

## Latinidad Newsletter – May 2004

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### 1. Saludos

This month, Latinidad focuses on creative nonfiction, also known as narrative nonfiction or the “nonfiction novel”, which is how Truman Capote described *In Cold Blood*, the book that is universally acknowledged to have forged this genre. Some highlights of this month’s issue include: an interview with an editor seeking Latino creative nonfiction writers in Q&A; a creative nonfiction primer in Recommendations; and a creative nonfiction fellowship, prize, and call for submissions in Writing Opportunities.

Speaking of writing opportunities, for your convenience the Writing Opportunities page of the Newsletter section of [www.marcelalandres.com](http://www.marcelalandres.com) has been reorganized into seven lists: Literary Agents Seeking Latino Writers; Film Agents Seeking Latino Scriptwriters; Editors Seeking Latino Writers; Calls for Submissions; Writing Contests and Awards; Conferences and Residencies; and Author Tours/Literary Events. Additionally, Latinidad has been trimmed down to six columns instead of nine in order to make it easier for you to digest and—more importantly—to use. FAQ, Success Stories, and News to Use will continue to be displayed on the web site; I welcome your questions, success stories, and noteworthy articles, so keep them coming in. Let me know what you think of these changes by either filling out the Newsletter Survey (located in the Newsletter section of [www.marcelalandres.com](http://www.marcelalandres.com)) or by emailing me at [marcelalandres@yahoo.com](mailto:marcelalandres@yahoo.com).

### 2. Q&A

Genoveva Llosa is an assistant editor at Crown Publishers, where she focuses on general nonfiction titles. Crown, a division of Random House, publishes some of today's best popular fiction and nonfiction books by both established and rising authors. In addition, Genoveva is one of the few Latina editors in the book business, and is keen on finding Latino writers.

Why is Crown a great home for Latino writers?

Crown’s nonfiction program is known for its broad scope—publishing quality trade titles in areas such as popular history, current affairs, politics, memoir, biography, narrative nonfiction, popular culture, business, and journalistic narratives among many others—and for its market responsiveness. Three Rivers Press, the paperback imprint of the Crown Publishing Group (which release reprints of Crown hardcover books as well as

original soft cover titles), also publishes in areas that include humor, self-help, and health. The wide range of our publishing program means lots of room for a multitude of perspectives and fresh voices. For Latino authors it also means an opportunity to express their writing and journalistic talent in a huge variety of genres and topics. Also, Crown has already become a good home for African-American authors, publishing young and rising talents such as Aaron McGruder, Kevin Powell, Sarah Jones, and Donnell Alexander, and reaching the African-American market. We hope to replicate this success in the Latino market.

Which Latino authors has Crown published?

Our list of Latino authors include Laura Esquivel (Swift as Desire and La Ley del Amor, Crown); Tony Medina and Louis Reyes Rivera (Bum Rush the Page: A Def Poetry Jam, Three Rivers Press); Sandra Guzman (The Latina Bible, Three Rivers Press); Juan Enriquez (As the Future Catches You, Crown Business); Linda Escobar (Positive Discipline: A Teacher's A-Z Guide, Three Rivers Press), and Marta Moreno Vega (When the Spirits Dance Mambo, Three Rivers Press).

What kinds of manuscripts do you seek?

In general, we look for manuscripts that maintain a cohesive and nuanced narrative thread while at the same time providing critical and rigorous insights into the main subject, topic, or 'world' explored in the book—all delivered in an accessible way. More specifically, we are looking for nonfiction narratives driven by strong, unique voices; journalistic narratives of contemporary local and global issues; and narratives that give voice to marginalized or contrarian points of view.

How can writers avoid your "Reject" pile and get into your "Pursue" pile?

Besides the obvious—writing skillfully and approaching a topic in an original way—writers should not underestimate the importance of a well-crafted proposal. To avoid the reject pile they should anticipate the most pressing questions editors ask when considering a book: who will read it and why. A detailed proposal that explains the relevance of the book's idea, realistically explores its potential readers, and describes the book's promise in relation to those of other books in the marketplace can help immensely. And also: they should include one or two sample chapters! At the end of the day, editors want to get a feel for a writer's voice and style.

Other than honing their craft, what is the smartest step writers can take to become happily published?

Writers must become the best promoters of their work: they must understand the field they are writing about to a fault and create visibility and a strong network within that field and the world at large. The end goal is to use this expertise and these connections to relentlessly promote their ideas—and hopefully in the end promote a book—in the mainstream. In short, developing a great tolerance for self-promotion is one of the keys to becoming happily published.

Send submissions to: Genoveva Llosa, Crown Publishers, 1745 Broadway, New York, NY 10019

Crown's web site: [www.crownpublishing.com](http://www.crownpublishing.com)

Click here for more interviews with editors seeking Latino writers <http://www.marcelalandres.com/id60.htm>

### 3. Recommendations

Peter Rubie is a respected literary agent, a former Fleet Street journalist, as well as the author of the useful and unique creative nonfiction primer *Telling the Story: How to Write and Sell Narrative Nonfiction*. This guide is a must-have if you have an idea for a creative nonfiction book and don't know where to begin, or you've written one and want to find the right publisher, or you have a book about to be published and need marketing tips. *Telling the Story* offers advice on: determining whether your idea is a magazine article or a book; conducting research, including how to take effective notes; and writing a winning proposal. Also included for the reader to use as models are two real creative nonfiction proposals that were sold in auction to major houses. All creative nonfiction writers should add *Telling the Story* to their personal library.

Obtain *Telling the Story* [http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0060535288/marcelalandre-20/103-5684390-8170264?creative=125581&camp=2321&link\\_code=as1](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0060535288/marcelalandre-20/103-5684390-8170264?creative=125581&camp=2321&link_code=as1)

Visit Peter Rubie's web site <http://www.prlit.com/rubie/rubiebooks.htm>

Offer a recommendation [marcelalandres@yahoo.com](mailto:marcelalandres@yahoo.com)

Click here for more recommendations <http://www.marcelalandres.com/id25.htm>

### 4. Author Spotlight

Annie Dillard meets Truman Capote in Luis Alberto Urrea's *The Devil's Highway*. Like Dillard, Urrea's description of the natural landscape is startling, fierce, and artlessly poetic. Capote's *In Cold Blood* established the creative nonfiction genre, while the *Devil's Highway* has been hailed by Rudolfo Anaya as a new genre, "Frontera tragic drama." Label it creative nonfiction or Frontera tragic drama, the only label that will be sure to stick is "damned good writing." The true story of 26 Mexican men who tried to illegally enter the U.S. via Arizona's deadliest stretch of desert, *The Devil's Highway* succeeds in putting a human face not only on the nebulous figure of the illegal immigrant, but also—surprisingly—on La Pinche Migra. Every page is riveting, particularly where Urrea reconstructs the men's torment by scrupulously detailing the six stages of heat death, evoking the passage in Sebastian Junger's *The Perfect Storm* which describes the process of drowning.

To read an excerpt and reviews, and to find a list of appearances, visit Luis Alberto Urrea's web site <http://www.luisurrea.com/>

Obtain *The Devil's Highway* [http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0316746711/marcelalandre-20/103-5684390-8170264?creative=125581&camp=2321&link\\_code=as1](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0316746711/marcelalandre-20/103-5684390-8170264?creative=125581&camp=2321&link_code=as1)

Click here for more author reviews/interviews <http://www.marcelalandres.com/id58.htm>

## 5. Upcoming Workshops

5/3/04 - "Choosing a Literary Agent" Panel

Find out when you are actually ready for an agent; the steps to getting an agent; preparing for your interview with potential agents; choosing an agent that is right for you; and how to approach agencies. The evening will consist of a moderated discussion on these topics followed by Q&A with the audience. Among the invited panelists are Johanna Castillo, literary agent with [Sanford J. Greenburger Associates, Inc.](#), Adriana Lopez, Editor of [Críticas Magazine](#), and Marcela Landres, Editorial Consultant and former editor at Simon & Schuster. Suggested donation of \$8, no reservations necessary. Sponsored by [AHA](#).

Where: PS 122, 150 First Avenue, East 9th Street, New York, NY

When: 6:30 p.m., Monday, May 3, 2004

Invite me to speak <http://www.marcelalandres.com/id49.htm>

Click here to see a full list of upcoming workshops <http://www.marcelalandres.com/id22.htm>

## 6. Writing Opportunities

Please forward inquiries to the contacts listed below.

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### CREATIVE NONFICTION FELLOWSHIP

Deadline: May 15

The Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, a working retreat for writers, visual artists, and composers, is accepting applications for The Goldfarb Family Fellowship for Nonfiction Writers. This will be a fully funded two-week residency--valued at \$1400--where a nonfiction writer may concentrate solely on his or her creative work. As with all residencies at the VCCA, writers will be provided a private bedroom, separate studio, and three prepared meals a day in a community of twenty other artists. To apply and for more info visit <http://www.vcca.com/newdir.html>.

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### \$500 CREATIVE NONFICTION JOURNAL PRIZE

Deadline: August 1

The journal Creative Nonfiction seeks essays for a special issue devoted to all aspects of the game of baseball, to be published concurrently as a book in Southern Illinois University's Writing Baseball Series. For guidelines and more information visit <http://www.creativenonfiction.org/>

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### JOURNAL SEEKS CREATIVE NONFICTION

Ink Pot, a print journal with an on-line presence, is accepting submissions for creative nonfiction including literary memoir, literary essay, satire, parody, literary diary, and literary journalism. Ink Pot recently published Tattoo Lady, Mother, and Me, a work of

creative nonfiction by Sandra Ramos O'Briant [http://www.literarypotpourri.com/004\\_04/es\\_01.html](http://www.literarypotpourri.com/004_04/es_01.html). Please visit our web site, [www.litpot.com](http://www.litpot.com) for detailed guidelines.

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## BLACK AMERICANS IN PUBLISHING, INC. HOSTS ANNUAL CAREERS IN PUBLISHING FAIR

MAY 15, New York NY

Black Americans In Publishing, Inc., in conjunction with the Borough of Manhattan Community College Writing and Literature Degree Program and the Center for Career Development, will be holding its 2004 Book and Magazine Publishing Career Fair on Saturday, May 15, 2004, from 10:00AM to 6:00PM. The fair will be free to BMCC students with ID, \$5.00 for other students with ID, and \$10.00 for the general public.

Throughout the day we will have panels that focus on various aspects of publishing, both introducing and educating attendees about the publishing field, and a panel that focuses specifically on how to prepare for, begin, and further a career in publishing. You will also be able to meet with representatives from Human Resources departments from various publishing companies who are interested in meeting you and talking to you about their companies and the opportunities they have to offer.

The fair will be held at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, 199 Chambers Street, New York, NY, 10007. A portion of the proceeds from the Fair will be used to award a scholarship to a deserving student enrolled in Borough of Manhattan Community College, an award which will be administered through the Center for Career Development at Borough of Manhattan Community College.

BAIP encourages all who aspire to work in the industry to come to this event. We especially hope that those with concentrations in English and journalism will attend. We will have more information about the fair as the date approaches. Check the BAIP website for updates <http://www.baip.org>. Want to attend? Contact [vicepresident@baip.org](mailto:vicepresident@baip.org).

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## SANTA FE WRITERS CONFERENCE

Application Deadline: June 15

For twenty years the Santa Fe Writers Conference has brought writers together from across the country to devote time and attention to their art. In workshops, private conferences, readings, panels, craft talks, and informal discussions, accomplished writers share their experience with those learning or refining their fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Agents, editors, and publishers help acquaint new writers with the realities of creating and marketing their work; participants absorb a wealth of new ideas and information, and are able to return to their writing with renewed energy and insight.

To register and more info visit <http://www.santafewritersconference.com/>

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## ATTENTION ASPIRING MYSTERY WRITERS

Deadline: July 1st

Mysterious Press/Warner Books announces the 1st Sara Ann Freed Memorial Award for a first mystery novel. Mysterious Press plans to award a publishing contract to one

unpublished writer in the mystery genre. This award will honor the beloved Mysterious Press editor Sara Ann Freed, who passed away in June 2003. Read more at <http://www.twbookmark.com/mystery/saraannfreed.html>.

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#### \$1,010.00 FICTION PRIZE

Deadline: July 1

Word Smitten, an international literary e-zine provides interviews, reviews, and news of interest to the publishing and writing communities. We invite all writers of literary fiction to enter this annual competition. The Rule: Write a short story that requires exactly 1,010 words (excludes the title and footnotes). It's why we call this unique short story contest The TenTen. For guidelines and more info visit <http://www.wordsmitten.com>

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#### YO SOY LATINA APPEARS OFF-BROADWAY

Latino Flavored Productions Inc. presents Tuesday, July 13, 2004 through Sunday, August 01, 2004

Length: 1 hr 30 mins

Intermission: None

Seats are assigned by SmartTix based up best availability at the completion of your order. 6 ethnically and culturally diverse Latinas attend a "What is a Latina?" seminar only to find out the facilitator hasn't arrived and they wind up trying to answer the question on their own. After 3 years of sold out Off-Off Broadway shows and over 50 college performances including Harvard, Brown and Duke, these Latinas are finally bringing their inspiring message to Off-Broadway. You don't want to miss what these women have to say! And you don't have to be a Latina to experience the journey...This play is written entirely in English. For Group Discounts of 10 or more tickets call 212-868-4444. Buy Tickets now at [www.smarttix.com](http://www.smarttix.com)

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#### SEEKING INFO FOR REVISION OF LATINO HOLIDAY BOOK

My first book, The Latino Holiday Book, just turned four years old and as such, my publisher decided it was time for a revision. I will be adding four new chapters to my book, but more importantly, I will expand the coverage of Latino holiday traditions to include those of Colombians and Dominicans. The four chapters will include the historical celebrations of each group. I will incorporate religious, e.g. Christmas, as well as cultural celebrations too. The other two chapters will focus on Mother's Day and Dia de los Ninos. Any hints, tips, information, people to interview, etc. that you all think of is greatly appreciated. For instance, what are specific Mother's Day rituals that Latinos do that make the celebration unique to our culture? Muchisimas gracias, Valerie Menard [vmenard@email.com](mailto:vmenard@email.com)

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#### POET TRINIDAD SÁNCHEZ, JR

Internationally known Chicano poet Trinidad Sánchez, Jr. is author of the best seller Why Am I So Brown?, MARCH/Abrazo Press, Chicago, Ill. and Poems by Father & Son, Pecan Grove Press, St. Mary University, San Antonio, Texas. This collection of poetry

includes poems by his father, Trinidad V. Sánchez who was also a poet are now in their sixth printing and are available by writing to Adela y Abigail Productions, 3480 Grape Street, Denver, CO 80207 or writing to [trinidadjr43@hotmail.com](mailto:trinidadjr43@hotmail.com). Both books have been used as a text books by Universities and High Schools. His work is featured on several web sites most recently [www.spitjawreview.org](http://www.spitjawreview.org). He continues to lecture and read around the country and is involved with the local literary community of Denver. Poet Ted Vaca, Coordinator of Poetry Slam in Denver, has called him "One of the best Chicano Poet in Denver!" He lives in Denver with his poet wife, Regina Chávez y Sánchez.

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#### RED DRESS INK BRINGS CHICK LIT TO SPANISH-LANGUAGE READERS

Chick Lit has seen an unprecedented surge in popularity over the past three years and now Red Dress Ink, an imprint of Harlequin Enterprises Ltd., is bringing fresh, exciting Spanish-language chick-lit novels to North America. Red Dress Ink will launch their Spanish-language program in May 2004 with seven popular titles: Cita sin anestesia by Lisa Cash, Sarah en Los Angeles by Cathy Yardley, Confesiones de una ex novia by Lynda Curnyn, Un novio para Jane by Melissa Senate, Sola en la ciudad by Wendy Markham, A punto de . . . by Ariella Papa and Fashionista by Lynn Messina. For more information about the Spanish-language program, contact Tania Charzewski, Public Relations Manager, at [tania\\_charzewski@harlequin.ca](mailto:tania_charzewski@harlequin.ca). For more information about Harlequin, visit [www.eharlequin.com](http://www.eharlequin.com).

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#### LATINO WRITER CREATES NEWSLETTER FOR WRITERS

I have created a group/newsletter for anyone who is interested in reading for fun. I am going to be submitting my writings on this newsletter as well as anyone who wants to post their writings. If you have anything you want to post email it to me and I'll put it in the newsletter. I am really hoping that this will take off. Anyone is welcomed to submit anything type of writing as long as it's not in bad taste. Also I got my website up and running so check it out too. Have a great day.

Miguel Reynaga a\*k\*a Max M. Power

<http://groups.msn.com/WritingwithPower>  
[www.maxmpower.com](http://www.maxmpower.com)

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#### PLEASE SHARE

If you have an announcement about a writing contest, job opening, call for submissions, book publication, or literary event that you'd like to share, send it to me at

[marcelalandres@yahoo.com](mailto:marcelalandres@yahoo.com)

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#### DID YOU LIKE THIS NEWSLETTER?

If so, forward it to friends and colleagues. If not, take the Newsletter Survey and tell me what doesn't work and why: <http://www.marcelalandres.com/id59.htm>

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Click here to find more writing opportunities <http://www.marcelalandres.com/id24.htm>

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“What is false in the science of facts may be true in the science of values.”  
--Santayana

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