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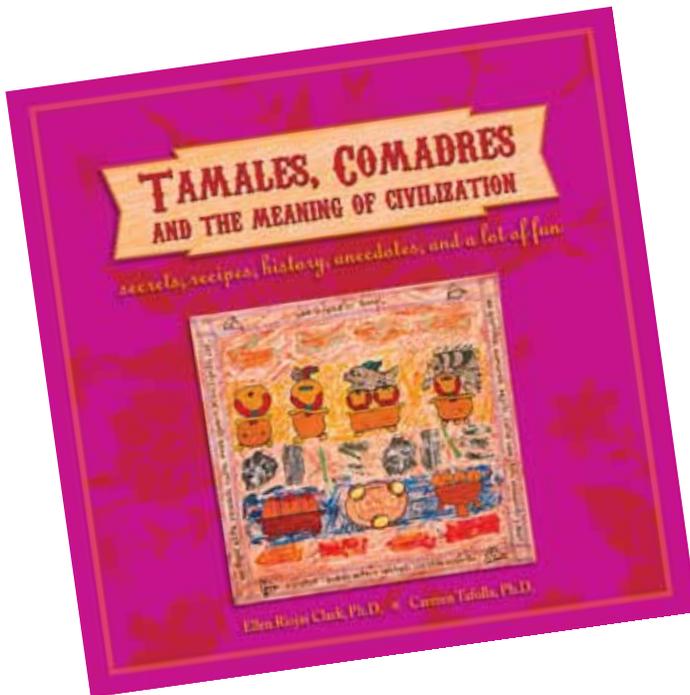
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Wings Press is proud to present

TAMALES, COMADRES AND THE MEANING OF CIVILIZATION

secrets, recipes, history, anecdotes, and a lot of fun



Ellen Riojas Clark, Ph.D.

and

Carmen Tafolla, Ph.D.

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Available locally: November 8, 2010

Events: *Readings! Book signing! Tamales!*

Twig Bookshop, Nov. 20, noon-2 pm

Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center's *La Gran Tamalada*, (free) Dec. 11, 11 am-1 pm

Twig Books / Pearl Tamalada, 5-7 pm

See complete local schedule, last page.

WATCH YOUR LOCAL HEB FOR IN-STORE EVENTS THROUGHOUT DECEMBER

Affirming the fun, the flavor, and the 7,000 years of tamalada history throughout the Americas, *Tamales, Comadres, and the Meaning of Civilization* is a delightful collection of folk sayings, personal anecdotes, hints, recipes, a tamale corrido, humor, a blog duel, and the philosophy of women's collaborations. Professor Ellen Riojas Clark and award-winning author Carmen Tafolla team up in this woman-led project to create a beautiful gift that wraps the culture of the community like a steaming tamal!

INTRODUCING... CIVILIZATION!



So what do tamales and comadres have to do with civilization? Everything! Unwrap a delicious, steaming tamale from its corn shucks and you are unwrapping one of the keys to the survival of humans for the last 7,000 years in the Americas. Tamales have outlasted nations, flags, even languages. Our history and our stories are wrapped in those shucks.

This book can best be described as a collaborative labor of love, which, just like a tamalada, requires laughter, tears, *chisme*, an intense amount of work, and a sense of wanting to feed a whole pueblo hungry to read about their culinary and historical *hojas*. It is a symbol of the giving our mothers and grandmothers did to feed us physically and spiritually. And if you wonder how this book came about, it was, very fittingly, out of that same sense of crazy *comadrazgo* and caring for the *comunidad*.

Noted UTSA Professor of Bicultural Bilingual Studies, Ellen Riojas Clark, and award-winning author Carmen Tafolla combined their own experiences and family stories with the memories, recipes and artwork of many San Antonio writers, artists, historians, journalists, business people and other public figures to create a work that will delight tamale aficionados and introduce others to the *cultura* of this most basic element of the cuisine of the Americas.

Contributors to *Tamales, Comadres and the Meaning of Civilization* include Valerie Gonzales (CEO of Delicious Tamales), Rolando Briseño (artist), Olga Garza Kauffman (community affairs consultant), Robert Flynn (writer), Antonia Castañeda (historian), Cary Clack (columnist), Vicky Carr (performer), El Curro (musician), Sandra Cisneros (writer), Heloise (the one, the only...), and dozens of others.



LAS TRES COMADRES



Ellen Riojas Clark, Ph.D.

Dr. Ellen Riojas Clark, born in San Antonio, is a graduate of Trinity University, UTSA, the University of Texas at Austin, and of many *tamaladas*. As Professor of Bicultural Bilingual Studies at the University of Texas-San Antonio, she has published over eighty academic articles. Ellen served as Educational Content Director for the Scholastic PBS children's cartoon series *Maya and Miguel* and claims the title of *Abuela Elena* on the series. Dr. Clark's contributions to the cultural life of San Antonio have been recognized with the *La Prensa* Outstanding Women in Action Award, the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame, the Yellow Rose of Texas, and coronation as *Queen Huevo* for San Anto Cultural Center. She is one of the authors of *Las Dos Abuelas*, a *San Antonio Express-News* column on books and travel. Ellen has been featured in several documentaries—*Huipiles: Fabric of Identity*; *Latino Leaders, In Search of Racial Justice*; *Nachos, Tequila* and more; and *Hollydays*, where you can see her every Christmas, making her famous tamales. She and Hector are parents of two engineer daughters and four granddaughters. Her idea of heaven is a giant tamalada with chicken and *rajas* tamales, all her *comadres*, and a glass of champagne, whether from a \$5 or a \$150 bottle.



Carmen Tafolla, Ph.D.

Dr. Carmen Tafolla grew up in the west side *barrrios* of San Antonio, Texas, west of the *matanzas*, south of the *molinos*, and north of *la labor de helote*. Tafolla is the author of more than fifteen books, including *The Holy Tortilla and a Pot of Beans*, *What Can You Do with a Paleta?*, *Fiesta Babies* and many others, and has been awarded the 2010 Américas Award, the Tomás Rivera Mexican-American Book Award (2009 and 2010), two International Latino Book Awards, the 2010 Charlotte Zolotow Award for best children's picture book writing, and the 1999 Art of Peace Award for "writing which contributes to peace, justice, and human understanding." She has performed her one-woman show in London, Madrid, Mexico City, Norway, Germany, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, and throughout the United States. Dr. Tafolla teaches at the University of Texas-San Antonio, and is blessed with a home where her 92-year-old mother, her activist/scholar husband Dr. Ernesto Bernal, her three children Mari, Israel and Ariana, grandson Anthony, and many *primos* and friends provide the constant *locura sabrosa* of a *tamalada*. Her favorite tamales are a tie between the green corn tamales made from low-fat mozzarella and canola oil by the *señora* in Flagstaff, or the tamales *de helote* her *tías* used to wrap in fresh, green shucks.



Thelma Ortiz-Muraida

An accomplished designer and artist, Ortiz-Muraida created the cover design for *The Holy Tortilla and a Pot of Beans* and designed the cover and illustrations for *Curandera* and *Sonnets to Human Beings/Sonnete an Menschen*. She has also illustrated several articles for *National Association for the Education of Young Children* and the *Saguaro* journal. Her latest work in illustration is a children's picture book, *Clara and the Curandera*, by Monica Brown (Piñata Books, 2011.) Her unique combination of skills enable her to work across a broad range of design media, from print publications and illustration to exhibit and environmental designs. Currently she is teaching art and conducts workshops in *repujado*—the fine art of metal embossing. Her visual interpretations of typical tablecloths from San Antonio's Mexican kitchens, stylized *hojas de tamal*, and echoes of corn in its many forms create a unique backdrop and eloquent book design that put a crowning touch on this collaboration of *comadres* to feed the *pueblo*.

CALENDAR OF SAN ANTONIO SIGNINGS AND READINGS
for
Tamales, Comadres, and the Meaning of Civilization

Nov. 20, Saturday, Noon to 2 p.m. • Twig Books

Dec. 3, Friday, 7 p.m. • GCAC Hecho a Mano opening

Dec. 4, Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. • HEB # 39 • 1150 NW Loop 1604 @ Blanco

Dec. 5, Sunday, 2 to 4 p.m. • HEB# 108 • 20935 HWY 281 North

Dec. 9, Thursday, 6 to 9 p.m. • Tres Rebeccas on S. St. Mary's St.
Benefitting Hispanas Unidas

Dec. 11, Saturday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. • GCAC, La Gran Tamalada

Dec. 11, Saturday, 5 to 7 p.m. • Twig / Pearl Tamalada

Dec. 12, Sunday, 2 to 4 p.m. • HEB #102 • 8503 NW Military

Dec. 13, Monday, 5 to 7 p.m. • HEB# 26 • 4100 South New Braunfels Ave(McCreless)

Dec. 15, Wednesday, 5 to 7 p.m. • HEB# 613 • 8219 Marbach Rd

Dec. 17, Friday, 5 to 7 p.m. • HEB# 85 • 10718 Potranco Rd @ 1604

Dec. 18, Saturday, 2 to 4 p.m. • HEB# 95 • 1911 NE BOB BULLOCK LOOP (LAREDO)

Dec. 19, Sunday, time to be determined • Neiman Marcus
Benefitting San Antonio Public Library Foundation

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