

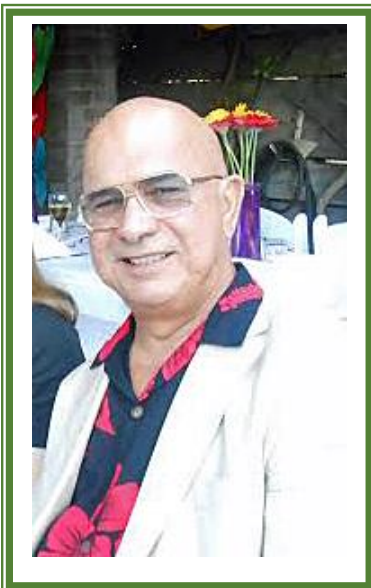


¡LA PRIMAVERA ESTÁ AQUÍ!

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MEET MARIO GARCIA



TREASURE FIESTA

Wednesday, April 15th – 5 PM

Shuffleboard Room – RH Johnson Rec Center

Reservations must be in by April 8th!

Mario Garcia brings 40 years of teaching experience to the Spanish Club! Born and raised in Texas, Mario has a B.S. in Spanish from Texas State University and an M.S. in Theatre. He has taught in Texas, Ohio and Arizona.

During his time as an educator, Mario often held informal classroom discussions with his students about his native state. Luckily for us, he published them in his first book, *Stories from The River by The Creek and The Railroad Track*.

His short stories reveal not only life in Texas but also the vivid imagination of a young boy in a Hispanic family. Mario's stories about his memorable childhood experiences are colorful and often have a twist in the ending.

His deep love of family comes through all of them. His second book, *Portrait of Innocence*, is also available in the SCW library. Mario still tries to make time for his favorite hobby – writing!

Not surprisingly, this guitar-playing man of Tex-Mex influence, loves to dance! And he knows how to get his class happily singing with that guitar! While Mario's taste in reading leans toward the dramatic (*The Godfather* and anything by Leon Uris), his preference for TV entertainment is decidedly lighter: Cheers, Frasier and Taxi. This truly is a man with eclectic tastes.

Mario has two children and one grandchild.

The Mission of the Spanish Club is to learn the language and appreciate the Latin culture through classes, cultural events and fiestas.

THE STORY OF AN ANCIENT "ENERGY FOOD"

In the remote Copper Canyons of the Mexican state of Chihuahua, the isolated tribe of Tarahumara Indians is known for a remarkable feat.

They run.

They run hundreds of miles... without injury and without rest.

Their legendary endurance puts gold medal Olympic marathon runners to shame. The Tarahumara not only run long distances, they also routinely scale mountains in mere hours, just for the fun of it. They sprint on foot to catch animals for their dinner... and consider it a playful diversion. The Tarahumara are believed to be among the healthiest human beings on earth.

What is the secret to their superhuman endurance? Many believe it's a long-forgotten super-food, so potent, so packed with nutrition, that one or two mouthfuls will fuel a Tarahumara runner for an entire day.

This obscure plant food was once a staple crop of one of the greatest civilizations mankind has ever known. That crop was chia, and it fueled the mighty Aztec empire for centuries.

Not only was it a staple crop (eaten whole, ground into flour, and made into drinks), but it was also used medicinally for numerous ailments. But when the Spanish conquistadors saw how important chia was to the Aztecs, they systematically worked to abolish it.

But that wasn't the only reason the conquistadors wanted chia gone. The Aztecs took chia with them wherever they went. When they conquered an enemy, chia was among the first loads of supplies brought in to their newly acquired territory. Chia was considered an essential food for military training. No wonder the Spanish forced the Aztecs to replace chia production with foreign crops like wheat, barley, and rice.

But chia (its scientific name is *Salvica hispanica*) managed to survive. Because it grows wild, high in the mountains and in wilderness areas that are hard to get to, the conquistadors couldn't eradicate all of it. For centuries, it remained a closely guarded secret but eventually, the secret would get out.

As the 20th century came to a close, word began to leak out about chia's astounding powers. Chia is now grown in Argentina, Mexico, Peru and Bolivia. So today, you can buy chia seeds at your local grocery store and look up recipes for its use on the Internet!



Canned
food
again!

DID YOU NOTICE?

A certain lovely lady of 84 years finally took the plunge and had her ears pierced! **Claire Fowler** is experimenting with different kinds of earrings - looking for the types that are easy to put in. Good on you, girl!

El Libro Más Caro del Mundo



The Prado Museum of Madrid has one of only 99 books created by various artists that is valued at 100.000 euros (\$109,880 US). It measures approximately 16 x 23 inches and the 264 pages are handcrafted of coated cotton fiber. It weighs 24 kilos (52 lbs.) and is guaranteed for 500 years. The bas-relief cover, *Virgen de la Escalera*, shown here, is carved in 3 inch thick marble. It contains 48 unpublished letters of Michelangelo.



MÁS OPORTUNIDADES PARA APRENDER*

DATES	TOPICS	TO REGISTER CONTACT	DETAILS
Wednesdays April 8th & 15th	Mini-sessions on Direct and Indirect Object Pronouns	Joan Novy jnovyaz@gmail.com	A 1-time \$3.00 fee to cover copying of handouts
Fridays April 10th & 17th	Mexico – A Story of Courage & Conquest	MaryAnn Jasken majasken@hotmail.com	This 4 set DVD IN English begins with the Toltecs (800 AD to NAFTA in 1990) No charge
Wednesdays all summer starting April 22nd	Study Sessions	Mike McGuire okiemcguire@gmail.com Steve Moyher ittfly2@hotmail.com	Mike and Steve will monitor these study sessions – no registration needed
Tuesdays May 12th – July 14th	Spanish Short Stories <i>Cuentitos</i> Chapters 18+	Jim Khami and Mario Garcia jimkhami@gmail.com	These short stories assume familiarity with the present tenses.
Fridays May 22nd – July 17th	Survival Spanish	Sue Ward sm.ward@cox.net	Chapters 1-9 will review beginning Spanish concepts
Thursdays Ongoing all summer	Open-ended Discussions on current events, books, articles, etc.	Gloria Mamola No registration needed	Only topics off-limits are politics and religion

*All classes are held in Chicory Rm at Beardsley Rec Center from 9 to 11 am.

APRIL FOOL'S DAY ISN'T ALWAYS APRIL FIRST!

If you should be in a Spanish-speaking country on April 1st and play a joke on your friends and follow that up with a shout of "*¡Tontos de abril!*" chances are you'll get nothing but blank stares as a reaction. The minor holiday of April Fools' Day is little known in Spain and Spanish-speaking Latin America, but there is a rough equivalent, *el Día de los Santos Inocentes*, observed on Dec. 28.

The day is observed in much the same way as April Fools' Day. But when the prankster is ready to reveal the joke, the saying is "*¡Inocente, inocente!*" or "Innocent one, innocent one!"

In its origins, the day is a sort of gallows humor. The Day of the Innocents observes the day when, according to the Gospel of Matthew in the Bible, King Herod ordered the baby boys under 2 years old in Bethlehem to be killed because he was afraid that the baby Jesus born there would become a rival. As it turned out, though, the baby Jesus had been taken away to Egypt by Mary and Joseph. So the "joke" was on Herod, and thus followed the tradition of tricking friends on that day. (This is a sad story to be sure, but according to tradition the babies murdered in Jesus' stead went to heaven as the first Christian martyrs.)



Several Club Español members checked out the festival in Phoenix the week-end of March 21-22. Looks like they had a good time!

