

Notas Y Más

February, 2015

Brief news items on upcoming community events.
Send items for Notas y Más to: lavoz@esperanzacenter.org
or mail to: 922 San Pedro, San Antonio, TX 78212.

The deadline is the 8th of each month.

SoL Center offers a free lecture, *On the Eighth Day, Transformation without Apocalypse* Thursday, February 5, 7-9pm at Trinity University's Holt Center, 106 Oakmont Court with **Kathleen Dean Moore**, Professor of Environmental Philosophy, Oregon State University. On Feb. 6 from 9am to 12 noon, a workshop, *Nature Writing In the Time of Storms*, takes place at SoL Center, University Presbyterian Church, 300 Bushnell Ave. Cost: \$25. RSVP@210.732.9927 or upcsa@upcsa.org

Gemini Ink's Autograph Series brings award-winning author, **Luis Alberto Urrea** for a free lecture Thursday, February 26 at 7pm at Palo Alto College followed by a \$50 ticketed luncheon on Friday, February 27 at 11:30am at the McNay Museum's *Leeper Auditorium*. | www.geminiink.org

The National Association of Chicana/o Studies, *Tejas Foco, Putting More Community in Community College and Beyond: Scholars, Professors, Writers, Teachers, Students and Families Unite to Open Higher Education to Our Youth* will be hosted by Lone Star College-North Harris in Houston, TX on Feb. 26 to March 1. Check: www.tejasfoco2015.org/ for more info.

Crystal & Stone Healing Workshop with **Rose Two Feathers**, 30 yr. Master Crystal Therapist and Indigenous Healer — learn powerful techniques for healing the body, mind and spirit, plus practicum. Feb. 15, 1-5pm @ Vibrant Community, 1414 E. Commerce St. Fee is \$60-80. Registration required. Contact 2plumas@gmail.com

The 2015 Planned Parenthood South Texas Luncheon features Emmy Award winning co-host of *Project Runway* **Tim Gunn** on March 5th @ Marriott Rivercenter Hotel. Contact angela.koester@ppsouth-texas.org

Las Hermanas: The Struggle is One, an Interdisciplinary Symposium on March 19-21 will take place at the University of the Incarnate Word focusing on *Las Hermanas*, a grassroots Latina movement formed 40 years ago to challenge the church and its role in society. Contact Adrienne Ambrose, Ph.D. (chair), ambrosea@uiwtx.edu or Sr. Martha Ann Kirk, Th.D., kirk@uiwtx.edu

INCITE!'s conference, *The Color of Violence 4 (COV4), Beyond the State: Inciting Transformative Possibilities*, March 26-29 in Chicago marks 15years of engaging in grassroots organizing projects, critical con-

versations, national actions, transnational campaigns and community building strategies to end colonial, racial, and gender-based violence against women of color, trans and queer people of color and our communities. | www.colorofviolence.org

The Coming of Age of LGBTQ Studies: Past, Present, and Future is a 2-day conference at San Diego State University, April 17-18. For info: lgbtqrc@mail.sdsu.edu or see lgbtqrc.sdsu.edu/conference/

Witness historic changes as the US and Cuba move toward renewed relations. The Autonomous University of Social Movements in Chicago, the University at Albany-SUNY, and the Martin Luther King Memorial Center in Havana partner to offer a unique opportunity to learn about the history, culture and politics of Cuba. Check: www.mexicosolidarity.org/cuba or ualbany.studioabroad.com/?go=cuba

In 2014 Haymarket Books published books from Ali Abunimah's *The Battle for Justice in Palestine* to Rebecca Solnit's *Men Explain Things to Me*. 2015 offerings include Noam Chomsky's *Culture of Terrorism*. Check www.haymarketbooks.org

UPDATE: Arizona Ethnic Studies Case, #MayaVsAz

In light of recent events with the planning of the Ayotzinapa Caravan visit, we would like to also bring to your attention the recent legal battle challenging the Arizona House Bill 2281 that was presented in court this past Monday, January 12th, 2015 the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. The court case *Maya Arce, et al. v. John Huppenthal, et al.*, otherwise known as #MayaVsAz in the virtual world, calls attention to the ban of courses or classes in Arizona "that '1. [p]romote the overthrow of the United States government... 2. [p]romote resentment toward a race or class of people; 3. [a]re designed for pupils of a particular ethnic group; [or] 4. [a]dvocate ethnic solidarity instead of treatment of pupils as individuals.'" Once state enforcers such as John Huppenthal, former Arizona Superintendent of Education, began implementing the bill, this led to the

"elimination of the highly successful Mexican American Studies (MAS) courses program in the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) as well as the removal of books illuminating Mexican American history and perspectives from TUSD classrooms."

Similar to the attacks on the students of Ayotzinapa, most of them being of indigenous descent, the attacks on ethnic studies of the past few years sheds light on the growing resistance from conservative right-wingers to destroy efforts of reclaiming ethnic and indigenous identities in education. In the case of Arizona, the "dominant culture that demands assimilation as a condition of entry and places little premium on diversity (that which brings strength and richness to this society) will constantly seek means to deprive colonized/marginalized children of the training and tools we need to carry out the processes of asserting our rights. — H.B. 2281 (now A.R.S. 115-112) is the example of this deprivation, a law passed that makes it illegal to study our history, literature, and cultura in schools,"

as stated by Sean Arce co-founder of the Mexican-American studies program and father of Maya Arce, one of the two plaintiffs in the case along with Korina López. Countless groups, organizations, and community members joined the hearing to show support for the overthrow of the ban. A summit and teach-in was also organized in San Francisco prior to the hearing. We expect a decision in the next month to six months. For updates: check future issues of La Voz or follow developments at www.librotraficante.com or at the Seattle University Law School (Arizona ethnic studies case). ♦

