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Cardona had students add quotations from famous women in history, politics, culture, and science to the poster to highlight their significant contributions.

Women's History Month

NEWS FOR THE HALSEY HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY

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Famous Women of Elizabeth

By Leyanis Vazquez Diaz

In honor of Women's History Month, we thought we'd shine a light on some famous women from **Elizabeth, New Jersey**. It turns out this town was home to very talented leaders in the world of writing, TV and movies.



Judy "Blume" Sussman is an American writer of children's, young adult, and adult fiction. Originally from Elizabeth, NJ, Blume studied at NYU where she took up a writing course. She struggled to get her articles out there following years of rejection. Eventually, she became a first-time author when her illustrated children's book, 'The One in the Middle Is the Green Kangaroo' was published in 1969. But Blume wasn't really praised until her following book, 'Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret' which established her as a prime voice for younger readers. **Blume tapped into her experiences from her teens to deliver an endearing coming-of-age story for her younger audience.** She has sold more than 85 million books and they have been translated into roughly three dozen different languages.



Malinda Williams is an American actress and producer. She was born in Elizabeth, NJ and began her career in television as a child artist, in 1987 where she starred in 'The Cosby Show.' She also guest starred in other big shows like 'Miami Vice' and 'Sister, Sister', although she is best recognized for her role in 'Soul Food'. **The performance earned her three "NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Actress in a Drama Series" nominations.** Her role as Tracy Van Adams in 'Soul Food' is what really gave her a chance to bathe in the spotlight and later appeared as a series regular in the tv drama 'Windfall'. Besides acting, Malinda also owns a lingerie line called 'Modern Goddess.'



Elizabeth Maria Peña was a Cuban-American film, TV, and stage actor from Elizabeth, NJ. She was best known for her performances in films such as 'La Bamba,' 'Jacob's Ladder,' and 'Lone Star'. She was inclined toward a career in acting since childhood and was trained in the performing arts. **She worked in numerous films, such as 'Down and Out in Beverly Hills,' 'Rush Hour,' 'Tortilla Soup,' and 'Nothing Like Holidays.'** Peña was also a voice actor and a stage performer and had **toured with the play 'Romeo & Juliet.'** She won many awards such as the 'Independent Spirit Award,' the 'Bravo Award' and the 'ALMA Award.' Aside from acting, she co-founded the 'Hispanic Organization of Latin Actors.'

Honoring Female Role Models

NEWS FOR THE HALSEY HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY

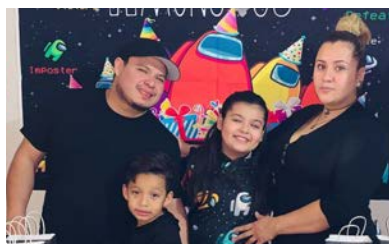
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The Women In My Life

By Erika Martinez



Here I am with my sister Liliana and her son Jordan.



My oldest sister Lidia, with her daughter Angie, son Yeshua, and partner.

I was born into a family where women are the pillars. My mom had six daughters (including me) and with the help of her sister, she raised us all. My mom and aunt have seen us grow from babies to women. Before my mom had two of my sisters and I, she immigrated to the United States. She left three daughters in El Salvador. My oldest sister Lidia, is 28 years old. Then comes Irma, 26, Wendy, 24, Santos, 21, and Liliana, 19 years. At 17-year-old, I am the youngest.

Our fathers were not present in our lives much and did not really put in effort to be part of it. Most people would say that each child needs both their mother and father in their lives. However, my life felt complete as my mom is both my mom and dad to me. **She is an inspiration to me.** She works hard, takes care of us, pays the bills, and with our help, keeps the house tidy. My sisters and I share my mom's work ethic and desire to keep our homes clean and orderly.

Four of my sisters have moved out to live their lives and start families of their own. Only one sister and her baby remain at home with my mom and me. Even though my sisters all live different lives they have one thing in common. They are all mothers.

Not only are they mothers, but they also juggle jobs and family responsibilities. Lidia works as a waiter and secretary at her partner's business. She also takes care of her kids, cleans the house, and works two jobs every day. Wendy lives in El Salvador where she takes care of her 8-year-old son as well as animals on a farm. Liliana lives with her husband and has a 4-month-old baby. She works hard, cleans the house, and takes care of her baby. Santos has two children and lives with us at home. She recently dealt with tragedy when her baby girl passed away at 2 weeks old. This was a tough time for

our entire family. However, God blessed her with a baby boy. Nowadays, she works two jobs, day and night, takes care of her son, and goes to school. She does all this without the help of the baby's father.

I don't have any kids as I am still young. However, I am an "essential worker" for my family. When my sisters either go to work, have appointments, or go shopping, they leave their kids with me. These women inspire me each day to become a better version of myself. They teach me that no matter what obstacles I will face in life, I can still make it. **Many say having kids will stop you from living your life, but my mom and sisters prove me otherwise everyday.**



My sister Wendy and her son Gabriel.



My sister Santos with her son Santiago.



Santo's daughter Mariana's feet and hand prints.

Women Who Inspire

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Honoring Women Who Make a Difference

By Cindy Reyes

For many of us, we focus on female role models to help shape who we are as women and where we want to be in life. Their stories serve as not only an inspiration, but as a lesson when it comes to reaching our goals. As students, we can also learn valuable lessons from these females about how to confront life's challenges, continue to push forward, and fight for a more just and equal world.

In honor of Women's History Month, we asked students and teachers to name their female role models and why they look up to them for inspiration.

Halsey junior **Victoria Reyes'** choice was **Rihanna**. "I picked **Rihanna** because she creates her own brands and holds her own. She supports women's rights."

Pheona Galano, Halsey junior, picked **Selena Gomez**. "It would be Selena because she taught me to be more confident through a song."

Famous females are also an inspiration to men. Hamilton junior **Mathew Hernadez** said he likes **Taylor Swift** "because she's an activist and speaks out about issues."

We also asked Halsey teachers to weigh-in on their choice. Social studies teacher **Paul DePascale** said **Madonna** is his pick. "There are very few people who have worked as hard as she has to achieve such great success. Her life is a powerful lesson. It shows if you really want something and you're willing to give it your all, you're gonna be successful."

Halsey English teacher **Haley Venezia** said, "I really look up to **Dr. Jill Biden**. I know she is the first lady, but she has so many accomplishments separate from that. She was a professor of English and has her doctorate degree. I aspire to be as well-educated and established as her one day. I think she perfectly balances her career, her public persona, and her family."

These female role models are well known for being activists, inspirational leaders, and singers. But there are many other female role models who are not as famous. They can be mothers, friends, nurses, or teachers. Famous or not, these women show us all that anything is possible if you put your mind to it. These ladies inspire us all to become better in life.

