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AWARD-WINNING POET REYES CÁRDENAS TO READ AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON CENTER FOR MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES AND CASA RAMÍREZ

The University of Houston Center for Mexican American Studies is presenting a “Back To School Reception and Poetry Reading” featuring award-winning poet Reyes Cárdenas on Friday, August 30, 2013 at 322 Agnes Arnold Hall (University of Houston). A free reception begins at 12 noon with the poetry reading beginning at 1pm.

There will also be a “Free Community Reading, Plática and Book Signing” that same evening, Friday, August 30, at Casa Ramirez (241 W. 19th St.), from 6:30-8:30pm. Reyes Cárdenas will read from his new publication; dialogue with the audience about his almost fifty years of writing poetry; and sign copies of his book.

This past Spring, 2013, Aztlan Libre Press, an independent press based out of San Antonio, Texas published *Reyes Cárdenas Chicano Poet 1970-2010*, a forty year retrospective of Reyes’ life and work. The book is divided into eleven sections, five of which are selected poems from previous publications, and six are new, never before published collections of poetry.

Reyes Cárdenas Chicano Poet 1970-2010 also features cover artwork and 11 original black and white title-page illustrations by San Antonio artist, L.A. David; plus, an introductory essay on Cárdenas’ work by noted Chicano literary critic and recently retired Associate Professor of English and Director of the Mexican-American Studies Center at Texas Lutheran University, Juan Rodríguez.

“An epic of Chicano existence in the last half of the 20th century and the first decade of the 21st, Reyes Cárdenas’ work boldly depicts the outrageous ironies and wildly brutal truths of our humanity. Everyone is found here, from the Royal Chicano Air Force to Buddy Holly, and from Emily Dickinson to Gulliver to the S.S. Gloria Anzaldúa, and somehow they all confess honestly to each other in the unassuming genius of one of Aztlan’s most prolific poets and most constant chroniclers...A powerful and courageous poet.”
Carmen Tafolla, Poet Laureate, City of San Antonio

Reyes Cárdenas was born in Guadalupe County and has lived most of his life in Central Texas while making a living as a machinist. He is the author of six collections of poetry including *Anti-Bicicleta Haiku* (1976), *Survivors of the Chicano Titanic* (1981), and *I Was Never a Militant Chicano* (1986) which won the Austin Book Award.

The Back to School Reception and Poetry Reading and Free Community Reading, Plática and Book Signing is sponsored by the University of Houston Center for Mexican American Studies in collaboration with Nuestra Palabra/Latino Writers Having Their Say, Casa Ramirez and Aztlan Libre Press. For more information, contact Lorenzo Cano at Lcano@uh.edu or Juan Tejeda at 210.710.8537.