



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2011 at 4 PM

**To Orange County Board of Supervisors, State and Congressional Leaders,
Orange County City Council Members, Educators, and Friends and Supporters of
the Museum of Teaching and Learning (MOTAL)**

On behalf of Greta Nagel, founder and executive director of the Museum of Teaching and Learning (MOTAL), I invite you to join us as we celebrate the opening of **A Class Action: Mendez et al. v. Westminster et al. and the Grassroots Struggle for Desegregation**, an exhibit that will be on view at the Old Courthouse Museum in Santa Ana, September 2011 through June of 2012.

A Class Action is a collaborative effort of the Museum of Teaching and Learning, Orange County Parks, the Center for Oral and Public History at California State University, Fullerton, Chapman University, Fullerton College, Downtown Incorporated, the Orange County Historical Commission, the Orange County Department of Education, and the National Archives and Records Administration.

In March of 1945, five fathers in Orange County, California brought a class action lawsuit against four school districts on behalf of more than 5,000 children who were forced to attend segregated Mexican schools. That case resulted in a decision which ended segregation in California schools and paved the way for the decision in *Brown v. The Board of Education*. After 60 years following the landmark lawsuit *Mendez et al. v. Westminster et al.*, this injustice still exists today.

The MOTAL exhibit has been a work in progress for more than three years and now with the collaborative efforts, vision and partnerships of many organizations including OC Parks, educational institutions, civic and community organizations, business and industry. **A Class Action** is a story worth telling.

The Mendez-Westminster anti-discrimination action suit that occurred in the 1940s—segregating Hispanic children from attending schools in their neighborhood—will be a key focus for an interactive educational exhibit at the Old Courthouse Museum and will open in September 2011. The Old Courthouse Museum is located in the Old Orange County Courthouse at 211 W Santa Ana Blvd # 201, Santa Ana, CA 92701-7004. You can reach the Museum by phone at (714) 973-6605.



Opening ceremonies for **A Class Action** will take place on Saturday, September 10, 2011 at 4 p.m., and we would be honored if you and your staff could attend. Please mark this most important date on your calendar now.

The exhibit will be on view until the summer of 2012. Throughout 2011 and 2012 monthly entertaining and educational events will be presented in concert with the exhibit including a Hispanic Film Festival, several film premieres, lectures, family activities, interactive workshops and much more celebrating the determination of Hispanic parents in Orange County to obtain a good education for their children.

The Old County Courthouse will welcome students and teachers throughout the County for educational tours, presented by well-trained volunteer teen docents. Materials will be presented to each teacher for classroom preparation and follow-up and to measure educational outcomes.

A formal invitation will be forthcoming. We would of course encourage you to present greetings from you, your city or legislative office during a formal presentation at the opening event.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me (714) 528-1258 or e-mail at goffinpr@aol.com

Judith Goffin
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The Museum of Teaching and Learning
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