

July 2018 Issue 371

Latino American Today

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DAY!**



Murals on St. Paul's West Side



Left to right: Rock Cyfi Martinez and Guillermo Valadez; The mural can be seen at the SuperMercado La Guadalupana grocery store.

By Claud Santiago

There is a new mural on St. Paul's West Side, thanks to the SuperMercado La Guadalupana, located on Cesar Chavez & State Streets.

Thanks to the artists Rock Cyfi Martinez and Guillermo Valadez, both based in Arizona, they have their murals throughout the U.S. Born and raised in Tucson, Cyfi was artistically inspired at a young age, gravitating towards Mexican Mural art. With his meticulous line work and intuitive sense of detail, Cyfi illuminates street corners and contributes to public art spaces, painting large-scale murals produced in aerosol paints and graffiti aesthetics and bringing communities to life.

Pablo Basques: Artist, Veteran, Latino American!



By Claud Santiago

Artist Pablo Basques sat down for an interview at the El Burrito Mercado on the West Side of St. Paul.

Basques is an artist who has several of his paintings seen on buildings in the neighborhood such as the former Joseph's Market and Concord Drug Store. His Midwest Canto de Pueblo painting was later reproduced in cut glass (as seen in image to the left).

He was born on the West Side and attended neighborhood schools where he took art classes at an early age and later after high school went to Vocational Art School. He enlisted in the Army during the Vietnam war and spent one year in Vietnam. Basques is one of the many Latino artists on the West Side who have kept the Latino culture alive and well through their art. He attended the University of Minnesota for three years studying art. His favorite artists are Diego Rivera and David Alfaro Siqueiros. Thank you to Pablo for his dedication to the community and his art.

The artist Pablo Basques



On The Cover
Latino Americans Celebrate Independence Day!

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Mientras la pelota rueda



Por Saúl Carranza

Gool, es el grito más esperado en estos días de mundial de futbol. Cada país participante en Rusia espera con ansias la participación de su selección nacional o de alguno de sus equipos favoritos. Los primeros encuentros han echado por la borda algunas ilusiones y han dado también gratas sorpresas como la de las selecciones de México y Sur Corea derrotando al campeón del mundo, y dejando fuera a la poderosa selección de Alemania. Se goza y se sufre el futbol.

Por supuesto, el futbol es así. Muchas veces no gana el que tiene el mejor equipo o el que invierte más dinero, ni siquiera el que juega mejor. Gana el que mete más goles. Aunque algunas veces sea por casualidad o con el odiado autogol. Lo que emociona es que esa esfera a la que llamamos balón cruce la línea de la meta contraria y mejor si hincha las redes para gritar goooooool a todo pulmón. Gana el que anota más.

Los que disfrutamos el buen futbol sabemos lo tedioso que es un juego en el que los jugadores no pasan del medio campo. Toman el balón y lo mueven un poco y de un lado a otro, lo regresan, pero les hace falta ese talento que distingue a los grandes delanteros. Saber llevar la bola a la meta. El “olfato de gol”. Esos juegos están condenados a un empate a cero porque no hay quien tenga la visión y habilidad para conducir el ataque.

Hay muchas personas que viven su vida solo en el medio campo. Olvidándose que la única forma de triunfar es alcanzando metas. Así como se critica a un técnico que abusa de los planteamientos estrictamente defensivos. Así es criticable la gente que vive la vida sin deseo de superarse. Aquellos que lo único que les interesa es poder vivir este día y se olvidan del mañana. Se preocupan de tener que comer hoy, reunir para la renta de este mes y la gasolina de la semana. Y nada más. Estas personas solo mueven la pelota de un lado a otro, pero no avanzan hacia ningún lado.

Cada equipo tiene 90 minutos para anotar, y un dicho del futbol es que “goles que no haces te los hacen a ti”. Así es la vida, si no te esfuerzas por alcanzar tus propias metas alguien se aprovechará de tu esfuerzo y falta de ambición y se beneficiará a tu costa. Dios nos ha dotado de increíbles capacidades para alcanzar las metas en la vida. Inteligencia, creatividad, fuerza, destreza y mucho más. Con todo esto solo tienes que “esforzarte, no temer, no desmayar” y a su tiempo alcanzarás aquello que te propongas.

Lo importante es proponerte metas en la vida. Estar consiente de todas tus virtudes y habilidades y aprovechar las oportunidades que te lleguen. Como buen delantero, si la bola está frente a ti, dale con todo y al mejor ángulo. Las oportunidades llegarán. En la palabra de Dios se expresa un deseo que es lo que Dios quiere para cada uno de nosotros. “Amado, yo deseo que tú seas prosperado en todas las cosas, y que tengas salud, así como prospera tu alma.”³ Jn 2 Y si ese es el deseo de Dios y te anima a esforzarte. Dale con todo. Si se puede, si se puede. No temas. Tampoco estas solo o sola. Hay promesa para ti: “No temas, porque yo estoy contigo; no desmayes, porque yo soy tu Dios que te esfuerzo; siempre te ayudaré, siempre te sustentaré con la diestra de mi justicia”. Is 41:10 Mientras la bola rueda, sigue jugando. La meta está allí y tú eres parte del mejor equipo, gánale a la vida por mucho. Si se puede.

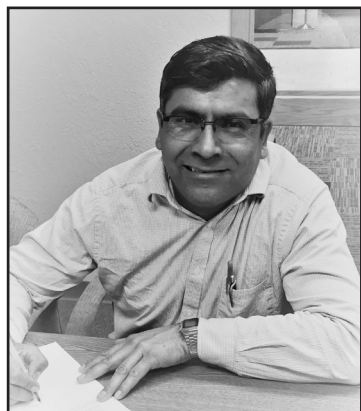
Saúl Carranza es originario de Guatemala. Vive en Minnesota desde hace once años y es pastor de la Iglesia Cristo Para Todas las Naciones en Cristal MN. Tel. 7632452378 email pastorcarranza@gmail.com



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E & H Piping in Hanley Falls is SBA's Minnesota 2018 Minority-Owned Business of the Year



*Business owner
Sergio Espinoza*

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has named E & H Piping as the Minnesota 2018 Minority-Owned Business of the Year. Sergio Espinoza's company in Hanley Falls, Minn., provides piping installation and maintenance to ethanol and sugar beet plants, as well as bio diesel refineries within a 250 mile radius of Yellow Medicine County in southwest Minnesota.

"Small businesses that provide good paying jobs in rural America are helping make sure the 'American Dream' lives on for future generations," stated Brian McDonald, deputy district director for the SBA in Minnesota.

Coming to this country at age 18 to escape the Guatemalan Civil War, Espinoza first settled in Texas before coming to Minnesota in 1991. Working his way up from laborer to supervisor on piping jobs, he began to do more than dream about owning his own business. In May 2012, he registered his business with the state, contacted the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for technical assistance and hired his first employee in 2014. Since that time, Espinoza has built a company that employs 20 people at wages from \$20 to \$30 an hour in rural Minnesota.

The SBDC, which nominated him for this award and is funded in part by the SBA, is hosted by Southwest Minnesota State University. It helped Espinoza by providing nearly 40 hours of free business consulting on topics such as business planning, financial projections and hiring employees.

"The SBDC is a strong believer in the future of rural businesses such as E & H Piping, said Liz Struve, Southwest SBDC Director. "Seasoned consultants offer clients a better understanding of their business and at the same time, peace of mind, which allows them to concentrate on their own efforts of starting and growing their business."

Sergio's SBDC consultant, RuthAnn Karty, also shared, "Starting very small and bootstrapping his way to success, Sergio Espinoza is a shining example of the hard work it takes to make a small business dream a reality. It has been my pleasure to work with him from the beginning. I am so proud of his achievements and look forward to his future success."

Gregory J. Egan IV, Long Time "Luchador por la Comunidad Latina" Running for Ramsey County Judge



Greg Egan

By Claud Santiago

Promising to enhance respect, equality, and justice in court, Greg Egan is a public defender also experienced in small claims court and family law. He is fluent in Spanish, married a Honduran immigrant, and taught lawyers in Mexico. As a young man he lived, studied, and worked in Santiago, Chile, leaving a life-long appreciation for Latino culture and values.

"He is a hardworking and committed attorney who seeks justice and fairness," says Inti Martinez, a St. Paul attorney. "I am impressed by his track record of serving with passion and standing for what he believes." Egan mentors through CLUES, helping Latino kids go to college. He understands the achievement gap and how it's magnified by the criminal justice system.

Egan says, "If Latino kids don't get a good education, they can't get good jobs as young adults. This often leads to contact with the criminal justice system through crimes of poverty, like driving without insurance. As a defense attorney, I understand the enormous impact of that first criminal conviction. Even low-level criminal convictions complicate jobs and housing. The achievement gap carries into adulthood in very real ways."

If elected judge, Mr. Egan will remain sensitive to the achievement gap and make decisions fairly. Chief Ramsey County Public Defender Jim Fleming says, "Greg is committed to fair and compassionate justice." He goes above and beyond for Latino clients, counseling them about opportunities for better jobs, college, GED, trade schools, and ESL classes.

For free, Mr. Egan represents churches providing sanctuary to immigrants. He serves on the Board of Directors of Green Card Voices, a nonprofit fostering tolerance and understanding through immigrant story telling. He teaches ESL at Rondo Library.



*Greg (far right), his wife
Georgina, and son Santiago*

Egan says, "I am running for judge because I believe that regardless of race, gender, religion, or political beliefs, all people deserve to be treated with respect, equality, and justice. I am committed to service, this community, and justice."

The election is Tuesday, August 14. Mr. Egan's name will be with the judicial candidates on the back of the ballot.

***The Latino American Today Editorial Board endorses
Greg Egan for Ramsey County Judge.***

Are You a Candidate to Be a Successor? Part II



Marci Malzahn

By Marci Malzahn

As I shared in Part I of this article series, succession planning is happening across the United States regardless of industry. I'm dedicating this article to the younger generation of workers and up and coming leaders. I want to give you ideas on how to prepare to be the candidate that is at the right place and at the right time. I want you to become the obvious candidate to take the positions that are opening up. In Part I, I shared ideas you can do by yourself to get ready. In Part II, I'm sharing about how you can ask others for help and how by getting involved in your community you can help others and continue to prepare yourself for succession.

Part II – How others can help you and how to get involved in your community

Find a mentor. A mentor is very important to help you make decisions by steering you in the right direction. A mentor can also help you choose between job opportunities and career paths. Choose someone you trust and ask them if he or she could mentor you in an informal setting to start with.

Establish connections. College friends can become way more than just college buddies. They can be your business colleagues in the future. Also, learn what their parents do and reach out to them. They can connect you to future job opportunities and give you different ideas. They can also provide character references for you.

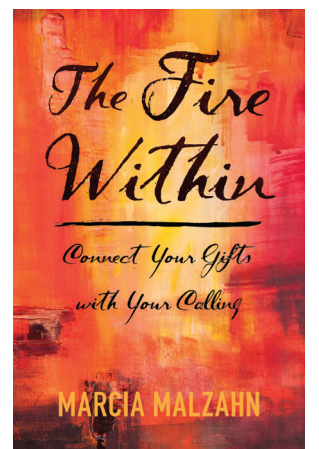
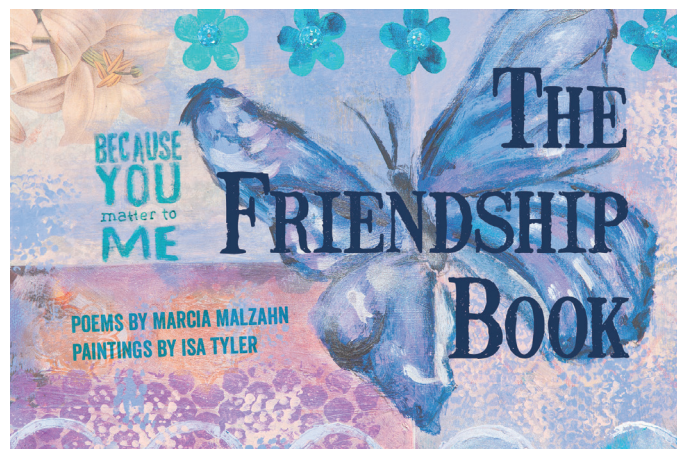
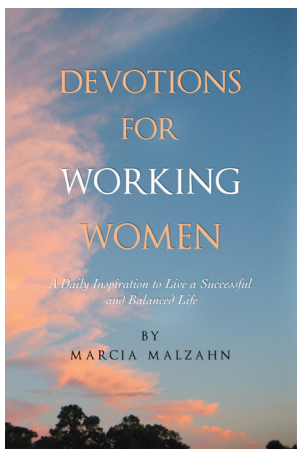
Be open to new opportunities—including lateral moves. Sometimes you may think that you only want to go up the ladder in an organization. But often the way up is to go sideways first. By that I mean, sometimes moving to a new lateral position gives you the amazing opportunity to learn an entirely different area of the company. After you obtain the additional experience, then you may be readier to move up to the next level.

Volunteer in your community. When you give of yourself to others you not only learn a lot but also develop as a person. I encourage you to choose a nonprofit organization where you can utilize your talents and help others at the same time. You can either volunteer to do hands-on work or to be on the Board of Directors. You may be able to start as an Advisory Board member which means you don't have the liability a Director has. You can then obtain leadership experience outside of the workplace by volunteering at nonprofit organizations in some leadership capacity.

Go for it. Believe in yourself and don't be afraid to make the jump. Also, don't be shy to ask for help from experienced people in the field you want to pursue. Apply to jobs where you may not have the right experience, but you may be a good fit for the organization. They will train you.

I hope these tips will help you prepare yourself to be the *one* who is chosen when the time comes for the senior leadership of your organization to pick the right candidate to succeed key positions.

Marci Malzahn is president 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 professional speaker focusing on leadership, banking, and inspirational topics. 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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Pictured (from left to right): Amy Poehler, Christine Barakat, Erin Schwab

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Comcast NBCUniversal Awards \$45,000 in Scholarships to Twin Cities Area High School Seniors



41 Twin Cities graduating high school seniors were recognized and awarded with college scholarships from the Comcast Foundation

Comcast Twin Cities has awarded \$45,000 in scholarships for the 2018-19 school year to 41 graduating high school seniors as part of the company's annual Leaders and Achievers® Scholarship Program. The program, funded by the Comcast Foundation, is a one-time, \$1,000 scholarship awarded to the best and brightest high school seniors for their community service, academic performance and leadership skills.

“Our Leaders and Achievers Scholarship winners are exceptional students who are committed to academic excellence and community service,” said J.D. Keller, regional vice president, Comcast Twin Cities. “We are honored to recognize their achievements and excited to support them as they continue their educational journeys.”

Comcast hosted a special reception honoring this year's winners on Thursday, May 17 at the Minnesota State Capitol, attended by family members, supporters, and a variety of local and elected officials. In addition, Nou-Chee Chang of Minneapolis, a senior at Brooklyn Center High School, was selected to receive an additional \$4,000 Comcast Founders Scholarship, instituted in honor of Ralph J. Roberts, Founder and Chairman Emeritus of Comcast Corporation.

Since 2001, more than \$28 million has been awarded to nearly 27,000 high school seniors across the country as part of the Leaders and Achievers Program. In the Twin Cities, Comcast has awarded more than \$332,000 to hundreds of area students.

The Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Program provides scholarships to students who strive to achieve their full potential, who are catalysts for positive change in their communities, who are involved in their schools, and who serve as models for their fellow students. The philosophy behind the program is to give young people every opportunity to prepare for the future and to engage them in their communities. The program also demonstrates the importance of civic involvement, and the value placed on civic involvement by the business community.



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Tim Pawlenty for Governor



From left to right: Rick Aguilar, Carissa Ontiveros, and Governor Pawlenty (R)

Rick Aguilar is pleased that Tim Pawlenty is running for Governor of Minnesota and is supporting him as the upcoming primary election day, August 14th, draws near. Aguilar served on the Met Council during Pawlenty's two terms as Governor from 2003 to 2011. Aguilar was instrumental in keeping then Gov. Pawlenty aware of issues in the Latino community and also offered up many Latino business, community and civic leaders to the Governor for Certificates of Commendation for their work in the community.

"I was always so pleased and full of pride when we would go to Reception Room at the State Capitol and Governor Pawlenty would present the certificates to the Latino leaders and community members, young and old. These meetings would last 20-30 minutes and the Governor would take time to talk to all who attended, many who were in the Capitol for the first time," said Aguilar.

Turning to the upcoming Governor election in November, Aguilar feels that we need a Governor who understands and can make changes to our education system that at this time is failing our Latino youth. Minnesota has the worst high school outcomes in the country for Latino students.

Aguilar believes that Pawlenty can be a leader in making sure that "all" high school students graduate and get a good education in Minnesota. "Tim is a good friend and his background coming from a working class family in South St. Paul really connects with me because of all the Latinos from the West Side who worked in the stockyards in South St. Paul, including my dad and brothers," Aguilar stated.

The Latino American Today Editorial Board endorses Tim Pawlenty for Governor of Minnesota.



Governor Pawlenty (center) honoring the Latino Youth group Jovenes de Salud who actively promote "Stay in School and Graduate" to their fellow Latino students.

Carla Nelson for Congress in Minnesota's 1st Congressional District



Carla served on panels at the Achievement Gap Summits with Latino education and political leaders (fourth on the right)

By Claud Santiago

Rick Aguilar spends a lot of time working to keep Latino kids in high school and to making sure they graduate. That is crucial because Minnesota has the worst high school dropout rate in the country for Latino students. "This is a real crisis for the Latino community here in Minnesota and throughout the country," Aguilar stated.

For the past four years, Aguilar and his print publication *Latino American Today* promote and produce the Latino Achievement Gap Summit, bringing together Education, Political, Business, Civic and Community and Youth leaders together to discuss and present ideas and strategies to battle the Achievement Gap issue.

"One of our champions at the State Capitol has been State Senator Carla Nelson who has attended and participated in our summits as a panelist along side Latino educational and political leaders," says Aguilar. "Carla is a proven leader for fiscally responsible budgets, lower taxes for families and strong, pro-student and parent education policies. I appreciated the fact she was involved with the Minnesota Council of Latino Affairs Board of Directors."

Aguilar is supporting Nelson in her race for Congress in the 1st Congressional District. He feels that her experience as a teacher brings her so much closer to education issues and her

knowledge in business and tax issues will make her an excellent choice to represent us in Congress. "I have seen how Carla can work across the aisle to make positive changes to making Minnesota a great place to live, work, and bring up your family," Aguilar noted.

Nelson is a leader in the Minnesota Senate, a former teacher, a mother, and a small business owner. A champion of economic growth in the State Senate, Carla is a proven leader for fiscally responsible budgets, lower taxes for southern Minnesota families, and strong, pro-student and parent education policies.

The Latino American Today Editorial Board endorses Carla Nelson for Congress in Minnesota's 1st Congressional District.

FIT Academy Public Charter School Has Successful First Year!



Students at the FIT Academy

*By Claud Allaire, Executive Director
FIT Academy Charter School*

FIT Academy public charter school just completed its first school-year in Apple Valley. The school enrolled 180 students in its first year and expects over 250 next year. The mission of the school is to provide students with a strong foundation of health and fitness to support academic growth. Claud Allaire, Executive Director says, "We had a great first year, we brought together over two hundred students and staff, as well as their families to form a strong school community." The school received overwhelmingly positive reviews from students and parents and showed tremendous academic growth throughout the year by significantly increasing the number of students who performed above grade level. This included growth of 65% in reading and threefold in math! "While we celebrate our successes, we also recognize that we have areas in need of improvement for next year including increasing our academic rigor".

In addition, FIT Academy is adding 9th grade next year and is implementing Project Lead The Way, a highly regarded STEM program where students will learn about energy and the environment, design and modelling, automation and robotics, as well as technology careers. In an effort to provide big school opportunities in a small school setting, FIT Academy plans on promoting dual enrollment options for high school students including PSEO where students can attend classes on college campuses beginning in 10th grade. FIT Academy has also formed a partnership with another small private high school to provide a more comprehensive after-school sports program.



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State Parks Offer a Solution for Restless Kids



Fishing in William O'Brien State Park

By Harland Hiemstra, Department of Natural Resource Information Officer

It's the dreaded mid-summer whine no parent wants to hear, a cross between the sound of a pesky mosquito and a whimpering puppy: "Mom, Dad—I'm bored! What's there to do?"

Lacking the structure of the school day and tired of playing the same old video games over and over, many a boy and girl begins to feel a bit of the summertime "blahs" by the time July rolls around.

Fortunately, there's an easy and inexpensive antidote available, and it's as close as your nearest state park, which for most Minnesotans is no more than a half-hour away. If you're willing to drive a little farther—say an hour or two—there are even more opportunities. And in addition to having fun, the kids might even get a few lessons about Minnesota's rich natural history without even realizing it. How's that for sneaking one over on them?

When the weather turns hot, it's always nice to be in, on or near the water. Some state parks, like Afton State Park, on the St. Croix River just east of St. Paul, and Fort Snelling State Park near the Twin Cities international airport, provide clean, family-friendly beaches. Many—including Fort Snelling, Interstate, William O'Brien, Wild River, and Sibley state parks—also offer canoe or kayak rentals. Or you can check out basic fishing equipment and see what's biting; you don't even need a fishing

license if the lake or river you're fishing is completely within the state park.

Numerous I Can Fish! programs for beginners will be offered at state parks in July and August, including three taught in Spanish:

- Sat., July 14, 10 a.m.-noon, Fort Snelling State Park.
- Sat., July 28, 1-3 p.m., William O'Brien State Park.
- Sat., Aug. 25, 1-3 p.m., Fort Snelling State Park.

See the complete I Can Fish! schedule and find registration information at www.mndnr.gov/ican.

Youngsters with a penchant for exploration might like to go on a high-tech treasure hunt, also known as geocaching. Geocaching involves using a handheld GPS device to find hidden containers, in which the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has stashed collectible cards. In keeping with the theme of this year's geocaching adventure, the Aquatic Quest, the cards feature 82 different plants and animals that can be found in the state's lakes, rivers and ponds. GPS units can be borrowed from most state parks, and special Geocaching 101 programs are scheduled throughout the summer to teach people how to use them, including one on July 22 at William O'Brien State Park. Pre-registration may be required for some of the programs, so call ahead.

Young fans of *Robin Hood* or the *Hunger Games* books and movies might enjoy the opportunity to learn how to shoot a bow and arrow. DNR's Archery in the Parks program provides equipment and hands-on instruction for beginners. Programs are scheduled in July at Afton, William O'Brien, Wild River and Whitewater state parks, among others. Participants must be at least 8 years old in order to be able to safely handle a bow.

Kids whose taste in movies turn more towards science fiction such as the latest in the *Jurassic Park* series might find it interesting to get up close and personal with a few of Minnesota's real-life creatures. You can meet some of *Jurassic Park*'s distant relatives such as turtles and snakes during a number of special programs scheduled throughout July at William O'Brien, Sibley and Whitewater state parks. You can learn about bats, another fascinating – and to some people scary – animal at special programs at Whitewater State Park. Other animals specially featured at Whitewater State Park include beavers, owls, and peregrine falcons, which are the world's fastest birds, capable of traveling at speeds in excess of 200 mph.

And that's just a sampling. You and your kids can learn about the geologic forces such as volcanic flows and huge glaciers that long ago shaped the state's landscape, find fossils, look at the planets through a telescope, visit a ghost-town, chase butterflies and even catch some live music this summer at Minnesota state parks. All that for only \$35 for a year's worth of fun and adventure. If you're not quite sure about it and want to "try before you buy," you can purchase a \$7 day pass. Then, before you leave, turn it in and get the \$7 taken off the price of the annual permit. More information on all the opportunities at Minnesota state parks can be found online at www.mndnr.gov/stateparks.



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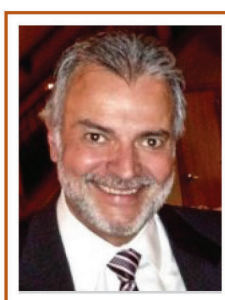
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