



Greetings Friends, I have joyful news with which to start. I guess most of you have read by now that Mexico has elected a woman president. I find it kind of strange that a country known for its supposedly machismo male population has led the way. The president elect is Claudia Sheinbaum and she is Jewish. I have always felt that it would take a woman to clean up the mess our world is in now. It's not going to be easy for her, she will be fighting the cartels, the corruption, and the femicide issue troubling the country. She will also have to prove that she will govern independently from her mentor, the current president. We can only send our best wishes and prayers to Claudia Sheinbaum, may she succeed and be protected on her important journey.



Claudia Sheinbaum, President-Elect of Mexico

Ballet Folklórico de Austin

In 2014, a young man with a dream formed a dance group and named it Ballet Folklórico de Austin. His dream was to develop a dance troop strong enough to produce Austin's first Guelaguetza.

Guelaguetza

The Guelaguetza is an annual celebration in Mexico that takes place in Oaxaca and nearby villages. The word Guelaguetza means offering or gift in Zapotec, an indigenous language in Mexico. The event features traditional costumed dancing. Each costume, or traje, and dance has a local indigenous historical and cultural meaning.

History

Long before the colonial era began, Oaxaquenos celebrated the fiestas of Lunes del Cerro in honor of Chicomecoatl, the Goddess of Corn. During the Spanish reign, her altar was destroyed and the fiesta suppressed. However, after independence, they came back with a vengeance and have come to signify even more to the people of Oaxaca.

Name: Chicomecoatl Goddess of Maize

Power: Grant a Good Crop

Appearance: Mature Woman

The maize was a crucial element in the food chain of the Aztecs, so it is not a surprise that many Aztec gods and goddesses were dedicated to this particular food, including Cinteotl, who was the god of maize.

First Guelaguetza in Austin

The first Guelaguetza in Austin was held in 2016 in the Pan American Hillside Amphitheater; it was the creation and dream of the young dance Maestro named Edgar Yopez. His hope was to bring to Austin a celebration with authentic dance steps and costumes. For the next ten years, he worked diligently to reach the first-class level that you will witness this year on July 27, 2024, at the Long Center.



Edgar Yopez

Link to order tickets:

<https://my.thelongcenter.org/3508/3509>



Gloria Mata Pennington, with Fernando Baes, Efrain Reyna, and Jaime Fonseca, wearing traditional costumes named Huehuenones from Huautla de Jimenez Oaxaca.

Each year a woman from the community who has contributed to nurturing the Mexican culture and to efforts for the betterment of the community is selected as an honorary Corn Goddess. This year, the honor goes to Gloria Mata Pennington.



Gloria Mata Pennington and Yanet Gonzalez Guzman
Photographer Louie Ayuma

Farewell to Consul Pablo Marentes and beautiful Patricia

It's wonderful to have kind and loving friends. Tom Gilliland, owner of Fonda San Miguel, is such a friend. Recently he gave a farewell reception for Consul Pablo Marentes and his wife Patricia. It's always difficult to say goodbye to friends but we wanted the Consul and Patricia to know how happy we were that they came our way. They are leaving Austin with many lovely memories that they gave to us and experienced for themselves.



Consul Pablo Marentes and Patricia

Some Austin Friends of Folk Art members were among those invited.



Summer Luciano, Alicia Perez Hodge, Gloria Mata Pennington, Amalia Rodriguez Mendoza, Sol Sussman, Charles Peveto and (Ed Jordan, Sylvia Orozco)

Until Next Month

Until next month, stay out of the heat, drink plenty of water, and hope for cooler weather in a couple of months.

Gloria Mata Pennington

Amalia Rodriguez Mendoza, President

Jim Huff , Vice-President/Treasurer Jim Huff

Audrey Selden, Secretary

Carmen Guerra, Director of Membership

Director Members:

Janet Hutchison

Carlos Brando

Pat McCambridge

Carol Hayman

Charles Peveto

