



# National Latino Research Center Newsletter

Vol. 4 No. 1 ~ Spring 2007 ~ A Quarterly Newsletter

The mission of the NLRC is to contribute to the knowledge and understanding of rapidly growing Latino populations through applied research, training, technical assistance, and research-based services.

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## NLRC Partners with the San Diego Latino Film Festival 2007

The National Latino Research Center is pleased to be a community partner of this year's San Diego Latino Film Festival.

Taking its place on the international filmmaking stage, the **San Diego Latino Film Festival 2007** presents the Latino voice that is celebrated in all its diverse glory through the filmmaking traditions of documentaries, dramatic films, shorts, and animation. The festival is a platform for independent Latino filmmakers to share their work with the greater community of Southern California, eager to share the theatre-going experience and to see original stories told in unexpected ways.

The **San Diego Latino Film Festival** gathers film enthusiasts, filmmakers, actors, animators, artists, and musicians in a truly regional celebration that plays in theatres and night clubs on both sides of the border.

The initial concept began as "Cine Estudiantil: The Chicano & Native American Student Film Festival." University and high school students participated in film screenings, discussions, and community action projects using the Latino film genre as the impetus.

Now recognized as the "San Diego Latino Film Festival," it has developed into one of the largest and most well-respected film festivals in the country. Over 133,000 people have attended past festivals, and 1,000 films and videos from across Latin America and the United States have been screened.

The San Diego Film Festival 2007 will be held from March 8 through March 18 at Hazard Center in San Diego.

### Bajo Juárez

A Film by Alejandra Sánchez & José Antonio Cordero

There can be no end to a mother's grief over the mysterious disappearance and death of her child, but this haunting documentary takes you as close as possible to penetrating it.

"Bajo Juárez," screened at the Sundance Film Festival in 2007, follows unsolved and highly publicized crimes against women along the Mexico-U.S. border, in the towns of Juárez, Chihuahua, and Laredo. The portrait 'Bajo Juárez' paints is not just one of a national crisis in Mexico – it's an urgent reminder of the inexcusable lack of support the U.S. shows in bringing justice to these women. The documentary will be presented:



**Bajo Juárez**  
Saturday, March 17, 2007  
3:00 pm  
UltraStar Cinemas  
Hazard Center, San Diego  
[Purchase Tickets Online](#)

For more information about SDLFF, contact Dr. Arcela Núñez-Álvarez at [anunez@csusm.edu](mailto:anunez@csusm.edu) or visit: [www.sdlatinofilm.com](http://www.sdlatinofilm.com).

## A Message from the NLRC Director



Dr. Núñez-Álvarez  
NLRC Interim Director

In spring 2007, the NLRC is sponsoring and co-sponsoring a series of cultural and educational events including **Lux Boreal Danza Contemporánea** (February 14, 2007), the City of San Diego's One Book, One City project featuring **Sonia Nazario's *Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with his Mother*** (taking place throughout February and March), the **14<sup>th</sup> Annual San Diego Latino Film Festival 2007** (March 8 – March 18, 2007), the City of Escondido's One City Reads One Book project featuring **Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*** (March 22, 2007), and a lecture presentation of **"The Roads Most Traveled – Photographs of Migration"** by **Don Barletti** (April 10, 2007).

The NLRC is also working on several new projects including a needs assessment of breast cancer services for Latinas in Orange County with Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization Southern California Affiliate; an HIV/AIDS project with Vista Community Clinic; a capacity development project in Imperial County with Comité Cívico del Valle; and Universidad Popular: Pedagogía en Acción, a grassroots popular education advocacy project with Mid City CAN's Latinos y Latinas en Acción, Springfield College, and California Association for Bilingual Education. In addition, the NLRC is leading the planning of a Border Health Conference with the California Wellness Foundation and an Environmental Health Leadership Development Summit for grassroots advocacy with Comité Cívico del Valle.

In an effort to better understand technical assistance and evaluation needs related to asthma and environmental health, the NLRC is conducting a survey of asthma programs in Southern California. To access the survey, go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=221342782294>. We welcome your feedback.

For more information about any projects, events, or initiatives mentioned above, please email the NLRC at [nlrc@csusm.edu](mailto:nlrc@csusm.edu) or call 760.750.3500.

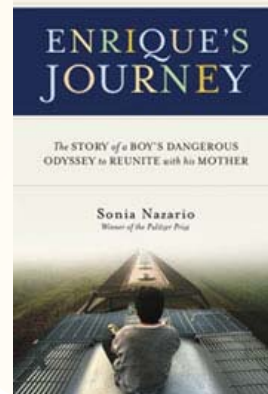
On behalf of the NLRC staff, we wish you a successful spring semester and invite you to join us at our upcoming events!

## Latino Conversation Series ~ Spring 2007

The NLRC is collaborating with the San Diego and the Escondido Public Libraries on promoting a new and innovative project known as, "One City, One Book."

***One City, One Book*** is an open invitation to everyone who lives, works or visits a city to read and discuss the same book. The campaign was developed to promote an appreciation for reading, encourage discussion about books and important issues to our community, and increase positive awareness about Latinos in San Diego. Several cities in San Diego County will join the efforts to promote this valuable activity. The City of San Diego will be discussing *Enrique's Journey* by Sonia Nazario. The City of Escondido will be reading *Caramelo* and *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros. Lecture presentations and other related events will be held in the community. For more information, visit the City of San Diego's website at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/news-events/onebook.shtml>, and the City of Escondido's website at: <http://www.ci.escondido.ca.us/LIBRARY/escondidoreads/index.htm>

Drawing heavily upon her childhood experiences and ethnic heritage as the daughter of a Mexican father and Chicana mother, Sandra Cisneros addresses poverty, cultural suppression, self-identity, and gender roles in her fiction and poetry. She creates characters who are distinctly Latina/o and often isolated from mainstream American culture by emphasizing dialogue and sensory imagery over traditional narrative structures. Cisneros seeks to create an idiom that integrates both prosaic and poetic syntax.



In this astonishing true story, award-winning journalist Sonia Nazario recounts the unforgettable odyssey of a Honduran boy who braves unimaginable hardship and peril to reach his mother in the United States. This book is based on the Los Angeles Times newspaper series that won two Pulitzer Prizes, *Enrique's Journey* is the timeless story of families torn apart, the yearning to be together again, and a boy who will risk his life to find the mother he loves.

## Comité Cívico del Valle: Taking Outreach to New Heights

The NLRC is excited to announce a new partnership with *Comité Cívico del Valle* (CCV), based in Brawley, California.

Comité Cívico Del Valle, Inc. (CCV) was founded in 1987 and was incorporated in 1989 as a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the needs of Imperial County's residents and underserved populations. Comité Cívico del Valle is a volunteer agency of *Promotores* (Community Health Workers). The founder, José Luis Velez, a retired farm worker, started CCV by helping immigrants realize the dream of attaining U.S. citizenship by providing citizenship classes. Currently, CCV is comprised of a dedicated staff of 12 promotores, 6 of whom are certified in the areas of U.S. citizenship, community health outreach, HIV testing and counseling, asthma, domestic violence, tuberculosis, and pesticide awareness.

CCV is actively involved in improving the health and well-being of Imperial Valley residents. CCV has an active record collaborating with local and state health research institutions. Among these include conducting over 300 door-to-door surveys on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. These surveys provided the research data for the *Second Community Survey Report* for the Clean Air Initiative. Currently, CCV is an integral part of the Clean Air Initiative's community awareness and leadership project aiming at increasing awareness and action surrounding outdoor air quality in the valley.



Founder José Luis Vélez, with Bianca Singh, and José Luis Olmedo in front of CCV offices, Imperial Valley, California

The NLRC is collaborating with CCV to hold the first ever **Grassroots environmental Health Leadership Summit** in June 2007. The purpose of the summit is to raise awareness and create a call to action among local residents about environmental justice issues in local communities.

CCV has demonstrated an enormous amount of dedication to the community. The NLRC is excited and honored by the opportunity to continue working with CCV and its dedicated staff and community members.

## Poder Popular en Acción



HIV Training in Fallbrook, California

### Poder Popular Open House

During the first annual open house, held on March 1, 2007, Poder Popular promotores showcased all their accomplishments from their activities in 2006. Among the accomplishments highlighted were the fight to restore school transportation for the Crown Heights area in Oceanside, and creating stronger collaborations with North County Health Services with the purpose of providing health care services through the mobile clinic in the communities of Fallbrook and Rice Canyon.

### Upcoming Events

#### First Poder Popular Annual Conference ~ March 31, 2007

The conference will deal with issues such as the importance of actively engaging the community in civic participation, increasing awareness about civic engagement, and strategies for involvement of North County San Diego's farm worker population.

#### Community Health Fair ~ April 29, 2007

The promotores from Pala are organizing a community health fair for el *Día del Niño*. The health fair is open to everyone and aims to improve the community's access to local resources.

### HIV/AIDS Training

A new grant awarded to Vista Community Clinic from the Office of Minority Health provides funds for promotora training and outreach. In early February 2007, twenty Poder Popular promotoras attended an HIV/AIDS training conducted by the National Center for Farmworker Health to learn about HIV/AIDS education and prevention. Beginning in March, they will be conducting outreach and community classes with migrant workers and their families.



2007 Poder Popular Open House in Pala, California

## AB-540 Network Retreat

By Griselda Alva, CSUSM Student

About 50 students represented 21 community colleges, CSU's, UCs, and private universities in California at the AB-540 Network Retreat, hosted by the Coalition for Humane and Immigration Rights in Los Angeles (CHIRLA), which took place December 15-17, 2006. Many of the students identified themselves as AB-540 students, including undergraduate and graduate students, Mechistas, and high school students. All us came together to discuss methods to carry out a statewide effort supporting the Federal Dream Act.

Student across California have formed campus organizations to outreach to high school students, inform parents, and raise funds to provide scholarships to AB-540 high school and college students. Students have also formed support groups to bring awareness to the issues and the prevalent negative stigma they have encountered in school because of their immigration status. To protect student's identity, some student organizations have decided to maintain anonymous membership. Thus, members do not self-identify as AB-540. It is through this student leadership that we are bringing awareness to college campuses and our local communities.

Students have not been alone in this struggle. They have accomplished many of their goals through the support of faculty, staff, administrators, and local businesses that have become aware and supportive of their efforts.

During the event, we were asked to draw from our stories as immigrants, depicting the reasons why we came to the United States. As the event progressed I felt in *familia*. We were in a safe place where we could share our stories without feeling stigmatized. Most of us had something in common: the struggle of being an AB-540 student. It was in this event that one more time we turned the negative aspects of this struggle into something positive.

I left this retreat with hope, inspiration, and enthusiasm about the work that we set out to do. AB-540 students in CSUSM need to know that we are no longer alone. I finish with the thought of a student, "I cannot live happily ever after, until I see the DREAM passed."

If you would like to know more about the AB-540 Bill, visit: [www.maldef.org](http://www.maldef.org).

## Supporting Student Researchers

During the Spring 2007 semester, the NLRC has experienced an influx of CSUSM students interested in acquiring research experience. Thus, Sandra Carmona, NLRC Field Project Coordinator, is currently working with three student in activities related to Poder Popular, a project addressing health disparities among local migrant workers and their families. Ana Ardón, Research Project Coordinator, and Arcela Núñez-Álvarez, NLRC Director, work with a student developing the educational curriculum for Universidad Popular, an educational advocacy project based in City Heights. These are the students' profiles:

**Eulalia Ramirez** assists in activities for the Poder Popular Project such as supervising children activities and conducting educational classes during promotora trainings. She feels that the NLRC provides a great research experience by helping the Latino community and promoting community health. Eulalia is majoring in Human Development with an emphasis on Children's Services. She plans to pursue a master's degree in Social Work at SDSU.

**Leo Carrillo** became interested in the NLRC after conducting data collection for an anthropology class instructed by Dr. Bonnie Bade, Anthropology professor and NLRC Faculty Associate. He assists with data entry, translating documents, and organizing promotora trainings for Poder Popular. Leo is majoring in Anthropology and Spanish. He feel it is important to take advantage of all the educational opportunities available at CSUSM and in the community.

**María Serrano** assist with data collection and data entry for the Poder Popular Project. She decided to focus her academic career in Child Development after volunteering for several child care centers; she became fascinated with the children's growth development and their ability to learn. María received an associate's degree in Human Development from MiraCosta College. Now she is a full time student at CSUSM majoring in Human Development with an emphasis in Children Services.

**Mirtha Kaufman** assists in the development and interpreting of curriculum for the Universidad Popular Project. She feels that working at the NLRC has been a great learning experience that has helped her to see issues affecting Latino communities in a new light and from different perspectives. Mirtha is majoring in Spanish and expects to graduate in May 2007. She intends to enter a graduate program in Hispanic Linguistics. She would like to focus her research in sociolinguistics, and teach in higher education.

# The Roads Most Traveled – Photographs of Migration

By Don Barletti, Photojournalist for the LA Times

For much of the 1970's through 1990, San Diego was the portal through which more people passed than across any political boundary in the world. In numbers, this great Diaspora from the south mirrors the exodus of European immigrants in the early 20th century. Of course, San Diego cannot be Ellis Island, but it seems like the same old story: the tired and hungry on the doorstep of hope.



Sixty miles north of the border, in places like *Rancho de los Diablos*, *Cerro Beach*, and *North River Road*, a sub-culture of squatter camps sheltered thousands of farm workers and day laborers. They were embraced for their powerful work ethic, but locked out of society because of language and legal differences caught between two worlds.

## Central American Stowaways on Mexican Freight Trains

Annually, in the vast migration that is changing the United States, thousands of Central Americans attempt a harrowing and illegal 1500-mile journey through the length of Mexico on the tops of freight trains. Nearly all are visited by cruelty, hunger and fatigue. Stowaways call the southern state of Chiapas "The Beast," where immigration officers, police and bandits hunt them like animals. By contrast, in the Mexican state of Veracruz they are helped by people who throw gifts of food as the train passes. Among these migrants are children, some as young as 12, who travel alone. Most are trying to reunify with parents, usually mothers who left them behind years ago to work in the United States.

## Migration for Survival Around The World

When the poor migrate to wealthy nations they are following well-worn paths habitually traveled by humans since prehistoric times. In this century, people seldom chase the herd for food; they're more likely hot on the trail of the fattest exchange rate.

Migration for survival is as old as humanity, as unstoppable as the wind, and often misunderstood. For some, leaving home is not an option. Crossing a political boundary can be the difference between a fighting chance and the slow death of poverty.



The NLRC and the CSUSM Communication Department are co-sponsoring a lecture presentation by Don Barletti which will be based on his photojournalistic work about immigrants. For more information, contact the NLRC at [nlrc@csusm.edu](mailto:nlrc@csusm.edu) or 760-750-3500.

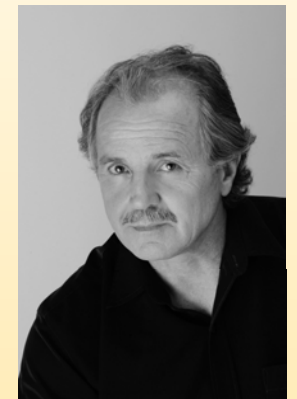
## Presentation by Don Barletti

Tuesday, April 10, 2007

6:00 PM

Cal State San Marcos

Academic Hall 102



Don Barletti  
Photojournalist

Don Barletti has been a staff photographer with Los Angeles Times since 1983 and is the 2003 Pulitzer Prize winner for Feature Photography, for a 6-part series that documents the perilous journey of Central American youths traveling north to the United States. These photos are the most recent chapter in Barletti's long-term focus on the dynamics of immigration from Latin America to the U.S.

Images from this 20-year body of work on immigration have also been exhibited in museums across the United States and in Mexico, including the San Diego Museum of Photographic Arts, the International Center of Photography in New York, the Smithsonian Institute, the Ellis Island Museum, and the Oakland Museum of California.

