



JUSTICIA!



CWA
Hispanic Heritage Month
Sept 15 - Oct 15
Week 4
Latino's and the Civil Rights Movement

Civil rights

are an essential component of democracy. They're guarantees of equal social opportunities and protection under the law, regardless of race, religion, or other characteristics.

American Latino history is rich, diverse and long, with immigrants, refugees and Spanish-speaking or Indigenous people living in the United States since long before the nation was established. They bring traditions and culture from Mexico, Spain, Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and other Latin American countries.

Their fight for civil rights throughout history have fueled and have been fueled by other social justice movements, like the African American Civil Rights Movement and the fight for equal employment and education among immigrants.

The Latino civil rights struggle, like the struggles of all people of color is ongoing and still today we continue working to address the less visible but very important inequities in our society.

The fight for equal rights and justice goes back hundreds of years with Hispanics fighting against and for this country. Here is a brief history of some earlier events which impacted latino's and social movements across the country.

1910 The Mexican Revolution forced Mexicans to cross the border into the United States, in search of safety and employment.

In the 1920's, San Antonio's Orden Hijos de América (Order of the Sons of America) organized Latino workers to raise awareness of civil rights issues and fight for fair wages, education and housing. And, Several Latino service organizations merge to form the League of United Latin American Citizens aka (LULAC). LULAC being one of the largest and oldest latin organizations in the country, organizes against discrimination and segregation and promotes education among Latinos.

After WWII, Latino veterans return home with a new feeling of unity. Together, they seek equal rights in the country they defended. They use their G.I. benefits for personal advancement, college educations and buying homes. In 1948, they will organize the American G.I. Forum in Texas to combat discrimination and improve the status of Latinos; branches eventually form in 23 states.

During that same era, Mexican-American parents sue several California school districts, challenging the segregation of Latino students in separate schools. The California Supreme Court rules in the parents' favor in Mendez v. Westminster, arguing segregation violates children's constitutional rights. The case is an important precedent for Brown v. Board of Education in 1954.

In the 1960s, Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta found the United Farm Worker association, in Delano, Calif., which becomes the largest and most important farm worker union in the nation. Under their leadership, the UFW joins a strike started by Filipino grape pickers in Delano. The Delano Grape strike became one of the most significant social justice movements for farm workers in the United States.

A radicalized Mexican-American movement began pushing for a new identification. The Chicano Movement. During this movement, activists worked to end the discrimination and mistreatment of Mexican Americans. Many reforms were won including bicultural/bilingual programs, improved conditions for workers, and more Mexican Americans serving as elected officials.

Following the Chicano Movement, Puerto Rican youth in Chicago faced with slum housing, inadequate schools and rising unemployment, formed the Young Lords Organization, inspired in part by the writings of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X. An outgrowth of the Young Lords street gang, the YLO becomes a vibrant community organization, creating free breakfast programs for kids and community health clinics. Modeled after the Black Panthers, the YLO uses direct action and political education to bring public attention to issues affecting their community.

There were social movements happening all over the country. The fight for equal rights, equal pay and a better quality will not end until we have a more just society.

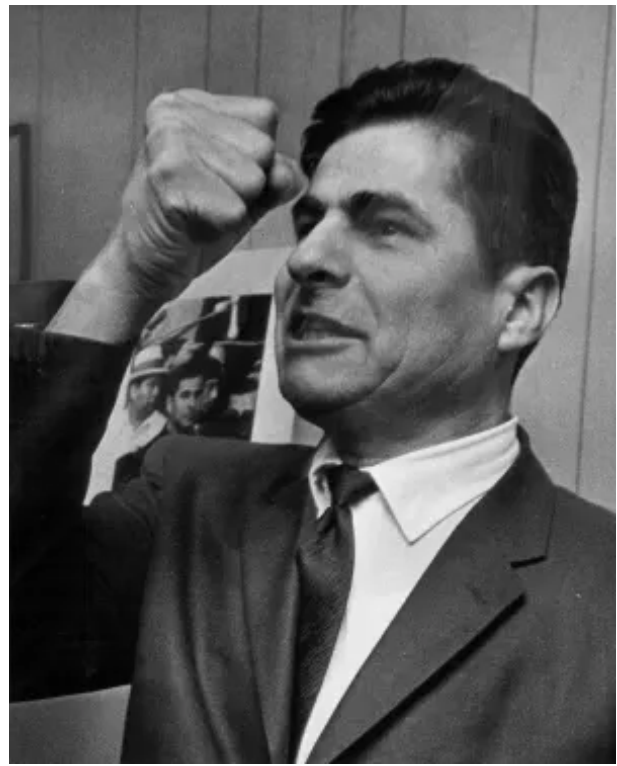
Actions and activists like the few mentioned have contributed to the Civil Rights movement and has empowered people of color from diverse ethnic backgrounds to stand up and continue the fight. Using Grassroots developments methods from organizing local community groups, fighting for workers rights to running for political office to make a difference. All to improve the social, cultural, and economic well being of their families, communities and societies.

ALL FOR EQUAL RIGHTS!



The Struggle Continues

There are many Latino activists who have contributed the Civil Rights and Labor Movements in this country. Let's take a look at a few whose contributions have made an enormous impact on the Hispanic community.



Reies Lopez Tijerina, was an activist who led a struggle in the 1960s and 1970s to restore New Mexican land grants to the descendants of their Spanish colonial and Mexican owners. As a vocal spokesman for the rights of Hispanos and Mexican Americans, he became a major figure of the early Chicano Movement and founded the Alianza Federal de Mercedes. As an activist, he worked in community education and organization, media relations, and land reclamations. He became famous and infamous internationally for his 1967 armed raid on the Tierra Amarilla courthouse. In March 1968, Tijerina was elected to lead the Chicano contingent of Southern Christian Leadership Conference's (SCLC) Poor People's March on Washington. He eventually became known as "King Tiger" and "the Malcolm X of the Chicano Movement".

Petra Allende was a Puerto-Rican factory worker and clerk, who worked as an activist in New York City's El Barrio neighborhood. In the 1960s, she began working to overturn laws which required literacy to vote and organized English classes. She participated in the Puerto Rican Community Development Project, which worked to alleviate poverty in El Barrio, and was one of the founders of the Puerto Rican Leadership Alliance. In the 1970s, Allende became a member of the Manhattan Political Caucus, learning how to lobby effectively by joining forces with other communities with similar needs. She and African-American women recognized the need for adequate day care for working women, joining forces in their efforts, she campaigned for day care facilities for working mothers and adequate supports for the poor and in the 1980s turned her attention to elder rights. Affectionately known as "La Alcaldesa del Barrio" (The Mayor of the Barrio [Spanish Harlem]), the street on which she lived in Manhattan, East 111th Street, was renamed Petra Allende Way in 2012.



Gloria Arellanes is a political activist known for her involvement with the Brown Berets during the Chicano Movement and has been influential in the development of Chicana feminism. As the first female Prime Minister of the Brown Berets, Arellanes worked to include the Chicana perspective in fighting for Mexican rights in Los Angeles in the 1960s and 1970s. Conflicts of covert "macho attitude" within the delegation of labor in the Brown Berets led Gloria Arellanes along with other female Brown Berets to leave the organization and create Las Adelitas de Aztlán. Similar to the Brown Berets, Las Adelitas de Aztlán strived to assist its community members in creating awareness for better bilingual education in Los Angeles as well as protesting against the Vietnam War. Arellanes was also a prominent figure in the National Chicano Moratorium Committee, leading Las Adelitas de Aztlán to participate in marches against the violence of the Vietnam War.

With over 50 years of experience in activism, Arellanes is now a current Tongva Elder of the first nation of the Los Angeles Basin. Arellanes' focus continues to remain on the rights of her people, defending the preservation of indigenous lifestyles through its traditions and education in Los Angeles.



The Brown Berets — A group akin to the Black Panther Party in dress and ideology played a pivotal role in organizing residents of urban areas during the late 1960s and early '70s. With a platform that centered the experiences of working class Mexican Americans dubbed "Chicanos," the Brown Berets rejected assimilation into European American society and stood against the Vietnam War and police brutality.

1968 East LA Walkouts

The 1968 H.S. Walkouts of East Los Angeles which was predominately Mexican, was the result of decades-long separate educational system. This system was known as “Mexican Schools”.

The sole purpose of Mexican Schools was to promote and sustain an agenda of funneling Mexican students into vocational and industrial arts curriculums, while discouraging enrollment into four-year colleges and universities. After all, the prevailing belief systems were steeped in fascism and prejudice perpetuated by administrators and teachers alike whose belief was, “Mexicans didn’t know how to use their minds, only their hands.” Many parents who were first generation Mexican Americans sided with the school system, they believed after all, “We are the educated ones!” Sadly, they didn’t know the difference between skills and education. While the school system had no expectations of us.

Students risking their lives doing the job of adults, taking to the streets, it was a civil rights movement, and more poignantly, the birth of Chicanoism became a reality shifting the paradigm forever!”

Click the video or link below to learn more

<https://youtu.be/-3TKnj0fXZs>



Click on the link below to view a comprehensive timeline of Latino Civil Rights

Scan QR Code or click link below for a list of Latino leaders who's activism contributed to work against unlawful discrimination against Latino's and all people of color



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Activists_for_Hispanic_and_Latino_American_civil_rights

Recipe of the Week

Tembleque de Coco – Coconut pudding

Tembleque is a Puerto Rican coconut pudding made with cooked coconut milk thickened with cornstarch, chilled in a mold, and garnished with cinnamon. if you're in the mood for something quick and sweet you'll love this recipe

Ingredients

2 (14 ounce) cans coconut milk

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar

$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon kosher salt

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup cornstarch

1 pinch ground cinnamon



Directions

Stir together coconut milk, sugar, and salt in a saucepan. Spoon 3 to 4 tablespoons coconut milk mixture into a small bowl and stir in cornstarch until dissolved; pour into the saucepan. Bring mixture to a boil while stirring constantly; cook until smooth and thick, about 5 minutes.

Pour into molds, cover each with plastic wrap, and refrigerate until cold and firm, 3 hours to 2 days.

Run a thin knife around the edges of each mold; invert onto serving plates. Garnish tops with cinnamon.

