

Familias Latinas

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2022



Familias Latinas donated a kit of basic items to each school site to create a community ofrenda in honor of Dia de los Muertos. Many schools had items from years past and staff, students, and families made additional contributions this year. Our goal is to add to the ofrendas each year.



Familias Updates

In our November meeting, we reviewed our group's goals: 1. To build community 2. To become visible and 3. To support our children. We shared a summary of what we have accomplished so far this year including several activities/events for Latino Heritage Month and supporting each of our five schools in creating ofrendas in honor of Dia de los Muertos. We brainstormed ways we can continue to address our goals through community events like a holiday potluck in December. We also discussed the importance of fundraising activities so we can provide our families with scholarships. Some fundraising ideas include a Loteria Night and selling a Familias Latinas Cookbook.

**Don't forget
to vote for
Familias
Latinas's
logo!**

CONTINUED ON P.2



Familias Updates

We also talked about our community's needs. In September families had voiced a desire for a Spanish after school program like the one in Marin (Tupelo). Familias Latinas has been advocating for this program at Ocean View and Cornell. The two main challenges are finding space and staff. If you have early childhood education (ECE) or child development (CD) credits and are interested in being a teacher in the Spanish after school program please email us.

Another need we discussed was helping high school students translate the things they like and are good at into possible career options such as how drawing can turn into a graphic arts career. We are thinking of having a "Career Paths Day" where high school students can talk to Latinos in the community and learn about different career options and different paths to get there.

To make these events and activities possible, we realized we need a team. We introduced the Familias Latinas Team. Turn to p.3 to get to know them!



What's Next?

To continue to build our community, we want to come together and eat for the holidays. Please complete this survey so we can finalize a date in December for our potluck.

Here are some things you can do to help us with our goals:

1. Contribute to Familias Latinas Cookbook: Send a recipe, a picture of the dish, and information about the country the dish is from or the meaning of the dish in your family.
2. Participate in our monthly newsletter: Each month we want to highlight our community members so we can get to know each other. Send us a picture and short biography to share with the group or let us interview you!
3. Donate: We rely on donations to offer scholarships to students and families throughout the year. You can donate via venmo or email us for other ways to donate.



Meet the Team

After Latino Heritage Month, we knew that Familias Latinas would need a team in order to be able to best serve our families. We are honored and excited to support our community. Please say hi to us when you see us!



Cathy Anicama

I am a parent of two children at Cornell. My son, Damien, is in kindergarten and my daughter, Isabella, is in second grade. My husband, Michael, and I were born and raised in New York City. We moved to the Bay Area in 2011, when I started my doctorate program in Clinical Psychology at UC Berkeley. I am currently a clinical supervisor at WestCoast Children's Clinic and at the UC Berkeley Psychology Clinic. I also provide therapy and assessment services to children and young adults in English and Spanish in private practice in Albany. My family is from Peru and throughout my education, I have focused on learning on how cultural factors impact child development such as identity development. It is my passion to support the well-being of children and families, especially within the Latinx community. I am so excited to be a part of Familias Latinas and I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish for our community.

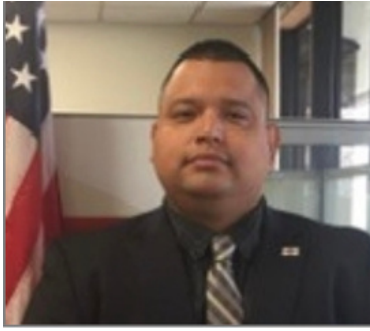


Grecia Resendez

I am a parent of a toddler and a high schooler who attends AHS. My husband, my oldest, and I were born and raised in San Jose, CA. We moved to Albany when I decided to pursue my BA in Political Science at Cal followed by my master's from the Goldman School where I focused on educational policy. In that time we put down roots here and became heavily involved with the community of Albany parents. I currently work as a policy analyst at a non-profit based out of SF which focuses on criminal justice reform. My personal experience, along with my research work has shown me the importance of children being able to see themselves in what is being taught in classes- It is because of this that makes me so happy to be a part of Familias Latinas de Albany where we work to incorporate more culturally relevant event to the district while supporting students in our community.



Meet the Team



Randolph Martinez

My name is Randolph Martinez, and four of my children go to four different Albany schools. They go to Ocean View, Cornell, Albany Middle School, and Albany High School. My wife, Sonia Martinez Douglass, is a long time resident of Albany and is also an Albany High School alumni. I served in the United States Marine Corps for eight and a half years, and I am a combat veteran. After I got out of the service I attended City College of San Francisco where I got an A.S. in Social and Behavioral sciences, and then I transferred to San Francisco State University for my B.S. in Business Administration with concentration in Management. I currently work for Bank of America. My ethnic background is Nicaraguan, and my wife 's is Honduran. I volunteered to be part of the Familias Latinas de Albany because I want to give back to our Latino Community. Les agradezco a todos por darme la oportunidad de ayudar a nuestra comunidad latina, y también me da gusto de ver a todos los latinos en Albany unirse para poder hacer un futuro mejor para nuestros niños. Thank you.



Annette Mercedez

I am a mother to Eliana, a 2nd grader at Oceanview. Although I was born and raised in the midwest, I spent quite a bit of time in Puerto Rico with my mom's family, who moved there from the Dominican Republic prior to her immigration to the US. Moving to the west coast as a young adult eventually led me to Seattle, Washington. Following the birth of my daughter, I returned to school. Eventually, I earned a BS/BA at the University of Washington, where I studied general biology and anthropology with an emphasis on human evolution. In 2021, we moved to the Bay Area so that I could start my master's program at UC Berkeley in Infectious Diseases and Vaccinology. Although I graduate in the spring, I am hoping to continue my education in a doctorate program with a focus on immunology. I am excited about bringing visibility to our community and I am especially passionate about ensuring traditionally underrepresented groups have access to STEM degrees in college which is why I am so excited to be a part of Familias Latinas.



Meet the Team



Israel A. Figueroa

My family and I moved to Albany four years ago from Oakland and we're happy to have decided to set roots here. Our three year old Rosita is in preschool and Maya, our seven old, is a second grader at Cornell. I was born in Guatemala City and moved with my parents to LA just in time to start kindergarten. Turns out you can make friends with only a handful of English words when you're 5! I'd like to work to make the latinx community more visible in Albany, our community stronger and address concerns and issues specific to Albany's latinx students.

Community Resources

[Alameda County Social Services](#)

[Alameda County Community Food Bank](#)

[Berkeley Food Pantry](#)

[Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano](#)

[Food Pantries](#)

[Family Paths: parenting stress and mental health support](#)

Community Events

ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE TREE LIGHTING

Live music with the Al Marshall Trio, performance by the Tap Dancing Christmas Trees, and tree lighting ceremony with Santa Claus.

Friday, November 25th 4pm-6pm
523 South Shore Center West Alameda

.....

NILES FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS PARADE

Tree lighting ceremony and parade with classic cars decked out with holiday lights, singing and dancing Christmas Trees, marching bands, costumed characters, and special appearance by Santa Claus.

Friday, November 25th 6pm-7:30pm
Niles Town Plaza
37592 Niles Blvd Fremont

.....

CINEMA UNDER THE STARS - FREE CHRISTMAS MOVIE

FREE holiday movies in Neptune Court at Alameda South Shore Center! Complimentary bagged popcorn and hot cocoa certificates from Starbucks provided while supplies last.

Fridays & Saturdays (11/25 to 12/17)
5:15pm -7:30pm
523 South Shore Center West Alameda
Check out movie schedule!

.....

TREE LIGHTING WITH SANTA & CAROLERS

Santa Claus, and our guest of honor from Make-A-Wish, Greater Bay Area. Choral performances, & holiday confections.
Thursday, December 1st at 4:30pm
Claremont Club & Spa
41 Tunnel Road Berkeley