

Women's History and Culture Center

September 2024 Newsletter



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Notes from the Editors

September is Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15 to October 15 and honors American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America and South America.

This celebration started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson. President Ronald Reagan expanded it in 1988 to cover the 30-day period from September 15 to October 15.

September 15 was chosen as the starting point for Hispanic Heritage Month because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. They declared independence in 1821.

That is followed by Independence Day celebrations in Mexico, Chile and Belize on September 16, September 18 and September 21 respectively. Indigenous Peoples' Day (October 11) also falls within this 30-day period.

Jean Watkins Kathy Bakken Susan Schubert Melissa Eligul

Editorial Staff

To make changes or additions to the information shown for your group on pages 6 through 8, please contact Melissa Eligul at whcc.eventcalendar@gmail.com. To add or change an event on the Room 23 or Room 18 schedule, or to reserve the WHCC plaza for an outdoor event, please contact Susan Schubert at whcc.susan.schubert@gmail.com.

To receive this newsletter by email or make comments, please email whccmesquitenv@gmail.com.

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WHCC Event/Class Details for September 2024

WHCC, 225 N. Willow St., Mesquite, NV, Room 18 & Room 23

SEP 5 & 19 (THU) 3 PM: *Consciousness Circle* / Terrie McArthur

SEP 6, 20 & 27 (FRI) 9 AM: *Artists Unite* / A group of diverse artists that meet to do their art! Led By Tammy Weese / Open group. Stop by and see if it's a fit for you!!

SEP 6, 13, 20 & 27 (FRI) 12:30 to 4 PM: *Hand Knee & Foot* / Gwen Dudrow / Closed group

SEP 8 (SUN) at 11 AM: *Love, Family Gathering* / Dana Long. To learn more about Love, Family, find them on Facebook or visit lovefamilynv.com for contact information.

SEP 8 (SUN) at 4 PM: *Mesquite Outdoor Group* / Ron & Debbie Carpenter / Closed group

SEP 9 (MON) at 2PM: *Wondering Words Book Club* /

SEP 9 (MON) at 4 PM: *WHCC Volunteer Updates* / Reenie McFarland

SEP 10 & 24 (TUE) at 1 PM: *Desert Dames Fashion Show* / Cheri Christensen (Room 18)

SEP 11 (WED) at 2 PM: *Desert Dames Book Club* / Kaye Hermie (Room 18)

SEP 11 (WED) at 6 PM: *Search & Rescue Board Meeting* / Larry McFarland

SEP 12 (THU) at 12:30 PM: *P E O Canasta* / Bev Valencia (Room 18)

SEP 13 (FRI) at 10 AM: *Desert Dames Bunco* / Rosealee Lee

SEP 17 (TUE) 4 PM: *WHCC Board Meeting* / Jean Watkins (Room 18)

SEP 18 (WED) at 12 PM: *Wip-Its Cross Stitch Club* / Connie Fullmer (Room 18)

SEP 29 (SUN) 11 AM to 1 PM: *Love, Family Board Meeting* / Dana Long

Most classes and groups are on-going each month.

You can find updates to our newsletter and late breaking announcements
at whccmesquitenv.org.

Connect with us at whccmesquitenv@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 2024 Calendar

Women's History and Culture Center

Visit our Website: whccmesquitenv.org
 and Facebook Group: @whccmesquitenv
 Connect with us at whccmesquitenv@gmail.com

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
By Appointment	By Appointment	Open Hours 11-3	Open Hours 11-3	By Appointment	By Appointment	By Appointment
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				3 PM Conscious Circle Book Club	9 AM Artists Unite 12:30 – 4PM Hand/Knee/Foot	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11 AM – 1 PM Love, Family Gathering 4 PM Mesquite Outdoor Group	2 PM Wondering Word Book Club 4 PM WHCC Volunteer Updates	1 PM Desert Dames Fashion Show Committee	2 PM Desert Dames Book Club 6 PM Search & Rescue Board Meeting	12:30 PM PEO Canasta	10 AM Desert Dames Bunco 12:30 – 4PM Hand/Knee/Foot	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		4 PM WHCC Board Meeting	12 PM Wip-Its Cross-Stitch Club	3 PM Conscious Circle Book Club	9 AM Artists Unite 12:30 – 4PM Hand/Knee/Foot	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
					9 AM Artists Unite 12:30 – 4PM Hand/Knee/Foot	
29	30					
11 AM - 1 PM Love, Family Board Meeting						

Meetings highlighted in red are held in Room 18. All other meetings are in Room 23.

The WHCC Board meets at 4 PM on the third Tuesday of the month.

WHCC Greeters and Volunteers meet at 4 PM on the second Monday of the month.

Books at Our Center About Notable Women Born in September

Ann Richards (September 1, 1933 - 2006)

Second woman elected governor of Texas (1990)

- *Straight from the Heart: My Life in Politics and Other Places*
- *Incredible Ann: The Larger-Than-Life Story of Governor Ann Richards*

Christa McAuliffe (September 2, 1948 - 1986)

New Hampshire teacher, selected in 1985 to be the first teacher in space,
died aboard space shuttle Challenger

- *I Touch the Future: The Story of Christa McAuliffe*

Jane Addams (September 6, 1860 - 1935)

Founder of Hull House in Chicago, first American woman to receive the
Nobel Peace Prize, helped establish American Civil Liberties Union (1920)

- *The House That Jane Built*
- *Jane Addams: Spirit in Action*
- *Jane Addams and the Dream of American Democracy*

Margaret Sanger (September 14, 1879 - 1966)

Pioneer in birth control and sex education, founded the predecessor to Planned Parenthood

- *The Autobiography of Margaret Sanger*

Agnes de Mille (September 18, 1905 - 1993)

Dancer and choreographer, pioneer of the American Ballet Theater

- *No Intermissions: The Life of Agnes de Mille*

Victoria Woodhull (September 23, 1838 - 1927)

Feminist, first woman candidate for President (1872) for the Equal Rights Party, first woman,
with her sister Tennessee, to become members of the NY Stock Exchange (1870s)

- *The Woman Who Ran for President: The Many Lives of Victoria Woodhull*

Anne Martin (September 30, 1875 - 1951)

Western suffrage leader, who led the equal suffrage campaign in Nevada,
became first woman to run for the U.S. Senate in 1918

- *Anne Martin: The March for Suffrage*



Happy
Reading!

September Highlights in United States Women's History

- **September 12, 1910:** Alice Stebbins Wells, a former social worker, was the first woman police officer with arrest powers in the U.S. (Los Angeles).
- **September 13, 1944:** President Bill Clinton signed the Violence Against Women Act, providing funding for programs that help victims of domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, stalking and other gender-related violence.
- **September 14, 1964:** President Lyndon Johnson awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to five women:
 - Helen Keller, for illuminating the dark world of the blind and the handicapped.*
 - Dr. Lena Edwards, for medical skills and compassionate outreach to the women and children in the migratory work force.*
 - Lynn Fontanne, for enlivening and enriching the American stage.*
 - Dr. Helen Taussig, for the fundamental concepts that made possible the modern heart surgery that enables countless children to lead productive lives.*
 - Leontyne Price, for singing that brings delight to those who treasure musical values.*
- **September 14, 1975:** Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized and the first American-born saint. She founded the first U.S. Order of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph.
- **September 20, 1973:** Billie Jean King defeated Bobby "No-Broad-Can-Beat-Me" Riggs in the battle of the sexes tennis match.
- **September 25, 1981:** Sandra Day O'Connor was sworn in as the first woman U.S. Supreme Court Justice.
- **September 26, 1971:** Rep. Shirley Chisholm (D-New York) announced she would enter the Democratic presidential primaries.
- **September 26, 1973:** Capt. Lorraine Potter, an American Baptist minister, was the first woman U.S. Air Force chaplain.
- **September 29, 1988:** Stacy Allison was the first American woman to reach the summit of Mt. Everest.

Upcoming Community Events

SEPTEMBER 2024

September	From late August thru December 2024	College of Southern Nevada Fall 2024 Courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to HVAC Electrical Theory & App • Historical Issues & Contemporary Society • Introduction to Medical Assisting • Fundamentals of College Math • Phlebotomy • Composition 1 • Nursing Assistant Clinical & Lab • History of Rock Music • Public Speaking • Copper Fundamentals • Phlebotomy • Medical Terminology • The Body in Health & Disease 	140 N Yucca Mon & Wed Starting 08/26 Tue & Thu Starting 08/27 Thursdays Starting 08/29 Fridays Starting 08/30 Online Courses
Sep 5	Thu 8 AM	What's Happening Mesquite at the Elks Lodge	Mesquite Chamber 702-346-2902
Sep 6, 13, 20 & 27	Thu 5 - 7 PM	Artists Association Palette and Pour Parties Sep 6 "Nightfall" - Sep 15 "Another Day in Paradise" - Sept 20 "Cool Autumn" - Sep 27 "Higgins"	Fine Arts Center Gallery 15 W Mesquite
Sep 11	Wed 9 AM	9/11 Memorial Ceremony Coty Hall Rotunda	10 E Mesquite
Sep 14	Sat 2 - 4 PM	Mesquite Toes Tap Troupe Open House Demonstrations and Free Classes	190 E Mesquite #C
	Sat 2 PM	Patsy and Shelvis Show Tribute to Elvis with special guest Eric Milledge	Mesquite Community Theater 150 N Yucca
Sep 17	Tue 12 PM	Bells Across America - Short Program honoring signing of the Constitution	Veterans Memorial Park 501 Hillside Dr
Sep 17 & 18	Tue & Wed 4 - 6 PM	Open Auditions White Christmas Variety Show	Mesquite Community Theater 150 N Yucca
Sep 19	Thu 4-6 PM	Fine Arts Center Reception and Award Ceremony Theme: Invitational	Fine Arts Center Gallery 15 W Mesquite
Sep 21	Sat 8:45 AM	Rotary Mudd Volleyball Tournament	Eureka Casino back lot
Sep 24	Tue 11 AM	"All Dolled Up" Fall Fashion Show & Champagne Luncheon	Mesquite Toes Dance Troup at 1880 Grille
Sep 28	Sat 11 AM	Artists Association Pottery Studio Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting	Fine Arts Center Gallery 15 W Mesquite
	Sat 4 PM	Psychic Medium Reading with Krystal Parry	Eureka Casino Town Square
	Sat 4 PM	Mesquite Arts Center Open House and Awards Ceremony	Fine Arts Center Gallery 15 W Mesquite
	Sat 5 PM	Kids for Sports Wine Fundraiser	Wolf Creek, 401 Paradise Parkway

OCTOBER 2024

October	All Month	College of Southern Nevada Fall 2024 Courses Mesquite Senior Games Fall Season Registration closes Oct 1	Continuing from Late August mesquiteseniorgames.org 702-345-3347
Oct 5-6	Sat-Sun	Boulder City Art in the Park at these parks: North & South Escalante, Bicentennial and Wilbur	www.visitbouldercity.com.events
Oct 11-13	Fri-Sun 10AM - 5PM	Art in Kayenta Festival Includes Kayenta's Street Painting Festival	875 Coyote Gulch Court Ivins, UT
Oct 11-27		Frankenstein Show / Poe's Midnight Dream Fridays at 7:30 PM: 10/11, 10/18 & 10/25 Saturdays at 7:30 PM: 10/12, 10/19, and 10/26 Sundays at 2:30 PM: 10/13, 10/20 and 10/27	Mesquite Community Theater 150 N Yucca

Oct 17	Thu 4-6 PM 4-8 PM	Fine Arts Reception and Award Ceremony Theme: Beneath the Surface Witches Gathering	Fine Arts Center Gallery 15 W Mesquite Fine Arts Center Amphitheatre
Oct 18	Fri TBA	DAR Workshop – Veteran Day Cards For veterans in local care facilities	Fine Arts Center Gallery 15 W Mesquite
Oct 24	Thu 6 – 9 PM	Shreeek Reeka and Decorating For Dollars Contest	Eureka Casino Resort Parking Area
Oct 26	Sat 8 AM Sat 6 PM	Sun City Community Garage Sale Love, Family Country Hoe Down Variety Show	Various Locations Various Locations
	Sat TBA	Doggie Costume Contest	Eureka Casino Parking Area
Oct 31	Thu 5 PM	18th Annual Trunk or Treat	Casablanca Parking Garage

NOVEMBER 2024

November	All Month	College of Southern Nevada Fall 2024 Courses Artists Association Christmas Boutique Open Mon-Sat from 10AM-4PM Ms. Senior Mesquite Pageant Sign Ups	Continuing from Late August Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery 15 W Mesquite
Nov 2	Sat 10AM-3PM	Moapa Valley Community Resource Fair	Clark County Fairgrounds Logandale
Nov 2-3	Sat-Sun	Moapa Valley Arts Guild Pomegranate Art Festival	Clark County Fairgrounds Logandale
Nov 3-10	Sun-Sun	1,000 Flags Over Mesquite Sponsored by the Exchange Club	Mesquite Rec Center West Field
Nov 4	Mon Noon	Lunch and Learn – Beehive Homes Presentation	Mesquite Senior Center 102 W Old Mill
Nov 9	Sat 7:45 AM Sat 10 AM Sat 2 PM	Veterans Memorial Service Veterans Day Parade A Country Western Jamboree 5 th Annual Veterans Party	Veterans Park, 501 Hillside Drive Mesquite Blvd & Arrowhead Virgin River Event Tent 100 Pioneer
Nov 13	Wed 11AM	Desert Dames Fashion Show	Casablanca. 950 W Mesquite
Nov 27	Wed 11AM-3PM	Community Thanksgiving Dinner Options: In-door dining, take out or drive through	Mesquite Senior Center 102 W Old Mill
Nov 30	Sat	Small Business Saturday – Sign up at Mesquite Chamber of Commerce	Various Locations

DECEMBER 2024

December	All Month	Artists Association Christmas Boutique Open Mon-Sat from 10AM-4PM Ms. Senior Mesquite Pageant Sign Ups Sign up period runs through December	Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery 15 W Mesquite
Dec TBA	9 AM	Jingle Bell Dash – 5K and Fun Run	Rec Center West fFeld
Dec 4 & 5	Wed & Thu 4 – 7 PM	Open Auditions Anne of Green Gables Show	Mesquite Community Theater 150 N Yucca
Dec 5	Thu 8 AM	What’s Happening Mesquite at the Elks Lodge	Mesquite Chamber 702-346-2902
Dec 6	Fri 5:30 PM Then	Parade of Lights – Food drive for Salvation Army Photos with Santa & Mrs. Clause	Staging at 100 Arrowhead At City Hall - 10 E Mesquite
Dec 6 & 7	Fri & Sat	Mesquite Toes “Christmas Show” – 1 PM	Mesquite Community Theatre
Dec 7	Sat 5-7:30 PM	Friends of Gold Butte 8th Annual Celebration & Auction 5-7:30 PM.	Fgb.betterworld.org On-line bidding starts Nov 22.
Dec 19	Thu 4-6 PM	Fine Arts Center Reception and Award Ceremony	Fine Arts Gallery 15 W Mesquite

JANUARY 2025

Jan 8	Wed 5:30 PM	Best of Mesquite Award Dinner	Mesquite Chamber 702-346-2902
Jan 16	Thu 4-6 PM	Fine Arts Center Reception and Award Ceremony	Fine Arts Gallery Classroom 15 W Mesquite
Jan 17-19	Fri-Sun	Mesquite Motor Mania	Casablanca, 950 W Mesquite
Jan 24-26	Fri-Sun	Hot Air Balloon Festival	Casablanca, 950 W Mesquite
Jan 27	Mon Noon - 1 PM	Suffrage in Clark County, Past and Present Presentation by WHCC Staff	Fine Arts Gallery 15 W Mesquite

FEBRUARY 2025

Feb TBA		Kids for Sports Charity Golf Tournament Shotgun Start	Wolf Creek Golf Club Shanna 702-345-6707
Feb 14	Fri	Denim and Diamonds Dinner Dance benefitting the Mesquite Showgirls	TBA
Feb 20	Thu 4-6 PM	Fine Arts Center Reception and Award Ceremony	Fine Arts Gallery 15 W Mesquite
Feb 21 & 22	Fri 7 PM Sat 1 & 7 PM	18th Annual Western Roundup Cowboy Poets	Mesquite Community Theatre 150 N Yucca
Feb 24	Mon Noon - 1 PM	History of Women Firefighters in Nevada Presentation by WHCC Staff	Fine Arts Gallery Classroom 15 W Mesquite

MARCH 2025

March	All Month	Decorate Saxon the Suffrage Cat Contest Sign up period runs to May	Women's History and Culture Center 225 N Willow #23
		Mesquite Senior Games Spring Season Poker, Bowling, Pickleball, Basketball, Tennis, Track & Field	Mesquiteseniorgames.org 702-345-3347
Mar TBA	Sat	Mesquite Showgirls Bingo Bash	Elks Lodge
Mar 3 & 5	Mon & Wed 9 AM	Beginning Line Dance New class starts	Mesquite Rec Center Dance Room
Mar 6	Thu 8 AM	What's Happening Mesquite Reservations required 702-346-2902	Elks Lodge 545 Riverside
Mar 20	Thu 4-6 PM	Fine Arts Center Reception and Award Ceremony	Fine Arts Gallery Classroom 15 W Mesquite

APRIL 2025

April	All Month	Decorate Saxon the Suffrage Cat Contest Sign up period runs to May	Women's History and Culture Center 225 N Willow #23
		Mesquite Senior Games Spring Season Poker, Bowling, Pickleball, Basketball, Tennis, Track & Field	Mesquiteseniorgames.org 702-345-3347
		Artists Association Grand Bazaar	Fine Arts Gallery, 15 W Mesquite
Apr TBA	2 PM	Ms. Senior Mesquite Pageant	Community Theatre, 150 N Yucca
Apr 4 & 5	Fri 1 PM Sat 1 PM	Mesquite Toes Spring Spectacular	Community Theatre, 150 N Yucca
Apr 17	Thu 4-6 PM	Fine Arts Center Reception and Award Ceremony	Fine Arts Gallery 15 W Mesquite
Apr 28	Mon 12 -1 PM	Fine Arts Center Reception and Award Ceremony	Fine Arts Gallery 15 W Mesquite

Monthly Meetings & Ongoing Community Events

MONDAY

2 nd Mon	6PM	Ham Radio Club	Airport Fire Station #2
3 rd Mon	11AM	Artists Association Monthly Meeting	Fine Arts Center Classroom

TUESDAY

1 st Tue	Noon	Brown Bag Cultural Series	Fine Arts Classroom, 15 W Mesquite
1 st & 3 rd Tue	2:30PM	City Council Technical Review	Council Chambers, 2 nd Floor, City Hall
1 st Tue	5:30PM	Arts Council	Fine Arts Classroom, 15 W Mesquite
2 nd Tue	10AM	Conservative Club	Veterans Center, 840 Hafén
2 nd Tue	5:30PM	MFA Photographic Society	Fine Arts Classroom, 15 W Mesquite
2 nd & 4 th Tue	Noon	Exchange Club	Veterans Center, 840 Hafén
2 nd & 4 th Tue	5PM	City Council	Council Chambers, 2 nd Floor, City Hall
3 rd Tue	PM	Amateur Radio Club 801-643-4952	Airport Fire Station
3 rd Tue	6:30PM	VFW Meeting (Veterans of Foreign Wars)	Veterans Center, 840 Hafén

WEDNESDAY

Every Wed	5:30PM	Rotary Weekly Meeting	Usually at the Mesquite Library
1 st Wed	4 – 6 PM	Desert Dames Hump Day – Open event	Call 209-993-6907 for details
2 nd Wed	11:30 AM	Chamber of Commerce Luncheon	Various Locations
2 nd Wed	5 PM	Republican Women	Veterans Center, 840 Hafén

THURSDAY

1 st Thu	10AM	Mesquite Public Arts Commission	Council Chambers, 2 nd Floor, City Hall
1 st Thu	6PM	Elks Lodge #2811	545 Riverside Rd, 702-345-2811
1 st & 3 rd Thu	11:30AM	Lions Club	Veterans Center, 840 Hafén
1 st & 3 rd Thu	5PM	Ms. Senior Mesquite Pageant	Women's Center, 225 N Willow, #23
2 nd Thu	2PM	Mesquite Caregivers Support Group	Mesquite Library Learning Center
2 nd Thu	6PM	Desert Fox Flyers Radio Control Club	Beaver Dam Fire Station #1
2 nd Thu	9 AM – 1PM	Rotary Mesquite Reads Book Sale	College of So. NV, 140 N Yucca
2 nd Thu	Noon-5PM	Blood Drive www.redcrossblood.org	Rec Center
4 th Thu	12-1PM	Toastmasters	First Baptist Church, 830 E Hafén

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Every Sat	9AM	Desert Fox Flyers Radio Control Club	
1 st Sat	9-11AM	We Care For Animals Pet Adoptions	150 N Yucca, #1
3 rd Sat	5PM	RAISE Mesquite	Women's Center, 225 N Willow, #23

SUNDAY

Every Sun	3-4PM	Al-Anon Family Weekly Meeting	Veterinary Clinic, 371 Riverside #A
2 nd Sun	11AM	Love, Family Gathering	Women's Center, 225 N Willow, #23

INSPIRING HISPANIC WOMEN AND GIRLS - PAST AND PRESENT - WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

Here are stories of Hispanic women from around the world who changed their communities. Each has an incredible story that will inspire us - at all ages and from all countries - to be changemakers for the next generation and make a difference in our community.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez - Politician and Activist (October 12, 1989 -)

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is a Puerto Rican politician and activist who's dedicated her career to making change for working-class people and a more equitable, just society. She grew up between the Bronx and Westchester County and saw firsthand how where you live affects the education you receive. This was just one of many experiences that influenced her decision to get involved in politics. In 2018, she ran for Congress and won! Another reason she made this list of famous Hispanic women is because she is the youngest woman and youngest Latina in history elected to serve in Congress. Alexandria currently focuses on creating and changing legislation to fight climate change, create jobs, and combat social justice issues like economic inequality.

Carolina Herrera - Fashion Designer (January 8, 1939 -)

Carolina Herrera is a Venezuelan-American fashion designer. She didn't grow up sewing, but after attending a fashion show with her grandmother, she designed her first dress at 14. In 1980, she immigrated to the United States and became a fashion icon. Many of her designs are inspired by the prints popular in her homeland from the 1950s and '60s. Carolina has designed clothing for several of the first ladies of the United States, including Laura Bush and Michelle Obama, and for famous pop stars like Taylor Swift.

Deyna Castellanos - Professional Soccer Player (April 18, 1999 -)

When she was growing up in Venezuela, Deyna was told that only boys could play soccer, but she couldn't help falling in love with the sport. She discovered her passion for soccer on the sidelines at her brother's games. One day, the ball came her way as it flew out of bounds. Deyna used the opportunity to show off her skills. She flipped the ball up, balancing it on her foot. She kicked it in the air and bounced it off her head. Her plan worked! The coach noticed her, and encouraged her parents to sign her up for soccer. Deyna pursued soccer relentlessly and played soccer on the Florida State Team. Then, in 2017, she was a finalist for FIFA's best women's player in the world award, despite not playing on a national team nor being a professional player. Now 23, Deyna is a professional soccer player who plays as a forward for Manchester City and the Venezuelan women's national team. She's also played in the Youth Olympics and the World Cup.

Dolores Huerta – Labor Activist (April 10, 1930 -)

Dolores Huerta is a Mexican-American labor activist. She is known for cofounding the National Farm Workers Association, a union that focuses on improving working conditions in agriculture. When powerful people said it wouldn't be possible for farm workers to gain more rights, Dolores said, “*Si se puede!*” (Yes, it can be done), which became the movement's slogan. Dolores also coordinated nationwide boycotts of produce, resulting in the passage of a law (the Agricultural Labor Relations Act) for farm workers' rights.

Erendira Yaretzi Morales Flores – Harpist (2003 -)

Eréndira grew up in Mexico going to fandangos with her mom. She was enchanted by music and when she was six years old, she discovered the instrument she was born to play: the harp. She began to study harp and dance in school. Eréndira was bullied for playing the harp as other kids didn't see it as “cool” or interesting. But she didn't care. She loved playing music regardless of what people thought of her. Her teacher encouraged her to enter music competitions, which she did. She won first place in the international competition, Golden Classical Music Awards in the category of Strings, and later performing at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Eva Perón – Politician and Activist (May 7, 1919 – July 26, 1952)

There has never been a rags-to-riches story like Eva Perón's. Eva was born into a low-class family but ended up becoming the first lady of Argentina. Although the elite and wealthy members of society weren't fans of her, she didn't let them stop her from using her influence to become a social justice advocate for women and the working class. During her time as first lady, she helped pass a women's suffrage law, giving women the right to vote, and helped found the Peronista Feminist Party.

Frida Kahlo - Painter (July 6, 1907 – July 13, 1954)

Frida Kahlo was a Mexican artist and one of the most famous and influential female painters in history. Frida was born to German and Mexican parents, which inspired her to explore her own identity. Through her artwork, she expressed the balance between her two different heritages, depicted in paintings like [The Two Fridas](#).

Gloria Estefan – Entertainer (September 1, 1957 -)

Gloria grew up in war-torn Cuba where a revolution was happening. Her parents took her and her siblings to Florida, where Gloria then grew up and adjusted to American life. Gloria spent most of her teenage years taking care of her sick father who had returned from the Vietnam War. Music was her escape. She released over 20 albums, has 26 Grammys, did a musical, and owns restaurants, hotels, a football team, recording studio, and publishing company.

Isabella Springmuhl – Down’s Syndrome Fashion Designer (1996 -)

Isabella grew up dreaming about becoming a fashion designer. She made dresses for her dolls and read fashion magazines. Unfortunately, when she applied to fashion schools, she was rejected because she has Down syndrome. Teachers didn’t think she could keep up with the other students. But Isabella believed in herself and kept going. She started making her own clothes that had Guatemalan flair and catered to the distinct physical needs of people with Down Syndrome. She was eventually invited to showcase her clothing at a costume museum in Guatemala. From there, she’s gone on to create her own label (Down to Xjabelle) for people with Down syndrome. She was also the first person with Down syndrome to showcase designs at London Fashion Week.

Lucia Montenegro - Paralympics Athlete (2003 -)

Lucia was born with partial paralysis in her spine. She looked for ways to be active, and found wheelchair racing when she was eight at a summer camp in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She trained hard and began to compete in para athlete races all over the world. She won a silver medal in Switzerland at the World Para World Championships, where she also carried the Argentinian flag. She is now training to compete in the Paralympics.

Maria Teresa Kumar - Journalist and Activist (1974 -)

Born in Bogota, Colombia, Maria became a US Citizen at 9 years old. Growing up was difficult as her mom worked long hours and her father was ill. She went to the University of California Davis and then received a Master’s degree from Harvard. While a legislative aide to Democratic congressman Vic Fazio, she saw firsthand how Latinx voters were disproportionately affected by the technology gap. She began working with Voto Latino who partnered with the US Census Bureau to increase participation in the upcoming census. She helped launch the “Be Counted” campaign which had a bilingual mobile phone app that enabled Latinx communities to complete the census on their phones. Under Maria’s leadership, Voto Latino registered over half a million new Latinx voters.

Mariana Pajon - Olympic Cyclist (October 10, 1991 -)

Growing up in Medellin, Colombia, Mariana turned toward cycling to distract herself from her sometimes dangerous city. Her parents were thrilled as they were also athletes growing up. Mariana began competing in BMX races. She was often one of the only girls competing. At 9 years old, in an international competition, Mariana doubted that she’d win. To her surprise, she beat out all the boys and finished on top. Since then, Mariana has won gold medals in the London 2012 Olympics and the Rio 2016 Olympics, and she won silver in Tokyo in 2020. She’s the first Colombian to win two Olympic gold medals.

Maritza Soto Vasquez - Astronomer (1990 -)

Maritza is a Chilean astronomer who discovered exoplanets, which are planets outside the solar system. She was the first to prove their existence. She led a team of astronomers at Queen Mary University of London, and she was a postdoctoral researcher, a highly esteemed position for someone in their 20s. Maritza was nominated for the Natida Chileno del Año 2018 award, an initiative to recognize Chileans who achieve great things in their fields.

Rigoberta Menchù Tum - Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (January 9, 1959 -)

Meet Rigoberta Menchù Tum, a Guatemalan activist who advocates for the rights of Indigenous people. Rigoberta belongs to the [K’iche’](#), a group of Mayan people who live in Guatemala. When the Spanish conquered Guatemala in the 1500s, they killed many K’iche’ and destroyed their land and cities. By the time Rigoberta was growing up in the 1960s, her family still did not have enough land to support themselves. Rigoberta dedicated her life to social justice work, fighting for the rights of Indigenous people everywhere. For this work, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992

Rita Moreno - Actress and Singer (December 11, 1931 -)

Rita Moreno is a famous Hispanic woman in the arts. Her breakout role in the 1961 movie musical *West Side Story* made her the first Latina ever to earn an Oscar. Throughout Rita's career, she has focused on representing Hispanic people positively. She told [NPR](#) about the pride that came with portraying her character in *West Side Story*: "It represented a lot of breakthroughs for young actors of Hispanic origin." Additionally, Rita is the first Hispanic woman to achieve an EGOT, meaning she has been awarded Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony Awards. Only six women have ever accomplished this feat.

Selena Gomez - Actress and Singer (July 22, 1992 -)

Selena Gomez is a Mexican-American actor and singer. Her acting career began when she was 10 and continued with a successful run on the Disney Channel. Selena still acts today, but she also has an incredible music career. In 2021, Selena decided to release a Spanish-language album [inspired](#) by her Mexican heritage, which earned a Grammy nomination. When she isn't acting or singing, she's advocating for more open conversations about [mental health](#). In 2022, she was featured in a documentary, *My Mind and Me*, discussing her mental health struggles. She also cofounded Wondermind, an online publication supporting mental fitness and honest conversations about mental health.

Sonia Sotomayor - Supreme Court Justice (June 25, 1954 -)

Sonia Sotomayor is a Puerto Rican lawyer and judge who made history as the first Latina Supreme Court justice ever appointed. This influential Latina woman has supported criminal justice reform, the Affordable Care Act, and the legalization of marriage equality. Interestingly, initially she wanted to be a detective since she loved the Nancy Drew books, but after watching Perry Mason at age ten, she knew some day she would one day be an attorney.

Valentina Quintero (June 28, 1954 -) & Arianna Arteaga (November 25, 1980 -)

Valentina and her mother Arianna love to travel around their beloved country of Venezuela. Together, they host a TV show called *Two on a Trip*. They document the beauty of Venezuela, visiting lush jungles and vibrant cities. Valentina and Arianna also shed light on the issues in their country like lack of electricity and food shortages. They encourage their viewers to explore their home country and support each other.

Victoria Alonsoperez - Chipsafer Inventor (1986 or 1987 -)

Growing up with an accountant father, Victoria noticed math and loved it. She used her passion for numbers to help her country when she learned that cows were becoming ill on farms across the nation. This was a huge problem for food production. She invented the Chipsafer, which is a collar that's connected to an app. Using Chipsafer, farmers can track the behavior of their cows and determine if they are becoming sick. This makes it possible to isolate sick cows from healthy cows. Chipsafer was named the Most Innovative Startup of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2014. The Inter-American Development Bank and MIT Technology Review named her the Innovator of the Year for Argentina and Uruguay. BBC 100 Women series named her one of the most inspirational women of the year in 2015.

Xóchitl Guadalupe Cruz Lopez - Solar Water Heater Inventor (2011 -)

Xóchitl noticed that in her hometown of Chiapas, Mexico, people were chopping down lots of beautiful trees for firewood to heat water because they could not afford to buy a water heater. Xóchitl thought there must be a better way. In an effort to avoid chopping down trees, she invented a new heater that cost only \$30. It was made of discarded plastic, old wood, water bottles, hose, nylon, and glass doors. With only trash, she'd made a solar powered water heater. She is the youngest recipient of Mexico's National Autonomous University (UNAM) science prize recognizing women's accomplishments in science. Her scientific achievements inspire learners across the globe.

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These Hispanic women changed the world in their own special way. Whether it was building something important for the community, or creating beautiful art and music, they took charge of their destiny. They proved that with hard work and determination, big dreams can come true.