

JulieAnn Caputo

LATINX TEXT

Amazing Latinxs Who Shaped History



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Latinx Text

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City College of New York
Electronic Design and Multimedia
Senior Thesis Project

*For my grandpa Nelson,
For Latinx youth*



LATIN AMERICA

HISPANIC

noun

1. a Spanish-speaking person living in the United States, especially one of Latin American descent.

adjective

1. relating to Spain or to Spanish-speaking countries, especially those of Latin America.

LATINX

noun

1. a person of Latin American origin or descent (used as a gender-neutral or nonbinary alternative to Latino or Latina).

adjective

1. relating to people of Latin American origin or descent (used as a gender-neutral or nonbinary alternative to Latino or Latina).

SPANISH

adjective

1. relating to Spain, its people, or its language.

noun

1. the people of Spain.
2. a Romance language spoken in Spain and in much of Central and South America (except Brazil) and several other countries. It is the second most widely spoken first language in the world, with more than 400 million speakers.

Contents

PURA BELPRÉ 1

BARUJ BENACERRAF 3

CESAR CHAVEZ 5

JULIO CORTÁZAR 7

RAFFI FREEMAN-GURSPAN 9

EDUARDO GALEANO 11

GABRIEL GARCÍA MÁRQUEZ 13

DOLORES HUERTA 15

RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ TUM 17

ANA MENDIETA 19

THE MIRABAL SISTERS 21

GABRIELA MISTRAL 23

EVO MORALES 25

MARÍA ELENA MOYANO 27

PABLO NERUDA 29

ELLEN OCHOA 31

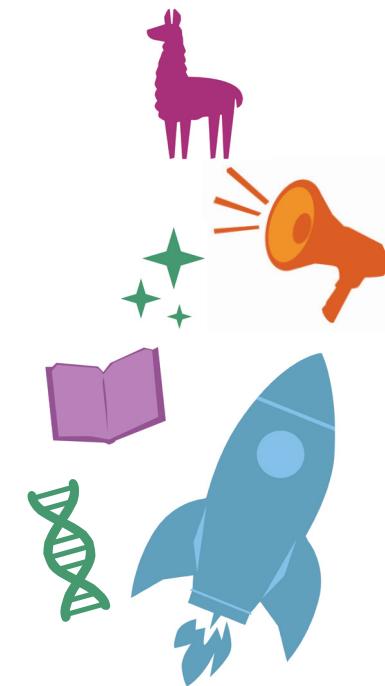
PELÉ 33

SYLVIA RIVERA 35

ÓSCAR ROMERO 37

AYRTON SENNA 39

Glossary 41





PURA BELPRÉ

Puerto Rico

*"To appreciate the present, one must have a knowledge of the past...
to know where we go, we must know from where we came..."*

Before many can walk on a road, there first has to be the one who paves it; that is what Pura Belpré did for the Spanish-speaking communities in NYC. Pura Belpré was born in Puerto Rico in the city of Cidra on February 2, 1899. Ever since she was a small girl, she dreamed of becoming a teacher while attending school in Santurce, Puerto Rico. However, everything would change while attending college.

In 1920 Belpré briefly paused her studies to attend her sister's, Elisa, wedding in New York City. As part of the New York Public Library's effort to hire young women from ethnically diverse backgrounds, she was hired as a librarian. This would be the beginning of a life-changing career as she would change the way the Spanish speaking community viewed literature and the library. Belpré worked at many libraries before becoming the first Puerto Rican woman to be hired by the New York Public Library.

During her career as a librarian, Belpré would travel tremendously throughout NYC, reading stories out loud in both English and Spanish. She began public library outreach work with New York City's Puerto Rican community in which she pioneered the bilingual narration of stories in New York Public Libraries. Additionally, apart from being a librarian she also wrote books, translated various English Puerto Rican folktales into Spanish and used puppets for storytelling. The first story Belpré wrote

and published was *Pérez and Martina*, a love story between a cockroach and a mouse.

Throughout her life, Belpré aimed to stir change by exposing the beauty of the Spanish language in our everyday folktales and stories. Belpré died on July 1, 1982, having received the New York Mayor's Award for Arts and Culture earlier that year. Through her librarian and literary work, Belpré broke the barriers that led the Spanish speaking community to believe the library was only for those who spoke English. She paved the way for generations to be aware of their Latinx heritage and love their native language.

Fun Fact: Another word for a librarian is "bibliothecar."



BARUJ BENACERRAF

Venezuela

"As biologists, we contemplate with admiration and awe..."

How can we discover something in the body that we cannot see with our eyes? Baruj Benacerraf found a way. Baruj Benacerraf was born in Caracas, Venezuela on October 29, 1920. Early in his life, Benacerraf and his family moved to Paris in 1925, until World War II started. Soon after returning to Venezuela, he emigrated to the U.S. for high school and college. Determined to be a doctor, he went on to obtain his medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia.

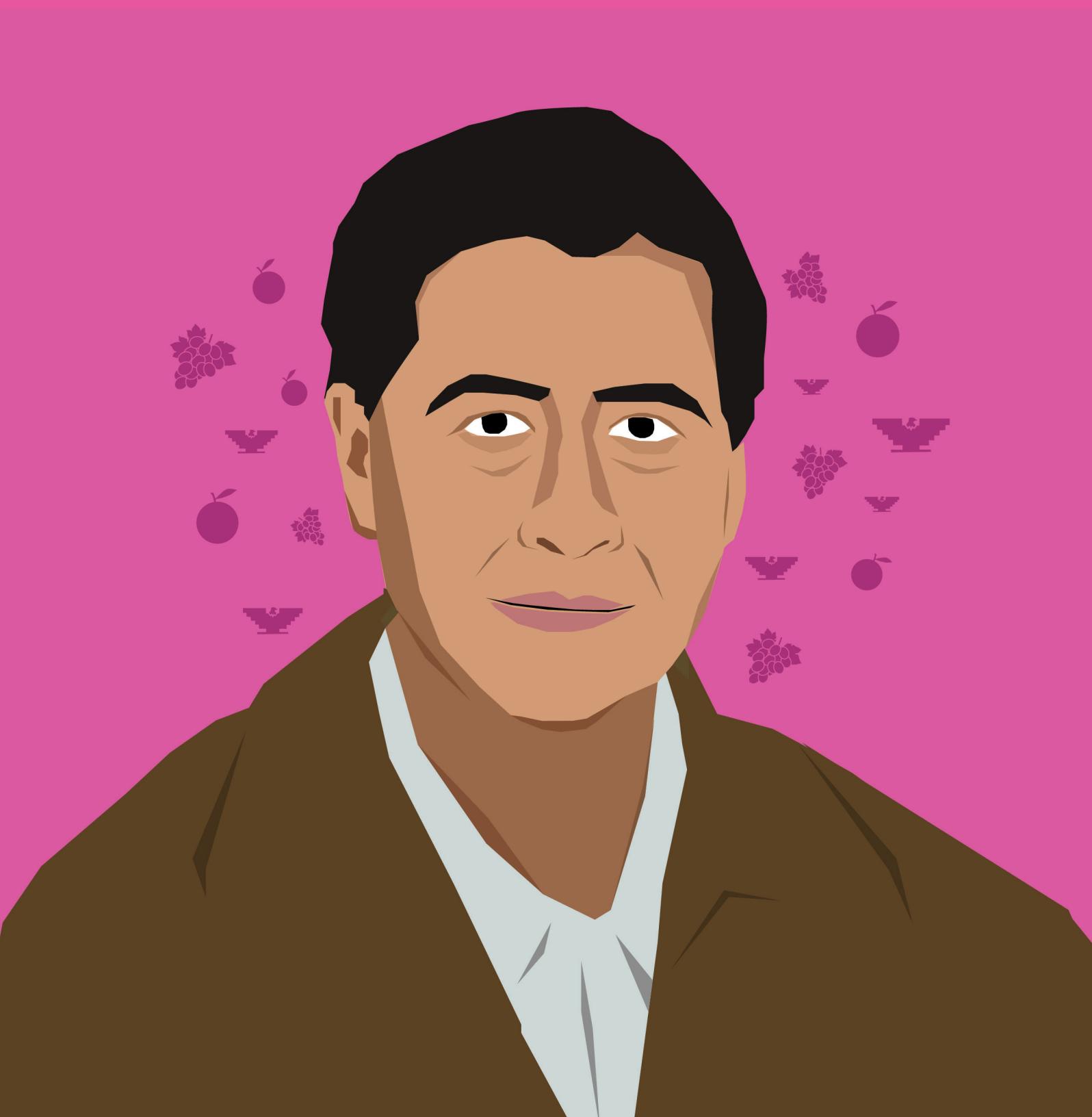
After graduating, he returned to France in an attempt to establish a scientific lab to conduct research of reticuloendothelial function in relation to immunity; however, he failed to do so. Luckily, his determination and unwillingness to give up resulted in him finding a position as Professor of Pathology at New York University. This was the beginning of Benacerraf's scientific journey to make discoveries that would change the world.

While at NYU, Benacerraf began to study complex systems that were involved in the immune system. The immune system consists of various components that coordinate the body's defenses. If they are not carefully maintained, autoimmune disorders and diseases can arise, such as during organ transplants. Towards the end of the 1960s, Benacerraf had discovered components of DNA that regulate immune responses. This would change the course of medicine and lay the foundation for immunology and genetics for the future.

In 1980, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine for his discovery of the 30 genes that were determined to be part of the major histocompatibility complex, a region of DNA involved in immune responsiveness. Benacerraf's contributions were significantly impactful by giving clues as to how autoimmune diseases, such as multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis, attack one's own body. His work set the stage for the discovery of treatments that have improved the quality of life for millions over the world.

Fun Fact: The DNA in all of your cells could stretch from the earth to the sun and back about 600 times.





CESAR CHAVEZ

U.S.A (Mexico)

"Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. We have seen the future, and the future is ours."

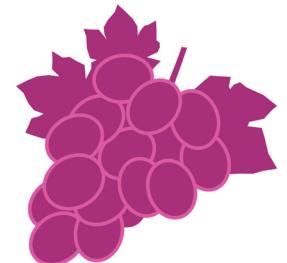
Farmers are an essential workforce in every country, but oftentimes citizens do not recognize the hard labor required to cultivate the food they consume. However, one man refused for farmers to go unnoticed and unheard, and his name was Cesar Chavez. Cesario Estrada Chavez was born on March 31, 1927, near Yuma, Arizona to Mexican immigrant parents. In 1939 Chavez and his family moved to California and for the next decade they would move around the state working in the fields. During this time Chavez witnessed the awful conditions that existed for laborers. He saw the grim migrant camps, corrupt labor contractors, minuscule wages for tough work and racism. After this moment, Chavez knew to what he wanted to dedicate his life.

In 1952, Chavez met Father Donald McDonnell, an activist Catholic priest, and Fred Ross, an organizer with the Community Service Organization, who recruited him to join their group. It was not long before Chavez was appointed as a national director. However, in 1962, he resigned to focus on founding and organizing the Farm Workers Association (FWA) a union for farm workers. Everything changed for Chavez when his FWA joined a strike on behalf of farm workers in grape fields. It only took a few months for Chavez and his union to become nationally known. In 1966, he began his famous march on Sacramento and urged for a consumer boycott to help negotiate

the demands of the union. After years of strikes and hard work, on July 29, 1970, grape growers signed contracts recognizing the farmer's union in the grape fields.

For the next thirty years Chavez continued his strong commitment to the problems of some of the poorest workers across America. Chavez's movement and spirit inspired success in raising salaries and improving working conditions for farm workers in California, Texas, Arizona, and Florida. Cesar Chavez witnessed the issues for farm workers and never stopped until they were treated and compensated fairly. He showed an unmatched resilience in order to ensure that field workers across America could unionize and bargain for fair conditions and wages.

Fun Fact: California grows over 200 different crops which include grapes, oranges and strawberries.



JULIO CORTÁZAR

Argentina

"When one wants to write, one writes. If one is condemned to write, one writes."

One man changed the course of Hispanic literature which would influence an entire generation of Spanish speaking readers and writers in the Americas and Europe. His name was Julio Cortázar. Julio Cortázar was born on August 26, 1914 in Brussels, Belgium. However, he spent most of his childhood in Banfield, located in the capital of Argentina, Buenos Aires. For most of this time, he was sick which caused him to remain in bed for long periods of time. During this time, he could only do one thing, read books.

Cortázar's interest in literature would soon lead him to pursue a degree in Philosophy and languages at the University of Buenos Aires. However, due to financial problems he left the university but decided to teach at local high schools. During his time as a teacher, he began to write and publish sonnets named *Presencia* under the pseudonym of Julio Denis. Cortázar would continue to teach literature at universities around Argentina and even published a play based on Greek mythology. In 1951, Cortázar would do the unexpected and emigrate to France where he would spend the rest of his life.

While in France, Cortázar wrote his most famous works such as *Bestiario*, *Final del Juego*, and *Las Armas Secretas*. One theme in particular that Cortázar enjoyed writing about was the adventures of the everyday normal person but with a twist. Cortázar's innovative writing that blended the lines of fantasy

and real life made his work such a success that many began translating it into English. His most famous work is *Hopscotch*, which allows the reader to either pick a linear mode of reading or a nonlinear mode where you can skip and arrive at a different ending. Cortázar would go on to write dozens of classical works of literature until his death in Paris on February 12, 1984.

Julio Cortázar is seen as the father of the 'Latin American Boom' which inspired many readers to explore Spanish literature. Cortázar innovated many literary modes of writing that continue to inspire writers today.

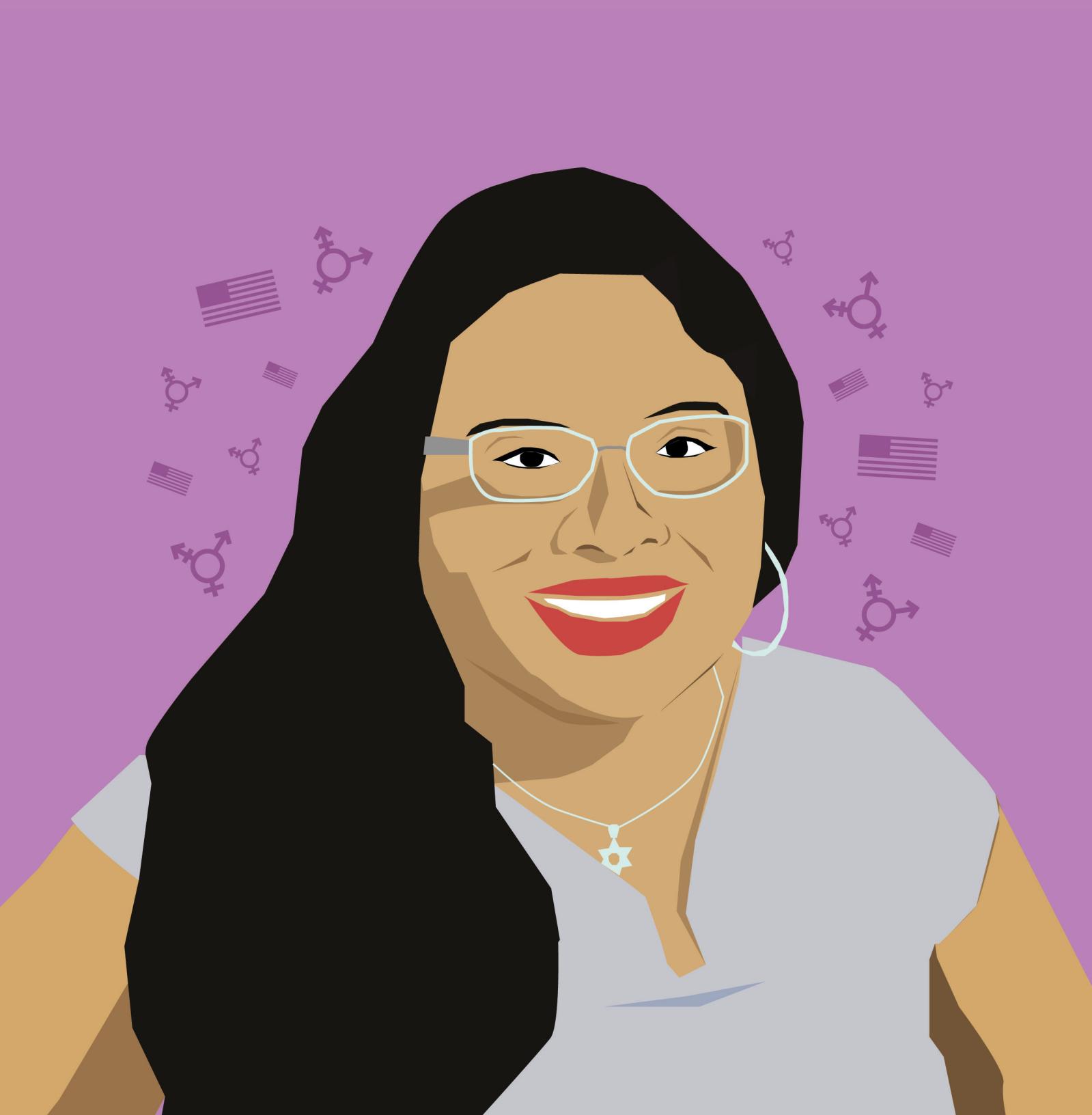
Fun Fact: Some of the most acclaimed writers in Latin America come from Argentina.



RAFFI FREEMAN-GURSPAN

Honduras

"Equal treatment and justice for those that are vulnerable in society was always just at the forefront of my childhood, and made me decide early on that I wanted to be involved in social justice work."

A stylized portrait of Raffi Freedman-Gurspan, a woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a grey top and a necklace with a star pendant. She is smiling. The background is purple and features various gender symbols (male, female, non-binary) and small American flags.

Raffi Freedman-Gurspan was born to a Lenca family living in Intibucá, Honduras on May 3, 1987. The Lenca are the indigenous people of western Honduras and eastern El Salvador. She was adopted by an American Jewish couple and was raised in Massachusetts. At an early age, Freedman-Gurspan developed a sudden interest in Norway. Her parents loved her commitment and enthusiasm, so they let her go to a Norwegian language immersion camp in the summer. Over the years, as her curiosity about different people all over the world grew, she began to notice that not everyone is treated equally. While attending St. Olaf College in Minnesota she did a study-abroad to learn about international law with a focus on human rights and gender equality at the University of Oslo in Norway. During this time, Freedman-Gurspan noticed how transwomen like herself, were discriminated against and made it her mission to change this in the United States.

After graduating, Freedman-Gurspan would go on to join the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition where she worked tirelessly on legislative and policy issues for the LGBTQ+ community. A year later, she was hired by the Mayor of Somerville, Massachusetts to serve as the city's LGBTQ+ liaison. She then would go on to help pass transgender civil rights bills in 2011 that would impact thousands of transgender individuals. Overtime, her dedication to change the stigma and

unfair treatment of the LGBTQ+ community, led her to be hired as policy advisor at the National Center for Transgender Equality. In Washington DC, she witnessed the terrible conditions that transgender people faced, regardless of the hard work she had done. From this point she was inspired to bring more change for her community, but on a bigger stage.

Her aspirations would go on to bring real change when on August 18, 2015, she was hired by President Barack Obama as Outreach and Recruitment Director in the Presidential Personnel Office at the White House. This made Freedman-Gurspan the first openly transgender person to work as a White House staffer ever in history. Ever since then, she has been working on helping educate the public about the LGBTQ+ community and their struggles with the hopes that in the future they will embrace each other regardless of their gender.

Fun Fact: The term "Two Spirited" is a title used by the Indigenous North American community to describe gender fluid or gender non-conforming individuals.



EDUARDO GALEANO

Uruguay

"I think the purpose of the writer is to help us see. The writer is someone who can perhaps have the joy of helping others see."

Words are so common yet, only those who order them in certain ways create art. One of those people was Eduardo Germán María Hughes Galeano. Galeano was born in Montevideo, Uruguay, on September 3, 1940. During his childhood, Galeano dreamed of being either a saint or a soccer player, whichever came first, he would say. However, when he was 14 years old, he began working for a newspaper *El Sol* where he would spend the next 20 years.

In 1973, there was a military coup and a dictatorship that took power in Uruguay. This dictatorship began arresting many people who worked in certain newspapers, including Galeano. While imprisoned, he was able to plan an escape to Argentina.

While in a temporary exile in Argentina, at the age of 32, he wrote his popular work *Open Veins of Latin America*. His passionate story became a widely recognized and praised piece of Latin American literature. In his book, Galeano analyzes the history of the Americas as a whole, from the beginning of the European settlement of the 'New World' to contemporary Latin America. Galeano profoundly described the effects of European and United States economic exploitation which resulted in an unstable Latin America.

In 1976, Argentina fell to a dictatorship which caused Galenao to flee to Spain. While in Spain, he wrote his memoir, *Days and*

Nights of Love and War. People all over the world fell in love with his elegant style of writing.

After the dictatorship ended, Galeano returned to Uruguay in 1985. He continued to write masterpieces such as *Soccer in Sun and Shadow* which commented on the 1969 Soccer War between Honduras and El Salvador. Sadly, on April 13, 2015, Galeano passed away at the age of 74. Despite never having received a formal education, Eduardo Galeano touched the hearts of people worldwide through his eloquent writing and intellectually rich accounts of the history of Latin America.



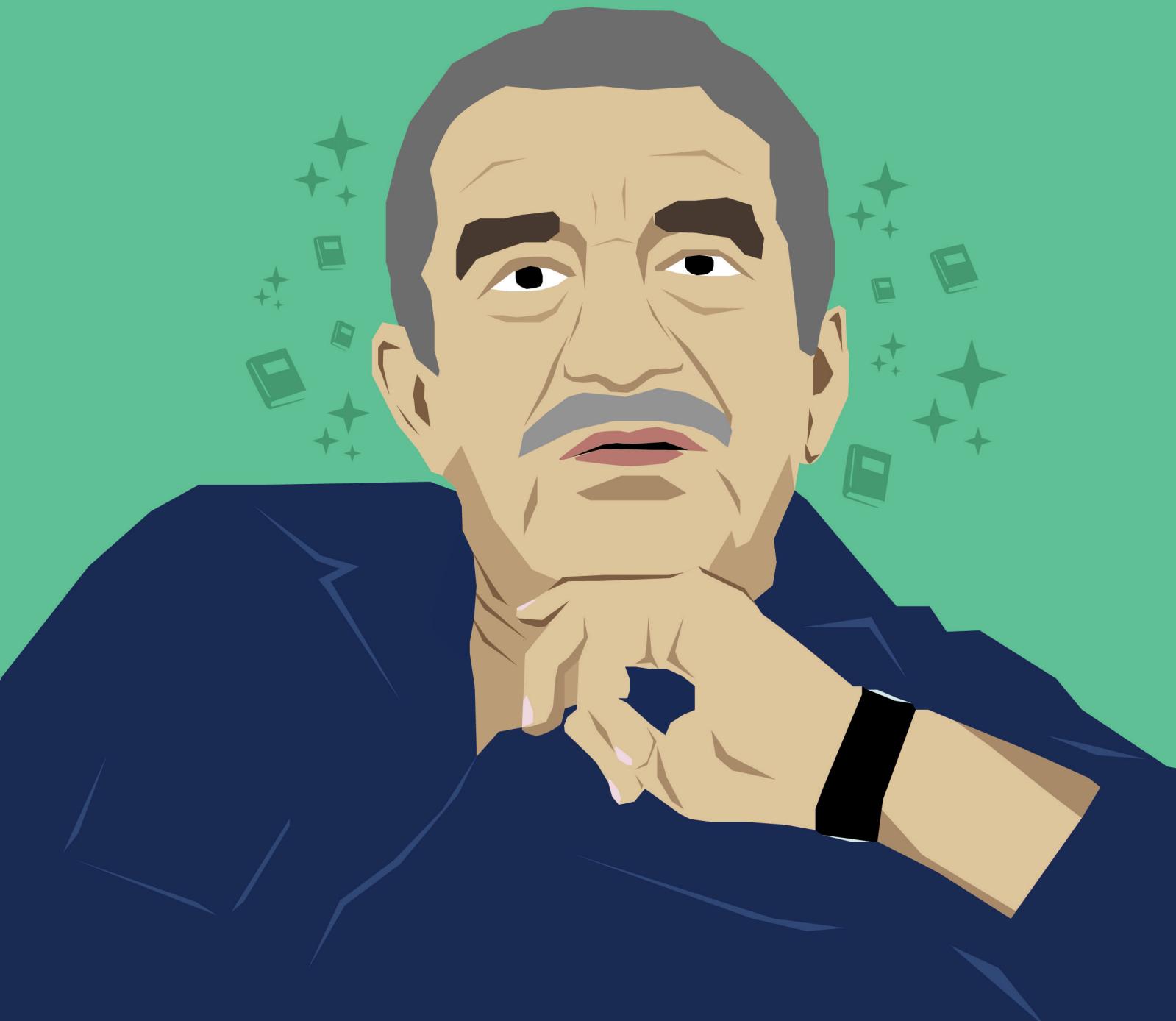
Fun Fact: Latin America is the most urbanized continent in the world with almost 80% of its citizens living in cities.



GABRIEL GARCÍA MÁRQUEZ

Colombia

"It is not true that people stop pursuing dreams because they grow old, they grow old because they stop pursuing dreams."



Magical realism was a genre that rose in Latin America that mixed fantasy and myth into the everyday life of the common people. One of the most influential writers to contribute to this genre was Gabriel García Márquez. Gabriel José de la Concordia García Márquez was born on March 6, 1927, in the town of Aracataca, Colombia. While growing up, a big inspiration for his writing style was his grandmother. García Márquez's grandmother believed in magic and filled her grandson's imagination with superstitions, folk tales and spirits.

García Márquez's first experience as a writer was when he worked as an editor for a magazine, *El Espectador* or The Spectator. While working, he read an article in the paper that stated that Colombia had no talented writers and he wanted to prove this notion wrong. As a response, García Márquez sent in short stories to *El Espectador* and they were so good that they were published. Although García Márquez enjoyed great success from his stories, he dreamed of becoming a journalist.

In 1954, García Márquez was exiled to Europe because he wrote about a news story involving a shipwreck of a Colombian Navy ship and reported that there was contraband being smuggled. While in Europe, he published his first novel, *Leafstorm* which brought him a lot of attention. In 1967 he published *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, his most famous work. García Márquez's inspiration for *One Hundred Years of Solitude* came

while driving through the beautiful roads in Mexico. He would spend the next year and a half writing the manuscript which sold out in the first week it was released. For the next 30 years it would sell more than 25 million copies and was translated into 30 languages. García Márquez continued to write various novels while in exile. Throughout the years he would speak out against the violence that was occurring in Latin America and his country. He is seen as one of the most significant authors of the 20th century. His literature led him to be awarded the 1972 Neustadt International Prize for Literature and the 1982 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Fun Fact: Mythology is the root of magical realism.



DOLORES HUERTA

U.S.A (Mexico)

"Every moment is an organizing opportunity, every person a potential activist, every minute a chance to change the world."

There was no woman that had a stronger voice and who stood up for laborers than Dolores Huerta. Dolores Clara Fernandez Huerta was born on April 10, 1930 in Dawson, New Mexico. Huerta grew up mostly in Stockton, California, where she moved in with her mother, Alicia. Alicia was an important part of Huerta's upbringing since she was so kind and compassionate towards others. Alicia also was an active participant in community organizations and the church. Huerta would slowly begin to reflect her mother's compassion and empathy to others.

While Huerta attended Stockton High School, she became involved in various school clubs and became a member of the Girl Scouts. After graduating, she studied at the University of Pacific's Data College and would earn her degree in education. After graduation, her hard work paid off after she found a position as a teacher. During her early teaching days she noticed her students coming to school with empty stomachs and without shoes walking on their bare feet.

Overtime, Huerta would increasingly be exposed to the unfortunate circumstances of her students and their parents. Witnessing the extreme poverty and social inequity that affected these marginalized communities would mark the beginning of her lifelong journey. From this moment Huerta

would dedicate her life to battle systemic injustices and fight for those that are less fortunate.

Huerta began serving in the Stockton Community Service Organization (CSO) where she founded the Agricultural Workers Association to advocate for legislation that would benefit the poor communities. In 1955, she would go on to meet Cesar Chavez who at the time was the director of the CSO and they realized they both aspired to improve the farm worker's working conditions. Later they would both leave the CSO and founded the National Farm Workers Association. Huerta played a critical role in organizing and lobbying for farm workers but also broke down many gender barriers along the way. Huerta not only impacted female farm workers and fought for their rights but also inspired young women around the world to stand up and fight for what you believe.

Fun Fact: On the Huelga Flag the Aztec eagle is an historic symbol for the people of Mexico; the red background on the Huelga Flag stood for the hard work and sacrifice.



RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ TUM

Guatemala

"We are not myths of the past, ruins in the jungle, or zoos. We are people and we want to be respected, not to be victims of intolerance and racism."



You are never too young to create change in your community, Rigoberta Menchú Tum understood this as a child. She was born on January 9, 1959 to a poor Indigenous family of the Q'iche Maya descent in Chimel, Guatemala. During her youth, she traveled to nearby communities alongside her father to help teach farmers their rights and to encourage them to defend themselves from the exploitation of labor and awful working conditions they endured. As a teenager, Menchú Tum fought for social reform through the Catholic Church which began her growing role as a leader in women's rights movements.

One day, a guerilla organization took control of her hometown Chimel. After witnessing this event, Menchú Tum helped her father found the Committee of the Peasant Union (CUC) and became an established member. During this time, she taught herself Spanish and other Mayan dialects to understand members of neighboring communities better. In 1980, she led a series of protests to support farmer's rights.

However, in 1981 Menchú Tum had to go into hiding in Mexico due to the increasing danger of living in her country. From afar, she kept on fighting for the Indigenous rights and founded The United Representation of the Guatemalan Opposition. Rigoberta later shared her story to the world which resulted in a book called, *I, Rigoberta Menchú*. Her story soon attracted

international attention and helped bring awareness to the issues that affected the Indigenous population.

Throughout her life, Menchú Tum saw a problem and made it her duty to try to fix it. In 1992, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and then in 1998 the Prince of Asturias Award. Additionally, she ran for President of Guatemala under the banner of WINAQ, the first indigenous-led political party founded by herself. Rigoberta Menchú Tum has been recognized as a leading advocate of Indigenous rights around the world which has empowered minority groups to never settle for unfair treatment.

Fun Fact: The famous Temple of Kukulkan or El Castillo at Chichen Itzain Mexico was built by the Maya peoples.



ANA MENDIETA

Cuba

"My art is the way I reestablish the bonds that tie me to the universe."

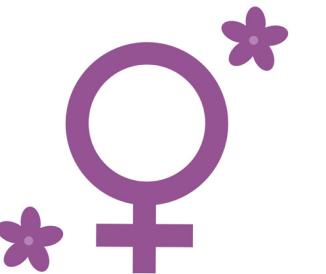
Art can reach out to people in ways that no other mediums can, Ana Mendieta exemplified this throughout her life. Ana Mendieta was born on November 18, 1948, in Havana, Cuba, to a wealthy family. Due to a change of regimes and political conflict, Ana and her sister were sent to the United States by her parents to avoid any danger in Cuba. During this time, Mendieta and her sister Raquelin spent their childhoods going from foster home to orphanages and refugee camps. Eventually, she would find some stability and have the chance to go to school.

Although Mendieta struggled with English in school, she discovered her passion for art in middle school. Eventually, she would pursue her love for art all the way through college when she earned her bachelor's and Master's in painting. In college she discovered her desire to create art with the intention of bringing awareness of violence towards women. After completing her studies, she moved to New York City, where she would create most of her important work.

In 1978, Ana Mendieta joined the "Artists In Residence Inc." in New York, which was the first gallery for women to be established in the United States. The membership allowed Mendieta to network with other women artists at the forefront of the era's feminist movement further making her interested in creating a difference for women in her community.

Fun Fact: Art competitions were once part of the Olympics from 1912 to 1948.

For the next set of years Mendieta would go on to create work in Cuba, Mexico, Italy, and the United States which consisted of performance art, sculptures, paintings and videos. Her work often resembled pieces of her own life, drawing from her history of being displaced from Cuba, and focused on themes including feminism, violence, life, death, identity, place and belonging. Her most famous work is called "Earth Body." Mendieta sadly died at the young age of 36. However, her work still resonates with the world and empowers women all over to always advocate for oneself and resist violence towards women.



THE MIRABAL SISTERS

Dominican Republic

"What matters is the quality of a person. What someone is inside themselves."



When siblings stick together, anything is possible, and the Mirabal sisters stuck together and left their mark on history! Patria, Minerva, and María Teresa Mirabal were born in the central Cibao region of the Dominican Republic. Patria was the oldest and was born on February 27, 1924. Minerva was born on March 12, 1926. María Teresa was born on October 15, 1935. All the sisters attended school and would meet people who began to start feeling strongly about the new government in the Dominican Republic.

During the 1930s a man named Rafael Trujillo carried out a coup against Dominican President Horacio Vasquez. After establishing his power, Trujillo used extreme tactics to oppress the people of the Dominican Republic. During this time, the Mirabal sisters started to become influenced by their uncle to become involved in political activists' groups against Trujillo's inhumane policies. Eventually, the Mirabal sisters joined a group called the *Movement of the Fourteenth of June*. They gave out information to the public regarding the lists of people whom Trujillo had wrongfully imprisoned, tortured or killed. As a result, Trujillo sent for two of the sisters to be imprisoned.

Although things seemed very bleak for them, in 1960, all of the Mirabal sister's activism paid off when the Organization of American States began to notice Trujillo's actions and sent in observers. Minerva and María Teresa were freed, but their

husbands remained in prison. Although the Mirabal sister's worked hard to ensure the reestablishment of a democracy in the Dominican Republic, they were assassinated.

The assassinations turned the Mirabal sisters into "symbols of both popular and feminist resistance." Additionally, their heroic spirit would eventually help lead to Trujillo's end of power. In 1999, in the sisters' honor, the United Nations General Assembly designated November 25 the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Fun Fact: Butterflies don't taste with taste buds, but with sensors under their feet.



GABRIELA MISTRAL

Chile

"You shall create beauty not to excite the senses but to give sustenance to the soul."

There was one writer who through her poetry, established a new literature movement, which provoked an idealistic spirit in Latin America. Her name was Gabriela Mistral. Lucila Godoy Alcayaga, known as Gabriela Mistral, was born in Vicuna, Chile on April 7, 1889. Mistral came from a family of schoolteachers and eventually became a schoolteacher herself. Although she enjoyed being an educator, she slowly found a passion for writing poems.

In 1904, using her pseudonym, Gabriela Mistral published *Dreams*, *Intimate Letter*, and *By the Sea*. In 1914 Mistral wrote her first major work, *Sonnets on Death*, and was awarded first prize in the national literary Contest *Floral Games* in the capital of Chile. People loved her writing so much that in 1922 she released her first book called, *Desolation*. This book was a collection of poems that touched upon subjects such as motherhood, sorrow, religion, nature and raising children. It was this personal connection to the everyday lives of people which allowed her to connect with individuals all over the world. Her work would establish a new sense of literary identity in Latin America.

Mistral would continue to write poems and books. She also became a diplomat for Chile and traveled the world. During this time, she published hundreds of articles in magazines and newspapers which brought her a lot of attention. She

was even invited to prestigious universities around the world to give lectures. Some of her best poems including *We Were All Going to Be Queens*, *The Prayer for the Professor*, and *The Guardian Angel* were published as a diplomat. Mistral's poems made her become the first Latin American author to receive a Nobel Prize in Literature.



Fun Fact: World Poetry Day is March 21st.





EVO MORALES

Bolivia

"The new republic should be based on diversity, respect and equal rights for all."

As a young boy, Evo Morales witnessed the struggles of living as a farmer in South America and the injustices felt by the Agrarian indigenous community of Bolivia. His childhood taught him valuable lessons about standing up for those who are treated unjustly. He proclaimed, "The new republic should be based on diversity, respect and equal rights for all," which were similar to the values he learned in his upbringing.

Juan Evo Morales Ayma was born on October 26, 1959, in Isavilli, Orinoco, Bolivia. His family were farmers and herded llamas. Morales was born to the Aymara minority in Bolivia, an indigenous group concentrated near land shared by Bolivia and Peru. Indigenous communities such as the Aymara have been historically discriminated against and forced into less desirable jobs such as farming or ranching.

The Morales family were hard workers that would travel far to countries such as Argentina to be laborers. Eventually, they settled in the 'Chapare' region in the Andes Mountains. There, they began to grow a traditional Aymaran crop, coca. It would be this role as a coca farmer that would bring Morales into the world of political activism.

Morales' dedication and passion for standing up for his community led him to be elected as the Coca Leaf Grower's

Union secretary in 1985. In 1988 he became chair of a multi-union group that fought the government's ban on coca leaf agriculture and detrimental working conditions. His courage empowered him to create a movement that would uplift indigenous groups to resist unjust government policies not just in agriculture but overall.

Soon after, Morales would go on to co-found new national political party in Bolivia, the Movimiento al Socialismo, or "Movement Toward Socialism." He was elected as a member of the country's Chamber of Deputies, and in 2005, Morales ran for president of Bolivia. He won the vote by a huge margin and became Bolivia's first indigenous president.

Evo Morales went on to be president until 2019 and was very admired by the Bolivian people. His legacy of standing up for his community and following through on several of his major campaign promises left many with an abundance of hope for the future of Bolivia.

Fun Fact: The official national animal of Bolivia is the llama.



MARÍA ELENA MOYANO

Peru

"The Revolution is not death, nor an imposition, nor submission, nor fanaticism."

If you don't do it, who will? - is a motto that represents María Elena Moyano's love and commitment to better her community and ensure that her people had access to basic necessities. María Elena Moyano was born in the Barranco district of Lima, Peru on November 29, 1958.

For many years, her mother encouraged her to study law since she noticed her daughter's growing frustration with her community's living conditions. As a result, Moyano soon began her career in activism by joining the *Movement of the Youth*. This movement started in Villa El Salvador, a shantytown on the outskirts of Lima. In 1984, Moyano was only 25 when she was elected as president of the *Federación Popular de Mujeres de Villa El Salvador* (FEPOMUVES), a federation of women from Villa El Salvador. Under her leadership, the organization began new programs such as soup kitchens, health committees, the Vaso de Leche program (glass of milk), income-generating projects, and committees for basic education.

In 1990, she left her position in FEPOMUVES and shortly after was elected deputy mayor of the municipality of Villa El Salvador. It was here where she was able to implement her social programs on a greater scale. Apart from the nutritional and financial help, Moyano saw the Vaso de Leche Program as an opportunity for women to learn organizational and

developmental skills while building self-esteem. Moyano aspired for women to feel empowered and capable despite the sexist attitude in Peru at the time.

Sadly, on February 15, 1992, Moyano was assassinated by members of the Shining Path, a radical organization, due to ongoing disagreements regarding how social programs should be incorporated in Peru. Soon after, in the center of the plaza in Villa El Salvador, a statue was erected to commemorate her and the positive change she brought to the community. Moyano continues to be a source of inspiration to women that they can accomplish anything if they set their mind to it.

Fun Fact: A cow will produce an average of 6.3 gallons of milk each day.



PABLO NERUDA

Chile

"To feel the love of people whom we love is a fire that feeds our life."



Pablo Neruda used his words and writing to inspire people around the world to appreciate poetry. He was born Ricardo Eliecer Neftalí Reyes Basoalto in Parral, Chile, in 1904. He was the son of José del Carmen Reyes, a railway worker, and Rosa Basoalto. Within a month of Neruda's birth, his mother died, and two years later, his family moved to Temuco, Chile.

At the age of 10, he began to write poetry. He was a tall, shy, and lonely boy. He loved to read books and was encouraged by Gabriela Mistral, poet and principal of the Temuco Girls' School, to write poetry. However, his father discouraged him from writing and ignored his poems. In 1920, he began writing for *Selva Austral* under the pen name Pablo Neruda because he wanted to avoid his father's disapproval.

Soon after in 1924 Neruda would become well known after releasing his poems in *Book of Twilight and Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair*. One of the most important aspects of Neruda's poetry was his rhythm and how his poetry sounded out loud. He wrote about events of World history and explained the different perspectives of various eras. Neruda soon became a household name.

In 1927, Neruda began his career as a diplomat which would take him around the world. In Latin America, it was a tradition

to honor poets with diplomatic posts. As a result, Neruda would be elected to posts in Chile's consul and would later win a Chilean Senate seat since he was a successful diplomat. In addition, he even became a close advisor to Chile's President, Salvador Allende.

Pablo Neruda died on September 23, 1973. However, his words remain alive more than ever before. His poetry and activism became known around the world and have secured him as one of the greatest poets of the 20th century. Some of his accolades include the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1971, the Lenin Peace Prize in 1953 and International Peace Prize in 1950.

Fun Fact: Pablo Neruda's most famous love Poem is his 1960 "Sonnet XVII."



ELLEN OCHOA

U.S.A (Mexico)

"I hope to continue to inspire our nation's youth to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math so they, too, may reach for the stars."

As a child, Ellen Ochoa sat in front of her television and watched space missions dominated by all-white male teams. This sight made her unable to envision herself ever becoming an astronaut. It wouldn't be until 1978 when she would finally see the first American woman and important role model, Sally Ride, selected as a NASA Astronaut. It was this moment that Ochoa became convinced and empowered that she too could reach for the stars.

Ochoa was born on May 10, 1958 and was raised in La Mesa, California. Throughout her life, her mother Rosanne— an immigrant of Sonora, Mexico, heavily encouraged educational aspirations. She was keen on setting an example for her children by taking college classes while raising Ochoa and her four other children.

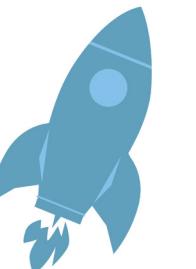
Having always been curious about space and science, she went on to pursue a Physics degree at San Diego State University. After years of schooling, she would receive her doctorate at Stanford University. In 1985 Ochoa witnessed Rodolfo Neri become the first Latino astronaut. Inspired by this feat, that same year Ochoa applied to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) astronaut program.

In January of 1991, she was selected by NASA to become the first Hispanic woman to go to space. She was aboard the

Space Shuttle named *Discovery*. This mission lasted nine days and focused on studying the Earth's ozone layer to gain an insight into the Earth's changing atmosphere and climate. After retiring from spacecraft operations in 2007, Ochoa continues to tear down barriers for women and members of the Latinx community in space exploration.

Later in her career, she would become the first Hispanic and second female director of NASA's Johnson Space Center. Today, Ochoa looks forward to advocating for the inclusion of Women and Latinx individuals in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields.

Fun Fact: Space Shuttle *Discovery* is the world's most flown spacecraft.



PELÉ

Brazil

"The more difficult the victory, the greater the happiness in winning."



Soccer is the most popular sport around the world, especially in Latin America. Pelé did not learn soccer with a ball but instead with a rolled-up sock stuffed with rags. It would be this boy playing in poverty-ridden slums that would grow up to be one of the most recognized and successful soccer players the world has ever known.

Edson Arantes do Nascimento (Pelé) was born on October 23, 1940 in Três Corações, Brazil. As a young boy, he and his family moved to Bauru, a city riddled with poverty. Despite the poverty that surrounded him, during his adolescence, he was able to join a youth team where his talent immediately drew eyes from former Brazilian national soccer team player, Waldemar de Brito.

De Brito convinced Pelé's family to let him tryout for Los Santos, a professional soccer club, when he was only 15. One year later he began to play for the Brazilian national team. Pelé played in his first World Cup in 1958 in Sweden and shocked the entire world. He became the youngest player to play in a World Cup final match at 17. By the end of Pelé's career, he had scored 1,282 goals. Pelé officially retired in October 1977. He has been recognized as a legend of Brazil and was named FIFA's "Co-Player of the Century" in 1999. However, his retirement from soccer did not alienate him from the country nor the sport.

In 1978 he was awarded the International Peace Award for his work with UNICEF and also served as Brazil's Extraordinary Minister for Sport and a United Nations ambassador for ecology and the environment. Apart from being the most admired soccer player worldwide, Pelé has also continued to be vocal about speaking out against policies that affect the poor areas of Brazil and called for the government to address these injustices on several occasions. His commitment to his roots caused him to never abandon those who were not as fortunate as he was by founding over six charities to address social and economic injustices in the most impoverished areas of the world.

Fun Fact: Brazil holds the most World Cup titles with five wins.



SYLVIA RIVERA

U.S.A (Puerto Rico / Venezuela)

"We have to be visible. We should not be ashamed of who we are."

Although there is a long way to go, the inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community has come very far. There was one trans woman who pushed for this in the 60s and 70s. Her name was Sylvia Rivera. Sylvia Rivera was born July 2, 1951 and raised in New York City. She was of Puerto Rican and Venezuelan descent. During her childhood, she lived with her grandmother due to her becoming an orphan at a young age. However, her grandmother did not approve of her wanting to wear makeup and as a result she ran away and was homeless at the age of 11.

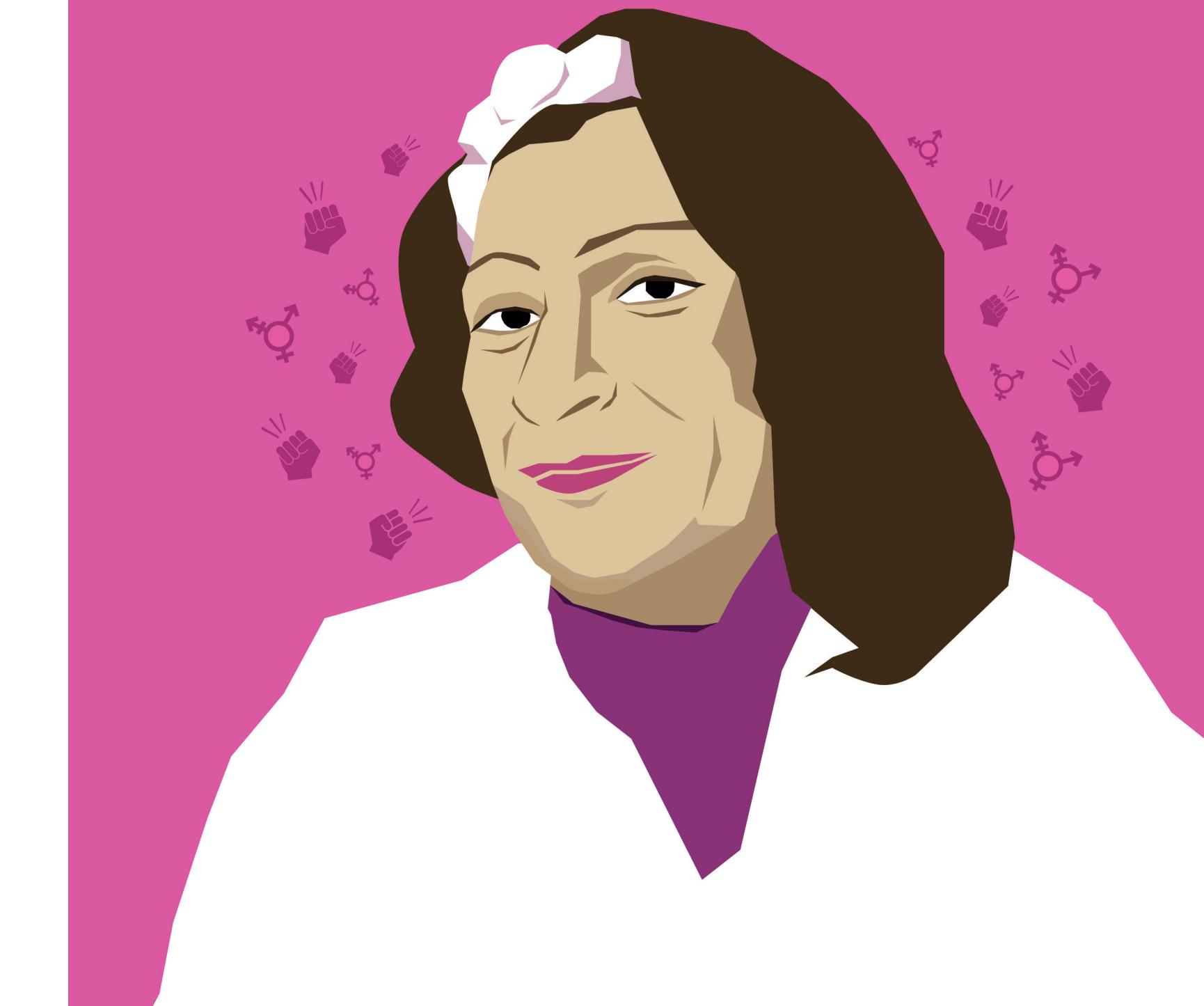
Eventually, she was taken in by a local community of drag queens who gave her the name 'Sylvia.' Having been supported and raised by them, she was inspired to join the Gay Activist Alliance as an activist at 18 years old. One of the most important times in her career was at the Stonewall Riots. The Stonewall Inn. was seen as a safe place for the LGBTQ+ community. However, on Friday June 28, 1969, police arrested many LGBTQ+ individuals which caused an uproar that turned violent.

Being fed up by the deliberate targeting and mistreatment on behalf of the police, the LGBTQ+ community rioted as a manner of protest. Rivera was a part of these riots along with another important LGBTQ+ rights activist whom she knew, Marsha P. Johnson. The Stonewall Riots would mark the beginning of the

gay liberation movement, initiate the modern fight for LGBTQ+ rights and began the first annual pride parade.

As a transwoman, Sylvia Rivera had a very difficult life in the beginning, but it did not stop her from standing up for those around in her community. This care and love for her community led her to found the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries which offered services and advocacy for homeless queer youth. Rivera was a veteran of the 1969 Stonewall uprising and a relentless advocate for all those who have been marginalized within the LGBTQ+ community.

Fun Fact: The first ever pride march was in 1970 to honor of the first anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.



ÓSCAR ROMERO

El Salvador

"The ones who have a voice must speak for those who are voiceless."



There existed no mightier voice for the people of El Salvador than Óscar Romero. Óscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez was born on August 15th, 1917 in El Salvador.

During his childhood, Romero's father began to train him in the trade of carpentry because he feared education would not secure him a job. Romero was a natural talent and impressed many around him with his carpentry skills. However, Romero made it clear that he was keen on studying for the priesthood.

Romero entered the minor seminary in San Miguel at the age of thirteen and later on became a priest in 1942. He would then spend the next twenty years serving small towns in El Salvador. In 1974, he was appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Santiago de María, a poor, rural region which saddened him greatly over their condition of living. Romero became very famous for his sermons that aired through the radio and were dedicated to parish work, such as visiting prisons and working with members in the Church to provide food for the poor. On February 23, 1977, Romero was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador which gave him great responsibility and power to fight against the violation of human rights by speaking directly towards those responsible and urging them to stop.

In 1979, growing political turmoil would lead the country to experience a substantial amount of poverty, social injustice,

assassinations, and torture. As the war heightened between left-wing and right-wing factions, Romero spoke out against the human rights abuses. Specifically, He was very vocal about the right-wing regime for violations of human rights during the Salvadoran Civil War. On March 23, he held a famous sermon pleading the army to cease the violence that had escalated in El Salvador. The next day, he was assassinated while giving a mass. Romero has been widely recognized all over the world as a caring man that put the marginalized populations before all else. He became Saint Óscar Romero after being canonized on October 14, 2018 in Rome. Romero is a reminder to us all to always use our voice to help those that are unable to speak out.

Fun Fact: Doves have been used as messengers for thousands of years, particularly during war.



AYRTON SENNA

Brazil

"I have no idols. I admire work, dedication and competence."

Formula 1 is the highest level of racing where riders reach speeds of over 200 miles per hour. Only 20 drivers every year get to drive the fastest cars on earth, Ayrton Senna was one of them. Senna was born on March 21, 1960 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. At a young age, he could not walk well and needed help climbing stairs, which limited his desire to get into motor racing as a child. However, his family eagerly supported his aspirations. Senna's father helped him build his first go-kart using a lawnmower engine.

Senna began go-kart racing at the age of 13. In 1977 he won the South American Kart Championship and would go on to compete in the Karting World Championship for the next 5 years. In 1981, he moved to England to further get involved in racing.

In 1985, Senna's talent caught the eye of the Lotus-Renault team, one of the top teams in Formula 1. At the Portuguese Grand Prix race, Senna stunned the world and won by a margin of over a minute while it was raining. Racing in wet conditions is usually dangerous but Senna's courage and determination brought him in first place across the finish line. He later moved to the McLaren team which had built the fastest race car yet to be seen. He broke world records and won his first Formula 1 world championship by having won 8 races. Senna would go on to win the Formula 1 world championship two more times.

He would go on to race for three more seasons breaking world records and gaining a world spotlight for being such a talented driver. Sadly, Senna died on May 1, 1994 after a tragic car accident in San Marino. He will always be remembered as one of the best and most influential Formula 1 drivers. His performance inspired many youths from South America to get involved in motorsport racing and to become fans of Formula 1.

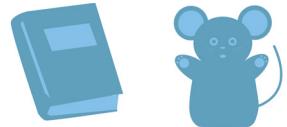


Fun Fact: F1 cars accelerate from 0 to 100 mph and go back to 0 within 4 seconds.



Glossary

PURA BELPRÉ



Book:
symbolizes her job as an author and librarian

Pérez the Mouse:
symbolizes the first story she wrote and published: *Pérez and Martina* in 1932.

CESAR CHAVEZ & DOLORES HUERTA



Grapes:
symbolizes the Delano grape strike

Huelga Bird:
symbolizes the migrant workers of Mexican descent on the UFW flag

Orange:
symbolizes one of the top crops in California

BARUJ BENACERRAF



Microscope:
symbolizes his job as immunologist

DNA:
symbolizes his discovery of components of DNA

JULIO CORTÁZAR



Book:
symbolizes his job as a writer and author

Eye:
symbolizes the theme of self identity in his books

Obsession:
symbolizes the theme of obsession in his books

RAFFI FREEMAN-GURSPAN



Trans Symbol:
symbolizes her activism for the trans community

USA Flag:
symbolizes her job as the first openly transgender staff member at the White House

GABRIEL GARCÍA MÁRQUEZ



Book:
symbolizes his job as an author

Magic:
symbolizes his literary style, magical realism

EDUARDO GALEANO



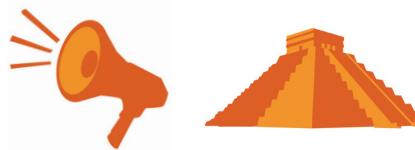
Book:
symbolizes his job as a writer and author

Latin America:
symbolizes the theme of Latin America in his books



History Icon:
symbolizes the theme of history in his books

RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ TUM



Megaphone:
symbolizes her job as an activist

Temple of Kukulcán at Chichen Itza:
symbolizes her Mayan culture and heritage

Glossary

ANA MENDIETA



Feminist Icon:
symbolizes the theme
of feminism in her
performance art

Flower:
symbolizes the use
of nature in her art

GABRIELA MISTRAL



Pen:
symbolizes her work as
a poet

Rainy Cloud:
symbolizes the theme
of sorrow in her poems



Motherhood:
symbolizes the theme of
motherhood in her poems

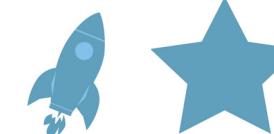
MARÍA ELENA MOYANO



Bottle of Milk:
symbolizes the "Vaso de
Leche" or "Glass of Milk"
organization she created

Megaphone:
symbolizes her job as
an activist

ELLEN OCHOA



Rocketship:
symbolizes her mission in
the Space Shuttle Discovery

Star:
symbolizes her job as
an astronaut

THE MIRABAL SISTERS



Butterfly:
symbolizes freedom and
independence, (their goal for
the Dominican Republic)

EVO MORALES



Llama:
symbolizes his family and
community's background
as llama herders

Coca Leaf:
symbolizes his family and
community's background
as coca leaf farmers

PABLO NERUDA



Pen:
symbolizes his work as
a poet

Open Book:
symbolizes his work as
a writer



Heart:
symbolizes the theme
of love in his poems

PELÉ



World Cup Trophy:
symbolizes his many
World Cup winnings

Soccer Ball:
symbolizes his job as a
professional soccer player

Glossary

SYLVIA RIVERA



Trans Symbol:
symbolizes her activism
for the trans community

Fist:
symbolizes strength and
refusal to accept oppression
and prejudice

AYRTON SENNA



Tyre:
symbolizes his job as
professional driver

F1 Trophy:
symbolizes his many
Formula 1 World Drivers'
Championship winnings

ÓSCAR ROMERO



Dove:
symbolizes hope

Cross:
symbolizes his work as
an Archbishop



Read and learn.



Educate others.



Appreciate yourself.