

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**North Olympic Library System**  
**2210 South Peabody Street**  
**Port Angeles, WA 98362**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: September 15, 2022  
Contact: Mary Givins, Librarian  
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Subject: Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month – Celebrando la Diversidad Latina  
Attached: BraceroPhoto1\_byLeonardNadel.jpg, BraceroPhoto2\_byLeonardNadel,  
DonnaBarbaHiguera\_studiobportraits.com.jpg,  
LupeWongWontDance\_Cover.jpg

The North Olympic Library System (NOLS) is honoring Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month with a poster exhibition, an author visit for students, and a community outreach event.

### **NOLS displays Smithsonian Institution poster set detailing the story of the Bracero Program**

Three NOLS branches will display an educational poster set based on the bilingual Smithsonian traveling exhibition [Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero Program, 1942-1964](#). The six poster set examines the largest Mexican guest worker program in U.S History.

The posters will be on view September 15-29 at the Forks Branch Library, October 1-13 at the Port Angeles Main Library, and October 17-31 at the Clallam Bay Branch Library.

Braceros were guest laborers brought to the United States during and after World War II to work on short-term labor contracts. Facing labor shortages on the home front during World War II, the United States initiated a series of agreements with Mexico to recruit Mexican men to work on American farms and railroads. The Emergency Farm Labor Program, more familiarly

known as the Bracero Program, enabled approximately 2 million Mexicans to enter the United States and work on short-term labor contracts. While the work was often grueling, the program offered Mexican men economic opportunity. The contributions made by these laborers have had significant impact on the political, economic, and social climate of both the United States and Mexico.

### **Author Donna Barba Higuera to discuss *Lupe Wong Won't Dance* with students**

The Forks Branch Library is hosting acclaimed Washington-based author Donna Barba Higuera for a visit with students from the Quileute Tribal School, and the Cape Flattery and Quillayute Valley School Districts on October 7 to discuss her book *Lupe Wong Won't Dance*, available in Spanish as *Lupe Wong No Baila*. Students will gather at the Quillayute Valley School District campus for a series of presentations including a session for English language learners in middle and high school, a general session for all 7th graders, and a writers' workshop for a smaller group. This event is for students and is not open to the general public.

Higuera's books *Lupe Wong Won't Dance*, *El Cucuy Is Scared, Too!*, and *The Last Cuentista* are available for checkout through NOLS. The books have won awards including the Newbery medal, both Pura Belpré medal and honor, Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association (PNBA) best book of the year award, and the Sid Fleischman award for best children's humor book of the year.

### **Día de Culturas: Celebrando la Diversidad Latinoamericana**

Library staff will be participating in a community celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month on Saturday, October 15, from 3-7pm at Peninsula College, Forks campus. Everyone is invited to attend this free event that will expand cultural awareness and build connections.

### **About National Hispanic Heritage Month**

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15. The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President

Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

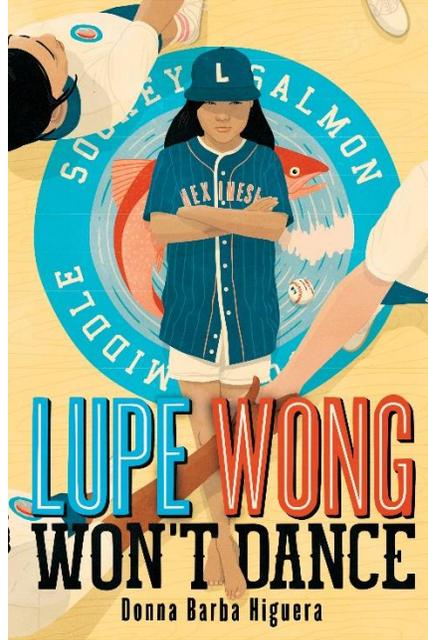
**About The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service:**

The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, D.C., for more than 65 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science and history, which are shown wherever people live, work and play. For more information, including exhibition descriptions and tour schedules, visit [www.sites.si.edu](http://www.sites.si.edu).

For more information about this and other events and services happening at your Library, visit [www.nols.org](http://www.nols.org), call 360.417.8500, or email [Discover@nols.org](mailto:Discover@nols.org).



*An educational poster set at NOLS locations, September-October, is based on the bilingual Smithsonian traveling exhibition, "Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero Program, 1942-1964," and features photographs by Leonard Nadel.*



*Donna Barba Higuera, author of “Lupe Wong Won’t Dance,” visits West End area students on October 7. Photo by [studiobportraits.com](http://studiobportraits.com).  
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