

Participating Organizations -Thank you!

Hispanic Heritage Council
Buffalo Public Schools
Upstate New York Transplant Services (UNYTS)
Northeast Kidney Foundation
El Buen Amigo
Latin American Cultural Association (LACA)
NYS EPIC
Eat Smart NY
Alianza Latina
Kaleida Health
Wellcare
Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network
Roswell Park Cancer Institute
Native American Community Services
University at Buffalo Health Sciences Library
American Diabetes Association
National Grid



**Sincere thanks to all community organizations, performers, exhibitors;
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library and Anne Conable;
Historical Society, Museum of Science; Thodore Roosevelt Historical Site;
Buffalo Zoo, Buffalo News, WNED TV, Buffalo Rotary,
Sam Hoyt (Regional President, Empire State Development Corp.);
Tod Kniazuk (Arts Services Initiative WNY);
Tom Dee (Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation);
Steve Stepniak (City of Buffalo Dept of Public Works), Buffalo Common
Council, Colleges & Universities, for their support!**

**Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY Inc.
hispanicheritagewny.org**

*Wilda Ramos, Esmeralda Sierra, Sergio Rodríguez, John Sanabria,
Tamara Alsace Ph.D., Gilbert Hernández, Miguel Santos, Maritza Vega,
Casimiro Rodriguez, Victor Colón de Bonilla, Arnold Zelman - Legal Counsel*

Hispanic Heritage Council Salutes Navy Week



Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month in Buffalo & Erie County



September 14, 2012

12:00 noon

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library

1 Lafayette Square

Buffalo, New York

History

Hispanic Heritage Month recognizes the contributions of Hispanic Americans in the United States and celebrates Hispanic heritage and culture. The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988. September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. They all declared their independence from Spain in 1821. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

A Message from the Chairman

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to this very special event: the third annual kick off of Hispanic Heritage Month. Thank you all for joining us as we begin a month full of celebrations and events in collaboration with many partners, to recognize the rich heritage and culture of Hispanic people throughout Western New York.

This idea began almost where we are standing today...here in the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, and has grown beyond our expectations. It is with a great sense of pride that the Hispanic community shares its history and values. Values founded on the principles of faith, family and community. Today, we stand on the shoulders of our ancestors. We owe them immense gratitude and appreciation for helping us forge the future for leaders of today and tomorrow.

One of the objectives of the Hispanic Heritage Council is to work with all groups to make WNY a better place for everyone. This year has been a very busy year for the members of the council. Here are few of its accomplishments:

- Received certification as a 501c3 non-profit organization.
- Launched our interactive website so that we can more effectively communicate our vision and ask others to join the conversation. Please visit the website at www.hispanicheritagewny.com.
- Began documenting our history here in WNY. This important history project will recognize the contributions and accomplishments of our people.
- Are working to create a Hispanic Heritage District in collaboration with the City of Buffalo and the input of our community.
- Support the Hispanic Veteran's Memorial. This monument, located at CanalSide, will recognize contributions to the military by veterans of Hispanic descent.

Even though much has been accomplished - there is still much more to do. I want to thank you all for your enduring support, and thank the dedicated men and women that make up the Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY, Inc. Without their commitment and passion - none of this would be possible. We invite you to appreciate, enjoy, and celebrate events throughout the month which are dedicated to all of you - *El Pueblo*.

God bless,
Cas Rodríguez

Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY Inc.: Preserving History for Future Generations

For a list of local Hispanic Heritage Month events and activities, please visit: hispanicheritagewny.org

Program

Invocation Msgr. David Gallivan
Pastor, Holy Cross Church

Pledge of Allegiance Vianca Ayala
D'Youville Porter School 3 Bilingual Student

Remarks Ms. Mary Jean Jakubowski
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Director

Proclamation Hon. Byron W. Brown
Mayor, City of Buffalo

Remarks/Board of Education Resolution Dr. Pamela C. Brown
Superintendent, Buffalo Public Schools

NYS Governor Cuomo Citation Hon. Sam Hoyt
Regional President, Empire State Development Corp.

Proclamation Hon. David Rivera
Niagara District Councilmember, City of Buffalo

Acknowledgements/Dignitaries Mr. Casimiro Rodriguez
President, Hispanic Heritage Council, Inc.

Program Performances

Students of D'Youville Porter Campus School # 3

"I Believe" a song sung by Cecilia Oquendo
"Libertad" a poem recited by Nayely Ramos
Music Instructor : Ms. Ramonita Pinto
Principal: Mrs. Elizabeth Giangreco

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Salsa dance performance
"Buffalo Latin Nights"

