

NEWS AND PROFILES CONNECTING THE LATINO AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MINNESOTA

November 2021 Issue 410

# Latino American Today

[www.latinoamericantoday.com](http://www.latinoamericantoday.com)



## LATINO AMERICANOS CELEBRAN EL DÍA DE ACCIÓN DE GRACIAS



## LATINO AMERICANS CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING

STAY SAFE **MN**

MANTENTE SEGURO **MN**



## Where Hispanic Cooking Enthusiasts and Thanksgiving Meet

According to a VozLatinum panel, Thanksgiving is the second most widely celebrated holiday (sandwiched between Christmas and New Year's) among Hispanics. This might come as a surprise to some, given Thanksgiving's U.S.-based roots.

But, where's the surprise? It's a holiday that involves expressing gratitude for friends and family over a plentiful meal. It's become a Hispanic tradition, and Univision's 2015 Path to Purchase study shows that Hispanics are more likely than non-Hispanics to say that sticking to traditions is important (34% vs 28%, respectively).

CPG and retail marketers, among others, have an opportunity to extend their holiday messaging to Hispanics, who typically celebrate in a big way. These insights will help you nuance your campaigns, putting your brand front and center when family and good feelings abound.



**The “Cooking Enthusiast” Mentality.** A recent Mintel report categorized Cooking Enthusiasts as people who cook because they want to, not because they have to. About 20 million Hispanic adults fall into this category (23% more likely than the Total U.S. population).

Thanksgiving is made for the Cooking Enthusiast, so understanding her thinking is imperative. For her, cooking is enjoyable and allows her to express her creativity and celebrate her culture. While she cooks with her family in mind, she makes the ultimate decisions.

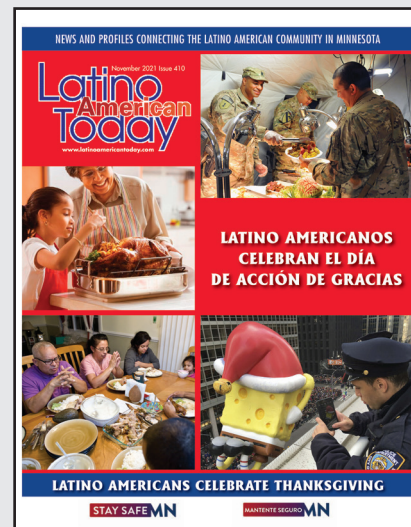
**Your Takeaway:** Don't make Thanksgiving prep feel like a stressful chore.

**The Influencers.** Let's get specific on family. Who is influencing the Cooking Enthusiast most? The Mintel report shows that it's mom – before her spouse/significant other or her kids – but that changes over time depending on where she is in her life's journey. The report also shows that two media influences take precedence over people: cooking websites and blogs, followed closely by cooking shows on TV.

**Your Takeaway:** Insert multigenerational Thanksgiving scenes in the media that Hispanics love. An authentic mother-daughter moment may help your brand stand out in a sea of crowded “family” messages.

**“Fusing” Food.** The VozLatinum panel found that 73% of Hispanics fuse traditional Thanksgiving recipes like turkey and mashed potatoes with Latin American dishes like rice and beans, tamales and flan. Much of this mixing of cultures comes to life in the spices/preparation and the side dishes, but you'll also see the main course become an and vs. an or opportunity. This means Hispanics don't always choose between the turkey and perrito (pork), they go for both.

**Your Takeaway:** Inspire the food fusion. Suggest ways to bring Hispanic cultural duality to life with recipes like Chorizo Cornbread Stuffing, Pumpkin Empanadas or using Sazón spice on your turkey.



On The Cover

Latino Americanos Celebran El Día  
De Acción De Gracias

Latino Americans Celebrate Thanksgiving

Latino  
American  
Today

Founded 2013

Member of

Minnesota Multicultural Media Consortium  
National Foundation of Hispanic Owned  
Newspapers  
Minnesota Newspaper Association

Published by

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Richard Aguilar, President

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## Thanksgiving Day. Gracias Por La Vida.



*Por Saúl Carranza*

El día de acción de gracias se instituyó para dar gracias al Divino Creador por todas las cosas buenas recibidas. Y, definitivamente, la vida es el mayor bien que disfrutamos. Soy uno de los 46 millones de casos de Covid-19 que se han registrado en los Estados Unidos. Pero gracias a Dios no figuro entre los 761,842 muertos que en este país se registran hasta octubre 2021.

Claro que extrañamos y lloramos por cada una de las vidas perdidas en la pandemia Covid-19. La humanidad entera llora por los 5 millones de personas que murieron y los muchos más que aún morirán antes de que esta pandemia se declare terminada. Hemos llorado con las familias que perdieron un ser querido. Hemos celebrado con los que han sobrevivido y sufrimos con aquellos que pasaron la enfermedad pero que han quedado con graves secuelas de la misma.

Esta semana estuve con mi amiga y hermana Lupita. Ella nos compartió su terrible experiencia con la enfermedad. Cómo el Dr. Le entregó el teléfono y le dijo despídete de tu familia porque tu vas a morir. En el hospital le comentaron que murió dos veces y que fue resucitada otras tantas. Si bien sobrevivió a la enfermedad, superar las secuelas está siendo muy difícil. En medio del dolor y la enfermedad agradecemos a Dios porque nos permite celebrar la vida de nuestra querida amiga. Su testimonio es que Dios es poderoso para sanar y para salvar en la más terrible enfermedad o prueba.

Sabemos que todos vamos a morir en algún momento, pero, entendemos que el estar en este mundo, rodeado de todos nuestros seres queridos y disfrutar de paz tranquilidad y todas las cosas bellas que nos rodean es una razón para celebrar. Uno de cada 1000 estadounidenses ha muerto por Covid-19. Este día de acción de gracias acuérdate de dar gracias a Dios por tu vida y la de tus seres queridos y si has perdido una persona amada, agradece por el tiempo que te permitió tenerla a tu lado. La vida es un don de Dios. Feliz día de acción de gracias.

## Thanksgiving Day. Thanks for life.

*By Saúl Carranza*

Thanksgiving was instituted to give thanks to the Divine Creator for all the good things received. And, definitely, life is the greatest good we enjoy. I am one of the 46 million cases of Covid-19 that have been registered in the United States. But thank God I am not among the 761,842 deaths registered in this country until October 2021.

Of course, we miss and cry for each of the lives lost in the Covid-19 pandemic. The whole of humanity mourns for the 5 million people who died and the many more who will still die before this pandemic is declared over. We have mourned with the families who lost a loved one. We have celebrated with those who have survived and we suffer with those who suffered from the disease but who have been left with serious consequences of it.

This week I was with my friend and sister Lupita. She shared with us her ordeal with the disease. How the Dr. handed the phone and told her say goodbye to your family because you are going to die. At the hospital they told her that she died twice and that she was resurrected as many times. Although she survived the disease, overcoming the aftermath is proving very difficult. In the midst

of pain and illness, we thanked God for allowing us to celebrate the life of our dear friend. Her testimony is that God is powerful to heal and to save in the most terrible disease or trial.

We know that we are all going to die at some point, but we understand that being in this world, surrounded by all our loved ones and enjoying peace, tranquility and all the beautiful things that surround us is a reason to celebrate. One in every 1,000 Americans has died from Covid-19. This day of thanksgiving remember to thank God for your life and that of your loved ones and if you have lost a loved one, be thankful for the time they allowed you to have them by your side. Life is a gift from God. Happy Thanksgiving Day.

\*Saúl Carranza is the pastor at the Iglesia Familia de Dios in Dayton, MN. Email him at [pastorcarranza@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcarranza@gmail.com) or call (763)245-2378.

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pero muy cerca  
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Osseo  
Rogers  
y Brooklyn Park

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Transmitimos por Facebook live en  
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14100 Elm Creek Rd. Dayton MN 55369 Tel 763 568 4618



## Thankful for Grandchildren... Our Crowning Glory!



Marcia Malzahn

By Marcia Malzahn

The Bible tells us in **Proverbs 17:6** that “Grandchildren are the crowning glory of the aged; parents are the pride of their children.” And I can attest this promise to be true in my life. What a reward our grandchildren are to all of us who raised children!

Being a parent is hard work! And as our children are growing up and we are amid the busyness of work and home, we may not see the fruit of our labor manifested. But years later, when our children become parents, we now as grandparents realize the reward of our investment for all those years of sacrifice.

I have always been a full-time working mother and when my kids were little, I didn’t have the flexibility to spend as much time with them as I would have liked to. Now thirty years later, God is blessing me with the opportunity to spend time with my grandson.

My husband joined my business in 2020 and now we truly enjoy each moment, each day that we get to spend with our grandson. He is now 2 years and 9 months, and guess what? Our second grandson just arrived as I write this article! What an amazing blessing in our lives. Each grandchild has a special piece of my heart and I’m overflowing with joy!

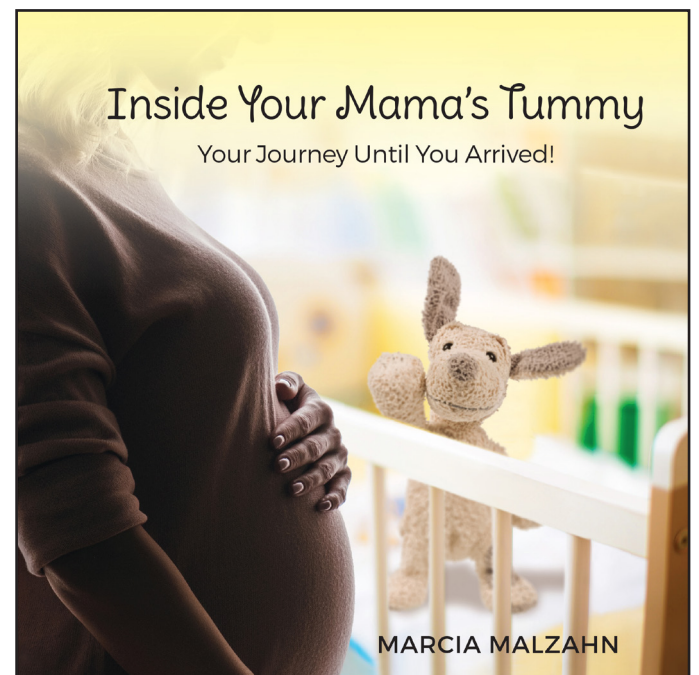
Becoming a grandma inspired me to write a new book and today I want to take this opportunity to introduce to you my fifth book!

***Inside Your Mama’s Tummy: Your Journey Until You Arrived!***

I was inspired during my daughter’s first pregnancy to write my first children’s book. In this book, grandma writes letters to her first grandchild of the extraordinary journey inside mama’s tummy. The sex or race of the baby is never revealed so grandparents from any part of the world can read this book to their grandchildren. I use the fun analogy of comparing the baby’s weight and length to fruits and vegetables to provide a visual of how quickly the babies grow inside the womb. I also introduce “Dog” as the main character throughout the story playing with a fruit or vegetable to create a point of reference for the children to see how they grew inside.

This is an educational and inspirational book, and it includes Bible scriptures with promises about how uniquely and wonderfully made each human being is. The book ends when the baby arrives and includes a space for you to write the baby’s name, birthdate, and a photo.

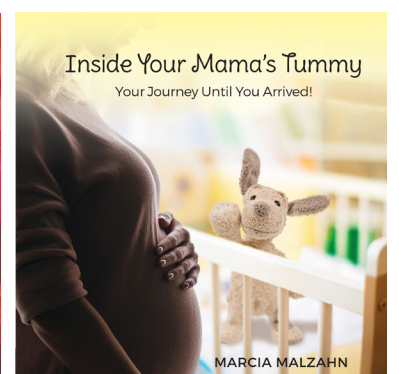
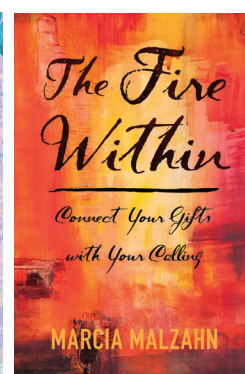
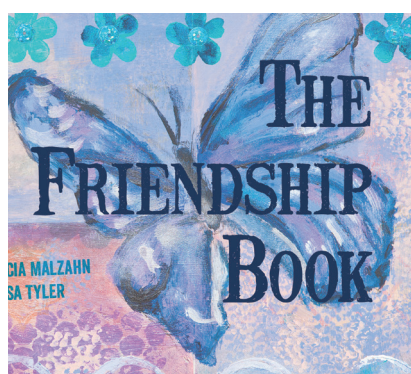
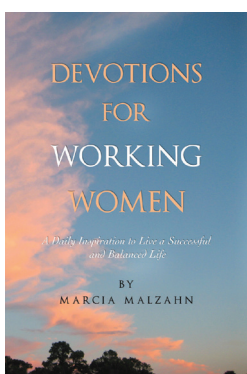
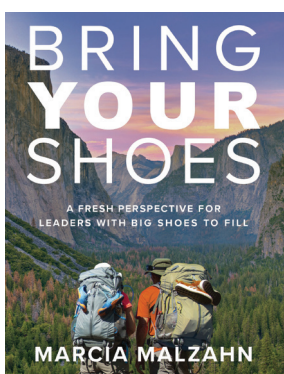
If you are a grandparent, an expectant mother, or have friends who are grandmas, this is the perfect gift for them and for you. The book will be available in Amazon soon, but you can pre-order by contacting Marcia directly below.



I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving surrounded by all your loved ones and especially by your grandchildren if you have them.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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.





STAY SAFE MN

## Hágase la prueba de COVID-19



- La prueba de saliva está disponible para todos
- Con o sin síntomas
- Sin costo alguno
  - pero traiga su tarjeta de seguro si la tiene.

**Monday - Thursday**

11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Sunday**

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Roy Wilkins Auditorium**

(next to Saint Paul River Centre)

175 W Kellogg Blvd

St. Paul, MN 55102

Free parking is available on the roof of the RiverCentre ramp. If that is full, metered parking is available in Rice Park. The testing location is ADA accessible. There are ramps and changes to the floor grade. People with mobility challenges may find the Brooklyn Park location easier to navigate.

## Regístrese en línea para obtener la hora de su cita.

<https://mncovidtestingappt.as.me/schedule.php>

Si no puede inscribirse en línea o necesita un intérprete, llame al 1-800-800-5698 para obtener ayuda. Visite [www.mn.gov/covid19](https://www.mn.gov/covid19) para obtener más opciones de pruebas y ubicaciones.



No debe comer, beber, masticar ni fumar nada por al menos 30 minutos antes de la prueba de saliva.

**mn MINNESOTA**

Departamento de Salud de Minnesota | [health.mn.gov](https://health.mn.gov) | 651-201-5000

Comuníquese con [health.communications@state.mn.us](mailto:health.communications@state.mn.us) para solicitar otro tipo de formato.





## The American Dream – Día de los Muertos Stamps!

By: Claud Santiago

Luis Fitch, Co-founder of UNO Branding, Latino Hispanic Graphic Design, in Minneapolis, is known for his love affair with the Día de los Muertos / Day of the Dead Art and the Mexican holiday, that takes place on the 1st of November. You can see that in his design and creative he produces for Fortune 500 companies and numerous clients, since he founded UNO Branding in 1999. Fitch was born in Tijuana, Mexico, as a young teenager he started collecting stamps, he was fascinated with the history, visuals and culture that are involved in designing stamps. After moving to San Diego with his family at the age of 20, Fitch went on to attend the prestigious Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California.

Fast forward to 2018, Fitch had a collection of his Día de los Muertos art on display at the National Mexican Museum in Chicago, IL, as part of that holiday celebration. One of the attendees at the museum was, Antonio Alcalá, an art director at Alexandria's Studio A and one of the only four art directors nationwide currently entrusted by the United States Postal Service (USPS) with overseeing stamp design.



*Luis Fitch, Co-founder of UNO Branding, Latino Hispanic Graphic Design*



*Antonio Alcalá*

Alcalá's role at the USPS included working on ideas for "new stamps" and searching for creative artists who could design the art work. When the idea for the "Day of the Dead" stamp came to Alcalá in 2019, he remembered Luis Fitch and his Día de los Muertos art and he knew, that was what he was looking for. "I got lucky" Fitch was quoted in an article about the USPS stamps and how he got the gig.

Fitch was contacted by Alcalá and that's how he was commissioned to design and illustrate the first-ever "Day of the Dead" USPS stamps. The entire process of submitting the design to getting it actually printed and sent for sale at USPS took about two years.

The stamps have been a source of pride for the Mexican community and sales nationwide have been great. So, have the sales of Target Brand: Día de los Muertos Collection designed by Luis Fitch, that has created an amazing demand across the country.

So, the American Dream happens, with hard work, talent, passion and a little luck. Congratulations, Luis Fitch.



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11:00 Servicio de adoración

Miércoles 7:00 pm Culto Regular

transmitimos por Facebook live en

<https://www.facebook.com/nazarenosencrystal>

Les esperamos.

Pastor Mario Alexander Castro

## Unite to Fuel Change

We live in a world where divisions and poverty  
affect everyone but *when we unite as changemakers*  
we can create a community where all people thrive.



Greater Twin Cities  
United Way

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## State Sites Offer Free Saliva Testing to Minnesotans

[ST. PAUL, MN] – Today, Governor Tim Walz announced an expansion of testing capacity in the state's COVID-19 community testing network in order to meet increased demand. Beginning October 15, Friday testing will be offered at the state sites in Mankato and St. Cloud. Beginning October 17, Sunday testing will be offered at the Moorhead and Winona sites.

“Minnesotans deserve to have more no-cost COVID-19 testing options, and we’re stepping up to expand access to that testing across the state,” said Governor Walz. “Testing for COVID-19 keeps our children safe in the classroom and provides peace of mind to parents and families. Through the at-home testing program and community sites in cities around the state, Minnesotans have more opportunities to choose the option that is best for their families.

### St. Paul\* Beginning on October 20

#### Roy Wilkins Auditorium

175 West Kellogg

Saliva and Rapid

Monday - Thursday: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

To schedule an appointment:

[mncovidtestingappt.as.me](https://mncovidtestingappt.as.me)

\*Note: Testing at the Roy Wilkins site will remain open on Sundays Nov. 7, and Nov. 14, but will take place in another room. Signs and staff will direct people to the location.



## Hispanic, Latinx, Latine – A Community And United Front Against COVID-19

By Minnesota Department of Health

“Como una gran fiesta. Donde no cabe la tristeza...” With La Gran Fiesta, Color Esperanza, and Madre Tierra playing in the background, the Hispanic/Latinx/Latine Community Group virtually danced, shared memories and tears, and celebrated the work of the past year and a half. Convened by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) at the start of COVID-19 to address concerns in the Hispanic/Latinx/Latine community and serve as a space for dialogue, this group has been indispensable in connecting state agencies, particularly MDH directly to the community and their needs. What was originally a small group, has now grown 52 leaders strong, with people from Hispanic/Latinx/Latine Community Based Organizations, churches, local public health, hospitals and clinics, and a variety of state agencies. Every other week, these leaders come together and share housing, food, immigration, and COVID-19 information and activities that are happening throughout the state. While all conversation topics are fair game, and all are welcome, there is just one rule that the group decided on – conducting the meeting primarily in Spanish with topics summarized in English a few times during the meeting. The format of this group allows members to show up authentically, creates a safe space for conversation, and fosters a deep sense of community and comrade despite the varied cultural backgrounds of people in the group.

For 19 months, the group has developed and translated educational material, conducted media outreach and engagement in Spanish, shown up as a friendly face at testing centers to welcome community members, pushed for protections for immigrant and agricultural workers, and raised close to 1 million dollars for community food distribution during the COVID-19 pandemic for families and people unable to participate in federal

and state support programs. At every problem or project, members have worked as a unit, drawing on strengths of each other, and leaning in when needing support. On Oct. 21, leaders in this group were showered in appreciation by MDH and presented a certificate signed by the Minnesota Commissioner of Health recognizing their impactful work. What started out as a handful of Hispanic/Latinx/Latine leaders coming together has evolved into a beautiful community space that is here to stay. The group is committed to supporting the community and continuing as a voice for Minnesota’s Hispanic/Latinx/Latine people and families statewide.



**\$100,000**

¡Participe en el sorteo para ganarse una beca universitaria de \$100,000!  
Vacúnese. Obtenga una tarjeta de regalo Visa de \$200.

Todos los habitantes de Minnesota entre 12 y 17 años que hayan completado la serie de dos dosis de la vacuna contra el COVID-19 en cualquier momento del 2021 son elegibles para participar de los sorteos por la beca.

Todos los habitantes de Minnesota entre 12 y 17 años que comiencen o completen la serie de dos dosis de la vacuna contra el COVID-19 entre el 18 de octubre y el 30 de noviembre son elegibles para recibir una tarjeta de regalo Visa de \$200.

¡Los niños se merecen la oportunidad de vacunarse! | 18 de octubre al 30 de noviembre de 2021 | [mn.gov/covid19](https://mn.gov/covid19)



## NAHREP Twin Cities attend National Event

By Claud Santiago

Members of the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals (NAHREP) Twin Cities Chapter, attended the L'ATTITUDE national conference. The event was held in San Diego, CA, in late September. The event featured some of the nation's leading CEO's, Congressional small business champions, preeminent investors, innovative entrepreneurs, famous celebrities and emerging entertainment talent. "We were pleased to join the thousands of Latino business, media and civic leaders from throughout the United States, who attended this amazing event" stated Isaac Contreras, who is President of the local NAHREP Twin Cities chapter, <https://nahreptwincities.org/>.

L'ATTITUDE is a business based national initiative focused on helping enlightened executives understand The New Mainstream Economy and the U.S. Latino cohort that is driving it. The national platform showcases the contributions of U.S. Latinos in business, media, politics, science, and technology. L'ATTITUDE is focused on changing the narrative of who we are as a nation and who the drivers of growth are for the next few decades. Founded in 2018 by international business executive Sol Trujillo and NAHREP Co-Founder & CEO Gary Acosta, L'ATTITUDE was built to showcase the contributions of U.S. Latinos in business, media, politics, science, and technology. In 2019 internationally acclaimed producer, director, entrepreneur, and author, Emilio Estefan joined Trujillo and Acosta as a partner in L'ATTITUDE to play an active role in leveraging his important business & industry connections, curating emerging entertainment talent, and producing event-related materials into the L'ATTITUDE event. L'ATTITUDE 2022 will be held in San Diego, CA in the Fall.

L'ATTITUDE



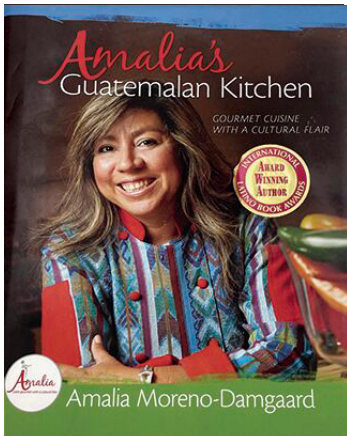
L'ATTITUDE Founders, (L to R)  
Sol Trujillo, Gloria Estefan, Emilio Estefan, Gary Acosta



NAHREP Twin Cities members: (L to R)  
Luis Olvera, Ed Luna, Estefania Borns, Marina Aguirre-Anthony, Martha Ballek, E Guille Garza, Isaac Contreras, Adade Amenounve.



## It's Good to be Thankful



By Award-Winning-Bestselling Author Amalia Moreno-Damgaard (AmaliaLLC.com)

Being thankful year-round, rather than just during Thanksgiving, can be beneficial to your health and those around you.

In this age of rushed lives, we become so immersed in day-to-day activities that we rarely stop to think about how we can make our life quality better. Everyone at some time reaches a point of frustration, helplessness, and despair, and this is compounded by work and life demands. Having an escape is good and whether you are religious or not, adopting the practice of being thankful is better than living in anguish.

Thanksgiving is good for many reasons, —to reflect on the meaning of the celebration, family time and eating delicious traditional foods, but it is also a good time to ask ourselves if we are at peace and happy. As simple as this sounds, these have always been precious jewels in people's lives and as such how many of us actually experience these states that naturally go hand in hand?

I want to leave you with this thought, —next time you experience ill feelings about anything, wouldn't it be nicer to redirect your thinking into a state of gratitude? When was the last time you reflected about your life's blessings?

## Es bueno ser agradecido

Por la chef y autora Amalia Moreno-Damgaard

Ser agradecido todo el año, y no sólo para el Día de Acción de Gracias, puede ser beneficioso para su salud y la de la gente que lo rodea.

Vivimos en un ajetreo constante y totalmente sumergidos en actividades diarias que raramente nos paramos a pensar como podemos agregarle mejor calidad a nuestras vidas. Todos en algún momento dado llegamos a un punto de frustración, impotencia, y desesperación y esto aumenta cuando le agregamos el trabajo y las demandas de la vida. Cuando tenemos un escape, seamos religiosos o no, adoptar la práctica de ser agradecidos es una mejor opción que vivir en agonía.

El Día de Acción de Gracias es bueno por muchas razones, —para recordar el significado de la celebración y para reunirse con la familia para disfrutar de la deliciosa comida tradicional, pero también puede ser una buena oportunidad para preguntarnos si estamos en paz y si somos felices. Puede sonar simple, pero estos estados siempre han sido como dos joyas preciosas en la vida de las personas, —pero cuántos y que tan a menudo actualmente experimentamos estos dos estados que naturalmente van de la mano?

Quiero dejarlo con este pensamiento, —la próxima vez que tenga pensamientos negativos por cualquier cosa, no sería mejor re-dirigir su mente a adoptar un estado de gratitud? Cuando fué la última vez que se puso a pensar en todas las bendiciones que lo rodean?



### AYOTE EN DULCE Receta creada por la chef Amalia Moreno-Damgaard

Esta es una receta tradicional para el Día de Los Muertos, pero también puede ser una buena opción para el Día de Acción de Gracias dado a que el ayote es también parte de la celebración.

Para 2 personas

Miel  
2 tazas de agua  
1/4 raja de canela  
1/8 cdita. anís  
2 clavos  
3 pimienta gorda (dulce)  
3/4 a 1 taza de panela (piloncillo)

1 ayote pequeño como el acorn (o cualquier otro ayote de su gusto), lavado, cortado en cuartos (piel y semillas incluidas)

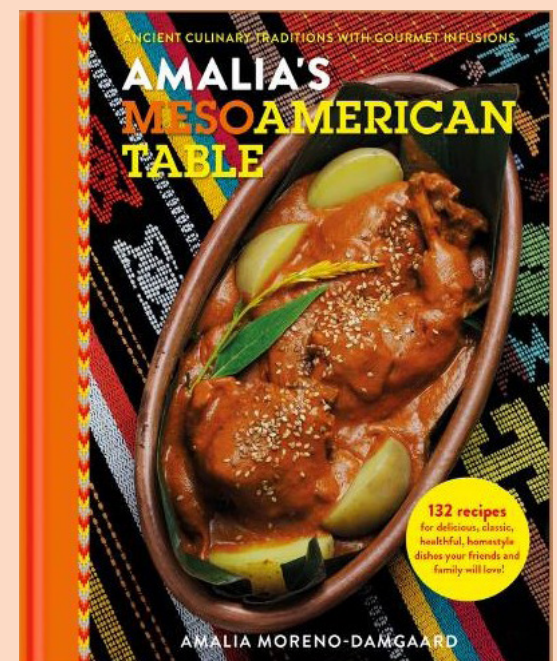
En una olla mediana, combine el agua con las especias y la panela y sirva rápidamente. Luego baje la llama y cocine lentamente hasta que los sabores se concentren y la mezcla este aromática y se vea como miel (unos 20-30 minutos). Quite las especias y tírelas.

Agregue el ayote y sumerja en la miel, y cocine hasta que este suave (unos 20 minutos). Mientras mas tiempo este el ayote en la miel, mejor sabor. Por esta razón es mejor prepararlo el día anterior.

Sirva a temperatura ambiente o frío bañado con la miel.



## Amalia's New Book 2021





## Controlling State Park Deer Populations Through Special Hunts



*In this photo, a dad and daughter participate in a special youth hunt held at a Minnesota state park. Special hunts are held every year throughout Minnesota to control the deer populations. Remember to always wear the bright blaze orange colors when you hunt.*

By Deborah Locke,  
MN Department of Natural Resource Information Officer

**Tavis Westbrook is a Parks and Trails program coordinator in natural resource management at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. He answered questions recently about the special hunts held at state parks and recreation areas.**

### **Why does the DNR division of Parks and Trails hold these hunts? How could they benefit deer?**

If the deer population gets too high in a state park or a state recreation area, then the Parks and Trails staff – along with the division of wildlife staff – decide that a special hunt is needed. These special hunts have been held for many decades. As an example, St. Croix State Park had hunts in the 1940s, but current practices have been around since the 1970s. The DNR staff decide on the timing of the hunt, whether it will be early, at mid-season, or late in the season. Those decisions all get back to the goals of the hunt. They could be to reduce the deer population numbers because of overbrowsing (eating plants and vegetation, especially young tree branches and leaves) Or they may agree to a hunt in a certain area to reduce deer/car collisions, or the hunt maybe scheduled to reduce damage to adjacent agricultural crops on private land. In about 90 percent of the cases, the deer put undue pressure on a natural resource – trees – and that prohibits tree regeneration. The hunt brings balance back and allows things to grow.

### **How can a deer damage a tree?**

They eat the top of saplings and seedlings, which is sometimes fatal to certain trees, so a sapling will never grow to be large. In the northern forests, deer target white pine and white cedar, the trees we're trying to promote. In the southern part of the state, we are trying to encourage the growth of oak and other hardwoods. Deer are also hard on trillium, some orchid species, and some spring wildflowers.

### **But haven't deer been eating young trees, and almost every plant in sight, for hundreds of years?**

Yes, they have been around forever but the deer population is higher today than prior to European settlement. We have an altered landscape throughout Minnesota, even in state park settings. Someone I knew who worked for years in wildlife said that humans created state parks – which became a perfect place for deer to enjoy. Parks have a grassy turf, plantings like hostas, clover: exactly what deer prefer to eat. They find all of that and more in campground areas, picnic areas, the places where visitors congregate. During European colonization, the state had a better balance of plants, animals and predators like wolves, bears and mountain lions. We still have that balance in northern Minnesota, but not to the degree that it existed hundreds of years ago. Additionally climate change is reducing the number of severe winters, which is one of the primary factors affecting deer populations in northern states.

### **How do you measure deer overpopulation?**

The DNR's wildlife division collects harvest rates and does population modeling using computer software. Locally, park staff observe the deer behavior like browsing on trees and see the way it impacts vegetation. All of this factors into a decision to schedule a special hunt.

### **How do you determine a target yield?**

That's complicated. We factor in how to safely put the safest number of people on land for the shortest amount of time to harvest the most deer. Safety is the biggest factor in state parks. We know that typically, about one-third of hunters will shoot a deer. Some special hunts just allow the harvest of one deer, either sex, buck or doe. However, in places with really high deer populations, special hunts may allow you to harvest more than one deer as long as the hunter secures additional tags. It all depends on the circumstances of that particular unit and the special hunt goals. Some special hunts allow 10 hunters, others allow 500. Year in and year out about a third of all hunters get a deer.

### **Are the special hunts held each year and when are they?**

Some are well-established and happen every year. In other places where the population goals were met, there will not be a hunt. The youth hunts start early, mid to late October, but the majority of adult hunts start Nov. 6 this year, and continue into December. As far as equipment, there are a couple of different seasons: rifle season first, and then muzzle loader season in late fall and winter.

### **How does someone qualify to participate in a special hunt?**

Just purchase a license. Most hunts have a limit on the number of people who hunt, so it gets competitive. Information on special hunts and how to apply is usually available in late August. To access a copy of the DNR hunting and fishing regulations in a variety of different languages, see: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/hunting/index.html>







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