

La Prensa de Mi Pueblo

Vol. XXIX, No. 1 The Newsletter of Mi Pueblo, the Culture Camp of Concern for Children, Inc. Marzo 2025

Notas del Director

Notes from the Director
Bill Gruber

Welcome back or, for new families, welcome for the first time to Mi Pueblo Camp!

We have another fun and exciting Camp being planned, and YOU can be part of the planning wherever you live, and whatever time and talents you have to give. Attend the Planning Committee meetings, by Zoom, from anywhere. Two more coming up in May and June.

We also need volunteers for many positions before and at Camp. Mi Pueblo is an all-volunteer Camp, so nothing happens without our volunteers. Please help!

We always contract for a group rate at a local hotel, and this year we are headed for the first time to *Homewood Suites Beachwood* (located near the Embassy Suites we have used previously for many years). See info on Hotel on p. 3.

This year brings our 4th Teen Program. Teens entering 10th, 11th or 12th, and those teens
(Continued on page 4)

Questions?

If you have any questions at any time about Mi Pueblo or just want to talk to someone about Camp, contact:

Bill Gruber, Director

216-870-2429

gruberWL@aol.com; or

Ana Burpee, Curriculum

734-730-5908

bmariana12@gmail.com

Drum, Dream, Dance

It is time for Campers, Teens and ALL volunteers and instructors to register for our 33rd Mi Pueblo Day Camp which will be held the week of **June 16 to 20, 2025**, at Forest Hill Church in Cleveland Heights.

The Camp hours will be **9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**, Monday-Thursday, with early release on Friday. Friday hours are **9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** The annual **Fiesta** will be held on **Friday, June 20th from 6:30-10 pm** at Forest Hill Church.

Each year we have a new theme at Camp to keep the curriculum fresh and bring excitement to the week. This year's Camp theme is

"Drum, Dream, Dance". As the week progresses, Campers will march to the beat of their own drums as we take a harmonious journey of music and dance, and introduce the story of *Drum Dream Girl*. See p. 4 for more information about the theme, and p. 2 for information about the annual Camp Contest.

We begin on **Monday** with our annual opening ceremony and dive right into learning Latin American popular songs and styles. On **Tuesday**, Latino musical legends come alive--like Celia Cruz, Selena, Tito Puente, and others. **Wednesday** Campers celebrate with the music and dance of Carnival and capoeira moves. We'll also celebrate with the annual Cindy Palus Memorial Picnic in the Park. On **Thursday**, get ready to party with Mariachi and practice El Grito. And **Friday** brings stories of hope, such as Paraguay's recycled orchestra, the coquis still sing, and the girl who heard the music! We will also have our Fiesta dress rehearsal, early dismissal, and return for the annual Fiesta on Friday evening.

All campers, teen and young adult volunteers, and parent and other adult volunteers, including Teachers, MUST be registered for Camp! **This year you can register online through mipueblocamp.org.**

Or you can fill out the forms on the website and email or mail them in. Everyone must submit 2 forms: Registration Form, and the Information Form.

Camp fees are the same as last year. A Volunteer discount is available for parents who volunteer all 5 days at Camp. Scholarships are also available. **Mi Pueblo wants everyone to attend and no one to be excluded due to cost.**

The fees for Camp include a T-shirt, lunch, and snack each day, take home gifts, classes and special each day. Note, that once you register for Camp, you will receive a mailing in June with

all the key information you will need for Camp.

As you fill out the forms, please consider volunteering to help plan and organize the Camp. Help is needed on **Saturday, June 14th at 8:30 am** to load up the truck to carry our Camp supplies from the storage locker to the Church.

Also, we need you to help **set up Camp** on **Saturday, June 14, from 9 am to 12 noon, and Sunday, June 15, from 12 noon to 3 pm**. On **Sunday, June 15th, at 6 pm**, we will have our annual volunteer and Camp family get together (and pizza party) at Homewood Suites Hotel in Beachwood.

Important Dates!

Mark your calendars for these important dates and become an active part of *Mi Pueblo '25*.

May 4 - Planning Meeting - 3 pm by Zoom

May 31 - Registration Deadline for Camp

June 1 - Planning Meeting - 3 pm by Zoom

June 7 - Payment/Registration Deadline

Sat. June 14 - Pack up Truck - 8:30 am

Sat., June 14 - Camp Set-up - 9 - 12 noon

Sun., June 15 - 12 noon - 3 pm

Sun., June 15 - 6 p.m. - Orientation

Meeting - at Homewood Suites Hotel

Mon. - Fri., June 16 - 20 - Mi Pueblo '25

Fri. June 20 - Fiesta - 6:30 - 10 pm

Keep up to date on Facebook or at MiPuebloCamp.org!

**33rd Mi Pueblo
June 16 - 20, 2025**

Volunteers Make Mi Pueblo

Mi Pueblo's success comes from many people contributing their time and talent both before and during the week of camp. The Planning Committee needs your help! Just fill out the volunteer form or contact Bill Gruber or Liz Dessofo, or you can show up for a Planning Committee meeting.

As you can see from the box to the right, we still have many staff positions open. We also still need help both before and during Camp.

Our teachers this year are:

- Culture** – Elia de la Garza
- Games** – OPEN
- Dance** – Alonso Ray
- Crafts** – Mariela Silberberg
- Music** – Patricia Bussert
- Spanish** – Cristina Echeverria
- Teen Program** – Lizbeth Broache

Administrative & Instructional Staff

- Camp Director** – Bill Gruber
- Assistant Director** – David Brooks
- Human Resources Coord.** – Elia de la Garza
- Treasurer** - Claudia Madden
- Curriculum Coord.** – Ana Burpee
- Homeroom Coord.** – OPEN
- Operations Coord.** – Carrie Wagner
- Office Assistant** – Jeanne Cullen
- Volunteer Coord.** – Liz Dessofo
- Teen Program Coord.** – Andy Brooks
- La Prensa Editor** – Becky Parr
- Fiesta & Recipe Booklet** - OPEN
- Special Events Coord.** – Ana Burpee
- Photographer** – Laura Blake
- T-Shirts** – Claudia Madden
- Fiesta** – OPEN
- Raffle/Silent Auction** – OPEN
- Fiesta Stage Manager** – OPEN
- Costumes Coord.** – OPEN
- Food Purch. Coord.** – OPEN
- Desserts Coord.** – OPEN
- Kitchen Coord.** – Pat Burns
- Camp Nurse** - OPEN

Camper Homeroom Staff:

- Pre-K** – OPEN
- K – 1** – OPEN
- 2 – 3** – Coord – OPEN
- 4 – 5** – Coord. – OPEN
- 6 – 7** = Coord. – OPEN
- 8 – 9** - Coord. – OPEN

Teen Coord. – Andy Brooks

Note: Staff assignments subject to change.

Mi Pueblo Contest!!

To get everyone thinking about our 33rd Camp theme, *Mi Pueblo* is again having a contest. This year we will celebrate with the theme **“Drum, Dream, Dance.”** Campers will march to the beat of their own drums as we take a harmonious journey of music and dance, and introduce the story of *Drum Dream Girl*.

THINK & RESEARCH about Latin American rhythms and their influences, Latino musicians, and the music all around us. *Draw a picture or write a short story about your favorite Latin American musician, singer or dancer, or your favorite style of Latin American music or dance. Or tell us what kind of instrument you play, or would like to play.*

Then fill out the form below and attach it to your work so we know who you are and submit by **Wednesday, June 18th**. Two prizes--one for stories and one for art work--will be awarded in eight age categories. The contest is open to all *Mi Pueblo* Camp families and volunteers. Prizes include tote bags, hats, books and other surprises. Written essays need to be limited to no more than 100 words. All entries will be judged by a panel of *Mi Pueblo* teachers. Winners will be announced Friday, June 20.

Mi Pueblo Drum, Dream, Dance Contest Entry Form

Please include this information with every entry to the *Mi Pueblo* **“Drum, Dream, Dance”** Contest. If your entry is an essay, make it **no more than 100 words**. Be sure to include the full name of the entrant.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Grade (entering Fall 2024) ___ Pre-K ___ K-1 ___ 2-3 ___ 4-5 ___ 6-7 ___ 8-9 ___ Teen ___ Adult

Write a short story/essay or create a picture that depicts one of our daily themes (see the list on pg. 4). This entry represents: _____

Mail your entry to: Bill Gruber, 3120 Belvoir Blvd, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122, email to GruberWL@aol.com, or hand it in to the Camp Office by **noon, June 18th**, the third day of Camp.

Key Facts About *Mi Pueblo* Culture Camp '25

Camp Location: **Forest Hill Presbyterian Church**, 3031 Monticello Blvd. (corner of Monticello Blvd. and Lee Rd.), Cleveland Hts., OH (Mi Pueblo has rented the Church's facilities for 33 years.)

Dates: **Monday through Friday, June 16 - 20, 2025.**

Times: **9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (early dismissal on Friday – hours 9:30-3:00 p.m.)**

Friday Night Fiesta: **June 20th - 6:30 - 10 p.m. at Forest Hill Church.**

Ages: **Camp classes** are offered for children entering **Pre-school/Kindergarten** in the Fall of 2025 through those entering **9th grade**.

Child Care: Parents/Grandparents with children in Camp may volunteer with their child under 2.5 years of age, as long as they keep their child with them.

Pre-K: Children 2.5 years to 4 years may participate in the **Pre-K** Class as a regular Camper if the child is ready for a half day schedule of classes and activities and half day of play time. Staff will reach out to parents of these children to discuss the options.

Fees: Campers - **\$220**/child. Campers of parent volunteers - **\$180**/child (volunteers must hold significant pre-Camp position or work all 5 days at camp). Campers of members of Planning Committee - **\$140**/child. Teens in the Teen Program (See below) - **\$100**. Adult Volunteers **\$50** if no Camper/Teen registered/**\$25** if 1 or more Camper/Teen registered.

Scholarships: **Concern for Children does not want to have any child miss the opportunity to attend camp. Therefore, need-based scholarships are available.** To apply, send a written request to Bill Gruber, 3120 Belvoir Blvd., Shaker Heights, OH 44122 or gruberwl@aol.com.

Payment of Fees: FEES MUST BE PAID BY JUNE 15th, BUT PLEASE SEND IN REGISTRATION FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. REGISTRATION FORMS SUBMITTED AFTER **MAY 31st** REQUIRE A **\$20 LATE FEE**.

Registration: **You can register online and/or pay at [Mi PuebloCamp.org](http://MiPuebloCamp.org), or you may register on the forms available at the website or in the email sent to Camp families, and you may mail in a check if preferred.** You will receive more Camp details in early June. Refunds of 100% will be made no later than May 31st, 50% no later than June 15th, 25% no later than June 20th. **NO CAMPER REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED AFTER JUNE 7th. FORMS SUBMITTED AFTER MAY 31st REQUIRE A LATE FEE OF \$20. PAYMENT MAY BE MADE BY JUNE 15th.**

Teen Program: The goal of the program, in its 3rd year, is to balance the work and fun of Camp. The Teen Program will include: 1. Volunteering, 2. Organized activities, and 3. Socializing. There will be cooking classes, team building games, dance, a forum led by alumni and special guests, and much more. **Teens entering 10th grade will automatically be enrolled in this new program. Teens entering 11th and 12th grade and those who graduated this year (2025) have the choice to enroll in the teen program or to instead work as full-time volunteers in a homeroom or class.** To cover the costs of this program, there is a fee of \$100 for participants. For teens who register to volunteer full-time, there is an adult/teen volunteer fee of \$50. For any questions or comments, please contact Ana Burpee at bmariana12@gmail.com, or Andy Brooks at brooks362@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in June.

Sponsor: *Mi Pueblo* is sponsored by **Concern for Children, Inc.**, an Ohio not-for-profit corporation, which is a parent support group for adoptive families. **ALL CAMP FAMILIES ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO BECOME MEMBERS OF CONCERN FOR CHILDREN, INC. — SIMPLY ADD YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE TO YOUR REGISTRATION FORM — THANK YOU!**

Housing: NEW HOTEL THIS YEAR!! *Mi Pueblo* has many options for out-of-town families who need housing. Whatever you choose, **MAKE RESERVATIONS EARLY.** Most *Mi Pueblo* families like staying together. This year we have a group rate of \$139/night at the **Homewood Suites by Hilton Cleveland Beachwood, 25725 Central Parkway, Beachwood, OH 44122, 216-464-9600**, with a limited number of rooms available at this rate, so make your reservation early; the rate is only available until **Friday, May 23rd**. **Online reservation booking uses our *Mi Pueblo* Reservation Link: [View your attendee website](#). Or book by calling **216-464-9600**.** If you have trouble, contact Bill Gruber at gruberWL@aol.com.

Register for Camp at: [Home - Mi Pueblo Culture Camp](#)

Mi Pueblo Fundraising

Camp fees are never enough to cover the expenses of Mi Pueblo Camp. Also, we provide full and partial scholarships each year to ensure that no family is turned away due to an inability to pay the fees. *Mi Pueblo* relies on direct donations and various fundraising efforts. Mi Pueblo is operated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and donations are tax deductible. **CHECK WITH YOUR EMPLOYER TO SEE IF YOUR DONATION COULD BE MATCHED BY YOUR EMPLOYER.**

Auction and Raffle

Please consider donating items for our annual silent auction and raffle to be held at the Fiesta. We can use tickets to events and sport contests, gift certificates, items from Latin America, etc. Contact Bill Gruber if you have any items to donate: GruberWL@aol.com.

Concern for Children

Concern for Children, Inc. is the non-profit parent organization of *Mi Pueblo* Camp. CFC has helped support the Camp since its start. That alone should be a good reason why all Camp families should **join CFC as a member** (it's only \$30 per year). It is easy to do thru your Camp Registration Form. In addition, CFC has helped families who have adopted children in Latin America in the US for 40 years, and continues to help families and children in Latin America.

Background Checks

Volunteers and Teachers working directly with children in classrooms and homerooms are required to have a background check done semi-annually. You will be contacted after registration if you need a background check. All new volunteers assigned to a homeroom must have a background check and an interview.

Keep up to date on Facebook or at MiPuebloCamp.org!

Needed:

- **Volunteers—teens and adults—to help pack the truck with supplies on Saturday morning before Camp set up, and to come and help set up on Saturday and Sunday that weekend (June 14-15)**
- **Teen and young adult volunteers willing to help out with the opening ceremony. Please let us know if you will help out.**
- **Teens and young adults willing to help out with other activities during Camp week.**

More Notes from the Camp Director (Continued from p. 1)

who just graduated in 2024 from high school, are eligible to participate. Teens **MUST** be registered.

Come to Camp the weekend before Camp to help get ready — children are welcome. Volunteers can also help by making desserts at home and dropping them off, and sewers can help with costumes at home or at Camp. We also need help in the Camp kitchen, organizing the Fiesta, with audio-visual and stage help, and more.

Camp fees are never sufficient to pay all expenses of Camp, so we depend upon donations and sales of raffle tickets, and bids on the silent auction, at the Fiesta in order to provide a fun, exciting, educational, authentic and safe Camp experience. *Mi Pueblo* also provides scholarships for families to ensure that no one is ever turned away for lack of funds.

There are lots of ways all of us can work together as the *Mi Pueblo* family to make the magic continue! Please consider stepping up to offer your help.

I hope to see you soon! Nos vemos! Bill

2025 Camp Theme Drum, Dream, Dance

Each year we have a new theme at Camp to keep the curriculum fresh and bring excitement to the week. This year's Camp theme is **"Drum, Dream, Dance"**. As the week progresses, Campers will march to the beat of their own drums as we take a harmonious journey of music and dance, and introduce the story of *Drum Dream Girl* - <https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=drum+dream+girl+book&mid=83B63BAB74BCE73B3A6483B63BAB74BCE73B3A64&FORM=VIRE>. Campers will learn about Latin American rhythms and their influences, Latino musicians, and that music is all around us as a universal language.

Daily Themes:

The daily themes are listed below. [Note the order and name for each daily theme is subject to change]

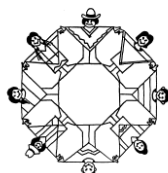
Monday: Popular songs and genres

Tuesday: Musical legends i.e. Celia Cruz, Selena, Tito Puente, etc.

Wednesday: Carnival and capoeira

Thursday: Mariachi and El Grito

Friday: Stories of Hope – such as Paraguay's recycled orchestra, the coquis still sing, the girl who heard the music



Mi Pueblo Day Camp
Sponsored by Concern for Children, Inc.
www.concernforchildren.org
Bill Gruber, Director
3120 Belvoir Blvd.
Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122