



The Tonantzin Society NEWS

Second
Quarter

In this issue...

Vendor Call

Call for Art

Reyna Grande

Cheech Marin
Review

San Quintin Strike



4th Annual Día de los Muertos citywide Festival.
Check our website for all locations!
First Friday Juried Art Show
Ofrenda Exhibit @ the Sabatini Art Gallery
Showing of iconic Mexican DDLM themed film,
“Macario”
Family Street Fair in NOTO
And much, much more!



TonantzinSociety.com
&
TopekaDDLM.com

**Our Día de los Muertos Street Fair
is calling for VENDORS!**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

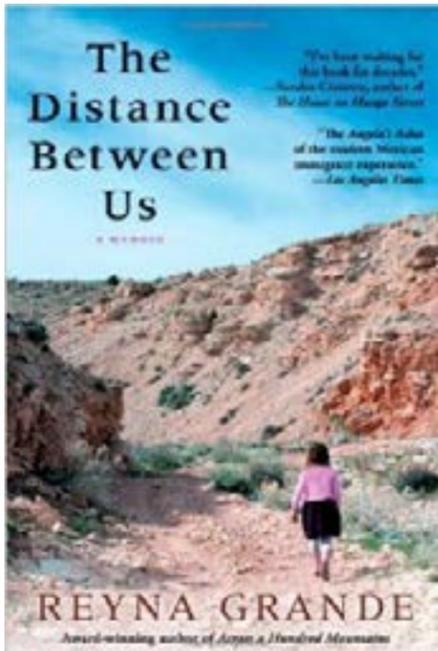
The Tonantzin Society is looking for volunteers to help with its Dia de los Muertos festival Saturday October 10.

If you are looking to get involved in the community and have fun, this is your chance!

Two hour shifts, free t-shirts to all volunteers.

Contact Valerie Mendoza at valmarmen@yahoo.com.

This year our family centered Street Fair will once again be in the NOTO Arts District. We have a call out for crafters, artists of all kinds and food vendors. For more information go to www.topekaddlm.com and click on vendor application!



**The Distance Between Us:
a Memoir
by Reyna Grande
(New York: Washington
Square Press, 2012)
by Valerie M. Mendoza**

The Census Bureau estimates that 11 million undocumented immigrants live in the United States, and immigration promises to be a hot button issue for the 2016 elections. Too often the press and politicians characterize immigrants (read Mexicans) as “illegal’s”. Such a label dismisses their humanity and erases individual stories and struggles. Reyna Grande’s *The Distance Between Us* redresses both of these disservices. She relates her own experience with immigration and shows it in all of its complexities.

Through Grande we witness families being torn apart when parents migrate to el Otro Lado due to lack of economic opportunities in Mexico. Wives and children are left behind while father’s work in the U.S. to provide a better future, but in the process

children in particular experience feelings of abandonment. Grande and her two siblings were sent to live with one grandparent and then another when her mother joined her father in the U.S. The former abused them and the latter did not have the resources to take care of them.

What is unique about this telling is that we see the consequences of migration—the toll it takes on family members left behind, Grande paints a vivid picture of loss, poverty, and the will to survive. As she describes, she was fortunate to have her siblings who cared for one another and provided emotional support for each other. This continued after they crossed into the United States with their father who they had not seen for eight years. He desired a better life and opportunities for his children, particularly education. The second half of the book exposes the realities of adjusting to life in Los Angeles and living with their alcoholic father. We see first hand the hardships of not speaking English or being documented. Grande and her family feel vulnerable and exposed with the fear of deportation and separation again.

This coming of age story takes place from the 1970s to 1990s and her father was fortunate enough to qualify for a green card and later citizenship under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. This eventually allowed Grande and her siblings citizenship status as well. Both of her siblings graduate from high school, a family first, as does she. Grande goes on to list her achievements in junior college and college and explains how a special mentor encouraged her to be a writer.

The Distance Between Us is a must read for those interested in immigration and the stories behind it.



The Tonantzin Society’s Hispanic Heritage Month Guest Lecturer is...

Reyna Grande

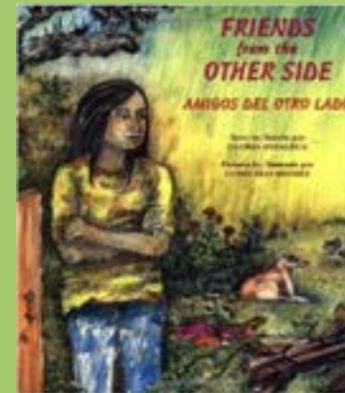
Reyna is an educator, writer, activist and inspirational speaker. The lecture date is September 16 at Washburn University’s Mabee Library starting at 6:30. She will be speaking on her award winning book, *The Distance Between Us*. All her books will be on sale at the University Bookstore and Reyna will have a ½ hour book signing immediately after the lecture.

We are also thrilled to announce Reyna will be visiting and having lunch with Topeka High School ELL students that same day. Our Society is also working with several colleges in Kansas and Missouri to host a small college fair at Topeka High for Latino and all students on September 16th.

For more information on Reyna go to www.reyna-grande.com – we hope to see you at the lecture and it is FREE!



the outset, we firmly believe low wages are not the only crisis. Deplorable working conditions for adults and children along with lack of healthcare and basic housing needs qualifies as a human rights struggle. Many of the workers work long and arduous hours in the field and make between \$7 & \$8 a DAY. There are few national outlets keeping up on the strike the exception being the Los Angeles Times. The strike has turned violent yet easily quashed by the military. Mexican priest and human rights champion, Father Alejandro Solalinde visited the strikers several weeks ago but was unable to help negotiations. The strike has drawn US attention since BerryMex supplies berries to USA owned Driscoll’s berries (among others like Whole Foods, etc). Kroger’s as you know owns the Dillon’s stores and the majority of berries it sells carry the Driscoll’s label. We are asking you to consider supporting the workers and boycotting Driscoll’s berries. There are numerous non-traditional media sources to check out the full history of this strike. If you would like more information email us at tonantzinsociety@yahoo.com ¡Adelante!



**Friends from the Other Side
Amigos del Otro Lado
by Gloria Anzaldúa
(San Francisco: Children’s Book
Press, 1993).**

Reviewed by Tori Mendoza age 10

This book is about this girl, Prietita, who meets a boy, Joaquín, who is from the other side of the river. He comes to the US “illegally” so she tries to befriend him, but the boy is ashamed of the sores on his arms. One day Prietita hears the neighborhood kids yelling and goes to see what’s happening. She

**San Quintin Strike
in Baja Mexico
Status Update**

For months the farmworkers in San Quintin in Baja, Mexico have been waging a long and grueling berry strike. After following the strike from

the outset, we firmly believe low wages are not the only crisis. Deplorable working conditions for adults and children along with lack of healthcare and basic housing needs qualifies as a human rights struggle. Many of the workers work long and arduous hours in the field and make between \$7 & \$8 a DAY. There are few national outlets keeping up on the strike the exception being the Los Angeles Times. The strike has turned violent yet easily quashed by the military. Mexican priest and human rights champion, Father Alejandro Solalinde visited the strikers several weeks ago but was unable to help negotiations. The strike has drawn US attention since BerryMex supplies berries to USA owned Driscoll’s berries (among others like Whole Foods, etc). Kroger’s as you know owns the Dillon’s stores and the majority of berries it sells carry the Driscoll’s label. We are asking you to consider supporting the workers and boycotting Driscoll’s berries. There are numerous non-traditional media sources to check out the full history of this strike. If you would like more information email us at tonantzinsociety@yahoo.com ¡Adelante!

finds them making fun of Joaquín, calling him “wetback.” Prietita stands up for him, and one of the boys teasing Joaquín turns out to be Prietita’s cousin, Teté.

After this Prietita and Joaquín become friends and he invites her to his house where they play. But one day a neighborhood woman arrives out of breath announcing the arrival of the border patrol, “la Migra.” Joaquín says, “You know they’ll check the old shacks and find my mother and take her away.” Prietita and Joaquín race to get his mother and take her to the curandera who hides Joaquín’s mother under her bed until the border patrol leaves.

Afterwards the curandera takes Joaquín and Prietita to the woods to gather herbs to heal Joaquín’s arms where the story ends. I liked this book because it was brave of Prietita to stand up to the bullies, and I liked how detailed the pictures were by Consuelo Méndez.

**Cheech Marin
&
Chicanitas Success**

The Midwest premier of “Chicanitas: Small Paintings from the Cheech Marin Collection” that closed on May 17 was a huge success! For two years we worked with the Mulvane Art Museum to bring all to fruition. The icing on the cake was Cheech’s lecture and visit to our city on May 7 was standing room only. Cheech stayed after his talk and signed all books and gave multiple autographs. He even made the rounds into our Oakland barrio community and ate at one of the food sales of a Fiesta Royalty candidate. He was funny, gracious and very laid back. Check out our Tonantzin FB page for tons of photos! A huge shout out to all whom helped promote and sponsor.



**4th Annual Día de los Muertos
Call for Art**

Our annual juried art show will be held this year at the Arts Place, 903 N. Kansas Avenue in the NOTO Arts District. Top award is \$700 and 2nd award is \$500. Our two judges Norma Cantu and Tina Fuentes! Deadline for entries is September 14. For more information visit us at www.topekaddlm.com We are on FB and Twitter too. Please help spread the word!