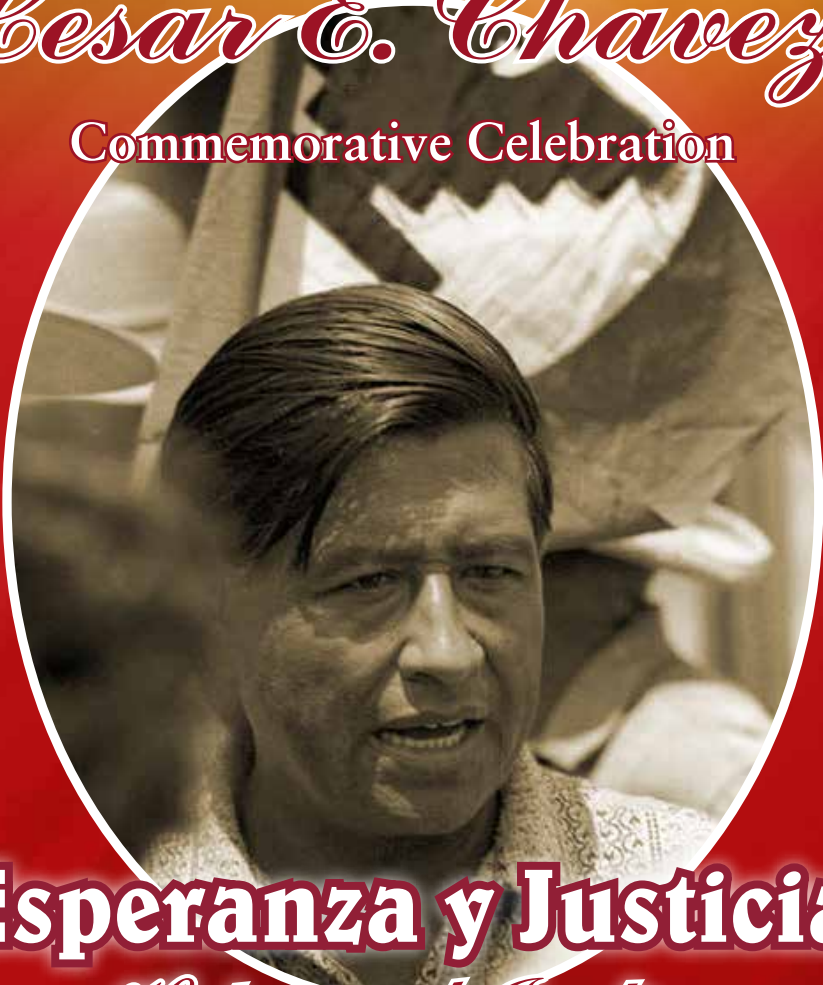




CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Announces the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual

*Cesar E. Chavez*

Commemorative Celebration



**Esperanza y Justicia**  
*Hope and Justice*

**Tuesday, March 29th, 2016**

# Chavez's Life...

**1927:** Cesar Estrada Chavez is born on March 31, 1927 in Yuma, Arizona.

**1938:** The Chavez family loses its farm during the Great Depression and begins following crops as migrant farm workers in Arizona and California.

**1944-45:** Cesar Chavez serves in the Navy in the Pacific during World War II.

**1947:** Influenced by his father's involvement in labor issues, Cesar joins his first union, the National Agricultural Workers Union.

**1952:** Cesar is recruited to work with Saul Alinsky's Community Service Organization (CSO), designed to help Latinos who have problems with immigration and police.

**1958:** Cesar is named General Director of CSO.

**1962:** Cesar leaves CSO after it refuses to form a farm-workers union and, in Delano, starts the National Farm Workers Association, the precursor to the United Farm Workers Union (UFW).

**1965, Sept. 8:** Filipino grape pickers in Delano go on strike for higher wages.

**1965, Sept. 16:** Cesar's union joins the strike against grape growers.

**1966, March 17:** Cesar and 70 strikers begin a march on Sacramento to drum up support for the union effort.

**1966, April 11:** The Chavez-led group marches to the State Capitol swelled to as many as 10,000 supporters from around the nation.

**1968, Feb. 14:** Cesar begins 25-day fast



to garner support for non-violence in union-organizing efforts.

**1968, March 10:** Cesar breaks fast in Delano with supporters, including Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

**1968, March 24:** Cesar announces in Los Angeles plans for a "worldwide boycott" of California grapes.

**1968, July:** More than 100 grape growers and shippers sue Chavez and the UFW, claiming \$25 million in losses because of the boycott.

**1970:** Contract agreements between UFW and most major grape growers is reached. Lettuce boycott begins.

**1972:** Cesar conducts a 24-day fast to protest right-to-work law.

**1973:** Cesar organizes the United Farm Workers of Americas Union, and a new round of boycotts begins when grape growers fail to renew contracts.

**1988, August 21:** Cesar ends a 36-day fast to protest pesticide use. The fast is the longest for the labor leader and leaves him severely weakened.

**1993, April 23:** Cesar Estrada Chavez dies in San Luis, Arizona, near where he was born 66 years ago.

**2000, August:** The State of California officially establishes the Cesar E. Chavez holiday.

**2003:** The U.S. Postal Service unveils a Cesar E. Chavez postage stamp.

**2012:** The US Navy Military Sealift Command christens the USNS Cesar Chavez (T-AKE-14) and activates and dedicates the ship in honor of Cesar Chavez.

# *Cesar E. Chavez*

*23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Commemorative Celebration  
& Youth Hall of Fame Awards  
March 29, 2016*

*Mistress of Ceremonies*

ROBIN LIPETZKY, PUBLIC DEFENDER

*Welcome*

CANDACE ANDERSEN, CHAIR, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

*Musical Performance*

MARIACHI NUEVA LEYENDA

*Keynote Speaker*

BLANCA HERNANDEZ

*Entertainment*

BALLET FOLKLÓRICO NETZAHUALCOYÓTL

*Board of Supervisors*

INTRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION OF  
2016 YOUTH HALL OF FAME HONOREES

*Acknowledgement & Adjournment*

*Refreshments immediately following ceremony in foyer*



## Keynote Speaker

# Blanca Hernandez

**B**lanca Hernandez is an immigrants' rights activist and an Immigration Paralegal with the International Business Law Firm in Washington, DC. She attended the West Contra Costa Unified School District and the Contra Costa Community College District. She emigrated from Mexico with her family in 1989 and they ultimately settled in Richmond, CA. Blanca has lived undocumented in the United States for the past 26 years and her immigration status continues today. She is currently a beneficiary of President Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Blanca's family was and has always been truthful about their undocumented status in the U.S. At the age of 8, Blanca found out that she could not count on getting a social security number, thus she was ineligible for a scholarship for summer courses at the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts. It was at the age of 12 when she fully understood what being undocumented meant. During this time period, Blanca was extremely passionate about dance, and she participated and performed as part of Los Cenzontles' Son Jarocho workshops. However, due to her inability to travel with the group on their annual trip to Veracruz, Mexico, Blanca stopped dancing. She understood then, and quite clearly, the limitations of being undocumented.

In 2001, Blanca was informed that she was ineligible to take the SATs, due to her lack of a social security number, which later proved inaccurate. Frustrated over the negativity received over the years, and upon learning that she would not be able to attend college as an undocumented student, she worked with the system and figured out a way to register and ultimately began attending classes at Contra Costa Community College. It was then when she decided to attempt to reduce the so called "limitations" she would be up against as much as possible.

Financial barriers ultimately forced Blanca to drop out of college after the first semester. Nonetheless, a year later she returned to college determined to graduate. Upon graduation from Contra Costa Community College in 2006, Blanca transferred to the University of California at Davis, in hopes of pursuing her intended majors of International Relations and Chicana/o Studies — majors she had chosen as a result of the mentorship she received as a participant in the Metas program at Contra Costa College and the many conversations she had with a close friend and fellow Richmond High graduate about her areas of interests. Unfortunately, Blanca suffered another setback

after having successfully transferred to UC Davis. The university made it a requirement that all International Study majors study abroad, a requisite that Blanca was unable to fulfill due to her immigration status.

As a result of the newly faced barriers, Blanca decided that she would utilize the resources she had available and move forward. If the system did not intend to work with or for her, she would learn how to work within the system. During her time at UC Davis, Blanca became active around undocumented student issues, which led her to co-found Scholars Promoting Education, Awareness, and Knowledge (SPEAK), and later the Bay Area DREAM Act Coalition (BADAC). Blanca ultimately graduated with a B.A. in Chicana/o Studies in 2008, being the first person in her immediate and extended U.S. based family to graduate from college.

She then joined efforts across the state and country, which led to the passage of the California Dream Act and the passage of the Federal DREAM Act in the House of Representatives in 2010. Within the same year, Blanca joined Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC), an organization aimed to support undocumented youth in their pursuit of college, career, and citizenship. As a member of E4FC, Blanca joined the Legal Services team, which expanded her legal knowledge and network, and kindled her passion for law and justice. As a result of the personal network and mentorships that Blanca had been able to build, in 2013, she relocated to Washington, DC to further her legal career.


Understanding and witnessing the effects of deportation in her community and across the country, Blanca joined the #Not1More campaign in 2013, and partook in a civil disobedience protest in Fairfax, Virginia, to call an end to deportations. Realizing that deportations were further on the rise, Blanca attended the 2014 Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute's (CHCI) Annual Gala, where President Obama was scheduled to be the keynote speaker, and interrupted his speech by calling for an executive order and a halt to deportations until Congress approves an immigration reform. Blanca was escorted out of the event and an executive order was announced the following month.

For her work on immigrants' rights, Blanca has been recognized by the Chicana Latina Foundation, Centro Legal de La Raza, UC Berkeley Labor Center, and named on the "Top Ten of Who Made a Difference" Latino Magazine, 2014.

# Past Speakers & Presentations



<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SPEAKER / PLAY</u>
2015	Frances Montalvo Palacios, president of Palacios Productions and founder of atruelatina.com
2014	Alvaro Ramirez, Ph. D., Professor, Department of Modern Languages St. Mary's College
2013	Juan Coria, Deputy Regional Administrator, U.S. Department of Labor
2012	María Leticia Gómez, Journalist
2011	Blas G. Guerrero, Ph.D., Dean of Student Development, Los Medanos College
2010	Jane C. Garcia, CEO of La Clínica De La Raza
2009	Gonzalo Rucobo, Bay Area Peacekeepers
2008	Jim Hernandez, Youth Violence Prevention Specialist Johnny Rodriguez, One Day at a Time, Founder
2007	State Senator, Liz Figueroa (D-Fremont)
2006	Honorable Judge Maria Rivera
2005	Nicolas Vaca, PhD., Attorney-at-Law
2004	Ruben Rosalez, Assistant District Director, U.S. Department of Labor
2003	Peter Garcia, President, Los Medanos College
2002	Dolores Huerta, VFW Co-founder with Cesar Chavez
2001	Paul R. Chavez, Grandson of Cesar Chavez
2000	Paul Ramirez, Federal Investigator, Department of Labor
1999	Teresa Delgado, 1st Granddaughter of Cesar Chavez
1998	Play, "Maria," written by Richard Martinez, Director of Contra Costa County Housing Authority
1997	Play, "Los Regalos," (The Gifts), written by Richard Martinez
1996	Play, "The Warriors," written by Richard Martinez,
1995	Play, "Abuelito, ¿Quién es Cesar?," (Grandfather, Who is Cesar?) Latino Student Alliance, Diablo Valley College
1994	Ed Trujillo, Chair of Drama Department, Diablo Valley College



# Entertainment

## MARIACHI NUEVA LEYENDA

Founded in 2012 under the leadership of Juan Mandujano, Mariachi Nueva Leyenda is a group of nine musicians descended from Colima, Jalisco, and Guanajuato, Mexico. Ranging in ages from 12 to 17, this younger generation group brings the culture and sound of their Mexican roots by performing the ancient tradition of Mariachi music with elegance and grace.

Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, Mariachi Nueva Leyenda has performed in private and public venues to include fundraisers, birthdays, holiday parties, masses and special events for Cinco de Mayo and Dia de los Muertos throughout the cities of Richmond, San Pablo and San Francisco.





## BALLET FOLKLÓRICO NETZAHUALCÓYOTL

Ballet Folklórico Netzahualcoyotl was founded in Marin County (San Rafael) in 1996. Director Netzahualcoyotl Vidal was born in the city of Compostela, Nayarit, Mexico, and studied Mexican Folkloric dance at the acclaimed Escuela de la Danza Mexicana Jaime Buentello Bazán from the time he was a young boy on through his early adult life. For the past twenty years, he has been an instructor and director of Mexican Folkloric Dance. He started his dance career as a director at San Rafael High School in Marin County where he taught for three years. In 1996 he founded Ballet Folklórico Netzahualcoyotl, and is currently the general and artistic director. He teaches both adults and children in different locations such as San Rafael, Concord and Santa Rosa. Since then, it has evolved into a dance company with its own unique style, costume designs, music and choreography. For many years the Ballet's highest goal has been to research Mexican folklore and share with the world some of Mexico's most prized gifts: its dances, customs and traditions!

The Ballet Folklórico Netzahualcoyotl currently comprises more than 100 students as young as five years old and from many different cultures. The group has participated in many local events and venues including the Annual San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival, Kids Dancing For Kids, the Marin County Fair, Petaluma Fair, Sonoma Fair, Solano County Fair, and the San Rafael District Schools. The mission of the Ballet Folklórico Netzahualcoyotl is to empower the Hispanic Community and to educate the general public by providing a greater understanding and appreciation for Mexican culture and folklore through music, dance and traditional art forms.

# Contra County County Youth Hall of Fame

## 2016 Honorees

### **Good Samaritan: Daisy Poblano – 12th grade, Freedom High School**

For the past two years, Daisy has been actively participating in a multicultural and multigenerational program in the city of Oakley called... You Me We Oakley (YMWO)! Through her participation, she increased the number of youth volunteers, hosted several community events, and was instrumental in the success of the YMWO-sponsored Safekeeper Program. The Safekeeper Program, through outreach, empowers and provides the public with training and resources needed to assist in suicide prevention and crisis intervention. Daisy has also been trained to properly assist in the screening of community members interested in going through the Immigration and Naturalization process by providing assistance in completing the necessary forms needed for individuals to become U.S. Citizens. Daisy's engaging attitude, dynamic people skills and ability to speak Spanish have proven to be an asset allowing her to establish rapport with volunteers and community members alike.

### **Artist: Lauren Furman – 12th grade, Monte Vista High School**

Lauren has spent the last four years developing and participating in a tutoring and mentoring program for at-risk or high-risk 4th and 5th graders at Alamo Elementary School. Her skills in mathematics and leadership are the right combination for these students who benefit directly from her weekly 1:1 tutoring and mentoring. Lauren is a mature and reliable communicator who develops remedial curriculum for students, with input from classroom teachers. In addition to the tutoring and mentoring programs, Lauren collects end-of-year school supplies and spends the summer refurbishing them for low-income students, creating back-to-school packages that benefit both students and teachers. Lauren is an independent and dedicated young woman, who has made a difference in the lives of several dozen young students with her encouragement and skilled support.

### **Valiant Volunteer: Fadua “Kimmy” Quemblie Farjat – 12th grade, College Park High School**

Fadua or “Kimmy” as she is known to her fellow volunteers at the Monument Impact program Go Get It (GGI)!, has been a very active community volunteer by taking part in events such as the Doctor Seuss Day. These events provide her an opportunity to share her love of reading by reading to kids, and assisting with games and activities at the “Dia del Niño” Day of the Child. Along with helping her community as a volunteer at various community events, Kimmy is also a health promoter for the community. She has dedicated many hours advising youth and adults in the community about eating nutritiously and staying healthy through her work at Monument Impact, as a Zumba instructor, and as a coach for the Junior Giants Baseball League. In addition, Kimmy extends her volunteer service and love of her community as a cadet with the Concord Police Department and hopes to become a police officer in the future.



# *Youth Hall of Fame, 2016 Honorees*

## **Sports Leadership: Frank McNulty Bedde IV – 9th grade, Freedom High School**

Frank is both an honor student and a three-sport athlete. Beyond the classroom and the playing fields, he decided to improve the campus climate and help future generations of Freedom High School students. By joining the Leadership class, Frank volunteered to lead a school rally for 2,600 students, and has been accepted to be a Freshman Boot Camp Commissioner for the next three years. As Freshman Boot Camp Commissioner, his primary responsibility is to design and implement a program to help incoming freshman acclimate to the high school environment and set them on a path to academic success. In addition to his school activities, Frank is actively involved with Boy Scouts, of America, currently holding the rank of Life Scout. As a Scout, he participated; and/or led several community service projects including his Eagle Project this March to benefit Delta Vista Middle School. He has earned the respect of his peers by his actions and by encouraging others to sacrifice a little of themselves for the betterment of us all.

## **School Leadership: Lindsey Parnas – 12th grade, San Ramon Valley High School**

Lindsey not only excels in academics with top notch grades, she participates in San Ramon Valley High School's Student Government, is part of the Awards Committee awarding student of the week awards to fellow students, and is a peer tutor. Lindsey is passionate about The French language and culture, so much so that she started a French Club her junior year in which students experience French culture through language, food, music and film. In addition to her various school activities, Lindsey is committed to social justice, especially increasing awareness of issues pertaining to the LGBTQ+ community, mental health and women's education. It is worthy to note that Lindsey is the only Youth Hall of Fame candidate that was nominated by peers, which speaks volumes of her caring and compassionate nature and the respect and admiration her fellow students have for her.

## **Cesar E. Chavez Outstanding Youth Honoree: Christopher Hou – 11th grade, Monte Vista High School**

Christopher is an outstanding student at Monte Vista High School and has great dreams and a big heart to make a significant impact in his community and the world. Christopher was a member of the Danville Youth Council from 2013-2015 and has a love and passion for math and science. Christopher has used his time and talent to coach math and computer science in several different communities including competition teams at Diablo Vista Middle School. He has devoted many hours after school to recruit and lead 15 coaches to help advance over 150 young students in math, earning the students multiple first place awards in Math Counts East Bay Chapter competitions in 2015 and recently in February 2016 at UC Berkeley. Christopher's passion for math and science extends beyond school to the community at large where he has founded CodeBytes, a group of high school students passionate about computer science and coding, who volunteer their time by reaching out to underrepresented children and helping them to learn computer coding for a better future. Christopher identified a need, developed a class plan and curriculum, recruited other high school students with the same passion for math and science to be instructors, and reached out to charitable organizations to see where they could find a location to host the computer coding lessons. The Monument Crisis Center warmly welcomed and supported their efforts and opened a classroom to host the classes, thus greatly benefiting students who would never have this opportunity, and creating a tech connection that can mean all the difference to these at-risk children. The CodeBytes class ran for 10 weeks and was so popular, it filled up immediately and maintained a waiting list and is currently being held again. Christopher has used his time, talent and passion to better both his local community and the world around him.

# *Sponsors*

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CONTRA COSTA EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

CONTRA COSTA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 159

IBEW LOCAL UNION 302

# *Acknowledgements*

*Arts & Culture Commission of Contra Costa County*

CATERING: *Los Panchos Restaurant*

DISPLAY: *Raymond Martinez*

FLOWERS: *Granshaw's Flowers &  
Gracie Lerma, Public Defender's Office*

FLYER / PROGRAM DESIGN: *Wiz Huang*

POSTER DESIGN: *Vien Tran*

PUBLIC WORKS: *Print & Mail, Custodial & Recycling Services*

VISUAL SUPPORT SERVICES: *CCTV*

SET-UP: *Rey Torralba, Clerk-Recorder-Elections*



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### MEMBER IN MEMORIAM

*Gina Martin*

*History will judge societies and governments — and their institutions — not by how big they are or how well they serve the rich and the powerful, but by how effectively they respond to the needs of the poor and the helpless.*

*Cesar Chavez*

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*Thank  
you  
for  
Attending*

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