

# The Graces

*The Official Newsletter of the Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc.*



## MES DE LA HERENCIA HISPANA, 2016 POR EL PRESIDENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA UNA

Nuestra nación ha encontrado fuerza en la diversidad de nuestra gente. Con fe y pasión, una fuerte ética de trabajo y una profunda devoción a la familia, la comunidad hispana ha ayudado a llevar adelante nuestro legado como un vibrante símbolo de oportunidad para todos. Sea que hace generaciones que están aquí o porque son algunos de los más nuevos miembros estadounidenses de nuestra familia estadounidense, ellos representan muchos países y culturas, cada uno añadiendo su propia perspectiva distinta y dinámica a la historia de nuestro país. En celebración del Mes de la Herencia Hispana, reconocemos las contribuciones que los hispanos han hecho a lo largo de nuestra historia, y recalamos la rica diversidad que mantiene a nuestras comunidades fuertes.

Los estadounidenses hispanos han tenido un impacto en nuestra historia y han ayudado a dirigir un progreso arduamente ganado para todo nuestro pueblo. Ellos son los escritores, cantantes y músicos que enriquecen nuestras artes y humanidades; los empresarios innovadores que dirigen nuestra economía. Ellos son los científicos e ingenieros revolucionando nuestra forma de vida y haciendo descubrimientos sin precedentes; los defensores liderando el camino para el cambio social y político. Ellos son los hombres y mujeres valientes en uniforme que se comprometen a defender nuestros ideales más apreciados en nuestro país y en el extranjero. Y sus logros y devoción a nuestra nación ejemplifican la tenacidad y la perseverancia infiltradas en nuestro carácter nacional.\*

## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



September 15 to October 15

¡Mes de la Herencia Hispana!

[hispanicheritagemonth.org](http://hispanicheritagemonth.org)

*September/October  
2016*

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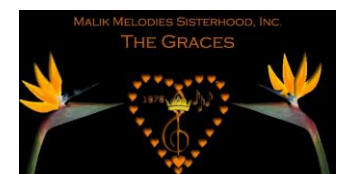
### **Malik Melodies Sisterhood Inc.**

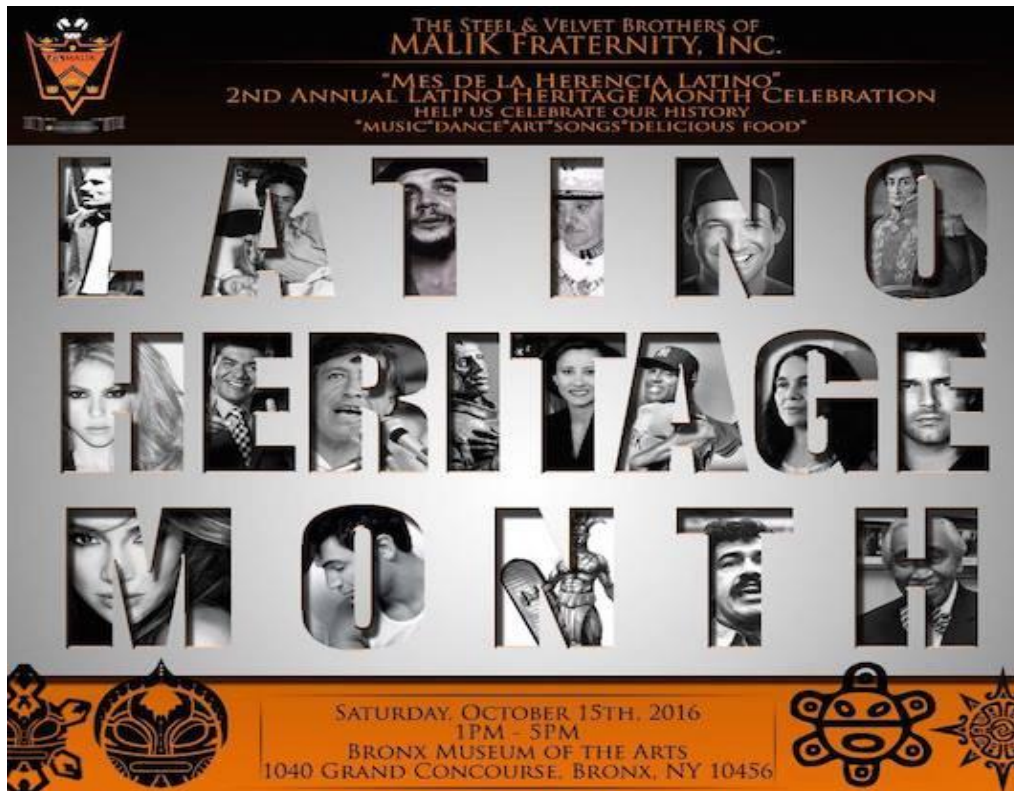
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*Please send comments or ideas for  
articles for future newsletters to  
[TheGracesNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:TheGracesNewsletter@gmail.com)*





A screening of the documentary called "Being ñ" is planned for the Latino Heritage Celebration. It's about growing up a second generation Latino and finding one's identity.

Watch the preview at:  
<https://youtu.be/mNi-IbBZQUE>

Join us!

**National Hispanic Heritage Month** celebrates Latinos and their culture and history. Started as Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968 by President Lyndon Johnson, it was expanded to a month by President Ronald Reagan and enacted into law in 1988.

#### Did you know...?

- Sept. 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18.
- Seventy percent of the Hispanic population lives in five states: California, Texas, New York, Florida and Illinois
- There are 1.1 million Hispanic veterans of the U.S. armed forces.

Source <http://www.gru.edu/diversity/hhm/facts.php>

#### **60 Day Walk Challenge Winners**

During April & May we hosted our 60 Day Walk Challenge.

Our top 4 winners were:

- 1) **Anita Wallace** with 598,412 total steps,
- 2) **Brittany Johnson** with 493,770 total steps,
- 3) **Sharon Harleston** with 257,368 total steps &
- 4) **Mary Richardson** with 232,980 total steps.

**Congratulations to all sisters for their participation & reaching their goals!**



# Melodies on the Move

## Gracious Melody Sharon Harleston



Gracious Melody Sharon Harleston has been employed at Future Tech Consultants (FTC) of New York, located in Mineola, NY for 17 years. FTC is an A2LA accredited special inspections agency that provides Engineering, Special and Progress Inspections to owners and owners' representatives throughout the tri-state area. Currently, Sharon holds the position of Project Assistant where she provides the support necessary for the Project Manager necessary to execute a job. Her responsibilities include attending meetings, keeping up-to-date files, and documenting any changes by corresponding with the client and client representatives. In 2010, Sharon was the first female employee and first African-American to receive a 10-year dedication gift which was presented to her during FTC Annual Holiday Party.



Gracious Melody Sharon Harleston was born in East Meadow, NY. She and her sister were raised by their great-grandmother. Her great-grandmother instilled in her to strive and do your best at anything you become involved in and to care about another person no matter what your circumstances are. Her great-grandmother would often say, "You will not get very far in life if you think you got there by yourself."

Gracious Melody Sharon Harleston attended Hofstra University (TAA Chapter). While at Hofstra Sharon became the only member of the Malik Melody Sweetheart Club during the Spring of 1986 along with her Sisters from CW Post University, and Stony Brook University. Her scale name was Southern Comfort because of her southern accent. She was given the African name of *Aziza Dahlia* meaning precious and gentle.

Sharon often reflects and silently thanks her great-grandmother and the Malik Melodies for encouraging her and believing in her. This strong foundation, along with the support of her husband Howard Harleston, Jr. and her sister Frances Bates has empowered Sharon to become the woman she is today.



And what a **great** woman she is!

In 2010, Sharon re-activated her membership with Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc. and has been nonstop ever since. Along with four other women, Sharon was given the title of "Reina Madrina" (Queen Godmother) for the Summer Scale 2011. This position was an essential component for the incoming members so that they could develop a personal relationship with a Melody who could guide them during their process of learning what Sisterhood means and what MMSI is all about.

Sharon served as the Professional Branch Vice President and currently holds the position of President of the Professional Branch of MMSI. Recently she was appointed the position of Vice President of the Executive Branch. She continues the branding expansion of Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc. by being involved in community activities such as Long Island Cares, Kids In Need Foundation, AIDS Walk NYC, Alzheimer's Walk, Juvenile Diabetes Walk, and The American Cancer Society - Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk.



In October 2012, at MMSI's 35th Anniversary Gala, Sharon received the One Warm Coat Award as a result of her efforts working on behalf of MMSI with the Three Soccer Club, in Long Island, NY. The coat drive was to benefit the Gerald J. Ryan Outreach Center and support survivors of Hurricane Sandy. She also received the Presidential Service Award (Bronze Medal) for completing 100-249 hours of community service. President Obama's award program honors volunteers for service,



encourages commitment to civic participation and to make service a central part of their lives. Sharon also wrote the "Melody of the Year Award" and had the honor to co-present with Gracious Melody Anita Gillespie-Wallace to Gracious Melody Dr. Nathalie Lilavois. She defined Nathalie's character using MELODY as an acronym for **M**otivator, **E**ducator, **L**eadership, **O**riginality, **D**ependable, and **Y**outhful, which remains in use to date.

2015 proved to be a very busy year for this Melody. Sharon introduced The African American Museum of Nassau County and The Girls Scouts of America (Suffolk County) to our Kids in Need Foundation- Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores Program. She co-hosted MMSI Community Partners Luncheon in April. She was MMSI's Co-Captain for AIDS Walk, NYC and assisted the Sisterhood in reaching our goal. In June 2015, Sharon had the pleasure of presenting the Angela Pauling Scholarship Award to recipient Jessica Mendez, high school graduate of Harry S. Truman, Bronx NY.



Sharon has written several articles for MMSI's newsletter "The Graces" which includes October (Latino Heritage Month), June (Fitness Month), March (Women's History Month) as well as President's messages and the official Welcome Letter to the Professional Branch of MMSI for members who have graduated college. She has developed and assisted with programs for the continued success of the Professional Branch.

Sharon loves her Sisters and she shows this by reaching out to them to see how they are doing, whether it's their birthday, congratulate them on their personal and professional achievements, or just to say hello and let them know someone is thinking of them. Naturally, in February 2015, she was given the MMSI Funny Award "Mommy of Excellence".

Sharon is beyond dependable. Give her a project and she will not only assist but also encourage others on her team to get this task done. Sharon's motto is "*Cherish all the moments good and bad, and be thankful for all the wonderful people sharing this journey called life with me*".



**Gracious Melody Sharon Harleston**

*recipient of the*

**2015 Melody of the Year Award**

**For her tireless effort and selfless**

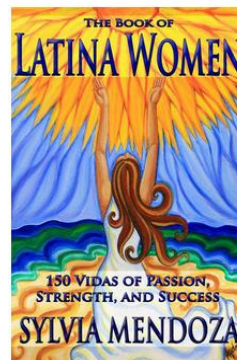
**contributions to our success !**



## **Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month!**

Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15, the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico declared its independence on September 16 and Chile on September 18. The term *Hispanic*, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, refers to Spanish-speaking people in the United States of any race. More than 50 million people identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino on the 2010 Census. To honor this special celebration all Hispanic Heritage Month items at the National Women's History Project online store will be discounted 20% through October 15th.

**\* From National Women's History Project September 2016 News & Events**



### **MMSI Charter Members at the Smithsonian!**

Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc. is proud to announce that our organization is a **charter member** of the new **Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture** in Washington, DC! On September 17<sup>th</sup>, our sisters Kim Bright, Brittany Johnson & Marjorie Jean-Pierre attended the **Charter Members Open House** representing MMSI.

Click these links:

[Photo Preview: National Museum of African American History and Culture](#)

[Highlights from the Museum's Grand Opening on September 24, 2016](#)

[President Obama Full Live Speech on opening of Smithsonian National Museum](#)

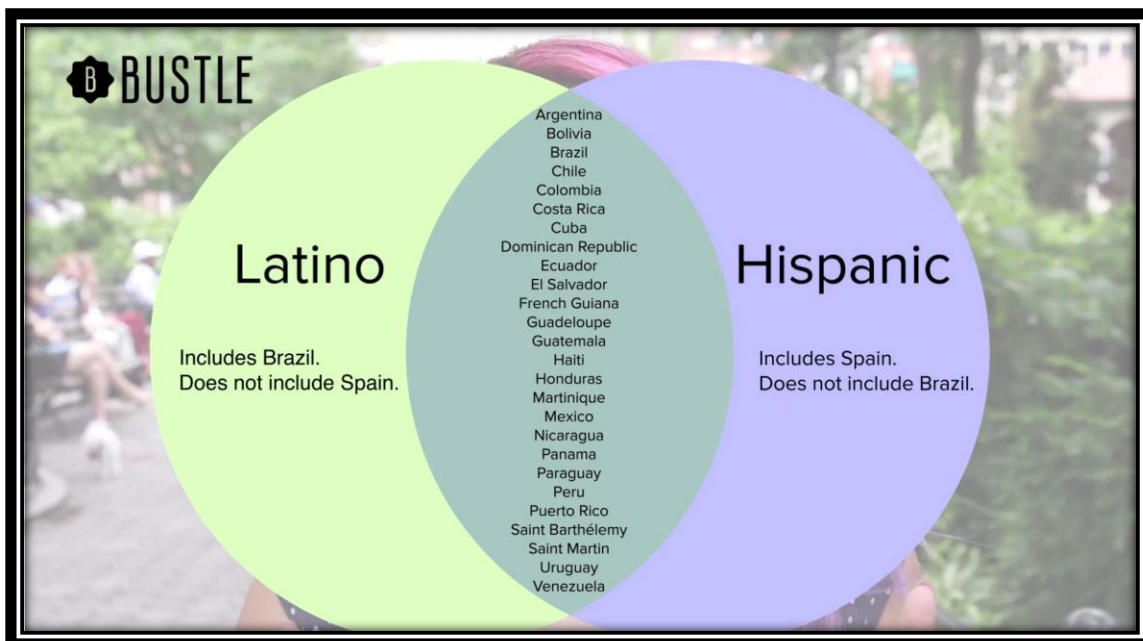


*Sisters Brittany Johnson & Kim Bright*

**Be on the look out for an MMSI trip to the National Museum of African American History & Culture in March 2017.**

### **What is the difference between Hispanic, Latino, and Spanish?**

See how Bustle clarifies the terms in their video and graphic below: <https://youtu.be/gs2tdjzla8Y>



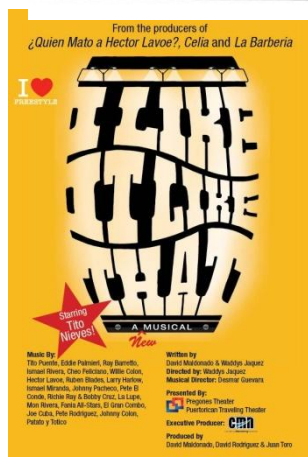




**HEALTH TIP: REMIND ALL THE WONDERFUL WOMEN IN OUR LIVES**

# October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

**SCHEDULE YOUR MAMMOGRAM**



On October 2, 2016, GM Nathalie C. Lilavois had the pleasure of seeing the musical “*I Like It Like That - A Musical*” featuring Salsa music icon TITO NIEVES in his theatrical debut surrounded by a phenomenal cast. *I Like It Like That – A Musical* is the story of the Rodriguez family living in New York City’s East Harlem in the early 1970s, when music was the lifeline and proudest expression of El Barrio. The story centers on Don Roberto Rodríguez played by Tito Nieves, who instills good values in his children, and faces the true grit and social chaos of the times. The musical is at the Puerto Rican Traveling Theater located at 304 W 47th Street in Manhattan. [WWW.ILIKEITLIKETHAT.COM/](http://WWW.ILIKEITLIKETHAT.COM/)



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[WWW.PREGONESPRTT.ORG](http://WWW.PREGONESPRTT.ORG)

GM Nathalie Lilavois  
meets actors, Tito  
Nieves, Joseph  
Gonzalez, & Angel  
Lopez after the musical!



## MEET DR. BETTY ROSA CHANCELLOR OF THE NEW YORK STATE BOARD OF REGENTS!

Dr. Rosa gave the keynote at the Long Island Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development (LIASCD) on Friday, September 30, 2016 at the Melville Marriott. She is the Regent for the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Bronx County). Though born in New York, she spent the first ten years of her life in Puerto Rico. He holds a doctorate in Administration, Planning, & Social Policy from Harvard University. Look for her in a future issue of *The Graces* under “In Honor of Women”!



# HISPANIC CULTURE and HERITAGE

By Sharon Harleston

The word “heritage” is defined as the **customs and traditions** that are handed down from generation and generation of families and society. A person with **Latino heritage** is a descendant of a family from Mexico, Central America or South America. People who are **Hispanic** are from a country where Spanish is spoken (Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Chile, Colombia and Dominican Republic to name a few)



## **Hispanic Arts**

**Traditional Mexican craft is Basket Weaving** - (also known as basketry or basket making) is the hand-crafted method of creating woven baskets from natural grasses. Basket weavers use many variations of several basic techniques that include coiling, twining, plaiting, and weaving to create endless varieties of baskets.



## **Traditional Hispanic craft is earthenware: Terra Cotta pots and sculptures.**

Terra cotta is a ceramic material that has been used for building construction and decorative arts. The meaning of terra cotta is “baked earth”. It is made from natural clay and has a reddish-brown color. This color can vary depending on the type of clay used. Terra cotta can be glazed for extra strength or to provide a richer color. Unglazed it is ideal for planters, which is semi-permeable to air and water.



## **Pinatas: History of the Pinata**

The origin of the pinata is not Hispanic but Chinese and used to celebrate the coming of spring. Marco Polo introduced this Chinese custom which was adopted by the Spanish, French and Italians. The Spanish brought this custom to the New World when they conquered Mexico.



## **Symbols of the Pinata**

Pinatas were traditionally made with a clay pot base. Today the clay pot base has been replaced with different types of materials such as paper, ribbons, or paper mache.

The traditional pinata has seven points representing the Seven Deadly Sins: Envy, Sloth, Gluttony, Greed, Lust, Anger/Wrath and Pride. The ten pointed pinata represents the sins that come from breaking the [10 Commandments](#).

A blindfold is used to cover the person's eyes to represent faith. The turning, singing and shouting represents the disorientation that temptation creates.

The stick that is used to break the pinata represents love. The stick is supposed to destroy the sins by hitting and breaking the pinata into pieces. The candies and treats that come out of the broken pinata represent the forgiveness of sins and a new beginning. Originally pinatas were filled with apples, pears, fruits, candies wrapped in paper. The candies (colaciones) which were a flour based, cooked candy containing a seed (such as mustard, anise or cilantro). Today, pinatas are filled with candies from Mexico and or United States and used as celebratory symbol during birthday parties, Christmas and Cinco De Mayo.





## For The Love of Our Salsa Music By Maria Lopez

As we celebrate Latin Heritage Month, I wanted to share what moves me... Salsa Music. In my research I found that, Salsa music is a general term referring to a genre that is based largely on Cuban & Puerto Rican popular dance music. It initially arose in New York City during the 1970s. Salsa is the product of various musical genres including the Cuban son montuno, guaracha, cha cha chá, mambo, as well as some bolero, along with the Puerto Rican bomba and plena. Latin jazz also had a significant influence on salsa music. Salsa is primarily Cuban with a fusion of Spanish guitar and Afro-Cuban percussion, merged with North American jazz. Salsa also occasionally incorporates elements of rock, R&B and funk.

Some of the first salsa bands were created predominantly by Cubans who moved to New York in the 1930s. Eventually the music spread throughout North & South America & then became a global phenomenon. Some of the founding salsa artists were Johnny Pacheco, Ray Barretto, Larry Harlow, Bobby Valentin, Roberto Roena, Eddie Palmieri & Hector Lavoe, a few of my favorites. Salsa means 'sauce' in the Spanish language. In the 20th century, salsa became a musical definition in both English and Spanish. For the musical definition, salsa connotes a frenzied "hot" and wild musical experience drawing upon elements of Latin culture.

The lyrics of salsa songs range from party/dance themes to romantic, risqué, religious & political issues. Sometimes you'll hear references to the Afro-Cuban religion Santería; often performed by artists who do not practice the faith. Salsa lyrics also exhibit Puerto Rican influences and phrasing as well. Many salsa songs contain a nationalist theme, centered around a sense of pride in Black Latino identity, and may be in Spanish, English or a mixture of the two called Spanglish.

The 1980s was a decade of diversification. Salsa music was evolving into "sweet & smooth salsa romantica" with lyrics that talked about love & romance. "Salsa erotica" had more sexually explicit lyrics. With this new style, a wave of "romantica" singers provided songs with romantic lyrics with strong melodies. The 1980s also brought about a soulful salsa that had elements of R&B, hip hop & soul music.

In the 1990's pianist & producer Sergio George helped move salsa into a more commercial market by mixing salsa with contemporary pop styles with artists like Marc Anthony, Tito Nieves & La India. George also produced singers Brenda K. Starr, Son By Four, Victor Manuelle, a Japanese salsa band called Orquesta de la Luz and Gloria Estefan.

The most recent innovations in the salsa genre include hybrid music like Latin house, salsa-merengue, salsaton and salsa gorda.

There are so many Latin salsa singers who will continue to be a part of my life (too many to mention in this article). To all those singers, we all thank you for sharing the passion of our culture. This music makes us happy and makes us move.





## What does it mean to be Latino? Is it nature or is it nurture?

By: Lauralee Rivas

Are there requirements for someone to be considered a Latino? What happens if someone only meets some of those requirements? Or is it something we are born into? If a baby of Puerto Rican decent is adopted by a French couple from France, is that baby still Puerto Rican, or French, or a French-Puerto Rican? WHAT ARE THE RULES?!

Despite the diversity of Puerto Ricans in terms of physical appearance, education level, and career choice, there seems to be a universal expectation of one thing: language. The Spanish language haunts those who have enjoyed every other Puerto Rican tradition. Of course, this isn't limited to those of Puerto Rican decent. It is an interesting experience that affects second-generation Americans and beyond, of any ethnicity. Common sense tells us that just because a Trinidadian goes to learn the French language in France, does not make them French (can you tell I like the French?). There's no argument there (at least not from me). The problem arises when someone of a particular ethnic background is expected to know a language (we all know a language duh, but I'm talking about a second language associated with their heritage). Many Puerto Rican families have been in the United States since the end of the 1800's, it is not surprising that many have lost pieces of their culture along the way. Should we consider them to be any less Puerto Rican? I don't think so.

I'm not an expert on every Puerto Rican so let me tell you what I mean from my experiences...I attended DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx. Now, if anyone knows anything about this school (or what it used to be), they would know that its student body is about 85% Dominican. Considering the circumstances, it's no wonder that 99% of my friends were Dominican. My friends and I would often compare cultures; you know: what was cooked or done in a Puerto Rican household versus a Dominican one. There were plenty of similarities and a handful of differences, as to be expected. One occasion in which a related conversation took place went a little something like this:

Friend: "My mom makes *platanos* every day."

Me: "Oh yea. My grandmother makes it for us nearly every day too."

Friend: "Really?! What do you eat?"

Me: "Well, we usually eat rice with some kind of beans and *carne*."

Friend: "That's shocking. I thought you ate 'white people food'"

Me: "Why?"

Friend: "Because you don't really know Spanish."

And that was the first time I wondered about the Latino requirements. According to my friend, I had no right to claim the Puerto Rican title because I didn't speak the assumed language, that must have meant I didn't enjoy any of the cultural components. It wasn't enough that I was born to two fully-Puerto Rican parents. I needed the culture, but did I need all the culture? Over the years, I beat myself up trying to figure out the answer to that question. I came to the conclusion that it didn't matter. I know who I am. I grew up eating *pernil*, *mofongo*, *arroz con pollo*, and *arroz con dulce*. We drink *coquito* and eat *pasteles* during the Christmas holiday. That was always enough for me.

Was I born into a Puerto Rican family? Yes. Was I raised with the culture? Yes. All of the culture? No, and that's ok.

# Bacalaitos

## (CODFISH FRITTERS)

### INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 lb salted cod fillets, desalted
- 1 1/2 cup all-purpose wheat flour\*
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 to 3 garlic cloves, peeled
- 1/2 cup cilantro, finely chopped
- 2 culantro leaves (recao), finely chopped\*\*
- Vegetable oil (for frying)
- Salt and pepper, as desired



### DIRECTIONS

#### Step 1:

Cut salted cod fillet into pieces. Make sure bones have been removed. Soak cod in water for half an hour (or overnight for best results) changing the water two or three times to remove excess salt. Drain, thoroughly pat dry on paper towel. Shred it.

#### Step 2:

In bowl, combine wheat flour with water and mix well to remove all lumps.

#### Step 3:

Crush garlic in a mortar with a little salt and pepper, and add it to the flour. Add shredded codfish and mix well.

#### Step 4:

Heat oil the codfish will be fried on high ( if using an electric fryer place at 375°F, if using a casserole insert a thermometer and let it raise same temperature, if desired), but not on the highest heat.

#### Step 5:

Carefully drop tablespoonfuls into the hot oil. Fry in pairs; this way it's easier to turn over the fritters, allow fritters to turn golden brown on both sides.

## SHOPPING LIST

Codfish fillets

Cilantro

Culantro ( Recao)

### Helpful Hints:

\*For extra crispiness, add 1/2 teaspoon of baking powder (optional).

\*\*Culantro, known as recajo in Puerto Rico, is an herb commonly used in Puerto Rican and Dominican cooking. It is different from cilantro in looks and has a stronger flavor.

Serves: 12

Prep Time: 25 mins

Total Cooking time: 30 mins

Submitted by Sherlyn Ortiz-Suàrez

### MMSI Contributes to Building History!

MMSI contributes annually to the building of the new [National Museum of African American History and Culture](https://www.nbcnews.com/video/the-newest-smithsonian-museum-wears-a-crown-527437891876) in Washington, DC. To learn more about the history behind building's design in the shape of a Yoruba "Corona" or "Crown" visit: [http://www.nbcnews.com/video/the-newest-smithsonian-museum-wears-a-crown-527437891876](https://www.nbcnews.com/video/the-newest-smithsonian-museum-wears-a-crown-527437891876) (2:36 minutes). Be a part of history and donate today!

## Guitarist Michelle Marie Giving Back To The Youth

by  
Gracious Melody Anita Wallace

Guitarist **Michelle Marie** is a self taught musician who now owns and runs “**MM Rock Camp**” for kids. Michelle is originally from the Bronx but grew up in Queens with a Dominican mother and an American father.

As a young girl, Michelle was a tomboy and was attracted to playing rock guitar which is male dominated. Being self taught in some ways was easier than taking lessons from some people who didn't think she should play guitar. Michelle says, “The notion that girls can't play guitar was an issue I had to deal with.” After high school Michelle traveled with her Mom's band and later learned to read music.

Michelle loves rock but also plays jazz, classical guitar, R&B and Latin music. Her students primarily learn and perform rock music but they learn other genres of music that Michelle plays. In 2010 the Michelle Marie Trio launched MM Rock Camp. Michelle is the musical director, founder & instructor. She pushes her students hard every day. Her students learn approximately 25 songs in varying styles from heavy metal, to rock, pop and R&B! Michelle says, “Obviously you can't play every style to perfection, but keeping your ears open to all styles of music is very important.”

Under the umbrella of the Rock Camp, there is the featured four week summer program (ages 10-17) but there's also a Young Artists Program (ages 6-10) and a workshop for teens starting this fall. The camp and all private lessons are held in a studio in Bayside, Queens.

Michelle Marie's music industry experience includes playing for Mary J Blige, Jill Scott, Alicia Keys, her own band (Michelle Marie Trio), as well as playing for the “Black Girls Rock” awards show house band. Before starting the camp Michelle founded “**MM Records**” in 2008 where she produces her own albums as well as those by other artists.



### **New Job!**

Congratulations to **GM, Jhenna Zepeda** who started a new job in September! She is a Property Administrative Assistant for Cushman and Wakefield (a global real estate services firm) in Indianapolis, IN.



Click on banner to  
register at  
<https://vote.gov>



## PROCLAMACIÓN PRESIDENCIAL

Mi administración está firmemente comprometida a enfrentar los problemas de vital importancia para la comunidad hispana y abrir puertas de oportunidad para todos los estadounidenses. La tasa de desempleo de la comunidad hispana ha disminuido de forma constante desde que asumí mi cargo, y hemos trabajado para apoyar el crecimiento y desarrollo de empresas cuyos propietarios son hispanos. Hemos luchado para hacer posible comprar una casa a un precio alcanzable y aumentar el salario mínimo federal; lo cual beneficiaría a más de 8 millones de trabajadores hispanos. Gracias a la Ley del Cuidado de Salud a Bajo Precio, 4 millones de adultos, sin contar a ancianos, hispanos han obtenido acceso a cuidado de salud de calidad y asequible, reduciendo la tasa de hispanos sin seguro médico por más de un cuarto. La tasa de graduación de la escuela secundaria entre los estudiantes hispanos ha aumentado significativamente, y hemos invertido más de \$12 mil millones para ayudar a más estudiantes hispanos a matricularse en la universidad. Al crear un nuevo curso en nuestra relación con Cuba, estamos fortaleciendo la comunicación y mejorando las relaciones entre amigos y familiares en ambos países – reforzando muchos lazos con Latinoamérica.

La historia de nuestra nación empezó con la inmigración; hoy debemos continuar buscando la forma de hacer realidad la promesa de nuestra nación en la vida de todos, incluso en la vida de aquellos quienes son estadounidenses en todo sentido excepto por un pedazo de papel. Por medio de la política de Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia, más Dreamers han recibido la oportunidad de alcanzar sus aspiraciones más altas, esto incluye a 650,000 hispanos. El año pasado, tomé medidas dentro de mi autoridad como Presidente para arreglar partes de nuestro sistema de inmigración que no funcionan por medio de una acción ejecutiva – y sigo profundamente dedicado a pasar una reforma migratoria integral. Hasta que actúe el Congreso, continuaré haciendo todo lo posible para apoyar el legado de nuestra nación que es una sociedad que se ha enriquecido de muchas culturales. Establecí el Grupo de Trabajo de la Casa Blanca sobre Nuevos Estadounidenses para apoyar la integración de inmigrantes y refugiados en nuestras comunidades. Continuaremos a dar la bienvenida a aquellos escapando persecución, incluyendo aquellos del Hemisferio Occidental, y seguiremos trabajando para que nuestro sistema de inmigración sea más justo y más inteligente.

Este mes, reflexionemos sobre todas las formas en las que los hispanos han contribuido al mejoramiento de nuestra nación y reafirmemos nuestro compromiso a aumentar las oportunidades y construir un futuro aún más brillante para todos nosotros. Acojamos la diversidad que nos hace fuerte y continuemos trabajando para asegurar que el sueño americano esté al alcance de las generaciones hispanas por venir.

En honor a los logros de los hispanos en los Estados Unidos, el Congreso por la Ley Pública 100-402, en su versión modificada, ha autorizado y solicitado que el Presidente dé una proclamación anual designando el periodo desde el 15 de septiembre al 15 de octubre como el Mes de la Herencia Hispana.

AHORA, POR LO TANTO, YO, BARACK OBAMA, Presidente de los Estados Unidos de América, proclamo por el presente el periodo del 15 de septiembre al 15 de octubre de 2016 como el Mes de la Herencia Hispana. Hago un llamado a todos los oficiales públicos, educadores, bibliotecarios y a todos los estadounidenses para que celebren este mes con ceremonias, actividades y programas apropiados.

EN FE DE LO CUAL, firmo este día catorce de septiembre, del año de nuestro señor dos mil dieciséis, y de los doscientos cuarenta y uno de la Independencia de los Estados Unidos de América.