

school, he went to college for a business degree, but ended up in education. His wife prompted him to write and it took him seven years to finish *Bless Me, Ultima*, his first novel. After being published by a group at the University of California at Berkeley, it won the Premio Quinto Sol Award for the best book published by a Chicano in 1972.

Julia Alvarez (1950 -)

Author

Though born in New York City, Alvarez's family moved shortly thereafter to the Dominican Republic. When she was 10, her family emigrated back to the United States. In high school, Alvarez determined that she wanted to be a writer. Alvarez considers herself a Dominican American and her works bridge the realm of Latina and American culture. In 1992 her novel, *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, was selected as a Notable Book by the American Library Association.

Pancho Gonzalez (1928 - 1995)

Tennis player

Gonzalez was born in Los Angeles. He began playing tennis at the age of 12 when his mother bought him a 51-cent racket. He soon became a powerful tennis player. He won the U.S. amateur singles championship in 1948 and 1949. After turning professional, Gonzalez went on to win the U.S. Pro Singles a record eight times. In 1968, he was named to the Tennis Hall of Fame.



Nancy Lopez (1957 -)

Golfer

Lopez was born in Torrence, California. At the age of eight she received her first set of golf clubs. When she was twelve, she won the New Mexico Women's Amateur. In high school, because there was no girls' team, she played on the boys' golf team and helped them win two state championships. By the age of 30, Lopez had won enough tournaments (35) to qualify her for the LPGA Hall of Fame. She was the youngest qualifier.

Roberto Clemente (1934 - 1972)

Baseball Player

Roberto Clemente Walker was born in Carolina, Puerto Rico. He was an excellent athlete who loved baseball. In 1954, he was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates and played for them his entire professional career, 1955-1972. He was killed in a plane crash while trying to get supplies to earthquake victims in Nicaragua. Just months prior, Clemente had joined an elite group of players with 3,000 hits. The Major League Baseball Man of the Year Award is named for Clemente.

Ellen Ochoa (1958 -)

Astronaut

Ochoa was born in Los Angeles, but considers La Mesa, California to be her hometown. She received her doctorate in electrical engineering in 1985. Ochoa was selected in 1990 to join NASA and she became an astronaut in 1991. She has received multiple awards including: The Hispanic Engineer Albert Baez Award for Technical Contribution to Humanity and the Hispanic Heritage Leadership Award.

Luis Walter Alvarez (1911 - 1988)

Physicist

Alvarez was born in San Francisco. He received his B.S., Master's, and Ph.D. in physics from the University of Chicago before joining the staff at the University of California, Berkley. Alvarez worked with the Manhattan Project research team in Los Alamos, New Mexico. One of his prominent theories stated that the dinosaur extinction could have been the result of the earth colliding with a massive meteorite. In 1968, Alvarez was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics.



Mario Molina (1943 -)

Chemist

Molina was born in Mexico City. He went to school in Mexico until he was 11. At that time, he was sent to a boarding school in Switzerland. He had already shown great promise and interest in chemistry so his parents thought German was a good language for a chemist to learn. In 1968 he

came to America and went to graduate school in California at the University at Berkeley. In 1972 he earned his Ph.D. in physical chemistry and in 1995 he received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Judy Baca (1946 -)

Artist

Baca was born in Southern California and spent her early years in Watts. When Baca entered school, she did not speak very much English. Because of this, she was given time to draw and paint. Baca continued to dabble in the arts until she entered college. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in art from California State University, Northridge. Her topics have been women and culture. In 1990, in an effort to spread her concept of peace and understanding, Baca began the World Wall, a portable mural exhibit that has spanned the globe.



Salvador Dali (1904 - 1989)

Artist

Dali, best known for being a leader in the Surrealist Movement of painting, was born in Figueres, Spain. He attended the San Fernando Academy of Fine Arts in Madrid. He was soon recognized for his talents and became internationally known when three of his paintings were shown at the Carnegie International Exhibition in Pittsburgh in 1928. Dali escaped from Europe during World War II and spent eight years (1940-1948) in the United States. During this time, he moved into his "classic" period, developing a new style.

Rupert Garcia (1941 -)

Artist

Garcia was born in French Camp, California. He was exposed to art early in his life from a talented extended family. Since graduating from San Francisco State University, Garcia has been active in championing Latino and social causes. In 1995, he received the National Hispanic Academy of Media Arts and Sciences' Lifetime Achievement Award in Art. The bulk of his work is housed in the National Archives of American Art at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (1952 -)

Congressman

Ros-Lehtinen was born in Havana, Cuba and came to the United States with her family fleeing communist aggression when she was seven years old. Ros-Lehtinen is the first Hispanic woman to be elected to the United States House of Representatives and the first Hispanic woman to chair a sub-committee. She represents the 18th Congressional District of Florida. She has become a leading figure shaping foreign policy.

Cesar Chavez (1927 - 1993)

Labor Leader

Chavez was born in Yuma, Arizona. He was a migrant farmworker in his youth and never graduated from high school. He became a community and labor organizer of agricultural workers in the 1950s. In 1962, he started the National Farm Workers Association. He led the first national boycott of table grapes, which lasted five years. The NFWA union was chartered as the United Farm Workers of America in 1966 and Chavez remained its president until his death in 1993.

Jaime Escalante (1932 -)

Calculus Teacher

Escalante was born in La Paz, Bolivia and lived there, teaching Physics and Math, until 1964.



Then he moved to Puerto Rico and attended the Universidad de Puerto Rico. From there, he moved to California and found himself without the ability to speak English and no teaching credentials. He put himself through school working menial jobs until he began teaching at Garfield High School in East Los Angeles. The movie, *Stand and Deliver*, was based on Escalante motivating a small group of students to take, and pass, the AP calculus exam in 1982.

Websites available for more research.

http://edsitement.neh.gov/monthly_feature.asp?ID=31

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/feature/hispanic/>

<http://www.factmonster.com/spot/hhm1.html>