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# Familias Latinas

N E W S L E T T E R

MARCH 2023



Familias Latinas made sure to represent our cultural heritage at Cornell's Got Talent!

## Familias Updates

We have had a busy month! At the district level, Familias Latinas is participating in **AUSD's Listening Campaign**. The Listening Campaign consists of focus groups for parents to share their thoughts about what's helping their students, what challenges they are facing, and how the district can better support students.

This is especially important for our group because data shows that Latino/x students are not performing as well as other groups of students. Our children are counting on us to advocate for their needs. Familias Latinas will be hosting focus groups on Wed., 4/5th (zoom), Sat., 4/15th (at Ocean View), and Sun. 4/16th (Ocean View). To learn more and sign up, [click here](#).

At the elementary level, Familias Latinas choreographed a dance for **Cornell's Got Talent**. Big congratulations to Elena Avello, Alba Carrasquel, Vera Carrasquel, Khalessi Dantas, Maya Figueroa, Isabella Panicacci, Isabella Rodriguez, Penelope Torres-Gil, Diego Carmona, Nicola Dantas, Noel Largaespada III, Damien Rodriguez, Dahlia Vigil-McClanahan, and Mirabel Vigil-McClanahan for proudly representing their cultural heritage!

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# Familias Updates

The Familias Latinas team met with Eric Mapes, the Albany Middle School (AMS) Principal, and Catherine Floresca, the AMS Assistant Principal to discuss how to support our latino/x familias at AMS. They are both interested in hearing what our community needs. AMS hosted a meet and greet to get to know our community and share information about AMS. They are hoping to have a monthly Familias Latinas gathering at AMS so keep a look out for upcoming meetings!



**Game "Night"** at Albany High School was a hit! We had a variety of board games, video games, a virtual reality game, and loteria! We were excited to see so many families come to play. We had some lucky Loteria players win a giant squishmallow, Gordo's gift card, and Juanita and Maude gift card. In addition, we raised several hundreds of dollars towards our scholarships!

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Our fundraising efforts and the generosity of our community have made it possible for us to offer scholarships. We will be providing three types of scholarships.

(1) Need-based Scholarships: these scholarships are intended to help families who are trying to meet their basic needs - housing, food, transportation, childcare, etc... We know how stressful it is to be in these situations and we want to help lessen the burden while we help connect you with community resources.

(2) Learning Opportunity Scholarships: our children grow and develop as they are exposed to different opportunities and have access to resources to support their learning. These scholarships are intended to help our children access learning opportunities such as attending a class or workshop, going to a camp, or accessing tutoring.

(3) Graduation Scholarships: we want to acknowledge that hard work and achievement of our Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latinx seniors by awarding them with scholarships to help them start their next journey.

**[To apply for a scholarship please click here.](#)**



# Community Member Highlights



## Cecilia (Cecy) Plaza

It is my pleasure to introduce Cecilia (Cecy) Plaza to our community. Cecy is the mother of three beautiful, intelligent, curious, funny, active children: Leo age 12 in 6th grade at AMS, Alex age 9 in 4th grade at Cornell and Isabella age 5 in K at Cornell. They are wonderful active children and they all take piano, swimming classes, and are enrolled in cub scouts. Leo does basketball, Alex soccer, Isabella dance. In addition, they have all helped Cecy in her daycare.

Cecy went down many paths before owning her own daycare. After graduating from Albany High School, she attended CA Culinary Academy in San Francisco. This led to her doing her externship in Florence, Italy where she met and fell in love with her husband Dany. She also discovered that she didn't want to be a chef. She shifted plans and attended Cosmetology/Esthetician school in Italy. She ended up working at a spa there for 6 years, which she loved. At that time, she decided it was time to come home, and so she moved back to the Bay area. She worked two jobs in the restaurant industry; at Skates on the Bay and for Francis Ford Coppola as a manager in his restaurants. Although she loved the restaurant industry (just not the kitchen), when she became pregnant with her first son (Leo), she realized it no longer fit her lifestyle.

As she toured various daycares for her son, she wasn't convinced that he would get the education she wanted him to get. So she decided to open a small in home daycare. She started with 4 children and went back to college. She quickly realized that working with children was her calling and she expanded to a large in-home daycare (for 14 children), which she has owned for 12 years now. During that time she also achieved her Associate Teacher's Permit and an AA in Early Childhood Education. She is now a successful CEO of Tiny Footprints Child Care. Cecy's advice to youth is to "never say never;" it is never too late to change career paths.

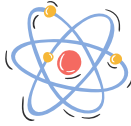
Despite Cecy's busy job, she has participated in many Familias Latinas' events including Cornell's Got Talent's performance. Cecy's parents are from Argentina and Peru, and Cecy was born in Oakland, CA. Growing up in this area and having gone through the Albany School District, Cecy did not see many Latinos. Cecy was so excited to join Familias Latinas de Albany so she could be a part of a community. She loves being able to share different cultural experiences with her children. It also just feels nice to be part of a group that feels like an extended family; people you can rely on if you need help, if you have questions, if you just need someone to talk to.

*To continue to get to know each other and highlight the accomplishments within our community, we will feature members of our community each month. If you want to show your child how proud you are of all their effort and accomplishments, introduce yourself so you can connect with our community, share a business, service, or skill that you can offer our community, or nominate someone else to be featured in our monthly newsletter, please email Familias Latinas de Albany.*





# Latinas in STEM



by Grecia Reséndez

For hundreds of years, Latinos have contributed to the STEM field. Unfortunately, Latinos especially Latinas, are underrepresented in the field. In 2021 Hispanics comprised 17% of the workforce but only 8% of STEM jobs ([Pew, 2021](#)). This disparity is seen in the classroom as well, where Hispanic girls are less likely than Hispanic boys to like STEM subjects (81% vs. 91%) or aspire to STEM careers (28% vs 64%) ([Student Research Foundation, 2020](#)). There are many contributing factors to these statistics, some are, implicit bias that impacts confidence level in students, socioeconomic status, and the impacts of underrepresentation.

This month we honor the Latinas in STEM. These women stand on the shoulders of the women who came before them while simultaneously paving the way for more Latinas in STEM.

## ANTONIA C. NOVELLO



The first Latina to serve as Surgeon General of the U.S. and the first woman in that position. Antonia was appointed in 1990 and served for 3 years. She is was born in Fajardo, Puerto Rico, 1944 making her 78 years young.

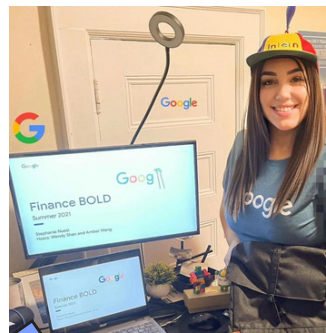
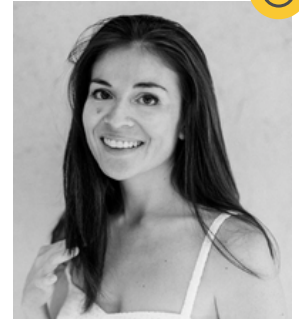


## ELLEN OCHOA

In 1993 Ellen made history by being the first Latina in space. On April 8, 1993 she went on a nine-day mission to study the Earth's ozone layer. Ellen is from Mexican decent born in L.A. She holds a science degree in physics and a doctorate from the Stanford Department of Electrical Engineering. She is 64 years young.

Born in Bogotá, Colombia and raised in Key Largo Florida, Angela Guzman holds a Masters in Graphic Design. She is best known for being the co-designer of the original set of Apple Emojis! Yes, you heard that right. In 2008 Angela helped changed the way we communicate and was only an intern at Apple when she undertook the project.

## ANGELA GUZMAN



## STEPHANIE NUESI

Born and raised in the Dominican Republic, Stephanie developed a positive relationship for finances, numbers and technology. She arrived to the U.S. at the age of 16. As an English Language Learner, Stephanie struggled with grammar in school. After being rejected from college she signed up for free ESL classes. Stephanie went on to graduate from some of the best business schools and landed her dream job at Google

[A look back in history: Click on the links below to learn more about how these civilizations contributed to STEM](#)



## K-12 S.T.E.M. Resources

**Bay Area Teen Science (B.A.T.S.)**  
serves as a portal to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) opportunities for all San Francisco Bay Area teenagers

**Institute for Broadening Participation**  
Database for STEM Programs and Scholarship K-12

**JBEI's Introductory College Level Experience in Microbiology (iCLEM)**  
is a paid summer science intensive for economically disadvantaged high school sophomores and juniors.



# Community Events

## **LISTENING CAMPAIGN**

Share what is going well and what you'd like to see change in the district by participating in a listening session. Childcare and interpretation available.

[Sign Up Here!](#)

Chicana artist Amelia Mesa Bains @ BAMPFA Berkeley

First retrospective of Amalia Mesa-Bains, the acclaimed multimedia artist who is widely regarded as one of the leading figures of Chicana art,

February 4 - July 23, 2023

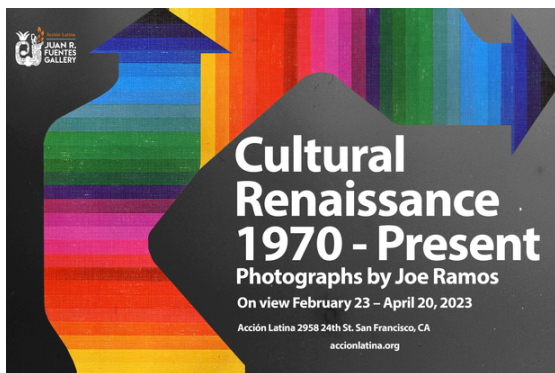
University of California, Berkeley  
Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive

## **CULTURAL RENAISSANCE** **1970-PRESENT**

In his newest body of work, San Francisco photographer Joe Ramos juxtaposes photographs taken during the early 70s to 80s with recent portraits of artists and cultural makers that emanated from the time period.

February 23 - April 20, 2023

Accion Latina  
2958 24th Street San Francisco



## **BEE BASH**

Come learn from some of the Bay Area's leading experts about native bees and what you can do to help them, including preserving habitat, and planting and gardening with bees in mind.

Saturday, April 1st 10am - 3pm  
Annie's Annuals & Perennials  
740 Market Ave Richmond

## **EASTER CELEBRATION**

Enjoy a variety of family-friendly activities, including selfies with the Easter Bunny (bring your own camera), a children's Easter craft (while supplies last), face painting, and balloon twisting.

Saturday, April 1  
3pm - 5pm

Alameda Landing  
2600 Fifth Street Alameda



## **SPRING EGG HUNT EXTRAVAGANZA**

Families will enjoy an egg hunt, plus petting zoo, visit with the Spring Bunny, spring-themed arts and crafts, an interactive kid's carnival and Bunny Hop dance lessons. Egg hunt time varies by age.

Saturday, April 8th, 9:30am - 1pm  
Willard Park  
2730 Hillegass Ave Berkeley



# Community Resources

## SCHOOL DISTRICT RESOURCES

### Conexión Latina

High students can find community and support through this Latino student club.

### Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Albany Disability Squad: Parent organization that advocates for the needs of students with disabilities. If your child is struggling in school, this group can help you understand what is available in AUSD and link you to community resources.

Albany's Pride: LGBTQIA+ Advocacy Group for AUSD

AUSD Student Services: responsible for student attendance, discipline, mental health, and interventions to support students' social-emotional needs. For support please email the Director of Students Services: Deb Brill at [dbrill@ausdk12.org](mailto:dbrill@ausdk12.org)

## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Family Paths: parenting stress and mental health support

ACCESS is a multilingual call center that provides information for mental health and substance use treatment for Alameda County.  
24 hours a day/7 days a week  
1-800-491-9099

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) East Bay: Provides resources for Alameda & Contra Costa County

## FOOD PANTRIES AND SERVICES

Alameda County Social Services

Alameda County Community Food Bank

Berkeley Food Pantry

Berkeley Food Network

Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Food Pantries

## LIBRARY RESOURCES

Berkley Public Library offers ESL Conversation Club (on Zoom!). Come join us every Tuesday from 10:30-12:00 PST for conversation in a friendly and relaxed setting. All levels of ESL learnings are welcome to join from the comfort of your own home (family and pets are welcome too!).

## COMMUNITY QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

What games do you and your family enjoy for Game Night?

Is there a community resource you would like to share with others? Are there latino/x businesses you want to recommend? Do you own a business that you want our community to know about?  
If so, please email us.