

FORT NEWS

September 2022

MONTHLY BULLETIN

Vol.8

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AFRO-LATINOS: THE SECRET MAGICAL SPICE IN THE LATINO CULTURE

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

By: Francois Damian Aristhomene Martinez.
CVO

You know those amazing Latino restaurants you enjoy eating at so much, the ones that make those amazing dishes you rave about but can't remember the names, or those amazing Latino songs you have no idea how to translate, yet force you to move and dance to words you don't understand? Or how about that fire, dedication, perseverance and passion Latinos are known for, which helps us persevere in unimaginable times of adversity? Many have roots deeply planted in the Afro-Latino culture, one not often talked about, but certainly recognized by those who truly have made an effort to understand their origin.

So let me present you with a little background;
Latinos are a mix between native

aborigines and European conquistadores, (Iberian primarily), Portuguese who took over Brazil and Spanish who took the biggest piece of the pie, driving out the most prominent aborigines, the Aztecs and Mayans in Central America, and Incas in the South. As both of these countries were major players in the slave trade, they brought our ancestors over to work the rich mountainous fields all through Central and South America, very much like their British counterparts in the U.S. As the slave trade began to fade, much of the freed slaves who worked inland were pushed out to the coastal regions, as their skill set and under developed level of education was not sufficient to withstand the changes of the new world.





To this day, the majority of the Afro Latino citizens in Latin America make their home in the coastal regions, primarily on the Caribbean and Atlantic side. This is where many settled and managed to survive, living from the sea and utilizing some of the same African plants in combination with Latin ones to create some of the amazing dishes we enjoy today. From Costa Chica in Mexico, Roatan Honduras, Bluefields Nicaragua, Limon Costa Rica, Cartagena Colombia, and Bahia Brazil, the Afro Latino influence on food, art, music and dance is ever present and accounted for.

What's not often addressed is how these areas are economically marginalized, underdeveloped, impoverished, and riddled with crime mainly out of necessity due to lack of government funding and academic support.

The opportunities in Latin America are already scarce due to the horrendous economic infrastructure of most 3rd world nations.... So, the probability of success and growth for an Afro Latino child is extremely limited.

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in the U.S, I encourage all Latinos who contribute to the growth of this great country, to take some of that success and look back at those deep roots who have given you the flavor, swag, and determination to be coveted, admired and desired throughout the world. Afterall, it's that magical spice of life, traditions, and perseverance that are recognized in everything we do.

"LATINOS ARE A MIX BETWEEN NATIVE ABORIGINES AND EUROPEAN CONQUISTADORES"



**CVO & Founder
FORT International**



Sales: Keep your IV pumps clean, sterile, and sanitized



Launched in 2017, The SANIFLEX bag, designed and manufactured by FORT International (patent pending), was created specifically for sanitation purposes and Infectious control.

Due to changes in regulations by the Joint Commission, a more presentable and controlled way of keeping equipment sterile was necessary.

Please reach out to our Sales team at Sales@fortinternational.com for more information. *We are here to help!*

THE WINNERS ARE

X'pinsiv E.
\$5000⁰⁰

Jynell G... \$3000⁰⁰
Michael B... \$3000⁰⁰
& Emmanuel L... \$3000⁰⁰

Hannah K... \$2000⁰⁰
Carlie S... \$2000⁰⁰
Randall B... \$2000⁰⁰
& Jhoan B... \$2000⁰⁰

KING SOLOMON AWARD
FORT INTERNATIONAL

FORT International

King Solomon Award

EST. 2009

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL HUMAN WORK THAT EXISTS IS TO BE USEFUL TO OTHERS: TO HELP OTHERS.

-SOPHOCLES

Since 2009, FORT International has been supporting underserved youth through our King Solomon Award Scholarship Program. As of 2020 we decided to donate \$1 USD for every case of trash liners we sell.

For the 2022 academic year, 8 students from New Jersey to Florida, attending different colleges such as **Morehouse College, Florida State University, University of Florida, Xavier University, Southern Adventisry University,** and **Miami Dade College,** received a total of \$22,000.00 USD in academic awards.

To our customers; Your business does make a difference! We know first hand that the future of many students can change radically with our help.

After all, we don't take anything with us when our time comes, so why not help the generation behind us, and help them achieve their academic goals.

This is the FORT difference.



From Left to right; Carla Harris -Morgan Stanley, Roz Brewer- Walgreen Alliance Boots, Mia Mendis - Sodexo.

“Walk a mile in my shoes and live a day in my life, only then would you be able to understand the crosses I bear and the rejection I feel; Only then with a bottle in hand, we’ll have tall stories to tell and drink the night away.”

Jajoanai

So... Did you know there is an .ORG called NCPE / National Committee on Pay Equity. Well we didn't either!

More importantly, in 1996 they declared the celebration of Equal Pay Day. Manufactured and assembled by unions, civil rights organizations, and individuals amongst others, they have been shining a light on the sad reality of inequality based on Sex and Race.

Although National Black Women’s Equal Pay day has

been around for a while, not enough has changed, at least not in action... but hey, if words and media publicity do count for something then “Change has come”.

When you think about prominent black women, these name come to mind; Oprah, Michelle Obama, Beyonce, Janet Jackson, Serena Williams, or Brittney Grenear (Only bc she is a Russian Prison and in the News). Names like Carla Harris and Roz Brewer do not come to mind and that should provide validation as to why this celebratory/awareness day is a must. The ratio of entertainer “show me a good time” character, obliterates business leaders, moreover, even entertainers receive less wages than their males counterparts. Facts!

At FORT International we encourage everyone to give anyone a fair chance. You may find a diamond in the rust. An employee that feels gratitude towards you will work for your business 10xs harder than one who doesn't. Give people a chance to prove themselves and help them succeed.

Interview with an open mind and an open heart. Remember... someone at some point in your life took a chance on you.





HAPPY ROSH HASHANAH

Celebrating our traditions gives us an identity that characterizes us and makes us unique from other cultures on the planet. We should feel proud of these traditions and share them with the younger generations, instilling in them the pride and solemnity that they represent. Many peoples know perfectly well the importance of this, others have disappeared for doing precisely the opposite.

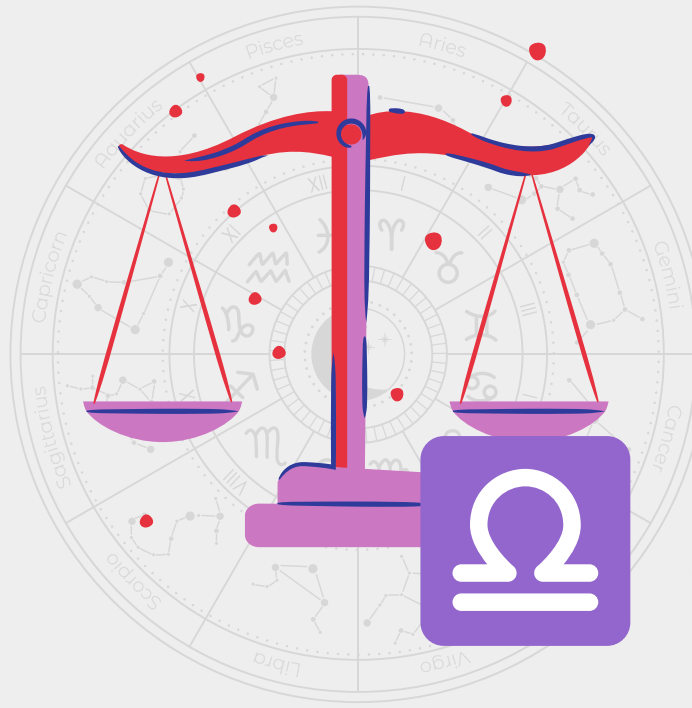
The Jewish community, one with a fantastic history, has been characterized by being faithful to its traditions and not losing that union and identity that

characterizes them, even in the darkest moments of their lives.

The holiday of Rosh Hashanah, which means "The Head of the Year", is the celebration of their new year. Its tradition celebrates the creation of the first man, Adam, on the sixth day of creation. It is the day in which Jewish families celebrate with meetings of its members, religious acts, typical foods such as apple with honey, the challah agullah, a kind of circular bread, in addition to announcing and accompanying with the millennial sound of the shofar, a wind instrument made with the horn of a pure animal.

This year, the Jewish community will celebrate its 5783rd year, and we in the FORT family do not want to miss the opportunity to send our greetings and best wishes.





Friendly Horoscope

LIBRA

The bright, radiant, adventurous personality of Libra is her greatest strength. Her loyalty and intimacy are palpable, and she is able to trust perfectly. Her heart is ruled by passion, but her emotions are often very tender, trying to find harmony. This allows her to know that other people matter and is the great strong master of balancing moods.

Libra's desire to maintain balance and harmony and to be guided by the stars are very strong. A naturally good speaker and a well-spoken public speaker, Libra expresses her thought and ideas as accurately and subtly as she can. In practical terms, this means that Libra usually wants to improve the lives of others.

The Social Fort

Are you a Social media buff join us!
Comment and see what the **FORT** difference is all about!



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TEAM FORT



Damian



Ely



Danny



Annette



Sebas



Goretty