

ISSUE / EDICIÓN

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# NOTICIERO

## Who we are?

The Latin American Cultural Union (LACU) is the oldest Latino organization in Southwestern Pennsylvania. LACU is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization, founded in 1986. Its mission is to cultivate and share the diverse cultural and artistic manifestation of Latin American traditions and life, through dance, music, literature, culinary arts, film, painting, and the celebration of regional customs. Membership in the organization is open to anyone who enjoys or wishes to learn more about the Latino culture.

## ¿Quiénes somos?

La Unión Cultural Latinoamericana (LACU) es una organización voluntaria, sin fines de lucro 501©3, que fue establecida en el 1986. Nuestra misión es promover y preservar las diversas manifestaciones culturales latinoamericanas en la región de Pittsburgh a través del NOTICIERO, su boletín bilingüe, el programa para niños Sábado Latino Infantil, acceso a grupos musicales latinos, bailes típicos, la GALA Latina y otros eventos culturales. La membresía está abierta a todos los que deseen aprender más sobre la cultura Latina.



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## LACU: TIME TO JOIN AND ENJOY!

By *Mónica Nogueira, LACU Vice President*

For almost thirty years now, the Latin American Cultural Union has been at the forefront of disseminating Latin American culture, in its many aspects, to Western Pennsylvania. From dance and music, to art exhibitions and food, LACU has brought together a very diverse group of people. But our mission cannot be fulfilled without your participation! By nature and tradition, Latin culture has always been open to multiple influences and its manifestations show it. Native, European and African traits are visible in our languages, in the spices we use and the indigenous folklore of each and every one of our countries. And this is exactly what we want to preserve, cherish and share with you. We invite you to be a member, a volunteer and a supporter of the diversity, richness and joy of Latin America. Right here in western Pennsylvania. Please contact us via our website [www.lacunet.org](http://www.lacunet.org)! Gracias! Obrigada! Thank you!

## LACU: ¡HORA DE VINCULARSE Y DISFRUTAR!

Por *Mónica Nogueira, Vicepresidenta de LACU*

Por casi 30 años, la Unión Cultural Latinoamericana ha liderado la diseminación de la cultura latinoamericana y, en sus muchos aspectos, al oeste de Pennsylvania. Desde danza y música hasta exhibiciones de arte y comida, LACU ha reunido a un diverso grupo de personas. ¡Pero nuestra misión no puede cumplirse sin tu participación! Por naturaleza y tradición, la cultura latina ha estado siempre abierta a múltiples influencias y sus manifestaciones lo muestran. Rastros nativos, europeos y africanos son visibles en nuestros idiomas, los condimentos que usamos y el folclor indígena de todos y cada uno de nuestros países. Y esto es precisamente lo que queremos conservar, valorar y compartir contigo. Te invitamos a hacerte miembro, voluntario y defensor de la diversidad, riqueza y alegría de América Latina. Justo aquí en el oeste de Pennsylvania. Por favor contáctanos a través de nuestra página en internet [www.lacunet.org](http://www.lacunet.org)

## JUNTA DIRECTIVA DE LACU / LACU EXECUTIVE BOARD

### Presidente / President

**Ada Mezzich.** Nuestra actual presidenta es una de las fundadoras de LACU y ha servido a la organización en el pasado como presidenta y en otras capacidades. Ada es psicóloga y trabaja como profesora e investigadora en la Universidad de Pittsburgh.

*Our current president is one of the founders of LACU and has served the organization in the past as president and in other capacities. Ada is a psychologist and works as professor and researcher at the University of Pittsburgh.*



### Vicepresidente / Vice President

**Mónica Nogueira.** Mónica es la anterior tesorera de LACU y ha querido seguir ocupando una posición de liderazgo en nuestra organización como vicepresidenta. Esta paulista una persona muy organizada y disciplinada.

*Mónica is the LACU former treasurer and wanted to continue being part of the leadership within our organization as Vice president. This "paulista" is a very organized and disciplined person.*



### Secretaria / Secretary

**Migdalia Lowry.** Dally, nuestra experta puertorriqueña en recursos humanos, ha viajado por todo el mundo. Está casada con Mark Lowry nuestro web máster.

*Dally, our Puerto Rican human resources expert has travelled around the globe. She is married to our webmaster Mark Lowry.*



### Tesorera / Treasurer

**María Antonieta Farnen.** María Antonieta es peruana y trabaja como traductora oficial. Su participación en LACU es por partida doble: tesorera y coordinadora de programas infantiles.

*María Antonieta was born in Peru and works as a professional translator. Her participation in LACU is twofold: treasurer and coordinator of our children's programs.*

## COORDINADORES / COORDINATORS

### Relaciones Públicas / Public Relationships

**Kenia Ashby.** Nacida en Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, Kenia es una cantante profesional que tiene siete discos en su haber. Cuando no está trabajando en música, ella hace trabajo voluntario con diferentes organizaciones en la búsqueda de recursos y donaciones.

*Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Kenia is a professional singer who has recorded seven CDs. When not busy doing music, she volunteers with organizations doing fundraising.*

### Mercadeo / Marketing

**Marie C. Vincens.** Es doctorada en química y trabaja en Aspex en el área de mercadeo. Marie nació en Puerto Rico y, como muchos de los miembros de LACU, quiere estar más cerca de los latinos en la región y trabajar por ellos.

*She has a doctorate in chemistry and works for Aspex Corp. in marketing. Marie was born in Puerto Rico and, as well as many other LACU members, wants to be closer to Latinos in the region and work with them.*

### Música / Music

**Víctor Manuel Ruíz.** Este mexicano es un músico de profesión y ha servido como coordinador de música de LACU por varios años. Víctor toca guitarra con el grupo de jazz PuroQuesso, tiene su estudio de grabaciones El Sótano, enseña guitarra y organiza conciertos.

*This Mexican born is a professional musician and has served as LACU music coordinator for several years. Victor plays guitar with PuroQuesso jazz quartet, owns El Sótano recording studio, teaches guitar, and organizes concerts.*



### Noticiero

**Bárbara Johnson.** Con sus raíces familiares en Jamaica, Bárbara creció rodeada de Latinos en Massachusetts. Actualmente es la directora de diversidad en la universidad Carlow.

*With her family roots in Jamaica, Barbara grew up in Massachusetts surrounded by Latinos. She is currently the director of the diversity initiatives at Carlow University.*

**Jorge Enrique Delgado.** Continuando con su pasión por la comunicación escrita, este odontólogo colombiano se vinculó a LACU como editor del Noticiero desde su llegada a Estados Unidos en 2005. Actualmente, Jorge está terminado doctorado en análisis social y comparado en educación.

*Continuing with his passion for written communication, this Colombian dentist joined LACU as the chief-editor of Noticiero since his arrival to the US in 2005. Currently, Jorge is finishing his PhD in social and comparative analysis in education.*

### Voluntarios / Volunteering

**Esther Núñez.** Esther está interesada en que los latinos seamos más proactivos en la comunidad. Nacida en Nueva York, de padres dominicanos, ella es asistente de los vicepresidentes de ingeniería y finanzas de Comcast.

*Esther wants Latinos to be more proactive in the community. Born in New York of Dominican parents, she is the assistant to the vice presidents of engineering and finance of Comcast.*

### Danzas / Dances

**Raquel Dávila.**

### Web Máster / Webmaster

**Mark Lowry.** Original de Greensburg Pennsylvania, Mark es ingeniero de control de calidad y trabaja para el Departamento Nacional de Energía. Dally es su esposa.

Originally from Greensburg PA, Mark is a quality control engineer and works for the National Department of Energy. Dally, our LACU secretary, is his wife.

### Membresía / Membership

**Mónica Avenii-Rani.** Nuestra chef certificada es una bailarina empedernida. Mónica trajo desde Argentina su legado musical y gastronómico para divulgar las tradiciones culturales de América Latina en Pittsburgh.

*Our certified cook is also a passionate dancer. Monica brought from Argentina her musical and gastronomic legacy to share those Latin American cultural traditions throughout Pittsburgh.*



### Programas infantiles / Children Programs

**Walkiria Preston.** ¿Quién mejor para coordinar esta sección? Walki es hija de inmigrantes uruguayos en Estados Unidos y trabaja en la Escuelita Arcoiris. Además está estudiando un posgrado una maestría en educación.

*Who better to coordinate this section? Walki is the daughter of Uruguayan immigrants in the US and teaches at Arcoiris Kindergarten. In addition, she is studying for a master's in education.*

**María Antonieta Farnen.**

### Asesores / Presidents at Large

**Marisol Wandiga.** Marisol es nuestra anterior presidenta. Mitad puertorriqueña y mitad keniana, trabaja para Global Links en la coordinación de la región del Caribe.

*Marisol is our former president. Half Puerto Rican and half Kenyan, she is the program officer of Global Links for the Caribbean region.*

**Brent Rondon.** Es un relacionista público por excelencia. Todo aquel que llega a Pittsburgh tiene que hablar con él. Brent es peruano y antiguo presidente de LACU. Trabaja coordinando un programa de apoyo a la pequeña empresa en la Universidad Duquesne.

*He is a public relations person of excellence. Everybody who comes to Pittsburgh must talk to him. Brent is Peruvian and a former LACU president. He works as manager of the small business development program at Duquesne University.*

**Carla Andrea Leininger.** Carla es el corazón de Global Beats. Nuestra anterior Vicepresidenta de LACU nació en Brasilia y vive en Pittsburgh desde 1987.

*Carla is the heart of Global Beats. Our former LACU Vice president was born in Brazil and has lived in Pittsburgh since 1987.*



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Dear LACU Supporter,

The Latin American Cultural Union (LACU) invites you to our LACU Salsa Fundraiser 2010 event to be held on Saturday, December 11, 2010.

The night begins with a Salsa class by "Salsa Pittsburgh" from 8:00 to 9:00 pm and dancing continues until midnight.

South American Tapas will be provided by La Mendocina Argentine Catering from 8:00 to 9:30 pm. A cash bar will be available for drink purchases.

Please join us for a night of dancing as we celebrate our Latin Culture!

**LACU appreciates your continued support & looks forward to seeing you at the event!**

## LACU Salsa Fundraiser 2010

**When?**  
Saturday, December 11, 2010

**Where?**  
Bulgarian Macedonian National Educational and Cultural Center  
449-451 Eighth Ave  
West Homestead, PA 15120  
<http://www.bmnecc.org>

**Time?**  
8:00 pm - Midnight

**Appetizers provided from 8:00 - 9:30 pm by:**  
La Mendocina Argentine Catering  
<http://www.lamendocina.com>

**Cash Bar Available**

**Salsa Classes from 8:00 - 9:00 pm by:**  
Salsa Pittsburgh  
<http://www.2.salsopittsburgh.com:8000>

**Advance Ticket Prices:**  
LACU Members \$20.00  
Non-Members \$25.00

**Door Ticket Prices: \$30.00**

For additional information visit [www.lacunet.org](http://www.lacunet.org) or call 877-412-3702

For online ticket purchases: <http://lacu2010salsafundraiser.eventbrite.com>

For ticket purchases by check or money order, please complete the following information:

Name: _____	# of Tickets: _____
Address: _____	Payments must be received no later than Sunday, December 5th.
Phone #: _____	Please send to: Latin American Cultural Union (LACU) PO Box 19403 Pittsburgh, PA 15213

## LACU's Annual Picnic

By Barbara Johnson

The rhythmic sounds of Latin music could be heard as I approached the shelter in Schenley Park where the Latin American Cultural Union (LACU) was hosting their annual summer picnic. Sunshine and warm breezes set the stage for a wonderful gathering of friends and family on Saturday, August 28, 2010. The event was a special opportunity to bring the LACU members together to enjoy each other's company, socialize and celebrate their heritage and culture. The children enjoyed laughter and noise as they charged and swung at the piñatas. A Thomas the Train design appealed to the younger kids and there were two star piñatas, one white with glitter and the other multicolored. The adult fun was a dance contest where couples moved to the beat of meringue, salsa and cha cha music. Lively conversations were heard from group to group as old friends connected, new friends were made and families enjoyed the beautiful outdoors. The setting gave nice space for the children to run and play while still in view of their parents. Picnic tables, benches and blankets dotted the area as everyone found a comfortable space to relax.



The food was a rich array of tastes from all over as families brought a dish to share. Board member Mark Lowry fired up hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill. AJ's Peruvian restaurant donated a tray of pollo saltada which is a chicken dish with onions and rice. One Colombian family shared a savory dish of arroz con coco. My favorite staple for summer meals is a refreshing tossed salad so I had fun making a crowd size tray for the table. Another salad at the table was red beans, black beans, celery and corn. Some friends of LACU from the Chinese culture prepared some rice and chicken with soy sauce and ginger. There was also a Japanese dish called Wu Don. Puerto Rico was represented with ensalada de coditos. Deserts were a plenty featuring homemade carrot muffins from Venezuela, chocolate cake, donuts, cookies, pies and a refreshing fruit salad. The only charge at the picnic was for the beverages and the two features there were Yago Sangria and Inca Cola, a typical soft drink of Peru. Sodas and water were plentiful. About 100 people attended to make this picnic another festive event that the LACU organization is proud to host each year.

## Picnic annual de LACU

Por Barbara Johnson

Los sonidos rítmicos de la música latina se escuchaban a medida que me aproximaba en pabellón en el parquet Schenley donde la Unión Cultural Latinoamericana (LACU) tenía su picnic anual de verano. El sol y la brisa cálida fueron la base para una maravillosa reunión de amigos y familias el sábado 28 de agosto de 2010. El evento fue una oportunidad especial para reunir a los miembros de LACU, disfrutar de su compañía, socializar y celebrar su herencia y cultura. Los niños disfrutaron con risas y algarabía las piñatas. Un tren de Thomas atrajo a los más jóvenes y hubo dos con forma de estrellas, una blanca brillante y otra multicolor. La diversión de los adultos fue un concurso de baile en el que las parejas se movieron al ritmo de merengue, salsa y chachachá. Conversaciones animadas se oyeron de un grupo a otro en la medida en que los viejos amigos se reencontraron, se hicieron nuevas amistades y las familias disfrutaron de la belleza a campo abierto. El lugar fue un lugar agradable para que los niños corrieran y jugaran sin perder la supervisión de sus padres. Las mesas de picnic, las bancas y mantas fueron el área para que todos encontraran un lugar confortable para relajarse.



La comida fue una gran variedad de sabores de diferentes lugares, ya que las familias llevaron un plato para compartir. Mark Lowry, miembro de la junta de LACU asó hamburguesas y perros calientes en la parrilla. El restaurante peruano AJ's Burger donó una bandeja de pollo saltado que consiste en un plato de pollo con cebollas y arroz. Una familia colombiana compartió un plato de arroz con coco. Mi plato favorito para las comidas de verano es una ensalada, así que me divertí haciendo una de tamaño familiar. Otra ensalada tenía frijoles rojos y negros, apio y maíz. Algunos amigos de LACU de cultura china prepararon arroz y pollo con salsa soya y jengibre. También había un plato japonés llamado Wu Don. Puerto Rico estuvo representado por una ensalada de coditos. Hubo gran variedad de postres como molletes de zanahoria de Venezuela, torta de chocolate, galletas, pasteles, y ensalada de frutas. Lo único que se cobró fueron las bebidas, destacándose la sangría Yago e Inca Kola, una gaseosa típica del Perú. Hubo buena cantidad de agua y refrescos. Cerca de 100 personas asistieron para hacer de este picnic otro evento festivo que LACU orgullosamente organizó este año.

## MÚSICA / MUSIC

### Building a musical bridge from Yucatán to Pittsburgh

#### An Interview with Alejandro Pinzón, Music Director, Coro Latinoamericano-Pittsburgh

By Michele Rothert

Maestro Alejandro Pinzón is a young, versatile conductor from Yucatán, México, who is capturing attention as the new Music Director of Coro Latinoamericano-Pittsburgh. Alejandro is bringing a fresh repertoire, strong choral leadership, and excitement to choir members who are planning a program of Mexican music for the upcoming holidays. Themed "Posadas

Mexicanas," the program will celebrate Christmas and pay tribute to the independence of México. This year marks the country's 200th anniversary of its independence. Throughout the United States, México, South America and Europe, Alejandro has appeared in a number of cities as a guest conductor, as well as a violin recitalist. In the USA, he now also serves as the director of the string program at Waynesburg University and as the Assistant Conductor to the West Virginia University Symphony Orchestra, where he's a doctoral student in orchestra conducting under Dr. Mitchell Arnold. Addressing a wide range of topics, Alejandro recently answered questions about his professional background, life and goals:

**Michele:** How long have you loved music and what was your first experience playing an instrument?

**Alejandro:** My first encounter with music happened when I was eight, but I didn't care much about it at that time. I rediscovered music when I was 12, after attending the concert of a virtuoso violinist. A year later, I was studying violin myself and my passion for music has increased and diversified ever since.

**Michele:** What inspired you to come to the USA?

**Alejandro:** I studied music in Miami for a semester when I was 18 -- the first time I left home -- but I went back to México afterwards. In 2006, I moved to the USA again, this time to Texas and attended The University of Texas at El Paso. My inspiration came from two great

men who are my friends and music mentors, and who encouraged me to take the artistic challenge. In 2008, I got my Masters in Conducting at UTEP.

**Michele:** How do you feel about the chance to lead Coro Latinoamericano?

**Alejandro:** Coro invited me to put together a program of Mexican music and, of course, I said "sí" right away! Coro is a multi-national choir -- a great group of people, enthusiastic about Latin American music, culture and traditions, but most importantly, they are good friends and it's great to work with them. It would be great to enlarge our membership, with more people of all backgrounds, who are interested in our language, musical diversity, and in the opportunity to experience fully what we have to offer.

**Michele:** How do you envision this year's Christmas concert?

**Alejandro:** This concert is going to be very different. Yes, I know you've heard that one before! But it is accurate. Our program is going to feature a number of selections of non-Christmas music from Mexico, mostly

popular, romantic or traditional pieces that have never been performed in Pittsburgh! The "Yucatan Musicians Association" let us borrow some of their music and we'll be presenting it this year at Frick Fine Arts Auditorium. "Caminante del Mayab" and "Peregrina," musical jewels of traditional music of Yucatán, will be part of the program, as well as popular songs like "Sufirir es Querer" and "La Marimba," culminating with "Cielito Lindo" or "Guadalajara."

**Michele:** How do you feel about Pittsburgh?

**Alejandro:** I love the city although, after living in Texas for two years, I feel like I don't practice my Spanish that frequently in Pittsburgh, but I always find myself surrounded by good friends and Latin influences.

**More Info:** Maestro Alejandro Pinzón: <http://alejandropinzon.weebly.com>  
Coro Latinoamericano-Pittsburgh: <http://www.elcorolatino.com>

## RECETAS / RECIPES

### Pumpkin Flan for the Holidays!

#### Ingredients:

6 tbsp. sugar  
4 whole eggs, whisked  
1 14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk  
1/2 cup pumpkin purée (canned will do)  
3/4 cup 2% or whole milk  
1 tsp. vanilla extract  
1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon  
1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg

#### Directions:

##### *For custard*

In a bowl, combine eggs, sweetened condensed & whole milk, pumpkin purée and extract. Whisk for about 2 minutes. Set aside.

##### *For caramel*

Add sugar to the aluminum flan mold and bring to medium-high heat. Allow all of the sugar to melt down until golden caramel, stirring constantly. Do not allow sugar to burn. When sugar is fully dissolved into caramel, carefully coat the bottom and sides of the flan mold using hand towels to hold the pan. Use a brush if you are not experienced in handling extremely hot caramel. Let sit for two minutes until sugar sets. Pour flan mixture into pan using a medium mesh hand strainer.

##### *Baking the Flan*

If you have a traditional 10" flan pan, cover entirely with aluminum foil. If using a more updated version, cover lid and shut tight with latches. Add two cups of water to a large saucepan and gently place flan pan into the baño de Maria. Bring to boil for 45-60 minutes or until fully cooked, without the custard becoming too firm. When just at the point of less than too firm, bring heat to low and let simmer for 5 minutes. Remove flan pan from Maria bath and discard excess water from saucepan.

Do not remove flan from pan. Refrigerate for 7-9 hours or overnight. To serve, using a butter knife, loosen the sides of the flan all the way around. Take a large plate, place upside down on top of flan and flip!

<http://www.latina.com/food/recipes/flanboyant-eats-spooktacular-pumpkin-flan-recipe>

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## SHORT NEWS / NOTICIAS CORTAS

### Commemoración de la Independencia de Perú / Peruvian Independence Celebration

LACU se unió a la comunidad peruana para conmemorar la Independencia del Perú. Aquí, algunas fotos del evento que tuvo lugar en el Frick Fine Arts Auditorium de la Universidad de Pittsburgh:



### Dally Lowry en la celebración del mes de la Herencia Hispana / Dally Lowry at the Hispanic Heritage Month

LACU Secretary, Migdalia "Dally" Lowry, was invited by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Office in Pittsburgh, as part of the celebration of the Hispanic Heritage Month, to be the speaker for the Ceremony of Oath for approximately 50 participants who became naturalized US Citizens last October 21<sup>st</sup>.





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## LACU MEMBERSHIP FORM \* 2010 \*

*Thank you for becoming a member. Your information will only be used by LACU and will be kept confidential.*

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Membership:** New ( ) . Renewal ( ) . **Check #** ( ) **Money order #** ( )  
**Type:** Student -\$10 ( ) , Individual -\$15 ( ) , Family -\$25 ( ) , Non-Profit-\$50 ( ) , Corporation-\$100 ( )

**How did you hear about LACU?** \_\_\_\_\_

### ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Name/Primary Contact person \_\_\_\_\_

Profession/Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (home) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # (work or cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail/Website \_\_\_\_\_

Country (ies) of Origin \_\_\_\_\_

*Interests: (Language, News, Dance, Music, Writing, etc.)*

- I am interested in learning folkloric Latin dances.  
 I am interested in learning about Latino languages. (Please check those that interest you)  
 Spanish     Portuguese     Indigenous Languages (Quechua, etc.)  
 I am interested in learning about Spanish literature and film  
 I am interested in Latino activities for my children  
 I am interested in attending Latino culinary demonstrations  
 I am interested in attending Latino music events and performances

*Are you interested in volunteering? (Please check areas that interest you)*     General Help     Music     Dance  
 Membership Development     Web Development     Fundraising     Event Planning

### FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY

ADULT FAMILY MEMBERS		
Name	E-mail	Interests
CHILDREN FAMILY MEMBERS (under 18)		
Name	Age	Interests

Send this form with your check or money order to:  
**LATIN AMERICAN CULTURAL UNION**  
**Attn: Membership**  
P.O. Box 19403, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

**Questions-Comments**  
Ada Mezzich, President  
Tel: 412-441-3915  
E-Mail: [coordinators@lacunet.org](mailto:coordinators@lacunet.org)

*The Latin American Cultural Union (LACU) is a Pittsburgh-based, 501(c) (3) non-profit organization founded in 1986. All donations are tax deductible. <http://www.lacunet.org>*



## LACU Board | *Junta Directiva de LACU*

P.O. Box 19403  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

[noticiero@lacunet.org](mailto:noticiero@lacunet.org)

*Son bienvenidos  
artículos cortos,  
noticias, cartas al  
editor, fotos, eventos  
sociales e información  
de interés para la  
comunidad.*

We welcome short  
articles, news, letters  
to the editor, photos,  
events and  
information of  
interest.

Presidenta – Ada Mezzich

Vicepresidenta – Mónica Nogueira

Secretaria – Migdalia Lowry

Tesorera – María Antonieta Farnen

Relaciones públicas – Kenia Ashby

Mercadeo – Marie C. Vincens

Coordinación musical – Víctor Ruiz

Coordinación voluntariado – Esther Núñez

Coordinación de danzas – Raquel Dávila

Webmaster – Mark Lowry

Membresía – Mónica Avenii Rani

Programas infantiles – Walkiria Preston y María Antonieta Farnen

Asesores – Marisol Wandiga, Carla Leininger, Brent Rondon

Directores del NOTICIERO – Barbara Johnson y Jorge Enrique  
Delgado