

December 2017 Issue 364  
**Latino**  
**American**  
**Today**  
[www.latinoamericantoday.com](http://www.latinoamericantoday.com)

M E R R Y  
*Christmas!*

**FELIZ**  
**NAVIDAD**  
*y Prospero*  
*año nuevo*



## Where to Find Christmas Lights in the Twin Cities!



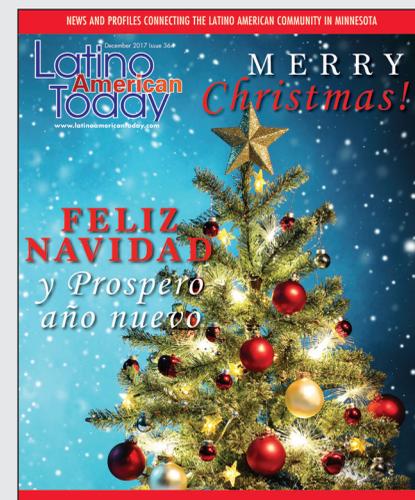
**Rice Park.** Surrounded by historic buildings and the sparkly Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Rice Park is one of the prettiest places to take in the lights. Get out of the car and stroll through the magic. All of the trees in the downtown St. Paul park are bedazzled and they bring in a giant evergreen to fill out the flickering forest. This year's holiday tree is 60 feet tall and 30 feet in diameter. It will be lit with 15,000 LEDs. WinterSkate ice rink next door is a great place to soak up the shimmer on skates. And the St. Paul Hotel is always decked out to the hilt for the holidays. It's worth a stroll through the lobby.

Visit [saintpaul.com](http://saintpaul.com)

**Hub for the Holidays.** Union Depot in Lowertown St. Paul will have a giant lighted tree (about 80 feet tall) out front again (and a giant tree-lighting event on Dec. 1 followed by fireworks). Visit [uniondepot.org/holiday](http://uniondepot.org/holiday)

**Mears Park.** From the depot, wander up to Mears Park where the neighbors have the one-block square sparkling. The Mears Park neighborhood group, Friends of Mears Park, found some funding to spiff up the lighting. "We haven't had lights for the past few years," said John Mannillo, chairman of the neighborhood group. "Well, we had some, but it was really pretty bad. This is a different thing. It's much nicer." Friends of Mears Park decorated the perimeter by the sidewalk, the inside of the park and the pergola. Tree trunks along the walkways are wrapped. New this year, they took an old oak tree toward the center of the park and wrapped all the branches with red lights.

**Holidazzle.** Minneapolis used to make its downtown lights mobile with the Holidazzle Parade. For the past couple of years, the lights and the festivities have been stationary in Loring Park. Trees throughout Holidazzle are draped in lights.



**On The Cover**  
Merry Christmas  
Feliz navidad y prospero año!

Latino  
American  
Today

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## The First Christmas



By Saúl Carranza

**T**he history of the first Christmas is nothing like the celebrations that are organized today to remember it.

The Gospels narrate the miraculous appearances of the Angel Gabriel to the priest Zacharias and the young Mary. In both cases to announce the supernatural birth of a child. To Zechariah, he announces that his old and barren wife will give birth to a child and that he should call him John.

To Mary, he announced that it will fulfill the prophecy given by the prophet Isaiah almost 800 years ago and said: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Immanuel means God with us. And when the young woman asked the angel, how can it be possible that she is going to have a baby if she has not known any man sexually, the angel tells her that it is the work of the Holy Spirit who will do the miracle that she Conceive without the participation of a male. The child Jesus is the son of God. And he came to this world to bring the message of love and goodwill of the Father. He came to remind us that God loves all people.

Although we know that the date we celebrated on December 25 could not be the date of Jesus' birth. This date gives us time each year to celebrate the wonderful event of the birth of the Son of God. And that's what the word Christmas means, "from Latin Nativitas" means "birth."

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## La Primera Navidad

Por Saúl Carranza

La historia de la primera navidad no se parece en nada a las celebraciones que hoy se organizan para conmemorarla.

Los evangelios narran las milagrosas apariciones del Ángel Gabriel al sacerdote Zacarías y a la joven María. En ambos casos para anunciar el sobrenatural nacimiento de un niño. A Zacarías, le anunció que su anciana y estéril mujer dará a luz un niño y que debe llamarle Juan. A María, le anunció que en ella se cumplirá la profecía dada por el profeta Isaías hacía casi 800 años y que decía: "He aquí que la virgen concebirá, y dará a luz un hijo, y llamará su nombre Emanuel."

Emanuel significa Dios con nosotros. Y es que cuando la joven preguntó que cómo puede ser posible que ella vaya a tener un bebe si no ha conocido sexualmente a ningún hombre, el ángel le indica que esa es la obra del Espíritu Santo quién hará el milagro de que ella conciba sin la participación de un varón. El niño Jesús es el hijo de Dios. Y vino a este mundo a traer el mensaje de amor y buena voluntad del Padre. Vino a recordarnos que Dios ama a todas las personas.

Aunque sabemos que la fecha que celebramos del 25 de diciembre no pudo ser la del nacimiento de Jesús. Esta fecha si nos da un tiempo cada año para celebrar el maravilloso evento del nacimiento del hijo de Dios. Y eso es lo que significa la palabra Navidad, "del latin Nativitas" significa "el nacimiento". María era la esposa prometida a José quien la recibió como esposa, aun, sabien-

do que esperaba un niño. José sabía que aquel niño era de Dios. José y María tuvieron que hacer el penoso viaje de Jerusalén a Belén para cumplir con el mandato del emperador romano Augusto Cesar de que todos debían ser censados. El viaje de Nazaret a Belén debió tomarles muchos días, ya que la distancia entre ambos pueblos era de cerca de 180 kilómetros. El censo hizo que no hubiera lugar para ellos en el pueblo. Y que el único lugar que encontraron para pasar la noche fuera un pesebre. Generalmente los pesebres eran cuevas abiertas en la roca para que pernoctaran los animales. Así que aquella primera navidad no tuvo olor a pino, ni ponche ni luces. En una oscura y maloliente cueva nació el Salvador del mundo. Los únicos invitados aquella noche fueron humildes pastores a quienes los ángeles contaron las "buenas nuevas de gran gozo. Aquella noche en la ciudad de David, nació el Salvador del mundo."

Es por eso que Navidad es Jesús y olvidarnos de ello nos deja solamente con una fiesta sin sentido. Jesús es el regalo de Dios para todos los seres humanos, y es en su nombre que todos al celebrar esta fiesta nos deseamos paz y felicidad. Navidad es una fiesta para pasarla en familia, es una fiesta para disfrutarla. Es un tiempo para acercarnos a aquel que bajo del cielo para venir a reinar a nuestro corazón y llenarlo del amor de Dios. Feliz Navidad.

Saúl Carranza es originario de Guatemala. Pastor de la Iglesia: Cristo Para Todas las Naciones en la Ciudad de Crystal, MN. Su misión es servir a Dios y a la comunidad hispana de las Twin Cities enseñando la Palabra de Dios, viviendo en una comunidad de amor y sirviendo a los necesitados. Para más información contacte: [pastorcarranza@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcarranza@gmail.com) o llame 763-245-2378.

## Latina Appointed as Campbell's new Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer



*By Hernando Ramírez-Santos News*

**M**ónica Díaz, a Hispanic executive with extensive experience in diversity who played important roles at Walt Disney and Microsoft, was named new Director of Diversity and Inclusion by the Campbell Soup company.

In this newly created role, Díaz will lead Campbell's enterprise-wide diversity and inclusion strategy, creating new programs and enhancing existing initiatives to foster an inclusive culture and diverse workforce that mirrors Campbell's consumer base. She will also act as an adviser to Campbell's Leadership Team.

Díaz will be based in Camden and report to Bob Morrissey, Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, beginning Nov. 20, 2017.

"Diversity and inclusion are critical to our business success and are foundational elements of Campbell's culture," said Morrissey. "Monica's proven track record in human resources, diversity and inclusion, wellness and talent management made her stand out among the many candidates we considered. Her nearly three decades of experience across many industries and geographies will complement the work we have underway and prove invaluable as we continue our efforts to build a diverse and inclusive workforce."

## St. Paul Police Department's First Latina Commander



*Pamela Barragan*

*By Claud Santiago*

**P**amela Barragan grew up in Ecuador and moved with her family to Minnesota in 1991. She got a job with the St. Paul Police Department as a civilian community liaison officer.

In the Latino culture, working with the Police is more of a male-oriented career so for Barragan this was different and very much a challenge.

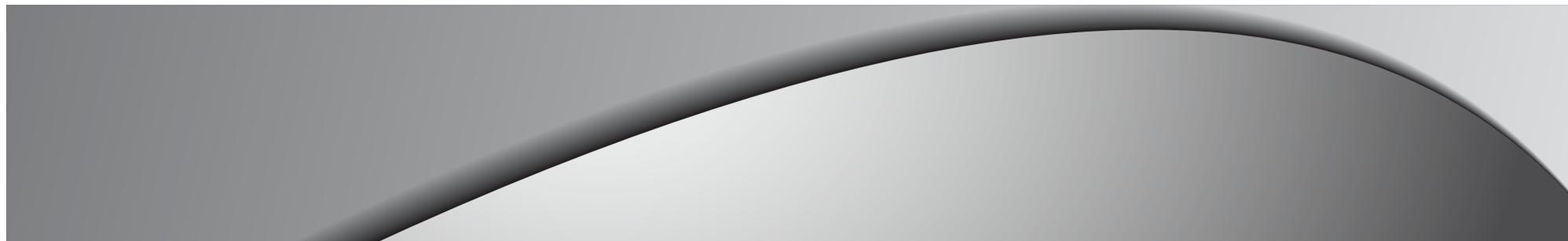
Barragan has made the most of the opportunity and after 18 years as a sworn police officer, she was promoted to become St. Paul Police Department's first Latina commander.

When she first started working with the Police Department, her parents were very concerned and wondered if their daughter made the right decision. Early in her career Barragan worked in the family sexual violence investigating sex crimes and child abuse then moved to the gang and gun unit and as a patrol

sergeant in downtown St. Paul. Barragan also worked in recruitment, getting people with diverse backgrounds interested in law enforcement. "We try not to just recruit the people themselves; we have to recruit the families," Barragan said.

This past year the police department has engaged in a new program called the Law Enforcement Career Path Academy, in which potential candidates from underrepresented communities can get tuition and living stipends paid through the state Department of Employment and Economic Development and AmeriCorps.

The Legislature — as part of a training package — voted to give additional money to a similar statewide program this year. Barragan will start out as commander in citywide services, which oversees such things as the traffic division, and the K-9 and mounted units. Good luck to her.



## Books to Inspire Women

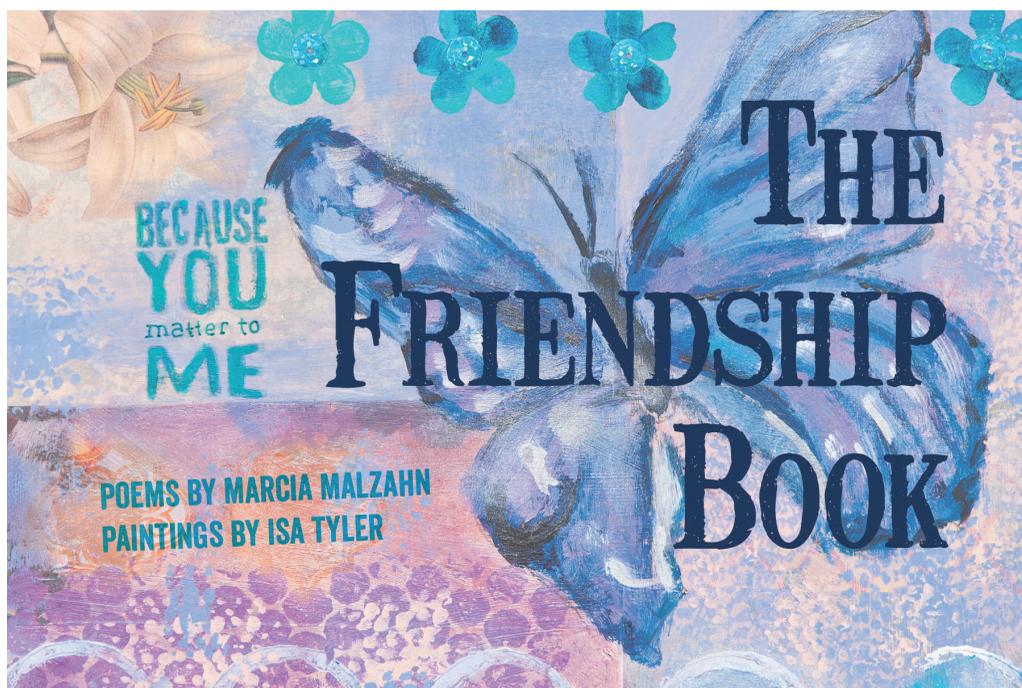
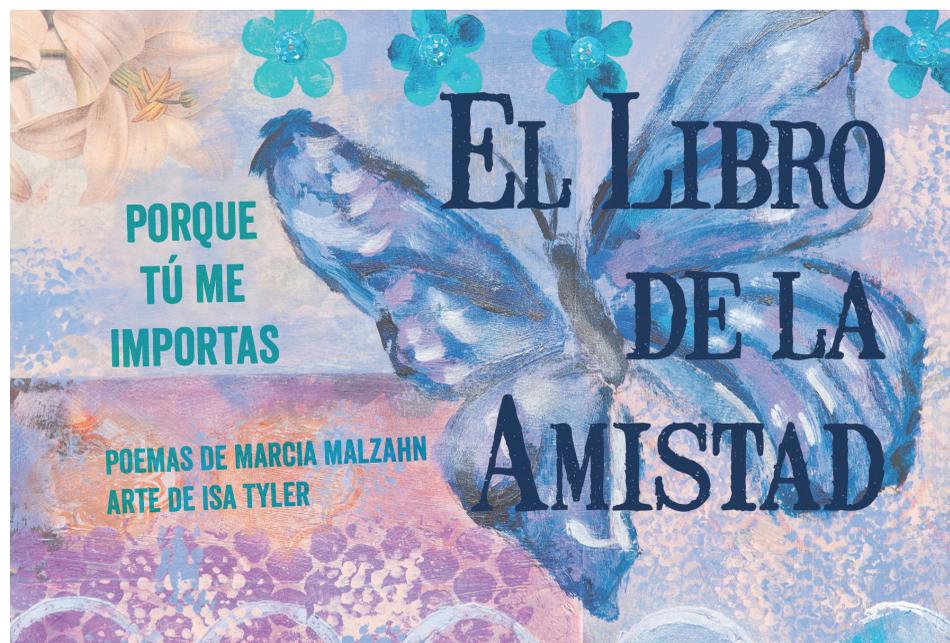
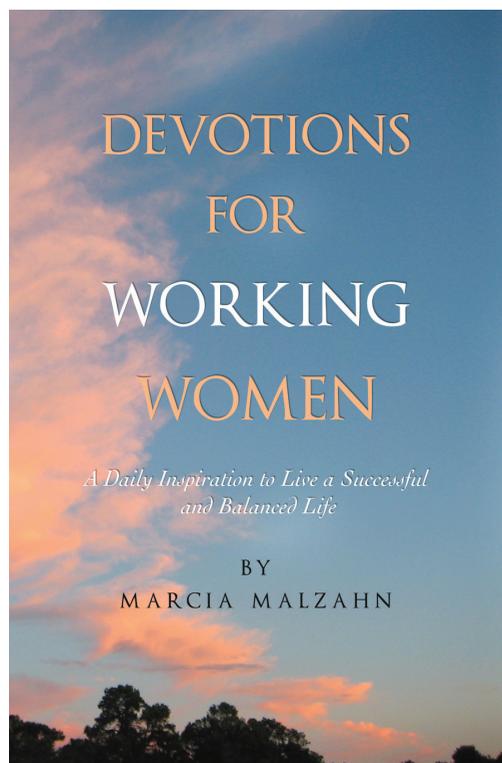
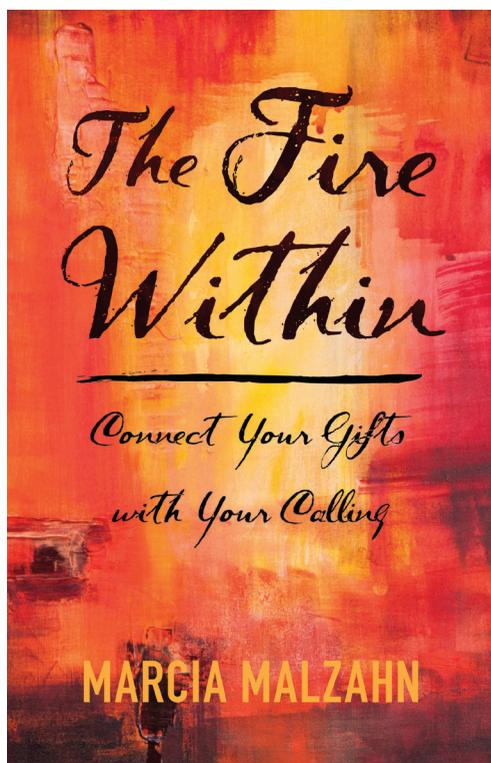
By Claud Santiago

Marci Malzahn started writing twelve years ago and she is not planning on stopping any time soon. Because Marci has always been a full-time working woman, she wanted to inspire other working women to be successful and to strive to achieve balance in their lives. That led her to publish her first book in 2006, *Devotions for Working Women – A Daily Inspiration to Live a Successful and Balanced Life*.

Several years later in 2015, Marci founded Malzahn Publishing, and published her second book, *The Fire Within – Connect Your Gifts with Your Calling*. Through this book, Marci inspires and encourages working people to discover their gifts, polish them, and use them to help others. Your talents are connected to your life's purpose and your ultimate calling.

In April, 2016, Marci published her third book, *The Friendship Book – Because You Matter to Me*, and dedicated it to all her friends around the world. Marci treasures her friendships and, in this book, she inspires others to appreciate and nurture their friendships. In November, 2017, Marci published this little book in Spanish, *El Libro de la Amistad – Porque Tú Me Importas*.

All books are available through Amazon or by contacting Marci directly at [marcia@marciamalzahn.com](mailto:marcia@marciamalzahn.com).



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# Popular Expanded Hours and Phone Interpreters Make DNR Info Just a Call Away: 888-MINNDNR

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“It’s important to help our customers when and how it’s convenient for them,” said DNR commissioner Tom Landwehr. “Being a hunter myself, I appreciate being able to call after work or on the weekend, and we know others do too.”

The phone interpreter service makes it easy and fast for non-English-speakers to get the information they need. They simply request an interpreter and staff create a three-way conversation to have their questions answered.

“We want to break down barriers so all Minnesotans feel comfortable asking for the information they want, whether in English or in their native language,” Landwehr said.

Customer service improvements have accompanied the rollout of longer hours. “We’ve implemented changes allowing us to answer calls more quickly and transfer callers to any other DNR staffer around the state if we can’t answer their question,” said Ann McBurney, information center supervisor. “That’s much friendlier than asking people to make another call, or to wait for a call back.” To reach the Information Center, call 888-MINNDNR (888-646-6367) or send email to [info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us). For more information and to see a new video promoting extended hours, go to [www.mndnr.gov/info](http://www.mndnr.gov/info).



¿Tiene preguntas sobre recursos naturales?

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## Winter Fun at a Minnesota State Park – Start the Season Early with a New Year’s Candlelight Walk



By Deborah Locke, DNR Information Officer

**W**e all know the way candlelight softens an indoor winter evening with a soft glow that warms and illuminates.

That indoor glow moves outside in the winter months during candlelight walks held at state parks throughout Minnesota. Hundreds of luminaries will line miles of trail edges, casting a beautiful light while bringing a little mystery and intrigue to your walk.

Let the winter of 2017-18 be the first winter of your new candlelight walk tradition: bundle up the family members (including the dog) and drive to the park at sundown. In the metro area, you may wish to take part in the New Year’s Eve candlelight walk at Fort Snelling State Park from 4 to 8 p.m. on Dec. 31. The trails will be lit, and warming stations

along the trail will include a bonfire as well as a chance to toast a marshmallow, your first toasting to a new year.

If you like the idea of luminaries enough to create your own, the “Ice Luminaries 101” demonstration will be held from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Dec. 23, 2017 at Fort Snelling State Park. No registration is needed. If you are attending the park for the first time, know that the Visitor Center is about two miles from the park entrance on Highway 5. Plan for an addition 10 minute drive along the river and through the park. For more information, call the Visitor Center at 612-725-2724.

Or maybe you’ve always wanted to try snowshoeing by the light of the moon. Join others from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Jan. 1, 2018 at Afton State Park near Hastings for the annual First Night Hike. You can borrow snowshoes from the park office; they are available for both children and adults. Program space is limited, though, so call ahead to register at 651-231-6989.

If you would prefer an afternoon to learn how to use snowshoes, check out the “Let’s Snowshoe” event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Jan. 20, 2018 at William O’Brien State Park. You can borrow or rent the equipment from the park’s Visitor Center and receive instruction on the basic fundamentals of snowshoeing. You can use the park’s older wooden snowshoes for free or rent newer ones for \$6. Keep in mind that a base of six inches of snow is needed to snowshoe; if enough snow is not on the ground then, the program will be cancelled. For more information, call 651-433-0500.

If snowshoeing turns out to be a hit with your family, there are lots of other Minnesota state parks you can explore, many of which rent snowshoes. Some of the parks have groomed snowshoe trails--Flandreau, Fort Snelling, Glendalough, Grand Portage, Itasca, Maplewood, Sibley and Wild River—but you don’t have to stay on the trails. You can snowshoe anywhere in the parks except on trails groomed for skiing or snowmobiling.

Want to go faster? Bring your snowmobile for a brisk run down a Minnesota state trail. Minnesota’s trail network includes more than 22,000 miles of groomed snowmobile trails, with more than 21,000 miles maintained by local snowmobile club volunteers. For maps and more information, go to [mndnr.gov/snowmobiling](http://mndnr.gov/snowmobiling).

Maybe sightseeing or photography are hobbies. Parks offer an abundance of photo opportunities, be it lacy tree branches against a bright blue sky or an owl perched on a branch overhead or a frozen waterfall.

Winter offers new ways to play outside. Maybe you’ve never ice fished, or maybe you have always wanted to try cross-country skiing. Learn more about these and other activities at Winter Trails Day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Jan 20, 2018 at Fort Snelling

State Park. Hosts including the National Park Service, REI, the DNR and the U.S. Forest Service will be on hand to teach and demonstrate winter recreational and sport activities.



For a list of all winter events, go to [mndnr.gov/ptcalendar](http://mndnr.gov/ptcalendar). A winter programs and events brochure is available to you from the DNR Information Center. To get a copy, call 651-296-6157 or send an email to [info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us). The Info Center is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Keep in mind that weather changes quickly in Minnesota: check the weather forecast and always dress appropriately.

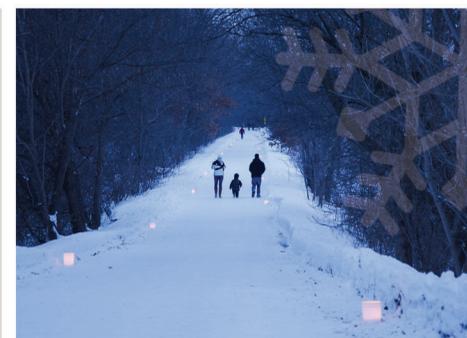
A vehicle permit is required to enter Minnesota state parks and recreation areas. The fee is \$7 for a one-day permit or \$35 for a year-round permit that provides unlimited visits.



## CELEBRATE AT A MINNESOTA STATE PARK

- **Candlelight Hike**  
Fort Snelling State Park  
Sunday, Dec. 31, 4-8 p.m.
- **First Night Snowshoe Hike**  
Afton State Park  
Monday, Jan. 1, 6:30-8 p.m.
- **Winter Trails Day**  
Fort Snelling State Park  
Saturday, Jan. 20, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **St. Croix River Candlelight Walk**  
William O’Brien State Park  
Saturday, Feb. 3, 4:30-8 p.m.

[mndnr.gov/ptcalendar](http://mndnr.gov/ptcalendar)



## Latin Hot Chocolate Is Perfect for the Holiday Season



Chef Amalia in the kitchen

By award-winning author and chef Amalia Moreno-Damgaard (AmaliaLLC.com)

Every time the holiday season is near I have a conflict of sorts. Do I go in the American or Latin direction, or both? This is how fusion begins for me.

When we are young we grow accustomed to what our elders do. Our brains are sponges that absorb and record everything that comes back to haunt or delight us later in life. Our taste buds are shaped by the flavors and eating habits we are exposed to early on. Whether we like it or not, these traits are hard to break.

When I think of food, I navigate a multicultural landscape of flavors. This I discovered later in life. Living in a diverse country there is no way to avoid this. I like it. It makes me think outside the box and then I realize that I am not alone in this space. Many immigrants may feel this way.

The good news is that that my deeply ingrained background always comes to the forefront at menu planning time. So the decision of what to eat for a particular celebration is automatically decided by what foods evoke feelings of hominess and wellbeing. My menus tend to be a combination of what I truly enjoy paired with components from other culture's flavors that I am fond of.

This holiday season I encourage you to venture a bit out of the traditional menu and explore complementary flavors that can add some spice at the table such as pairing the pumpkin pie with a cup of Latin hot chocolate. You will be in for a treat!

Merry Christmas!!!

## CHOCOLATE: Guatemalan Hot Chocolate with Chantilly Rum Cream



By Chef Amalia Moreno-Damgaard

Traditional Guatemalan hot chocolate is thick and foamy. The froth is achieved by stirring the chocolate in a deep ceramic pitcher or a deep pot with a *molinillo* (a special wooden whisk). The flavor and texture of Guatemalan chocolate are best appreciated when you make this recipe with hot water. This is the traditional method. However, children and some adults may prefer to make it with milk. Chantilly rum cream is not a traditional garnish,

but it adds another layer of flavor and eye appeal to the drink.

**Serves 2 people**

**6 to 8 ounces Guatemalan chocolate (3/4 to 1 cup of chocolate)**

**2 cups hot water or hot milk**

**Adorno (Garnish)**

**Chantilly rum cream (optional)**

**Ground canela (Ceylon cinnamon) (optional)**

Combine the chocolate and hot water in a heat-resistant ceramic pitcher, deep pot, or saucepan. Whisk vigorously with a *molinillo* to dissolve the chocolate, holding the *molinillo* between your palms and rotating it back and forth quickly. Once the chocolate is dissolved, continue whisking until the mixture is thick and frothy (about 5 minutes). Alternatively, you can use a stainless steel whisk in place of a *molinillo*.

Serve the hot chocolate in cups, garnished with Chantilly rum cream and ground cinnamon.

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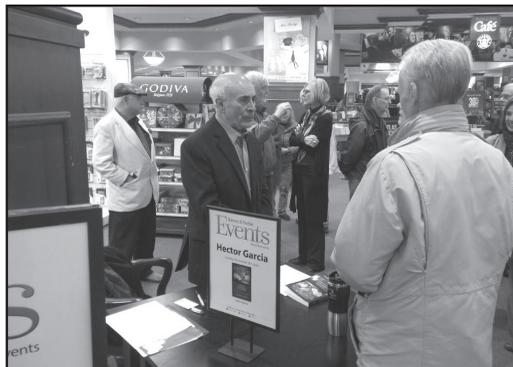
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## Hector Garcia Launches New Book



Hector Garcia local community leader and author held a book signing for his book *Clash or Complement of Cultures* at the Barnes & Noble in Roseville. The book has received good reviews on Amazon, like the one that is copied here.

*Review by Erik Brand*

An excellent book with something new to say about some of the biggest problems of our time. For several decades now, advocates and adversaries across the political spectrum have been debating the costs and benefits of migration, globalization and trade.

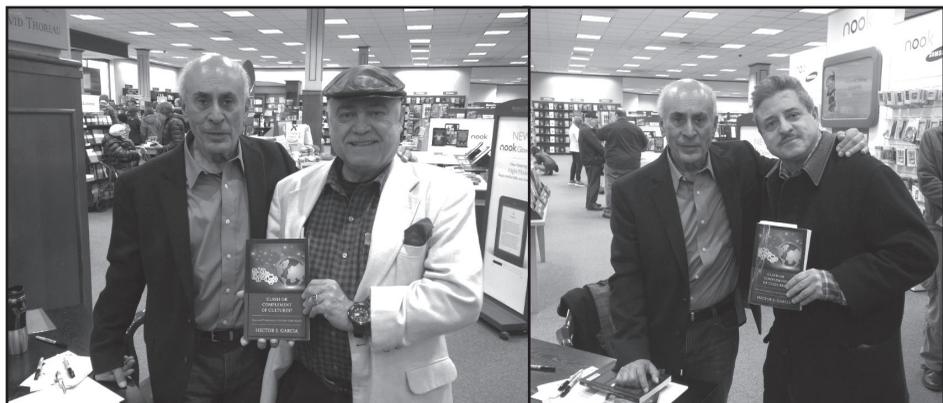
In most cases, entrenched interests gather impressive sets of data supporting their position—and then square off, rarely convincing their counterparts in the debate. Generally they spend much time deflecting critiques, rather than understanding the source of said criticisms.

Today we find ourselves largely in conflict over these issues, with violence increasingly being the first course of action rather than last resort, and anxious jockeying for position (whether as individuals or nation states) in a zero-sum-game mentality.

Hector Garcia takes a different approach in his book, *Clash or Complement of Cultures*, by stepping back into history and rising above the fray of political discord that's been so dominant in the discussion to date. The subtitle, *Peace and Productivity in the New Global Reality*, reflects the profound scope of this ambitious work, and its positive vision for the future.



*Hector with Rick Aguilar*



*Hector Garcia with Aldo Ramos*

*Hector and Rudy Cardona*

Garcia's well-cited work looks back over the decades at what got us here (race, animosity, bias, poverty, violence, education, ethics), and he lays out a new framework for dealing with the reality we share, getting beyond ideological hyperbole, and offering both theoretical and practical approaches to what it will take to overcome some increasingly perilous scenarios.

Garcia observes that what's been done to date has not been working, that we're poised to repeat the same mistakes of the past, and that a fresh approach, based on exploiting inherent "complementarities" within cultures, societies and economies, can deliver better results that benefit the most people.

We all want to get along instead of fighting with our neighbors, we want peace and security, we want meaning in our lives. So why has it been so hard—and

does it seem to be getting harder? Garcia's book offers insightful context for where we are today, and a compelling vision for how to move toward a brighter future.

## West Coast Vocalist Makes Waves in Twin Cities Jazz Scene

*By Claud Santiago*



**K**atia Cardenas is a Twin Cities-based vocalist, specializing in jazz, soul, and r&b. Recognized for her radiant energy, impeccable range, and dynamic and powerful voice, she brings emotional authenticity to every song. Her influences include Aretha Franklin, Ella Fitzgerald, Carole King and Eva Cassidy, to name a few. Deemed, "the fastest rising star on the Twin Cities jazz scene," she is currently performing at the top jazz and R&B venues in the Twin Cities.

After releasing her debut EP, *I'll Be Seeing You*, last year, Katia is about to embark on her first international tour to Mexico in March 2018.

Katia grew up on the West Coast with a musical family, and was raised on jazz, funk, and R&B. Her Mexican American father grew up in Los Angeles, and her mother grew up in North Dakota to a Scandinavian American family. In 2006, she moved to St. Paul to attend Macalester College, where she joined a cappella groups and other student-

led bands. After graduating, music was just a side note as she pursued a career in acting, theater education and arts administration. But in 2013, realizing the significant lack of music in her life, she decided to make a change. Making music in the Twin Cities has been a family tradition ever since her father, Mark Cardenas, joined *The Time* in 1983, appearing in Prince's iconic film "Purple Rain," while her mother, singer-songwriter Janis Kelly, also began her music career here at that time. Katia began performing in the Twin Cities in 2013, singing with a jazz trio at local jazz venues and special events. After appearing onstage at the Dakota Jazz Club in late 2014, she was invited to sing for the grand opening of *Vieux Carré* (formerly *The Artist Quarter*). At the 2016 Twin Cities Jazz Festival, Katia co-curated and performed in the inaugural "Singer's Scat-Off," which featured numerous local jazz vocalists, and is now in its second year. She later played on the Main Stage of the 2017 Twin Cities Jazz Fest. Make plans to hear this talented singer!

### **DECEMBER GIGS TO HEAR KATIA!**

Sunday, December 3, 7-10pm at Can Can Wonderland  
Wednesday, December 6, 8-11pm at *Vieux Carré*

## Magic Time at the Ordway

By Claud Santiago

It was magic at the Ordway. Direct from Broadway, Adam Trent—the break out star of the world’s best-selling magic show *The Illusionists*—brought his signature brand of magic and illusion to the Ordway. Produced by the same creative team behind *The Illusionists* brand, Adam Trent’s production was an immersive entertainment extravaganza of magic, comedy, and music that was perfect for the entire family.

**“Great show and I was really impressed with the theater...first class all the way.”**

—Karina Aguilar, Los Angeles, CA



**“The park looked so festive and the theatre was so beautiful, a perfect holiday treat.”**

—Jordan, Jade and Eddie



**“So pleased to help promote the wonderful programming at the Ordway.”**

—Rick Aguilar, Aguilar Productions



Jordan, Gisela, Karina, Rose, and Lisa networking before the show!



Marcela Aiello, Yoel Chavez, visiting from Chicago with their host, Christy Ana!

MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY PLANS NOW

# Annie

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