



HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 4: NUMBER 8.....AUGUST, 2009

Local and International

Our community displays particular interest in works by local and regional writers, both fiction and non-fiction. Few works are as local as the writings of Denise Chávez. She was born and raised in Las Cruces, graduated from NMSU, and eventually became a professor at NMSU. Her early career was as a playwright but she is now best known for her short stories and novels. Her work focuses on her experiences as a Chicana in southern New Mexico. To read her fiction is to delve deeply into the culture of Mexican American women.

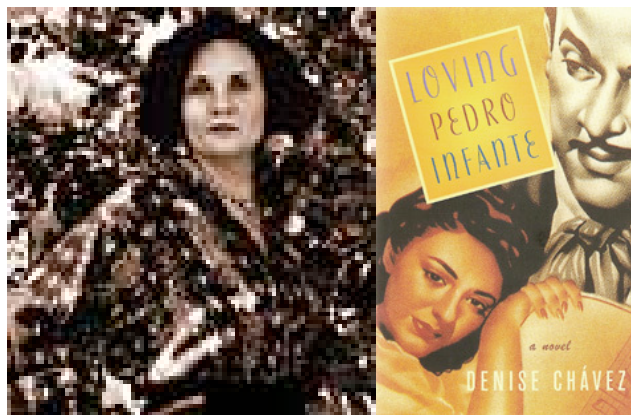
Featured This Month:

Loving Pedro Infante by Denise Chávez

This novel is Chávez's fourth book of fiction. It is a narrative of romantic longing and impulsive searching for love. It is a story of barely controlled -- sometimes out-of-control -- obsession and fantasy, as communicated in the first two sentences of the work: *In the darkness of El Colón movie theater, larger than life and superimposed on a giant screen, Pedro Infante, the Mexican movie star, stares straight at me with his dark, smoldering eyes. It is here in the sensuous shadows that I forget all about my life as Teresina "La Tere" Ávila, teacher's aide at Cabritoville Elementary School.*

Pedro Infante was a Mexican singing movie star whose life ended tragically at the age of 40 in a 1957 plane crash. His stature among adoring fans parallels that of Elvis Presley (and surely soon Michael Jackson), including rumors that he in fact survived and is periodically seen as a disfigured old man. Tere is the secretary of the local fan club, which meets regularly at her best friend's home. The members of the club, ten women and one gay man, assess their lives in comparison to the on-screen adventures and romances of Pedro. Tere's minutes of the club meetings, the full content of several scattered chapters, are absolutely hilarious.

This is Tere's story, told in first person, often in stream-of-consciousness fashion, a tale of lust anxiety, rejection, and dreaming. Tere is a divorced woman in her thirties who for much of the novel is involved with a married man, an involvement linked almost exclusively to meeting in a motel room when the man wishes. Tere recognizes, at times, the futility of this relationship, but the attachment is obsessive, even creepy. The reader may at times want to shake Tere and scream at her to wake up



and face facts. Tere tells her story in colloquial language, funny, poignant, and spicy as good green chile. Her narrative is laced with local Spanish but not excessively so. The reader who knows no Spanish should have no problem but may miss some of the humor. Consulting a dictionary will be useful to locals.

Introduction and review by Garland Bills

Library Board Notes:

Appreciations to everyone who contributed their grocery receipts in the Bullocks Cash for Clubs program. The Library collected over \$10,000 in receipts good for more than \$200 in new book purchases. THANK YOU ALL!

The Library Bake Sale is on again! First Saturday of the month from 10:00-1:00 at the Post Office. Satisfy your sweet tooth and support the Library!

For a complete listing of Library materials, visit <http://www.zianet.com/hbolib>

Bookmobile: Wednesday, August 19
Hillsboro, 1:00–2:00 pm Kingston, 2:30 – 3:30pm

Library Hours:
Sunday & Monday: closed
Tues. 6:30 – 8:30pm Wed. 1:00 – 4:00pm
Thurs: 6:30–8:30pm Fri: 10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday 10:00am–2:00pm

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