



"Live and Help to Live"

La Voz del Paseo Boricua

a publication of the Juan Antonio Corretjer Puerto Rican Cultural Center

2739-41 W. Division • 773.342-8023 • www.prcc-chgo.org

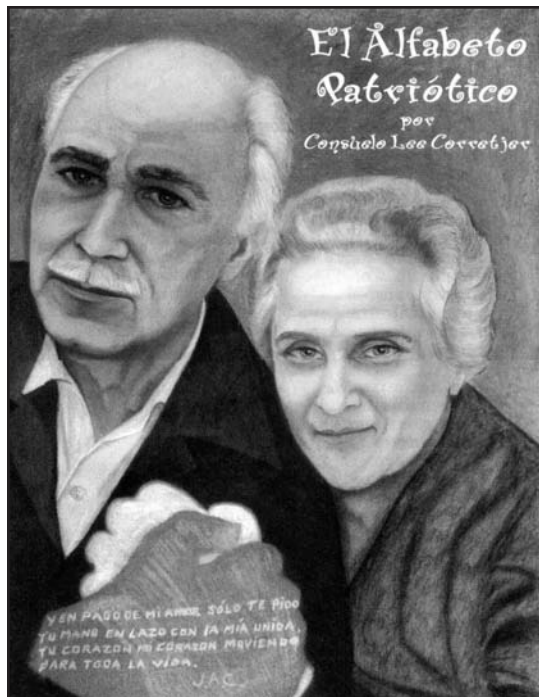


Upcoming Event In Celebration of Doña Consuelo Lee Corretjer Centennial Puerto Rican Cultural Center Hosts Event

The **Puerto Rican Cultural Center** will celebrate the centennial of Puerto Rican poet, pianist and visionary leader **Consuelo Lee Corretjer** on Sunday, March 28 at 2pm at 2739-41 W. Division with the following activities.

The program consists unveiling a mural of the poet inside the **Consuelo Lee Corretjer Childcare Center**, a performance by the children, food, and poetry readings. Furthermore, the celebration includes an open house of the **Andres Figueroa Cordero Library and Community Information and Technology Center**.

Doña Consuelo's "Alfabeto Patriotico" will be on sale. "Alfabeto Patriotico" is a coloring book developed by Consuelo Lee Corretjer to teach literacy to Puerto Rican workers in the form of poetry. It is illustrated by the Puerto Rican patriot **Oscar López Rivera**.



DSBDA Welcomes "CTA Connects" to Paseo Boricua

DSBDA assisted the CTA with the filming of their upcoming show of "CTA Connects." The show highlights Chicago tourist destinations and sights using

Chicago public transportation. The show featuring Paseo Boricua will air the month of May on Chicago municipal TV, channel 23.

Coco's Restaurant on Paseo Boricua Newly Opened Restaurant Features Fusion of Puerto Rican Cuisine

Since mid-February, **José Allende** and **Xavier Noguera**s have been serving their customers a new Puerto Rican cuisine in their recently opened upscale **Coco's Restaurant** at 2723 W. Division. Coco adds a new dimension to both Paseo Boricua and to Puerto Rican cooking. It is a beautifully decorated, creatively furnished addition to the culturally accented Puerto Rican commercial strip which Paseo Boricua has become.

Enrique Salgado Jr., Executive Director of DSBDA said: "We are excited to see the opening of Coco. José and Xavier have taken great risks and we are confident this community will respond."

To savor the latest development in Puerto Rican gourmet cooking call 773.384.3811. Coco is open Tues-Friday: 4pm to 12am, Sat: 1pm-12am, Sun: 1pm-10pm.

DSBDA & NNNN Affordable First-Time Home Buyer's List

Division Street Business Development Association (DSBDA) and the **Near Northwest Neighborhood Network (NNNN)** are currently accepting names of individuals who are searching to purchase affordable homes in the Humboldt Park Area. NNNN will begin the pre-qualification process for interested individuals.

If you are interested and/or are not sure if you qualify for an affordable unit call NNNN at (773) 489-0383 and ask for Carlos Colón, or DSBDA at (773) 782-0454.

DSBDA Supports SB 1498

Cook County Assessor Jim Houlihan has introduced State Senate Bill 1498, the Neighborhood Preservation Homeowner Exemption, and **Cook County Commissioner Roberto Maldonado** held a press conference to support the Assessor's effort. The bill would cap property tax assessments at 7% per year with a maximum reassessment at 21% every three years.

Currently Humboldt Park and West Town average between a 70%- 150% increase in property assessment. DSBDA supports SB 1498 to help alleviate the burden of rising property taxes. DSBDA has testified before several State committees in support of **Bill SB 498**.

If you are interested in more information on SB 498 contact Cook County Assessor at (312) 603-3196 or visit them on the web at www.cookcountyassessor.com for this and other property exemptions.

Humboldt Park's Very Own Film "BORICUA"

selected for Tribeca Film Festival

Chicago's Puerto Rican community is elated that Humboldt Park's own Puerto Rican filmmaker, Marisol Torres' movie "Boricua" was selected by prestigious Tribeca Film Festival in New York City. The film will be shown:

Tribeca Film festival (NYC)

*tickets go on sale April 24th

screening days & times

May 5th ■ 9:30pm May 6th ■ 4pm May 8th ■ 6pm

A special showing of the film is being organized by Alderman Billy Ocasio for the community.

On Paseo Boricua— Everything You Want and Need!

PRFAA Sponsors

Boston Puerto Rican Community Leaders Tour of Paseo Boricua

On Saturday, February 7, the Midwest **Puerto Rican Federal Affairs Administration (PRFAA)**, headed by **Maddi Elga Amill**, sponsored a tour of Paseo Boricua by a group of Boston-based Puerto Rican community leaders. The program included a presentation by the **Puerto Rican Agenda** at Coco's Restaurant, with special messages from **Alderman Ocasio** and **Commissioner Maldonado**, preceded by a trolley tour of

the community, as well as a luncheon hosted by Banco Popular at La Bruquena Restaurant.

The Boston visit ended with the participants attending a forum by Professor **René Antrop-Gonzalez** on his recently published article in **Centro Journal** about the Pedro Albizu Campos Alternative High School, entitled "This School is my Sanctuary."

Women of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center

Celebrate International Women's Day

The Women of the **Puerto Rican Cultural Center** helped organize a series of events in commemoration of International Women's Day, which included an all-day forum on how militarization impacts women around the world, a breakfast discussion on women

and colonialism, as well as a mobilization on International Women's Day, March 8 in Chicago's downtown. These events were co-sponsored by other groups including, **National Boricua Human Rights Network** and **Prairie Fire Organizing Committee**.

Humboldt Park Participatory Democracy Project

One of the many innovative programs being developed in our community is the **Humboldt Park Participatory Democracy Project**. It just may be that you are one of the hundreds of residents who have been visited by the project's volunteers over the last two months.

As a collaborative effort between the **Puerto Rican Agenda**, the **Puerto Rican Cultural Center** and the **26th Ward Organization**, the project consists of a series of weekly community-organizing workshops and door knocking visits within seven 26th Ward precincts located roughly between California and Western and Hirsch and Thomas.

According to its' brochure, "Our mission is to ensure the social, eco-

nomie, and political development of our community and to prevent its displacement. We seek to do this through active participation in community-building efforts. As a community, we must determine our future by building on our collective assets, talents, and aspirations."

Expanding the notion of democracy to include much more than voting, together, the project believes, we can confront all the problems and challenges facing our community. This view stems from the idea that as one of the project's participants put it, "It is ultimately our responsibility to build community and struggle for a better day."

For info: 773.394.5206

**Need an apartment?
Want to buy property?
Interested in opening a business?**

**¿Necesita un apartamento?
¿Quiere comprar una casa?
¿Interesa abrir un negocio?**

Call/ Llame **Enrique Salgado—Division Street Business Development Association-DSBDA**
(733.782.0454 • 2649 W. Division)

Questions about property taxes?

¿Preguntas o problemas con los impuestos de su propiedad?

Call/ Llame **Commissioner Roberto Maldonado**
(773.395.0143 • 2615 W. Division)

Are you a young mother or father under 21 who wants a high school diploma?

¿Eres una madre o un padre soltero que aún no ha cumplido los 21 años y necesita el diploma de escuela superior?

Call/ Llame **Marisol Morales-Family Learning Center**
(773.342.0809 • 2636 W. Division)

Do you need help with gas and electric bills?

¿Necesita ayuda con su cuenta de calefacción o de electricidad?

Call/ Llame **Puerto Ricans United for Action-PRUA**
(773.235.5274 • 2606 W. Division)

Do you need information about HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases?

¿Necesita información acerca de VIH/SIDA o enfermedades transmitidas sexualmente (ETS)?

Call/ Llame **John Colón -VidaSIDA**
(773.235.2909 • 2703 W. Division)

Do you know anyone under 21 in need of a high school diploma?

¿Conoce a un joven que no ha cumplido los 21 años y no se ha graduado de escuela secundaria?

Call/ Llame **Lourdes Lugo-Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School**
(773.342.8022 • 2739-41 W. Division)

Are you looking for after school activities?

**Do you write rhymes? poetry?
Need a tutoring program?**

**¿Esta interesado en actividades después de la escuela? ¿Escribe versos y poesía?
¿Esta interesado en un programa tutoría?**

Call/ Llame **Café Teatro Batey Urbano**
(773.394.5206 • 2647 W. Division)

**Do you need garbage pick-up?
Do you have a rodent problem?**

¿Tiene problemas con la recolección de basura o problemas con los roedores?

Call/ Llame **26th Ward Streets and Sanitation**
(312.744.4558 • 2460 W. Cortland)

Need child-care for children ages 2-5?

¿Necesita ayuda con el cuidado de sus niños entre las edades de 2 a 5 años?

Call/ Llame **Xóchitl Ramírez**
(773.342.8023 • 2739-41 W. Division)

Call/ Llame **Viva Family**
(773.252.8313 • 2516 W. Division)

Do you need free testing on HIV/AIDS or pregnancy?

¿Necesitas un examen gratis de VIH o embarazo?

Call/ Llame **Miguel Morales-Vida Health Center**
(773.235.2909 • 1112 N. California)

Centro Sin Fronteras Holds Pilgrimage to Springfield

Support of Drivers Licenses for the Undocumented and for Expungement

Centro Sin Fronteras, a Mexican community-based organization which has struggled for the rights of undocumented immigrants for many years, held a pilgrimage on Wednesday, March 24 which included a 2-mile walk to the State Capital to demand a bill that will grant drivers licenses to undocumented workers, as well as to demand the reform of the State's criminal justice system through expungement.

Emma Lozano, director of Centro Sin Fronteras, stated "It is time for State Legislators to give undocumented workers, many who already drive because of their work situation, licenses in the State of Illinois. We called for this pilgrimage in order to bring together two burning issues which affect the Latino and African-American communities."

Puerto Rican Arts Alliance Presentation on:

Taíno Culture by Dr. Curet

On Sunday, March 21, **Dr. Antonio Curet** from the Field Museum gave an insightful and provocative presentation on the Taino Indians of Puerto Rico and Caribbean. This event was sponsored by the **Puerto Rican Arts Alliance** and drew a crowd that filled the Mariano Del Valle Lounge of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center. A lively discussion ensued following the presentation.

Today, Saturday, March 27, **NNNN** and **Alderman Billy Ocasio** will be sponsoring a job fair at the Humboldt Park Field House. Gathering together over 40 different employers, the job fair will be taking applications and answering questions about employment. This is another example of this community working together to build a better tomorrow.

For more information about upcoming job fairs and employment information contact: **NNNN** at **773.489.0383**.

NNNN Job Fair

Ald. Ocasio's Proposal Wins Broad-based Support for Referendum on Election President of Puerto Rican Parade



Despite the underhanded maneuvers by a few anti-democratic elements— who are clearly allied with reactionary forces in Puerto Rico— the Puerto Rican community came together to agree on a referendum to determine the selection process of future presidents of the Puerto Rican Parade Committee.

This decision was made on Saturday, March 13 at a legislative breakfast which was held at the Puerto Rican Parade headquarter. Expressing the views of many elected official— including **Alderman Ray Suarez**,

Senator Miguel Del Valle, **Commissioner Maldonado**, and **Congressman Luis Gufierrez— Alderman Billy Ocasio** proposed that a referendum be held in the Puerto Rican community by which the President of the Puerto Rican Parade would be selected by a panel of long-standing Puerto Rican organizations with 501-C3 (not-for-profit) status; and that said body would act as the fiduciary agent of the Parade. The community will be asked to vote for or against this proposal.

The only dissenting voice appeared to be

that of Leoncio Vasquez who walked out of the meeting. He had been involved in an attempt to hijack this process through the use of the now moribund Puerto Rican Consortium.

The President of the Puerto Rican Parade, **Efrain Malave**, welcomed the proposal and committed himself to making it a reality.

It is the above type of unity which our community needs and merits. Congratulations are in order for Alderman Ocasio and Efrain Malave!

DePaul University Community Service Course To Be Taught on Paseo Boricua

Professor Howard Rosing will be holding his class "Perspectives on Community Service" at the Puerto Rican Cultural Center every Tuesday beginning March 30, 6pm at 2739-41 W. Division. This class focuses on community service and the students will perform internships and practicums on Paseo Boricua. Welcome to Paseo Boricua!

Puerto Rican Cultural Center and IPRAC sponsored Slide Lecture by Miguel Luciano & Taina Caragol



The Puerto Rican Cultural Center and IPRAC, sponsored a slide lecture by visiting artist **Miguel Luciano**, and Puerto Rican art critic **Taina Caragol** at the Mariano Del Valle Lounge at 2741 W. Division, Thursday, March 25.

Taina Caragol wrote in "On the Razor's Edge" the following about Miguel Luciano's work: "For Luciano, the deconstruction of Puerto Rico's colonial history, as well as the problematization of the space

between Puerto Rican and American cultures, are the principal terrain of exploration. His paintings, videos and installations present a variety of Puerto Rican stereotypes that expose racist traditions within our historic representations, including those representations we ourselves continue to perpetuate. Social, racial and sexual prejudices are revealed beneath the mask of political power that outlines the relationship between oppressors and oppressed."



Batey Urbano Continues to Expand

Batey Urbano and HPEP Youth Action Team Hosts Visits to Paseo Boricua

"I am amazed," proclaimed a student from Michigan State University upon participating in a recent tour of Paseo Boricua. This tour beginning at **Batey Urbano** (2647 W. Division), highlighted many of the grassroots community organizations, Puerto Rican restaurants and businesses that anchor Paseo Boricua. A similar tour was given a few weeks ago to a group of 60 African-American and Latino students from Gwendolyn Brooks High School, on Chicago's far Southside.

Students from both groups were astonished with the level of community organization, specifically all the plans and initiatives intending to

stabilize and strengthen the Puerto Rican community in Humboldt Park. Students seemed to draw much inspiration from the historic work taking place here, and several students indicated a desire to return to Paseo Boricua.

Batey Urbano, collaborating with the **NNNN/HPEP Youth Action Team**, continues to service our community by hosting three nights of expression; coordinating Batey Tech, a after-school tutoring program; developed and facilitating a Youth Collective, which is comprised of Latino youth who organize events and develop their leadership through skill-building workshops.

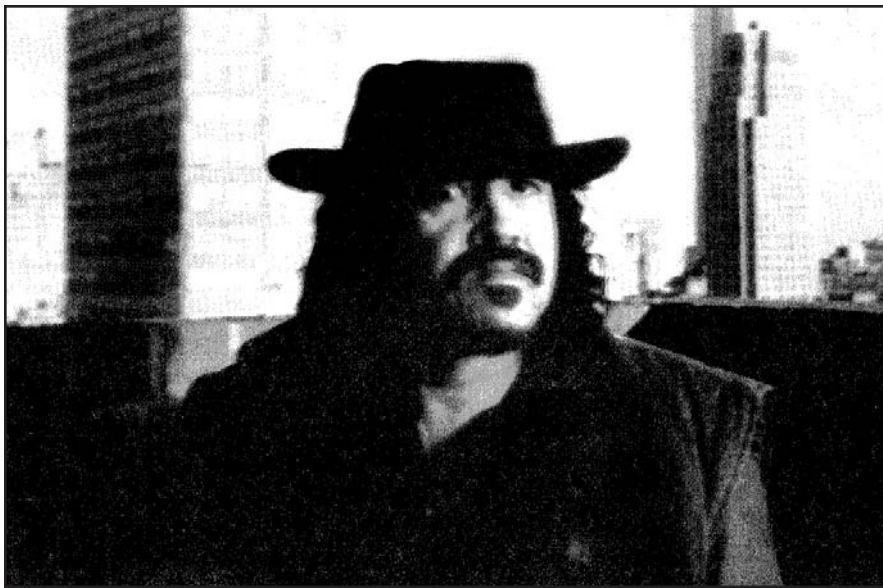
Batey Tech Tutoring Program: Spring 2004

One of several initiatives that help define Café Teatro Batey Urbano, is the Batey Technology Program (Batey Tech). This program has been created in an effort to fine-tune the academic and technological tools of our youth, while at the same time allowing for a generation to grow as successful critical thinkers.

Our program, with college preparation workshops, tutoring and leadership development, provides the space for students to complete their schoolwork in an educational environment. Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 3pm-to-7pm, students can come into the Batey Urbano and study. Also, if any student has trouble with a specific subject, we have college or upper-level high school students that are tutors.



Although our main focus of tutoring is with **Don Pedro Albizu Campos Alternative High School** on Paseo Boricua, we invite other students in the Chicago area to come to our program. Upon entering, one of the Batey Collective members will sit down with each student and develop a schedule that the student can work from.



At Ruiz Belvis:
**Community and Artists
 Join in Fundraiser for
 Poet Pedro Pietri**

More than 100 people, including many of our community's artists, gathered at the Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center (1632 N. Milwaukee) on February 29, 2004 to celebrate the life and poetry of Pedro Pietri.

Often referred to as a "Nuyorican poet," Pedro Pietri's poem "Puerto Rican Obituary" is considered the epic poem of the Puerto Rican Diaspora.

Friends, artists and activists came together to help defray the cost of his alternative medical therapy. Unfortunately, two days after, Pedro Pietri died from complications en route to New York from Mexico. A huge funeral and commemorative service was held in New York City on Sunday, March 7. The benefit in Chicago raised nearly \$3,000, which was sent to his family.

¡Hasta Siempre Pedro Pietri!

**Puerto Rican Agenda Health Committee and Ald. Ocasio
 Sponsor City Council Committee
 Meeting on Health Inequities Study**

The **Puerto Rican Agenda Health Committee** and **Alderman Ocasio** held an unprecedented hearing of two City Council Committees—Human Relations and Health Committee— on Tuesday, March 9 at the **Association House**. The Hearing focused on a newly released report by **Mount Sinai Hospital**, conducted by **Dr. Steve Whitman** detailing various health inequities in Chicago.

Many experts, clients, and community leaders testified including **Dr. Madeline Vargas**, Dean of the Humboldt Park Vocational Center, **Dr. Scrimshaw**, Dean of the UIC School of Public Health, **Miguel Palacio**, Associate Director of As-

sociation House, **Eliud Medina**, Executive Director of NNNN, **Dr. Greenspan**, CEO of Mount Sinai, and **John Colón**, Project Director of Vida/SIDA, among others.

More than a hundred people filled the hall to hear the startling health statistics facing Humboldt Park and Puerto Rican community. In response, the Puerto Rican Agenda presented a community initiative entitled, "Creating a Community of Wellness."

The Hearing received coverage on Channel 44, HOY, the Lawn-dale News, the Chicago Tribune, and Extra Newspaper.

**Fundraiser for
 Family Learning Center**

**Saturday April 3 ■ 6pm ■ \$25-30 donation
 Defenders of the Faith Church 2421 W. Division**

One of FLC students, **Reyna Torres**, will be hosting a fundraiser for the **Family Learning Center**. The FLC provides educational services leading to a high school diploma for young single mothers and fathers.

For info call: 773-342-0809

IPRAC Hosts Major Cultural Events in the Community

The Institute of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture has been very busy since the New Year.

Competition for IPRAC logo

During the last few months IPRAC has sponsored a series of competitions for area artists to submit renditions for its logo. Many Puerto Rican artists have actively participated in this process.

Julia de Burgos Celebration

IPRAC sponsored a poetry reading on February 22 at **La Bruquena** (2726 W. Division) in celebration of Julia de Burgos's birthday. Puerto Rican poet, Johanny Vazquez served as MC and many people read Burgos' poetry or from their own creations. The well attended event was a fine tribute to the life, struggle, and poetry of Julia de Burgos, the great Puerto Rican writer.

La Mano Poderosa Racetrack Exhibit

On March 26, IPRAC will open a new exhibit at **Galería Tinta Roja** at 2701 W. Division from 6-9pm. The exhibit consists of an interactive program and a sculpture installation that combines Puerto Rican folklore with consumer fantasy by visiting artist Miguel Luciano.

Film Screening: "Bala Perdida"

IPRAC will be holding a fundraiser during the Latino Chicago Film Festival at the Biograph Theater on Thursday, April 22, at 6pm. This Puerto Rican film critiques the widespread custom of shooting guns on New Year's Eve in Puerto Rico. The tickets for the event will be \$20. For more information call Jorge Felix at 773.486.8345.

