

At the Universidad del Turabo



The panelists for the discussion on history and community: (right to left) Fernando Picó, Marcial Ocasio and Jaime Partsch.

History and Community

During the third week of November, the General Education Deanery at the *Universidad del Turabo* sponsored a series of activities as part of the celebration of “Humanities Week”. The theme for the week was “history and community”. Two special presentations were held. In the first, the book *Los pueblos de la región centro oriental y su historia* was presented and in the second, the documentary film *Camino a Navarro* was shown and analyzed. Both works investigate the history of communities of this region of Puerto Rico. In addition, a panel discussion was also held on the week’s principal topic. Three historians who have worked with community history participated: Fernando Picó (Caimito, Cayey, Utuado, Carolina, prison communities, and Sanjurjo), Marcial Ocasio (Río Piedras and Tampico, México), and Jaime Partsch (Puerto Nuevo y Canóvanas).

Our congratulations to the organizers of these events for the efforts they are making to integrate communities into the work of the humanities and humanities into the life of communities.

Jesús T. Piñero Library in Internet



From left to right: Doctors Jaime Partsch, Mildred Huertas-Solá, Jaime Rodríguez Cancel and Manuel Almeida during the recording of the inaugural program of “Utopística”.

“Utopistics” Begins

The month of December brings the beginning of a new initiative of the Jesús T. Piñero Library. This project, which has the unusual name of “Utopística”, will be available on the internet and will originate in the Piñero Collection. The program already has a page in [Facebook](#) and we invite our readers to visit it

“Utopística” will be a program of interviews and analysis that will promote the discussion of major topics of contemporary society. The project is inspired by the vision of Immanuel Wallerstein who coined the word “utopistics” and defined the term as “the reconciliation of science, morality and politics which together indicate what our goals should be” both as individuals and as a society.

The logo of the program which appears below is the work of Dr. Lina Gómez of the Social Communications Program at UNE.



End of the year reflections

The Tao of Liberation: Exploring the Ecology of Transformation

Mark Hathaway and Leonardo Boff

Orbis Books

The end of the calendar year is for many people a time to evaluate and take stock of the world that surrounds them. For others it is a time for spiritual renewal. Messages of hope, renovation and new life abound. The end of one year and the beginning of another is also a good time to widen our horizons and put our reflections in a wider context. The work of Hathaway and Boff, *The Tao of Liberation*, provides an extensive and complex look at today's world, the historical processes that are transforming it (and us) and the challenges we face in order to find a more profound meaning for our present situation.

Hathaway has extensive experience in the field of education and Boff is one of the world's best-known authors of the theology of liberation. Both contributed to this global analysis which includes a wide variety of perspectives: cosmology, ecopsychology, history, economics, ecofeminism, anthropology, mysticism, neuroscience and biology among others. The fundamental context for this work couldn't be wider: the universe.

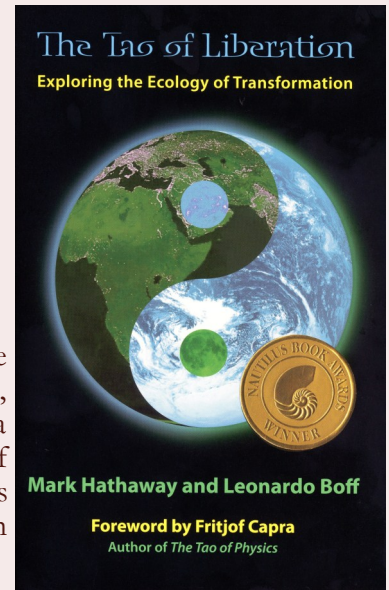
The text is divided into three parts: exploring obstacles, cosmology and liberation, and the third, the tao of liberation. The authors describe with great detail many of the obstacles to liberation. They place these in the context of the global system in which we live, twenty-first century capitalism, which has as one of its basic tenets unlimited growth. In this system, "development" is defined as the unlimited accumulation of goods. According to the authors, this type of limitless growth is, in reality, a kind of cancer which destroys not only the planet's resources but also human beings who are sacrificed in the search for ever larger profits. This system functions through relations of power that are characterized by domination and the values of patriarchy as well as the destruction of nature. As an antidote to these structures, Hathaway and Boff propose a different path for understanding our world. This new vision includes "deep ecology" which understands human beings not as "lord and owner" of the planet but rather as one of many species. We are a species which needs to find a way of living in harmony with other living beings. They also propose "ecofeminism" as an alternative to societies that are dominated by sexist visions and are maintained by violence and inequality.

In the second part of this text, the authors examine the place that we human beings and our planet Earth occupy in the universe. Through quantum physics and its particular method of studying matter, we are invited to consider our existence within a cosmos that does not operate on the basis of domination and destruction but rather is characterized by diversity, continuous expansion and creation. Instead of an image of the universe as a well-oiled machine with rigid eternal laws, we are here offered a vision of chaos, complexity and constant change. For Hathaway and Boff this way of understanding the universe encourages one to see it as a revelation. Planet Earth is perceived as a living being (*Gaia*) and the cosmos is a work of wisdom in constant evolution.

The third section of this text is a reflection on the type of spirituality that is needed during this "ecozoic" era. This new spirituality is not a rejection of religions or their particular practices but rather a path in which there is a confluence of the greatest traditions within a universe that demands a greater consciousness on the part of all humans.

The work ends with a reflection on possible paths to liberation. Four "vías" are proposed: the *positiva* which is a celebration of life in all its manifestations; the *negativa* which requires that we let go of practices, systems and philosophies that negate or destroy life; the *creativa* which drives humans to collaborate more fully with the processes of life; and the *transformativa* which implies a continuous process of building a vision of solidarity with all living beings on the planet.

This book integrates a multiplicity of sources and authors: from the sacred texts of the tao, Buddhism and Christianity to the latest theories of physics of the 21st century as well as the theories of authors such as Vandana Shiva y Theodore Roszak. This text is an invitation to look at life in a radically different way.



New Schedule at Piñero House Museum



Beginning in January of 2014, the Piñero House Museum in Canóvanas will be open to the public from **Wednesday through Sunday**. The visiting hours at the Museum are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Piñero House is part of the network of parks and museums run by the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture (ICP). To schedule a visit to the Museum call: 787-876-0562.

Movie Forum



On November 14th, the Piñero Collection cosponsored a forum dedicated to the fiftieth anniversary of the classic work of Federico Fellini "8 1/2" (*Otto e mezzo*). In the photo, from left to right: Dr. Manuel Almeida (*Ambitos de encuentro* journal), Prof. Glenda García (Multi Language Learning Center), and Prof. Ezequiel Rodríguez Andino (Radio Universidad, UPR) who spoke about Fellini's impact on film.

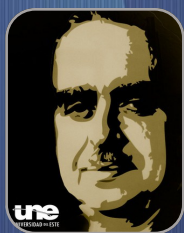
The **Carta Informativa** is the work of:
Leticia Delgado, Norayma Celpa and Jaime Partsch



Piñero Reading Room

Monday thru Friday
7:00 am to 5:00 p.m.

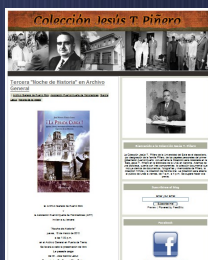
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