

EL HISPANIC NEWS

Aniversario

34

Anniversary

Founded 1981

MAY MAYO

GRATIS • FREE
Volume XXXIV No.5

2015



“NEVER STOP
LEARNING”

—
“NUNCA
DEJES DE
APRENDER”

PHOTO BY PHILIP ANGLIANO



BYRON JOSÉ SUN: INFORMING THE WORD
BYRON JOSÉ SOL: INFORMAR A LA PALABRA



HYUNDAI 2015
SANTA FE
A WORTHY
CROSSOVER
COMPETITOR

2015 HYUNDAI
SANTA FE:
UN DIGNO
COMPETIDOR DE
CROSSOVERS



STUDY: UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANT
YOUTH ON CONSTANT HIGH ALERT
ESTUDIO: LOS JÓVENES INMIGRANTES
INDOCUMENTADOS EN CONSTANTE
ALERTA MÁXIMA



facebook.com/ElHispanicNews

Conéctese con
El Hispanic News usando su
smartphone

Connect with
El Hispanic News
through your smartphone

BYRON JOSÉ SUN: INFORMING THE WORD

By Olga Sanchez

“Understanding my past is necessary to understand why I write the stories I do,” says byroN José sun, a talented young writer from Guatemala who wants to use his creativity “to promote a vision of humanity, compassion and justice.” His journey has not been an easy one. He’s witnessed violence and cruelty but also deep compassion in the world he reflects through his writing. He says, “I strongly believe the writer mustn’t try to replace the world with a less-violent vision, but rather present it as it is.”

ByroN was born into a life of poverty, the result of political leadership that favored the economic interests of foreign investors over those of the people. When he was 2 years old, his mother took him from Guatemala, crossing all of Mexico to be reunited with his father in the United States. At that time people from all over Central America moved in a mass migration known as the Sanctuary Movement “that resembled the Underground Railroad for slaves in search of freedom in the North.” First, byroN and his mother were guided by a threatening coyote. Then, after they escaped they were led by a careless one. “The sewage tunnel dumped us in San Isidro where La Migra arrested us,” he says. “A few days went by and we were able to post bail; however, we never returned for our mandatory hearing, disappearing instead into an undocumented life in the U.S.”

For the next seven years, byroN lived in California. Too young to remember life back in Guatemala, he “was educated in English and spoke Español at home. For my birthdays we celebrated with piñatas. For Halloween, I dressed up as the Power Rangers and the Ninja Turtles.” He says he assimilated into the mainstream U.S. culture “through school and popular TV shows.”

Life seemed to be settled until byroN turned 9 years old in 1995, the same year as the passage of the Immigration Enforcement Improvement Act, which aggressively secured borders and sped the deportation of illegal aliens. INS agents informed his parents that his mother and he had 10 days to leave the country. If they did so of their own free will, they would earn the possibility of one day returning legally, recounts byroN, “otherwise we would be deported right then and there and never be given a path to citizenship. The 10 days we had left as a family were filled with tears, as we had to sell almost every belonging we had to be able to afford the airplane tickets and have some spending money once we got to Guatemala City.”

He found himself in a new world once again, with a new culture to learn, but he shares that within four years he became “accustomed to the violence; to the indigenous people

begging; to the drunken men fighting over dimes; to the gun shots; to the dead bodies laid out in the street the next morning; to the abusive husbands beating their wives; to all the children with plastic bags huffing 50 cents’ worth of glue to forget their hunger; to the clapping hands making tortillas and to the blessings that I got from elderly women.” Though it was challenging, he liked living in Guatemala. However, he could never feel at home, because his father was still far away.

At the age of 13, he and his mother received the pardon that ended their exile. They could return to the U.S. legally. By this time his father had moved to Oregon, so that’s where he and his mother went. He had to relearn his English language skills and U.S. culture. He came to define himself as a member of the one-and-a-half generation, “a child who is born abroad, whose education begins in the birth country but who comes of age and completes her/his education in the U.S.” Although he has now spent 22 of his 28 years in the United States, he holds tight to his Guatemalteco culture. “This part of my identity and my determination to share my experience are components that define my life as well as my writing,” he says. “During my time in Guatemala City I saw many acts of violence, but that wasn’t all that I saw. I also saw acts of incredible compassion that have showed me to look beyond the acts to try to understand human behavior and recreate them on the page.”

Over the years, his teachers have recognized and encouraged his writing talent, and after attending the University of Idaho, Oregon State and University of Oregon for his undergraduate studies, he earned his M.F.A. in Creative Writing at the University of Texas El Paso. He says it was appealing to him that “half the students were from the U.S. and the other half came from all over America Latina.”

His plan now is to get his Ph.D. in Literature and Creative Writing in order to teach at university in the future. For the moment, he is in Oregon with his family, enjoying the great outdoors and working on his first novel, about a young woman who works in a tortilleria. His grandmother worked in a tortilleria for many years, and he adds, “During my time in Guatemala I lived next to a tortilleria, so I got to see how their bosses treated them, their working habits and their overall living conditions.”

ByroN José sun, who intentionally spells his name with a lowercase “b,” an uppercase “n” and a lowercase “s” as a personal way to take ownership of his identity, recently joined the Latino writers group Los Porteños. He will share his original work during the upcoming reading “Poetry from the Interior: William Stafford and Miguel Hernández” at Literary Arts, 925 SW Washington St. in Portland at 7 p.m. Tues., May 12. Admission is free.



“DURING MY TIME IN GUATEMALA CITY I SAW MANY ACTS OF VIOLENCE, BUT THAT WASN’T ALL THAT I SAW. I ALSO SAW ACTS OF INCREDIBLE COMPASSION THAT HAVE SHOWED ME TO LOOK BEYOND THE ACTS TO TRY TO UNDERSTAND HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND RECREATE THEM ON THE PAGE.”

BYRON JOSÉ SOL: INFORMAR A LA PALABRA

Por Olga Sánchez

“Comprensión de mi pasado es necesario para entender por qué escribo las historias que me hacen”, dice byroN José sol, un talentoso y joven escritor guatemalteco que quiere usar su creatividad con el fin de “promover una visión de la humanidad, la compasión y la justicia.” Su viaje no ha sido fácil. Él ha sido testigo de la violencia y la crueldad, sino también una profunda compasión en el mundo que él refleja a través de su escritura. El dice, “Yo creo firmemente que el escritor no debe tratar de colocar de nuevo el mundo con una visión menos violenta, sino que se presenta como lo que es.”

ByroN nació en una vida de pobreza, el resultado de la dirección política que favorece los intereses económicos de los inversionistas extranjeros por encima de las personas. Cuando tenía 2 años de edad, su madre lo llevó a Guatemala, cruce de México para reunirse con su padre en los Esta-

dos Unidos. En ese tiempo, la gente de todo Centroamérica pasó de una migración masiva conocida como el Movimiento Santuario “que se parecía al ferrocarril subterráneo de los esclavos en la búsqueda de la libertad en el Norte.” En primer lugar, ByroN y su madre fueron guiados por un amenazante coyote. Entonces, después de que se escapó, tomaron descuido. “El túnel de aguas residuales dejaron en San Isidro donde detuvieron La Migra nosotros,” dice. “A los pocos días fuimos y nos fueron capaces de fianza; sin embargo, nunca regresó para nuestra audición obligatorios, la desaparición de “indocumentados” en lugar de vida en los EE.UU.”

Para los próximos siete años, ByroN vivía en California. Demasiado joven para recordar vida en Guatemala, el presidente “fue educado en Inglés y habla Español en casa, por mi cumpleaños celebramos con piñatas. Para Halloween, disfrazados de los Power Rangers y Las Tortugas Ninja.” Él dice que asimilado a la cultura de los ESTADOS UNIDOS general “a través de la

escuela y programas de televisión populares”.

Vida parece resolverse hasta que byroN convertido 9 años de edad en 1995, el mismo año de la promulgación de la Ley de Inmigración, la Ley de mejora que agresivamente las fronteras garantizadas y aceleró la deportación de los inmigrantes ilegales. INS los agentes informaron a sus padres que su madre y él tenía 10 días para salir del país. Si así lo hicieran de su propia y libre voluntad, que habría de ganar la posibilidad de volver un día legalmente, relata byroN, “en caso contrario, sería expulsado, y allí y nunca se le dio un camino a la ciudadanía. Los 10 días que habían dejado como una familia se llenaron de lágrimas, ya que teníamos que vender casi todos pertenecientes, tuvimos que estar en condiciones de pagar los billetes de avión y tener algún gasto de dinero una vez que llegamos a la Ciudad de Guatemala.”

Él se encontró en un nuevo mundo, una vez más,

BYRON JOSÉ SOL página 15