

The oldest  
Latino non profit  
organization in  
New Haven.

# JUNTA for Progressive Action

Newsletter

Summer/Fall 2005

## Our Board of Directors

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President

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Kica Matos  
Executive Director

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Angel Bruno

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Anne T. Calabresi

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Alicia Schmidt-Camacho

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Brett Dignam

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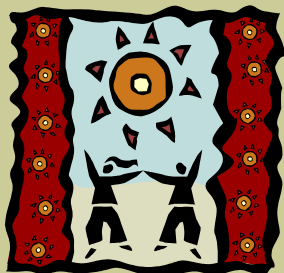
Norma Franceschi

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Paula Moody

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Angelo Reyes



## MAKE A DONATION!

JUNTA relies on private foundations, businesses, corporations and the generosity of its donors and friends to carry out its mission. We encourage you to support JUNTA's worthy programs by mailing a **tax-deductible donation** to JUNTA  
169 Grand Avenue New Haven, CT 06513-3939.

## The Director's Letter by Kica Matos

Anti-immigrant sentiment has reared its ugly head in Connecticut.

In April, Mark Boughton, mayor of Danbury, drew national attention when he requested that the state police be authorized to enforce immigration laws. Describing himself as a "reluctant warrior" he subsequently launched an attack on the city's Latino immigrant population. He has authorized additional law enforcement resources to conduct sweeps, targeting neighborhoods where the city's immigrant population lives, raiding apartments and shutting down volleyball games. At around the same time, the newly created Connecticut Citizens for Immigration Control, an anti-immigrant group, held its first ever meeting – in Danbury. Since then, the group has been working on building its membership, hosting meetings in a number of cities. New Haven is on its list.

Unlike Danbury, New Haven has chosen to welcome its immigrants. Mayor John DeStefano, a second generation American, be-

lieves in "extending the same benefits and opportunities to these folks that were extended to my parents." New Haven also has a strong network of advocates in the city who have been working hard to address issues of injustice relating to immigrants.

There is a terrible double standard in this country when it comes to the issue of immigrants, particularly the undocumented. Most pay taxes, work hard and contribute to the economic, social and cultural life of the community. Yet they are often maligned and blamed for every conceivable social ill. Until the latest wave of (Latino) immigrants started arriving in Danbury about a decade ago, the downtown, by all accounts, was moribund. Now, it is filled with stores and restaurants, with immigrants living, working and shopping there, giving the city an economic boost.

One can't help wonder if the reaction to these immigrants would have been different but for the racial, ethnic and cultural differences.

## JUNTA's Fundraising Gala is coming!

On Saturday October 22, 2005, JUNTA will celebrate its annual fundraising gala, which will be held at the Whitney Arts Center. This year, JUNTA is pleased to honor three individuals who have shown a tremendous commitment to New Haven's immigrant community: John Lugo and Guadalupe Montiel of Unidad Latina en Acción; and New Ha-

ven's Chief of Police, Francisco Ortiz.

JUNTA's parties are renowned: in addition to our excellent *mojitos*, there is live Latino music and authentic Latin food! Please join us for a night of fun and show your support to JUNTA's mission and the Latino community. For tickets or additional information, call us at (203) 787-0191.

## JUNTA is a "Champion in Action" in the Area of Youth Support

On Thursday July 7, 2005 Citizens Bank of Connecticut and WTNH-News Channel 8 named JUNTA as its first *Champion In Action™*, the new name given to the program formerly known as the Community Champions. The award recognizes "non profit organizations that champion change and make a difference in [ ] lives and communities every day." As a champion, JUNTA will receive a \$25,000 grant, as well as media coverage and extensive promotional and volunteer support. JUNTA was recognized for its outstanding youth programs, including a free afterschool and summer program that serves at-risk children in the Fair Haven neighborhood of New Haven.

"Children are an integral part of any community," said Kica Matos, JUNTA's Executive Director after receiving the award. "The children of Fair Haven need more programming in the area of youth development, as well as safe places where they can learn and thrive. We will use the resources we receive from this award to continue to provide these necessities for the children in our community." Our deepest gratitude to Citizens Bank of Connecticut and WTNH for honoring JUNTA with this distinguished gift!

## City Farmers' Market Fair Haven

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, JUNTA, GAVA and CitySeed launched the first ever City Farmers' Market Fair Haven. The Market, which is located at the scenic Quinnipiac River Park (corner of Front Street and Grand Avenue) is open every Thursday from 3PM to 7PM until October 27<sup>th</sup>.

This exciting project brings to the Fair Haven community pesticide free, organic fruit and vegetables that are produced and grown locally. The market also features "El Gran Mercado" ("The Big Market" in Spanish) offering visitors unique fair trade handicrafts made by local artisans from Latin America. All of

the artisans are beneficiaries of "The



One/Group Program", a micro-micro loan program that is part of JUNTA's economic development initiative that provides neighborhood entrepreneurs

with small loans that act as seed money to help them start-up small businesses.

Musicians have been a regular presence at the market, adding to the overall atmosphere. Since the opening of the market, there has been an added sense of community as neighborhood residents and visitors alike purchase items and interact with each other, often sitting on the lawn, listening to live music or slowly wandering along the park. All at the scenic Quinnipiac River Park!

For more information, call 777-GAVA.

## JUNTA's One/Group Program

Earlier this year, JUNTA launched a new and exciting economic development initiative: the One/Group program, aimed at nurturing local talent and entrepreneurship (see article on the Farmer's Market.) The program offers a seed loan of up to \$1,500 to qualified individuals and/or groups who want to start up a small enterprise. In addition to the loan, participants are provided with free financial literacy workshops, business consulting and free, exclusive participation in the new City Farmers' Market Fair Haven.

By providing small loans and technical assistance, neighborhood residents

are given a unique opportunity to exercise their entrepreneurial spirit, creating small businesses with the potential to grow and flourish and providing economic independence to neighborhood families as well as long-term employment and wealth to the whole community.

Four loans were administered this year, and all four recipients sell their products at the Farmer's Market (embroidery, weavings, wood sculptures and beautician services.)

For more information about this program please contact Michael Montañó at 203-787-0191 or [michael.montano@juntainc.org](mailto:michael.montano@juntainc.org)

## Thank you to Random House

Random House recently made a generous donation to JUNTA in the form of 200 Spanish-English Dictionaries and 200 Easy English Living Language Packages. This much needed gift will directly benefit the students at JUNTA's

Adult Education classes (ESL, GED and basic literacy.)

We are grateful to Random House and Josh Wright in particular.

## Coming Soon: JUNTA's Brand New Website

Axon Design and Marketing, a Portland-based design and marketing firm, recently awarded JUNTA with a \$5,000 pro-bono grant in design and marketing services.

JUNTA is the winner of the fourth quarter 2005, along with the Maine School of Science and Mathematics in Limestone, Maine. This is the third year of Axon's innovative grant competition.

The grant will be used to redesign and upgrade JUNTA's web site, making it more professional and user friendly. The new website, which is expected to be finished by late September, will have many new and interactive features, allowing visitors to give JUNTA feedback on its activities, sign up for events or join its mailing list. We thank Axon Design and Marketing for providing us with this wonderful opportunity!