways, snowmen, snowflakes, other yuletide favorites. So load up the kids, pack a few thermoses of hot chocolate, and turn up the holiday tunes on the radio (or death metal, if that is how you roll). As usual, proceeds from the ongoing event will benefit local charities and nonprofits, including Second Harvest Heartland, Union Gospel Mission, Saint Paul Parks Conservancy, Saint Paul Police Foundation, and UnderConstruction. For more info, visit www.lightsinthepark.org.

Price: \$8 per car; \$10 Fri.-Sat. & holidays

Guthrie Theater: A Christmas Carol

The Christmas tradition, *A Christmas Carol*, is playing at the Guthrie from November 14-December 29. It's the 39th anniversary of the holiday show, but the Guthrie makes it fresh and full of wonder every year.

SteppingStone Theatre: The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever is the SteppingStone Theatre's annual children's holiday show, so beloved that this is the 22nd year of the production. December 6 - December 23.

Ordway: Andrew Lloyd Webber's Wizard of Oz

The Ordway Center always puts on a magical Holiday production or two. This year, the Ordway Center presents *Andrew Lloyd Webber's Wizard of Oz*, December 4 - December 29.

Minnesota Boychoir: Annual Holiday Concert

The Minnesota Boychoir's annual holiday concert will be at the Historic Wesley Center in Minneapolis on December 21.

International Education Center Making a Difference in the Latino community

By: David Gaither

Thousands of Latinos come to Minnesota each year in search of the American Dream. They want to get good jobs so their families can have better lives and more opportunities. The key to getting a good job is education, but many Latinos don't know about the educational options available to them in the Twin Cities.

As Executive Director of the International Education Center (IEC), I want to make sure more people in the Latino community know about the services we provide. The IEC, located in downtown Minneapolis, offers free classes to adult immigrants and refugees in English, math and computer skills. Our classes also help students prepare to earn their GED and increase their employability. More than 1,000 students from over 80 countries come to the IEC each year. One-third of those students are Latino.

But we know there are many more in the Minnesota Latino community who could benefit from the services we offer. In fact, according to the Pew Hispanic Center, about 35% of the Hispanic population in Minnesota does not speak English well. And the unemployment rate for Minnesota Hispanics is 8.1%.

Latino students at the IEC are seeing a difference on the job and at home as their English skills improve.

Yessenia Gavilanes, age 34, has been a student at the IEC for two years. Originally from Ecuador, she came to Minnesota 10 years ago. She and her husband own a limousine business and she also works as a prep cook at Seven Sushi. Yessenia says the English classes at the IEC are making it easier for her to speak to customers who call her limousine business, and she can better communicate with her managers at Seven Sushi. Yessenia also has three sons, ages 6, 13 and 17. Learning English is making it possible for her to help them with their homework and understand emails she receives from their schools. Yessenia is working toward her goal of going to college to be a pastry chef.

Noel Olalde, age 30, is also benefitting from classes at the IEC. He came to Minnesota



Yessenia: "Learning English is good because I can help my children with their homework."



Noel: "Learning English opens a lot of doors."

from Mexico 10 years ago, and currently works at Mister Car Wash. Noel says learning English is making it easier for him to talk to customers at his job. In addition, it helps him in his everyday life. He is able to understand the preacher at his church, and he can read the information he receives in the mail. Noel says his writing and listening skills are also improving. He hopes to get his GED one day.

These are just two examples of the many Latino students who have benefitted from the classes we offer at the IEC. If you or someone you know would like to learn English, please contact the IEC at 612-871-6350 or visit our website at www.iecminnesota.org.

David Gaither is a former Minnesota State Senator and Chief of Staff to former Governor Tim Pawlenty. He primarily focused on education and commerce during his time in office. He currently serves as the Executive Director of the International Education Center.



...E Pluribus Unum
Out of many is one

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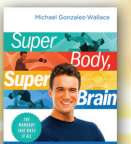
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Joy to the Cocina!



By Award-winning Author and Chef Amalia Moreno-Damgaard

This holiday season let us pay homage to the *cocina* (kitchen). It is a very special place in the home as it is where everyone in the family spends most of the time every day of their lives. The kitchen brings us together in good and bad times. Often times it is the first place we go to in the morning and the last place we visit in the evening. For some, it may even be the cozy spot on sleepless nights to find comfort with a cup of tea.

The kitchen is more than just a gathering place in a home. No matter where you are in the world or what culture you acquire, the kitchen is the place where magic happens. Hands and mind go to work to create beautiful and delicious works of edible art while families can gather to spend quality time. As a bonus, fresher and healthier eating choices can happen organically just by being there.

The official definition of kitchen is “a room where food is prepared and cooked.” Would it be more appropriate to describe it as a therapeutic place where one can have joy and peace through the creation of deliciousness and nurturing morsels in the company of loving family and friends? The way we describe places and food creates a picture and perception in people’s minds that can have a positive (or negative) impact. By using words that are appealing, we could entice kitchen-adverse people and children into home-cooking adventures.

Life is a journey, so why not make it into a fun eating adventure cooking as a family and gathering in the kitchen to talk about trivial and important matters. Cooking a multi-course meal from scratch does not have to happen every night to eat right. A simple mixed green salad consisting of dark greens, tomato and onion dressed with light herb vinaigrette accompanied by a store bought rotisserie chicken and a home baked potato one evening can be a healthier option for dinner on a hectic day rather than rushing to the nearby fast food drive-through window. On weekends, lean proteins and vegetable stews and soups cooked on a Crockpot can become one-meal hearty dishes for consumption during busy weekdays.

The kitchen is indeed a very special place for me and for many. It is my sanctuary. This is where I developed my passion for fresh and healthy eating and for quality family time exemplified by a nurturing maternal grandmother. If I could send her a virtual gift to heaven this Christmas, I would tell her –THANKS for inspiring me to eat and live healthy through fresh and delicious home-cooked meals paired with special good family times.

¡Buen Provecho y Felices Fiestas de Fin de Año!

Happy Eating and Happy Holidays!



Amalia and son Jens making dobladas

Award-winning cookbook author and Chef Amalia Moreno-Damgaard has a passion for fresh and healthy eating and combines her culinary savvy and business skills with gourmet cuisine to create a platform to educate others about cultural synergies in Latin America. Her cookbook, Amalia’s Guatemalan Kitchen, is the winner of four national and regional awards. More: AmaliaLLC.com.

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Latinos Find Career Opportunities in the Restaurant Business

By Rick Aguilar

One of my favorite restaurants in the Twin Cities is the Downtowner Woodfire Grill located a few blocks from the Xcel Energy Arena on West 7th Street in St. Paul. I love the great food, good people watching and free parking. The owner Moe Sharif offers a truly unique experience for Twin Cities Diners.

A few weeks ago Moe introduced me to Ben Martinez, one of his managers and I could tell that Moe was really pleased with this young man. I was impressed with his charming personality and his articulate use of both Spanish and English. Later that day I met with Ben to find out more about his past. Ben Martinez was born in Oaxaca, Mexico. His father was born in Veracruz, Mexico and his mom was from Wisconsin. He lived in Mexico until his parents got a divorce and his mom moved him and his brother and sister to Minnesota when he was in grade school.

Ben didn't really know how to speak English when he moved here so he attended Adams Spanish Immersion School for the opposite reason – to learn English. Ben even went to summer school to make sure he kept learning. After that he would visit his family in Mexico every summer, and his mom always made sure he would speak Spanish with family members so he wouldn't forget how to speak it. Ben started working when he was thirteen, the Science Museum had a special program for kids in junior high, he was a lab partner and would help guests with any questions about the exhibits; speaking both Spanish and English. He then started in the restaurant business when he was fifteen. He began as a busboy and a dishwasher and soon moved up to a waiter.

Ben really enjoyed the restaurant atmosphere and continued to work in various restaurants over the years developing his skills in all areas. Which brings me to where he is today as

a manager at Downtowner Woodfire Grill working under the owner Moe Sharif and learning all he can from him.

You can tell that Ben loves working at this restaurant, with his great personality and the passion to please each and every customer with the best the Downtowner can offer. He is a great example of the many talented Latinos that work in the restaurant business here in the Twin Cities.



Ben Martinez

Ben explained that working in the business has brought him many things including meeting his wife and being able to support their beautiful baby girl. Someday he hopes to even own his own restaurant. I would bet that dream comes true for the energetic young man. Meanwhile when I visit the Downtowner I look forward to hearing "welcome amigo" from my new friend. Merry Christmas, Ben Martinez!

Downtowner Woodfire Grill is located at 253 West 7th Street St. Paul, MN 55102

Photo by Scott Foreman

Bringing People Together Through Language Communication



Walter and Carmen Patiño

Walter and Carmen Patiño live and work in Glencoe, MN. If you are looking for interpreting services offered on site, by phone, or in a group setting, or translation services for different types of written material, please visit the Golden Tongue Consultants, Inc. website: www.goldentongueinc.com.

Golden Tongue Consultants, Inc. is a service-oriented business that provides interpreting, translation, and localization services to individuals and organizations in multiple language combinations statewide and nationwide. In addition, Golden Tongue also provides language teaching and tutoring services to individuals and groups alike.

Golden Tongue (GT) came into being in 1997 when Walter and Carmen Patiño, co-founders, decided to undertake this exciting and promising enterprise. The business was founded on principles and values that match its founders' philosophy of service and customer satisfaction. From its inception, Golden Tongue has prided itself in servicing individuals and organizations by bringing people together through language communication. Whether be interpreting for a defendant in a courtroom, or for a patient in a surgery room, or for a client in a deposition setting, GT has always provided its services for the purpose of putting the non-English-speaking individual on equal footing with his English-speaking counterpart.

In the beginning, Walter and Carmen often found themselves doing the actual interpreting and/or translation themselves mainly in the English-Spanish language combination. As time went on, the geographical scope of the business expanded to virtually cover the entire State of Minnesota regarding interpreting services, and nationwide insofar translation services were concerned through the use of the internet. Growth also meant expanding into other language combinations, besides English and Spanish. At the present time, GT offers services in 150+ language combinations. Furthermore, growth also meant to count on the expertise and skills of qualified interpreters and translators in multiple language combinations.

The beauty of service is not only having done a good interpreting job for a client or having turned in a translation project on time, but also having brought people together through the means of language communication and cultural awareness toward mutual understanding.

Noche Latina at the Target Center



J.J. Barea

If you mention J.J. Barea's name in Puerto Rico, you'll be greeted with fanfare. Barea is widely revered in his home country because of what he's accomplished in the basketball world—a first son of sorts who has donned his native land's name on his chest in international competition as well as brought his national pride with him to the NBA.

Basketball has taken him to a lot of different areas of the world, and it became not only a way to gain his education but it also became his career. He left his hometown as a high school senior to pursue his basketball dream in Miami, and that move helped him earn a spot at Northeastern University in Boston en route to what is now a seven-year career in the NBA in Dallas and Minnesota.

But wherever he went, he always brought Puerto Rico with him. And when he returns home, he feels the love of his fans in his native country.

"No question, the love they treat me there is awesome," Barea told Timberwolves.com on its weekly podcast. "Everybody knows me. That's my home, and I've got to go and represent."

He continues to carry that torch every game he plays, and his fans from Puerto Rico and beyond are watching. They interact regularly on social media not only with Barea directly but also with the Timberwolves' main account and the team's media members. They want to know the latest news and notes all the time about one of their favorite basketball players.

He's not the only Wolves player with that type of international notoriety. Ricky Rubio's style of play makes him a player fans watch around the globe. Fans in his native Spain say up all hours of the night just to make sure they see him play every single night.

Rubio, with his humble demeanor, doesn't take it for granted. He understands he's been able to build a life for himself through basketball that is awfully unique, and he's grateful for that opportunity every single day.

From his origins playing professional basketball as a teenager in his native Spain, through the 2008 Olympics and the EuroBasket tournaments, all the way to participating in his third NBA season, basketball has opened a lot of doors for the 23-year-old point guard sensation.



Ricky Rubio

"It's been amazing," Rubio said. "I mean, something I dream about it and now here in the NBA I'm still thinking, I'm still waking up every day and thinking, 'Wow, I'm in the NBA,' you know? I can't believe it. But it's something that I'm enjoying and I'm proud of it."

Now, Rubio and Barea get a chance to expand the NBA's notoriety by playing Dec. 4 in Mexico City as the Wolves face the San Antonio Spurs. For Rubio, that's another opportunity to showcase the game he loves to a new group of fans.

"I think that's a great way to expand the NBA," Rubio said. "Everybody has a chance to see a part of this team in this occasion in Mexico, but like a lot of teams are playing overseas, too, and it's great to be able to be part of it."

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TENNIS: ADVANTAGE KIDS

A revolutionary change in the way kids 10 and under learn and play tennis, as well as compete, is happening across the country, and your kids should be a part of it! Smaller courts, lighter and lower bouncing balls and smaller and lighter racquets fit your child's size. It all makes it easy and fun for them to hit, play and score from the start – while developing skills that will last a lifetime.



El Significado de la Navidad

Es increíble lo que sucede en los Estados Unidos de América para Navidad, este es uno de los pocos días del año en que los almacenes cierran sus puertas y los hogares prenden las chimeneas para estar en familia. Aproximadamente unos 250 millones de dólares en regalos pasan de mano a mano. Pero, ¿por qué tanta inversión y por que este festejo es tan desproporcionadamente grande? Bueno, todo esto es por un evento que sucedió hace casi 2000 años en un pesebre. De la forma mas silenciosa y humilde vino a este mundo Emanuel

“Dios con nosotros”

“Y dio a luz a su hijo primogénito, y lo envolvió en pañales, y lo acostó en un pesebre, porque no había lugar para ellos en el mesón.” Lucas 2:7

Este es un relato asombroso. No hay historia parecida que haya impactado a tantas culturas al redor del mundo de la manera que este relato lo ha hecho. Pero, ¿qué es la Navidad? Un evento histórico, un relato de un libro o una tradición. Sí, la Navidad es todo eso, pero eso es solo el principio. Lo que sucedió esa noche en Belén como lo relata el evangelio de Lucas fue el milagro más grande que toda la creación pueda ser testigo. En esa noche se unieron dos mundos, la Deidad tomo forma humana, lo Eternal invadió lo mortal, la Realeza invadió la pobreza, el Salvador se hizo esclavo y todo por amor.

Navidad es época de familia, celebración, festejos y regalos, en la que debemos de experimentar ese milagro. Cuando la Navidad deja de ser un evento histórico, un relato o una tradición es cuando realmente podemos recibir el milagro del pesebre.

Permitamos que ésta Navidad sea la primera de muchas experiencias navideñas en nuestro corazón. Sin embargo, esta experiencia trasciende los tiempos así que podemos experimentarla a mediados de Julio o en cualquier otro mes del año. Ahora no nos equivoquemos, El no quiere nacer en el intelecto el quiere nacer en el corazón. Recuerda el no eligió una suite presidencial, El eligió el pesebre. No importa la condición en que este nuestro corazón El seguirá eligiendo ese lugar el más humilde y silencioso para nacer.

¡FELIZ NAVIDAD Y UN PROSPERO AÑO NUEVO!



*Pastora Gisella Arias-Olson
sirve junto a su esposo y
familia en la Iglesia de Dios
Rios de Agua Viva*

**SHOP PawnAmerica®
AND SAVE
DURING THE HOLIDAYS!**



NOCHE LATINA



JANUARY
WED. 8 @ 7:00 PM






VS.





SPANISH RADIO BROADCAST SCHEDULE





DECEMBER

Wed. 4 @ 8:30 PM vs. 
Sat. 7 @ 7:00 PM vs. 
Mon. 16 @ 6:30 PM AT 



JANUARY

Wed. 8 @ 7:00 PM vs. 
Fri. 31 @ 7:00 PM vs. 



FEBRUARY

Tue. 4 @ 7:00 PM vs. 
Wed. 19 @ 7:00 PM vs. 

MARCH

Wed. 5 @ 7:00 PM vs. 
Wed. 26 @ 7:00 PM vs. 

APRIL

Fri. 11 @ 7:00 PM vs. 
Wed. 16 @ 7:00 PM vs. 

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