

NEWS AND PROFILES CONNECTING THE LATINO AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MINNESOTA

October 2020 Issue 397  
**Latino**  
**American**  
**Today**  
[www.latinoamericantoday.com](http://www.latinoamericantoday.com)

 **ya es hora**  
**¡VE Y VOTA!**



**VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> - VOTA EL 3 DE NOVIEMBRE**



## Election 2020: Our Choices La elección 2020: Nuestras selecciones

**Here are our choices for  
November 3, 2020 elections!**

**VOTE NOVEMBER 3RD!  
¡VOTA EL 3 DE NOVIEMBRE!**



### **PRESIDENT**

Donald J. Trump (R)

### **U.S SENATE**

Jason Lewis (R)

### **U.S. CONGRESS**

Tyler Kistner (R) - 2nd District

Kendall Qualls (R)- 3rd District

Lacy Johnson (R) - 5th District

### **MINNESOTA STATE SENATE**

Tomas Settell (R) - District 52

Jose Jimenez (R) - District 57

Paul Anderson (R) - District 59

### **MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mariah de la Paz (R) - HD52A

Sandra Jimenez (R) - HD57B

Cynthia Lonnquist (R) - HD52B

Eric Lucero (R) - HD30B

Jon Koznick (R) - HD58A

### **WEST ST. PAUL**

Dave Napier - Mayor

Bob Pace - City Council Ward I

Anthony Fernandez - City  
Council Ward 2

Dave Meisinger - City Council  
Ward 3



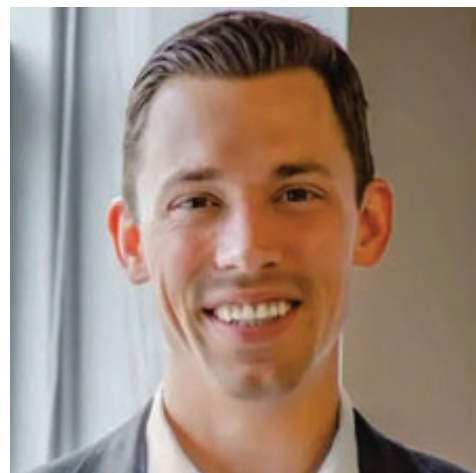
*Jose Jimenez*



*Kendall Qualls*



*Mariah de la Paz*



*Tyler Kistner*



*Jason Lewis*



*Lacy Johnson*



**On The Cover**  
Vote November 3rd!  
¡Vota el 3 de noviembre!

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Today**

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## Hoy en día, es peligroso salir a la calle sin cobertura de salud. Puede haber ayuda disponible.

Muchas familias en Minnesota están enfrentando dificultades debido a la pandemia por COVID-19. Para muchos de nosotros, sostener los gastos relacionados con la atención y servicios de salud pueden ser muy difíciles de afrontar. Si usted o algún familiar y conocidos están afrontando dificultades económicas debido a no contar con suficiente dinero, o si perdió su empleo, o sus horas de trabajo fueron reducidas; hay opciones para acceder ayuda disponible.

Los programas de salud pública de Minnesota ofrecen cobertura de salud a los residentes de Minnesota con ingresos económicos bajos o sin ingresos económicos. El Departamento de Servicios Humanos (DHS) tiene una página web nueva con información en Español sobre los programas de salud pública en Minnesota [mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage/spanish](http://mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage/spanish). Invitamos a aquellos que necesiten cobertura de salud a preguntar si califican para Asistencia Médica o MinnesotaCare.

La mayoría de los residentes de Minnesota pueden solicitar en línea a través de [MNsure.org](http://MNsure.org). Sin embargo, sabemos que navegar los seguros de salud puede ser complicado y por lo tanto, usted no tiene por qué descifrarlos por su cuenta. Estas son algunas de las opciones para obtener más información sobre nuestros programas de salud.

- Conéctese con un navegador en su comunidad para obtener ayuda para inscribirse. Podrás encontrar un navegador que habla Inglés o Español en [mnsure.org/help/find-assister/find-assister.jsp](http://mnsure.org/help/find-assister/find-assister.jsp).
- Comuníquese con su oficina local del condado.
- Si tiene alguna discapacidad, llame al Centro de Discapitados de MN (Disability Hub MN) al 866-333-2466.
- Si tiene 65 años o más, puede llamar a la línea de enlace de la tercera edad (Senior LinkAge Line) al 800-333-2433.

### Todos necesitamos ayuda en alguna ocasión

Alimentos | Vivienda | Ingreso  
Cuidados de la salud | Cuidado infantil



Everyone needs help sometimes

Food | Housing | Income | Health care | Child care



[mn.gov/dhs/LatinoAmericanToday](http://mn.gov/dhs/LatinoAmericanToday)

### ¿No califica debido a su condición de inmigración?

La Asistencia Médica de Emergencia (Emergency Medical Assistance, EMA) ofrece cobertura para la atención y el tratamiento de afecciones médicas de emergencia a todo residente de Minnesota que no tenga una estatus de inmigración que le permita tener acceso a Asistencia Médica. EMA cubre aquellas afecciones médicas que de no tratarse en un período de 24 a 48 horas podrían:

- Poner su salud en grave riesgo;
- Ocasionar un deterioro grave de las funciones corporales; o
- Ocasionar un colapso grave de alguno de los órganos o partes del cuerpo.

Usted puede solicitar la Asistencia Médica de Emergencia a través de su oficina local del condado.

### Prueba gratis de COVID-19 si no tiene seguro

Muchos residentes de Minnesota que no cuentan con un seguro de salud pueden realizarse la prueba de COVID-19 de forma gratuita. Aprende más a [mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage/spanish](http://mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage/spanish).

Todos requerimos ayuda en muchas ocasiones, estamos aquí para ayudarte.  
Matt Anderson

Assistant Commissioner and Medicaid Director, Health Care Administration,  
Minnesota Department of Human Services



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.latinamericantoday.com](http://www.latinamericantoday.com)



## The World Changes. God Does Not.



Marci Malzahn

By Marci Malzahn

During the past six months our world is no longer what it used to be. Everything has changed—from the way we work, how kids go to school, sports, to the way we act in terms of safety and social gatherings. But I have good news for you! God has not changed. The world will continue to change and we will need to continue to adapt but God and His love for us never changes—ever! The Bible reminds us of this promise on **Hebrews 13:8** that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

The Bible also tells us on **Matthew 7:24-27** to:

### Build on a Solid Foundation

*“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”*

We can easily insert the word “Pandemic” in the verse above as the “floodwaters” and the “rains” and the “floods” and the “winds” all represent life disasters that can destroy our lives. When calamity comes—and it will because we live in the world—we must be ready by standing firm on our foundation, by being anchored in God and His promises.

As you continue adjusting to a new work environment, your kids’ school schedules, and “your new normal,” I encourage you to not give up on believing. Stay strong through these difficult times because God is right there with you every step of the way. Reach out to others who may need help and encouragement. Reach out for help if you’re feeling lonely or isolated. This is the time to walk together with others too and not try to survive the storm by yourself.

God is my anchor and my rock. And I’m standing firm on this foundation. I encourage you to do the same. I will leave you with this poem from one of my books *The Friendship Book: Because You Matter to Me* to brighten up your month:

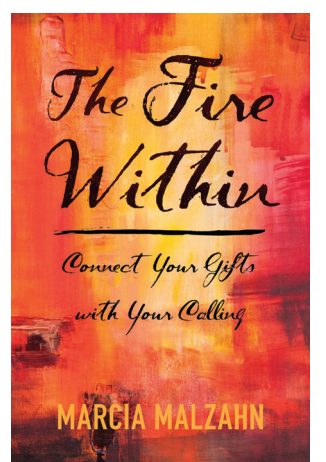
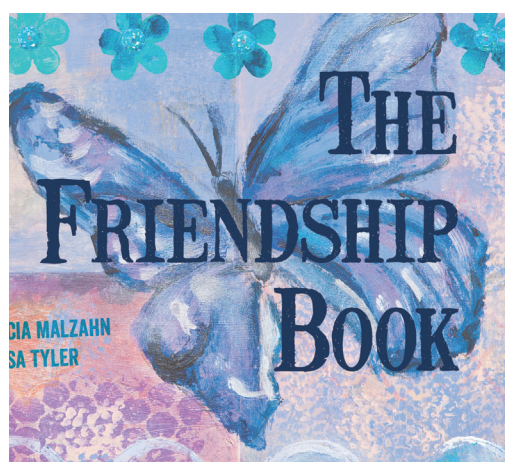
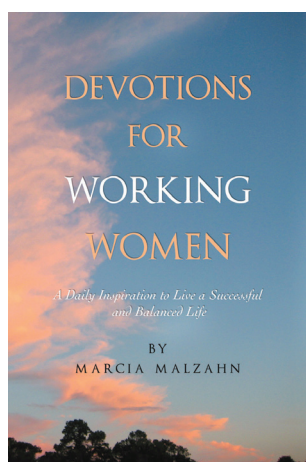
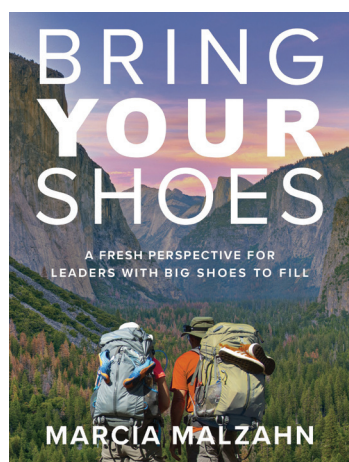


Painting by Isa Tyler, Poneloya Beach, Nicaragua

*Friends are gifts from heaven  
and they all come  
in different seasons of our lives.  
Some come in the spring during our childhood.  
Some join us in the summer during our teen years.  
Others find us in the fall in our mature years.  
Yet others join our journey during our winter.  
But they are all important  
and significant in our lives.  
Hopefully we keep our friendships  
and walk all the seasons together  
as we walk our path of life.*

Marcia Malzahn is president and founder of Malzahn Strategic a community financial institution consultancy focused on strategic planning, enterprise risk management, treasury management, and talent management. Marcia is a professional keynote speaker and published author of four books.

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)  
You can purchase Marcia’s books at Malzahn Publishing or Amazon.





VOTA POR EL CONGRESO 2020

# LACY JOHNSON

- Mejores Trabajos
- Vecindarios Seguros
- Mejor Educación para todas las familias

## Congressional District 5

Paid for by Lacy Johnson for Congress



## ELECT

## MEISINGER

City Council Ward 3  
West Saint Paul



**DAVE MEISINGER**  
**PROVEN EXPERIENCE**



**PROVEN RESULTS**

## VOTE November 3rd

Paid for by Dave Meisinger, 1242 Ottawa Ave. W, West St. Paul, MN 55118

## Meisinger Seeks Re-Election to City Council

*I am running again for city council to help ensure that W. St Paul's public safety remains the number one priority for the city! We have candidates running for office this year who want to eliminate/dismantle/defund our police and that CANNOT happen!*

*We cannot expose our seniors and our most vulnerable citizens to unchecked crime and disorder!*

*My past experience, as a twice elected Mayor and twice elected Councilman, have prepared me to help lead the city during these unprecedented and troubling times.*

*I respectfully ask for your vote on November 3rd and thank you in advance for your support!*

*—David Meisinger*





## Mariah de la Paz for House 52A Seat



*Mariah de la Paz*

**HD52A is made up of West St Paul, Mendota, Lilydale, and the northern parts of Mendota Heights and South St. Paul.**

*By Claud Santiago*

Mariah de la Paz the GOP endorsed candidate for House of Representative in 52A has been very busy these pass months, she works in the senior health care system. "I'm planning to bring my knowledge of working with seniors in this Covid-19 crisis to the State Capitol when I win this election" stated de la Paz.

Mariah who lives in West St. Paul is a conservative who has been active in politics for many

years and in 2018 served as a campaign manager for a congressional race in St. Paul. She is a busy single mother who still finds time to be active in the community working with various organizations to encourage Latino youth to stay in school and graduate.

52A is home to a large Latino community: West St. Paul is currently made up of 22% Latinos, South St. Paul 14%, and 4% in Mendota.

Mariah is running for office because she believes that the current DFL 52A incumbent house of representative Rick Hansen, who has held office since 2004 has been part of the DFL administration who has given us the

failed MNLAR and MNSURE systems costing tax payers millions and millions of dollars. Hansen is part of this failed leadership!

Our recent "civil unrest" in the Twin Cities that cost our business community millions and millions of dollars in damage and looting, was because of the failed current administration, Governor Walz and the mayors in St. Paul and Minneapolis. We never hear from our current house representative Rick Hansen about any of these issues. In 52A there was significant damage and looting.

"I am running for office so that our residents, business owners and families in 52A have a house representative who is for a smaller and more responsible organized government, reduced taxes and less regulations so that more businesses open, better schools and a well-funded police department for safer communities. I look forward to meeting with our community in the upcoming campaign to ask for their vote and to give me the opportunity to serve them at the State Capitol."

For more information, visit: <https://www.delapazforhouse.com>



*Mariah with MN Rep. Eric Lucero*

# Help Me Win Minnesota's House District

# 52A

MNGOP



**Mariah De la Paz**  
*Candidate for Minnesota  
House of Representatives  
HD52A*



# VOTE FOR FAITH, FAMILY & FREEDOM

## The Right Choice for State House of Representatives • HD52A



## WHY VOTE REPUBLICAN?

**LATINO AMERICANS and REPUBLICANS agree that:**

- Families should make the decisions about education and health care.
- Renewed economic prosperity is the best solution to most of our problems.
- We support Safety in our Communities.

**GET OUT THE VOTE!**

*Your vote, your voice - it matters.*



This is an independent expenditure prepared and paid for by HD52A Republicans - [www.hd52amngop.com](http://www.hd52amngop.com) and HD52B Republicans - [www.gop52.com](http://www.gop52.com). It is not coordinated with or approved by any candidate nor is any candidate responsible for it.

## Vota por Tomas Settell



Comparto contigo en la celebración del Mes de la Herencia Hispana. Hola, Mi nombre es Tomas Settell y soy su candidato para representarlo en el Distrito 52 del Senado del Estado de Minnesota en Lilydale, Mendota, West St Paul, South St Paul, Mendota Heights, Inver Grove Heights, Sunfish Lake y parte de Eagan si estoy elegido este Noviembre por ti.

Agradecería su voto el 3 de noviembre de 2020. En este momento crítico de la historia de nuestra nación, SU voz es MUY importante. ¡Debemos recuperar nuestra libertad y con tu ayuda podemos!

Este mes es una celebración de la gran historia de nuestra nación de aquellos que han inmigrado de raíces hispanas. Cuando vivía en Uruguay, Brasil y España, además de viajar a Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, México y Portugal, aprendí mucho de nuestra rica herencia y cómo ha impactado positivamente a nuestra gran nación.

Los valores familiares que todos apreciamos son fuertes en la comunidad latina, pero están bajo ataque. Quiero empoderar a los padres a tener la capacidad elegir en la educación de sus hijos, dónde van a la escuela y qué es importante para ellos. Quiero defender y proteger sus negocios, trabajos y bajar tus impuestos de ingresos.

Estoy al lado de nuestra comunidad hispana y latina y las amo mucho. Por favor salga y vote el próximo noviembre. Su voto marcará absolutamente la diferencia. Para obtener más información, visite me sitio web y comuníquese conmigo si tiene alguna pregunta. ¡Espero tener su voto el 3 de noviembre! [www.tomasforsenate.com](http://www.tomasforsenate.com)

¡Solo SETTELL(conformarse) por la libertad!



## TOMAS SETTELL

For Minnesota Senate • District 52



**Tomas Settell  
District 52**

*I join you  
in celebrating  
Hispanic Heritage  
Month!*

Prepared and Paid for by the Tomas for MN Senate Committee, [www.tomasforsenate.com](http://www.tomasforsenate.com)



## Free help to quit smoking or vaping your way

"Trying a lozenge  
instead of taking  
a hit."

- Maria, day 1 of quitting vaping

**quit  
partner**™

Whether this is your first time quitting or your tenth, we're here with free help 24/7. Curious about how to double your chances of quitting for good? Try talking to a judgement-free quit coach and using patches, gum or lozenges at the same time. Whenever you're ready, drop by online or say hello on the phone.

QuitPartnerMN.com  
1-800-QUIT-NOW



## Partnership for a ConnectedMN Awards \$2.1 Million in Grants to Organizations Serving Digital Access Needs of Minnesota Students

*Communities throughout state positioned to address student needs for technology and resources*

To address digital inequities faced by students in Minnesota, Partnership for a ConnectedMN, a public-private partnership of private businesses, philanthropic entities and community leaders, today announced that it has awarded \$2.1 million in grants to 23 nonprofits serving the connectivity needs of students and their families. ConnectedMN grants will serve an estimated 68,000 students and families in urban and rural communities, who will gain access to computing devices, critical support services and the internet.

ConnectedMN was founded by Best Buy, Comcast, Blandin Foundation, Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation and the Minnesota Business Partnership, in collaboration with the administration of Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan. In June, ConnectedMN announced that their goal was to bring technology and internet access to students most challenged by the sudden shift to online school, including low-income families, Indigenous and students

of color, and communities across both urban and rural Minnesota. “What’s an afterthought for most of us, wi-fi connection and access to technology, shouldn’t be a dream for Minnesota children facing homelessness,” said Monica Nilsson, Executive Director at Haven Housing, a ConnectedMN grant recipient. “A ConnectedMN grant will allow homeless children, those with the fewest resources, connectivity, stability and consistent support to complete their homework, even when they don’t have a home.”

Minnesota students will continue to face challenges when learning at school and at home. ConnectedMN is committed to meeting the needs of students impacted by COVID-19 while also finding long-term solutions to ensure that they have equitable access to education through distance learning.

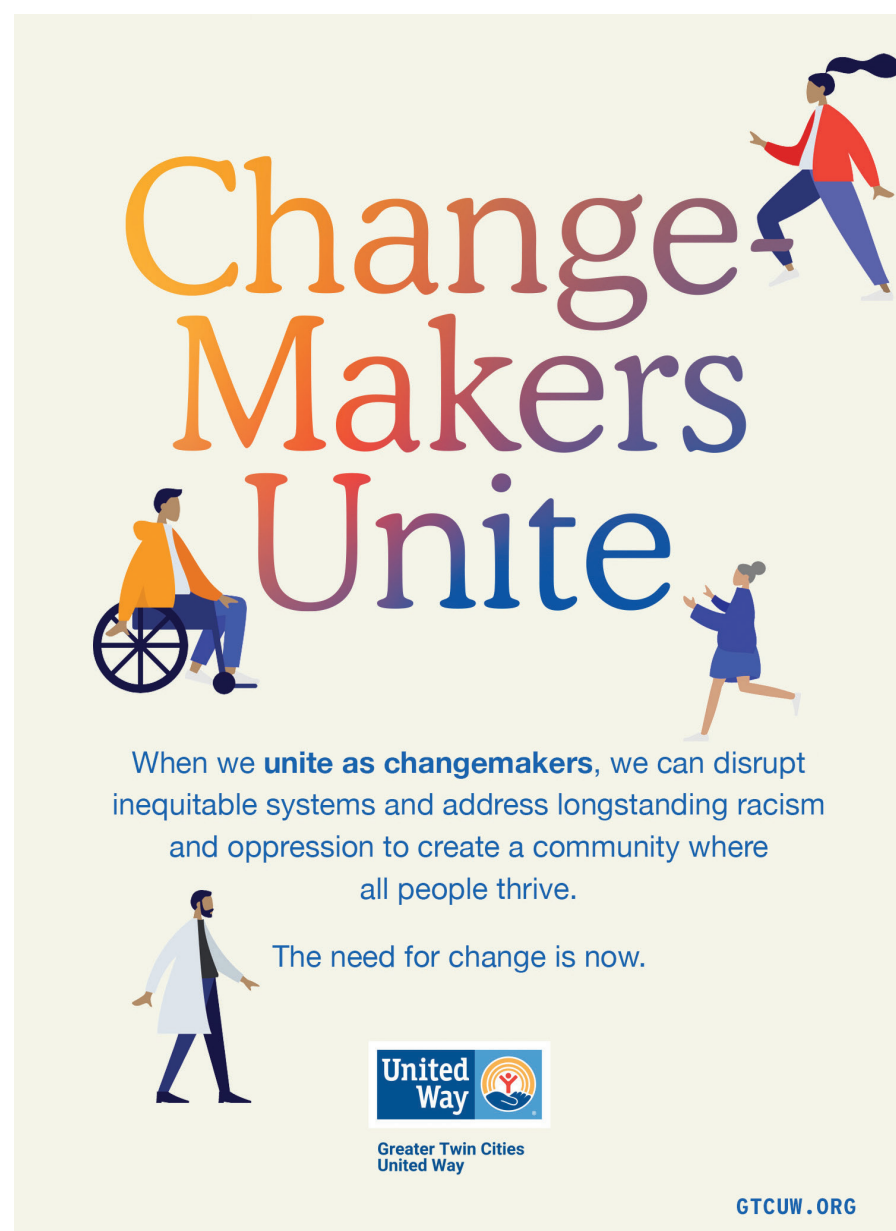
For more information about ConnectedMN and how businesses, philanthropic organizations and individuals can get involved, **visit [www.connectedmn.us](http://www.connectedmn.us).**

### The Need for Change is NOW

*We live in a world where divisions and poverty affect everyone.*

*The COVID-19 pandemic and global civil unrest have forced a reckoning with long-standing systemic racism and oppression that has manifested in deep and predictable disparities in our community.*

*When we unite as changemakers, we can disrupt systems and address the challenges no one can solve alone.*



**Change Makers Unite**

When we **unite as changemakers**, we can disrupt inequitable systems and address longstanding racism and oppression to create a community where all people thrive.

The need for change is now.

**United Way**  
Greater Twin Cities  
United Way

[GTCUW.ORG](http://GTCUW.ORG)



## Tirar la estatua de Colón no cambias la Historia



Saúl Carranza

Por Saúl Carranza

En los escritos históricos se encuentra registrado con letras de oro el 12 de octubre de 1492 cuando muy de mañana la voz del marinero Rodrigo de Triana gritó fuerte y claro “Tierra, tierra”. La expedición comandada por Cristóbal Colón descubrió el continente americano.

Allí se inició la interacción entre los españoles y los pueblos nativos de América. Una relación que no fue feliz para la mayoría de los americanos, pero, de la cual surgiría el pueblo denominado

“hispanoamericano”. Aún los Estados Unidos fueron alcanzados por los españoles. En 1513 Juan Ponce de León desembarcó en lo que hoy es La Florida. Vino buscando oro y la mítica fuente de la Juventud. Probablemente allí se inició la idea del “sueño americano”. Pero desde entonces, la presencia de personas que hablan español en este territorio ha sido ininterrumpida. Y en nuestros días la presencia hispana/Latina supera los 60 millones de personas.

Es cierto que como resultado de ese descubrimiento se desencadenaron conquista, masacres, robos, esclavitud, explotación de personas y recursos y todos los males que el colonialismo trajo. Aberraciones y maldad tristemente narrada en las cartas de Fray Bartolomé de las Casas. O clásicos de literatura como “Las venas abiertas de América Latina” de Eduardo Galeano. Abusos de autoridad que llevaron a los Monarcas de España a encarcelar al mismo Cristóbal Colón. Todo eso es cierto y es malo. Pero el saberlo no quita valor al importante evento histórico que inclusive dividió la historia humana terminando con la oscura edad media e iniciando la edad moderna y el siglo de las luces. El Descubrimiento de América marcó una nueva era en la historia de la humanidad.

## Throwing Away the Statue of Columbus Does Not Change History

By Saúl Carranza

In the historical writings, it is recorded with gold letters on October 12, 1492, when very early in the morning the voice of the sailor Rodrigo de Triana shouted loud and clear, “Land, land.” The expedition commanded by Christopher Columbus discovered the American continent.

There, the interaction between the Spanish and the native peoples of America began. A relationship that was not happy for most Americans, but from which this new race called “Hispanic American” would emerge. Even the United States was reached by the Spanish. In 1513, Juan Ponce de León landed in what is now Florida. He came looking for gold and the mythical Fountain of Youth. The idea of the “American dream” probably started there. But since then, the presence of people who speak Spanish in this territory has been uninterrupted. And today the Hispanic / Latino presence exceeds 60 million people.

It is true that as a result of that discovery conquest, massacres, robberies, slavery, exploitation of people and resources, and all the evils that colonialism brought about were unleashed. Aberrations and wickedness sadly narrated in the letters of Fray Bartolomé de las Casas or in classic literature like “The Open Veins of Latin America” by Eduardo Galeano. This abuse of authority led the Monarchs of Spain to imprison Christopher Columbus himself. All of that is true and it is bad. But knowing it does not detract from the important historical event that even divided human history ending with the dark middle ages and beginning the modern age and the century of enlightenment. The Discovery of America marked a new era in human history.

You learn from history, you don’t judge it, because no judgment we make can

De la historia se aprende, no se juzga, porque ningún juicio que hagamos podrá cambiarla. No por derribar estatuas o arrancar páginas de los libros cambiará lo que ya sucedió. Estos hechos solamente contribuyen a hacer personas más ignorantes y caer en la condenación de aquella antigua oración que dice: “El Pueblo que no conoce su historia está condenado a repetirla.”

Seguramente en su historia personal también hay momentos que quisiera cambiar. Desaciertos, errores, pecados o pasajes amargos que de alguna manera le marcaron. Todos tenemos cosas que, si tuviéramos la oportunidad, sin duda, las sacaríamos del pasado y de nuestra memoria. Pero como usted querido lector o lectora sabe, eso es imposible. “Lo pasado, pasado” dice la canción.

En la historia humana como en nuestra historia lo que nos queda es aprender de ello para bien. Porque, nos guste o no, somos producto de ese pasado. La forma en la que se dieron las cosas y lo que nosotros hemos hecho es lo que ha dado origen a su persona y a su familia actual. Algún día nosotros seremos objeto del análisis histórico de otras personas. ¿Será que alguien también querrá borrarlos de su historia?

Hay que mirar al pasado para entender nuestro presente y prepararnos para un mejor futuro.

El único que ha podido solucionar el mal pasado es Dios. Porque todo lo malo que hemos hecho, Él lo perdona y lo olvida. Jesús dijo: “No he venido a condenar al mundo sino a perdonarlo y salvarlo”. Creo que nosotros necesitamos perdonar nuestro pasado y aprender a vivir mejor para cambiar lo que si podemos cambiar, un gran futuro. Feliz mes de la herencia hispana.

Saúl Carranza

Coordinador de Ministerios Hispánicos Iglesia del Nazareno.  
(763)245-2378; [pastorcarranza@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcarranza@gmail.com)

change it. Not by tearing down statues or tearing pages out of books will you change what has already happened. These facts only contribute to making people more ignorant and to fall into the condemnation of that old sentence that says: “The People who do not know their history are condemned to repeat it.”

Surely there are also moments in your personal history that you would like to change. Mistakes, sins or bitter passages that somehow marked you. We all have things that, if we had the opportunity, we would undoubtedly remove them from the past and from our memory. But as you know, dear reader, that is impossible. “The past, past,” says the song.

In human history as in our history, what is left for us is to learn from it for the better. Because, like it or not, we are a product of that past. The way things happened and what we have done is what has given rise to your person and your current family. Someday we will be the object of other people’s historical analysis. Could it be that someone also wants to erase us from their history? We must look to the past to understand our present and prepare for a better future.

The only one who has been able to solve the bad past is God. Because everything bad that we have done, He forgives and forgets. Jesus said, “I have not come to condemn the world but to forgive and save it.” I believe that we need to forgive our past and learn to live better to have what we can change, a great future. Happy Hispanic Heritage Month.

Saúl Carranza

Coordinator of Hispanic Ministries Iglesia del Nazareno.  
763 245 2378 [pastorcarranza@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcarranza@gmail.com)



## Trumpeting Success, Swans Make Comeback



*The trumpeter swan is Minnesota's largest native bird, stretching out to six feet long, with a wingspan of as much as eight feet and weighing 25-30 pounds. To get their massive bodies airborne, they need a runway as long as a football field.*

*By Harland Hiemstra  
Minnesota DNR  
All photos by MN DNR*

Weighing 25 to 30 pounds, with a wingspan up to eight feet long, trumpeter swans are Minnesota's largest native birds -- big, fluffy and white, a picture of majesty and grace. But they might have been nothing more than a footnote in the history books had it not been for proactive conservation efforts spearheaded by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Prized for their feathers, meat and skin, trumpeter swans were nearly hunted into extinction. By the 1930s, only about 69 of the big birds remained in the lower 48 states, and none in Minnesota. Today, after a successful re-introduction effort that began in the 1960s, biologists estimate some 30,000 trumpeter swans in Minnesota alone. The birds' comeback was the result of a partnership that included DNR's Nongame Wildlife Program, the Three Rivers Park District in Hennepin County and the nonprofit Trumpeter Swan Society.

This past summer, researchers made progress on a new phase of swan conservation. About 40 trumpeters were captured and collared with solar powered GPS transmitters that can update the birds' locations every 15 minutes by connecting with cell phone towers. The work occurs when the swans are in their molting phase, lacking all the feathers they need to fly. Researchers glide up in a boat, grab the flightless bird and hug it to their chest to contain its powerful wings and calm

it. Back on shore, they record data on each bird, fit it with the collar, then let it go. The collars will last for three to four years before falling off. You can follow the swans online at <https://trumpeterswan.netlify>.

The multi-year project is a partnership among the U.S. Geological Survey's Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, the University of Minnesota, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, along with DNR and Three Rivers Parks. It will provide data on swan migration and year-round movements, as well as information on the birds' use of different habitat types and mortality statistics. Similar research is underway in Michigan, Ohio, Iowa, Wisconsin and Manitoba, providing information on about 100 swans all together. Funding for the Minnesota study comes from state lottery proceeds, as appropriated by the legislature.

While trumpeter swans have been deemed a conservation success story, they still face a number of challenges, including habitat loss, collisions with power lines, lead poisoning resulting from their ingestion of lead fishing tackle, and an occasional shooting, usually by a hunter who mistakes it for some other bird.



*A University of Minnesota researcher holds a trumpeter swan tightly after capture while it's transported to shore, where it is fitted with a GPS tracking collar as part of a multi-year study to learn more about the species' habits. After being hunted to the brink of extinction, the large birds have made a remarkable comeback through conservation efforts launched by the Minnesota DNR Nongame Wildlife Program, Three Rivers Parks, and the Trumpeter Swan Society.*

Trumpeter swans also are extremely sensitive to human disturbance at their breeding sites and will abandon nests and cygnets if disturbed. They usually form a pair bond at about three or four years of age and mate for life. Their nests, which can reach up to 11 feet across and three feet high, are built on an existing structure surrounded by water, such as a muskrat den, a beaver dam or a small island. The female lays four to six oblong eggs, roughly three by five inches in size, which hatch just over a month later. Trumpeter swans keep the eggs warm by covering them with their huge webbed feet.

Those big feet also play an interesting role when it comes time for the big bird to take flight. Built more like a jumbo jet than a small plane, trumpeter swans need as much as 100 yards to take off, and as their wings flap furiously their feet rapidly paddle along atop the surface of the lake or river, almost as if they were running on water -- a breathtaking sight we nearly missed out on.

The DNR Nongame Wildlife Program works to maintain and enhance the state's diversity of wildlife, restoring native populations of animals and supporting those Minnesota species that are in greatest need of help. The program protects and manages crucial habitats, conducts scientific research to better understand Minnesota's wildlife species and the ecosystems they depend upon, and it forges connections between Minnesotans and wildlife through outreach and education.

To learn more about the program, and how you can help animals such as trumpeter swans, eagles and loons, visit [www.mndnr.gov/nongame](http://www.mndnr.gov/nongame).



*A flock of trumpeter swans takes on a mystical appearance in winter fog.*





**Comcast Launches New “Internet Essentials Partnership Program” for Cities, Schools, and Students as Nation Gears Up for the Academic Year • Adds Free xFi Platform for Parents to Protect Children’s Devices and Monitor Online Activities • Continues to Offer 60 Days of Free Internet Service for New Internet Essentials Customers**

With distance learning plans rolling out across the country due to the coronavirus, Comcast today announced a new program for cities, schools, and nonprofits to connect large numbers of low-income K-12 students to the Internet at home. The “Internet Essentials Partnership Program” is designed to help accelerate Internet adoption at a critical time. In nearly ten years, Internet Essentials has become the nation’s largest and most successful low-income Internet adoption program and has connected millions of people to the Internet. It offers households low-cost, broadband Internet service for \$9.95/month, the option to purchase a heavily subsidized computer, and multiple options for digital literacy training. Comcast also announced today it is giving all Internet Essentials customers its innovative xFi platform, which enables parents to control and manage their children’s WiFi connected devices.

The new “Internet Essentials Partnership Program” (IEPP) enables cities, schools, and nonprofits to collaborate to help fund and connect large numbers of K-12 students with broadband Internet service and devices like laptops and tablets. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has already signed up more than 70 schools across the country, including seven here in the Twin Cities. Comcast continues to offer new Internet Essentials customers two months of free Internet access if they sign up before the end of 2020. Comcast also continues to forgive any back debt due so more families can apply.

All Internet Essentials customers now have free access to Comcast’s innovative xFi platform, which enables parents to control and manage their family’s WiFi connected devices, set safe browsing modes so children can only access age-appropriate content, and pause devices for dinner or bedtime.

Comcast announced plans to convene a series of virtual national and regional summits this fall to help tackle the challenges of broadband adoption.

For more information, please see the attached press release or go to [www.comcastcorporation.com](http://www.comcastcorporation.com). Thanks, as always for your interest and partnership, and please feel free to reach out with any related questions.