

Some information in this research is provided by the Mexican American Historical Society of the Midlands.

MAHS Mission:

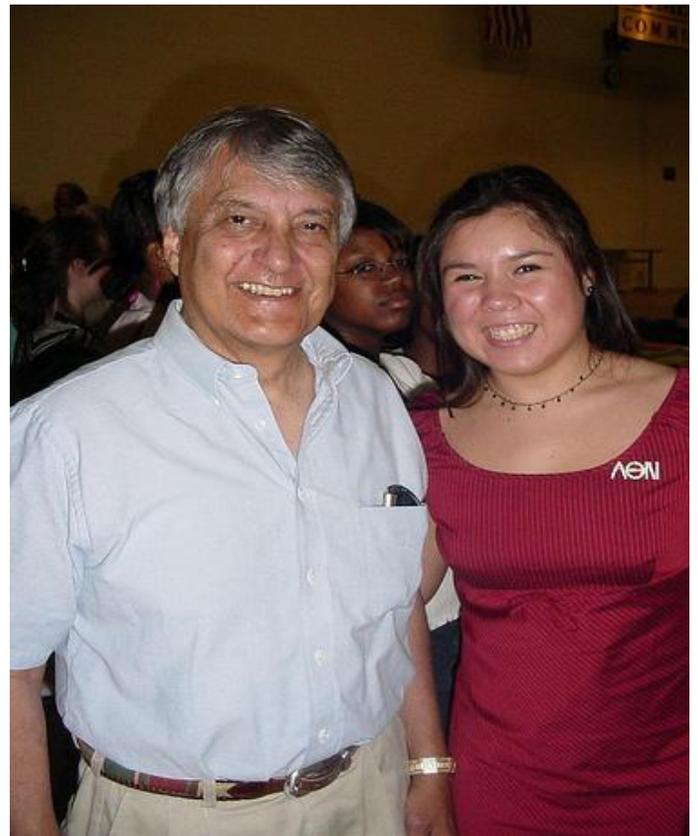
The Mexican American Historical Society of the Midlands MAHS is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) corporation organized to create an awareness of the rich legacy built by the presence of Mexican Americans in the Midlands. MAHSM believes that an awareness of our history identifies us as a people and connects us to the American experience.



Dr. Jim Ramirez For 40 years he's used his experience to give people the tools they need for success. As a Latino, his focus is on kids from his culture, one he has deep ties to. A former Nebraska Hispanic Man of the Year and grand marshal of Omaha's Cinco de Mayo parade, Ramirez supports his people as advocate, facilitator, community board member and bridge builder – bringing diverse people together to address problems and realize dreams.

He worked in all areas of meat packing including management for 14 years while getting his PHD. He counceled many South High students to success and shaped many organizations in the area. This article explains his contribution:

<http://leoadambiga.com/2010/08/01/jim-ramirez-a-man-of-the-people/>



Men's Soccer League or The Three Stars of the South High Soccer Team 2013 that took state with a 23-0 record



The Livestock Exchange Building is now a place of healing for low income people called the One World Health Clinic.

Before that, the One World Health Clinic was once the

Indian Chicano Health center

, which grew out of the Chicano Awareness Center that can be traced back to a meeting of 8 Mexican Americans in 1971. That group consisting of Al Rodríguez, Joe Ramírez, Joe García, Gregorio Aguilera, Linda García, Paul Márquez, Stan Porras, and Larry Barrientos started a conversation which led to beginning the C.A.C. They started it with their own modest funds and a passion for change. Going deeper we find an even more unlikely story. The Pastor that was a force behind this group, The Reverend Carlos Guzman, came from Mexico when he was 18 after his father, who was a pastor as well, was shot while addressing his congregation. Think about how the courage of an 18 year old Mexican boy after seeing his father shot for being a leader comes to America and formed a community of faith and imagination that together with a small group of dedicated ordinary individuals with very little resources created a movement that now has to be housed in the massive building created to symbolize the Livestock exchange that once overshadowed everything in South Omaha.

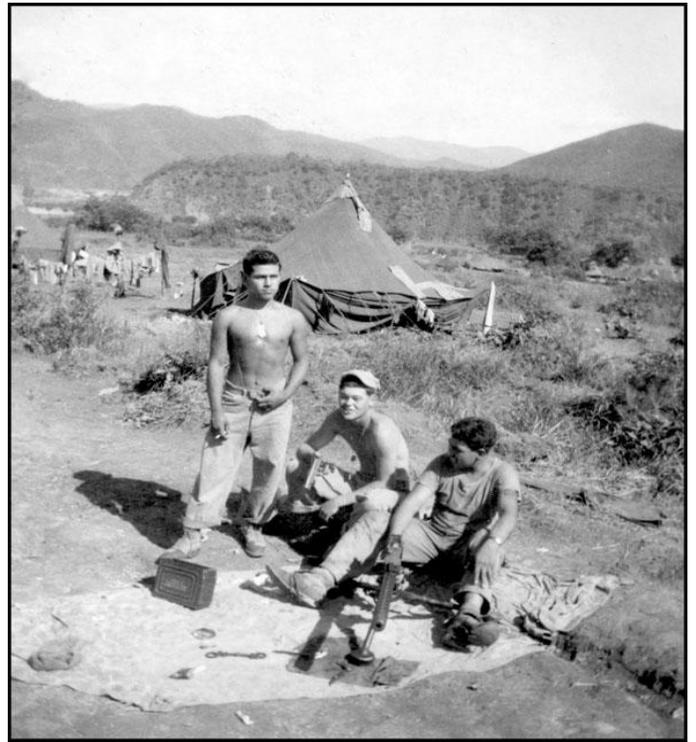


Cinco De Mayo We talked about how there were posters of this event in 1935 and it has been larger or smaller from year to year in the past. It is often one of the fondest memories of Mexican community members in South Omaha



Ed Babe Gomez -

Gomez, an Omaha native, attended South High School and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps reserves at 17. He was called to active duty with the 1st Marine Division in Korea. During a fateful 1951 battle he repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire as an Easy Company ammunition bearer. When a hostile grenade landed amidst his squad, he sacrificed himself by absorbing the explosion.



Miguel Keith Puente

Keith, a San Antonio, Texas native, moved to Omaha, where he attended North High. He fought as a Marine Corps machine gunner in Vietnam.

During a 1971 attack he was hit multiple times but kept fighting to protect his unit's command post until mortally wounded.



Gregero Aguelero owned
the **Tres Banderas Pool
Hall** and was the go to guy for connecting
Mexican people with jobs in the meat packing
plants. He was also not shy at advocating for
the rights of the Mexican workers.



Agulero is the tall one on the right

Rev. Carlos Guzman Fluent in
four languages, Pastor Guzman conducted services
for 20
years at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Omaha in
both English and Spanish. His leadership and support
helped make possible a number of ministries located
in Omaha: The Indian/Chicano Health Center, the
Chicano Awareness Center, the Omaha Lutheran
Pantry, and the
Nebraska/Mexican American Commission. He was
also instrumental in organizing the Mexican Lutheran
Church. In 1971 the Chicano Awareness Center
established the Indian Chicano Health Center (IHC)
on the property donated by the Gethsemane
Lutheran Church. It was the wood house that had
been the residence of Rev. Carlos Guzman and his
family. They called on doctors and dentists to
provide volunteer services. Initial funding was
provided by the LAC, the Catholic Archdiocese
through its charity agency, United Catholic Social
Services, and private donations (Newgren, 1996).
Food drives, collection of staples, and distribution to
needy families have been an ongoing outreach
program at Gethsemane since the days of Guzman's
stewardship.



Reverend Roberto

Navarro, Rev. Roberto Navarro was

appointed by ALC to replace Guzman at Gethsemane. A native from Puebla, Mexico, Navarro ,... Fresh out of seminary, he began his ministry in 1969. Navarro was swayed by the militant effervescence of the 1960s and came to believe that the Mexican Americans in Omaha should move forward with a more proactive role in claiming their identity and place in the community... Navarro was elected as the Chicano Awareness Center first director and presided over the institution for the next fourteen months on a voluntary basis (CAC, nd.) Navarro and the organizers of the community did not stop with the CAC. In that same year the CAC established the Indian Chicano Health Center (IHC)



the Mexican American Commission/Nebraska Latino American Commission, founded by Rev. Navarro

The Latino American Commissions was first established as the Mexican American Commission with the passage of LB1081 during the 1972 legislature.

On July 15, 2010, LB139 officially went into effect, and with it, changed the Commission's name for the first time in its' nearly forty year history. The Latino American Commission continues serving as a link between the Nebraska State Government and the Hispanic/Latino Community. We continue to assist our constituents through empowerment and referrals. The Latino American Commission is

comprised of nine commissioners from across the State of Nebraska, and one commissioner serving as the Governor's representative.



the Indian Chicano Health Clinic (that later became One World health clinic)

was established as a volunteer, free clinic in 1970 to address health access issues of patients with financial, cultural and linguistic barriers to care.

OneWorld is now the largest provider of primary health care services in South Omaha and is the only primary care clinic that has a majority bilingual and bicultural staff, a sliding fee scale for patients without insurance, entitlement enrollment, on-site pharmacy, vision and other services.

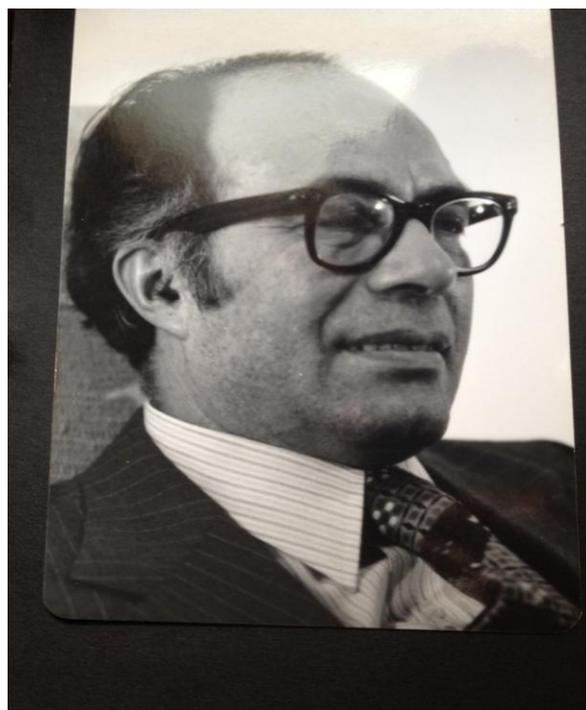


The Latino Center of the Midlands,

formerly known as the **Chicano Awareness Center (CAC)**, was organized in 1971 when Navarro called for a meeting to assess the state of affairs. Present at this meeting were Al Rodríguez, Joe Ramírez, Joe García, Gregorio Aguilera, Linda García, Paul Márquez, Stan Porrás, and Larry Barrientos... Once they studied the population with which they wanted to work and serve, they went on to target the major areas of concern. That is, they considered where Latinos had been disregarded. These were health care, education, employment, housing, and discrimination. Navarro concluded, 30 The first step was the creation of an organization that could voice and advocate for the Latinos, and they did. They named the organization the Chicano Awareness Center (CAC), which was officially incorporated in 1971. With their own funds they rented a storefront at 25th and Q Streets (Harding, 2005). Navarro was elected as its first director and presided over the institution for the next fourteen months on a voluntary basis



José Ramirez-this man was one of the only Mexican nationals who stayed in the neighborhood helping people...he is most noted for fighting for Spanish mass...also held a number of administrative positions in social service agencies before directing the Chicano Awareness Center.



Jose and Linda Garcia

lead the Mexican American Historical Society of the Midlands and head up the Day of the Dead Art Show.

Jose and Linda Garcia live and breathe Latino art, culture, and history, devoting much of their lives to researching, collecting, exhibiting, and preserving it. This Omaha couple embody a passion and magnificent obsession in what they do. Linda did a large number of illustrations for the Chicano organizations of the 70s and beyond. She has taught hundreds of children about many things including Mexican crafts. Linda is in this first group of leaders photo shot in the newly opened Chicano Awareness Center.



the G.I. Forum

October 8, 1957, Fourteen Latino veterans living in Omaha formed The Omaha Chapter of the American G.I. Forum. Keeping the Omaha Chapter was tough, but the veterans sacrificed their homes, money, and free time. Many Mexican-American families lived in Omaha as well as Latino veterans. Thanks to the help from Dr. Garcia, the Omaha veterans were able to receive equal rights as well as education that would benefit the Mexican-American community.

Founded in 1948 in Corpus Christi, Texas, Dr. Hector Perez Garcia formed the American G.I. Forum as an organization determined to advocate for the rights of Mexican American military veterans. Dr. Garcia served as a medical doctor in the United States Army during WW II and experienced sentiments of racism among many soldiers. He decided to form the American G.I. Forum as a post-war response to unfair treatment of Mexican American military veterans. Upon returning from World War II, many Mexican American military veterans faced discrimination as they sought to re-acclimate to civilian life. As Henry A.J. Ramos states in his book on the history of the American G.I. Forum, "If Mexican Americans had fought for this nation against the forces of barbarism and inequality abroad, then surely they would combat the persistence of these forces back home as they affected their families and communities."



Gethsemane

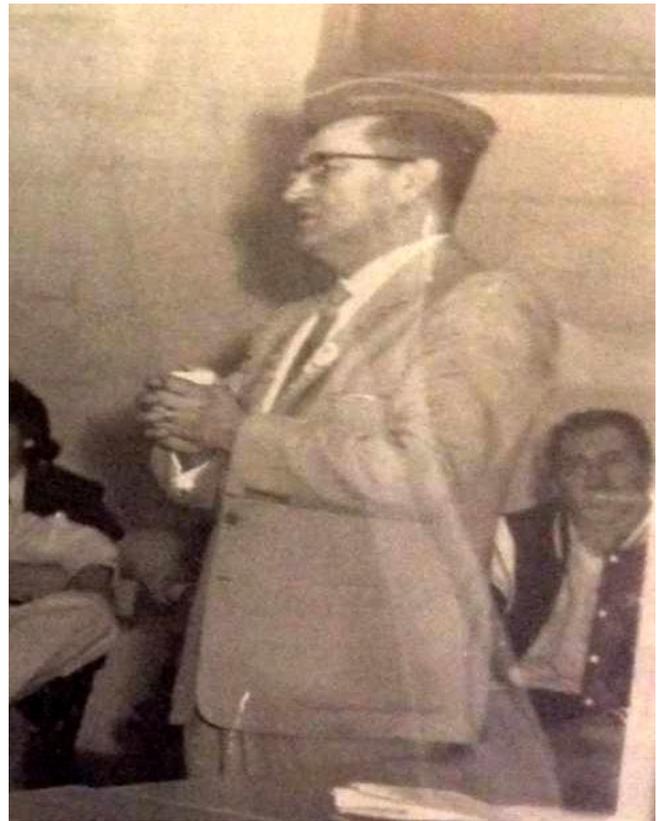
Lutheran Church was The first Lutheran Hispanic ministry church, Gethsemane opened its doors to the Mexican American community at 19th Street and Castelar in 1948. The building was occupied earlier by another Lutheran church, but when this one moved, ALC sold it to the Mexican congregation. The funds for the purchase were provided by a lady from the older church congregation.



Dr. Hector Garcia . He

completed his residency as a medical doctor at Saint Joseph Medical Center, He then wanted to help his country as an Army medic during WWII. After completing his service, Dr. Garcia came back to South Texas and opened a medical clinic that helped the poor - especially Mexicans. When many families could not pay for Dr. Garcia's services he always said, "Pay what you can or when you can." His clinic was a success for many Mexican people.

Though Dr. Garcia was a respected physician, he is better remembered as the founder and national leader of the American G.I. Forum. He drove to every chapter and to attend annual American G.I. Forum conventions throughout the United States. . .when he was available, he drove from Texas to come to visit members at the Omaha chapter for events such as the installation of new officers. . He was a very busy man with the Forum, trying to show that Mexican-Americans changed the image of Mexicans from being "dirty people" to a group of great Americans who served in the war and helped to change history. In fact, two out of three Nebraska Medal of Honor winners were Mexican Americans. His hope was education of Mexican-Americans for many generations to come.



Manuel Lisa also known as Manuel de

Lisa (September 8, 1772 in New Orleans, Louisiana – August 12, 1820 in St. Louis, Missouri), was a Spanish citizen and later, became an American citizen who, while living on the western frontier, became a land owner, merchant, fur trader, United States Indian agent, and explorer. Lisa was among the founders, in St. Louis, of the Missouri Fur Company, an early fur trading company. Manuel Lisa gained respect through his trading among Native American tribes of the upper Missouri River region, such as the Teton Sioux, Omaha and Ponca.

After being appointed, as US Indian agent, during the War of 1812, Lisa used his standing among the tribes to encourage their alliance with the United States and their warfare against tribes allied with the United Kingdom.[2] While still married to a European-American woman in St. Louis, where he kept a residence, in 1814 Lisa married Mitain, a daughter of Big Elk, the principal chief of the Omaha people, as part of securing their alliance. They had two children together, whom Lisa provided for equally in his will with his children by his official marriage.



Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis. Acc. No. 1979.97.1

Our Lady of Guadeloupe (first incarnation) In

October of 1919 the community obtained a first victory. They have managed to accumulate enough funds to rent, for \$14.00 a month, the empty building of an old bakery shop at 21st and "Q" streets. A store was not what they had anticipated, but it was nonetheless a place of their own. The artifacts for Mass celebration and rituals were obtained as loans from local churches and convents. An oil painting of the Virgin of Guadalupe that was purchased for \$40 was hung on the back wall and, thus, began services at the first Virgin of Guadalupe Church presided by Father Azcona. The most significant ceremony held in the improvised Church was the commemoration of the day of the Virgin of Guadalupe on November 12, 1919. The first Guadalupe Church had a short life. The dogged good will of the community faltered under economic duress. In 1923, the improvised little church was closed

Our Lady of Guadeloupe (second incarnation) Five more years of fund

raising efforts by the community, and lobbying with the Bishopric, led to the reorganization of the Guadalupe Parish. In 1928, Father Francisco M. Alba, with the support of the community, headed the restructuring of the Church, and it opened its second house at a rented store-front located at 5027 south and 24th Street to minister a community calculated at two thousand parishioners. The hope of the Mexican community for a permanent and dignified house for the Guadalupe Church did not disappear despite the onslaught of the Depression and the Texas Emigration Agent Law of 1929 that caused a radical drop in community membership to barely above nine hundred Mexicans (Archdiocese of Omaha, 1990). World War II and the "Bracero Program" brought relocated Mexican Nebraskans back to the state

Our Lady of Guadeloupe (third incarnation)

Finally, in 1944 the community stepped up its financial goals and the archdiocese consented to support the building of a Guadalupe Parish. The funds were enough to purchase a lot of land located on the southwest corner of 23rd and N Streets for \$300,000. More money requirements were met by the community, and in 1950 a ground breaking fanfare ceremony took place with the attendance of church, community leaders, parishioners, and city authorities. The Guadalupe was dedicated officially as a parish church in 1951. Thereafter, the church has expanded its facilities to the southeast corner and to lots adjacent to the original building.



El Charro Café



Baseball (Our Lady of Guadeloupe)



Juan Gonzales in 1915

was suspected of shooting detective Ring (well know officer) over a transom (He was also suspected of being in a Mexican gang that was accused of holding up rail roads.) He lead 300 armed men across Nebraska for 5 days before being shot after he had given up his pistol.

<http://nebraskahistory.org/publish/publication/history/full-text/NH2004Gonzalez.pdf>

POSSE BRINGS DOWN MEXICAN WHO SHOT RING

Officers Kill Gonzales, Who is Run to Cover in a Haystack Short Distance from Town of Scribner.

DISCOVERED BY FARMER BOYS

Detective Van Deusen, Partner of Dead Officer, Arrives in Time to Take Part.

POLICE AND BANDIT IN BATTLE

SCRIBNER, Neb., Feb. 19.—(Special Telegram.)—Ignacio Gonzales, the object of a man-hunt which for the last five days has covered the entire northeast part of the state, was shot to death near here at about 4 o'clock this afternoon, when he was surrounded by Omaha police in

MURDERER OF DETECTIVE TOM RING KILLED AT SCRIBNER.



IGNACIO GONZALES.

sociedad mutualista mexicana de south ,founded in 1929, this is a 1941 photo taken of SMM's membership eleven years after their founding. Lead to the Mexican American Historical Societty of the Midlands?



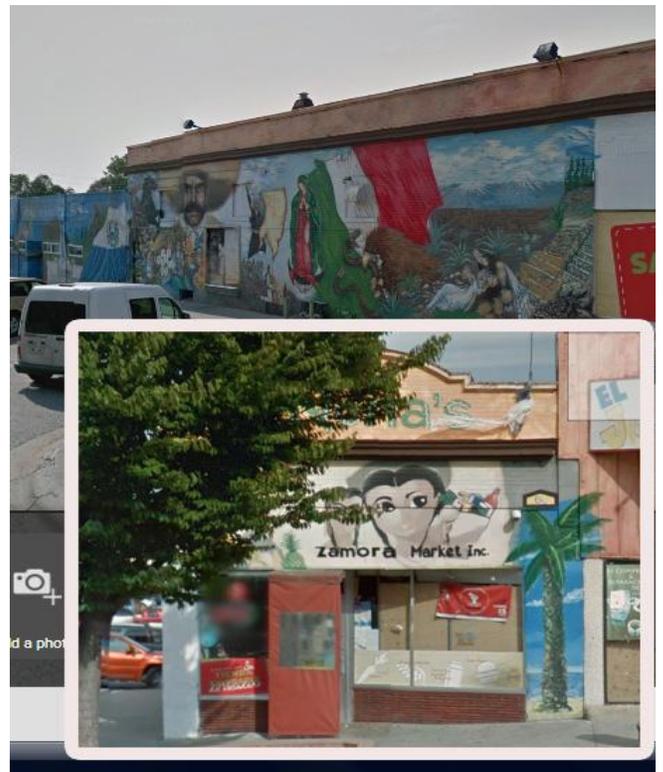
Brown Park is located at 5708

South 15th Street in the Brown Park neighborhood of South Omaha, Nebraska.

[1][2] The baseball field at the park is more than 100 years old, and hosted games played by Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, and others.

The Brown Park baseball diamond is the home field for the Omaha South High School baseball team.[5] A team sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #1 in Omaha plays baseball for the Nebraska Reserve Baseball League with Brown Park as their home, as well

Nenna's is one of the stores people talk about a lot. It is colorful on the outside and friendly on the inside. It's founder, Maria, now bakes daily at the Lithuanian Bakery where we did our Lithuanian mural.



Al Rodriguez

Al Rodriguez was in charge of the South Lutheran Pantry services since its creation. He personally collected from donors, stocked, and distributed the supplies to the families that requested aid at the local churches. With the group of Chicanos the food service expanded to provide supplies to 100 families every month. Donations were provided by grocery stores in the South Omaha neighborhood, supermarkets, producers, and wholesalers from the area. Often, neighbors, Lutheran and Catholic congregations gave money as contributions to further stock the pantry. With the incorporation of the CAC and the ICHC, the pantry activities increased to the point that it took over the basement of the Gethsemane Church.

we need a good picture
of Al Rodriguez

Charros



James Faust-metal of
Honor Recipient

Joe Juarez

Mario Castillo

rail roads

Saint Peter's

Our Lady of Assumption

Our Lady of St. Agnes

Metta Baptist Church

Jehovah Witnesses
Church

Brown Park Tavern

Jet Tavern

Tequila Bar (La
Carretta)

Sam's

Jacobo's

Riots at South High

Civil Rights Movement

landscaping

carniceria's

Deleon Family
Furniture Repair

Garcia Family Furniture Repair

construction

packing house

restaurants

basketball teams

Ramon Hernandez

1935 era annual Joslyn

Castle Fall Hispanic