

December 2018 Issue 376
Latino
American
Today
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M E R R Y
Christmas!

FELIZ
NAVIDAD
y Prospero
año nuevo



Welcome Winter: Guide to Grand Opening of WinterSkate and Tree Lighting



Wells Fargo WinterSkate and Rice Park



Kick-off the holiday season at the Nov. 17 Grand Opening of Wells Fargo WinterSkate and Rice Park powered by Xcel Energy.

Who:

Everyone and anyone—all ages are welcome. This is a great event to invite your neighbors, friends and family to attend.

What:

The Grand Opening of Wells Fargo WinterSkate and Rice Park powered by Xcel Energy which is the unofficial kickoff to the holiday season in Minnesota's capital city. Attendees of this free event will have the opportunity to be the first to skate on the outdoor

rink on downtown Saint Paul's Landmark Plaza while getting a view of the lighting of the Hamm Plaza Christmas Tree—due to Rice Park renovations, the tree is being relocated for the season (though the exterior of Rice Park will still be lit). The event will also feature music, photo opportunities, fireworks and more.



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

Latino
American
Today

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El Milagro de la Navidad



Por Saúl Carranza

El domingo 23 de diciembre en la Iglesia Cristo Para Todas las naciones presentaremos un drama llamado “El Milagro de la Navidad”. Es la historia de un hombre alcohólico a punto de perder su familia y aún la vida por el vicio. Pero, un milagro en la época navideña cambió su destino.

Saben, no hay milagro más grande ni que afecte más profundamente a la humanidad que el nacimiento de Cristo. Fue un evento tan grande que aún dividió la historia en Antes de Cristo “AC” y después de Cristo “DC”. Es muy significativo que el número de cada año hace referencia a ese evento. Aunque los historiadores discuten cuál realmente fue el año uno y señalan algunos errores que podrían moverlo de uno a seis años. Si nosotros tomamos nuestra fecha calendario podemos decir que han transcurrido 2018 años desde la primera navidad. Cuando usted dice “yo nací en 1980”, por ejemplo, está diciendo yo nací mil novecientos ochenta años después del año en el que nació Jesús.

Los que estudiamos la historia del cristianismo vemos ese hecho como una irrupción de Dios en la historia de la humanidad. Los evangelios como documentos históricos fijan fecha, lugar y contexto de esos eventos. “El evangelio de Lucas dice: “Por aquellos días salió un decreto del emperador Augusto (27^o.C. a 14 d.C), por el que se debía proceder a un censo en todo el imperio. 2 Este fue el primer censo, siendo Quirino gobernador de Siria. 3 Todos, pues, empezaron a moverse para ser registrados cada uno en su ciudad natal. 4 José también, que estaba en Galilea, en la ciudad de Nazaret, subió a Judea, a la ciudad de David, llamada Belén”. Si bien la historia trata con lugares, personas y fechas. La Biblia habla de la obra de Dios. Como Dios inicia todo el milagro enviando a un ángel a anunciar el nacimiento del Hijo de Dios. A partir de entonces el mundo no es el mismo.

Ahora bien, si nos quedamos en el factor histórico solo podríamos hablar de lo acaecido. Pero cuando vemos vidas transformadas y otras transformándose cuando buscan a Jesús no podemos menos que reconocer que el milagro de la navidad sigo sucediendo. Toda persona que busca a Jesús recibe su milagro. Dios entra a su vida y le cambia de manera significativa. Quienes celebramos la navidad buscamos en cada detalle recordarle del amor de Dios. Los regalos recuerdan que Jesús fue el regalo de Dios para la humanidad. El verde de los árboles que Jesús es la esperanza para la humanidad, las luces que Jesús es la luz del mundo y el rojo de los ornamentos que sólo la sangre de Cristo limpia pecados. Por favor recuerde. **Jesús es la razón de la estación.** Feliz navidad, Dios te bendiga.

Bendiciones de parte del Pastor Saúl Carranza, Pastor de la Iglesia Cristo Para Todas las Naciones en Crystal MN. Para más información contacte: pastorcarranza@gmail.com o llame 763-245-2378.

The Miracle of Christmas

By Saúl Carranza

On Sunday, December 23, at Christ for All Nations Church, we will present a drama called “The Miracle of Christmas.” It is the story of an alcoholic man about to lose his family and life for vice. But a miracle in the Christmas season changed his destiny.

You know, there is no greater miracle or that it affects humanity more deeply than the birth of Christ. It was such a great event that it still divided the story into Before Christ “AC” and after Christ “DC”. It is very significant that the number of each year refers to that event. Although historians discuss what really was the year one and point out some errors that could move it from one to six years. If we take our calendar date we can say that 2018 years have passed since the first Christmas. When you say “I was born in 1980,” for example, you are saying, I was born nineteen hundred and eighty years after the year in which Jesus was born.

Those of us who study the history of Christianity see that fact as an irruption of God in the history of humanity. The gospels as historical documents set the date, place and context of these events. The Gospel of Luke says: “In those days a decree was issued by the Emperor Augustus (27th-14th century AD), for which a census was to be taken throughout the empire. 2

This was the first census, being Quirino governor of Syria. 3 Everyone, then, began to move to be registered each in his hometown. 4 Joseph also, who was in Galilee, in the city of Nazareth, went up to Judea, to the city of David, called Bethlehem”. While the story deals with places, people and dates. The Bible speaks of the work of God. As God initiates the whole miracle by sending an angel to announce the birth of the Son of God. From then on, the world is not the same.

Now, if we stay in the historical factor we can only talk about what happened. But when we see lives transformed and others transforming when they look for Jesus, we have to recognize that the miracle of Christmas is still happening. Every person who seeks Jesus receives his miracle. God enters their life and changes them in a meaningful way. Those of us who celebrate Christmas look for every detail to remind you of God’s love. The gifts remind us that Jesus was God’s gift to humanity. The green of the trees that Jesus is the hope for humanity, the lights that Jesus is the light of the world and the red of the ornaments that only the blood of Christ cleanses sins. Please remember. Jesus is the reason for the season. Merry Christmas, God bless you.

Saúl Carranza is the Pastor of La Iglesia Cristo Para Todas las Naciones in Crystal, MN. Please contact him via email pastorcarranza@gmail.com or call 763-245-2378.

Christmas... Whose Birthday Is It Anyway?



Marci Malzahn

By Marci Malzahn

As I returned from a recent business trip, I listened to one of my favorite Christmas songs called, “Where’s the Line to See Jesus?” sang by Becky Kelley. I love listening to this special song because it reminds me of the real reason for Christmas. I listen to it every time I’m on the plane going somewhere, even when it’s not Christmas. For some reason, this song gives me peace and calm as I go off to my destination.

This song tells the story of a boy who is at a shopping mall during the Christmas season looking for Jesus, but he can’t find him anywhere in the mall. Instead, he finds a huge line to see Santa. So he asks a young woman, “Where’s the line to see Jesus?” but she couldn’t answer. He then asks her, “If Christmas time is his birthday why don’t we see him more?” But again, the young woman didn’t know what to say as there was no line for Jesus. Lastly, the boy says, “He was born for me. Santa Claus brought me presents but Christ gave his life for me!”

This Christmas let’s not focus on the busyness of the season and the stress from shopping under the pressure of a tight timeline and a short budget. Instead, let’s give thanks to God for giving us the ONE gift that will change our lives for eternity—Salvation.

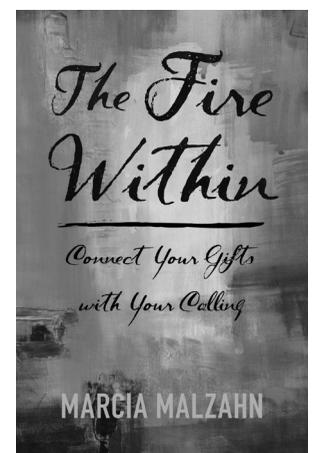
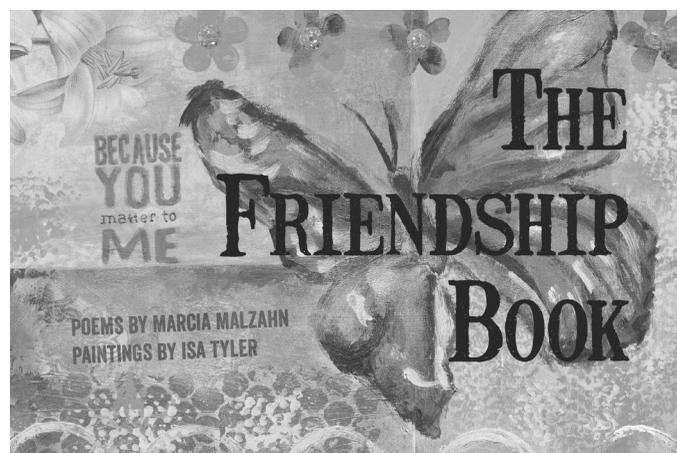
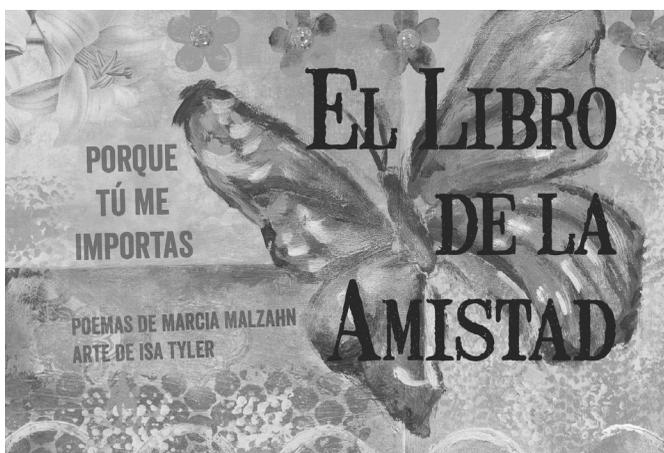
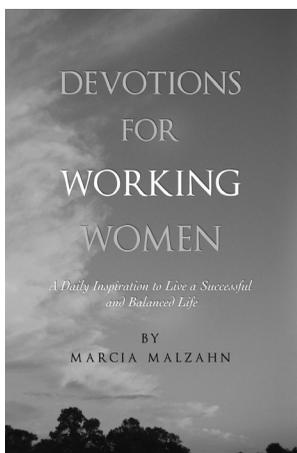
There is no greater gift than salvation. There is no present that we could ever give to anyone that compares to this one. So this season you can go to malls and visit Santa with your kids. You can buy presents for your children and loved ones. But I encourage you to also seek “the line to see Jesus!” Seek Him first and all the other things will be added to your life (Matthew 6:33).

Salvation is for Everyone (Romans 10:5-14). If you haven’t accepted the gift of salvation yet, I’m giving it to you right here, right now. Read these scriptures and you will know exactly what to do and say. If you have received this amazing gift, then bring Jesus with you wherever you go and share Him with others. “Pay it forward,” as they say, and don’t keep the Good News to yourself. Don’t be afraid of giving this gift. Don’t be ashamed of this gift as it is the most valuable and priceless gift you can ever want for yourself or give to others once you have it.

As you do all these things during the Christmas season, ask yourself the question: Whose birthday is it anyway?

As you do all these things during the Christmas season, ask yourself the question: Whose birthday is it anyway?

Marci Malzahn is president and founder of Malzahn Strategic (www.malzahnstrategic.com), a community financial institution consultancy focused on strategic planning, enterprise risk management, cash management, and talent management. Marci is also a professional speaker and published author of three books (covers below). You can contact Marci for speaking engagements through her website at www.marciamalzahn.com or email her at marcia@marciamalzahn.com. You can purchase Marci’s books at www.Amazon.com.



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Aguilar Productions Announces Presenters for 23rd Annual Multicultural Marketing Conference



*Trent Bowman,
VP, Community
Development Office
for KleinBank*

Aguilar Productions, the leader in promoting the U.S. Emerging Markets, announced presenters for the upcoming 23rd annual Multicultural Marketing Conference and Awards that will be held on February 21, 2019 at the Wellstone Center in St. Paul. “We’re pleased to announce a new sponsor and presenter for our upcoming conference. Trent Bowman, VP, Community Development Officer for KleinBank, a division of Old National Bank will be a presenter this year representing a new sponsor for our conference,” stated Rick Aguilar, President of Aguilar Productions. With over 20 years of experience, Trent proudly serves the home lending needs of residents in the Minneapolis area. He is passionate about his commitment to guide minority individuals and families down the path of home ownership.

Trent works tirelessly with prospective homeowners to identify programs that make purchasing a home affordable. He also frequently teaches classes for first-time home buyers. In addition to serving as a board member for the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB), he remains heavily involved in the Twin Cities community by partnering with and being part of local organizations focused on increasing minority home ownership. These include the Local Initiative Support Corp (LISC) Advisory Council, Homeownership Opportunity Alliance (HOI), Minneapolis Urban league, Model Cities, Neighborhood Partners, and Neighborhood Economic Opportunity Network (NEON).



*Richard Aguilar,
President, Aguilar
Productions*

In addition to his career at KleinBank, a division of Old National Bank, Trent has worked in similar positions at Associated Bank, Wells Fargo, and M&I Bank. He is a native of Minneapolis and a graduate of Minneapolis Community College.

American Latino Influencer Awards in Washington D.C.



Valor Award Recipients



Danny Vargas



*Vargas with Former Commerce
Secretary Carlos Gutierrez*

By Danny Vargas, Board Chair of the Friends of the American Latino Museum (FRIENDS)

The American Latino Influencer Awards was held on November 28 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Washington D.C. The event was produced by the Friends of the American Latino Museum. Danny Vargas, Board Chair for the organization was the MC for the event.

“Huge thanks to everyone who made the American Latino Influencer Awards (ALIA) event a resounding success! Many thanks to everyone who attended and congratulations to all the awardees.” One of the awardees was former Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez: “Secretary Gutierrez has long been a champion and voice for the American Latino community,” said Estuardo Rodriguez, Executive Director at FRIENDS. “His story illustrates the lasting impact of Latino leaders in business and politics; we are grateful for his ongoing commitment and service to the nation. Stories of trailblazers like Secretary Gutierrez need a permanent home on the National Mall to educate and showcase Latino contributions in American history. The Valor Awards were presented to four outstanding and inspiring Latina veterans, Ret. Major General Angela Salinas, Colonel Ivette Falto-Heck, PhD., Rear Admiral Christina Alvarado, Brigadier General Irene Zoppi. Troy Coronado, 2017 Valor Award recipient also attended the event. Danny Vargas addressed the attendees stating, “Working together, I am convinced that we can and we will create a National Museum of the American Latino.”

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Broadway Series, Ordway Music Theater

“Splashy, peppy, sugar-sprinkled holiday entertainment!”
– *The New York Times*

“Endearingly goofy!”
– *USA Today*

“Elf is happy enough for families, savvy enough for city kids, and plenty smart for adults!”
– *Variety*

Elf The Musical is the hilarious tale of Buddy, a young orphan child who mistakenly crawls into Santa’s bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. Unaware that he is actually human, Buddy’s enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa’s permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father, discover his true identity, and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Based on the beloved 2003 New Line Cinema hit, *Elf* features songs by Tony Award® nominees Matthew Sklar and Chad Beguelin (*The Wedding Singer*), with a book by Tony Award winners Thomas Meehan (*Annie*, *The Producers*, *Hairspray*) and Bob Martin (*The Drowsy Chaperone*).

Discover your inner elf.

The Musical

“SPLASHY, PEPPY, SUGAR-SPRINKLED ENTERTAINMENT!”
– *The New York Times*

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This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the state and cultural heritage fund.

Latino American Today Visits with Police Department in Houston, Texas



L to R: Sgt. Pete Morales and fellow officers



Rick with Sgt. Pete Morales

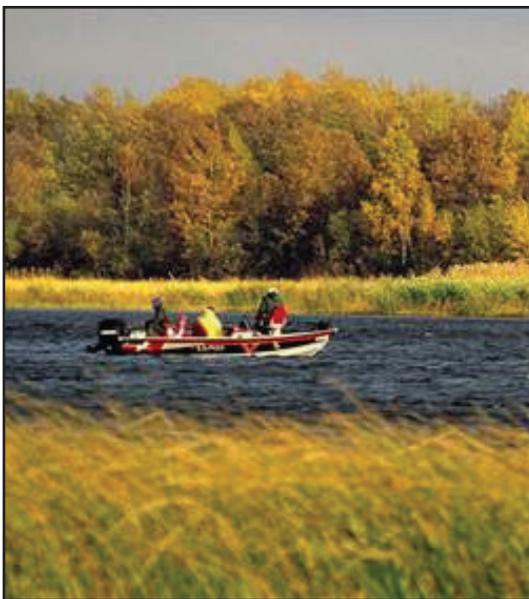


Rick Aguilar in a squad car

Rick Aguilar, Publisher of *Latino American Today* visited with Sgt. Pete Morales and officers of the Houston Police Department in Kingwood. “We are so proud of Latinos who served in the Police departments throughout our country. They put their lives on the line everyday for their communities and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their service,” Aguilar stated.

Kingwood Area is a neighborhood in Houston, Texas with a population of 84,706. Located in Harris County and it is one of the best places to live in Texas. Living in Kingwood Area offers residents a suburban feel and most residents own their homes. Many families and young professionals live in Kingwood Area and the public schools in Kingwood Area are highly rated.

Fall is Prime Time for Fishing



Fishing in Rainy River

By Erica Wacker

With cooler weather, more active fish and a beautiful backdrop of changing leaves, fall is one of the best times of year to fish in Minnesota. Depending on the area and the size of the lake, walleye, muskie, northerns, largemouth bass and crappie, as well as trout in the southeast Minnesota streams, are all biting.

“Everything bites better in the fall,” says Paul Nelson, a veteran fishing guide in the Bemidji area. As the fish try to fatten up for the coming winter, many species are more active during the day as they look for food, and also start gathering into larger schools.

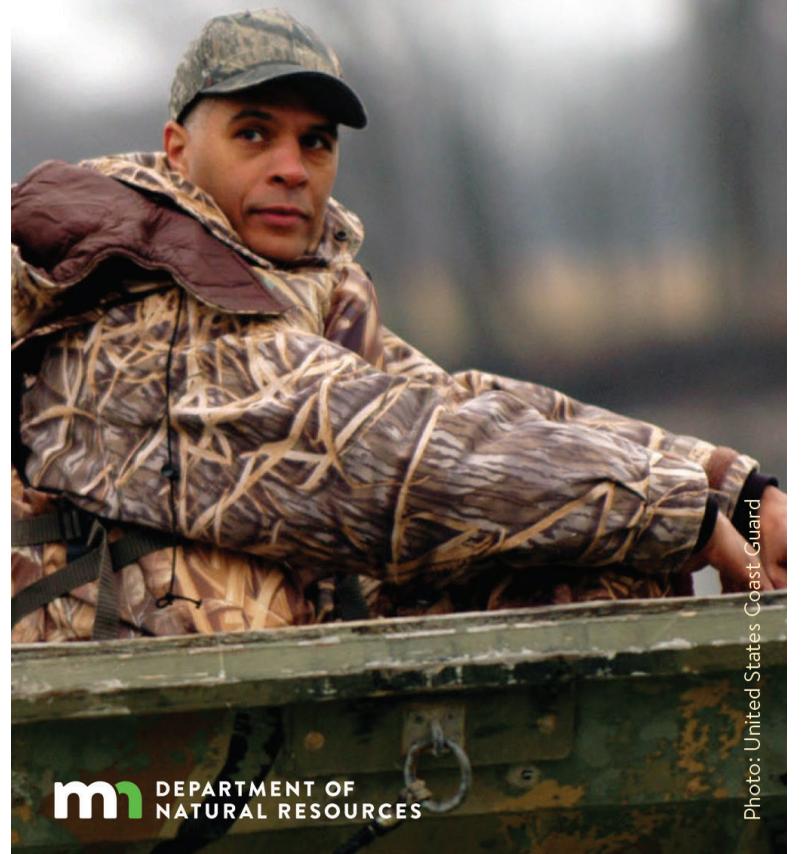
On lakes including Winnie, Leech and Red, the fish can be found closer to the shoreline, while lakes that have a thermocline, including Cass, Bemidji and Leech, entice the fish to go deeper in the fall.

Further north, the annual fall run of walleye takes place on the Rainy River (pictured above) in September and October. The slow-moving river features 40 miles of navigable water, beginning at Lake of the Woods and heading east along the Canadian border. Anglers can watch the fall bird migration and marvel at the autumn leaves along the way.

¡Uselo!

Wear a life jacket on cold water:

- Cold water shock response ..1 minute
- Swim failure.....10 minutes
- Onset of hypothermia.....30 minutes



Maria Regan Gonzalez Elected Next Mayor of Richfield and State's First Latina Mayor



Maria Regan Gonzalez

Maria Regan Gonzalez has been elected Richfield's next mayor following the Midterm Election held on November 6. In her race, she received 96.25 percent of the votes cast.

She is filling the seat previously held by Pat Elliott. Regan Gonzalez's term will run through 2022.

Regan Gonzalez has represented Richfield's eastside residents as the Ward 3 councilmember since being elected in 2016.

Even prior to serving on the city council, service was always a big part of Regan Gonzalez's life. Her parents encouraged her to get involved in her community. That passion for service eventually led her to run for a seat on the Richfield City Council.

"Originally, I ran for city council because I wanted to make sure that city services were accessible to all residents," explained Regan Gonzalez.

Though her time on the city council has been brief, Regan Gonzalez and her city council counterparts have shepherded in many initiatives and proj-

ects that will impact Richfield for decades to come.

Specifically, they have passed ordinances aimed at protecting youth from tobacco products, expanded affordable housing options, authorized reconstruction of some of Richfield's busiest roads, and ushered in a redevelopment boom of more than \$200 million.

However, it is the smaller accomplishments that Regan Gonzalez is most proud of. Regan Gonzalez's vision for Richfield revolves around the rapid change the city is experiencing. She also wants to engage more residents in the change process by getting their input early in the development of city-wide initiatives.

Regan Gonzalez believes that one of Richfield's biggest strengths for today and the future is its diversity.

"Richfield is growing and diversifying," acknowledged Regan Gonzalez. "As a city, that provides us with a lot of worldviews and assets that we can leverage to help Richfield thrive."

Upon taking office, Regan Gonzalez will become Minnesota's and Richfield's first Latina mayor, but she credits strong female trailblazers such as the current Ward 2 council member Edwina Garcia, the Richfield's League of Women Voters, and former mayor Debbie Goettel for leading the way. Regan Gonzalez will be sworn in January.

Minnesota Latino Republican Legislators Win Re-Election

By Claud Santiago



Rep. Eric Lucero (R) District 30B

Minnesota lawmakers, Rep. Eric Lucero (R) District 30B and Rep. Jon Koznick (R) District 58A, we're both re-elected in the recent November elections. Lucero and Koznick made Minnesota history in 2014 when they became the first Latinos elected as Republicans to the Minnesota House of Representatives. They will both participate in the start the 2019 Minnesota Session at the State Capitol.

Rep. Jon Koznick was born in Colombia and was adopted at a young age by his family in the United States. He grew up in Anoka and studied at St. Cloud State University, where he received a degree in Marketing. Koznick is very concerned about the Latino Education Achievement Gap and wants to see that each child in Minnesota receives a great education.

Rep. Eric Lucero's professional career includes a decade experience in the computer security & data privacy field, seven years teaching college level computer security related courses. He is an entrepreneur

and small business owner and previously was a City Council Member in the City of Dayton. "We need to do more work at the Capitol that can help Latino students achieve the American Dream," Lucero stated.

Both Lucero and Koznick see the need to help the growing Latino business community with fewer regulations, lower taxes, and healthcare they can afford. They both will help the Latino community in Minnesota by addressing the concerns and protecting the future of the next generation. They are pro-life, pro-family, and believe in protecting equal opportunity.



Rep. Jon Koznick (R) District 58A

MSP Cine Latino a Real Trip

By Gabriela Talvo Zarfati



L to R: Tom and Roma Stocks, Gold Sponsors for the festival; Susan Smoluchowski, Executive Director / The Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul; and Rick Aguilar

International travel often results in a few stamps in your passport, tons of photos and videos, and hopefully great connections, wonderful experiences and lovely memories. The best trips can be described as “life-changing,” in the good way. The **2018 MSP Cine Latino** film festival was all that sans the actual travel part – just an impeccably-curated selection of proven recent films that have won awards around the world.

First stop: The intensely personal **Roma** by Alfonso Cuarón, almost a time travel experience that took us to Mexico City in the 1970s and gave us a way to see life through the lens of poverty and social class. Docu Station: **Yo no me llamo Rubén Blades (Rubén Blades Is Not My Name)**, a documentary about the multifaceted and productive life of the “intellectual salsero” – one helluva trip across a 50-year career encompassing 17 Grammys, many films, and a parade of who’s who in show business that were fortunate to be part of Blades’ life and work.

Other fabulous trips at Cine Latino:



Todos lo saben (Everybody Knows), a star-studded and engaging family drama that takes place in Spain, with an Argentina connection.



Las herederas (The Heiresses), another class story that somewhat mirrors the *Roma* narrative albeit from the perspective of old wealth in Paraguay.



Roma by Oscar winning film director Alfonso Cuarón documents his upbringing in 1970s Mexico City.



El último traje (The Last Suit), an emotional and literal journey that take us from Buenos Aires and Poland in a character-driven story with subtle performances and a soundtrack featuring klezmer music.

Bottom line, for the travelogue, was this life-changing? You betcha.

Minnesota Opera’s Silent Night

“It was the first time for me attending a Minnesota Opera production, it was an amazing, emotional and enjoyable evening.”

—Rick Aguilar

Music by Kevin Puts | Libretto by Mark Campbell
Based on the screenplay by Christian Carion
For the motion picture *Joyeux Noël* produced by Nord-Ouest
Commissioned by MN Opera as part of its New Works Initiative

MN Opera’s international sensation makes its homecoming, honoring the centennial of World War I’s conclusion. Recounting a miraculous moment of peace during one of the bloodiest wars in human history, Scottish, French, and

German officers defy their superiors and negotiate a Christmas Eve truce. The Pulitzer Prize-winning music underscores the yearning, despair, and hope of the soldiers living in the trenches. *Silent Night* masterfully juxtaposes the bombastic sounds of war with serene songs from home, and stands as a heartfelt hymn to our common humanity.



Rick Aguilar, Publisher Latino American Today

Embrace Winter on a Pair of Snowshoes

By Harland Hiemstra, Minnesota DNR



Linda Radimecky holds the key to another world, one that's accessible only part of the year. Her key has a history that spans thousands of years and two continents. If you're interested, she'd be happy to share.

"Snowshoes give us a way to explore a whole different world,"

she says. "They allow us to reach places we couldn't get to in non-winter seasons."

Take a cattail marsh, for instance. In July, it's wet and boggy and filled with the hungry hum of mosquitoes. But on a crisp day in January when everything's buried in snow, you can get out into it and look for tracks to see what's been stirring. There's a lot more going on than you might think.

"It's peaceful and silent," says Radimecky, who works as a naturalist at Afton State Park near Hastings. "I feel like I'm more in tune with nature and the quiet of winter when I get out on snowshoes."

Historians believe snowshoes were "invented" somewhere between 4,000 and 6,000 years ago, when prehistoric inhabitants of central Asia strapped pieces of wood and leather to their feet to imitate the way some animals could walk on top of deep snow. It's a function of what physicists call "flotation." When the weight of an animal (or person) is spread out over a larger footprint, it floats on top of deep snow, rather than sinking in.

The snowshoe concept spread out from Asia along two different tracks. One track travelled west into Scandinavia, with the pieces of wood strapped to feet growing long and skinny, ultimately turning into skis. The other track took an eastward course, crossing the Bering Strait into North America, where the snowshoe as we know it was created.



Different groups of Native Americans developed different types and styles of snowshoes, depending on their needs. But all the designs relied on a frame made of bent wood (usually from an ash tree), with thin strips of animal hide laced together crosswise and diagonally to hold it together and provide the flotation. The snowshoe played a critical role in the lives of many Native Americans. It was to winter what

the canoe was to summer: a mode of transportation and an instrument of necessity for survival.

In 1972, two brothers from Washington state came up with a new approach to snowshoe design, using a lightweight aluminum frame and plastic decking to create the "Western" snowshoe that is most common today. A basic pair can be bought for about \$70 and up. Traditional wooden snowshoes are still popular with some, but they tend to be more expensive; some people buy kits from which they build their own. Rentals also are available at many Minnesota state parks.

Learning to use modern snowshoes has less of a learning curve than with the longer wooden ones. Some people say it's not much different from walking – except that you have big pieces of metal and plastic strapped to your feet. Don't be surprised if you fall a few times on your first snowshoeing foray. Snowshoeing provides a good winter workout, Radimecky says. The extra weight on your feet and the slightly wider stance required for walking on snowshoes may result in a little stiffness the next day, but getting out into the peace and quiet of a winter day makes it all worthwhile.

A Native American quote from the Canadian First Nations, passed down over the generations, noted that some people try to avoid the snow, whereas "the Indian always looked for the best way to walk on it and live in harmony with nature." It's an approach that makes perfect sense to Radimecky.

"If we're going to be in Minnesota in the winter, let's embrace it," she says. "Let's get out into nature and look for animal tracks and see what's going on. It's a lot better than being trapped indoors."

Want to try snowshoeing?

Go to www.mndnr.gov and type "snowshoeing" into the search bar. You'll be taken to a page that identifies all of the Minnesota State Parks that rent snowshoes to the public for a mere \$6 per day. You'll also see a list of special state park events focused on helping you learn about this increasingly popular winter activity. A few parks offer special classes where you can build your own snowshoes from a kit.

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*May the peace and blessings
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*And may the coming year
be filled with happiness.*

*-Rick Aguilar, Publisher
Latino American Today*