

WELCOME! ¡Bienvenidos!

Early this month, on June 3rd WHY? jointly with The Inquirer held the “Globalization: Making the Local Connection” forum. This was part two of an earlier event of May 18th, “The Impact of Globalization on the Regional Economy”. On May 1st, the first component of this series, the “Impact of Immigration on the Philadelphia Region” forum was hosted, all part of the **Impact of Globalization on Philadelphia** project organized by MacNeil/Lehrer Productions, a local media entity. Undoubtedly, immigrants and immigration are hot!

It is nice to get a welcome to Philadelphia, even 150 years after the fact. Finally, is a good thing. Some of the topics considered were a Regional office for New Philadelphians, types of assistance new arrivals need, which departments can best address these issues, wage-law and workplace safety abuses by employers, recruiting and retaining highly skilled immigrants & foreign students, among others. Also fair game for discussion were international players like NAFTA, FTAA, WTO, G-8, IMF, GATT – as they seem to be setting in motion “global forces which are transforming the region.” Homeland Security, exporting jobs, and immigration have traditionally been foreign to Philadelphia, but globalization has arrived.

One forum was organized in a workshop format, with the attendees breaking up into separate groups to discuss one particular topic per group. The other two were in panel format, with a question and answer session at the end. The panel of presenters was spearheaded by Richard Bendis, president of Innovation Philadelphia, new member of the HChamber.

The outcome of all this discussion can only be good for the Hispanic community and other ‘minorities’ of the region, and long over due. Let’s keep an eye out and see what happens. You might think three forums on more or less the same topic would be enough to sort some things out, but it seems it was only enough to wet everyone’s appetite, and the audience left demanding more time. A follow up to the follow up is being planned.

NEW ERA FOR THE GPHCC:

This month Luis Cruz, president of the Hispanic Chamber had opportunity to meet with Paul Vallas, CEO of the Philadelphia School District along with Nilsa Gonzalez Deputy of Community Services from the School Management office and John Venti, Procurement Manager for the school district. The topic of the meeting was the HChamber’s interest in its members getting a fair share of the available contracts with the district for professional services, construction, suppliers, and others. Mr. Cruz expressed concern over the apparent lack of representation of the Hispanic businesses sector in the allotment of city contracts in general. Mr. Vallas stated he “shares the commitment to promote the Latino community and Hispanic Business.”

Mr. Cruz is proprietor of a construction firm, Cruz Inc., in Philadelphia since 1989. He has received an Outstanding Community Service Award from the state of Pennsylvania, a Most Developed Contractor Award from GPUAC in 2001, as well as other recognition of his involvement with and contribution to the development of neighborhoods and employment opportunities within the Hispanic communities. He understands first hand the challenges unique to minority owned start-up firms. That is why he sees collaboration with city officials like Mr. Vallas as crucial to the continued growth of Hispanic businesses in our area.

Other activities aimed at the mayor’s office addressing similar issues are planned for this month by both Mr. Ben Ramos, director of the HChamber, and Mr. Cruz.

Infórmate:

- En México participan mas de 30 países en la III Cumbre América Latina y el Caribe-Unión Europea (UE), que se realiza el viernes y el sábado 21 y 22 de Mayo en la central ciudad de Guadalajara.

- Los G-8 se reúnen en EE UU Junio 8-10

- Se firma un acuerdo de libre comercio con 5 países de centro América el 28 de Mayo; pero aun no es ley...

Puede buscar más información sobre estos eventos en el WWWeb.

Business Opportunity: Ojo:

Showcase your business or even yourself, and let everyone know what a difference you have made in the Hispanic business community. Inspire others to achieve success such as yours and keep the spirit of “free enterprise” going strong. All United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) members in “good standing” are encouraged to submit nominations for the Annual USHCC Regional & National Hispanic Leadership & Business Excellence Awards. These prestigious awards are given each year to extraordinary Hispanic chambers and businesses, as well as Corporate and Government Advocates that have attained or contributed to business excellence and leadership. The award also pays tribute to illustrious achievements and innovations that have made a measurable impact on the economic development of the nation’s Hispanic community. Visit www.ushcc.com for criteria information.

Deadline is June 30th (postmarked).

The GPHCC Staff & Board

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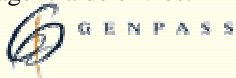
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Language Corner

“...Peace is not only a matter of noble words... We need deeds that will respect those words, honor those commitments, abide by those laws” - President Oscar Arias Sanchez of Costa Rica, address on receiving the Nobel Peace Prize

Member of the Month: *De lo Mejor...*

Genpass es una empresa de tecnología bancaria con alrededor de 25 años efectuando el procesamiento de cajeros automáticos y tarjetas de débito. La compañía ha lanzado un producto innovador al mercado llamado PayCard. PayCard es una tarjeta de débito que le ahorrará tiempo y dinero reemplazando a los engorrosos cheques de nómina por un rápido y barato depósito electrónico. Sus empleados no necesitan contar con una cuenta bancaria. Reciben el pago en su cuenta PayCard y pueden usar la tarjeta en cualquier cajero o para realizar compras. PayCard esta protegida con una clave secreta. Si se extravía simplemente se reemplaza y los fondos se mantienen intactos. Aparte de estas ventajas, el empleado puede enviar una tarjeta adicional a sus parientes en el extranjero y transferirles fondos instantáneamente por teléfono o Internet. Los familiares usan la segunda tarjeta para retirar el dinero de la mayoría de los cajeros alrededor de Latino América y el costo es mucho menor al de cualquier agencia de envíos.



Para obtener más información sobre PayCard y como puede beneficiar a su empresa, llame a Genpass y comuníquese con César Ordóñez al : (610) 212-7642.



Please remember to contact the HChamber to tell us about your business, to be featured in this section.

HISPANIC LOBBY DAY

Early this month Mr. Ben Ramos and Mr. Luis Cruz rounded up a posse of Hispanic Chamber members to descend on unsuspecting council men and women at city hall. The issue at hand was a proposal for city and state funding for the Technical Support Center planned by the HChamber, plus the age old matter of representation and inclusion for all contingencies, in funding, procurement, and all commerce issues here in Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley Region. This is the time for jockeying for funding by anyone seeking funding and contract allotments from the city & state.

MEMBERSHIP *¡Únete!*

The GPHCC exists as an advocacy group for Hispanic businesses & functions as a bridge to the greater business community at large. As a member you will have access to important people, events and tools to help you grow your business. There are various levels of membership. Benefits include discount programs, health insurance programs, networking events, our monthly newsletter, among others. Please visit our website or contact our offices for complete info on membership and to obtain a brochure and application package.

NEW MEMBERS: *Los Nuevos...*

**Innovation Philadelphia
Genpass
Royal Bay Mortgage, Inc**

¿QUE PASA? Upcoming Calendar:

- June 10th** – PENNDOT's DBE Seminar
Cheney University – Urban C.
701 Market Street 3rd flr.
- June 17th** – Networking: Forging Alliances
8001 Roosevelt Blvd.
Coqui Ballroom 6pm-8pm
- June 30th** – Networking: Commerce Bank
5:30-7:30 - 2520 Grant Ave.
- July 1-4** – Philadelphia Salsa Congress
Lowe's Hotel 215-225-6357
- July 5th** – World Salsa Competition @
Kimmel Center - \$25,000. GP
267-342-3619
- June 27th** – San Juan Bautista Parade
11am – 4pm
- July 17th** – Networking Event – Hispanic Artists Exhibit – Details to be announced
- July 30th** – Regional Networking Event -
Riverboat Queen – Delaware Ave.

Please go to the HChamber website for event info: philahispanicchamber.org

Professional Training for Bilinguals

If you are bilingual, you can train to become an interpreter & translator. A Certificate summer program is beginning in July. The program is short, the earnings good as a language specialist. The course is not language specific. Center City location. Contact info@languagetank.com for more info.

EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS *¡Las Ultimas!*

Business Expo Exhibit –



LETICIA ROA-NIXON

Carolina, Ben & helpers at the HC exhibit, Philadelphia Business Expo 2004, Convention Center. A Successful turnout for the nearly 300 businesses exhibiting this year on May 12th.

Hispanic Yellow Pages Awards –



LETICIA ROA-NIXON

Arturo Suarez (left), president of The Hispanic Yellow Pages & and guest at the HYP Awards held at the Annenberg Center of Pennsylvania University on May 13th and hosted by Mr. Suarez. The awards presentation & the Edgar Joel concert were well worth the wait.

Procurement Work shop –



LETICIA ROA-NIXON

Rebecca Smallwood (center), Director of Small Business Development for the school district, at the “Win at the contracting Game” workshop on procurement organized by the Hispanic Chamber, held at Nueva Esperanza School in North Philadelphia on May 11th.

Energy Conference in July

The U.S. Department of Energy is holding the **5th Annual Small Business Conference** on July 6th through 9th at the Marriott Hotel. A Match Making Forum for 500 million dollars worth of contracting is planned.