


January/February 2017 Issue 354
**Latino
American
Today**
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ST. PAUL
Winter Carnival
2017

El Carnaval de Invierno 2017 en St. Paul, Minnesota

Latino American Today at the Winter Carnival Coronation



Christy Ana at the Winter Carnival



Christy Ana with Snow Queen Royalty



Christy Ana with King Boreas



Christy Ana visiting with royalty from Bradenton, Florida

Reported by Christy Ana

Comunidad latinoamericana de Minneapolis y Saint Paul, les invito a unirse a la diversión de este evento único! Desde 1886, el Carnaval de Invierno se ha celebrado cada enero / febrero, excepto durante los años de la Segunda Guerra Mundial. La celebración del Carnaval de Invierno incluye desfiles, un festival de cerveza al aire libre, una caza de medallones, actividades familiares gratuitas y de bajo costo, esculturas de hielo y nieve, música en vivo y apariciones de la Familia Real. La Coronación se efectuó anoche en el RiverCenter, representando el viaje mágico del rey Boreas LXXXI junto con Aurora, la Reina de las Nieves; las Princesas y Príncipes de los cuatro vientos; así como la Guardia Real. Una tradición de carnaval de invierno de ciento treinta años.

La familia real hace varias apariciones durante el año para beneficiar el Área Metropolitana de las Ciudades Gemelas y para promover Saint Paul y el Carnaval de Invierno.

Participemos en esta celebración al invierno en espera de la bendita primavera. Allá nos vemos!



On The Cover
St. Paul Winter Carnival 2017

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Latino American Today distributes 15,000 copies on a monthly basis.

Presidential Inaugural 2017 The Latino Inaugural Gala



By Claud Santiago

Latino American Today attended this exciting Gala in Washington, D.C. The National Hispanic Advisory Council for Trump and Hispanic 100 Policy Committee in partnership with the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Fund (CHLF) hosted this Celebration of the 58th Presidential Inauguration. The black-tie inaugural celebration took place a few blocks from the White House at the elegant Mandarin Oriental Hotel on Thursday, January 19, 2017.

“The Host Committee of Latino Inaugural 2017 invites you to join in celebrating the inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump,” said Mario Rodriguez, member of the National Hispanic Advisory Council for Trump and Chairman of the Hispanic 100 Policy Committee. “We are proudly celebrating the peaceful transition of the Executive Office, and the role our Latino community has played and will continue to play in building and supporting U.S. democracy.”

Rick Aguilar, Kristin Tollefson, Ryan Zinke, Secretary of Interior and Danny Vargas

Friends of the American Latino Museum



Far left image: Latino American Today Publisher, Rick Aguilar attended the Inaugural festivities in Washington D.C. on Jan 18-20 and attended a luncheon hosted by the Friends of the American Latino Museum.

Right image: Left to right: Ken Oliver-Mendez, Danny Vargas, and Rick Aguilar

Dear Rick,

Thank you for attending our Leadership Luncheon honoring Jennifer Korn on Thursday, January 19th, 2017. The Friends of the American Latino Museum were pleased to have you join us in celebrating Jennifer Korn and her incredible achievements and dedication to public service.

We strive to honor the many American Latinos who have contributed to our nation's success, Latinos deserving of a National Smithsonian American Latino Museum on the National Mall. Sixty million American Latinos, whose rich history in the U.S. spans more than 500 years, are not adequately represented in our incredible American story. Now is the time to build a home to showcase and honor their sacrifice and complete the telling of American story.

We believe this is a legacy project for our community and we can make

great strides this year with your help. Soon, our legislation will be introduced in the 115th Congress and we will need you to urge your Members of Congress to co-sponsor it as soon as it is introduced. If you have close contacts with your Member of Congress, we would urge you to reach out and educate them, encourage their support. We stand by ready to coordinate your outreach to Capitol Hill and provide any additional information you may need.

Sincerely,

Danny Vargas, Chairman, Friends of the NMAL



Celebration of Law & Order

RightWay Minnesota, a conservative grassroots group, hosted a Celebration of Law & Order program headlined by Milwaukee County Sheriff David A. Clarke. The program honored first responders and service members and was held on January 28, at the Mansion at Uptown. Hundreds of attendees listened to speakers including Mary Susan Timion, Chair of RightWayMN; Jim Nash, State Rep. 47A; Bahram Akradi, CEO Life Time; Hennepin County Sheriff, Rich Stanek; and Denny Laufenburger, Mayor of Chanhassen who served as MC.



Rep. Jim Nash, Sheriff David Clarke, Mary Susan Timion



Left top: Mike Gunderson. Lower left: Rick Rice



Keith Downey, Chair MN GOP and Mary Susan Timion



Sheriff David Clarke and Rebecca Brannon



Attendees

Traits of a Leader – Traits of a Follower



Marci Malzahn,
Founder of Malzahn Strategic

By Marci Malzahn

Many times people may think leaders have it easy, or that they do their own thing and are accountable to no one. Other times people may think leaders started being leaders and were also born leaders. But that is not the case. Being a leader is a huge responsibility and it's not easy. Also, most leaders start as followers and have worked hard to be where they are today—even if they had the gift of leadership in them from the start. In fact, successful leaders are excellent followers themselves. Being a good follower is precisely what gives great leaders the foundation to be an example of integrity, honesty, and many of the other traits that we all admire in successful

leaders. Below are some key traits of successful followers:

They need a teacher—a leader. Followers need to follow someone they trust and believe in—someone who is worthy of being followed.

Followers don't doubt their teacher. They have complete faith that their teacher has his or her best interest at heart. They don't fear that their teacher is out to get them.

Good followers get to know their teacher at the personal level. They understand their teacher (or leader) is also human and that they have a need for personal relationships too.

Good followers learn to appreciate their leaders for who they are. They are not “apple polishers.” They sincerely care for their leader.

Followers gather together to support their common leader. They don't talk behind his or her back and they are loyal to their leader.

Good followers “do” what their leader tells them to do. They don't second guess or question their leader each time he or she asks them to do something. In the business arena, of course, it is acceptable to ask questions to clarify direction and to bring your opinion but in the end, good followers learn to do what is asked of them unless it's something illegal or unethical.

A good leader influences his or her followers and **the followers allow themselves to be influenced.** It's a mutual relationship based on trust, something that is not common in the workplace these days.

Leaders give authority to their followers without fear that they will misuse that authority. Again, this exercise of giving authority to others is based on trust. **Good followers accept that authority and use it wisely.**

Followers admire and look up to their teacher or leader. They want to and aspire to be like their teacher. They are proud of their teacher and not ashamed. They want to imitate their teacher and become more like him or her.

Successful followers receive instructions from their leader and work together to accomplish their common mission (or the vision of their company). They learn to use their various strengths as a

team and get it done.

Now, let's examine some of the traits we admire—and even expect—of successful leaders:

Leaders have the innate ability to influence others—at the core, that's what leadership is about. Even though not everyone is born with the leadership gift or ability, every person who is in a leadership position can learn to be an amazing and influential leader.

Leaders are balanced—or continually strive to be balanced. Leaders understand the importance to live a balanced life. This doesn't mean they don't understand the responsibilities of their work life and don't work enough. It means they also understand that if they are not taking care of themselves (their bodies, their physical well-being) and their family relationships, their level of influence at work will be diminished over time.

Leaders are learners. Most successful leaders are life-long learner individuals. They have a hunger for knowledge and enjoy the journey of learning. They also love to teach what they just learned.

Leaders have a good attitude toward life, which is manifested in their attitude and behavior at work and at home. We all know we cannot control circumstances but we *can* control our attitude. That I know because I have had to practice self-control and change my attitude many times when circumstances were negative around me. I know it can be done and you are the full beneficiary of the change in your attitude.

Leaders are hard workers. Regardless of the career they choose, leaders work hard. This doesn't mean they work 90 – 100 hours a week, which some people do. That is almost irresponsible because they neglect their physical health, their relationships, and eventually it affects their effectiveness at work. They burn out. What this means is that they utilize their time wisely and have learned to manage their time successfully based on their values.

They focus their time on what's most important—consistently. The key here is that they learned to say “no” to the things that clutter their lives with no significant impact or influence. And they say “yes” to the things that matter.

Most leaders are also followers. If you are a leader, choose to also be a good follower. Only then, will you become a true influential person. Only then, will you leave a legacy of goodwill in the lives of all the people you touch along the way. Therefore, choose carefully who you follow and choose to be the best leader you were meant to be.

As Latinos in the workplace, we have the great opportunity to be an example of being a good follower and then influence others as leaders. Take the responsibility of doing both seriously.

Marci Malzahn is a banking executive and founder of Malzahn Strategic (www.malzahnstrategic.com), a community bank consultancy focused on strategic planning, enterprise risk management and talent management. Marci is also an author and motivational/ inspirational speaker. You can contact Marci for speaking engagements through her website at www.marciamalzahn.com. You can purchase Marci's books at www.Amazon.com.

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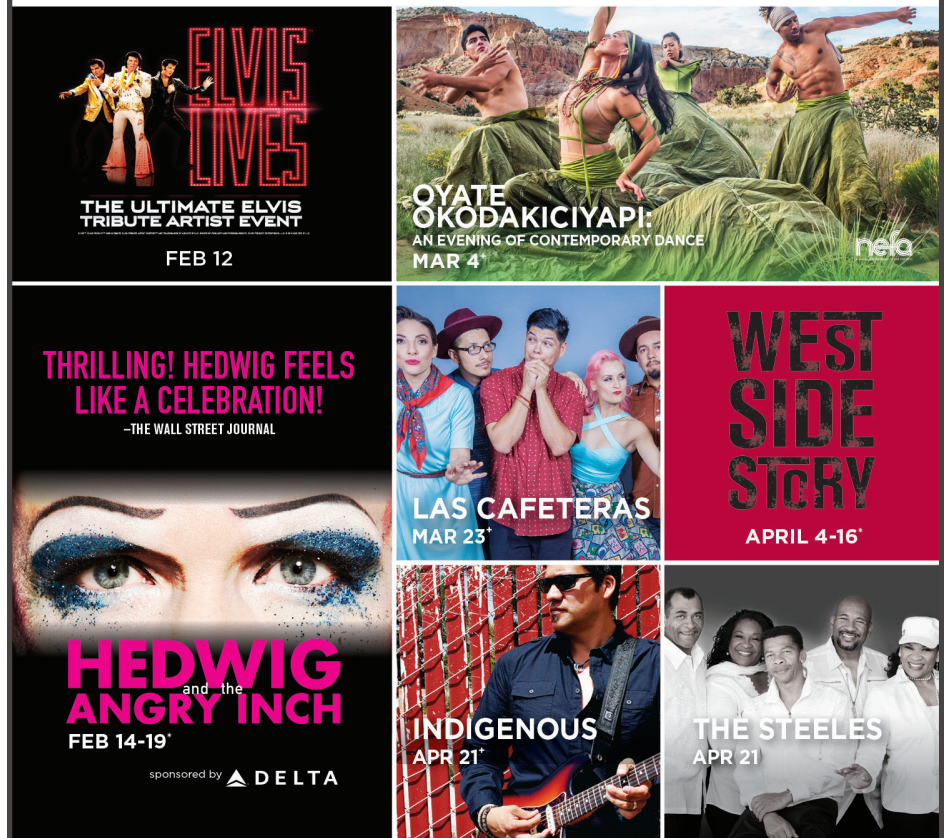
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Ice Fishing: A Great Cure for the Winter Blues!

By Harland Hiemstra (DNR)

February may be the shortest month of the year, but here in Minnesota, it can seem like the longest, with cold and snow dragging on and spring still weeks away. So, what's the best cure for the winter blues? Get out and meet the season head-on.

Go ice-fishing!

With warm clothes and a little basic gear, you can enjoy some good outdoors family fun -- and likely catch a mess of fish for the supper table. You can fish in places you might not normally be able to get to. And it's a chance to walk on water without drawing upon any super-powers.

"If you don't have a boat, ice-fishing provides a great opportunity to fish waters you wouldn't be able to reach during the warmer months," says Jon Hansen, with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' FiN program. FiN (Fishing in the Neighborhood) provides close-to-home angling opportunities around the Twin Cities.

You don't need fancy equipment to go ice-fishing. Many people use a special short fishing rod with a spinning reel and lightweight line. Attach a tiny weighted jig and bait the hook with what are called "waxworms," little worms that are the larval stage of insects (disgusting to us, tasty to fish). Go into any bait shop, and you can probably get a basic set-up for \$20 or less. Some big-box discount department stores also carry inexpensive ice fishing gear. You'll also need some way to make a hole in the ice. Hand augers can be found for about \$50. Or you can find a lake where others are fishing and fish in an unused hole that someone else drilled. Fishing around others is also a good way to know that the ice you're on is strong and safe and where the fish might be. Check www.mndnr.gov for more ice safety guidelines.

There are many excellent places to try ice fishing around the Twin Cities. The FiN program manages more than 60 metro lakes offering fun and easy fishing opportunities. If you go fishing in a Minnesota State Park, you can fish without a license. Otherwise, anyone 16 years or older will need a fishing license. Snelling Lake in Fort Snelling State Park (near the airport and the Mall of America) is a great place to catch fish through the ice, as is Lake Alice in William O'Brien State Park just north of Stillwater.

"Ice fishing is great to do with the kids," says DNR's Hansen. "On many of these lakes, with just a simple set-up, you'll be catching bluegills till your arm gets tired."

Go to www.mndnr.gov and search "ice fishing" for more information about where to go and how to do it. It might be the most fun you'll have until Spring!



Ice fishing at Fort Snelling State Park



Ice fishing at Pleasant Lake near St. Cloud



Pleasant Lake near St. Cloud

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Legislators Introduce Equity & Opportunity Scholarship Act During National School Choice Week

Bill would provide opportunity for low- and middle-income students to access the best K-12 school for each child

Minnesota legislators have introduced legislation that gives parents the opportunity to access the best educational option for their children.

The bill, H.F. 386 / S.F. 256, known as the **Equity and Opportunity Scholarship Act**, is being authored by Rep. Ron Kresha (R-Little Falls) in the House and Sen. Roger Chamberlain (R-Lino Lakes) in the Senate. These bipartisan bills have both Republican and DFL co-authors in the House and Senate.

The legislation would authorize creation of “opportunity scholarships” – scholarships provided to low- and middle-income children to attend a school of choice. They are funded through private contributions made to non-profit scholarship granting organizations with 501(c)3 status, and must be approved by the Minnesota Department of Revenue. Similar programs exist in 17 states including Iowa, South Dakota, Arizona and Florida.

“Every child in Minnesota deserves access to a school that best meets their needs,” said Rep. Ron Kresha. “Opportunity scholarships will empower parents and break down the financial barriers that can prevent low- and middle-income families from accessing a good school.”

“Minnesota has a strong history of supporting choice in education,” said Sen. Roger Chamberlain. “Unfortunately we’ve fallen behind in recent decades. This legislation will help our children access the best possible learning environment. We need to give families more and better choices when it comes to their child’s education.”

Under the legislation, contributions from individuals and corporations to a non-profit scholarship granting organization would be eligible for a 70% state tax credit, up to certain limits. Eligibility for the scholarships would be income-based; families must not earn more than twice the amount of Reduced Priced Lunch eligibility in order to qualify. The program would begin in 2018 and would be capped at \$35 million in FY 2019 and \$70 million in FY 2020-21.

Timing of the bill introductions coincides with National School Choice Week (NSCW). The goal of NSCW is to raise public awareness of all types of education options for children. These options include traditional public schools, public charter schools, magnet schools, online learning, private schools, and homeschooling. To meet this goal, NSCW encourages schools, organizations, and individuals to hold positive events that celebrate school choice options, while drawing attention to the need for even greater opportunities for children.

In Minnesota, NCSW efforts are being held led by Opportunities for All Kids (OAK), a statewide advocacy organization supporting public and private school choice.

OAK held a rally in the State Capitol Rotunda on Tuesday, January 24 at 11:00 am featuring former Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Lisa Graham Keegan and entrepreneur Reynolds-Anthony Harris, a leader of the Minnesota Harvest Initiative.

In addition, the Equity and Opportunity Scholarship Act will be heard in three legislative committees on Tuesday, January 24.



L to R: Barry Lieske, DeLaSalle; George Parker, special guest speaker and Rick Aguilar.



Participants at the OAK rally at the State Capitol Rotunda



Supporters attending the hearing

Al Principio de un nuevo año



Por Saúl Carranza (representado a la izquierda)

Al principio de un nuevo año es tradición desear a nuestros amigos, familiares y conocidos que mucha felicidad, paz y prosperidad lleguen a ellos. Lo expresamos diciendo “feliz año” o “Dios te bendiga”. Y muchas veces es un deseo sincero de que las cosas vayan muy bien para nuestros seres queridos. En otros casos es solamente una cortesía. Pero

realmente un nuevo año es la oportunidad para seguir respirando, trabajando y disfrutar de este don maravilloso que Dios nos ha regalado y al cuál llamamos “vida”.

Una oración en la Biblia dice:” ¡Enseñanos a contar nuestros días, para que entre la sabiduría en nuestro corazón!” * De acuerdo a eso, cada año nuevo nos brinda la oportunidad para reflexionar en el sentido de la vida y lo que hemos hecho en ella. Un nuevo año es como un respiro de esperanza. Siempre existe la posibilidad de cambiar y mejorar. Nos presenta un punto de corrección para enmendar, recomenzar o iniciar algo nuevo. Nos da la oportunidad de renovar nuestras fuerzas, aprovechar la experiencia adquirida y ejercitar la fe. Eso es lo que llamamos sabiduría.

Lo que un año que termina nos deja debe llevarnos a tomar medidas para mejorar las cosas. Quiero decir, cambiar lo que hemos hecho o nos ha salido mal. Debemos planificar para salir de la mediocridad y buscar la

excelencia en nuestras metas. Y en aquello que si ha salido muy bien, que el nuevo año nos permita ser agradecidos y reconocer que la bendición de Dios ha permitido el fruto obtenido y que parte de nuestra responsabilidad es siempre mejorar lo alcanzado.

En este nuevo año oro que Dios bendiga tus planes, bendiga a tu familia y tu trabajo. Y sé que Dios te ha dotado de maravillosas cualidades para hacer de 2017 un año de bendición y prosperidad. Dios no va a hacer por ti aquello que tú puedes hacer. Pero será el compañero que promete bendecir tu esfuerzo y obrar milagrosamente en aquello que tú no puedes hacer. La promesa de Dios en la que podemos meditar al principio de un nuevo año es “Mira que te mando que te esfuerces y seas valiente; no temas ni desmayes, porque Jehová tu Dios estará contigo en dondequiera que vayas.”

Josué 1:9

No te puedo asegurar que todo lo que venga en el 2017 será bueno. Pero con la bendición de Dios en tu vida, aún las cosas que parecen malas pueden ser transformadas en bien. Feliz año.

*Salmos.90:12 B)

Saúl Carranza es originario de Guatemala. Pastor de la Iglesia: Cristo Para Todas las Naciones en la Ciudad de Crystal MN donde todos están invitados. 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.

Contacte por correo electrónico: pastorcarranza@gmail.com o llame al teléfono 763-245-2378.

At the Beginning of a New Year

By Saúl Carranza (pictured above)

At the beginning of a new year it is a tradition to wish our friends, family and acquaintances that much happiness, peace and prosperity come to them. We express it by saying “happy new year” or “God bless you.” And many times, it is a sincere desire that things go well for our loved ones. In other cases, it is only a courtesy. But really, a new year is the opportunity to continue breathing, working, and enjoying this wonderful gift that God has given us and which we call “life.”

A prayer in the Bible says, “Teach us to number our days, that wisdom may enter into our hearts!” This means that every new year gives us the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of life and what we have Done in it. A new year is like a breath of hope. There is always the possibility of change and improvement. It presents a point of correction to amend, restart or start something new. It gives us the opportunity to renew our strength, to take advantage of our experience and to exercise our faith. That is what we call wisdom.

What an ending year leaves must drive us to take steps to improve things. That is, to change what we have done or we have gone wrong. We must plan to get out of mediocrity and seek excellence in our goals. And with all the accomplished goals, the new year allows us to be grateful and recognize that the blessing of God has allowed these fruits and that part of our responsibility is always to improve what has been achieved.

In this new year I pray that God bless your plans, bless your family and your work. And I know that God has endowed you with wonderful qualities to make 2017 a year of blessing and prosperity. God is not going to do for you that which you can do. But it will be the companion who promises to bless your effort and to work miraculously in what you cannot do. The promise of God in which we can meditate at the beginning of a new year is “See that I command you to strive and be courageous; Do not be afraid or dismayed, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 We cannot assure you that everything that comes in 2017 will be good. But with the blessing of God in your life, even things that look bad can be transformed into good. Happy New Year.

Psalms 90:12

Saúl Carranza is originally from Guatemala. Pastor of the Church: Christ for All Nations in the City of Crystal, MN. Its mission is to serve God and the Hispanic community of the Twin Cities by teaching the Word of God, living in a community of love, and serving the needy. Email: pastorcarranza@gmail.com or call 763-245-2378.

The Ordway Welcomes the Latino Community



By Elsa Vega Perez

Minnesota's diverse populations continue to grow at an amazing rate and that has not gone unnoticed by the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts.

Building upon previous successful engagements such as *Máscaras y Milagros*, *Raíces y Sueños*, and *Taking Our Place Centerstage: The African Diaspora in Harmony*, Ordway leadership aims to ramp up its work in welcoming and increasing participation of Latinos in their core audience and deepen their connection to the Twin Cities growing Latino community. The Ordway's mission is to be a driver for the artistic vitality of the community by hosting, presenting and creating performing arts and educational programs that engage artists and enrich diverse audiences. Since the community has grown and evolved, so too has the Ordway's concept of what a Performing Arts Center can, and should, do

to ensure equal access representation and participation in both their programs and their decision making process.

To that end, the Ordway's goal is to reflect the communities they serve on their stages, in the audiences, and in their breakrooms and boardrooms. The Ordway is deeply committed to addressing barriers to participation that can restrict access to the performing arts. The leadership wants to work proactively to ensure that everyone can take part in and shape their programs, both in the community and at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts. The Latino community invites you to celebrate with the Ordway by joining us during the Hispanic events at the Winter Carnival and The Frozen Film Festival. It is also courageous to speak to the history of theatre and the effects on the Latino community by panel presentation of community and subject matter experts through radio, print and television.

Beginning with the nationally acclaimed "West Side Story" in April 2017 and leading to "In the Heights" in September 2017. The Ordway is working with Teatro del Pueblo to provide opportunities for local talent on and off the stage, create training opportunities for diverse communities, develop new, equitable, collaborative methodologies, and create community-based events that empower the Latino community to make a difference.

Links to OCPA & Teatro websites with show-specific info and community engagement.

Loons Uniting Latino Soccer Fans



By Claud Santiago

With the venture into Major League Soccer, groundbreaking of the new stadium, and drafting and signing of exciting new players it's hard not to be drawn to the new team in town, Minnesota United FC. The appeal of the team is powerful, as it recently acquired a Loon from one of the least likely of places.

Alex Cardenas (*pictured left*) of Sarasota, Florida joined the rising expansion team recognizing the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be a part making of soccer history in Minnesota. Her love of soccer is unquestioned, due to her days as a defender for Florida Atlantic University and the

intent to include the sport into her career.

Growing up in a Colombian household, and playing with people from all walks of life, Alex is passionate to bring that diversity as part of the team's jump to MLS. As the team creates its identity, Minnesota United recognizes the influence Latino fans bring to soccer.

The energy and emotion these fans bring make attending a match more than just attending a match – it becomes something bigger. Uniting the cities, uniting our fans, uniting the communities – there is no better time to join history-in-the-making with Minnesota United FC.

To be a part of history today, contact Alex Cardenas at (763) 231-1988 or through email Alex.C@mnufc.com.

Minnesota Twins Host Media Luncheon



Dave St. Peter, Twins President with Rick Aguilar



Rick Aguilar and Miguel Ramos, Director of Diversity Marketing for the Twins

By Claud Santiago

Latino American Today publisher Rick Aguilar attended the annual Minnesota Twins Media Luncheon at Target Field on Jan 27th. At the media luncheon in the Champion's Club, Twins President Dave St. Peter gave his state of the team speech and announced that former Twins Manager Tom Kelly will have a statue unveiled in his honor outside of Target Field during the upcoming 2017 major league season. St. Peter also announced that two players have been added to the team's Hall of Fame, Michael Cuddyer and Andy MacPhail.

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Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton | 10600 Wayzata Blvd; Minnetonka, MN | 952-955-8855