



ETHNIC &
INTERCULTURAL
SERVICES

ENGAGE
EMPOWER
EXPLORE

InterCultural Focus

October 2014

Upcoming Events

10.03 Kol Nidre

The Hill, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

10.04 Yom Kippur Service

The Hill, 9:00 – 11:00 AM

10.04 Break the Fast Dinner

Malone 112, 6:30 – 8:00 PM

10.9 Hispanics for L.A. Opera

Murphy Recital Hall, 7:00-9:00 PM

10.12 Misa de Herencia

Sacred Heart Chapel
12:00 – 3:00 PM

10.14 Justice Dialogue

The Hill, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

10.14 Hachnasat Orchim

Foley Lawn, 7:00 PM

10.16 Simhat Torah Celebration

St. Robert's Hall, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

10.17 – 10.18 Latino Spiritual Retreat

Mary & Joseph Retreat, Palos Verdes

10.21 Café con Leche

5:30 – 6:30 PM

10.21 Third Tuesday

Living Room, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

10.22 Black Family Reunion Racial Profiling

The Hill, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

10.29 The Studio

DejaView Theater, 7:00 – 9:30 PM

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

At LMU, we are observing the Latino Heritage Month (9/15 to 10/15) and the Jewish High Holidays (9/24-25 and 10/3-4). This time is one of celebration and reflection on the treasures of each tradition. As we look at these two distinctive opportunities, you are probably wondering, why do we celebrate Latino Heritage Month and Jewish High Holidays at LMU?

Latino Heritage observation started in 1968 as a week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period. This observation was formally enacted into law on August 17, 1988. According to the 2011 Census Bureau, one out of every six people in the United States is Latino. The Latino community has played and will continue to play a crucial role in our nation as they have contributed to every avenue of American life since the beginning of this country in the following areas: socio-economic, political, and cultural development.

As for the Jewish High Holidays, Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is one of Judaism's holiest days. Rosh Hashanah commemorates the creation of the world and marks the beginning of the Days of Awe, a 10-day period of introspection and repentance that culminates in the Yom Kippur holiday, also known as the Day of Atonement. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the two "High Holy Days" in the Jewish religion. Jews who have atoned consider themselves absolved of their sins from the previous year, thus beginning the New Year with a clean slate in God's eyes. They have a renewed sense of purpose to live a more moral and just life in the years to come.

There are many treasures from each community. The great contributions of Latinos are that they have become a fast new foundation of our country's economic, political and social-cultural power. Based on their promise, no other immigrant group in the history of our nation has this potential. For the Jewish community, it requires moral courage to be involved with one's own people and through one's own people with the world.

Take some time to explore, engage, and empower yourself this month.

Celebrating Latino Heritage at LMU

National Latino Heritage Month began last week to celebrate the culture and history of Latinos in the U.S. Started as Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968 by President Lyndon Johnson; it was expanded to a month by President Ronald Reagan and enacted into law in 1988. Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica celebrate their independence days on September 15 followed by Mexico and Chile on September 16 marking the beginning of heritage month.

For more information, visit <http://hispanicheritagemonth.gov/>

Q: How is LMU celebrating Latino Heritage Month this year?

A: The LMU community is celebrating Latino Heritage Month in a variety of ways this year. The programs include a wide range of celebrations such as, a Feria at Community Table with the Latino Roundtable, lectures from visiting professors on the intersection of communities, music, book talks and signings, film screening, opera recital with Hispanics for L.A. Opera, celebrating our faith with families at Misa de Herencia and the Latino Spiritual Retreat. There is something for everyone!

Q: Are there any events for Latino Heritage Month that is new to LMU this year?

A: Two new programs this year include a partnership between CLSS and LGBTSS to screen the film “Mosquita y Mari”. This film is a coming of age tale that follows two young Latinas who fall gradually in love against the backdrop of East L.A. We were joined for the talk back by director Aurora Guerrero. The Screening & Talk Back took place Thursday, September 25th, 7-9p in The Hill.

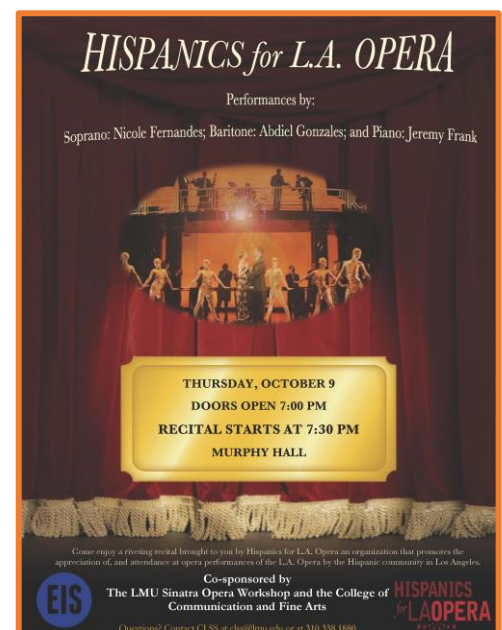
The other event is opera recital brought to campus in collaboration with Hispanics for L.A. Opera, The LMU Sinatra Opera Workshop and the College of Communication and Fine Arts, which will be take place Thursday, October 9 at 7pm in Murphy Hall Recital. This is a non-profit organization whose principal purpose is to promote the appreciation of, and attendance at, opera performances of L.A. Opera by the Latino community. This is a free event that is open to all of our LMU community.

Q: Do you have a particular event that you're looking forward to?

A: I'm looking forward to all the programs, but the opera recital is an event that I'm anticipating with lots of excitement. I'm excited to hear the reactions from students who have never seen an opera before.

Q: Can anyone participate in these events?

A: Yes, all events are open to all members of the LMU community. Some events do require an RSVP but that shouldn't deter anyone from coming.



EIS Intercultural Facilitator Program



Colleges and universities nation-wide are struggling to create genuine opportunities for cross cultural understanding and equitable policies to manage racial, religious, social, and cultural misunderstandings and intolerance. Campuses often tout the virtues of diversity as value added and often emphasize the assets all students develop, as a result of their experiential engagement within a diverse campus community. They promote the value of students functioning in a realistic representation of our global society. Ironically, as colleges and universities become more diverse, they have become more socially stratified. Underrepresented groups are entering colleges and universities in greater numbers than ever before. Yet, several decades of sociological research suggests this expansion has not meaningfully reduced relative inequalities in attainment (Gold Thorpe and Jackson, 2008, Lucas, 2001 and Walters, 2000).

LMU is effectively bridging this divide by means of an exceptional student led effort called the Intercultural Facilitator (IF) Program. The premise of the program is to develop a group of students, highly skilled in principles of facilitation, to effectively facilitate other students in critical conversations and workshops. These critical conversations lead to an authentic understanding of self, simple but comprehensive ways to engage each other, and an honest and inclusive approach to transformative change.

Interested in a workshop or facilitated dialogue? Click link to request your session:

<https://lmu.wufoo.com/forms/intercultural-facilitator-workshop-request-form/>

Questions? IF@lmu.edu

Tunnel of Oppression & Hope

This event is an interactive experience where participants will encounter first-hand different forms of oppression through interactive acting, hearing monologues and multimedia presentations. Participants come in direct contact with scenes of oppression: racism, stereotypes, homophobia, classism, immigration, homelessness, body image, and Jesuit martyrs.

Some scenes are from actual student experiences on campus; others deal with Los Angeles hot topics. Displays will educate the LMU community about issues of oppression, power and privilege.

At the completion of the Tunnel, participants will participate in an active processing session, where they will discuss the experience and learn how they can rethink their role in creating positive social change. The Tunnel of Hope will follow with community resources and activities for taking action.

Tunnel Student Committee

The Tunnel of Oppression & Hope Student Committee consists of a group of students who have been charged with planning and organizing some aspects of the event. Student leaders such as Peer Educators, Esperer, Greek Life, IF Program, ASLMU, First to Go, and TLC have gathered to discuss themes for this year's event.

Tunnel Logistics

November 8: 10 am – 3:00 pm

November 9: 11 am – 2:00 pm

Location: St. Robert's Hall

Interested in volunteering?

Click [here](#) to fill out our form!

The Jewish High Holidays:

Finding Balance and Meaning Amidst the Chaos

Rabbi Ilana Schachter, Director of Jewish Student Life



In our work as advocates for social justice, we often talk about the world as it is in contrast to the world as it should be. We have a vision of a more perfect world, a world less broken, and we work toward helping to bring about that vision while still living in the world as it is.

But this dichotomy exists with most things in our lives, not just with respect to social justice. We often set goals for ourselves, personal and professional, and then struggle to meet them; the world as it is gets in the way. And as Jews, we feel this dichotomy even more strongly between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, a ten day period known as the Days of Awe. Our tradition encourages us to immerse deeply in a process of reflection, repentance and renewal, a process that requires time and space to think and connect with the Divine. In the world as it should be, we would have extra time during these ten days, in which we could do all that needs to be done in our secular lives (P-card statements, exercise and laundry just to name a few) while also preparing ourselves spiritually for a New Year. In the world as it is, however, our time for reflection is often relegated to snippets between meetings or before bed.



While this is not ideal, I feel that it might be the point. The Jewish zodiac sign for Tishrei, the month that begins with Rosh Hashana, is a set of scales, traditionally attributed to God's scales of justice. However, I could not imagine a more fitting image for the Days of Awe, as we strive to balance this spiritual process with our daily lives. After all, while this process is of reflection is intensified this week; we are supposed to continue it throughout the year. For this reason, we must do our best to find balance this week, so that we can work toward maintaining that balance as the year unfolds.



The Days of Awe exist for us in the world as it is, but allow an opportunity for us to imagine the world as it should be. It is my hope that each of us can be guided by the scales of justice and balance as we enter this New Year. G'mar Chatima Tova, may each of us be inscribed for blessing in the Book of Life.

National Dialogue on Race

Last month, the Intercultural Facilitators led an open forum focused on race and racism in conjunction with a national campaign. The National Dialogue on Race is an innovative, nonpartisan way to discuss sensitive social issues. It was designed to advance deliberative democracy and improve the quality of public life. It is a powerful means of approaching sensitive social issues and fostering constructive change.

The venue was filled with students, staff and faculty eager to exchange ideas, thoughts, and perspectives. There was a diversity of thought present, which added significantly to the discussion. It was an intense evening of informative dialogue and discussions. As the evening ended, the one thing everyone wanted was more discussion!

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER

Upcoming: Shades of Laughter

In collaboration with the Asian Pacific Studies department, the October 21 - Third Thursday will bring few comedians from different ethnicities to share their unique cultural and daily life experiences called Shades of Laughter. Come and join us!



Mid-Autumn Moon Festival

Last month, LMU celebrated the harvest and full moon festival. The community enjoyed food, games, entertainment, and moon cakes.



Tomodachi Inouye Scholars: Next Steps



LMU was awarded \$125,000 to take 23 diverse student leaders to Japan for a 10-day leadership cultural exchange and diplomatic mission. The TOMODACHI Inouye Scholars exchange program honors the life and legacy of Senator Daniel K. Inouye. The program offered participants an opportunity to learn about Senator Daniel K. Inouye, introducing scholars to Senator Inouye's contributions to his state, country, heritage, and to the U.S.-Japan relationship, and hopefully to return to their schools inspired by his commitment to public service, justice, and U.S.-Japan cooperation.

The LMU Inouye Scholars will be launching an awareness campaign about the program as they prepare themselves to host students from Sophia University in March 2015.

DID YOU KNOW?

Black and Brown: Institutions of Higher Education

Excelencia en Educacion in conjunction with the United Negro College Fund – Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute released a study on the impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic Serving Institutions with Black and Latino students. According to the report, nearly half of Black and Latino college students in the United States attend these institutions.

For further information, please refer to this [link](#).

Events in Los Angeles

SoCal Independent Film Festival, Huntington Beach

October 1 – October 5, 2014

[Event Information](#)

Oktoberfest, Torrance

September 12 – October 26, 2014

[Event Information](#)

Sabor de Mexico Lindo, Huntington Park

October 3 – October 5, 2014

[Event Information](#)

Festival of Philippine Arts and Culture, Los Angeles

October 4 – October 5, 2014

[Event Information](#)

Los Angeles Lithuanian Fair, Los Angeles

October 4 – October 5, 2014

[Event Information](#)

Armenian Festival, Costa Mesa

October 4 – October 5, 2014

[Event Information](#)

***Tres Vidas*, Thousand Oaks**

October 10, 2014

[Event Information](#)

The Big Draw LA, Los Angeles

October 11, 2014

[Event Information](#)

Pasadena Art Night, Pasadena

October 11, 2014

[Event Information](#)

Taste of Italy, Los Angeles

October 11, 2014

[Event Information](#)

Thunderfest and Music Festival, Covina

October 11, 2014

[Event Information](#)

Screamfest Horror Film Festival, Hollywood

October 14 – October 23, 2014

[Event Information](#)

Taste of Soul, Los Angeles

October 18, 2014

[Event Information](#)

China's Lost Civilization: The Mystery of Sanxingdui, Santa Ana

October 19, 2014 – March 15, 2015

[Event Information](#)

The poster features a large, stylized silhouette of two women's heads facing each other, set against a background of a repeating geometric pattern. The title 'TWO WOMEN TALKING' is prominently displayed in the center.

TWO WOMEN TALKING

A performance of personal narratives
by
Monsoon Bissell & Benaifer Bhadha

October 15, 2014

U-Hall 1857 12:00-2:00 PM

RESTOR(Y)ING Culture, Gender, Sexuality and Tradition

Save the Dates

01.22 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
&
03.26 Cesar Chavez Day

More details to follow!

What is Two Women Talking?

Two Women Talking is an original performance by Monsoon Bissell and Benaifer Bhadha with direction by Dan Milne. It is a live, unscripted piece in which two women weave their life stories together - stories that take place between western and eastern worlds, touching on issues of personal identity, culture, gender, sexuality, violence, illness, and tradition. Each performance has a uniqueness in that the stories told vary depending on what is alive in the listening circle. *Two Women Talking* explores how reclaiming narratives and listening to one another brings power, movement and change to our lives.

Our stories reside in the kitchens of India, in the bathrooms of Connecticut Boarding Schools, in the traditions that families insist on keeping, in the silence around abuse, in the isolation of mental illness and in the complexities of growing in two cultures. It is in the retelling of these stories that we hold the power to re-story our personal narratives and although there is rawness and emotion when we relive our experiences, healing occurs every time we share our stories publicly. In reclaiming our narrative we have exercised a choice in how to define our identities. The work reflects our moving away from shame and fragmentation to strength and integration. Sharing our stories with others helps make meaning of some of the most sensitive issues we all face, our intention for *Two Women Talking* is to invite others into this sacred space that exists between listener and teller and to inspire others to tell stories of their own.

Why Storytelling?

The human brain is hard-wired for story.

The human condition has best been understood through the personal story. When we are connected to a person's needs, experiences and longings, we are better able to understand them and, if need be, to help them. Telling stories about our lives is a timeless and universal means by which human beings understand the world and their roles within the world. Storytelling acknowledges that people are experts in their own lives. Story gives the silenced a voice. When people are allowed to tell their own stories, in their own voices and their own words, they are given the power to reclaim their narratives and redefine their lives for themselves.

LMU Forum on Media Ethics &
Social Responsibility Presents

THE 2014 HOLLYWOOD DIVERSITY REPORT

Making Sense
of the Disconnect

Featuring:
Dr. Darnell Hunt

UCLA

Wednesday
October 29
4:30 p.m.

University Hall 1000
Ahmanson Auditorium

Come hear one of the nation's premier scholars on diversity, race, and media speak on key findings from the 2014 Hollywood Diversity Report. This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the employment of women and minorities in front of and behind the camera in film and television.

Justice Dialogues: Valuing the human experience

An interactive evening of skits, dialogues, and action plans all aimed at strengthening individual and collective capacities to promote social justice.

Social Justice Series

Justice Dialogues: Valuing the human experience

Tuesday, October 14th
6:00 - 8:00 P.M. @ The Hill

An experiential evening of thought provoking social justice commentary, and progressive social action.

Artists Speak

Submissions due:
Friday, October 10th
Performances:
Saturday, November 1st
2:30 P.M. @ Murphy Hall

LMU students involved in creative writing, dance, theatre arts, music, film, visual arts, and other endeavors share their response to the topic of "Ripple of Hope".

Tunnel of Oppression

November 8th & 9th
@ St. Roberts Hall
Time TBA

Tunnel of Oppression is an interactive event that highlights contemporary issues of oppression. It is designed to introduce students to the concepts of oppression, privilege, and power.

Sponsors: Ethnic and Intercultural Services & The CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice
Co-Sponsors: College of Communication and Fine Arts & the Fringe Benefits Theater

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