

# PEER BIAS LEADERS NEWSLETTER

## OCTOBER 2020

Mehki - Welcome to the Peer Bias Leaders Newsletter. We are the Peer Bias Leaders, a student-led equity and inclusivity group at Haddonfield Memorial High School. Each month, we plan to release a monthly newsletter curated by students discussing the importance of equity through books, articles, discussion topics, and more. With this newsletter, we hope to foster conversations and self-education that act as the foundation for change within our community.

For the month of October, we will be highlighting Hispanic cultural heritage in correspondence with **National Hispanic Heritage Month**, which takes place from September 15th to October 15th. Starting in 1968 and officially being enacted into law in 1988, the 30-day period allows Americans to honor and celebrate the traditions, history, and contributions



of Americans of Hispanic heritage. September 15th holds a lot of significance, as it is the Independence Day for many Latin American countries such as Guatemala, Honduras, and Costa Rica. Chile and Mexico celebrate Independence Day a day later.

Listed below will be a link to a website with even more details about National Hispanic Heritage Month. We hope that you are able to learn more about the heritage and accomplishments of Latino and Latinx Americans from the past and present.

[National Hispanic American Heritage Month 2020](#)  
- Mehki Rippey, President of the Peer Bias Leaders

### ***Discussion Topics:***

- [What Is Hispanic Heritage Month—and Who Celebrates It](#)

Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated from September 15th and October 15th, often passes by unnoticed. This article provides some basic knowledge regarding the month-long celebration of the history and culture of America's largest ethnic group. For those who may be unfamiliar with the celebration, and wondering who celebrates and why, this article is a great place to start!

- [Latino, Hispanic, Latinx, Chicano: The History Behind the Terms](#)

There is a good chance that you have used some of these words interchangeably when they have different meanings. The term Hispanic is often thought of as most inclusive however one of the most populous countries in the world, Brazil is not Hispanic. According to the previous article people most of the time self-reported that they probably could properly use the term. So give this a read and make sure to introduce these terms to your vocabulary!

### **Reading**

- [The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros](#) is a series of vignettes following a young Latina girl, Esperanza, as she grows up in Chicago. The book describes her life over the course of her childhood, and shows how she begins to embrace her Latina culture and becomes more confident in who she is.
- [Esperanza Rising: a Window into Culture and History](#): describes the story of Esperanza, a young Mexican girl who learns more about herself and her culture through turmoil in her life. The book details a lot about Mexican culture while also emphasizing other important themes about life and family.

### **Podcast of the Month**

- [NPR Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration](#): The podcast of the month is a collection of podcasts put together by NPR for Hispanic heritage month. To celebrate, NPR is featuring one podcast a day about Hispanic culture, art and personalities. The goal of this is to show that there are so many different ways to be Hispanic, Latino, and Latinx. One of the podcasts that will be included is *Radio Ambulante*. This podcast aims to show what it means to be a Latin American and Latinx person in the current time. It features an Ecuadorian street artist, a Costa Rican atheist, and many more. All of the podcasts are meant to celebrate the culture, and show that although they have uniting things in their culture, there are many different and valid ways to be a Hispanic, Latino, and Latinx person.

### **Video Resources**

- National Park Services video: [Video \(US National Park Service\)](#)
- America Ferrera Ted Talk: [My Identity Is a Superpower -- Not An Obstacle | America Ferrera](#)  
Here, America talks about her experience as a Latina woman in Hollywood, and how the lack of representation affected her and her goals. She describes how she struggled to get roles because of her race, and how people reacted when she finally broke into the industry. Her ideas for how Hollywood can become more inclusive are incredibly inspiring, as is her statement about how we all need to learn to better embrace and celebrate who we are.
- Isabel Allende Interview: [Isabel Allende: Tales of Passion | TED Talk](#)

### **Quote of the Month:**

“My Hispanic Heritage reminds me to think of how I impact the world around me, how I can help us be successful together, to thrive on and celebrate differences and to not let go of the past and where we come from but to use it as impulse to move forward”

-Maria Lamas

