



# The Tonantzin Society NEWS

First  
Quarter

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**Topeka's 4th Annual  
Dia de los Muertos Citywide Festival  
October 2nd - November 1st**

**FIND US!**

TonantzinSociety.com

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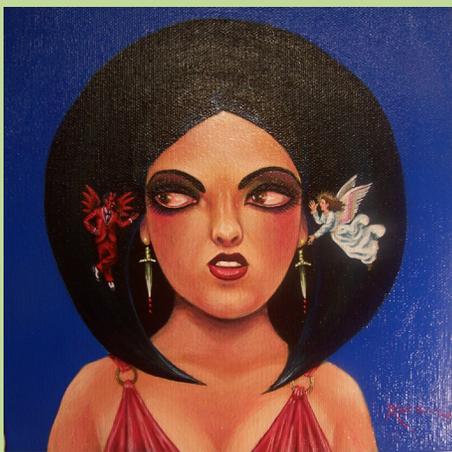
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## Cheech Marin & Chicano Art in Topeka

April and May are going to be exciting months in Topeka. Cheech Marin (the other half with Chong) is not only a comedian and actor, but an avid art collector. His focus

for over 25 years has been on Chicano/a art and his collection is one of the largest in the United States. The Tonantzin Society has been working with the Mulvane Art Museum for over 2 years to bring "Chicanitas" to Topeka.

Chicanitas: Small Paintings from the Cheech Marin Collection (size doesn't matter) is a collection of approximately 70 small paintings from his collection. The exhibit is here in the Midwest for the first time and opened on March 27.

Cheech will be in Topeka on May 7! We hope you can join us at the Andrew J. & Georgia Neese Gray Theater at Washburn University at 6:30 pm for A Conversation with Cheech Marin. Check out the full scheduled of events!

## Schedule of Events

April 3, 5:30 - 7:30 pm  
Opening Reception

April 9, 4:00 pm  
Chicano Art in the 21st Century Lec-  
ture

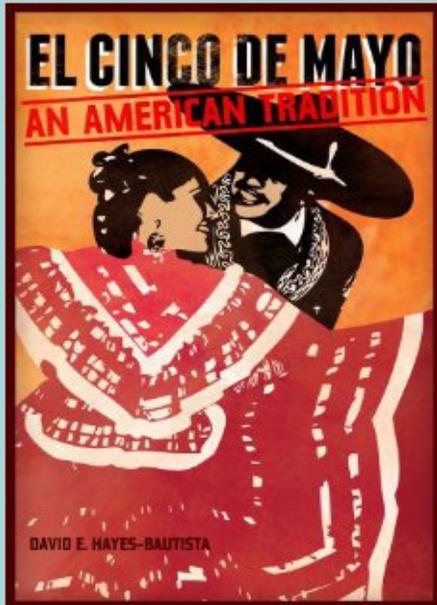
April 10, 10:30 - 12 noon  
Chicano Art & Building Community

April 10, 12:15 pm  
Performance by Amado Espinoza

April 11, 1:00 - 2:00 pm  
Found Object to Musical Instrument

May 2, 1:30 pm  
Film Screening, Everything Comes  
from the Streets

May 7, 6:30 pm  
Andrew J. & Georgia Neese Gray  
Theater, Washburn University  
A Conversation with Cheech Marin



## Cinco de Mayo

By Valerie Mendoza

Many of us celebrate Cinco de Mayo on May 5th with Mexican food, beer, music, and a general party atmosphere. Indeed, the date has become an American national holiday sponsored by the beer companies. The interesting fact about Cinco de Mayo, which commemorates the Mexican victory over the French in the Battle of Puebla in 1862, is that it has always been an American celebration.

According to a new book by David Hayes Bautista entitled *El Cinco de Mayo: An American Tradition*, the celebrations began in California sponsored by Latino communities throughout the state in honor of the victory. Hayes Bautista became interested in the topic when he noticed that basically Cinco de Mayo is not a holiday celebrated in Mexico. He was curious as to why because the Battle of Puebla happened there, after all.

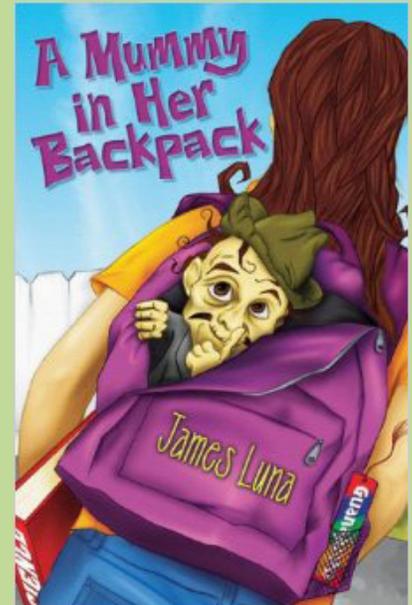
What he learned has more to do with California history. After gold was discovered in California in 1849

Latinos from all over Mexico and South America flocked to the state. Miners from Mexico and Chile in particular had experience extracting gold since the Spanish conquest. In fact Latinos proved much better at gold mining than the green horn Anglos who were hoping to get rich quick. This led to animosities and outright discrimination such as the Foreign Miner's Tax, which exacted an exorbitant tax on gold discovered by non-Americans.

The hostilities experienced by Latinos at the hands of Anglos across the state caused Latinos to ban together in pan Latino identity. One of the ways they did this was through keeping abreast of news from the homelands via Spanish-language newspapers usually published in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The French invasion of Mexico was one of these events that they followed closely. When word of the Mexican victory reached California spontaneous celebrations broke out across Latino neighborhoods. This euphoria over the victory was sustained via the Spanish-language press, which reported the happenings and via mutualistas, which raised money for the Mexican cause.

On the first anniversary of the battle Mexicans were once again fighting the French at Puebla. Due to the time lag of news the outcome of the second battle was uncertain but Latinos in California decided to commemorate the first victory regardless. This was done through speeches, music, parades, fireworks and a display of both the Mexican and American flags. This tradition continued throughout the nineteenth century—precursors to our modern day celebrations.



## BOOK REVIEW

By Tori Mendoza age 9

**A Mummy in Her Backpack**

**Una momia en su mochila**

by James Luna

*A Mummy in Her Backpack* is about a mummy at the Museo De Las Momias in Guanajuato, Mexico who gets bored and sneaks into a girl's backpack while she's visiting. She doesn't notice he's in there until she returns home to the United States and when she finds out she freaks out! The mummy ends up going to school with her, but Dia de los Muertos is coming up and he wants to go home so that he can be with his family and have sweet bread. I'll let you find out what happens next. It's funny, cool, and a good book. I hope you like it!



This is the girl, Flor.

# Our Society Needs YOUR Help!

The Tonantzin Society, a non-profit volunteer organization created in 2012. Many of us are members of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish and have event coordinated, raised funds and volunteered for decades in various capacities. Our mission is to support, promote, and educate on Latino art and culture – with special focus on Mexican-American/Mexican culture. We place emphasis on both youth education in underserved communities and have a large array of community partnerships such as Brown v. Board of Education, NHS, NOTO Arts District, Ks. Children's Discovery Center, Mulvane Art Museum and more. Currently we play a role on the Kansas University's Latin American Studies Outreach Program Advisory Board.

We are asking for your help today in the way of any small donation you can make to our art supplies fund. Many of the workshops we conduct

are part of in-school and after school programs. These workshops teach, through art on Latino history and culture. We partner with Brown v. Board of Education, NHS, Scott Dual Language Magnet school, and several other schools across Topeka with their art programming. Our Society also has a wonderful art component for El Día de los Niños in April and our Dia de los Muertos Festival. Art supplies are one of the vital components in teaching a child cultural awareness.

Last year our art supply costs were over \$2,000.00. Having funds come in from our community, individuals like you, can help us remove this cost from the grants we write and which are very competitive to receive!

It's important for our Society to bring forth in a grateful way – any donation people from our Mexican-American/Mexican community may give. We are creating a special program

to be given out at our various events this year with donor names in addition to adding the list to our websites.

With your generous donation, we will be able to re-stock our supplies by purchasing the following:

- Paints & brushes (this also includes spray paints)
- Crayons, colored pencils, markers & chalks
- Glues, glazes, primers, sealers
- Construction paper, felt, canvas
- Embellishments (buttons, feathers, gems stones, Milagros, etc)
- Material remnants for special art projects
- Tin, foils, tissue paper

Thank you for considering our request.

Please make checks out to:

Tonantzin Society Fund  
c/o Topeka Community Foundation  
5431 SW 29th St., Ste. 300  
Topeka, Kansas 66614



## El Día de los Niños April 30, 2015

The Tonantzin Society will be participating in this year's El Dia de los Ninos event at the Topeka Public Library. A carnival style event will be held Thursday, April

30th, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the library. Come prepared to have fun and participate in this culture festival.

Our craft this year will be a Milagros activity. A Milagro is a wish, dream, goal, or desire for the future for yourself or someone else. Kids will be asked to think of a goal, dream, wish, or desire they have and write it down on a piece of paper. They can then decorate and color the paper to their heart's content. We will have lots of colors, markers, crayons, embellishments, and stickers . . . so come with your wish and creativity!

We hope to see you April 30th at the library!!



We would love to hear from you! Is there anything in particular in our Latino community or currently hot news in the larger Latino community that you'd like us to write on?

Anything about Chicana/Mexican-American history? OR feel free to submit an article! Have a favorite old familia photo to share? Then we want to know. Email us at [tonantzinsociety.com](mailto:tonantzinsociety.com).

And check us out in June for our next newsletter!