

# VOLUME 5: Afro-Latino/Caribbean



# BLACK HISTORY FLASHCARDS

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## **Tim Hector**

November 24, 1942 – November 12, 2002

**Antigua & Barbuda – Journalist, Politician**

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- Hector was a politician, cricket administrator, philosopher, newspaper editor, educator, and journalist.
- In 1968, he founded the Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement, which supported the Cuban Revolution, socialism, and a Pan-Caribbean vision.
- Today, Hector is considered to be one of the most influential figures of the Pan-African movement.
- He fought to make Black Nationalism a historical destiny and collective pride.
- Publisher of *The Outlet*, a newspaper and “Fan the Flame,” an online column.
- Part of a 1990 human rights case known as *Hector v. Attorney-General of Antigua & others*, which dealt with freedom of press and speech.



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## **Ramon Carillo**

March 7, 1906 – December 20, 1956

**Argentina - Neuroscientist**

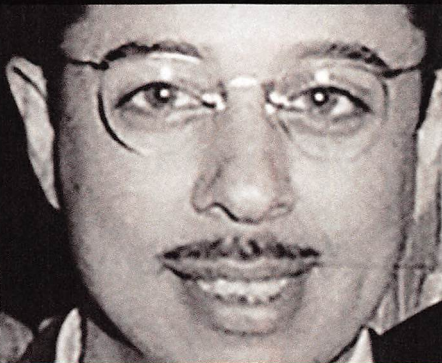
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- Academic, public health advocate, neurosurgeon, neurobiologist, and physician.
- He became Argentina's first Minister of Health in 1949, a position he held until 1954.
- In 1929, Carillo received a gold medal upon graduating with his medical degree because he was the best student in his class.
- Carillo is considered a pioneer in brain cell research, which he conducted during the 1930s and 1940s.
- As a neurobiologist, Carillo developed tomography and described symptoms of several diseases such as Carrillo's Disease.
- In 1942, Carillo became the University of Buenos Aires Chair of Neurosurgery and advocated for a widely used Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for mental diseases.
- In 2005, the Argentine government declared that all of 2006 be known as the "Year of Honor to Ramón Carrillo."

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## **Horacio Salgan**

June 15, 1916 – August 19, 2016

**Argentina - Pianist, Composer, Orchestra Leader**

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- Salgan's musical interests began at 6-years-old when he started to learn the piano.
- At the age of 18, he became a back-up musician and soloist for the cast of Radio Belgrano.
- Orchestra leader Roberto Firpo hired Salgan for his orchestra at 20 years old.
- Salgan recorded his first compositions in 1942.
- From 1944 until 1947, Salgan became the leader of his own orchestra.
- During the 1950s, Salgan formed a new orchestra and taught music.
- Salgan established the Quinteto Real in 1960 with Enrique Mario Francini and Pedro Laurenz. The group focused on creating Tango music for listening rather than dancing.



# Nicolette Bethel

1963 – Present

**Bahamas – Educator, Author, Anthropologist**

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- She is a poet, fiction writer, playwright, and anthropologist.
- After receiving her Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from the University of Cambridge, she became an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the College of the Bahamas.
- Bethel is also the Head of the Department of Psychology, Sociology and Social Work.
- In 2001, Bethel established the Ringplay Productions Theatre Company and then the Shakespeare in Paradise Theatre Festival in 2009.
- For years, Bethel has written plays, such as *Powercut* and *The Children's Teeth* and is the editor of the *Junkanoo: Festival of The Bahamas*.
- Her collection of writings, *Essays on Life, Vol I: The First Fifty* was self-published in 2008.
- She has a blog called *Blogworld* where she often publishes her writings.



# Jimmy Spice Curry

1965 – Present

**Bahamas – Entertainment Producer,  
Human Rights Activist, Author**

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- Jimmy Spice Curry is an author, producer, sound mixer, director, human rights activist, and educator.
- He is a mixed-martial artist with various belts and won 3rd place in the Tri-state Open Karate Championships in 1998.
- In 1996, Curry made history when he wrote, produced, and directed the first Bahamian movie *Filthy Rich Gangster*.
- Curry is the founder and current president of Giga groove and S.C. Productions.
- Curry also created many other Bahamian firsts with his hip hop record *Fighting To Survive*, and funding and producing the first Bahamian Celebrity games.
- In 2007, Curry focused on organizing a meeting for parents in New York who wanted to improve public education.
- He has produced several notable recording artists such as Michael Jackson and Lenny Kravitz.



# Charles Duncan O'Neal

November 30, 1879 – November 19, 1936

**Barbados – Physician, Politician, National Hero**



- Charles Duncan O'Neal was a Barbados politician, social reformer, and physician.
- He started studying medicine at the University of Edinburgh in 1899.
- In 1904, he graduated with his Bachelor of Medicine/Surgery degree and became a doctor for the "privileged."
- In 1924, O'Neal became the founder of the radical Democratic League and helped create the Working Men's Association.
- O'Neal was a social reformer who became the first Black person of his time to focus on free dental care, education and improving housing standards.
- Became a National Hero of Barbados in 1998 through an act of Parliament.



## **Dame Ruth Nita Barrow**

November 15, 1916 – December 19, 1995

**Barbados – Nurse, Activist, Politician**

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- Dame Ruth Nita Barrow is a politician, nurse, and activist.
- From 1956 to 1967 she was the Chief Nursing Officer for Jamaica.
- In 1964, Barrow became a Nursing Advisor for the Pan American Health Organization.
- In 1975, she became not only the President of the World YMCA but also the Director of the Christian Medical Commission of the World Council of Churches.
- In 1980, she was made Dame of St. Andrew of the Order of Barbados, which is the highest honor in Barbados.
- She was President of the International Council of Adult Education from 1982 to 1990.
- In 1990, she became the Governor General of Barbados, a position she held until 1995.

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# Rihanna

February 20, 1988 – Present

**Barbados - Singer, Entrepreneur, Philanthropist**

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- In 2003, Rihanna was signed to Syndicated Rhythm Productions where she recorded her first demo.
- In 2005, she auditioned for Def Jam and Jay Z, who refused to let her go home until a contract was signed.
- She is the youngest recording artist to have 14 number 1 singles on the billboard hot 100 charts.
- In 2015 the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) said she had surpassed more than 100 million Gold and Platinum song certifications.
- Billboard reported in 2016 that her total album sales stood at 54 million copies sold worldwide.
- As of 2018, she is an eight-time Grammy award winner.
- Rihanna is also a businesswoman and philanthropist, founding the Believe Foundation in 2006 to help terminally ill children.



**Bonifacio Pinedo**

Unknown – 1954

**Bolivia - Afro-Bolivian King**

- Pinedo was an Afro-Bolivian King who was part of one of the few traditional African monarchies.
- His monarchy survived the middle passage and slavery.
- During the end of his life, he claimed to be the oldest member of his Afro-Bolivian community.
- His descendants lived in Congo before the area was colonized by France and Belgium.
- Pinedo told others that the Spanish brought his descendants to the New World as enslaved people.



# Matamba

Unknown - Present

**Bolivia – Roots Reggae and  
Hard-Core Rock Artist, Activist**

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- Juan Carlos Chiorino Basurco , known as Matamba is an Afro-Bolivian musician, producer, singer, lyricist, writer, and composer.
- He started singing in church and formed the band K-Rux with some of his church friends.
- After 5 years with K-Rux, Matamba established “Contracultura” or Counter Culture, which focuses on unifying people of all backgrounds.
- Matamba is also an environmental and educational activist working with PapelBol, educating youth about climate change and recycling.
- Matamba also spends time with anti-bullying campaigns.
- He calls his fans his brothers and sisters as they are all part of his cultural movement to bring people together.
- Some of his hits include “Stronger than pain” and “Tell me about you”



## **Melina Avendano**

December 2, 1985 – Present

**Bolivia – Miss Chuquisaca 2007**  
the first Afro-Latino to ever be crowned

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- In 2003, Avendano received the title of “Queen of Sport.”
- In 2005, she won the title of “Miss Fitness Body.”
- Avendano made history in 2007 when she became the first and only Afro-Bolivian who participated in the Miss Chuquisaca pageant and crowned.
- In 2009, she came in second place for the PAT “La Chica 10” model reality show.
- For the last few years, she has been a model in Sucre.
- She is also an advocate for the Afro-Bolivian community.

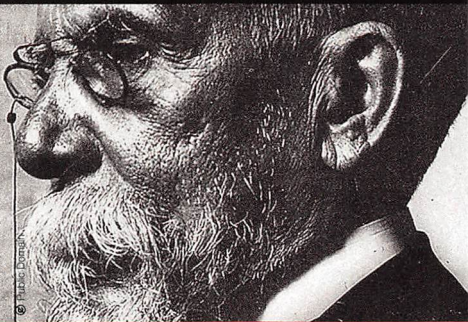


## **Xica da Silva**

1732 – 1796

**Brazil – Born into slavery and became one of the wealthiest Brazilians of her time**

- Though she was born into slavery, Silva became one of the most powerful and wealthiest Brazilian women of her time.
- Silva was sold to diamond mine owner Jose Fernandes de Oliveira, who she had a relationship with.
- Oliveira changed Silva's status to freedwoman, allowing her independence.
- She had 13 children with Oliveira, but he later moved back to Portugal with their boys and she stayed in Tejuco with their daughters.
- Even after Oliveira left, Silva retained her status.
- When Silva passed away, she was buried at the Church of São Francisco de Assis.



# Joaquim Machado de Assis

June 21, 1839 – September 29, 1908

**Brazil – Greatest Writer of Brazilian Literature**

- Today known as one of the greatest writers of Brazilian literature, Assis wrote short stories, novels, plays, and poetry.
- At the age of 17, he became a painter's apprentice but decided to write in his spare time.
- He founded and became the first President of the Brazilian Academy of Letters in 1897.
- He taught himself several languages, such as Greek, English, French, and German.
- In 1867, he was honored as a Knight of the Order of the Rose.
- In 1888, he became an Officer of the Order of the Rose.
- Some of his most popular works include *Resurrection*, *Americanas*, *Helena*, and *The Posthumous Memoirs of Bras Cubas*.

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# Pele

October 23, 1940 – Present

**Brazil - Soccer Player**

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- Pele is considered by many to be the greatest soccer player in the history of the world.
- Pele grew up poor, so he started practicing soccer by kicking a rolled-up sock stuffed with rags around his community.
- After joining a youth soccer team in his teens, his coach convinced his parents to send him to the Santos professional soccer club tryouts at 15 years old.
- At 16 years old, Pele scored his first professional goal. His soccer career would span over 20 years.
- Pele won the 1958, 1962, and 1970 World Cups playing for Brazil.
- In order to keep Pele playing in Brazil, the Brazilian President Jânio Quadros declared Pele a national treasure.
- In 1999, he was named FIFA co-Player of the Century.



# **Benedita Souza de Silva**

April 26, 1942 – Present

**Brazil – The first Afro-Brazilian and first woman to be Governor of the State of Rio**

- Silva is a Brazilian politician and women's rights advocate.
- In 1994, she became the first woman Senator of Brazil.
- In 1999, she became the Vice Governor of Rio de Janeiro, a position she held until 2002.
- She became the first Afro-Brazilian and female governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro in 2002, holding that position for about a year.
- She left government service in order to focus on women's rights, especially poverty and prejudice in Latin America and Brazil.
- She believes that her reputation as "three times a minority" gives her the best insight in relating to the residents of her country. Silva identifies as Black, poor, and a woman.

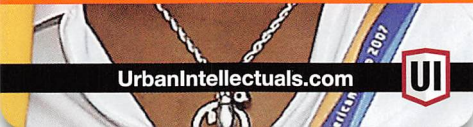


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# Daiane dos Santos

February 10, 1983 – Present

Brazil – Olympic Gymnast



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- Santos is an Olympic gymnast who in 2003 became the first gymnast of African-descent during the World Championships to win an event. She won a gold medal in Floor Exercises.
- In 1998, she won her first gold medal while competing in Canberra, Australia.
- In 1999, she won three medals during the Pan-American Games of Winnipeg, Canada.
- She has been a part of the 2004, 2008, and 2012 Summer Olympics and has become one of the best tumblers in history.
- Santos is the first gymnast to perform a piked double and a laid-out double Arabian, one of the hardest moves in gymnastics.
- She has retired as a gymnast, and continued her education going on to Dom Bosco University to study physical education.



# Marta Salgado

March 23, 1947 – Present

**Chile – Activist focusing on cultural preservation  
and civil rights for the African-diaspora**

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- At the University of Tarapaca, she obtained her post-graduate studies in public administration, receiving certificates in planning, gender, community organization, and development.
- She became a professor at the University of Tarapaca, a position she held for over 40 years.
- She became co-founder of the worker's union at the university and held its presidential role for four terms.
- In 2001, she became the founder of Oro Negro, Black Gold, which worked for legal protection and anti-discrimination policies to help populations of African descent.
- She received the Best Cultural Heritage Manager in the Region of Arica and Parinacota award in 2016.



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## Juan Jose Nieto Gil

June 24, 1805 – July 16, 1866

**Colombia – The 1st and only  
Afro-Colombian President**

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- Juan José Nieto Gil is known as Colombia's first and only Black president, writer, and army general.
- Served as Governor of the Province of Cartagena from 1851 to 1854.
- From 1859 to 1864 he was President of the Sovereign State of Bolívar.
- From January 25 to July 18, 1861, Gil was the president of the United States of New Granada (now Colombia).
- Wrote several books, including *Geography of the Province of Cartagena*, completed in 1839.
- Gil fought for the abolition of slavery in his country and declared all slaves of Bolívar free.
- After Gil's death, an artist was asked to change the color of Gil's skin in his portrait. When the portrait was taken down in 1974 for restoration, Gil's true skin color was revealed.



## **Maria Urrutia**

March 25, 1965 – Present

**Colombia – Former Olympic Weight Lifter  
and Politician**

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- Urrutia is a former Olympic weight lifter and track and field athlete.
- Urrutia competed in the shot put and discus throw from the early 1980s, she went onto compete in the 1988 Olympics.
- In 1989, she became a weight lifter and would go on to win gold in the 1990 and 1994 world championships, silver in 1991, 1995, and 1997, and then bronze in 1996 and 1998.
- During the 2000 Summer Olympics, Urrutia won her country's first gold medal in the women's 75 kg class.
- After the Olympics, Urrutia started her political career and was elected to the Chamber of Representatives of Colombia in 2002 and 2006.
- Urrutia is also an advocate for social justice for women of African descent.



## **Zulia Mena**

November 21, 1965 – Present

**Colombia – Women's Rights Activist and  
first Afro-Colombian Congresswoman**

- Mena started learning about inequality in Colombia in her youth.
- In 1991, Mena pushed for Law 70 after the ratification of Colombia's constitution. This law would protect Afro-Colombian rights.
- In 1994, Mena became the first Afro-Colombian congresswoman and continued her work as a women's rights activist, focusing on Afro-Colombian women.
- In 2012, Mena became the mayor of Quibdó, a position she would hold until 2015.
- In 2016, Mena received the title of Vice Minister of Culture.

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# Antumi Toasije

November 13, 1969 – Present

Colombia – Historian and Activist

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- Toasije is a Pan-African activist of African descent and historian.
- As a professor, he specialized in Pan-African political philosophy, racism, and African culture.
- He is President of the Pan-African Center and Director of the Center for Pan-African Studies.
- In 2003, he founded the Association of African and Pan-African Studies.
- At the Autonomous University of Madrid, he is a member of the Group of African Studies.
- He is heavily involved with the Hispanic slavery reparations movement.
- In 2013, he wrote his first book titled, *Si me preguntáis por el Panafricanismo y la Afrocentricidad* which translates as *If you ask me about Pan-Africanism and Afrocentricity*.



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# Luis Guillermo Solís

April 25, 1958 – Present

Costa Rica – Former President, Educator

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- During the 1980s, Solis was an Associate Professor at the University of Costa Rica.
- In the 1980s, Solis advised Óscar Arias on his work for the Esquipulas Peace Agreement, which Arias would win a Nobel Peace Prize for.
- As a writer, Solis focuses on national and international affairs, such as trade and civil society. He has been published in *La República*.
- In 1999, Solis went to Florida International University where he worked as a researcher for the Latin American and Caribbean Center and coordinator in the Center for the Administration of Justice.
- From 2014 until 2018, Solis was the Costa Rican President, a presidential race he won by earning more votes than any presidential candidate in Costa Rica's history.



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## Celia Cruz

October 21, 1925 – July 16, 2003

Cuba – Cuban/American salsa  
Singer and Performer

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- Throughout her singing career, Cruz recorded a total of 75 records with 23 certified gold.
- Her music career started in the 1940s after she won a “La hora del té” singing contest.
- She enrolled in Havana’s National Conservatory of Music but one of her professors pushed her to pursue her music career full-time, so she dropped out.
- During the 1950s, she was part of the Sonora Matancera orchestra and decided to move to the United States with the rest of the orchestra during Castro’s rise to power.
- For the next three decades, Cruz’s popularity in music blossomed.
- The National Endowment of the Arts awarded Cruz the American National Medal in 1994.
- Cruz won several Grammys and received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

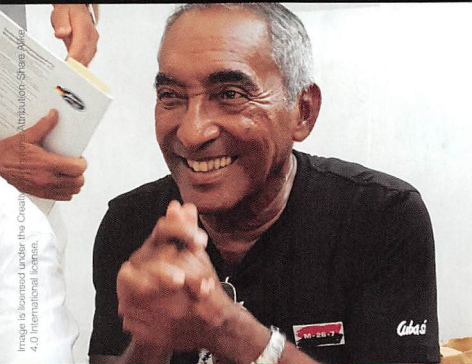


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# Arnaldo Tamayo Mendez

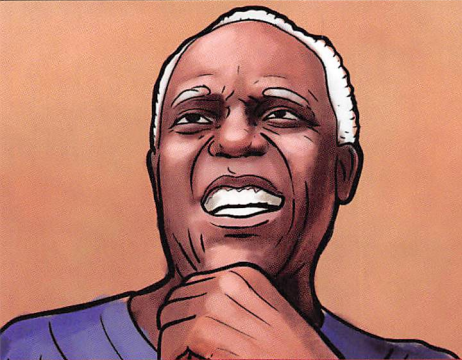
January 29, 1942 – Present

**Cuba – Military Officer, Legislator,  
and former Cosmonaut**

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- A Cuban military officer, legislator, and former cosmonaut.
- Became Chief of Staff of the Santa Clara Aviation Brigade in 1975 and lieutenant colonel in 1976.
- In 1978, he was chosen to join the Intercosmos program and received training as a cosmonaut.
- On September 18, 1980, he became the first person of African heritage in space.
- After he returned to earth, he became the first person honored with the Hero of the Republic of Cuba medal.
- In 1980, he became a Deputy in the Cuban National Assembly.
- He is the Director of Sociedad de Educación Patriótico-Militar (SEPMI), a Military Patriotic Educational Society.



## **Carlos Moore**

November 4, 1942 – Present

**Cuba – Writer dedicated to racial justice**

- Moore is best known for his writing which focuses on issues of racial justice.
- During the 1960s, he became involved in an organization called “Afro American Committee in Paris,” a revolutionary group.
- During 1978, Moore was not only working on his Doctorate, but he also organized the “Negritude Afro cultures and Ethnicity in the Americas” conference.
- In 1996, Moore started working at the University of the West Indies as a Senior Lecturer in International Relations of Latin America, a position he held until 2002.
- Some of Moore’s more notable writings include *Pichón – A Memoir: Race and Revolution in Castro’s Cuba, Castro, the Blacks, and Africa, and African presence in the Americas.*



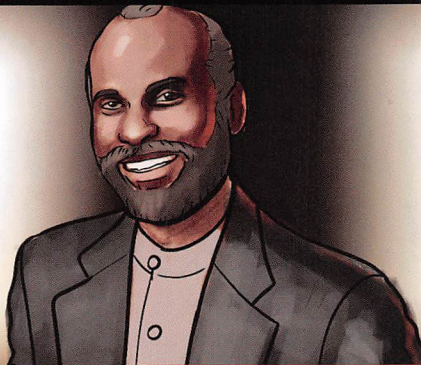
# **Dame Eugenia Charles**

May 15, 1919 – September 6, 2005

**Dominica – First and only female  
Prime Minister to date**



- Decided to get into politics because she wanted to change the negative movements within the government.
- In 1968, she helped assemble the Dominica Freedom Party and was elected to the House of Assembly in 1970.
- She became the Prime Minister of Dominica in 1980, making her the first and only female Prime Minister.
- She is known as “The Iron Lady of the Caribbean” because of her determination to do what is right for her people.
- A lawyer by trade, Dame Eugenia often countered the verbal attacks from her critics with her legal knowledge.
- After serving 3 terms, Dame Eugenia retired from political office in 1995.
- Today, she is remembered as a true advocate for women’s rights and improving Dominica’s economy.



# Atherton Martin

Unknown – Present

Dominica – Agronomist, Environmentalist

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- Martin is an agricultural economist and agronomist who has focused on protecting natural resources and the environment.
- His main concern has been what mining does to the environment.
- Martin successfully stopped a copper mine from devastating 10% of Dominica's natural tropical rain forests.
- In 1998, Martin was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize for his passion for protecting Dominica's natural resources.
- During the 1970s, Martin became Dominica's Minister of Agriculture.
- During the 1990s, Martin held the position of Director of the Dominica Planning and Development Corporation under the Dominican government.
- Recently, Martin's latest work focuses on developing farming.
- Serves as the Executive Director of the Development Institute and President of the Caribbean Conservation Association.

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# Leonel Fernandez

December 26, 1953 – Present

**Dominican Republic – Former President**

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- At 42-years-old he became the youngest President of the Dominican Republic after his election in 1996.
- Briefly lived in the United States from 1962 until the early 1970s, when he returned to the Dominican Republic to continue his education.
- Once he entered office, Fernandez, worked to raise standard wages, stating if people were paid better they wouldn't accept bribes.
- He worked to strengthen agriculture, manufacturing and brought in more technology-based influence in order to help the economy.
- Fernandez focused on strengthening relations with other countries in an attempt to create a better image of the Dominican Republic.
- Banned from running for office in 2000 because of his relations with other countries.
- Won presidency again in 2004 and held this position until 2012.

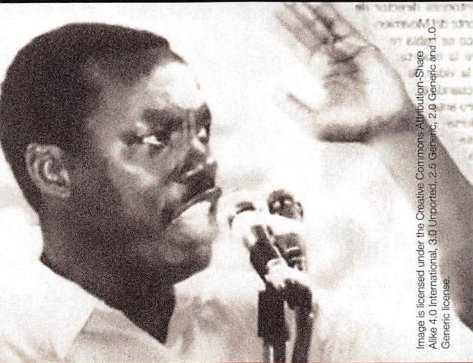


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# Jaime Hurtado

February 7, 1937 – February 17, 1999

Ecuador – Activist, Politician



- Jaime Hurtado was a politician and activist for labor rights.
- He received a scholarship so he could study at the “Eloy Alfaro” School. He also became a popular sports player.
- He won several gold medals during his school years in track and field for the triple jump, 110 meter hurdles, javelin and discus throw, and 1,500 meters.
- As a student at the University of Guayaquil he became President of the Association School of Law.
- In 1966, he became a member of the Communist Party Marxist Leninist of Ecuador (CPMLE) where he became a leader for people who struggled.
- Hurtado became a Deputy and Chairman of the Democratic Popular Movement (DPM), a position he held until his assassination on February 17, 1999.



# **Dame Hilda Bynoe**

November 18, 1921 – April 6, 2013

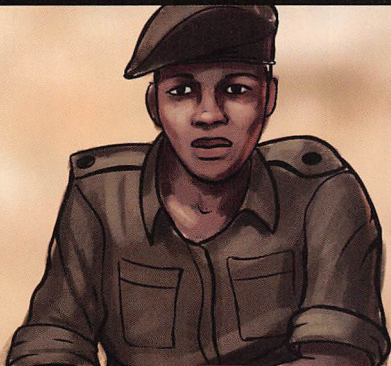
**Grenada – First female Governor  
of the British Dependency**

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- Became the first female governor in the British Commonwealth in 1967, a position she held until 1974. This also made her the first native governor of her island.
- In 1969, Queen Elizabeth II made Bynoe Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire.
- She was also a doctor and teacher of medicine in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.
- As a writer, she focused on short stories and poetry.
- After public office, Bynoe continued to focus on medicine and became a member of several organizations, such as The Caribbean College of Family Physicians and the Caribbean Women's Association.
- In 1996, Bynoe published her first book called *I Woke at Dawn*.



## **Rudolph Ogilvie**

15 December, 1957 – 2 April, 2001

**Grenada – Patriot, Revolutionary  
in Grenada revolution**

- Best known as one of the historic 46 Grenadian revolutionaries and patriots during the Grenada Revolution.
- By the age of 14, he was distributing a newspaper called “Jewel” or Joint Endeavor for Welfare, Education and Liberation.
- At the age of 15, he became a staff of the “Torchlight” newspaper.
- In 1977, he worked in the Human Rights and Legal Aid Center.
- In 1979, Ogilvie became a member of the People’s Revolution Army with the start of the Grenada Revolution.
- He was one of the most influential members of the Executive of the Grenada Progressive Calypso Association from 1980 until 2001.

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# **François-Dominique 'Toussaint Louverture'**

May 20, 1743 – April 7, 1803

**Haiti – Leader of the Haitian revolution  
against the French 1791**

- One of the primary leaders of the Haitian Revolution.
- Born into slavery, he became free at 33 years old.
- As a freedman, Louverture started to obtain wealth and worked towards owning his own property.
- In 1791, he became a leader of the Haitian Revolution and led the enslaved into a revolt which resulted in them creating an independent State after defeating Napoleon and France..
- By 1801, Louverture was ruling the newly independent state and created a constitution where he abolished slavery and made himself governor.
- Louverture never saw Saint Dominique receive its true state of independence as he died of pneumonia on April 7, 1803, after being captured and imprisoned.

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# Edwidge Danticat

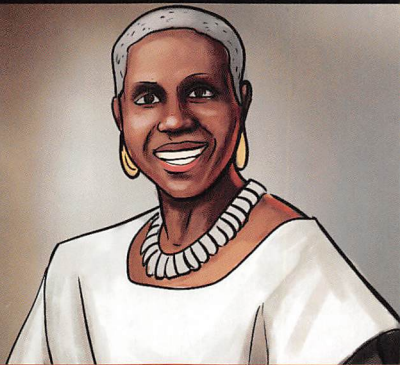
January 19, 1969 – Present

Haiti – Author, Writer

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- Her writings focus on the lives of women, injustice, poverty, and issues of power.
- Danticat was born in Haiti but moved to the United States when she was 12-years-old. However, she still considers Haiti home.
- She received her BA in French Literature from Barnard College and a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Brown College.
- In 2007, her memoir, *Brother, I'm Dying* won the National Book Critics' Circle Award and the National Book Award.
- Her book, *The Farming of Bones* won the American Book Award in 1999.
- Won the Woman of Achievement Award in 1995 from Barnard College.
- Wrote two film scripts, *Poto Mitan* in 2009 and *Girl Rising (Haiti)* in 2013.



# **Carolyn Cooper**

20 November, 1950 – Present

**Jamaica – Writer, Cultural Theorist, Educator**

**UrbanIntellectuals.com**





- Carolyn Cooper is a cultural theorist, educator, and writer.
- Through a scholarship, she was able to attend the University of the West Indies where she received her Bachelor's degree.
- For her Master's degree, Cooper received a Canadian International Development Agency fellowship to attend the University of Toronto, Ontario in Canada. She would go on to receive her Ph.D. from the same university.
- She has written several books including *Noises in the Blood: Orality, Gender and the "Vulgar" Body of Jamaican Popular Culture*.
- She conceived the International Reggae Studies Center in 1992.
- In August 2013, she was awarded the Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander from Jamaica.



# Usain Bolt

August 21, 1986 – Present

**Jamaica – Retired Olympic Sprinter,  
the fastest man in the world**

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- Considered the fastest sprinter of all time.
- At 15 years old, Bolt became the youngest male world junior champion when he won gold in the 200 meters.
- At 17 years old, he became the first person to run the 200m sprint in under 20 seconds with 19.93 seconds.
- In 2008, Bolt won the 100 meter, 200 meter, and 4 × 100-meter relay and set world records in all three events.
- In 2012, Bolt became the first person to win both the 200 and 100 meter events in consecutive Olympiads.
- In 2016, Bolt beat his own records again when he won the 100, 200, and 4 × 100-meter relays for the third straight Olympic games.



# Gaspar Yanga

1545 – Unknown

**Mexico – Founder of the first free African township in the Americas**

- He was enslaved at a sugarcane plantation before he led the first successful slave uprising in Colonial Mexico.
- In 1570, Yanga and several other enslaved left their plantations and fled to an area near Cordoba where they established a settlement for the formerly enslaved.
- Yanga became the leader of the new settlement, which he established with order and strong agriculture allowing the settlement to prosper.
- In 1609, Spanish authorities sent a militia to the settlement, however Yanga and the other residents defeated the militia.
- After Yanga defeated a second Spanish militia, Yanga met with Spanish officials to make peace, under 11 conditions.
- In 1618, Spanish officials finally recognized Yanga's town, known as San Lorenzo de Los Negros.



## **Vicente Guerrero**

August 10, 1782 – February 14, 1831

**Mexico – Afro-mestizo 2nd Mexican President,  
and Abolitionist**

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- A leading revolutionary general during the Mexican War for Independence.
- Guerrero heard about the revolt for independence while he was on a mule run with his father as a child.
- In 1812, Guerrero achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel and later captain in the Mexican army.
- Guerrero was a Member of the Supreme Executive Power, which served as Executive to govern Mexico between 1823 and 1824, after the fall of the Mexican Empire of Agustin I.
- He became the second President of Mexico in 1829 and spent time improving land title reforms and public schools.
- On September 16, 1829, Guerrero officially abolished slavery.
- Today Guerrero is recognized as one of Mexico's most influential historical leaders.

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# **Scharlette Alexandra Allen Moses**

September 18, 1991 – Present

**Nicaragua – First Afro-Nicaraguan  
crowned Miss Nicaragua**

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- Moses is a Nicaraguan beauty pageant titleholder.
- In 2008, at the age of 16, Moses won Miss Oneness 2008 Beauty Pageant where she represented her home area as Miss Bluefields. She then went on to compete at the Miss Global International Pageant.
- In 2011, she was crowned the 2010 Miss Nicaragua, which made her the first Black woman to win this title. This crown also allowed her to represent her country in the Miss Universe pageant.
- During the pageant, Moses won the Best Face award.
- In 2010, Nicaragua named Moses one of the Personalities of the Year.



# Graciela Dixon

1956 – Present

**Panama – Former Chief Justice of the  
Supreme Court of Panama**

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- Considered to be the first person of African descent to become Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Panama, a role she held from January 1998 to December 2007.
- Before she became Chief Justice, Dixon practiced law as an Advocate and Barrister for nearly two decades.
- During her time as Chief Justice, Dixon worked to introduce online procedures, also known as “paperless justice” in order to improve the judiciary modernization program.
- As a member and Vice President for the Republic of Panama’s Authority for the Inter-Oceanic Region, Dixon focused on international treaties between the United States and Panama.
- Works with UNICEF and was the President of the International Association of Women Judges (2006-2008), which brings together over 4,000 female judges throughout the world.

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## **El General**

September 27, 1969 – Present

**Panama – Reggae Artist, Reggaeton Pioneer**

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- Edgardo Armando Franco, better known as El General composed his first song when he was 12 years old.
- Received a scholarship to travel to the United States where he studied business and became an accountant.
- Throughout his 17 years in music, El General's albums reached platinum status 17 times and gold status 32 times.
- Some of his greatest hits include *Tu Pun Pun*, *Rica y Apretadita*, *Muevelo*, and *Te Ves Buena*.
- Many people consider El General to be one of the fathers of "Reggae Espanol" as he helped start the Spanish-language dancehall reggae music.
- Near the end of his musical career, he added variety to his musical talents by recording Salsa music.
- El General announced his retirement from the music industry in 2004.



## **Lazaro Medina**

1965 – March 4, 2013

**Paraguay – Director of the Ballet Camba Cua**

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- Medina was the founder and Director of the Ballet Camba Cua.
- He established Ballet Camba Cua in 1991 to focus on the dances of former enslaved African. His company is the only one with this mission.
- The Ballet Camba Cua created a social movement within Paraguay with human rights groups and Kamba Cua to help people regain the land they lost.
- Created a census of Afro-Paraguayans along with Kamba Cua cultural leader, Jose Medina to challenge the myth that Paraguay had no contemporary Black population.
- Medina directed Ballet Camba Cua for 35 years, until his death. Today, the dances continue to honor Medina's legacy.

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A portrait of St. Martin de Porres, a Black saint from Peru. He is depicted from the chest up, wearing a white, high-collared garment with black trim and a black sash. He has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the left. The background is dark and indistinct.

## **St. Martin de Porres**

9 December, 1579 – 3 November, 1639

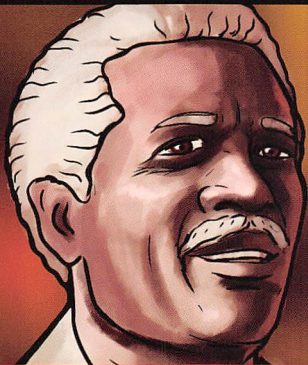
**Peru – famous Limeno Saint, 1st Black Saint**

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- Asked the Dominicans of Holy Rosary Priory in Lima if he could volunteer his services as he felt this was the only way he could feel a sense of belonging in the world.
- At 12 years old, he became a barber-surgeon and cut hair, healed wounds, drew blood, and gave medicines.
- At 15 years old, Martin became a servant boy for the Dominican Convent of the Rosary and quickly moved up to a church officer position.
- Because he grew up poor, Martin felt compelled to help the poor as a church officer, he started distributing money to the poor.
- In 1603, Martin became a Dominican lay brother.
- Today, St. Martin is not only considered the first Black saint, but also the saint of barbers, Black people, people of mixed race, innkeepers, public health workers and more.



# Reynaldo Campos

1927 – 2001

Peru – A Founder of Peru Negro

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- Started his musical career as a member in various groups, such as Estampas de Pancho Fierro and Teatro y Danzas Negras del Peru.
- On February 26, 1969, he founded the group, Peru Negro.
- He founded the group because he wanted to develop and preserve Afro-Peruvian dance and music.
- Today, people can visit the village of El Carmen, where Peru Negro was founded, and find people singing and dancing in the streets.
- Decades later, Peru Negro is considered to be one of the leading exponents of Black Peruvian culture.
- He was an organizer for events such as the Black Art Festival.
- Throughout his career, he researched and worked to create different dances and rhythmic patterns in Afro-Peruvian folklore.



## **Lucila Campos**

16 August 1938 – 12 December 2016

**Peru – Singer, and member of Peru Negro**

- Lucila started singing when she was a child.
- Stated that she was a true believer in the Lord of Miracles (*An alleged indestructible Peruvian Catholic image painted by an enslaved African*), which was the biggest inspiration for her music.
- She was also known as “Reina de las Polladas” and “la Morena Espectáculo” in Peru but “Tia” throughout the world.
- Lucila was a main member of Peru Negro for 17 years. They focus on preserving the culture and art of Blacks in Peru.
- Her career spanned almost two decades with several records, such as *Con el conjunto de chocolate y su Elegua, Quimba, Lisura y Sabor, and Sabor...y más Sabor*.
- Lucila’s most popular songs include *Toro Mata, Samba Malate, Guaranguito, and La Morena Trinidad*.

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# Cecilia Tait

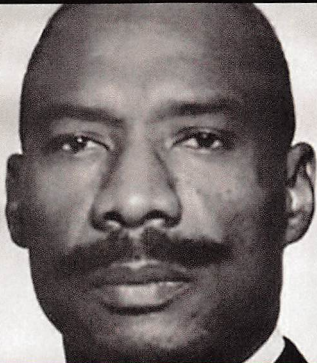
May 2, 1962 – Present

**Peru – Former Politician and  
Olympic volleyball Athlete**

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- Many people feel Tait is the most distinguished female athlete in the history of Peru.
- Tait's volleyball skills were noticed at 14-years-old when she was invited to play on Peru's Junior National Team.
- She is a 3-time Olympic volleyball player in 1980, 1984, and 1988, where she won a silver medal.
- In 1988, Tait started her political career and founded "Talent Seeker," a nonprofit organization which teaches volleyball to young females living in poverty.
- Through her organization, Tait raises awareness for girl's athletics to build confidence, facilitate teamwork, and help the athletes grow stronger.
- In 2000, she was elected to Peru's congress.
- In 2003, Tait received the Women and Sport Trophy from the International Olympic Committee and Pierre de Coubertin Medal.



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# **Robert Bradshaw**

September 16, 1916 – May 23, 1978

**St. Kitts & Nevis – Former Chief Minister  
and Premiere**

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- Former Chief Minister, legislator, and labor activist.
- He started to take interest in the labor movement after receiving a machine apprenticeship at the age of 16.
- He became a clerk at St. Kitts and Nevis Trades and Labor Union after leaving his job in 1940 during a higher wages strike.
- In 1945, Bradshaw became president of the St Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla Labour Party and entered legislative council in 1946.
- Became Minister of Trade and Production for St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla in 1956.
- Became Chief Minister in 1966 and the first Premier of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla in 1967.
- The National Assembly of Saint Kitts and Nevis posthumously awarded Bradshaw the title of First National Hero which is honored every year on his birthday.



# Kendel Hippolyte

1952 – Present

St. Lucia – Poet, Playwright, Director

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- Kendel Hippolyte is a playwright, director and poet who uses his work to discuss social issues.
- He has published several books of poetry and has seen publications in various magazines and journals.
- He has traveled around the world in order to perform his work at various events such as the Medellin Poetry Festival, Calabash Literary Festival, and Miami International Book Fair.
- In 2007, he traveled to England to present his work "Kinky Blues" after winning the Bridget Jones Travel Award.
- He has won the Literature prize in the Minvielle & Chastanet Fine Arts Awards twice.
- He co-founded the Lighthouse Theatre Company in St. Lucia in 1984.
- Won the St. Lucia Medal of Merit (Gold) for Contribution to the Arts award in 2000.

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# Learie Nicholas Constantine

September 21, 1901 – July 1, 1971

**Trinidad & Tobago – Cricketer, Journalist, Politician**

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- A West Indian cricket player, journalist, lawyer and politician.
- Constantine is thought to be one of the best cricket players in the world as he became the first West Indies member to achieve 1,000 runs and 100 wickets in one season.
- In 1956, Constantine became a founder and first chairman of the People's National Movement.
- He played a huge role in getting the 1965 Race Relations Act passed in Great Britain.
- Constantine served as Trinidad's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.
- In 1962, Constantine was appointed first high commissioner of England, a role he held for two years.
- In 1969, he was made the United Kingdom's first Black life peer, making him the first Black man appointed to the House of the Lords.



# Makandal Daaga

August 13, 1935 – August 8, 2016

**Trinidad & Tobago – Political Activist  
and Revolutionary**

- While he attended the University of the West Indies (UWI), he became the President of the Guild of Undergraduates.
- In 1970, Daaga became the leader of the Black Power Revolutionary Movement in Trinidad.
- As an activist and revolutionary, Daaga focused on the inequalities Trinidadian Black citizens faced in their daily lives.
- Founded the National Joint Action Committee (NJAC) in 1969, a Black Nationalist Party in Trinidad and Tobago.
- Under Daaga's leadership, the NJAC focused on improving political, social, religious, cultural, and educational aspects.
- In 2013, Daaga received the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago award, which is the highest honor awarded to anyone in Trinidad and Tobago.



## **Alba Roballo**

1910 – September 3, 1996

**Uruguay – Poet, Politician, Lawyer**



- She studied at the University of the Republic where she obtained her law degree.
- She was given the nickname “La Negra Roballo” because of her Afro-Uruguayan identity.
- She joined the Colorado Party and was a member of the Municipal Council of Montevideo from 1955 - 1959, making her the first female head of the council.
- She held office as a Senator from 1958 until 1968 and from 1971 until 1973.
- In 1968, she became the first Uruguayan woman to serve as Minister of Education and Culture. This also made her the first South American woman to serve.
- She was the founder and a leader of the Broad Front, a Uruguayan centre-left to left-wing coalition of political parties.



## **Tina Ferreira**

May 14, 1972 – Present

**Uruguay – Dancer, Journalist, and a “Vedette” of theater and carnival throughout Uruguay**

- An Afro-Uruguayan journalist, dancer, and performer in the carnival and theater.
- Since 2004, her main carnival group is called the *Serpentina* where she has been the lead vedette.
- Through her performances with *Serpentina*, she has earned several awards.
- These Uruguayan awards include the 1991, *Revelation Award of the Call Contest*, 1993, 1995, 1998, 2000, 2001 and 2007, *Best Vedette Award of the Carnival Contest* and the 2001, *Morosoli Prize*.
- Ferreira is also a journalist for the *Caras y Caretas* weekly magazine.
- In 2010, she went to work for Teatro Nogaro at the request of its owners, Nito Artaza and Miguel Ángel Cherutti.

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# Hugo Chavez

28 July 1954 – 5 March 2013

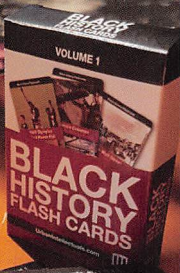
Venezuela – Former President

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- In 1971, he went to Caracas where he entered the Venezuelan Military Academy because he wanted to become a famous baseball player and the academy had great baseball coaches.
- In the 1970s, he entered the army as a second lieutenant and was tasked to capture the remaining leftist guerrillas but started to sympathize with them as he viewed them as fighting for a better life.
- Founded the Movement of the Fifth Republic political party in the mid-1990s.
- Became the President of Venezuela in 1998 with 56% of the vote and remained in this position until his death in 2013.
- During his rule, Chavez reportedly dropped the poverty rate by 20%, expanded educational programming, rose employment, and increased health care access.
- However many accuse his government of tyranny and corruption and put responsibility on him for starting the Venezuelan crisis seen today.

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