



LIGA DE MUJERES HISPANAS

**HISPANIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE
44TH ANNUAL**

*Scholarship
Celebration*

**SATURDAY • OCTOBER 14, 2023
10AM - 2PM**

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Program

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

MARIA CRUZ, PRESIDENT

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

MELINDA CAPELES

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COLOR GUARDS

GABRIEL A. RODRIGUEZ POST 1928

MOMENT OF SILENCE

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

HONORABLE JUDGE BETTY CALVO-TORRES

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS PRESENTATION

MARIA CRUZ

INVOCATION

KELLY MARIE WOFFORD, ELDER

BRUNCH

**2023 HISPANIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS**

BUFFALO PREP
DINORAH (DEE) SANTOS
PROVIDENCIA (PROVY) CARRION

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PRESENTATION

SORANGELES "SODA" KUCZKOWSKI
MARCELINA RONDON

CARMEN M. DEL VALLE SCHOLARSHIP
NAYLAH COLON-MONTE

CARMEN NUÑEZ SCHOLARSHIP
MIRANDA SOGARAY VELIZ

SYLVIA RODRIGUEZ SCHOLARSHIP
ANA ROSARIO

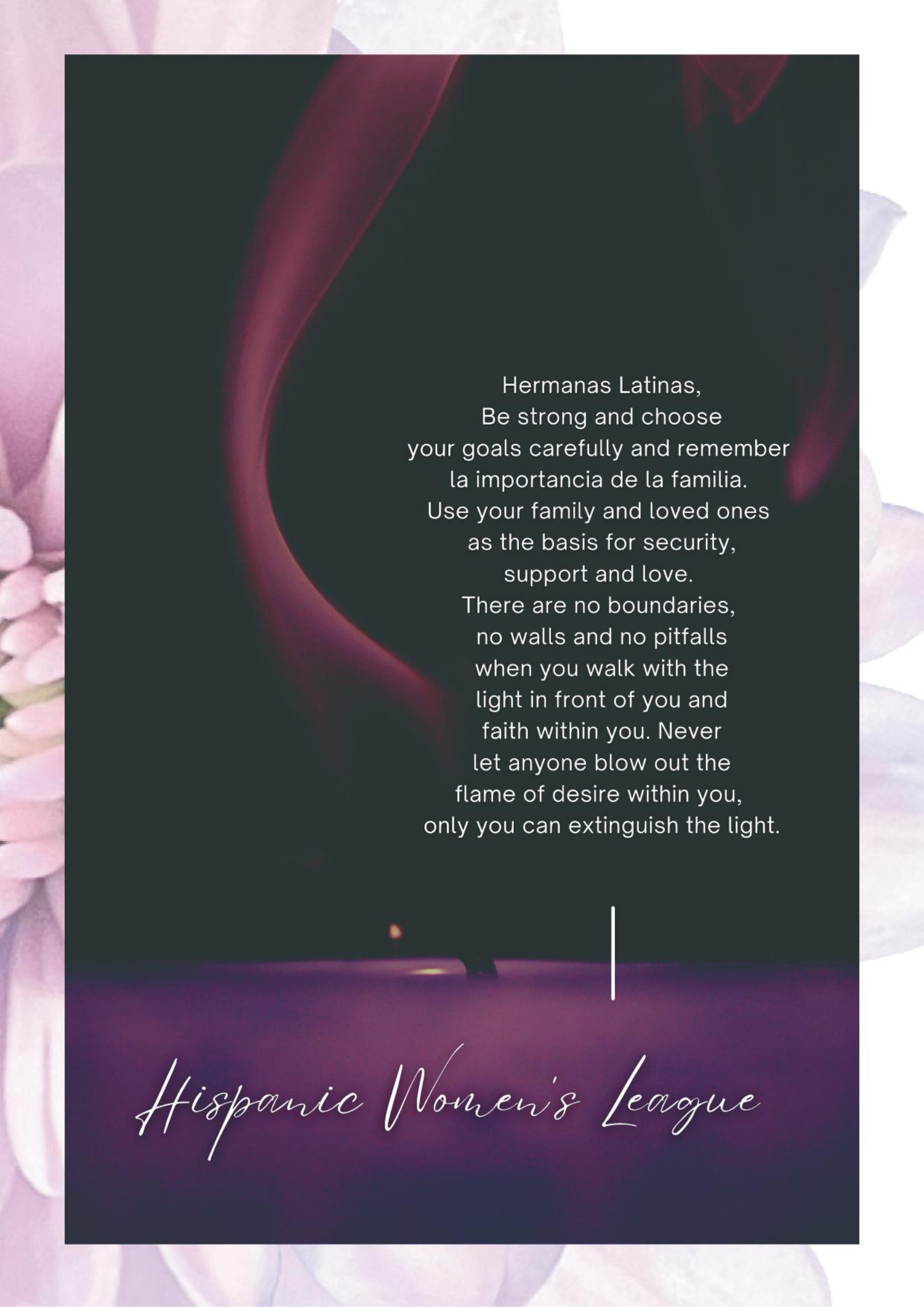
ROTARY CLUB OF AMHERST SCHOLARSHIPS:

ALEXA GONZALEZ
JESSICA MENCIA
ELIZABETH RAMIREZ
HANIFFA SOLIER

BEACON OF LIGHT CEREMONY
LUCY VELEZ
CARMEN H. ROBLES

POET
ANGELICA GONZALEZ

CLOSING REMARKS
MARIA CRUZ



Hermanas Latinas,
Be strong and choose
your goals carefully and remember
la importancia de la familia.
Use your family and loved ones
as the basis for security,
support and love.

There are no boundaries,
no walls and no pitfalls
when you walk with the
light in front of you and
faith within you. Never
let anyone blow out the
flame of desire within you,
only you can extinguish the light.

|

Hispanic Women's League



**The Hispanic Heritage Council
of WNY is proud to support the
Hispanic Women's League
Annual Scholarship Brunch!**



 hispanicheritagewny.org

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**SCAN
ME** 



President's Message

The Hispanic Women's League, Inc. was founded forty-four years ago by women who realized there was a need to stand together and advocate for the Hispanic families. Just as this group of women stood steadfast in their determination to see change in the community, today we continue to stand, together to ensure there is a future where we continue to grow and support important causes that are crucial to our community.

For the last forty-four years, through various efforts, our generous sponsors, and committed members we have been able to provide scholarships to college Latina/Hispanic women students who have demonstrated an impressive level of academic excellence, service to the community, and proof they will be our future leaders. This year we get to celebrate seven more impressive women. Moreover, we continue to collaborate with organizations that align with our mission and building relationships that help elevate our community.



A message from our President

Today, we are also honoring two amazing leaders and an organization who have made an impact in our community and support the mission of the Hispanic Women's League: Dinorah (Dee) Santos, Providencia (Provy) Carrion and Buffalo Prep Scholars Academy.


We encourage and welcome you to join the Hispanic Women's League as a Volunteer, Member, Donor, or Sponsor and to attend the events throughout the year. With your membership donation or sponsorship, you are making a difference. You are empowering Latina women to overcome the financial obstacles that would prevent them from earning their college degree. I am proud to be able to serve and connect with our community as the President of Hispanic Women's League.

Lastly, I want to thank our Board of Directors, past leadership and members for your dedication to the league and for trusting me to lead this organization for the last two years.

Sincerely,

Maria Cruz

Maria Cruz, Hispanic Women's League President



She is invincible...
She comes with fight in her heels and
strength in her words
She is a powerhouse, an advocate, an ally
She is a warrior.
She is fearless...
She is the mother, the daughter, the sister
Of all that empowers, that leads
That creates and believes
She is growth.
She is emotional...
She is dramatic, erratic, deep, and intense
Filled with wisdom and grace
She is love
She is magic...
An infinite source of light and encouragement
Prayer and possibilities
She is amazing... she is invaluable
She is you!

|

Angelica Gonzalez

Congratulations Mujer!

We honor you in your effort to continue education!

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF!

David A. Rivera

Niagara District Councilmember, Majority Leader

Hispanic Women's League of Buffalo's 44th Annual Scholarship Awards Celebration



2023



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Congratulations!

FROM MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN

"Every day, members of our Hispanic community make important contributions to our city. I thank the Hispanic Women's League of WNY for its commitment and ongoing efforts to assist Hispanic women achieve their goals. I am proud to celebrate the Hispanic Women's League of WNY and the positive impact this year's award recipients have had on our community."

Together we will overcome

WE ARE ALL, HISPANIC WOMEN ALWAYS STRIVING AND WORKING TO CREATE A RICHER LIFE FOR OURSELF, OUR FAMILY, AND OUR COMMUNITY.

SISTER, CARRY ON IT IS TIME TO ACT. DON'T HESITATE, BE DETERMINED WITH STRENGTH AND PERSEVERANCE OUR GOALS WILL BE ACHIEVED.

SISTER, DO NOT DELAY, WE HAVE A LONG WAYS TO GO.

HAND IN HAND, WITH OUR MINDS UNITED, TOGETHER WE WILL WITNESS THE TRANSFORMATION OF OUR DREAMS INTO REALITY, FOR THE WELL-BEING OF OURSELVES, OUR FAMILY, AND OUR COMMUNITY.

Unidas Venceremos

SOMOS MUJERES HISPANAS SIEMPRE LUCHANDO Y TRABAJANDO PARA CREAR UNA VIDA MEJOR PARA NOSOTRAS, NUESTRA FAMILIA Y NUESTRA COMUNIDAD.

HERMANA, SIGUE LUCHANDO YA ES TIEMPO DE TOMAR ACCION NO DUDES, SE DETERMINADA Y CON FIRMEZA Y PERSEVERANCIA NUESTRA META ALCANZAREMOS.

HERMANA, NO TE DETENGAS HAY MUCHO TRECHO QUE CORRER Y COGIDAS DE MANOS Y NUESTRAS MENTES UNIDAS VEREMOS NUESTROS SUEÑOS CONVERTIRSE EN REALIDAD POR NUESTRO BIENESTAR, NUESTRA FAMILIA, Y NUESTRA COMUNIDAD.

Blanca Rodriguez - June 9, 1985

Our Story

The seeds of the Hispanic Women's League (HWL) date back to the fall of 1978 when Carmen Faccio, the director of the Title I Spanish English Development program, invited a group of women to discuss establishing a Hispanic professional women's group to address the neglected services desperately needed among Hispanic women in the community. Among the women who attended were Olga Sonia Dávila, Milagros Ray, America Román (Amy), and Sarah Norat. Later, Maria Rosa, Olga Mendel, and Ana Hidalgo also joined the group. The group remained steadfast in their determination to bring about change in the community. In 1979, this powerhouse of women continued to grow and established an organization called the Hispanic Professional Women's League, with Lilian Orsini (Fuentes) becoming the first President.

In the early 1980s, they decided to establish a non-profit status and, for greater inclusivity, changed the name to Liga de Mujeres Hispanas (Hispanic Women's League). The issue that brought them city recognition was when they addressed an editorial that appeared in the Buffalo Evening News regarding Bilingual Education. They wanted to ensure that if changes were occurring within the community that influenced our children's education, they would be at the table for discussion.

In 2004, under the presidency of the Honorable Betty Calvo-Torres, who is now a Supreme Court Judge, they established an educational endowment fund to preserve the scholarship mission of the Hispanic Women's League for future generations. The Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo manages the Hispanic Women's League Endowment Fund to safeguard and invest funds for future use by the Hispanic Women's League. Our organization continues to accept donations for the Endowment Fund, which can be accessed on our website

The Hispanic Women's League has deep roots in Buffalo, specifically in the lower Westside. While our primary mission focuses on education, we have also forged and continue to maintain numerous collaborations with various Buffalo community organizations. These partnerships and collaborations include the Puerto Rican and Hispanic Day Parade, the Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York, the Agustin Olivencia Community Center, Latinas Evolving, M&T Hola, among others. Additionally, HWL assists individuals and families with various needs, such as student mentorship, financial wellness programs, referring families to various community services, providing translation assistance, and encouraging voter registration.

Today, the Hispanic Women's League of WNY has nine Board of Directors who are continuing the legacy of empowering Hispanic women. The Board of Directors have diverse backgrounds in education, business, technology, law, health, and much more. They leverage their collective knowledge to uplift each other and the organization. What began with a small group of determined women has now become something the founders never would have thought possible - over three decades later, more women are following in their footsteps.

The mission of the Hispanic Women's League is to advocate, mentor, support and empower the Latina woman. We do this by working towards closing the gender pay gap for Latina women, encouraging representation in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), fostering entrepreneurship, and providing scholarships to reduce the financial burden associated with the costs of career development and education. Supporting Latina women in the workforce is crucial for promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in all sectors of the economy.

We provide annual scholarships to Hispanic women looking to expand their skill set and who have demonstrated a financial need. Our scholarships offer hope, empowerment, and support to women at a critical juncture in building their career aspirations. The ability to provide scholarships to Hispanic students can be credited to all the women who have been part of the Hispanic Women's League, both past and present, who have persevered and made the organization what it is today—a vibrant entity dedicated to supporting education at any juncture and the future success of Hispanic women.



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1

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2

NYS MENTORING STAFF WILL EMAIL YOU

After your application is received, we will share more about the programs available in your region.

3

ATTEND A MENTOR TRAINING

Virtual and in-person options are available. A staff member will schedule one with you.

4

COMPLETE THE SCREENING PROCESS

Complete background check and alert your references. After clearance, you will be contacted for placement.

5

MENTOR



On October 21st, 2021, Latina Equal Pay Day, Governor Hochul announced the **Latina Mentoring Initiative** to level the playing field for young Latinas. New York State Mentoring Program is honored to roll out this initiative to schools, nonprofits and foster care agencies statewide. We will provide virtual and hybrid, supervised, one-to-one mentoring to youth ages 8 to 21. Latina mentors will be matched with mentees to empower and support youth by promoting self-advocacy, building soft skills & confidence, and nurturing aspirations. **Join us in celebrating heritage while creating community where success looks like our youth!**



Melinda Capeles

Melinda Capeles is an accomplished Hard of Hearing Performing Artist with a diverse range of talents encompassing dance, singing, voice-over work, acting, acrobatics, clowning, stunt driving, and stage/cinematic combat. With a distinguished career marked by three Artie Awards for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Musical, Outstanding Lead Actress in a Musical, and Outstanding Lead Actress in A Play, Melinda is a seasoned performer who has graced the stages of numerous prestigious companies.

With a rich tapestry of experiences, she is an artist and educator whose goal is to empower others through the performing arts and ultimately foster collaboration and inclusion between hearing and deaf performers, creating a harmonious environment where both communities can work together seamlessly.

Proud to do our part to help bright minds achieve bright futures.

The Hispanic Women's League is dedicated to empowering students and giving them a chance at a brighter future.

An idea we can all get behind.

At Citi, we commend the Hispanic Women's League on their efforts and are pleased to support their invaluable work.



Community Service Awards

PROVIDENCIA MARIA CARRIÓN



Providencia Maria Carrión, sweetly known as "Provi," moved to Buffalo from Yabucoa, Puerto Rico, with her family at a very young age. Upon arriving in the United States, she observed and learned from her mother, who also assisted Hispanic families in need. At the age of 14, she began working as an English translator for seniors who had also relocated to Buffalo from Puerto Rico. Having started helping her community at such a young age, Provi decided to pursue a career in teaching. She became a certified bilingual teacher's assistant and worked for the Buffalo Public Schools until her retirement in 2002. During her time at the Buffalo Public Schools, she expanded her talents as a translator, advisor, and mentor. She reached out to and supported parents in navigating the educational system to access necessary services. However, Provi couldn't simply enjoy her retirement; she remained active in her community, assisting various organizations. You can always find her working behind the scenes, a commitment she has maintained since the early 1980s. As a young mother of three, she volunteered at numerous organization events.

Currently, she volunteers at the Sedita Seniors Center on Summer Street, where she assists in various activities with seniors. She has also been actively involved with the Hispanic Women's League, representing HWL at events such as the Gabriel A. Rodriguez American Legion Post 1928 fundraising events, West Side Center events, El Batey, Puerto Rican/Hispanic Day Parade, and Hurricane Maria food and fundraising efforts, to name a few.

Providencia is a dedicated, loving individual admired by many. A beautiful lady who works tirelessly "behind the scenes," she never expects anything in return for her good deeds. The Hispanic Women's League/Liga de Mujeres Hispanas honors, celebrates, salutes, and thanks Providencia Maria Carrión.

HUB

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DINORAH (DEE) SANTOS



Dinorah Santos has been a dedicated employee of the Buffalo Board of Education for over 20 years. Between being a devoted mother of four and a grandmother of six granddaughters, Dinorah finds time to support her personal mission of advocating for childhood education. Dinorah also works for Journey's End Refugee Services as a document translator and runs her own arts and crafts business, which collaborates with different Buffalo schools.

From 2001 to 2006, as an Outreach Educator for the Batavia Migrant Program, Dinorah tutored hundreds of children in their homes while assisting with translating and providing social support for their respective families. Having also migrated from Puerto Rico, she was able to offer a much deeper understanding of the obstacles families experience while searching for a better life. She also worked at The Belle Center as the evening coordinator for 14 years. Since 2012, Dinorah has volunteered with the WNY Hispanic American Veterans Committee, which allowed for one of her greatest achievements. In 2013, she participated in the establishment of one of the most prestigious monuments honoring Hispanic American Veterans in New York State. Located at the Buffalo Naval & Military Park at Buffalo's Waterfront, this monument recognizes all Hispanic American Veterans past, present and future.

Dinorah continues to volunteer for the Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY, the Puerto Rico/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute, the Puerto Rican and Hispanic Day Parade, Gabriel A Rodriguez American Post 1928, and the Community Giving Legacy Initiative Close Up in Washington D.C. Dinorah Santos remains motivated by her passion to be an advocate for youth in the community, while working tirelessly to make certain opportunities and access to opportunities are realized.

The Hispanic Women's League/Liga de Mujeres Hispanas honor, celebrate, salute and thank Dinorah Santos.

BUFFALO PREP



BUFFALO PREP

With a focus on racially and culturally affirming practices, Buffalo Prep advocates for educational access and equity and provides programming to academically ambitious scholars of color. We strive to nurture our scholars' brilliance while empowering them to engage civically as their authentic selves. Founded in 1989, Buffalo Prep has grown exponentially over the years and now serves over 750 students and alumni each year with our unique pipeline of Prep Scholars Academy, Middle School Prep, High School Prep, College Prep, and Alumni Prep programs. Many students begin Buffalo Prep's rigorous program in 5th grade and commit their summers, evenings, and weekends to prepare for higher achievement.

Buffalo Prep's Prep Scholars Academy (PSA) is a neighborhood-based, culturally relevant academic program designed to help scholars excel throughout middle school and prepare them for high school. This exciting, engaging, and active learning program strives to help scholars transition into and complete high school by providing academic preparation and scholar and family support. PSA takes place in the heart of the West Side at D'Youville University; it gives preference to Hispanic/Latino scholars and offers bilingual instruction.

Academic enrichment classes have bilingual instruction (English/Spanish) and focus on English language arts, mathematics, history, and science. The program has an engaging, active learning environment that fosters leadership and character development and will follow Buffalo Prep's culturally relevant curriculum that celebrates different heritages, languages, and practices to empower students and families.

Scholars can enroll in this five-week summer program the summer after 5th grade and continue with their cohort each year until the summer after 8th grade. Scholars who successfully complete PSA will be supported through Buffalo Prep's College Prep program during high school.

Prep Scholars Academy continues to grow and thrive since its beginning in 2021. Thirty-five scholars participated in the program this summer at D'Youville University, including 16 in the newest cohort. In addition to the core academic subjects, scholars took a history tour of Canalside and visited the Flower Stand to learn about agriculture and farming. PSA also graduated its first cohort of 8th graders.

The Hispanic Women's League/Liga de Mujeres Hispanas honor, celebrate, salute and thank Buffalo Prep.

We're grateful for all you do.

We can't express in just a few words how much we appreciate your dedication. Thanks to your efforts you've made a difference in our community and had a positive effect on us all. For that and more we're grateful.

KeyBank thanks Liga De Mujeres Hispanas for making a difference.

**one open door can open doors
across a community.**

KeyBank  **Opens Doors.**[™]

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Naylah Colon-Monte
CARMEN M. DEL VALLE SCHOLARSHIP

Naylah Colon-Monte is a Sophomore at Buffalo State University pursuing a degree in Social Work. She is a Puerto Rican woman who has always struggled with using her voice but has now found the power she holds within herself and is ready to break generational curses. She is a huge advocate for women, the LGBTQ+ community, and for the people who have been silenced. She is extremely passionate about change and ensuring other people are seen and heard. Her dream is to own a facility dedicated to helping the community by offering a multitude of resources, but aimed towards women who have been abused physically, mentally and emotionally. She wishes for her facility to be a safe place where people are validated and truly heard. She wants to be able to provide resources for women so that they can strive and be the best version of themselves. She is a 2023: The Miss Borinquen of WNY Leadership Program Recipient. She received the Triple "C" Award from Letitia James (Attorney General) Distinguished Student Leader. The National Association of Student Council's distinguished student leader program is a skill and knowledge-based recognition program created to identify outstanding student leaders.



Miranda Sogaray Veliz

CARMEN NUÑEZ SCHOLARSHIP

Miranda Sogaray Veliz is attending Canisius University pursuing a Bachelor's degree with a Major in Criminal Justice and a minor in Psychology. Her dream is to become a detective/criminal investigator. At 14 years old, she decided she wanted to study in the United States and here she is! Having won this scholarship is a reminder to her to keep going and not give up on this dream, no matter how many obstacles she will have in this journey. She is a member of Latin American Students and Friend (LASAF.) She attends every event they organize, as well as sharing about her culture and roots in classes and with friends. She was honored to be the Uruguayan National Flag Bearer both in grammar school and high school.



Ana Rosario

SYLVIA RODRIGUEZ SCHOLARSHIP

Ana Rosario, but known to her family as Liana, is attending Trocaire College Rad Tech program pursuing her degree in Radiologic Technology. She is a 36 year old Puerto Rican woman, wife and a mother of five. She is the oldest of three siblings. She was born in Buffalo, New York, but was raised in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico. Liana graduated from Grover Cleveland High school in 2005. She has been employed at Catholic Health Inc for six years where she works as a Phlebotomist. Liana is one of 23 to win a full academic scholarship to attend Trocaire College thus making her decision to pursue her dream career even more comforting. The Hispanic Women's League scholarship will support her in purchasing books this year.

A photograph of three people—two women and one man—smiling and looking at a document together. The woman on the left is wearing a white lab coat. The woman in the center has curly hair and is wearing a blue top. The man on the right is wearing a light blue shirt. They are in an outdoor setting with a sign that says "Terra" in the background. The image is framed by a light purple border with a floral pattern on the right side.

TOGETHER, WE

CONNECT

Amherst Rotary congratulates the four recipients of the Rotary-Hispanic Womens' League scholarships. Our club is one of more than 35,000 in 220 countries with 1.2 million women and men dedicated to advancing education, promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, saving mothers and children through accessible health care, protecting the environment, and growing local economies.

Rotary  PEOPLE OF ACTION



Alexa Gonzalez

Alexa Gonzalez is currently in her second year of college pursuing a Dental Hygiene Degree at SUNY Erie Community College. She is a Puerto Rican woman born in Buffalo, NY. Her future plans after graduation (June 2025) are to enter the work field and go back to be an orthodontist while maintaining employment as a hygienist.

She has known that she wanted to be in the medical field since high school, but she really got her start when she started working at ODL, a dental lab which specialized in retainers, Invisalign, and other dental equipment. She found herself wanting to know more, staying late just to learn different departments, and then decided to further her education in the field of dentistry. Alexa is able to accomplish her goals with the guidance of her mother and close family.



Jessica Mencia

Jessica J. Mencia is currently a doctoral student and an Arthur A. Schomburg Fellow at the University at Buffalo School of Social Work. She received her MSW in 2021 from the University at Buffalo School of Social Work and her Bachelors of Art in Public Policy from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research interests focus on sexual risk-taking behaviors in young women/girls and abortion accessibility. During her time at the University at Buffalo, Jessica has taken part in research that focuses on the sexual rights and risk-taking behaviors of young people during COVID in New York City, Toronto, and Melbourne. She has also served as an Associate Board Member with the New York Birth Control Access Project where she took part in advocacy efforts toward increasing birth control access across New York State. Specifically, Jessica was an integral part of efforts that pushed legislators to pass the Birth Control Access Act, allowing New Yorkers to receive birth control via their local pharmacy. Jessica is also extremely passionate about reproductive justice and is a part of the New York Abortion Doulas, an organization that is working to establish a network of abortion doulas to support abortion seekers across the state. She is also conducting research in partnership Survivor Fund Hub, and non-profit that provides financial support to student survivors of sexual violence, to further understand the needs of student survivors across the United States.



Elizabeth Ramirez

Elizabeth Ramirez (she/her/ella) is a first-generation Dominican American pursuing a dual Master's in Business Administration and Social Work at the University at Buffalo. Elizabeth's professional experience includes providing one-on-one social-emotional support for over 200 youth in New York, leadership roles overseeing 12 year-round youth and adult programs, and forging partnerships to enhance access to support services and fundraising for community development. Since moving to Buffalo, Elizabeth has delivered social justice training to over 300+ professionals, optimizing operations for local nonprofits, participating in diversity and inclusion committees at UB, and collaborating with M&T's Business Banking team to amplify community impact.

Her goal is to bridge the gap between the nonprofit and corporate sectors, leveraging her skills to promote social programs, small businesses and the entrepreneurial spirit in Buffalo. In the past year, Elizabeth launched "Ely's Empanadas" to share the flavors of Dominican cuisine with Buffalo's streets. Elizabeth attributes her motivation, values and estilo to her mother, Adalgiza Rivera, who instilled in her the importance of perseverance and cultural pride in her pursuit of social justice.



Haniffa Solier

Haniffa Michelle Solier is currently attending Hilbert College pursuing a Bachelor's degree in what she is most passionate about, music. She is also pursuing her real estate license. Her dream is to own her own music school. She has been a musician since the age of seven years old playing in churches and different events in Buffalo. She plays the drums, piano, organ, and she sings. She has participated in a Latin Band in middle school and the Puerto Rican and Hispanic Day parade Christian worship. Haniffa loves to serve the community in any way and help those in need in our city. She believes that being bilingual has opened up many doors in her life and has helped her to be the bridge in the gap. She loves to be the light in the darkness and show the love of God to other. She was the valedictorian of class of 2022 for Buffalo Academy for visual and performing arts. She had a 3.9 GPA freshman year of college.



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LIGA DE MUJERES HISPANAS

Hispanic Women's League Inc

ON 44 YEARS OF SUCCESSFULLY
EMPOWERING, ADVOCATING, MENTORING AND
SUPPORTING THE LATINA WOMEN IN OUR
COMMUNITY!

Ensuring a
Better
Tomorrow.

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HISPANIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF WNY

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Past Awardees

1984

LILLIAN CUEVAS
RAQUEL BRIOSO

1985

MARILYZ GONZALEZ
DAMARYZ BAEZ

1986

JULIA LICIAGA
ANTONIA ORTIZ
MARIA RIVERA
TERESA CARDONA

1987

CARMEN JOHNSON
ELIZABETH DIAZ

1988

MIGDALIA RUIZ
ROMANA MERCADO
ANA ROSARIO
MARGARITA SOTO

1989

AWILDA TORRADO
KREYA Y ACOSTA
CARMEN H. RIVERA

1990

DORA ESPLUGAS
ROSARIO PEREZ

1991

MARGARITA REYES
ADRIANA A MEYER
MARIXSA SANCHEZ

1992

JULIA MARTINEZ
MARGARITA CRUZ
CARMEN GALLARDO
LISA AVELO

1993

JEANETTE FIGUEROA
DORIS SANTIAGO
ADA RODRIGUEZ
ROSA CALDERON
MARIA T. TORRES
VIVIANA CATALINO
EVELYN DAVILA
WENDY GUZMAN

1994

KIMBERLY A. CHILVAS
CYNDIA APONTE
MARTHA OVALLES
DIANN M. GRANTO
NORMA ALVARENGA
JANETTE CORTEZ-ORTIZ

1995

ROSA VAZQUEZ
RACHEL IRIZARRY
CLARA SHEDD
LIZETTE DELGADO
MARSHA ZORNICK
MILDRED RIOS

1996

JAQUELINE BONTZALAKES
ELIZABETH DIAZ
LORRAINE NUNEZ
JENNINE HUNT

1996

ADA LUZ DE LA TORRE
MARIA LIRO
LUZ DELIA PIRELLA
MICHELLE RODRIQUEZ

1997

VIVIANA COLONDRES
NEREIDA FIGUEROA
LESLIE OQUENDO
MARY AQUINO
MIRIAM GONZALEZ
MILAGROS LOPEZ

1998

CYNTHIA COLLADO
CARMEN FIGUEROA
DAUCE GARAY
LISA MARIE GARCIA
MIRIAM GONZALEZ
ELIZABETH JIMENEZ
ATHASHA JOHNSON
DORIANNE MERCADO
CINDY NAVARRO
LESLIE OQUENDO
KATHERINE POTERO
YOLANDO QUINONES
IRENE RODRIGUEZ
SANDRA SANTANA
MARITZA ORTIZ

1999

GLORIA HERNANDEZ
MARIA CARMEN GONZALEZ
JESSICA ROSADO
MARYLIN CRUZ
MILLIE COLON
CARMEN BATISTA

Past Awardees

2000

MAGDELINE CRUZ
JACKELINE GARZON
ENEIDA GONZALEZO
CATHERINE MENZIES
SONALY PAGAN
HILDA VELEZ
JUSTO GONZALEZ

2001

DORA GAUTIER
LINDA MAURAS
CELE S. CACHA
KRISTINE ERDOLINA
EDRIS TALLEDO
SONIA L. VELAZQUEZ

2002

MAYRA BENITEZ
DILENNY GUZMAN
MARIA MONTE
MEI-LING MONTERO
MARIA SEIJA-LARRENTA

2003

YUDELKA OGANDA
KALIA TORO-SEPULVEDA
ROXANA VEGA
NELIDA C. ROMAN
YOLAYNA SCOTTSBORGH
MARIA CAPPUZELLA

2004

DORIS TORRES
YADIRA BURANDT
ELIZABETH CHECO
TANYA CORNELIUS
PAULETTE ESCOBAR
ERICA SANTOS

2005

JOANNA VENTURA
ADELA R SCHMIDT
LYNIQUE MURRAY
MELISSA ORTIZ
YHERMANA F. PUELLO

2006

SHARI ROSARIO
JENNIFER ARROYO
ANA LUGO
RADARANY CASADO
ROSA ROSALES
LISA LOPEZ
FELICIA MARIA CRUZ

2007

KEILA JUNIA PELOCHE
ADRIANA DE ROSAS
BRENDA VANESA AGUIRRE
SARA MARIE GONZALEZ
REBECCA ROMAN
TIFFANY SANTANA

2008

RAQUEL MARQUEZ
CAROLINA REESE
DESSIALIS CRUZ
MARIA SUAREZ
NATALIA GONZALEZ

2009

JOMAYRA RIVERA
MARISOL MEDINA-VIERRA
DARIANA TORRES-DROZ
MARIA N CONSTANTINO
MAGALIE LOMAX
ANA LEON
JULIE RIVERA

2010

RAYZA SERRANO
MARCIE ANN SOTO
MICHELLIS RIVERA
STEPHANIE MARIE ARROYO
NADIA RAQUEL MARTINEZ
JANICE MARIE DIAZ
LIZA PEREIRA

2011

DINORAH SANTOS
JULIE MARIE RIVERA
VANESSA JONES
KEYLA LUGO
STEPHANIE ARROYO
REBECCA NOEMI ROBLES

2012

ELIZABETH LANZO
LINDA JOAN BELEY
JULIANNA HERNANDEZ
VALERIE BURGOS
JOSEFINA JUARBE
DENISSE LOPEZ
JULISSA MONTAÑEZ
CRYSTAL RAE MURNO
IRENE OQUENDO
IRIS RIVERA
IRIANNIA MARIE TORRES

2013

MARIANA PEREZ
ANDREA GONZALEZ
LUCIA VICTORIA LOPEZ
MARIE ANDREA MARTINEZ
MARIA ELENA RIVERA
NATHALIE SEBALLOS
IVELISSE TRUJILLO

Past Awardees

2014

SANDRA BETANCOURT
KATHERINE MEJIA
MICHELLE IVETTE GARCIA
ALEXIA ROSE GUZMAN
DAMARIS MONTERO
NORMA RIVERA
NAYKA ROSADO
TAISHA ST. JEAN
DELISHIA MARIA YANTIN

2015

LAURA M AGUILERA
CRISTINA MARIE CISNEROS
AMBAR AYALA DIAZ
SHADAYLEE VASQUEZ
LIZA MARIA RIVERA
ANA GABRIELA ANTANDREU

2016

ALEXIA D. MATOS MATEO
DESTINY DIAZ
KELLY CAMACHO
FRANCESCA D'ALESSANDRO
TANAHIRY ESCAMILLA
JASMINE LOPEZ
MIRANDA MANGUAL

2017

TIFFANY ACOSTA
CHRISTINA APONTE
ADRIANA AVILES
NATALIE CASTILLO
CORAL LOPEZ
MARIEL MATIAS
MELANIE RIVERA

2018

LILIAN M. MACANCELA
DAISY ROCHEZ
RUBY LYNN LUGO
ANYURIS M. CARABALLO
LYSETTE M. VAZQUEZ
ELY GABRIELA - CUBEROS
LISSETTE SANTIAGO
GEO HERNANDEZ
MARNISHA S. BROOKS

2019

MERCE DEJESUS BEATRICE
GONZALEZ
LORENA HERNANDEZ
YARITZA IGLESIAS
NATALIA MARTE
ELDA PICHARDO
NAOMI ROMERO
ESMERALDA SIERRA
TAYRIN TAPIA

2020

MARIYAH GONZALEZ
DANIELA HOEGERLE
AALIYAH MATHEWS
ABBAY STAEBELL
INDIA WALKER

2021

WILLENECXA ESCALERA
ALYSHA URENABALDEMORA
KIRA ANDRADE SOLANO
NATALIE CHEVALIER RIVERA
AMBER GAITAN

2022

ASHLEY BRITO
GLENAE GARLOCK
GABRIELLA MARTINEZ
CRYSTAL PEREIRA-FINLEY
FRANSHEKA SERRANO



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- Provides academic preparation, scholar and family support
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For more information, contact Elizabeth Guzmán, Admissions and Recruitment Manager at Buffalo Prep: eguzman@buffaloprep.org | 716.829.2108.

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PUSH Buffalo Congratulates Providencia Carrión as a pillar of the community and for her civic engagement!

The mission of PUSH Buffalo is to mobilize residents to create strong neighborhoods with quality, affordable housing; to expand local hiring opportunities; and to advance racial, economic, and environmental justice in Buffalo.

For more information go to: www.pushbuffalo.org or email us at info@pushbuffalo.org.

Past Presidents

LILLIAN G. ORSINI
1979-1981

MARGARITA SANTIAGO
1981-1984

BLANCA RODRIGUEZ
1984-1988 & 1989-1990

CARMEN DEL VALLE
1988-1989

JUANITA NEGRON
1989-1991

SUSANA GONZALEZ
1991-1993

ROSA AVILES
1993-1995

BLANCA RODRIGUEZ
1995-1996

SYLVIA RODRIGUEZ
1996-1997

SUSANA GONZALEZ-COLON
1997-2000

ANTONIA MEDRANO- BOULDIN
2000-2003

LITA RODRIGUEZ
2003-2004

BETTY CALVO-TORRES
2004-2006

SUSANA GONZALEZ-COLON
2006-2008

MIRIAM LAWRENCE
2008-2009

ELEANOR PATERSON
2009-2011

MARGARITA RIVERA
2011-2012

SUSANA GONZALEZ-COLON
2012-2013

CARMEN DOESECKLE
2013-2015

DARLENE MERCADO
2015- 2018

NATALIA LAND
2018-2021

MARIA CRUZ
2021 - PRESENT

Our Endowment

Our women are the backbone of our community and as such our most important asset. Thus, if we are to improve our community then we must improve the lives of Hispanic women. The Hispanic Women's League has always believed that the best way of doing so is through the attainment of higher education. To continue to assist Latina women in attaining their higher education, the Hispanic Women's League established the Hispanic Women's League Endowment Fund in 2006.

WHAT IS AN ENDOWMENT?

An endowment is a fund whose principal is not spent. Only the income from investments is used to support and assist the Hispanic Women's League in granting scholarships to Hispanic women pursuing higher education. As the fund continues to grow it has laid the foundation in fulfilling the Hispanic Women's League mission. The scholarships we have granted over the years have helped many women defray the cost of tuition; lessen their financial burden and assures that they attain higher education regardless of financial status.

HOW IS THE FUND MANAGED?

The Hispanic Women's League Endowment Fund is managed by the *Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo Board of Directors* whose responsibility is to safeguard and invest the funds. The Community Foundation uses the services of professional money managers and other experts and follows a policy of conservative investments. The Community Foundation has the capacity to combine the endowment funds of many nonprofits, thus getting a big return at a low cost. The Community Foundation has a long track record of investment success. The Hispanic Women's League Endowment Fund is a legal, tax-exempt entity.

Our Endowment

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GIVE:

- The simplest method is a direct gift of money, real estate, or securities.
- Revise your will to name the Hispanic Women's League Endowment Fund as a recipient of a percentage of your estate.
- Whole or partial beneficiary of a life insurance policy.
- A gift in memory of a loved one.

We suggest you visit with your tax or legal advisor about these and other methods. In such consultations, you need the name of the Endowment fund:

- Hispanic Women's League Endowment Fund.
- (Federal Taxpayer I.D. number 16-1380731) to assure your gift keeps on giving.

YOUR GIFT

An investment in young women is a lasting treasure and will not be spent. Only the income from your investment is utilized. In other words, your gift continues to give to Hispanic Women for generations to come. Regardless of the size of your gift, all contributions help build a sound endowment. Your gift will be commingled with others to provide a strong base for the Hispanic Women's League Scholarship Fund.

We ask that you consider giving to our Hispanic Women's League Endowment. For more information or to make a donation, please visit our website www.hispanicwomensleague.org.

Thank You



John Acevedo US Army
SPC 4 Jeffery Anderson US Army
Lance Corporal Joshua Anderson US Marine Iraq Veteran
Sergeant Miguel Arroyo
Sergeant Rosemary Caicedo
Major Carlos Benitez US Army Iraq Veteran
Petty Officer 3rd Class Emmanuel Benitez
Emanuel Benitez, YN3 US Coast Guard
Specialist Dylan Bennett
Specialist Anthony Brown
Felix Carrion, Sr. US Army
Sergeant Billy Colón
Chief Navy Luis A Colon E7
SPC 5 Ventura Colón, Jr. Medic US Army Vietnam Veteran
SSG Winston Colón
Staff Sergeant Fernando Correa
Sergeant Geraldo Correa
Sergeant Felicia Cruz US Marine Corps. Iraqi Freedom
Staff Sergeant Richard Cruz
Albert DeJesus US Army
Jose DeJesus US Army
Hector M. Diaz US Army
Ricardo Estrada US Army
Captain David I. González US Army Judge Adv. Gen. Office
Sergeant Isaias González US Army World War 2 Veteran
SPC 4 Israel González US Army Viet Nam Veteran
Sergeant Dennis González US Air Force
Sergeant Nicole Grondin-González US Air Force
Juan Raul Isaias González US Army
Ralph Hernandez US Marines
Robert Hernandez US Army
Staff Sargent Angel Lamberty US Army
Sargent Angelo Lamberty US Army
Master Sergeant Craig Lawrence US Marine Iraq Veteran
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Pedro López US Army
SPC Eric V. Lowman US Army Iraq Veteran

Sargent Benny Matta US Army
Sergeant Luis Marrero US Army
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Tino Mejia US Army
Pedro Morales US Navy
Janet Negron US Army
Juan Negron US Army
Sergeant Raúl James Núñez US Army
Wilmer Olivencia US Army
Jose Orta US Army Reserve
Jose Pizzaro US Marine
Dennis Rivera US Army
Specialist Luis Rivera
Rogelio Rivera US Army
Jose Robles US Navy
Geraldo N. Rondon US Coast Guard
Benigno Rodriquez US Navy
Gabriel A. Rodriguez US Army
Jorge Rodriguez US Marines
Rosa Rodriguez US Army
Staff Sergeant Saúl Rodriguez US Army
Eugenio Russi
Raul Russi
Johnny Sanabria US Army
Edwin Sanchez US Army
Hector Santiago US Army
Corporal Ramón Alfredo Suarez
PFC Francesca Torres
SSG Wilfredo Torres
Specialist Rosario Vial
James Virella US Army
Francisco Rodriguez US Army
Roseann Pagan US Army
David Velez US Army

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CONGRATULATIONS

**2023 Hispanic Women's League
44th Annual Scholarship Celebration**



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of those who lost their lives
on May 14, 2022*

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AARON SALTER

PEARLY YOUNG

RUTH WHITFIELD

CELESTINE CHANEY

HEYWARD PATTERSON

ROBERTA DRURY

ANDRE (ELLIOTT) MACKNEIL

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"Somos un espacio comunitario con un enfoque educativo y sociocultural, comprometido con el progreso colectivo de nuestra comunidad. Promovemos y celebramos el arte, nuestras tradiciones y la conciencia sociopolítica, siempre resaltando la identidad única de nuestra comunidad Boricua que nos distingue."

Nuestros Servicios:

- Talleres de Música y Baile para todas las edades/ Music and dance workshops
- Conversatorios de historia y Foros de abogacia/ Panel discussions and advocacy
- Eventos culturales de Bomba y Plena/Cultural events
- La Placita Shopping district: un evento estacional. Espacio para emprendedores, artistas, artesanos y demás/A market place for latin vendors, artist and artisans.
- Librería Puerto Rico y el Caribe: abierta al público/Puerto Rican and caribbean library open to the public.
- Espectáculos Folclóricos: grupo juvenil Agua de Liberté/Folkloric shows and performances



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The Minority Bar Association of Western New York
is honored to support the
Buffalo Hispanic Women's League's
44th Annual Scholarship and Awards Brunch!

Congratulations to this year's awardees for your
accomplishments and service!

2023 Executive Board:
President: Samantha White
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Congratulations to the Awardees

Best Wishes, Hon. Susan M. Eagan



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Congratulations

to all of this year's honorees



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**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO
OUR COMMITTEES FOR THEIR HARD
WORK AND DEDICATION,**

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ANNETTE LARIA CIRILO, CO-CHAIR

CARMEN DOESECKLE, CO-CHAIR

MARIA CRUZ

MARCELINA RONDON

AMELIDA ORTIZ WEINMANN

2023 Scholarship Committee

SODA KUCZKOWSKI, CHAIR

NATALIA MARTE

MARCELINA RONDON

2024 Board

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Community Events

WE HAVE SUPPORTED & ATTENDED THIS YEAR

CULMINATED 1ST YEAR AND KICKED OFF SECOND YEAR OF THE LATINA MENTORING INITIATIVE FROM GOVERNOR HOCHUL.

SPONSORED AND ATTENDED THE GABRIEL A RODRIGUEZ AMERICAN LEGION POST 1928 DINNER.

PARTICIPATED AND SUPPORTED THE BREAK THE BIAS CAMPAIGN DURING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.

VOLUNTEERED DURING THE THREE KINGS DAY CELEBRATION.

ATTENDED THE 2023 WOMEN OF COLOR SUMMIT.

ATTENDED FLAG RAISING EVENT.

ATTENDED SALSA FOR A CURE.

MARCHED AT THE PUERTO RICAN & HISPANIC DAY PARADE.

SPONSORED AND ATTENDED THE HISPANIC HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WNY BREAKFAST.

VOLUNTEERED/ATTENDED AND SUPPORTED THE VETERAN'S SPAGHETTI DINNER.

VOLUNTEERED AT GABRIEL A RODRIGUEZ AMERICAN LEGION POST 1928 FUNDRAISER.

SPONSORED, ALONG WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO SCHOOL OF LAW'S LATIN AMERICAN LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION'S TRIP TO THE NATIONAL LATINO/LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

SPONSORED AND ATTENDED EL BATEY'S 2ND ANNUAL TAINO FESTIVAL.

SUPPORTED THE GRAND OPENING OF LATINO-OWNED BUSINESSES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

MADE DONATIONS OF BOOKS TO SUPPORT EL BATEY'S LIBRARY FOR LATINO STUDENTS.

SPONSORED AND ATTENDED EL BATEY'S 1ST GALA NAVIDENA.

SPONSORED AND ATTENDED HISPANIC UNITED OF BUFFALO GALA.

SPONSORED AND ATTENDED MINORITY BARS ASSOCIATION BRUNCH.

IN COLLABORATION WITH M&T BANK HOSTED LATINOS SMALL BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT.

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We work to empower, advocate, support and mentor the Latinx woman and community”.

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WANT TO JOIN A COMMITTEE?
EMAIL US: contact@hispanicwomensleague.org

FOLLOW UPDATES + LEARN ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS





Thank you, not only for all of the work that you do for Latina Women in our community but for the *encouragement & support* that you all have given me while I was starting my business!

Congratulations on 44 years of success!

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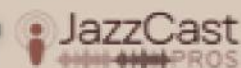


Hosted by

Kelly Marie



PODCAST





The Belle Center
Life in a positive light.

**The Belle Center
Salutes the
Hispanic Women's League
On it's 44th Annual Scholarship Celebration and
for all the contributions to WNY.**

**We applaud the
Community Service Awardees
Buffalo Prep Scholars Academy
Dinorah (Dee) Santos
Providencia (Provy) Carrion**

Lucy A. Candelario, Executive Director

*Erie County Executive
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 @MarkPoloncarz

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Congratulations scholarship winners!



**The Isaías González Soto Branch Library, 280 Porter is OPEN!
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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!**

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