



September 2025

A newsletter from the City of Dubuque's Office of Human Rights

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## Holidays & Observances

**September 1:** Labor Day

**September 4:** Mawlid an-Nabi (Muslim)

**September 12:** International Day of Encouragement

**September 17:** Constitution Day

**September 21:** International Day of Peace

**September 22:** Autumnal Equinox

**September 24:** Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)

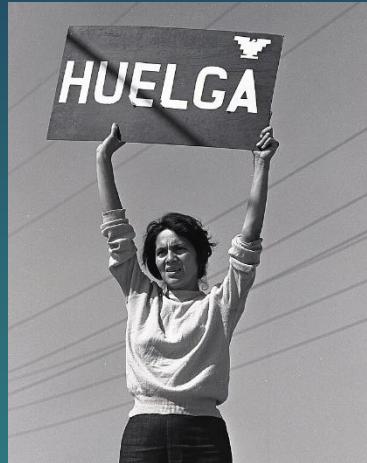
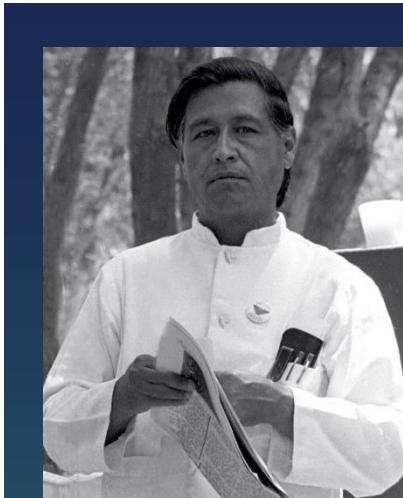
**September 30:** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

## Hispanic Heritage Month

The United States has long been described as a nation of immigrants, shaped by diverse cultures and traditions that enrich its character. Among these groups, Hispanic Americans and Hispanic immigrants hold a particularly important place. With roots tracing back centuries, their history and influence stretch across politics, culture, economics, and community life. Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated annually from September 15 to October 15, provides an opportunity to honor this legacy, reflect on the struggles and achievements of Hispanic Americans, and celebrate the ongoing benefits they bring to the country.

The presence of Hispanic people in what is now the United States predates the founding of the nation itself. Spanish explorers and settlers established communities across the Southwest, Florida, and California as early as the 1500s. Cities such as San Antonio, Los Angeles, and Santa Fe grew from Spanish settlements and still reflect Hispanic cultural traditions today. The blending of Indigenous, African, and Spanish influences created a unique Hispanic identity in the Americas, one that would later contribute to the broader U.S. story.

Throughout U.S. history, Hispanic Americans have played crucial roles in shaping the nation. They have served in the armed forces, defended principles of democracy, and advanced civil rights. During World War II, more than half a



César Chávez (top) and Dolores Huerta (bottom) founded the National Farm Workers Association in 1962, later known as the United Farm Workers Union.

(The English translation for *Huelga* is Strike.)

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# Hispanic Heritage Month

Continued from the previous page



Authors Sandra Cisneros (left), and Junot Díaz (right).

million Hispanic Americans fought bravely overseas. Leaders such as César Chávez and Dolores Huerta championed labor rights for farmworkers, advocating for fair wages and humane working conditions. Their activism not only improved the lives of Hispanic workers but also inspired broader movements for social justice across the country. The fight for education, voting rights, and representation has been another cornerstone of Hispanic American history, paving the way for greater opportunity.

The benefits Hispanic Americans and immigrants bring to the United States are as diverse as their histories. Economically, Hispanic workers are vital to industries such as agriculture, construction, health care, hospitality, and technology. According to recent studies, Hispanic-owned businesses are among the fastest-growing in the country, creating jobs and stimulating local economies. Culturally, Hispanic Americans have profoundly influenced art, music, literature, and cuisine. From salsa and reggaeton to Latin jazz, Hispanic music has become a global phenomenon. Writers like Sandra Cisneros and Junot Díaz have enriched American literature, while culinary traditions from tacos to tamales have become staples of American dining. Beyond economics and culture, Hispanic immigrants contribute to the values of hard work, resilience, and family, strengthening the social fabric of communities across the nation.

Education and public service are additional areas where Hispanic Americans make significant contributions. Many have risen to positions of leadership, serving as elected officials, judges, and policymakers. Figures such as Sonia Sotomayor, the first Hispanic Supreme Court Justice, and leaders in Congress demonstrate the growing influence and representation of Hispanic Americans in shaping the nation's laws and policies. At the local level, Hispanic leaders and community organizations often provide critical support in areas such as housing, health care, and education, ensuring that vulnerable populations are not left behind. These efforts highlight the ongoing importance of Hispanic Americans not just as contributors, but as leaders.

Hispanic Heritage Month serves as a dedicated time to recognize and celebrate these contributions. The month also includes important dates such as Mexico's Independence Day on September 16 and Día de la Raza on October 12. Through parades, educational events, cultural exhibits, and community gatherings, Hispanic Heritage Month invites all Americans to learn more about the histories, traditions, and values that Hispanic Americans bring to the nation.

Ultimately, the story of Hispanic Americans is a story of resilience, creativity, and profound impact. From the earliest Spanish settlements to modern-day achievements in business, politics, and the arts, Hispanic communities have been central to the development of the United States. Their contributions continue to strengthen the nation economically, socially, and culturally, reflecting the enduring importance of diversity in building a better future for all. Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month is not only about honoring the past, but also about recognizing the present and envisioning the future—a future where the voices and talents of Hispanic Americans remain a vital part of the American story.

This article was written with the assistance of artificial intelligence.

## A Note from the Office of Human Rights

What would it look like if rather than tearing someone down, you built them up instead? Encouraging others is an easy, simple, and free gift you can give someone that can reap mountains of rewards. Instead of pointing out the things others do wrong, focus on the things they are doing right and encourage them to follow that path towards even better outcomes.

The gift of encouragement inspires positive thinking. In a world where it is far too easy to get bogged down in the negative, a little positive thinking can help each of us move forward with a better outlook for the future. Encouragement shifts our focus from problems to possibilities and from possibilities to new perspectives.

The gift of encouragement is also contagious and reciprocal. Encouraging others spreads positivity and the likelihood of that person passing on the gift of encouragement to others. It not only spreads feelings of warmth and joy in the receiver, but also in the giver.

Encouraging others is more than just offering kind words. When we choose to uplift those around us, we not only help them reach their potential but also foster a sense of connection and belonging. Encouragement reminds people that they are not alone, that their efforts matter, and that growth is always possible. By making encouragement a habit, we contribute to a more positive, and compassionate world.

Need some help in coming up with encouraging phrases to say to yourself or others? We got you covered!

- I believe in you.
- You are brave.
- You're doing great.
- You're strong and capable.
- You're an inspiration.
- You got this.
- I appreciate you.

## Cultural Events Happening in the Tri-States

[\*\*First Friday\*\*](#) is a free downtown monthly community arts event with open galleries, artists' studios, and live entertainment. Events are held on September 5.

**The DZ Combo** – Carnegie-Stout Public Library  
@ 6 – 7 PM

**Luck of the Draw** – Smokestack @ 7 PM  
**John McGee** – Outside the Lines Gallery  
@ 4:30 – 7:30 PM

### Carnegie-Stout Library Virtual Author Talks

Each month, a selection of authors discusses their books and expert topics. These events are virtual and live; however, recordings of the talks will be archived for later viewing. [Registration on the library website is required.](#)

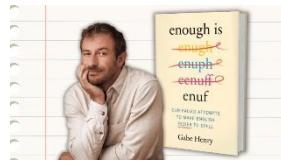
**On Writing Darkly Charming Villainous Love with Hannah Nicole Maehrer**  
September 3 @ 6 PM



**Argue Less and Talk More with Jefferson Fisher**  
September 10 @ 1 PM



**Our Failed Attempts to Make English Easier to Spell with Gabe Henry**  
September 17 @ 1 PM



### Volunteer Opportunity of the Month

Dubuque Oktoberfest, held at the Back Waters Stage at the Q Casino, is looking for volunteers. Proceeds benefit Camp Albrecht Acres. They are looking for help with set up, food station, wiener dog race set up, games, and tear down. Volunteers get 5 free food and drink tickets. Visit [volunteerdbq.com](#) to sign up.

# Cultural Events Happening in the Tri-States

## [Dubuque Labor Day Parade](#)

**September 1 @ 9 – 10:30 AM**

### **Downtown Dubuque**

The parade begins at Washington Park and heads down Locust Street to 15th Street where the parade will end.



## [Expressions of the Soul: Art, Voices, and Vision](#)

### **Voices Studio**

- *Hip Hop*, (music) by Matt Gregory, September 5 @ 8 PM
- *Nathaniel Morgan Memorial Event*, September 6 @ 6 PM
- *We Create Anyway: Black Art and Enterprise in an Age of Opposition*, panel moderated by Alanda Gregory and Ernest Jackson, September 11 @ 6 PM
- *African Vibes*, by Sarah Ndagire, September 12 @ 7 PM
- *Black Life on the Upper Mississippi River*, (film) by Dale Campbell, Jr., September 17 @ 6:30 PM
- William Wilkerson, (music) September 18 @ 5:30 PM
- *History and Culture of Black Fashion*, by Peggy Jackson, September 18 @ 6:30 PM
- Christina Baker, September 18 @ 6:30 PM



## [4<sup>th</sup> Annual Romantic Galena Reads](#)

**September 6 @ 10 AM – 3 PM**

### **DeSoto House Hotel (Galena, IL)**

The Romantic Galena Reads book fair will feature around 30 romance authors from all over the country, including best-selling and award-winning authors of every romance genre.

## [This is How we BBQ in DBQ](#)

**September 20 @ 11 AM – 3 PM**

### **Multicultural Family Center**

This free family event celebrates World Peace Day with music, activities, a free barbecue meal, and information on local community services.

## [Lunch & Learn: Understanding Food Insecurity and How to Make a Difference](#)

**September 3 @ 12 – 1 PM**

Food insecurity refers to the lack of reliable access to sufficient, affordable, and nutritious food. It affects individuals by leading to skipped meals, reduced food intake, and reliance on low-cost, unhealthy options, which can result in health issues and economic instability. In this session, Convivium's Culinary Resource Director, Chef Cena, will discuss the realities of food insecurity, its impact on communities, and practical ways to make a difference.

## [Platteville Historic Re-enactment](#)

**September 5 – 7**

### **Mound City Park (Platteville, WI)**

The 3-day Platteville Historic Re-enactment showcases the history of America's Upper Mississippi Valley from the mid-1700s to 1840, featuring educators, artisans, and re-enactors all taking part in the celebration. The Historic Re-enactment presents a hands-on living history experience for visitors.



## [Valerie Mangion Artist Talk](#)

**September 13 @ 12:30 PM**

### **Roundtree Gallery (Platteville, WI)**

Wisconsin artist Valerie Mangion brings two concurrent exhibitions to the Roundtree Gallery: *Animals Dreaming* and *The Egypt Series*. The series reflect on connection, emotion, and the surprising ways animals rest and interact.

## [Black History and Reading Challenge](#)

**September 28 @ 3 PM**

### **Carnegie-Stout Public Library**

*Lovely One: A Memoir* by Ketanji Brown Jackson

