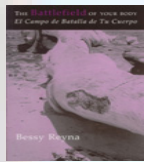




DCF Central Office Hispanic Heritage Month

EMBRACING THE FIERCE URGENCY OF NOW!



Interview with Award-Winning Author & Poet Bessy Reyna



As told to Felix Manuel Rodriguez

Award-Winning Author and Poet Bessy Reyna takes time for the DCF Central Office Hispanic Heritage Month Committee to answer some *serious* and *not so serious* questions.

Interview with Bessy Reyna (BR)
By Felix Manuel Rodriguez (FMR)

September 11, 2009

FMR: What could the Latino community do to help facilitate easier access to higher education?

BR: We have to start at elementary school. I used to be a guest poet at some schools and was surprised by the lack of parental involvement. We need to start looking at teenage pregnancy and other factors keeping our youth from continuing their education after high school.

FMR: Who inspired you as a writer?

BR: Hard to say. I started reading at an early age and can't be without a book. I read poetry, essays, fiction, non-fiction. Love historical novels like Jaime Manrique's "Our Lives Are The Rivers" about Manuela Saenz and Bolivar.

FMR: If you were President of the United States what is the first thing you will do?

BR: I am very concerned about the diminishing boundaries between church and state, science and evolution. I feel that lack of rigorous thinking permeates our cultural and educational systems and has a negative impact in what we can accomplish as a country. Right now, we are graduating people who can hardly read or write. It's unconscionable.

FMR: What's your favorite children's book?

BR: Probably Sandra Cisneros' "Pelitos/Hair" because she teaches kids about identity and how members of one family, particularly in those families of mixed-race and heritage, people can be so different and each beautiful in their own way.

FMR: If I wasn't a writer, I'd be a _____?

BR: Social Psychologist or Anthropologist



Bessy Reyna is a Award-Winning Author & Poet. *The Battlefield of Your Body* has received raving reviews and praise.

The DCF Central Office Hispanic Heritage Month Committee would like to thank Bessy Reyna

"To me, 'Embracing the fierce Urgency of Now' means not wasting any time and trying to make a difference." -Bessy Reyna