

SCOW NEWSLETTER

Summer 2014

Summer Mariachi and Ballet Folkloriko Festival 14' by Evangeline Mendoza



Daisy Lopez, 17, member of MAC, performing with Marichi Mexico Antiguo of Las Vegas.

The Mariachi Academy of Connecticut (MAC), operating under the auspices of SCOW, had a blast presenting its 1st Annual Mariachi Festival, a weeklong event of traditional mariachi music and dance.

Thanks to the generosity of the local community and primary support of the Knights of Columbus, Mariachi Mexico Antiguo (MMA), a professional Mariachi ensemble from Las Vegas, came to offer their talents and expertise to the 50 students of *La Escuela Guadalupeana de Música* at SCOW.

These talented artists, members of MMA, flew to Connecticut, covering their own ticket expenses, to offer a 5-day mariachi workshop for the student musicians and dancers at SCOW. The students were able to enhance their vocal and musical techniques in instruments such as violin, harp, trumpets and ukulele, which are essential in the Mariachi music tradition.

Música at SCOW.

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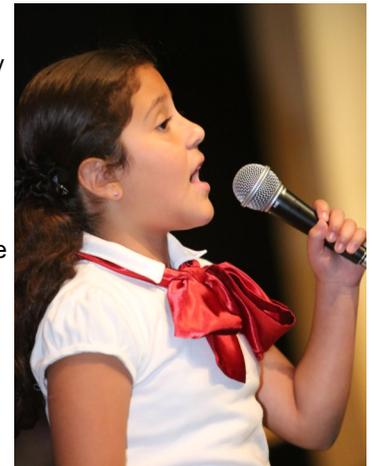
"Our children are learning life long lessons, not just in music, but also in kindness, generosity and sharing." (Maria Harlow, SCOW Executive Director).

During the weeklong festival, these artists delighted the Wallingford and New Haven communities by showcasing in different venues.

They were also joined by the Grammy award-winning Jesus "Chuy" Guzman at the *Fiesta Mariachi*, a community and family event that took place in Wallingford. Three Mariachi masses were offered in Brooklyn, Wallingford and New Haven.

The festival's central event "Celebrating Mariachi" featured performances by all the music students of *La Escuela*, the folkloric dancers, the MAC, and the MMA. The evening was a festive occasion celebrating mariachi in all its traditional color, joy, and passion.

The festival was deemed a success by the SCOW community, who is grateful to Mariachi Mexico Antiguo, our supporters, donors, volunteers, and Hispanic families, who offered their devoted work and, above all, believed in this project. We hope we can count on your participation next year to help this splendid festival grow.



Alondra Lopez, 9, singing "Los Laureles."



SCOW's Ballet folklórico also performed at Worthington Hooker School in New Haven.

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Photos courtesy by Ray Ross Photography



Jailene Ruiz, 14, member of the Adelante America program, posing for the pre-event photo shoot.

SCOW's mission is to enable Latino Community to succeed in U.S. society and maintain and share their rich varied cultures.



Alexandra M. Long, new board member, is proud of her Spanish heritage.

Creativity shines through at Junk Couture Fashion Show 14' by Anthony Ruiz

The 2nd Annual Junk Couture Fashion Show was an amazing experience. It started off way back in February when Adriana, our program coordinator, mentioned it and we began thinking of ideas on what we wanted to make. It took a lot of work and effort to design and make our actual outfits, but it was really fun. Have you ever thought of making an outfit out of recycled items? Honestly, I didn't, but I was surprised to see the results and what my Adelante friends created. For my modern outfit I used tabs and newspapers. On June 12th, this project finally took place and many people attended. It was really fun to walk down the runway!

The musical performance of the "Estomp"



"Estomp" Group was inspired by the internationally recognized Stomp Theatrical Show.

group was also amazing. They made their instruments from recycled items and wore outfits that we created for them. I don't think I would have done something like this if it wasn't because of Adelante, the best program I have ever been a part of. I was told by many who attended how much they enjoyed the show, and that we were a very creative and unique group.

I just want to add that Adelante 2014 was truly a great experience and I hope to be part of Adelante 2015. I want to thank Adriana for all her hard work and dedication; she is truly an inspiration for us.

Photos courtesy by B. Cadett Photography and Leonardo Photography

Changes in SCOW's Board by Steve Knight

SCOW is proud to introduce another new Board member: Alexandra M. Long. Alex, as she is known to her friends, is the Coordinator of Campus Events at Choate Rosemary Hall School.

When asked how she became interested in SCOW, Alex responded: "Ever since I came in contact with SCOW during their first Noche de Musica, I have seen how dedicated they are to their mission and the important work they do. And with my Spanish heritage, I felt I could



Peter J. Escobar, Board Chairman.

make a strong contribution to that effort."

At the same time that Alex joined SCOW, our agency elected new officers for the 2014-2015 year. Peter Escobar assumed the

Chairmanship from Patricia Cymbala. Steve Knight, Dan Needham and Karen Grava remain as Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.

Everyone connected with SCOW extends a heartfelt *Mil Gracias* to Patricia. She has led our agency through a complete transformation in the five years she has been Chair. We would not be the organization we are today without Patricia's experience, perseverance and spirit. She will remain as a member of the Board.

***Bebes Activos* aims to develop children's skills** by Monica Vargas

SCOW is proud to host *Bebes Activos*. This is a bilingual playgroup created by the Wallingford Early Childhood Alliance Resource Education (WE.CARE) that encourages parents, grandparents and caregivers of pre-school age children to help them learn through play.



Mothers learn how to use inexpensive materials to help their children develop their psychomotor skills.

Helping children to listen to stories and songs is a great way to help them build their language skills as well as preparing to begin their school programs.

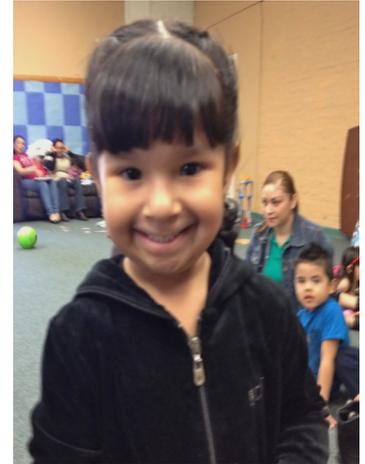
Thanks to the support of the Wallingford Youth and Social Services Department, the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund and the State of Connecticut this program has been offered free of cost to Wallingford residents.

Also a heartfelt thank you to Roberta Clouet, Project Coordinator of WE CARE, who brought this program to reality, and who with her committed work and devotion have improved not only lives of Wallingford

children, but also their mothers.

Maria Ruiz, Project Assistant, has been involved with *Bebes Activos* for over 10 years, when she started as an attendant parent. She says the program helps other mothers to develop confidence, so they can be role models for their children, while they learn to interact with others.

The 2014 –2015 *Bebes Activos* program will begin again on September 4th. Being a parent is hard work, but it can be fun if you learn to play with your children!



Reading time and hands on crafts, among other activities, help children follow learning routines.

SAVE THE DATE! by Steve Knight

On October 10th, there will be two events taking place for the benefit of our agency.

During the morning and early afternoon, there will be a golf tournament organized by Nucor Steel Connecticut, the benefits of which will be donated to our organization so that we can continue our mission of improving the lives of Hispanic residents in our area. This is their second annual golf tournament, and it will be held at Lyman Orchards. While SCOW has been involved in the planning of the event, the vast majority of effort has come from Nucor teammates, and we would like to acknowledge and thank them for their effort.

That same day in the evening, beginning at 6:30 pm, our 3rd Annual Noche de Musica concert will take place at the Paul Mellon Arts Center at Choate Rosemary Hall School. As in the past, the featured entertainers are the Villalobos Brothers, a trio of virtuoso violinists, singer-songwriters, composers, and multi-talented instrumentalists, whose artistry must be seen to be believed. Every attendant to either of the two previous *Noche de Musica* concerts will happily attest to this.

The Villalobos Brothers, have performed at the Latin Grammy® Awards, and in many historical venues such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the New York Mets field and the United Nations.

This event inaugurates Choate Rosemary Hall School's school-year-long list of cultural and musical events, and their willingness to become so deeply involved in this concert is a source of tremendous pride for us.



Villalobos Brothers performing as winners of The Greene Space's Battle of Boroughs, New York, 2013.

**Join us for our upcoming fundraisers:
Nucor Golf Tournament and "Noche de Musica", both on October 10th.**

Swim classes fundraising

SCOW extends special thanks to Samuel Brown, an E-Club Rotarian, who both donated money this summer to allow six mothers and six children to take swimming classes and also raised additional money allowing four more individuals to participate in the swimming lessons at Faulkner Physical Therapy. His generosity and that of Faulkner's is very deeply appreciated.



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SPANISH COMMUNITY OF WALLINGFORD

Thanks for the readership!
 If you have any suggestion or comments, please reach
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