



DAVIN CARDENAS

Proven leader in the community and champion of social justice

By Ruth González

La voz bilingual newspaper

If you don't know who Davin is yet, it's probably time to find out. He has quickly emerged as a proven leader in this community and champion of social justice. Davin Cardenas spearheaded the organization of day laborers and the development of the *Graton Day Labor Center*, which has achieved national recognition for serving as a model in community building and leadership development. He also co-founded the *Committee for Immigrant Rights of Sonoma County* and sits on its Coordinating Council. More recently, Davin has helped establish the impressive *North Bay Organizing Project* (NBOP). Their mission is "Uniting people to build leadership and grassroots power for social, economic, racial and environmental justice."

Davin Cardenas is a first generation Latino who moved here from Orange County in 1999 when he enrolled in Sonoma State University's Hutchins School of Liberal Studies. While pursuing his Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies he met a powerful influence; Dr. Francisco Vazquez. Davin was active in student politics and became Chair of the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlan (MECHA).

RECOGNIZING A NEED

It was during this time that he came face to face with the conditions and issues of the day laborers gathered at the corner of Graton Rd and Bowen Street in Graton, Ca. Davin organized the day laborers on the street three years prior to entering the Graton Day Labor Center. They pride themselves on being a true democracy where every laborer has a vote and an opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors. The center offers a variety of services including English classes, health screenings and opportunities to volunteer around the community. They have even collaborated with *The Imaginists Theatre Collective* to produce a bilingual play. Their 10th Anniversary Celebration takes place April 8 2011. See their poster on this page.

COMMITTEE FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS IN SONOMA COUNTY

The realities of our existence exist. Despite the discomfort it creates, the facts remain that this country is a nation of immigrants. Recent changes to the law of the land have inspired the vilification of Latino immigrants; legal or otherwise. They have become the scapegoats of a country who owes its greatness in large part to them.

The road to legal residency is petty and arduous. Regardless of whether or not they've spent most of their lives here, many immigrants will never achieve legal residency. Does that mean they aren't qualified to drive in this country? Many have taken and passed driver's education courses but still cannot obtain a driver's license due to their immigration status. When DUI checkpoints are set up around the county the local law enforcement rakes in dozens of cars from sober yet unlicensed drivers. The cars are impounded and never retrieved in large part due to the thousands of dollars owed in impound fees. It is tragic to live in an agricultural community that depends on immigrants for its vineyards, manufacturing and senior living facilities but fails to provide them with adequate public transportation which forces them into driving vehicles they will never be given license to operate and then impounds their cars that will ultimately go to auction.

Davin Cardenas with the Committee for Immigrant Rights of Sonoma County has made a stand against car impounds and helped create the May 1st Immigrant Rights marches held annually since 2006. His efforts have not been lost on the community. Recently, the Santa Rosa Police Department stopped impounding vehicles for first time offenders. Petaluma Police Department and Sonoma County Sheriff's Office have plans to launch similar policies this March. It may not be enough but it's a start thanks to the efforts of the Committee for Immigrant Rights of Sonoma County and Davin Cardenas.

LET THE PUBLIC SPEAK

The North Bay Organizing Project is a diverse, multi-issue, multi-faith based group consisting of institutions, organizations and individuals who share similar values and want a say in local policy. The idea for NBOP was brought forth a couple of years ago by a labor, faith and immigrant rights representatives. Davin Cardenas is the Lead Organizer and receives guidance from Gamaliel Foundation; the same international organizing institute that previously trained President Barack Obama in community organizing.

The North Bay Organizing Project members vote on issues, prioritize and organize into action. They held their

first Issues Assembly where 400 people attended to vote on the priorities for the organization in the short term. The issues selected were the vehicle impoundment for immigrant workers, as well as issues related to transportation equity/development.

"We want to recruit more institutions that share social justice values so that we can grow more leadership, win changes, and build power in Sonoma County," says Davin Cardenas.

The North Bay Organizing Project is a genuine grassroots effort that is gathering momentum in the community and confirms the comments of American political journalist, Mark Shields: "There is always strength in numbers. The more individuals or organizations that you can rally to your cause: the better".

CREATING OUR CIRCUMSTANCES

"Receiving the Jessica Flores Award was special," shared Davin Cardenas. "It forced me to reflect on the shoes young adults are trying to fill, the shoulders we're trying to stand on. It was an honor because Jessica seemed to be a woman who was bent on putting her capacity, passion, love, into meaningful action."

"Something we can learn from Jessica, and what I might tell young folks, is that we begin developing the capacity to respect and dignify ourselves. That we begin to dig into those little corners of who we are to understand the stories that have formed us, and have the courage to learn about other people's stories as well. This is where deep social change begins. And to be ambitious about whatever it is you are into. Sometimes, we condition ourselves to wait for ideal circumstances before we do something. Instead of creating the circumstances ourselves."

SEE PHOTOS by David Janda of the NBOP assembly at www.lavoz.us.com



Escuchando por un cambio (LFAC) llevó a cabo un evento para reconocer a Davin Cardenas como la primera persona en recibir el premio anual "Jessica Flores Foster". Se contó con la asistencia de Georgina Warmoth; Erica Bosque; Christina Zapata y la hija de Ron Lopez; Judith Temko; Oscar Chávez de CAP; Patricia Robles Mitten; Christina Zapata y su hija, cuyas fotografías aparecen en la página anterior. En las fotografías de abajo aparecen: Samantha Cullum, Ashley Rios y Kylee Calvert (de izquierda a derecha) quienes son practicantes de la Escuela Preparatoria de Windsor en LFAC. Nancy Dobbs (Directora Ejecutiva de KRCB TV y Radio) y su hija Annie Dobbs Kramer; Ron Lopez y Magdalena Ridley; el profesor emérito Phil Temko y Judith Temko.

Listening For A Change (LFAC) held an event acknowledging Davin Cardenas as the first recipient of their 1st annual Jessica Flores-Foster Award. Attendees included those pictured on the opposite page: Georgina Warmoth; Erica Bosque; Christina Zapata and Ron Lopez's daughter; Judith Temko; Oscar Chavez with CAP; Patricia Robles-Mitten; Christina Zapata and her daughter. Also in attendance were those pictured below: Samantha Cullum, Ashley Rios and Kylee Calvert (left to right). They are Windsor High School interns for Listening for a Change. Nancy Dobbs (President and CEO of KRCB TV and Radio) and her daughter Annie Dobbs-Kramer; Ron Lopez and Magdalena Ridley; Professor Emeritus Phil Temko and Judith Temko.



AVISO DE REUNIONES Y AUDIENCIAS ABIERTAS AL PÚBLICO para recibir comentarios del público en relación a un programa de tarifas proyectado a cinco años para el sistema de GOLDEN GATE TRANSIT Y GOLDEN GATE FERRY

Debido al déficit proyectado de \$89 millones para los siguientes cinco años, el Puente Golden Gate y el Distrito de Transporte y Carreteras llevarán a cabo diversas reuniones abiertas al público y dos audiencias públicas para recibir los comentarios del público sobre una propuesta para:

- 1) Implementar un incremento del 5% anual, el cual será efectivo a partir del 1 de julio de 2011, en las tarifas de:
 - a. Los servicios regionales de autobuses entre condados del Golden Gate Transit (GGT);
 - b. Los viajes locales dentro del condado de Marin que son realizados por las rutas de autobuses regionales de GGT;
 - c. Las tarifas pagadas en efectivo por los "viajes sencillos" del Ferry de Larkspur (los cambios a las tarifas de la tarjeta Clipper no están incluidos en esta propuesta); y
 - d. El servicio complementario y alternativa ADA.
- 2) Implementar un incremento de \$1 en las tarifas para adultos que realicen "viajes sencillos" en el Ferry de Sausalito, el cual será efectivo a partir del 1 de julio de 2011, posteriormente se realizaría un incremento del 5% para cada uno de los próximos años a partir del 1 de julio de 2011 (los cambios a las tarifas de la tarjeta Clipper no están incluidos en esta propuesta);
- 3) Incrementar las tarifas del ferry para los "eventos especiales"; las cuales serán efectivas a partir del 1 de julio de 2011 y serían igual a la propuesta de la tarifa del ferry para adulto en "viaje sencillo"; y
- 4) Implementar una revisión anual para determinar si los ajustes realizados al programa a cinco años o las tarifas para eventos especiales son realmente necesarios.

Lugares donde se efectuarán las reuniones abiertas al público

- Jueves 10 de marzo, 3:30-6 p.m.** San Francisco Ferry Terminal, Ferry Building, San Francisco, CA
- Martes 15 de marzo, 5-7 p.m.** Beverly C. Wilson Hall, Petaluma Fairgrounds, 175 Fairgrounds Dr, Petaluma, CA
- Miércoles 16 de marzo, 6-8 p.m.** Santa Rosa City Council Chambers, 100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA
- Martes 22 de marzo, 4:30-7 p.m.** The Whistlestop Wheels, 930 Tamalpais Avenue, San Rafael, CA
- Jueves 24 de marzo, 4-6 p.m.** Administration Building, Golden Gate Bridge Toll Plaza, San Francisco, CA

Lugares donde se efectuarán las audiencias públicas

- Miércoles 6 de abril, 6 p.m.** The Whistlestop Wheels, Jackson Café Room, 930 Tamalpais Ave, San Rafael, CA
- Jueves 7 de abril, 9:30 a.m.** Administration Building, Board Room, Golden Gate Bridge Toll Plaza, SF, CA

Los comentarios oficiales serán recibidos en las reuniones abiertas al público. Los comentarios del público serán recibidos en las audiencias públicas, también pueden ser enviados vía correo electrónico a publichearing@goldengate.org o bien enviados por correo postal a la siguiente dirección (los comentarios enviados por correo postal serán recibidos hasta el 7 de abril de 2011 a las 4:30 p.m.):

Jan Tarantino, Secretary of the District, Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District
P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station, San Francisco, CA 94129-0601

Existe información adicional en www.goldengate.org. Si desea obtener información de tránsito para las ubicaciones donde se realizarán las audiencias públicas, visite www.goldengate.org o comuníquese al 511 (diga "Golden Gate Transit" y después "operator", debe ser pronunciadas en inglés), para personas con discapacidades auditivas o del habla comuníquese al 711. Si desea solicitar asistencia especial, debido a alguna discapacidad, y poder asistir a la audiencia pública, favor de comunicarse al 415-923-2223, al menos tres días antes de que se efectúe la audiencia pública.

