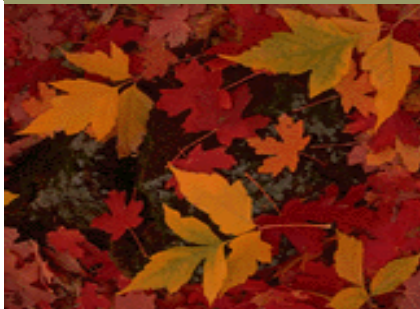


JUNTA for Progressive Action

Newsletter, Fall 2005



Kica Matos, JUNTA's Executive Director, receives the 2005 JFK New Frontier Award

On Wednesday October 26, Kica Matos, JUNTA's Executive Director, was presented with the John F. Kennedy New Frontier Award at a ceremony that took place at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston. The award was also given to Illinois Attorney General, Lisa Madigan.

The New Frontier Awards are co-sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation and the Harvard Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government. They were created to "honor Americans under the age of 40 who are changing their communities – and the country – with their commitment to public service. The two awards are presented annually to two

exceptional individuals (one holding elected office and one working in non-elective community service or advocacy) whose contributions ...

kenedy." The awardees were presented with a ship's navigational compass in a wooden box bearing an inscription.



From left to right: Lisa Madigan, Carolyn Kennedy and Kica Matos

demonstrate the impact and the value of public service in the spirit of John F. Ken-

(Continues on page 2)

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pierrette C. Silverman
President

Kica Matos
Executive Director

Angel Bruno

Anne T. Calabresi

Alicia Schmidt-Camacho

Brett Dignam

Norma Franceschi

Paula Moody

Angelo Reyes

CONTACT US!

169 Grand Avenue
New Haven, CT 06513
(p) 203-787-0191
(f) 203-787-4934
www.juntainc.org
junta@juntainc.org

THE OLDEST LATINO NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION IN NEW HAVEN

A GREENER JUNTA

JUNTA now has a fully renewed garden as a result of a collaborative project and a challenge presented by the Lewis G. Schaeneman Foundation.

JUNTA's garden lay dormant after tests administered revealed that the garden contained lead. Earlier in the year, JUNTA was presented with a \$5,000 matching grant by the Lewis G. Schaeneman Foundation, which could be met in cash or with in-kind contributions. Ana De Santiago, JUNTA's Coordinator for Education and Community Outreach, in thinking about

ways to improve JUNTA's Afterschool program, focused on the idea of educational gardening and took on the challenges of renewing the garden while simultaneously meeting the Schaeneman challenge.

She found invaluable support and help from Alexis Brown, who at the time was completing her certification in master gardening. Together, Ana and Alexis worked on a plan that included a lead removal strategy and the best ways to re-design the garden and obtain volunteer support and contributions. Through sheer

hard work and determination, they were able to generate an impressive amount of support for the garden, including in kind donations of materials and plants, the volunteer work of a professional landscaper and other outdoor gardening enthusiasts, educators from the afterschool program and supporters of JUNTA. Every single weekend during the summer, the volunteer crew dedicated 4 to 5 hours of work in the garden.

(Continues on page 2)

A WAVE WITH NO CREST



On Saturday October 22, JUNTA celebrated its 36th anniversary and annual fundraising gala. Titled "A Wave with No Crest", the gala was a celebration of human migration and a recognition of the invaluable contributions of immigrants to New Haven and the country.

JUNTA board member and Yale University professor Alicia Schmidt-Camacho made introductory remarks about the theme of migration. "The United States has never come to terms with being a nation built on the mobility of poor people," she stated. "A school textbook might speak of waves of people reaching American shores. Now, just as the global traffic of peoples across borders has reached its height -- to become the wave

that has no crest -- it is no longer possible to address the immigrant and the sojourner as partakers in our national story." In the spirit of its theme, JUNTA was proud 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 Acci3n; and New Haven's Chief of Police, Francisco Ortiz. When receiving his award, Chief Ortiz spoke of the commitment by the New Haven Police Department to "treat our community" -- including the immigrant community -- "with absolute respect and integrity."

The party, which started at 7 PM and went on until near midnight, was

crowded and lively. Guests enjoyed the delicious Latin food buffet and the live Latin music. JUNTA signature drink -- the *mojito* was as popular as ever, creating long lines at the bar and keeping our volunteer bartenders busy all night.

Sponsors for the event included Bank of America, the Hospital of Saint Raphael, IUOE, The L. Suzio Concrete Company, New Alliance Bank, Registro, United Illuminating Company, Universal Healthcare Foundation of CT, Yale-New Haven Hospital and the Yale Office of New Haven and State Affairs. Funds raised during the party will directly benefit JUNTA's programs and help the organization further its mission.

Kica Matos, JUNTA's Executive Director, receives the 2005 JFK New Frontier Award

(Cont') The New Frontier Award is named after President Kennedy's challenge to Americans given at his acceptance speech during the 1960 Democratic National Convention: "We stand on the edge of a New Frontier... a frontier of unknown opportunities and perils -- a frontier of unfulfilled hopes and threats. The New Frontier of which I speak is not a set of promises -- it is a set of challenges. It sums up not what I intend to offer the American people, but what I intend to ask of them. It appeals to their pride, not their pocketbook... Beyond that frontier are the uncharted areas of science and space, unsolved problems of peace and war, unconquered pockets of ignorance and prejudice, unanswered questions of poverty and surplus. It would be easier to shrink back from that frontier, to look to the safe mediocrity of the past, to be lulled by good intentions and high rhetoric... but I believe the times demand

new invention, innovation, imagination, decision. I am asking each of you to be pioneers of that new Frontier."

The formal ceremony was preceded by a private luncheon at which Ms. Matos and Ms. Madigan spoke about why they got into public service. The awards presentation took place at 2:30 pm before a capacity crowd prior to a Kennedy Library Forum with CBS News Anchor Walter Cronkite. In presenting the awards, Caroline Kennedy stated that "Lisa Madigan and Kica Matos have shown idealism, compassion, and hard work toward the public challenges facing this nation. We need more people like them to guide us through the difficult times ahead. They are role models and inspirations to the young women, young Americans, and everyone who cares about our world."

A greener JUNTA

(Cont') They removed soil and debris from the old garden, brought in new soil, built raised beds, planted herbs and flowers, built a compost and designed a garden serving multiple uses, including educational gardening for the youth in the after school program and residents of the community. The results? A stunning new garden and a successful match of the Schaeeneman challenge. During the spring and summer of 2006, Ana will introduce a gardening class where the youth will learn about the environment and gardening,

and will plant vegetables, herbs and flowers in the raised beds. She will also engage in community outreach efforts in order to encourage local families to plant their own vegetables and teach their children about the art of gardening.

JUNTA is grateful for the support and generosity of Alexis Brown, William Brown, the New Haven Land Trust, the Hamden Garden Center and the volunteers who so generously gave of their time. JUNTA also thanks the Lewis G. Schaeeneman Foundation for creating an



opportunity to bring together the community while contributing to the well being of the neighborhood and the organization.

DONATE TO JUNTA! 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 for Progressive Action Attention: Kica Matos, Executive Director 169 Grand Avenue New Haven, CT 06513-3939. Thank you!