BRIEFLY

The Seventh Judicial District Newsletter
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SPECIAL EDITION

"Honoring Our Heritage, Building Our Future"

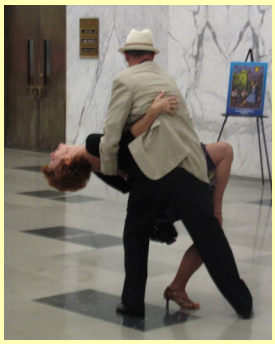
"Mes de la Herencia Hispana"

By Jose Cruzado

During National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15th—October 15th) we recognize the contributions made by Hispanic and Latino Americans in the United States and throughout the world. We celebrate the importance of their presence in the United States, their heritage and culture.

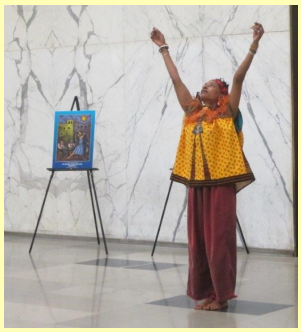
On September 17, 2015 the 7th Judicial District's Workforce Diversity Committee helped "kick off" the celebration at the Monroe County Hall of Justice by hosting "A Dessert Theater". In her opening remarks, the Hon. Leticia D. Astacio, Rochester City Court, spoke about her own experiences as a person of both Puerto Rican and African-American decent. She spoke of pride, family and love and the role they play in Latin-American culture. She reminded us of the welcoming nature of the Latino people and their propensity to be hard workers.

The audience was then treated to several dances performed by local dance instructors/artists Agustin (Gus) Ramos (Retired Investigator with the Public Defenders Office) and Debbie Brignoni. They presented the Argentine Tango in all it's passionate glory.



Maureen Hickey and Steve Link's dance presented a very fun and hip Cha-Cha to Bruno Mars' Uptown Funk.

Frances Hare performed a beautiful Afro-Caribbean dance full of energy and good vibes.



Maureen Hickey and **Jose Cruzado (Livingston Supreme & County Courts)** danced a sizzling salsa with **Tasha Byrd (7th District Office)** and **Susan Cruzado (Steuben Family Court)** joining in on the fun.

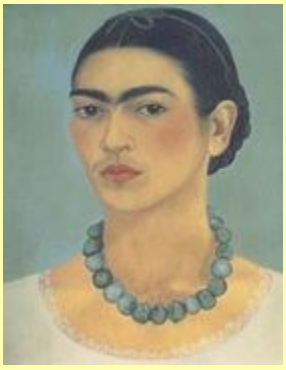
Beautiful posters representing various Latin-American countries lined the area in and around courtroom #1 at the Hall of Justice. Desserts were served with coffee, water and low calorie Gatorade (for those needing the extra hydration).

This celebration of culture truly epitomized what Latin culture represents: fun, love, and family. The diversity of the dances well-represented the diverse cultural and ethnic mix of Latinos in the United States. We are Spanish, African, Indigenous Indians (to their country of origin) and uniquely American.

A FEW NOTABLE LATINOS AND LATINAS

In his speech to the United States Congress on September 24, 2015, Pope Francis stated that "We, the people of this continent, are not fearful of foreigners because most of us once were foreigners." Pope Francis was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, Argentina to Italian parents that immigrated to

Argentina to escape the regime of Benito Mussolini. He was elected Pope on March 13, 2013. There are approximately 30.4 million people in the United States that self-identify their religion as Catholic and their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino according to a study by Georgetown University.



Mexican painter Frida Kahlo de Rivera is best known for her self-portraits, her political activism and her focus on Mexican and Amerindian cultural traditions. Her works depicting women have also gained her the status of a feminist icon. Kahlo began painting when recovering from a bus accident which left her temporarily paralyzed and unable to walk.

"Feet, what do I need you for when I have wings to fly?" *Frida Kahlo*

A FEW OF THE TOP HISPANIC ENTREPRENEURS IN AMERICA

Betro Perez, Founder of Zumba Fitness

Marcelo Claure, Founder of BrightStar now CEO of Sprint

Tony Jimenez, Founder of Micro Tech

Maria Contreras-Sweet, Founder of ProAmerica Bank

Cynthia Rubio, Founder of Radiant RFID

We encourage you to take a moment from your busy schedules to learn about the influence of Latinos in American History, Art, and Culture. If you would like to learn more about the dances performed on September 17, 2015 at the Hall of Justice in Monroe County, please do not hesitate to contact these fine artists (e-mail below) who continuously help support Latino arts and dance in the Rochester area.

Agustine Ramos - Argentine Tango	flowercitytango@gmail.com
Maureen Hickey and Steve Link -Ballroom	www.modancing.com
France Hare - African Caribbean-Salsa	FrancesHare@yahoo.com

- submitted by Jose Cruzado, Chief Clerk, Livingston Supreme & County Court and Chairperson Work Force Diversity Committee