

NEWS AND PROFILES CONNECTING THE LATINO AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MINNESOTA

January 2022 Issue 412  
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American  
Today**  
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**2022**  
**¡PRÓSPERO AÑO NUEVO!**

**HAPPY**  
*New Year!*

STAY SAFE **MN**

MANTENTE SEGURO **MN**



## Thanks to Latino American Today Staff and Contributors!

As we look back at 2021, we want to take time to thank the staff and contributors of Latino American Today for their efforts in producing our publication each month. Thanks to all and we look forward to 2022!



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers, advertisers, and supporters.

– Rick Aguilar, Publisher  
Latino American Today

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On The Cover  
¡Prospero año nuevo!  
Happy New Year!

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## ¿Será 2022 un buen año?



*Por Saúl Carranza  
Coordinador de Ministerios Hispánicos Iglesia del Nazareno*

A todos nos gustaría escuchar una respuesta positiva a esta pregunta. Algunas personas invierten mucho tiempo y recursos tratando de adivinar o conocer cómo será el próximo año. Otros consultan horóscopos, adivinos o videntes tratando de conocer asuntos que les preocupan. Y aún hay quienes investigan y trazan proyecciones basadas en criterios científicos para describir un futuro muy posible. Con todo eso, sabemos que el futuro es caprichoso y que cualquier afirmación, aún la científica, son finalmente especulaciones con posibilidades de cumplirse.

Nuestra existencia se desarrolla entre tantas variables que la mayoría de pronósticos sobre el año 2022 se ven muy sombríos. Catástrofes naturales, hambrunas, conflictos globales, economías en crisis, empeoramiento o nuevas variantes de COVID-19 y problemas para ofrecer trabajo a todas las personas se encuentran entre las posibilidades más mencionadas entre lo que el año nuevo nos trae. A todo ello se une la crisis de la familia, pérdida de valores sociales y aislamiento individual. Aunque también hay cosas positivas. Se están haciendo esfuerzos importantes para revertir el cambio climático, se están dando pasos grandes para lograr la vacunación contra el COVID-19 y la pandemia nos está enseñando a cooperar más unos con otros. Aun así, la pregunta personal continúa. ¿Será el 2022 un buen año?

Saben, el paso del tiempo por sí mismo no cambia nada, la tierra sigue su trayectoria inexorable hacia completar su órbita todo el tiempo. Las referencias establecidas por los

seres humanos nos permiten saber cuando ha alcanzado ciertos puntos, de allí que además del nuestro, tengamos año nuevo chino, año nuevo judío y otros tantos calendarios. Pero en la realidad del universo nada cambia. Lo que cambia es nuestra percepción de los eventos y nuestras decisiones personales.

La naturaleza se renueva en cada estación dando lugar a nuevas etapas en su ciclo de vida y muerte. Esa renovación incluye una restauración de todo aquello que ya no sirve o no está bien. Es bueno tener marcas en la vida que nos permitan evaluarnos a nosotros mismos, renovar lo que ya no funciona, cambiar lo que no está bien y renovarnos para ser mejores.

El cambio de año no hará nada por nosotros. El año nuevo no será ni bueno ni malo. Nosotros lo hacemos peor o mejor. Las circunstancias pueden ser favorables o desfavorables. Lo que para unos puede ser malo para otros es bueno y viceversa. Pero, la capacidad de cambiar las circunstancias nos ha sido dada por Dios. En el esfuerzo por lograr un mejor futuro Dios le dio esta clave a Josué. “Esfuézate y se valiente, no temas ni desmayes, El Señor tu Dios estará contigo a donde quiera que vayas”.

Dios nos ha dotado de un extenso potencial lleno de valor y cualidades para alcanzar nuestras metas en la vida y no conformarnos a las circunstancias. El llamado de Dios es a saber que, con trabajo y empeño, con fe y esfuerzo podemos mejorar. Y que cuando nuestras fuerzas y recursos no alcanzan podemos confiar en un Dios todopoderoso que siempre está a nuestro lado para ayudarnos a triunfar. Jesús lo dijo de esta forma: “Yo les he dicho estas cosas para que en mí hallen paz. En este mundo afrontarán aflicciones, pero ¡anímense! Yo he vencido al mundo.” Juan 16:33 RVI. Con todo esto, no se preocupe si el año será bueno o malo. Mejor, busque en Dios la fuerza y el valor para hacerlo el mejor año de su vida. Feliz año nuevo.

## Will 2022 Be A Good Year?

*By Saúl Carranza  
Coordinator of Hispanic Ministries Church of the Nazarene*

We would all like to hear a positive answer to this question. Some people spend a lot of time and resources trying to guess or know what the next year will be like. Others consult horoscopes, fortune-tellers or seers trying to learn about matters that concern them. And there are still those who research and make projections based on scientific criteria to describe a very possible future. With all this, we know that the future is capricious and that any statement, even the scientific one, are finally speculations with the possibility of being fulfilled.

Our existence unfolds among so many variables that makes most forecasts for the year 2022 look very bleak. Natural disasters, famines, global conflicts, economies in crisis, worsening or new variants of COVID-19 and problems in offering work to all people are among the most mentioned possibilities among what the new year brings us. Added to all this is the family crisis, loss of social values and individual isolation. Although there are also positive things. Major efforts are being made to reverse climate change, big strides are being made to achieve COVID-19 vaccination, and the pandemic is teaching us to cooperate more with each other. Still, the personal question remains. Will 2022 be a good year?

You know, the flow of time does not change anything, the earth follows its inexorable trajectory towards completing its orbit all the time; but, this reference established by human beings allow us to know when it has reached certain points, since, in addition to ours, we have Chinese New Year, Jewish New Year and many other calendars. But in the reality of the universe nothing changes. What changes is our perception of events and our personal decisions.

Nature renews itself in each season, giving rise to new stages in its cycle of life and death. This renewal includes a restoration of everything that no longer works or is not well. It is good to have marks in life that allow us to evaluate ourselves, renew what no longer works, change what is not right and renew ourselves to be better.

The turn of the year will do nothing for us. The new year will be neither good nor bad. We make it worse or better. The circumstances can be favorable or unfavorable. What for some may be bad for others is good and vice versa. But, the ability to change circumstances has been given to us by God. In the effort to achieve a better future God

gave this key to Joshua. “Be strong and courageous, do not fear or lose heart, the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

God has endowed us with extensive potential full of courage and qualities to achieve our goals in life and not conform to circumstances. God’s call is to know that, with work and commitment, with faith and effort, we can improve. And that when our strength and resources are not enough we can trust an almighty God who is always by our side to help us succeed. Jesus put it this way: “I have said these things to you so that you may find peace in me. In this world you will face afflictions, but take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 KJV. With all of this, don’t worry if the year will be good or bad. Rather, look to God for the strength and courage to make it the best year of your life. Happy New Year.



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## The Best Leaders Are Resilient – Happy New Year!



Marcia Malzahn

By Marcia Malzahn

Leaders must possess many qualities to succeed, but the one quality that has surfaced to the top is resilience. The best leaders are resilient, no doubt. Without resilience, today's leaders will not survive. The word "resilience" means *"the ability of a person to adjust to or recover readily from illness, adversity, or major life changes."* And, for an organization, it means *"the ability of a system or organization to respond to or recover readily from a crisis or disruptive process."*

After living through a global pandemic for two years, we have a "new normal." And it's called *uncertainty*. The old saying that "the only thing that is certain is change" could now be re-written to say, "the only thing that is certain – or uncertain – is change." What does this all mean?

Whenever there is change in our lives, we must adapt – and quickly – both at the personal level as well as the business level. As a leader, you are responsible for leading yourself and others through difficult times. This means you need to make decisions with little information available which could change tomorrow. This means that you don't know how the markets will perform, if your employees will stay loyal to you and your company, or if your customers will continue to choose you to do business with.

But be of good cheer, in uncertainty and in difficult times, there are always opportunities to improve personally and at the corporate level. And you, as the leader, must find them – both in your personal life as well as for the company you lead.

**Below are some encouraging tips to help you stay focused on the opportunities the New Year brings:**

**Grow Your Emotional Intelligence Quotient.** If you've never taken an E.Q. assessment, I encourage you to do so this year. You will discover behaviors that you can change to improve your E.Q. Emotional Intelligence addresses two key areas: 1) Personal Awareness of your own emotions:

recognizing what emotions you're feeling, and why, and managing your emotions. 2) Social Awareness – the emotions of others: recognizing what emotions the other person is feeling and adjusting your behavior to improve your relationships.

**Pursue New Business Opportunities.** Pause and reflect on your existing business and brainstorm with your leadership team for new business opportunities. Differentiate the ideas versus the real growth opportunities. Prepare, research, and prioritize the real opportunities and pursue one during next year.

**Enlarge Your Network.** Leaders know people and are natural connectors of people. Leaders have a large network of friends and business colleagues. Whether you are an introvert (you draw your energy from being alone) or an extrovert (you draw your energy from others) doesn't matter. You can network one-on-one or in a small group. For example, you can expand your professional network on LinkedIn by sending people you're interested in connecting a simple, friendly invite. Most people are willing to accept your invitation.

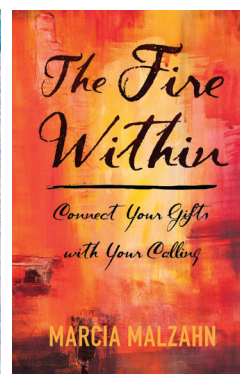
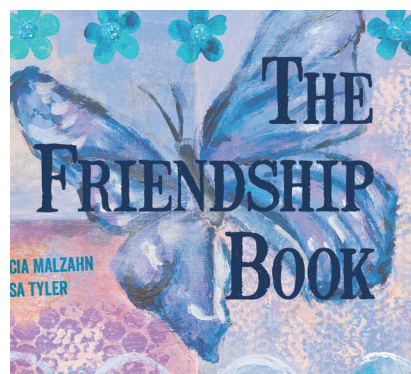
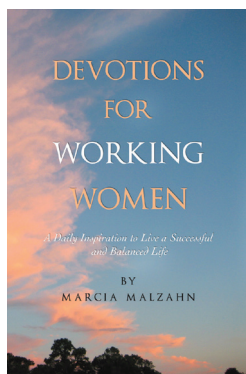
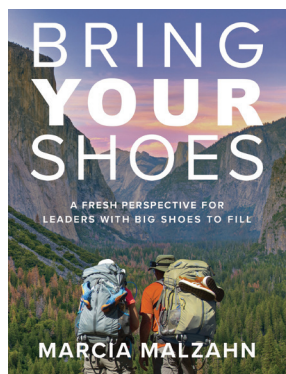
**Be Kind and Respectful of Others.** Our country is divided in so many levels that we don't know what to say because regardless of what we say on sensitive issues, we may offend someone. People are walking around wounded and scared of sharing their opinion. Let's be kind to one another and remember that respect and kindness go a long way in building relationships.

**Increase Resiliency.** Equally important is to continue increasing your own resiliency as a leader. Uncertainty will continue in almost every area of our lives. Strengthening your faith will help you stay strong and stand on a solid foundation. Then the rest of the world can change but you'll still be standing.

I hope these tips will help you start your year with a positive mindset that will carry you through 2022. I wish you all the best and that you become even a more resilient leader yet.

Happy New Year!

Marcia is an inspirational keynote speaker and published author of five books: A daily devotional – *Devotions for Working Women*, *The Fire Within* – to help you find your purpose, friendship poems in *The Friendship Book*, also in Spanish *El Libro de la Amistad* (poemas de Amistad), and *Bring YOUR Shoes* to help emerging leaders with tools on how to lead. In her latest book, *Inside Your Mama's Tummy*, Marcia inspires grandparents to form a bond with their grandchildren. You can contact Marcia for speaking engagements through her website at <https://crowning-achievements.com/> or email her at [mmalzahn@crowning-achievements.com](mailto:mmalzahn@crowning-achievements.com). Marcia Malzahn is also president and founder of Malzahn Strategic a management consulting firm for community financial institutions.







## Comcast Expands Digital Equity Efforts: Installs Free Wifi At 1,000th Lift Zone Community Center



**PHILADELPHIA, PA – DECEMBER 15, 2021** Comcast announced today that it has installed free WiFi in its 1,000th Lift Zone in St. Paul, Minnesota at The Sanneh Foundation's Seton Center. The company plans to mark the occasion with a \$50,000 grant to help support the organization as it rebuilds after being set back by an arsonist. The company also set a new goal to install 250 additional Lift Zones before the end of 2022. Lift Zones are part of Project UP, Comcast's comprehensive, ten year, \$1 billion commitment to help build a future of unlimited possibilities.

Originally intended as a multi-year effort, earlier this year the company accelerated its roll-out plans in response to overwhelming public support. Lift Zones came along at a critical time, providing free WiFi access within select recreation, community, and senior centers, as well as public housing computer labs. Students used them for remote learning, even when schools were closed. Adults, too, benefitted because Lift Zones also offer access to hundreds of hours of free digital skills training to help people learn how to get online for remote working, job hunting, and finding telehealth services.

As announced December 6, Comcast also plans to provide free WiFi at up to 100 veteran-serving locations nationwide. The Lift Zones effort complements Comcast's Internet Essentials program, which, since 2011, has connected a cumulative total of more than 10 million low-income people to the Internet at home.

"Whether at home or in a neighborhood community center like the Sanneh Foundation, Comcast is committed to helping connect the unconnected," said Broderick Johnson, executive vice president, public policy and executive vice president, digital equity, at Comcast Corporation. "Lift Zones, where we provide free WiFi access to neighborhoods in need, are an extension of our efforts to address digital equity for everyone who needs the Internet for homework, for jobs, or learning digital skills."

"I commend Comcast for the positive impact they've made in the Twin Cities community with Lift Zones and Internet Essentials," said Tony Sanneh, founder and CEO, The Sanneh Foundation. "The need for connectivity has never been greater and both programs have been extremely beneficial to our families through our partnership with Comcast."

The Sanneh Foundation's mission is to empower youth by supporting and promoting educational attainment and providing programs that strengthen physical health and social and emotional development. The organization draws hundreds of students to after-school and summer programming at its two facilities in St. Paul, the Conway Center and the Seton Center. In addition to sports and enrichment programs, each year The Sanneh Foundation serves 330,000 warm and healthy meals to youth and their families. Warm dinner is available 7-days a week, and lunches are available during out-of-school days and weekends.



*Tony Sanneh, founder and CEO,  
the Sanneh Foundation*

The Conway Center was the very first Lift Zone Comcast installed. It opened in the Twin Cities in September 2020 and was being used by up to 150 students per day with supervised, online schooling and learning support. During the pandemic, Comcast also brought WiFi to the center's outdoor athletic dome so it could be used for an online learning facility as well.

In early 2021, the Conway Center was damaged by arson, causing the center to close for four weeks. The Sanneh Foundation had to quickly shift operations to their newest location at Seton Center to host scheduled free youth sports camps and food distribution for those in need. Comcast swiftly moved in to bring service to the organization's new location, making it fully operational. A Lift Zone was recently established at Seton Center for older youth focused on career readiness and workforce development, making it Comcast's 1,000th in the nation.

"So much of life and work happens online," said Kalyn Hove, Regional Senior Vice President, Comcast Twin Cities Region. "Together with our nonprofit partners, like The Sanneh Foundation, we have built safe spaces for students and families to connect to the Internet."





Independent small businesses are the backbone of our communities. But today, more than ever, Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)-owned small businesses are hurting. The time for talking and offering short-term gestures is over. We're putting our words into real, long-term, sustainable action through the creation of Comcast RISE. We know that Comcast alone can't remedy complex, systemic issues. But we are deeply committed to playing an integral role in driving lasting change.

Comcast RISE stands for Representation, Investment, Strength and Empowerment. The initiative combined the talent and resources of two business units with expertise in the small business space— Effectv, the ad sales division of Comcast Cable, and Comcast Business – to sustain, support and rebuild BIPOC-owned small businesses within their combine footprints. The current program is geared towards the BIPOC-owned business community. As Comcast RISE is a multi-year initiative, the future complimentary services will be open to other underrepresented groups.

**Selected businesses could receive one or more of the following business services :**



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The next wave of applications for Comcast RISE Marketing & Technology Services opened on October 17, 2021, and will close on January 15, 2022.







## Latino Skiers Attend Minnesota Nordic Ski Opener

By: Christy Ana

The Minnesota Nordic Ski Opener was held at Elm Creek Park Reserve in Maple Grove MN on December 11, 2021. It was an awesome day to kick off winter after the first snowstorm in the Twin Cities. Hundreds of skiers enjoyed the beautiful weather, including a group of Twin Cities Latinos who decided to participate even though many of them had never skied before. They visited the ski village and shopped at the Nordic ski store, embracing the weather and having fun. Lessons, rentals and fees were free to all skiers during the opener. The Latino group had a wonderful time and look forward to more skiing outings this Winter. Elm Creek Park Reserve is located at 12400 James Deane Parkway in Maple Grove, MN.



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## Reina del Invierno To Attend The Winter Carnival 2022 Celebration



Queen of Winter, Christy Ana



Christy with the Vulcans  
(photo from 2020 Coronation)

By: Claud Santiago

Christy Ana, Reina del Invierno (Queen of the Winter) will be attending the St. Paul Winter Carnival Coronation 2022! This event will be held at the St. Paul RiverCentre, on Friday, January 28, 2022! Christy Ana is sponsored by Latino American Today and serves as a lifestyle reporter for the print publication. The coronation in 2021 was canceled because of Covid-19.

“It wonderful to see the celebration back, it means so much to the community in St. Paul” stated Rick Aguilar, publisher of Latino American Today. The coronation will feature the crowning of the 2022 King Boreas and his Queen of the Snows. Hail King Boreas and his royal family!

Aguilar served on the Winter Carnival Board of Directors for many years and produced many events that included the Latino community. “The Winter Carnival is recognized as one of the best events in the country, so I do hope the Latino community will come out and enjoy this amazing celebration of Winter” The carnival runs from January 28 to February 6th. Most events are free and open to the public and will take place near Rice Park and the Landmark Center as well as the MN State Fairgrounds.

To see the full schedule for the carnival go online to <https://www.wintercarnival.com/>



Christy with Klondike Kate  
(photo from 2020 Coronation)



Saint Paul  
Landmark Center

Rick Aguilar  
at Ice Carving  
display,





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- ✓ **Vacuna de Johnson & Johnson:** Todo adulto de 18 años en adelante debe recibir una vacuna de refuerzo 2 meses después de su dosis única.
- ✓ Los jóvenes de 16 y 17 años que recibieron la vacuna Pfizer deben ponerse una vacuna Pfizer de refuerzo.



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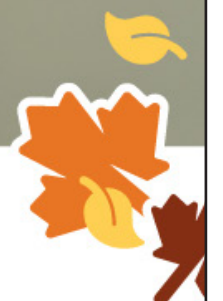
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## Winter Animal Survival

By Deborah Locke, DNR Information Officer

Photos from DNR

### How do animals survive Minnesota winters?

Two Department of Natural Resource Parks and Trails naturalists, Kao Thao, (Fort Snelling State Park), and Jenni Webster, (Interstate State Park), weighed in on techniques that animals take to survive severe weather. To sum up: animals may migrate away, build up a food supply, hunt during the day as well as at night, or sleep through the winter. For smaller critters, the snow actually enhances their quality of life.

“Animals use unique adaptations in unexpected places,” Jenni said. “As we walk through the woods, there’s a whole strange world under our feet.” That strange world emerges when thick snow creates a pocket space between the ground and snow cover that is just big enough for a vole or shrew. Snow cover protects the rodents from predators, wind and cold; the temperature close to the ground is consistently just above freezing. Shrews tunnel through the snow to reach the surface, which is why you may notice a small exit hole in the snow surface that also provides ventilation.

Animals also adapt with the growth of a thicker coat, Jenni said. White tail deer, for example, grow a winter coat of special hair that is hollow, which helps insulate their bodies. The same principal applies to humans who wear down coats that appear puffy. The puffiness is due to warm air that’s trapped inside the coat, providing heat. Chickadees grow extra feathers that fluff up so air is trapped close to their bodies. The small birds may hide in a small tree cavity and then will shiver all night long to generate warmth.

Kao Thao, Fort Snelling State Park naturalist, said animals adapt in three ways. Fight, flight, or “night-night.” Animals that fight the cold don’t migrate and instead, stay active all winter, Kao said, like deer and fox. Animals will also gather and store food for the winter months, like beaver. In the fall months, beaver collect the tender branches from a tree and pile them in front of the lodge located in a river, pond or lake. “Beaver will swim through the lodge entry, grab a branch and go into the lodge to eat,” Kao said. Fox and bobcats survive winter by hunting more because prey is limited. “You’ll see them running around in the daytime although they’re typically active at night,” Kao said.

Another adaptive measure: Birds will fly away from a severe winter, some traveling a relatively short distance, such as from northern Minnesota to southern Minnesota. The Great Grey Owl in the north, for example, moves a bit south. The Chickadee flies to southern Minnesota. Other birds like a hummingbird leave Minnesota entirely and opt for the dangerous flight to southern climates.



Kao Thao  
Fort Snelling State Park



Jenni Webster  
Interstate State Park



Finally, the “night-night” winter survival participants, who sleep for all or most of the winter. Chipmunks sleep with reduced heartbeat rates and a low body temperature. Poke one in the middle of winter, and it will appear to be dead, Kao said. Bears can be aroused quite easily and will wake and go outside for a while, Kao said. Squirrels remain active all winter but if the temperature drops dramatically, they will sleep for a day or two. Some species of frogs appear to freeze solid, but their cells contain a kind of antifreeze that protects the cell during the cold months. In the spring, the frog’s body thaws and a chemical shocks their heart so it starts to beat. The frog will wake in a few hours.

Perhaps the easiest evidence for animal activity and adaption to the winter is snow cover. Take a walk through a state park, or just look out at your yard in daylight. Tracks lead off in every direction. It’s almost like some animal party took place. Like humans, animals adapt to cold weather, and even thrive.



The subnivean zone refers to the area between the ground surface and the bottom of the packed snow. This tunnel reveals the activity beneath the snow.



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