



Mary's Pence

Funding Women. Changing Lives.

Mary's Pence  
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[www.maryspence.org](http://www.maryspence.org)



# Mary's Pence

Funding Women. Changing Lives.

## 2024

ANNUAL REPORT and CALENDAR OF WOMEN



# Staff and Board

## Mary's Pence Board

**Nancy Silva**  
Chair, Saint Paul, Minnesota

**Sister LaKesha Church**  
Secretary, Redlands, California

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Austin, Texas

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Washington, D.C.

**Emma Tacke**  
Washington, D.C.

**Jadea Washington**  
Stillwater, Minnesota



*Mary's Pence Staff and Board members at the October 2023 board meeting in Minnesota.*



*ESPERA Staff at the Central America Donors Forum in Costa Rica.*

## St. Paul, Minnesota Staff

**Katherine Wojtan**  
Executive Director

**Anna Becker**  
Office Manager

**John Cherek**  
Ignatian Volunteer

**Brianna Olson-Carr**  
Development Manager

**Natalia Oróstegui-Burgos**  
Communications Manager

**Nadine Sehnert**  
Bookkeeper

## ESPERA Staff in Central America

**Mabel Martínez Arriaga**  
ESPERA Program Lead  
La Esperanza, Honduras

**Eva Martínez**  
ESPERA Promoter  
Suchitoto, El Salvador

**Brenda Valladares Escobar**  
ESPERA Business Facilitator  
Suchitoto, El Salvador

# Letter from the Executive Director

## Accompaniment as a way of being.

The word accompaniment often comes to mind when we think of our work. To us, it means sharing a vision, working together, and being in the work for the long haul.

## Sharing a vision of justice.

Each of our grantees in the U.S. and ESPERA partners in Mexico and Central America is working in a different community, on a different issue, through their own lens. Yet are all working for a better world. They are working to ensure everyone has a right to dignity and justice, especially people who have been marginalized due to the color of their skin, physical or mental abilities, faith, country of origin, income or educational level.

## Working together to make it happen.

The struggle for justice belongs to all of us. Mary's Pence, through the support of our donors and the work of our volunteers, contributes to the efforts of our grantees and ESPERA partners in many ways. We provide funding through grants, often a first grant to small and emerging organizations. And we form relationships - by listening, hosting gatherings and workshops, networking and sharing resources.

Through your gift of time or treasure, you are sharing the vision and are part of the work.

## Being in it for the long haul.

Working for justice is a long journey and one that requires vigilance. This is the piece of accompaniment that is most often forgotten. Mary's Pence began in 1987 - over 36 years ago. Many of our donors have been in it for the long haul - about 55% have given for over 20 years. We are grateful.

## Working in community - the essence of solidarity.

When a community gathers to overcome injustice, its voice is stronger, and its actions have more impact. Mary's Pence Grantees work with members of a community, whether it is connecting LGBTQ+ folks in prison who have experienced violence or forming alliances among renters to know their rights and demand landlord action. ESPERA women learn business skills together and work on local issues such as violence against women, protection of water resources, or addressing disability rights.

## We all benefit from a more just world.

Each of us is better off in a world with less hardships and sorrow and filled with more joy. Join us in accompanying our grantees and ESPERA partners by spreading the word, volunteering, or making a financial contribution.

With deep gratitude,



Katherine Wojtan, Executive Director

Some concepts come from Accompanying: Pathways to Social Change by Staughton Lynd, a Quaker author.



Katherine Wojtan, Executive Director

*We honor the women who founded Mary's Pence.*

*Maureen Gallagher, OP,  
Founding Coordinator*

*Kaye Ashe, OP (1930-2014)*

*Carol Coston, OP*

*Edwina Gateley*

*Janemarie Luecke, OSB (1924-1987)*

*Amata Miller, IHM*

*The Honorable Sheila Murphy*

*R. Muschal-Reinhardt (1933-2013)*

*Rosemary Radford Ruether (1936-2022)*

*Mary Luke Tobin, SL (1908-2006)*

*Yolanda Tarango, CCVI*

*Margaret Traxler, SSND (1924-2002)*

*Teresita Weind, SNDdeN*



# Mary's Pence Grants: Supporting Women Working for Change

Mary's Pence understands the challenges faced by small nonprofits. We believe in the power of small grants to make a real difference. We also believe in the importance of accompaniment – walking side by side with our grantees, sharing a common vision for a better and inclusive world, and supporting them in their work. We connect with our grantee on a regular basis, host webinars on topics pertinent to small and emerging organizations, and bring grantees together for a retreat full of learning, connecting and networking.

The Mary's Pence Grants program supports organizations that are:

## **Women-led and women-focused —**

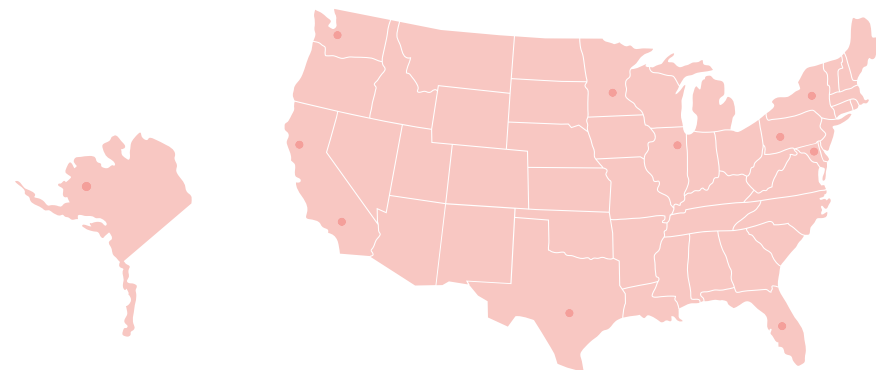
Centering on issues women face and gender justice issues for cis women, transwomen and nonbinary people.

**Community Centered —** Emerging from needs identified by the impacted community, led and collaboratively developed by members of the community.

**Sustainable models of long-term change —** Working to change root causes of injustice.

**Social Justice focused —** Integrating the values of dignity, justice, and solidarity into the mission and spirit of the work.

Mary's Pence awards grants to women's organizations with maximum budgets of \$250,000 throughout the U.S., grantees are eligible for up to 3 grants.



## **Fiscal Year 2023 Grantees**

### **Fall 2022**

**Alyssa Rodriguez Center for Gender Justice**

*Micanopy, Florida / 1st Grant*

**Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Women in Science and Engineering**

*Cold Spring Harbor, New York / 3rd Grant*

**Data for Indigenous Justice**

*Anchorage, Alaska / 2nd Grant*

**Housing Resource Network**

*Minneapolis, Minnesota / 1st Grant*

**Institute for Research on Male Supremacism**

*Berkeley, California / 3rd Grant*

**Seeds Worth Sowing**

*Minneapolis, Minnesota / 1st Grant*

**Tight Lipped**

*Evanston, Illinois / 1st Grant*

**Working Group on Girls of Schenectady**

*Schenectady, New York / 2nd Grant*

**Yəhaw Indigenous Creatives Collective**

*Seattle, Washington / 1st Grant*

### **Spring 2023**

**Agape Children's Services**

*Houston, Texas / 1st Grant*

**Anolee Sisters**

*Shakopee, Minnesota / 1st Grant*

**Creating Freedom Movements**

*Richmond, California / 2nd Grant*

**Dreams are Possible**

*Bloomington, Illinois / 3rd Grant*

**Germantown Residents for Economic Alternatives Together**

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania / 1st Grant*

**It Takes a Village Collaborative**

*Hyattsville, Maryland / 3rd Grant*

**National Equal Justice Association**

*San Francisco, California / 2nd Grant*

**Ready to Launch**

*Los Angeles, California / 2nd Grant*

**The League of Women Voters Minneapolis**

*Minneapolis, Minnesota / 3rd Grant*

**The WomanHOOD Project**

*Bronx, New York / 3rd Grant*

“The willingness to spend an hour on a Zoom call with our organization and to talk about the storytelling and to listen. It was so powerful and meaningful; it was the most human-centered grant process we’ve ever been through.” *Joa Jin from Creating Freedom Movements.*

“We feel really supported and connected to the Mary's Pence team. And this funding validates our work and helps us expand what we're doing, helps us leverage that toward bringing other resources to our work.” *Erica Liepmann from Ready to Launch.*

# ESPERA: Economic Systems Providing Equitable Resources for All

## Supporting Women Through Local Organizations

The Mary's Pence ESPERA program partners with women's organizations in Central America and Mexico to increase women's economic security and social and emotional well-being. ESPERA works with organized groups of women because we know there is power in mutual support and a collective voice.

ESPERA focuses on four areas identified by ESPERA participants as essential to improving their lives.

### Economic Autonomy



### Family Farming



### Strong Women's Organizations



### Emotional Wellness



The accompanying pictures depict these four focus areas:

1. Fidelina and Tatiana sell clothes and shoes in Juana's store, helping with her economic initiative. They belong to *Alianza de Mujeres Organizadas Salvadoreñas (AMOS)* in El Salvador.
2. A group of women from *Asociación de Mujeres Rurales Olga Estela Moreno (ASMUR)* received seeds for their family farms in San Carlos Lempa, El Salvador.
3. Blanca from *Concertación de Mujeres de Suchitoto*, and her husband Juan own a small papaya field in Suchitoto, El Salvador. They work together and provide for their family.
4. Women from *Red de Mujeres Morelenses in Mexico* participated in a wellness workshop where they engaged in the exercise of giving and receiving.

## Important Growth in our ESPERA Program

At the end of 2023, four new partners joined the Mary's Pence ESPERA program. We welcome *ADISA* from Santiago de Atitlán, *ASCODREMCHI* from Chichicastenango, and *IXOC MAYAJ* from Cobán, all in Guatemala, and *Grupo de Mujeres Lencas*, from La Paz, Honduras. These organizations will receive funding for a locally-owned lending pool, training, and stipends for local leaders. We also introduced the ESPERA Medical Assistance Fund in response to an increasing number of unforeseen medical costs experienced by ESPERA members. The fund provides financial resources to support women through a crisis.

## Partners

### Guatemala

**Asociación de Desarrollo Red de Mujeres de Chichicastenango**

Partner since 2023

*Chichicastenango, Guatemala*

**Asociación de Padres y Amigos de Personas con Discapacidad**

Partner since 2023

*Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala*

**IXOC MAYAJ**

Partner since 2023

*Cobán, Guatemala*

### Honduras

**Grupo Emprendedor La Epifanía**

Partner since 2012

*Tegucigalpa, Honduras*

**Grupo de Mujeres Lencas de Chinacla**

Partner since 2023

*La Paz, Honduras*

### Mexico

**Red de Mujeres Morelenses por una Economía Solidaria**

Partner since 2010

*Morelos, Mexico*

### Nicaragua

**Centro de Promoción y Salud Integral (CEPROSI)**

Partner since 2015

*Nindirí, Nicaragua*

### El Salvador

**Asociación Coordinadora Salvadoreña de Pequeños Productores Organizados (CESPPO/CLAC)**

Partner since 2019

*Santa Tecla, El Salvador*

**Asociación de Mujeres Emprendedoras por la Justicia de San Rafael Cedros**

Partner since 2017

*San Rafael Cedros, El Salvador*

**Asociación de Mujeres Rurales "Olga Estela Moreno" (ASMUR)**

Partner since 2012

*Bajo Lempa, El Salvador*

**Concertación de Mujeres de Suchitoto**

Partner since 2008

*Suchitoto, El Salvador*

**Asociación de Mujeres de Tonacatepeque (ACOMEST)**

Partner since 2017

*Tonacatepeque, El Salvador*

**Parroquia San Nicolás Obispo**

Partner since 2017

*Tonacatepeque, El Salvador*

**Red Unión de Mujeres Salvadoreñas**

Partner since 2012

*San Salvador, El Salvador*

# Mission, Vision, Values

## Mission

We invest in women across the Americas by funding community initiatives and fostering collaborations to create social change.

## Vision

We envision a world where empowered women and their communities flourish in solidarity and justice.

## Mary's Pence Work for Social Justice

In October 2023 Mary's Pence board and staff gathered in Minnesota and spent a weekend reflecting on our mission, vision, values and guiding principles. This word cloud represents the shared values reflected in our discussion.

*Dignity, solidarity, and justice* are the core values that drive our work.

The words relationship, community, and women reflect our belief in the **collective power of women** in shaping strong, just societies. This is why both ESPERA in Central America and Mexico and our Grants programming in the U.S. support organized women at the local level.

We believe change can't happen without a shared vision. That is why words like listening, inclusivity, collaboration, and trust emerged strongly.

**We believe things will be better.** We want change, and we want our impact to be systemic, going beyond meeting immediate needs and having a long-term impact. We want an equitable world.

**Our work is effective because we are responsive** to the needs of the communities we serve. We work differently in the US with our Grants program than we do in Central America through ESPERA. Funding, resources, and networking are needs that both



programs share. ESPERA has longer-term relationships with our partners because of a high need for stability and leadership development, as well as economic security. Mary's Pence Grants provides resources and information unique to emerging nonprofits and networking opportunities that are so critical to leaders doing difficult jobs.

## What Our Supporters, Grantees, and Partners Say

"For years, I have been a monthly donor to Mary's Pence, pleased not only that worthy grantees are being supported by this group that seeks social justice but also that the money donated is invested in socially responsible funds. Their work isn't charity -- it's a commitment to justice. I'm confident that the monthly donations are used wisely to fund organizations I would never have learned of on my own. When appropriate, grantees receive collaborative support beyond funds, such as aid in business acumen, personal development opportunities, or community-building. Mary's Pence listens, respects, and honors its grantees." *M. D. Olowin, Donor.*

"Education and training are critical, such as self-esteem, women's rights, collaboration, advocacy, and leadership because knowledge is power. If I have knowledge, I have power, the ability to do what I want." *AMOS Representative, ESPERA in El Salvador*

"Mary's Pence has been incredibly supportive of our work as a small growing project. They've provided us with seed money to launch our first campaign to help women with chronic pain. We've benefited immensely from their support and mentorship!" *Noa from Tight Lipped, Grantee.*

# Financial Report

# Sharing Our Mission

## Financials

Fiscal Year 2023: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

### Income

Contributions .....	\$598,703
Estate Contributions .....	\$143,197
Investment Loss.....	\$21,340

**Total Revenue and Support.....\$763,240**

### Expenses

Program Expenses .....	\$713,760	(85%)
Management and General Expenses.....	\$43,726	(5%)
Fundraising Expenses .....	\$79,359	(10%)

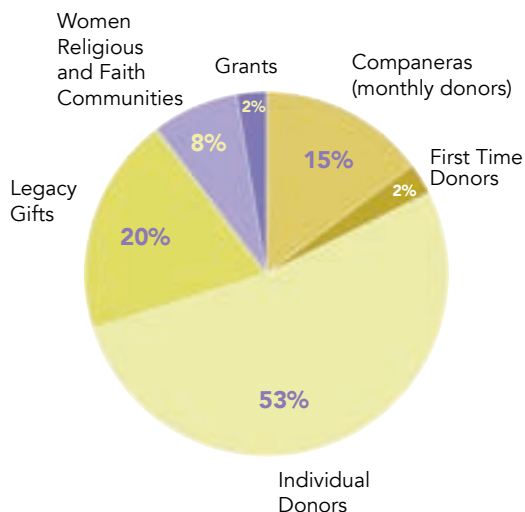
**Total Operating Expenses.....\$836,845**

**Change in Net assets ..... \$-73,605**

## Our Donors

### Organizations

### Individual



## Financial Transparency Statement

*Mary's Pence is committed to serving as a faithful steward of all financial gifts.*

In addition to the Mary's Pence Finance Committee reviewing financial statements on a monthly basis, an audit of Mary's Pence is completed once a year by a CPA firm that specializes in nonprofit organizations. A copy of our 990 is available on our website.

For more information, visit:  
[maryspence.org/about/financials](https://maryspence.org/about/financials)



Mary's Pence is dedicated to our mission of funding women and changing lives. The majority of our funding comes from individuals deeply committed to our work. As we continue to extend our impact, we seek to broaden our donor community. This is an important time for us to stretch our wings and give flight to more women working for justice.

## Meeting New Supporters at Conferences and Events

At Mary's Pence, we've attended 11 conferences in the last year hosted by Catholic, interfaith, and non-faith community organizations. We continue to expand our network of supporters by being visible in our various communities and connecting with new people interested in issues impacting women. If you know of an upcoming conference where we could be present, let us know!

## Donor Gathering in Minnesota

At our annual board meeting in October, we hosted an open house for local supporters. Our local grantee, *The Anolee Sisters*, catered the event, performed an Oromo coffee ceremony, and shared music and dance.

## You can host a Mary's Pence event! Help us grow!

If you're passionate about the work Mary's Pence is doing and you want to share that with your community, we are happy to provide you with Mary's Pence materials, videos, and an outreach toolkit.

We would love to hear your ideas for spreading the word. Is there a conference we can attend? Do you have a group you would like to share Mary's Pence with? You can contact Brianna at [brianna@maryspence.org](mailto:brianna@maryspence.org), or call our office at 651-788-9869 to share your thoughts.

## Honor Women Every Day

For every day of the year, this calendar recognizes an inspiring woman who has contributed to social justice and equality.

You can read more about these women at  
[maryspence.org/calendar](https://maryspence.org/calendar)



# Mary's Pence Grants



## Agape Children's Services

*Houston, Texas*

*Agape Children's Services* is combating human trafficking in Texas.

*Agape Children's Services* fosters the advancement of young girls to make positive life choices and to maximize their potential through advocacy, mentorship, and an Emergency Care Shelter program. Mary's Pence 1st grant will support their "Love, Support, and Compassion for Trafficked Adolescent Girls" program, tailored to trauma-impacted and at-risk girls in impoverished and overlooked communities in Houston.

In the photo, girls are participating in G.O.O.D. GIRLS (Go Over Obstacles Daily) Mentoring Program, which supports young girls, ages 11-17, to make positive life choices and maximize their authentic potential. The girls were at a Domestic Minor Human Trafficking 101 workshop held by Nicole Simmons of *Agape Children's Services*.



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# January/Enero 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>   <b>World Day of Peace</b> Mary, Theotokos (God Bearer)	<b>2</b>   <b>Sadie Alexander</b> Civil Rights Activist	<b>3</b>   <b>Bella Abzug</b> Civil Rights Activist, US Representative (NY)	<b>4</b>   <b>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</b> Educator	<b>5</b>   <b>Sonia Sotomayor</b> 1st Latina Justice of SCOTUS	<b>6</b>   <b>Charlotte Ray</b> 1st Black Woman Attorney in the US
	New Year's Day					Epiphany
<b>7</b>   <b>St. Bernadette Soubirous</b> 19th c. Mystic, Visionary	<b>8</b>   <b>Emily Greene Balch</b> Economist, Pacifist, Nobel Peace Prize (1946)	<b>9</b>   <b>Rigoberta Menchú</b> Guatemalan Political Activist, Nobel Peace Prize (1992)	<b>10</b>   <b>Gabriela Mistral</b> 1st Latina recipient of Nobel Prize in Literature (1945)	<b>11</b>   <b>Remember Women Brought out of Africa and Baptized Against Their Will</b>	<b>12</b>   <b>Diana Ortiz</b> Torture Survivor, Founder: Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition	<b>13</b>   <b>Anne Reynolds</b> Advocate for LGBTQ+ Community
<b>14</b>   <b>Sr. Theresa Maxis Duchemin</b> Founder: Oblate Sisters of Providence	<b>15</b>   <b>Etty Hillesum</b> Holocaust Victim, Author: <i>An Interrupted Life</i>	<b>16</b>   <b>Dian Fossey</b> Primatologist, Author: <i>Gorillas in the Mist</i>	<b>17</b>   <b>Martha Cotera, PhD</b> Latina Activist, Author: <i>Life Along the Border</i>	<b>18</b>   <b>Coretta Scott King</b> Civil Rights Activist, Author: <i>Coretta: My Life, My Love, My Legacy</i>	<b>19</b>   <b>Mourning Dove</b> Indigenous Rights Activist	<b>20</b>   <b>Anne Clough</b> British Suffragist & Reformer
	Martin Luther King Jr. Day					
<b>21</b>   <b>Sophia Jex-Blake, MD</b> Women's Rights Activist	<b>22</b>   <b>Hildegard Goss-Mayr</b> Peace Activist	<b>23</b>   <b>Gertrude Elion</b> Pharmacologist, Nobel Prize for Medicine (1988)	<b>24</b>   <b>Maria Tallchief</b> 1st Indigenous Prima Ballerina, American Ballet Theater	<b>25</b>   <b>Ramabai Ranade</b> Indian Social Worker and Activist	<b>26</b>   <b>Angela Davis</b> Political and Social Activist	<b>27</b>   <b>St. Angela Merici</b> Educator
<b>28</b>   <b>Honor Women Theologians</b>	<b>29</b>   <b>Sr. Kaye Ashe</b> Founding Board President of Mary's Pence	<b>30</b>   <b>Ritamary Bradley</b> Women's Rights Activist	<b>31</b>   <b>Ludmila Javorová</b> Catholic Priest in Underground Church During WWII			



# ESPERA Program



## Concertación de Mujeres de Suchitoto

*Suchitoto, El Salvador*

*Concertacion de Mujeres de Suchitoto* has been working for women's rights since 1991.

*Concertacion de Mujeres de Suchitoto* was founded in 1991 to guarantee women's rights and make them visible in the municipality. The group has identified the following programs as part of their strategies:

Solidarity Economy for Women, Organizational Strengthening, the Right to a Life Free of Violence, and Social and Reproductive Rights.

In the image, you can see Antonia and Rosa, a mother and daughter from the Chaguiton community. They joined the ESPERA program in 2008. They raise dairy cattle and produce milk products like cheese, cream, and cottage cheese.



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# February/Febrero 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1   The Kuna People</b> Matrilinear Indigenous People of Panama and Colombia	<b>2   Civil Rights Sit-ins</b> 40% of the Women of Bennet College Were Arrested (1960)	<b>3   Sr. Mary Lange</b> Founder: Oblate Sisters of Providence
<b>4   Betty Friedan</b> Feminist, Author: <i>The Feminine Mystique</i>	<b>5   Judith Baca</b> Contemporary Urban Artist	<b>6   Tullia d'Aragona</b> 16th c. Poet, Philosopher  Laylat al-Mi'raj begins at sundown	<b>7   Marian Anderson</b> 1st Black Artist to Perform in the Metropolitan Opera	<b>8   St. Josephine Bakhita</b> Sudanese Woman Taken in Slavery, a Woman of Forgiveness	<b>9   Alice Walker</b> Pulitzer Prize (1982), Author: <i>The Color Purple</i>	<b>10   St. Scholastica</b> 5th c. Founder and Patron Saint: Benedictine Sisters
<b>11   Morkarrameh Ghanbari</b> Iranian Artist, Woman of the Year (2001)  International Day of Women and Girls in Science	<b>12   Sr. Margaret Traxler</b> Mary's Pence Founding Board Member	<b>13   Rana Hussieni</b> Journalist, Equal Rights Activist  Mardi Gras	<b>14   Ruchira Gupta</b> Social Worker, Human Trafficking Abolitionist  Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day	<b>15   Susan B. Anthony</b> Women's Rights Activist  Buddah's Death	<b>16   Mildred Fish Harnack</b> German Resistance Leader, Executed by Hitler	<b>17   Mary Breckinridge</b> Founder: Frontier Nursing Service
<b>18   Toni Morrison</b> Pulitzer Prize (1988), Author: <i>Beloved</i>  First Sunday of Lent	<b>19   Harper Lee</b> Presidential Medal of Freedom (2007), Author: <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>  President's Day	<b>20   Angelina Grimke</b> 19th c. Women's Rights Activist  World Day of Social Justice	<b>21   Barbara Jordan</b> Civil Rights Activist, US Representative of TX (1973-1979)	<b>22   Isabella Hooker</b> Founder: New England Suffrage Association	<b>23   Frances Watkins Harper</b> Suffragist, Abolitionist, Poet	<b>24   Pearl Witherington</b> Agent for Britain's Special Operations, WWII
<b>25   Alicia Montemayor</b> 20th c. Feminist, Activist	<b>26   Mabel Staupers</b> Organized the Harlem Clinic for Black Physicians	<b>27   Rosa Perea</b> Advocate for Deaf and Blind Persons	<b>28   Violeta Parra</b> Chilean composer, folk singer, and social activist (1917-1967)	<b>29   Mary Lyon</b> Pioneer in Women's Higher Education		



# Mary's Pence Grants



## Dreams are Possible

*Bloomington, Illinois*

*Dreams Are Possible* trains women with skills for success.

*Dreams are Possible* prepares women for economically sustainable employment by training them to be first-class, skill-based workers. This training enables the women to secure careers in the building trades and related fields that provide living wages and benefits. *Dreams are Possible* trainings focus on topics employers have identified as needed in their workforce. The organization's goal is to provide valuable certifications to help women succeed.



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March/Marzo 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1   Esther</b> 5th. c. Persian Queen, Savior of the Jewish People	<b>2   Nawal El Saadawi</b> Egyptian Feminist
<b>3   St. Katharine Drexel</b> 20th c. Educator Serving Indigenous and Black Children	<b>4   Young Shin</b> Founder: Asian Immigrant Women Activists (AIWA)	<b>5   Catherine MacKinnon</b> Radical Feminist	<b>6   Valentina Tereshkova</b> 1st Woman to travel in Space	<b>7   Sts. Perpetua and Felicity</b> 3rd c. Martyrs for their Faith	<b>8   International Women's Day</b> Commemorating the Movement for Women's Rights  International Women's Day	<b>9   Zahra Rahnava</b> Academic, Artist, and Politician Suppressed by the Iranian Government
<b>10   Harriet Tubman</b> Leader of the Underground Railroad  Daylight Saving Begins Ramadan begins at sundown	<b>11   Hallie Quinn Brown</b> 19th c. Educator, Reformer, Social Activist	<b>12   Mechtilde of Magdeburg</b> 13th c. Mystic	<b>13   Mary Bowser</b> Abolitionist, Spy for the Union Army	<b>14   Fannie Lou Hamer</b> 20th c. Civil Rights Activist, Philanthropist	<b>15   Ruth Bader Ginsburg</b> 2nd Woman Justice of SCOTUS, Advocate for Gender Equality	<b>16   Sr. Anne Dengel</b> Founder: Medical Missionary Sisters
<b>17   Women Celtic Saints</b>  St. Patrick's Day	<b>18   María Luisa Bombal</b> Chilean writer. Precursor of contemporary Latin American novel. (1910-1980)	<b>19   Josefa Ortiz de Domínguez</b> 19th c. Supporter of the Mexican War of Independence  First Day of Spring	<b>20   Mary Mills</b> 20th c. Nursing Ambassador to the World  Naw-Ruz begins at sundown	<b>21   Belle Sherwin</b> 19th c. Women's Rights Activist	<b>22   Dorothy Stratton</b> 1st Woman Commissioned into the US Coast Guard	<b>23   Ada María Isasi-Díaz</b> Mujerista Theologian, Past Board Member of Mary's Pence  Purim begins at sundown
<b>24   Marjorie Agosin</b> Human Rights Activist  Holi Palm Sunday	<b>25   Margaret Chase Smith</b> Worked to End McCarthyism, US Representative of MA	<b>26   Emma Sepúlveda, PhD</b> Director: Latina Research Center, Author: <i>Death to Silence</i>	<b>27   Adrienne Rich</b> Radical Feminist, Poet, Essayist	<b>28   Asma Jahangir</b> Pakistani Attorney, Human Rights Activist  Holy Thursday	<b>29   Pearl Bailey</b> US Goodwill Ambassador (1975), Presidential Medal of Freedom (1988)  Good Friday	<b>30   Kathy Kelly</b> Peace Activist, Founder: Voices for Creative Nonviolence  Holy Saturday
<b>31   Margaret Randall</b> Social Activist, Feminist  Easter						



# ESPERA Program



## Centro de Promoción y Salud Integral (CEPROSI)

Nindiri, Nicaragua

Advancing the community through strong networks and resources.

*Centro de Promoción y Salud Integral* joined the ESPERA program in 2008, and they have experienced strong growth in their ability to be a resource for the women in the communities around Nindiri, Nicaragua.

*CEPROSI* makes good use of alliances with organizations in the community for skill-building and access to resources. They are involved in several networks in the country, adding to their capacity.


Within their organization, they have created a transparent and participative organizational structure that includes representatives from the member communities in the leadership team and involves them in organizational planning and decision-making.



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# April/Abril 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>   <b>Wangari Maathai</b> Environmental Activist, Nobel Peace Prize (2004)	<b>2</b>   <b>Barbara Caine</b> Australian Feminist Historian	<b>3</b>   <b>Sarah Brady</b> Anti-gun Violence Activist	<b>4</b>   <b>Maya Angelou</b> Poet, Civil Rights Activist, Author: <i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i>	<b>5</b>   <b>Pandita Ramabai</b> 19th c. Indian Social Reformer  <i>Laylat al-Qadr begins at sundown</i>	<b>6</b>   <b>Gloria Macapagal Arroyo</b> President of the Philippines (2001-2010)
<b>7</b>   <b>Joyce Hilda Banda</b> President of Malawi (2012-2014)	<b>8</b>   <b>Betty Ford</b> Activist for Equal Rights Amendment, Founder: Betty Ford Clinic	<b>9</b>   <b>Irene Morgan Kirkaldy</b> Civil Rights Activist  <i>Eid al-Fitr begins at sundown</i>	<b>10</b>   <b>Dolores Huerta</b> Labor Leader, Co-founder: National Farmworkers	<b>11</b>   <b>Ethel Kennedy</b> Philanthropist, Justice Activist	<b>12</b>   <b>Clara Barton</b> Founder: American Red Cross	<b>13</b>   <b>Julian of Norwich</b> 14th. c. Christian Mystic, Author: <i>Revelations of Divine Love</i>
<b>14</b>   <b>Simone de Beauvoir</b> 20th c. French Author: <i>The Second Sex</i>	<b>15</b>   <b>Corrie ten Boom</b> Helped Jews Escape the Holocaust, Author: <i>The Hiding Place</i>	<b>16</b>   <b>Joan Sawyer</b> Bahamian Chief Justice (1996-2001)	<b>17</b>   <b>Jo Anne Robinson</b> Civil Rights Activist, Educator	<b>18</b>   <b>Augusta Savage</b> Sculptor, Harlem Renaissance	<b>19</b>   <b>Betty Green</b> Pilot, Founder: Mission Aviation Fellowship	<b>20</b>   <b>María Varela</b> Photographer for Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee  <i>First day of Ridvan begins at sundown</i>
<b>21</b>   <b>Nina Simone</b> Musician, Civil Rights Activist	<b>22</b>   <b>Loretta C. Argrett</b> Assistant Attorney General, Advocate for Underserved People  <i>Earth Day Passover Begins at sundown</i>	<b>23</b>   <b>Maria Teresa Tula</b> Salvadoran Political Writer, Activist	<b>24</b>   <b>Willa Cather</b> Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (1923), Author: <i>O Pioneers</i> and <i>My Antonia</i>	<b>25</b>   <b>Martha George</b> Chair of Suquamish Tribe (1920s-1940s)	<b>26</b>   <b>Amy Biehl</b> American Anti-Apartheid Activist in South Africa, Assassinated 1993	<b>27</b>   <b>Mary Wollstonecraft</b> 18th c. Women's Rights Activist  <i>9th Day of Ridvan begins at sundown</i>
<b>28</b>   <b>Marie Stewart</b> African-American Writer, Lecturer	<b>29</b>   <b>Feast of St. Catherine of Siena</b> <i>Mary's Pence Founded (1987)</i> 	<b>30</b>   <b>Aviva Chomsky</b> Historian, Author: <i>How Immigration Became Illegal</i>  <i>Passover Ends</i>				



# Mary's Pence Grants



## Anolee Sisters

*Shakopee, Minnesota*

From isolation to unity: *Anolee Sisters'* impactful initiatives.

*Anolee Sisters* works with women in the Oromo diaspora to acknowledge past trauma, embrace healing, and build connections to create change within their community. *Anolee Sisters* prevents social isolation among Oromo women by creating community, offering counseling groups, encouraging communication, and providing training and one-on-one support.

*Anolee Sisters* presented their organization to The Woman's Club of Minneapolis members to broaden their connections. They also prepared traditional Eastern African food and shared a beautiful coffee ceremony with the attendants.



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# May/Mayo 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1   Anne Marie Jarvis</b> Founded Mother's Day  12th Day of Ridvan begins at sundown	<b>2   Nannie Burroughs</b> 20th c. Educator, Feminist, Civil Rights Activist  National Day of Prayer	<b>3   Maryam Mirzakhani</b> 1st Woman to Receive Field's Medal (2014), Highest Scientific Award for Mathematicians	<b>4   Rosalyn Yalow</b> Medical Physicist, Nobel Prize for Medicine (1977)
<b>5   Sr. Barbara Ford</b> Missionary Nurse Assassinated in Guatemala  Yom HaShoah begins at sundown	<b>6   Mary McLeod Bethune</b> Educator, Civil Rights Activist	<b>7   Eva Perón</b> First Lady of Argentina (1946-1952), Advocate for Labor Rights	<b>8   Phillis Wheatley</b> Enslaved, 18th c. Poet	<b>9   Septima Poinsette Clark</b> Educator, Civil Rights Activist  Ascension of Jesus	<b>10   Maggie Kuhn</b> Founder: Gray Panthers	<b>11   Mercedes López</b> Mexican Artist
<b>12   Remember the Women who Nurture Us</b>  Mothers' Day	<b>13   Florence Nightingale</b> 19th c. Nurse, Founder of Modern Nursing	<b>14   Marjory Stoneman Douglas</b> Environmentalist, Author: <i>Everglades: A River of Grass</i>	<b>15   Digna Ochoa y Plácido</b> Mexican Human Rights Attorney, International Human Rights Award (2002)  International Day of Families	<b>16   Sr. Margaret Anna Cusack</b> 19th c. Founder: Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace  Ashura begins at sundown	<b>17   Satya Rani Chadha</b> Anti-dowery Movement Activist	<b>18   Gertrude Käsebier</b> photographer
<b>19   Lorraine Hansberry</b> Black Playwright: <i>Raisin in the Sun</i>  Pentecost	<b>20   Sr. Rose Hawthorne</b> Founder: Hawthorne Dominicans and Home for Poor Cancer Patients	<b>21   Mitsuye Endo</b> Plaintiff in SCOTUS Lawsuit to End Japanese Internment	<b>22   Judy Chicago</b> Feminist Artist	<b>23   Concha Ortiz y Pino</b> State Representative, NM (1936-1941)  Declaration of the Bab begins at sundown	<b>24   YWCA</b> Working for Women's Empowerment Since 1855	<b>25   Forugh Farrokhzad</b> Poet, Film Director
<b>26   Sr. Mary Ellen Butcher, OP</b> Advocate for Economic Justice	<b>27   Rachel Carson</b> Environmentalist, Author: <i>Silent Spring</i>  Ascension of the Bah'u'llah at sundown Memorial Day Buddah's Birthday	<b>28   Julia Ward Howe</b> Abolitionist, Author of <i>Lyrics to the Battle Hymn of the Republic</i>	<b>29   Jehan Sadat</b> Egyptian Human Rights Activist	<b>30   St. Joan of Arc</b> French Hero of the 100 Year War	<b>31   Elizabeth Blackwell, MD</b> 1st Woman to Earn an M.D. in the US	



# ESPERA Program



## Asociación de Mujeres Emprendedoras por la Justicia de San Rafael Cedros (CEDROS)

*San Rafael Cedros, El Salvador*

Working together for a more just and equitable future in El Salvador.

Señora Rosa Victoria is on her land where she tends her two cows and a pig and raises chickens. She joined the ESPERA program in 2019.

CEDROS has seven members, all working on their economic initiatives thanks to Mary's Pence's training and financial support. *Asociación de Mujeres Emprendedoras por la Justicia de San Rafael Cedros* shares Mary Pence's vision of a more equal world, where women are empowered and have the same opportunities and rights as men.



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# June/Junio 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b>   <b>Helen Keller</b> Advocate of the Blind and the Deaf, Author: <i>Story of My Life</i>
<b>2</b>   <b>Hanan Daoud Khalil Ashrawi</b> Palestinian Legislator, Educator	<b>3</b>   <b>Josephine Baker</b> Dancer, French Resistance Agent	<b>4</b>   <b>Marian Wright Edelman</b> Activist for Disadvantaged Children	<b>5</b>   <b>Sappho</b> 5th c. BC Greek Poet	<b>6</b>   <b>Sr. Ann Manganaro</b> Catholic Worker, Physician in El Salvador	<b>7</b>   <b>Elizabeth Gurley Flynn</b> 20th c. Labor Leader, Activist	<b>8</b>   <b>Sr. Frances Margaret Taylor</b> 19th c. British Nurse, Writer, Editor
<b>9</b>   <b>Ann O'Hara Graff</b> Theologian, Author: <i>In the Embrace of God</i>	<b>10</b>   <b>Equal Pay Act (1963)</b> Requires that Men and Women Be Given Equal Pay for Equal Work	<b>11</b>   <b>Jeanette Rankin</b> 1st Woman in Congress, Women's Rights Activist  Shavuot begins at sundown	<b>12</b>   <b>Anne Frank</b> Victim of the Holocaust, Author: <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i>	<b>13</b>   <b>Gloria Rolando</b> Cuban Filmmaker	<b>14</b>   <b>Alicia Partnoy</b> Argentinian Human Rights Activist, Poet  Hajj begins at sundown	<b>15</b>   <b>Evelyn Underhill</b> 20th c. Mystic, Author: <i>Practical Mysticism</i>  Day of Arafat begins at sundown
<b>16</b>   <b>Margaret Bondfield</b> British Politician, Trade Union Advocate  Father's Day Eid al-Adha begins at sundown	<b>17</b>   <b>Marita Bonner</b> Author: <i>Frye Street and Environs</i>	<b>18</b>   <b>Fay Bennett</b> Advocate for the Rural Poor	<b>19</b>   <b>Patria Jiménez</b> 1st Openly Gay Elected Official in Mexico  Juneteenth Abolition of Slavery	<b>20</b>   <b>Nedā Āghā Soltān</b> Iranian Martyr for Freedom  First Day of Summer World Refugee Day	<b>21</b>   <b>Miriam</b> Jewish Prophet, Sister of Moses	<b>22</b>   <b>Hidden Figures</b> NASA Scientists Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan
<b>23</b>   <b>Title IX</b> Federally funded education programs are gender-neutral	<b>24</b>   <b>Zora Neale Hurston</b> 20th c. Writer, Author: <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>	<b>25</b>   <b>Women in Black</b> Worldwide Network of Protestors of War and Violence	<b>26</b>   <b>Pearl S. Buck</b> Advocate of Women's Rights, Author: <i>The Good Earth</i>	<b>27</b>   <b>Jovita Idár</b> 20th c. Latina Journalist, Civil Rights Activist	<b>28</b>   <b>Sr. Marjorie Tuite, OP</b> Catholic Activist	<b>29</b>   <b>Shamita Das Dasgupta</b> Indian Scholar, Social Activist
<b>30</b>   <b>Lena Horne</b> Civil Right Activist, Singer, Actor						



# Mary's Pence Grants



## Germantown Residents for Economic Alternatives Together

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

***GREAT*** is committed to food security and justice.

*Germantown Residents for Economic Alternatives Together, GREAT, is a grassroots neighborhood organization, primarily volunteer-operated, that works on building community and addressing social justice in various ways. GREAT supports its members around housing, such as deed-related issues, and creates a culture of fighting displacement and other injustices. GREAT also has a Food & Seeds program, which advocates for food security by teaching neighbors at-home gardening techniques and forming a cooperative gardening club.*



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# July/Julio 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>   <b>Harriet Beecher Stowe</b> Abolitionist, Author: <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>	<b>2</b>   <b>Herlina Hakim</b> Indonesian Actor, Activist	<b>3</b>   <b>Angela Eunjin Oh</b> Civil Rights Attorney	<b>4</b>   <b>Women Heroes of the American Revolution</b>	<b>5</b>   <b>Anna Hedgman</b> Civil Rights Activist, Author: <i>The Gift of Chaos</i>	<b>6</b>   <b>St. Maria Goretti</b> Martyr and Woman of Forgiveness
				Independence Day		Muharram begins at sundown
<b>7</b>   <b>Luisa Moreno</b> Guatemalan Labor Activist in the US	<b>8</b>   <b>Eunice Kennedy Shriver</b> Founder: Special Olympics	<b>9</b>   <b>Alice Paul</b> Women's Rights Activist, Original Author of the Equal Rights Amendment	<b>10</b>   <b>First Meeting of the Women's Political Caucus (1971)</b> Non-partisan Group Supporting Women Candidates	<b>11</b>   <b>Lady Bird Johnson</b> First Lady (1963-1969), Advocated for Beautification of Highways	<b>12</b>   <b>Mary Eliza Mahoney</b> 1st Black Nurse in the US	<b>13</b>   <b>Frida Kahlo</b> 20th c. Mexican Painter
		Martyrdom of the Bab				
<b>14</b>   <b>St. Kateri Tekakwitha</b> 1st North American Indigenous Saint	<b>15</b>   <b>Violette Neatley Anderson</b> 1st Black Woman Attorney to Argue Before SCOTUS	<b>16</b>   <b>Ida B. Wells</b> 19th c. Journalist, Founder: NAACP	<b>17</b>   <b>Hannah Szenes</b> Hungarian Poet, Worked to Save Hungarian Jews	<b>18</b>   <b>Remember the Arizona Copper Mine Strike of 1983</b>	<b>19</b>   <b>Mary Ann Bickerdyke</b> Union Nurse, Advocate for Veterans	<b>20</b>   <b>Eulalia Arrila de Pérez</b> 19th c. Keeper of the Keys at Mission San Gabriel, Healer, Midwife
<b>21</b>   <b>Hortense Sparks Ward</b> Early 20th c. Civil Rights Activist	<b>22</b>   <b>St. Mary of Magdala</b> Disciple of Jesus of Nazareth	<b>23</b>   <b>Nancy Mairs</b> Author: <i>Waist High in the World</i>	<b>24</b>   <b>Amelia Earhart</b> Aviator, Adventurer	<b>25</b>   <b>Mev Puleo</b> Photo Journalist, Author: <i>The Struggle Is One</i>	<b>26</b>   <b>St. Anne</b> Mother of Mary of Nazareth	<b>27</b>   <b>Linda Richards</b> 1st Professionally Trained Nurse in US
<b>28</b>   <b>Mary Luke Tobin</b> Advocate for Peace and Justice, Mary's Pence Founding Board Member	<b>29</b>   <b>St. Mary of Bethany</b> Devoted Friend of Jesus of Nazareth	<b>30</b>   <b>Antonia Hernández</b> Social Activist, Philanthropist	<b>31</b>   <b>Azar Nafisi</b> Author: <i>Reading Lolita in Tehran</i>			



# ESPERA Program



## Alianza de Mujeres Organizadas de El Salvador (AMOS)

*Tejutepeque, El Salvador*

There's strength in alliances: AMOS and women's economic development.

*Alianza de Mujeres Organizadas de El Salvador* was established in 2013 and has 46 members. It develops alliances that enhance women's economic, social, political and cultural development.

The members in the photo work on different economic initiatives, including shops, bakeries, agriculture, and clothing sales. They give special attention to emotional health when they gather for meetings and training.


The group meets regularly to hear about each woman's business and provide new loans from their lending pool. At this meeting in September of 2022, Mabel (first to the left) was introduced to members as the new leader of the Mary's Pence ESPERA program.



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# August/Agosto 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1   Henrietta Lacks</b> Cancer Patient, Subject of Book: <i>The Immortal Cells of Henrietta Lacks</i>	<b>2   Jewell Jackson McCabe</b> Feminist, Social Activist	<b>3   Flannery O'Connor</b> 20th c. Author: Wise Blood
<b>4   Isabel Allende</b> Chilean American Author: <i>The House of Spirits</i>	<b>5   St. Mary Ellen McKillop, RSJ</b> 19th c. Australian Educator of the Poor	<b>6   Susie King Taylor</b> 1st Black Army Nurse	<b>7   Lydia Villa-Komaroff</b> Biologist, Advocate for Women in STEM Careers	<b>8   Sr. Maureen Gallagher, OP</b> Mary's Pence Founder 	<b>9   St. Teresa Benedicta (Edith Stein)</b> Theologian, Martyred at Auschwitz  <i>International Day of Indigenous People</i>	<b>10   Geraldine Ferraro</b> 1st Woman Nominated for the Vice Presidency
<b>11   St. Clare of Assisi</b> Founder: Poor Clares in the Franciscan Tradition	<b>12   Alexa Canady, MD</b> 1st Black Neurosurgeon  <i>Tisha B'Av begins at sundown</i>	<b>13   Sr. Maude Petre</b> British Theologian, Author: <i>Modernism, Its Failure and Fruits</i>	<b>14   Sr. Irene Fitzgibbon</b> 19th c. Founder: New York City Foundling Hospital	<b>15   Edna Ferber</b> Pulitzer Prize Winning Author: <i>So Big</i>  <i>Assumption of Mary</i>	<b>16   Marilyn Joy Waring</b> Feminist Economist, Author: <i>If Women Counted</i>	<b>17   Raïssa Maritain</b> Early 20th c. Philosopher and Poet
<b>18   Sojourner Truth</b> Abolitionist, Feminist, Famous Speech: <i>Ain't I a Woman?</i>	<b>19   Simone Weil</b> 20th c. Mystic, Philosopher, Author: <i>Waiting on God</i>	<b>20   Carolee Schneemann</b> Contemporary Visual Artist	<b>21   Alice Garg</b> Advocate for Abolishing the Caste System in India	<b>22   Willa Beatrice Player</b> 20th c. Educator, Civil Rights Activist	<b>23   St. Rose of Lima</b> 16th c. Peruvian Sister who Ministered to the Poor	<b>24   Clara Maass</b> 19th c. Nurse who Sacrificed her Health to Study Yellow Fever
<b>25   Sumi Haru</b> Actress, Advocate for Equal Rights for Asian Actors	<b>26   US Women Get the Right to Vote (1920)</b>  <i>Women's Equality Day</i>	<b>27   St. Monica of Hippo</b> Patron of Mothers	<b>28   Lydia of Philippi</b> Early Christian Leader and Benefactor	<b>29   Tz'u-his</b> 19th c. Regent of China	<b>30   Sr. Jeanne Jugan</b> 19th c. Founder: Little Sisters of the Poor	<b>31   Dr. Maria Zavala Valladares</b> Activist for Latina Access to Medical Careers



# Mary's Pence Grants



## National Equal Justice Association (NEJA)

*San Francisco, California*

Fighting for clean water and health in the San Francisco Bay community.

*National Equal Justice Association* secures equal justice for poor and minority workers and their families struggling to obtain fair wages, nutritional food, health care, clean and affordable water, and safe working and living conditions. Mary's Pence's second grant advanced *NEJA*'s Bayview Hunters Point campaign to raise awareness about the water contamination affecting the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard neighbors' health and the entire San Francisco Bay community.



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# September/Septiembre 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b>   <b>Ela Ramesh Bhatt</b> Indian Advocate for Women's Rights	<b>2</b>   <b>Annie and Sarah Delaney</b> Civil Rights Pioneers, Authors: <i>Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters' First Hundred Years</i>  Labor Day	<b>3</b>   <b>St. Teresa of Calcutta</b> Nobel Prize Winner, Cared for the Sick and Poor of India	<b>4</b>   <b>Gertrud Heinzelmann</b> 20th c. Swiss Feminist	<b>5</b>   <b>Give Us Bread and Roses Textile Strike (1912)</b>	<b>6</b>   <b>Jane Adams</b> 19th c. Women's Rights and Peace Leader  Ganesh Vhaturi	<b>7</b>   <b>Kiran Bedi</b> 1st Woman to Join the Indian Police Service
<b>8</b>   <b>Nativity of Mary of Nazareth</b>  Grandparents' Day	<b>9</b>   <b>Louise Patterson</b> 20th c. Political Activist	<b>10</b>   <b>Lillian Wald</b> Early 20th c. Nurse, Human Rights Activist  World Suicide Prevention Day	<b>11</b>   <b>Remember Worldwide Victims of Terrorism</b>	<b>12</b>   <b>Ngoan Le</b> Founder: Asian American Institute	<b>13</b>   <b>Antonia Pantoja, MD</b> 1st Latina Recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom	<b>14</b>   <b>St. Catherine of Genoa</b> 15th c. Mystic, Author: <i>Life and Doctrine</i>
<b>15</b>   <b>Shirley Graham Du Bois</b> Civil Rights Activist  Birth of Muhammad begins at sundown	<b>16</b>   <b>Mary Beth Edelson</b> Activist, Feminist	<b>17</b>   <b>St. Hildegard of Bingen</b> 12th c. Doctor of the Church Mystic, Artist, Healer	<b>18</b>   <b>Helen Zia</b> Activist for Asian LGBTQ+ Rights	<b>19</b>   <b>LaDonna Harris</b> Founder: Americans for Indian Opportunity	<b>20</b>   <b>Billie Jean King</b> Professional Tennis Player, Feminist	<b>21</b>   <b>Ethel Percy Andrus</b> Educator, Elder Rights Activist, Founder of AARP  International Day of Peace
<b>22</b>   <b>Phua Xiong, MD</b> Founder: Quick Urgent Care, First Hmong-Owned Medical Clinic  First Day of Autumn	<b>23</b>   <b>Mary Church Terrell</b> Founding Member of NAACP	<b>24</b>   <b>Dorothy Stang, SND</b> Martyred Advocate for Environmental Justice in Brazil	<b>25</b>   <b>Remember the 16th Street Church Bombing by the KKK</b> Victims: Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson and Carol McNair	<b>26</b>   <b>Mary Brave Bird</b> Lakota Activist for Indigenous Rights	<b>27</b>   <b>Liu Sola</b> Chinese Musician	<b>28</b>   <b>Ada Deer</b> Asst. Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs (1993-1997)
<b>29</b>   <b>Gabriela Silang</b> 18th c. Leader in Filipino Movement for Freedom from Spain	<b>30</b>   <b>Ruth Cheney Streeter</b> Advocate for Women's Rights					



# ESPERA Program



## Asociación de Mujeres Rurales "Olga Estela Moreno" (ASMUR)

*Tecoluca, El Salvador*

Rural women from El Salvador organize against violence.

*Asociación de Mujeres Rurales "Olga Estela Moreno," ASMUR, is a group of rural and agricultural women who fight for equality and promote the participation of more women in defense of their rights. They focus on the prevention and eradication of violence against women and increasing women's economic security.*

They started their work with women in 1995 along the coastal region in reaction to the violence that rural and demobilized women were experiencing after the armed conflict in El Salvador during the 80s.

The woman in the photo is Maritza, one of the founding members of ASMUR. She grows corn and raises chickens and goats at her small farm.



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# October/Octubre 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b>   <b>St. Thérèse of Lisieux</b> Doctor of the Church, Mystic	<b>2</b>   <b>Käthe Kollwitz</b> German Artist Whose Works Depict the Impact of Poverty and War  Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown	<b>3</b>   <b>Penny Lernoux</b> Champion of Latin American Poor  Navratri	<b>4</b>   <b>Kek Galabru, MD</b> Cambodian Defender of Human Rights	<b>5</b>   <b>Maya Lin</b> Designer of Vietnam Veterans Memorial
<b>6</b>   <b>Rosalie Muschel-Reinhardt</b> Mary's Pence Founding Board Member 	<b>7</b>   <b>Our Lady of the Rosary</b>	<b>8</b>   <b>Vilma Martínez</b> Civil Rights Activist	<b>9</b>   <b>St. Mary Joseph Rogers</b> Founder: Maryknoll Sisters	<b>10</b>   <b>Aparna Basnyat</b> Humanitarian and Reformer	<b>11</b>   <b>Eleanor Roosevelt</b> First Lady (1933-1945), Humanitarian  International Day of the Girl Child Yom Kippur begins at sundown	<b>12</b>   <b>Ann Petry</b> Author: <i>The Street</i>  Dussehra
<b>13</b>   <b>Mary Williams</b> Equal Rights Activist, Author: <i>The Lost Daughter, A Memoir</i>	<b>14</b>   <b>Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz</b> 17th c. Mystic, Poet  Indigenous Peoples' Day	<b>15</b>   <b>St. Teresa of Ávila</b> Doctor of the Church, Mystic, Author: <i>The Interior Castle</i>  International Day of Rural Women	<b>16</b>   <b>Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins</b> Indigenous Tribal Leader, Author: <i>Life Among the Paiutes: Their Wrongs and Their Claims</i>  Sukkot begins at sundown	<b>17</b>   <b>Mae Carol Jenison</b> 1st Black Woman to Travel in Space	<b>18</b>   <b>Violeta Barrio de Chamorro</b> Leader of Nicaragua (1991-1997), Brought Contra War to a Close	<b>19</b>   <b>Ellen Malcolm</b> Advocate for Equality, Founder: EMILY'S Lis
<b>20</b>   <b>Sisters Martyred in Liberia:</b> Mary Kolmer, Shirley Kolmer, Kathleen McGuire, Agnes Mueller, Barbara Muttrat	<b>21</b>   <b>St. Ursula</b> 4th c. Martyr	<b>22</b>   <b>Barbara C. Harris</b> 1st Woman to Become an Anglican Bishop	<b>23</b>   <b>Shahla Sherkat</b> Iranian Publisher  Shemini Atzeret begins at sundown	<b>24</b>   <b>Barbara Rouse</b> Chief Justice of the Superior Court of MA (2004-2009)  Simchat Torah begins at sundown	<b>25</b>   <b>Irene Sendler</b> Nurse who Served in Polish Underground in WWII	<b>26</b>   <b>Juliette Gordon Low</b> Founder: Girl Scouts
<b>27</b>   <b>Carrie Chapman Catt</b> Early 20th c. Suffragist	<b>28</b>   <b>Elizabeth Cady Stanton</b> Suffragist, Abolitionist	<b>29</b>   <b>Maxine Hong Kingston</b> Chinese American Author: <i>The Woman Warrior</i>	<b>30</b>   <b>Abigail Adams</b> Founding Mother of the US	<b>31</b>   <b>Catherine Hoffman</b> Founder: Youth Peace and Justice Corps  Halloween Diwali		

# Mary's Pence Grants



## Tight Lipped

*Evanston, Illinois*

How Tight Lipped is raising awareness and advocating through storytelling.

*Tight Lipped* is a grassroots organization by and for people with chronic vulvovaginal and pelvic pain, working to destigmatize these conditions. Through storytelling, they advocate for correct diagnosis, effective treatment, and compassionate care. They are working to ensure physicians are trained on this issue.



In 2023, *Tight Lipped* built and established its first chapters in four new cities: New Haven, Connecticut; Los Angeles; San Diego; and New York City. Each chapter has its own leadership team that organizes community events, strategizes for their advocacy campaign, and works together to fight for better care for people living with vulvovaginal pain in their city. The image is from the "Building Patient Power" workshop in Los Angeles in October 2023.



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# November/Noviembre 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1   Olympe de Gouges</b> 18th c. French Feminist, Abolitionist  <i>Birth of the Bab begins at sundown</i> Día de los Muertos All Saints' Day	<b>2   Rosemary Radford Ruether</b> Feminist Theologian, Mary's Pence Founding Board Member  All Souls' Day
<b>3   Anne Knight</b> 19th c. Feminist, Abolitionist  <i>Birth of Baha'u'llah</i> Daylight Saving Ends	<b>4   Sr. Janemarie Luecke</b> Mary's Pence Founding Board Member 	<b>5   Margaret Cavendish</b> 17th c. British Philosopher, Writer  Election Day	<b>6   Sr. Jeanne Chézard de Matel</b> 17th c. Mystic	<b>7   Marie Curie</b> Nobel Prize in Physics and Chemistry	<b>8   Fanny Kemble</b> Author: Journal of a Residence on a Georgian Plantation in 1838-1839	<b>9   Diana L. Hayes</b> Theologian Specializing in Womanist and Black Theology
<b>10   Lynda Van Devanter</b> National Women's Director of the Vietnam Veterans of America	<b>11   Sr. Catherine McAuley</b> 19th c. Founder: Sisters of Mercy  Veteran's Day	<b>12   Mary Astell</b> Feminist, Author: <i>A Serious Proposal to the Ladies</i>	<b>13   Juliana Dogbadzi</b> Advocated to Abolish Religious Slavery in Ghana	<b>14   Julia and Celina Ramos</b> Martyred in El Salvador	<b>15   Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace (2003)</b> Organized by Crystal Roh Gauding, Leymah Gbowee, Comfort Freeman	<b>16   Margaret Hassan</b> Aid Worker in Iraq  International Day of Tolerance
<b>17   Winson Hudson</b> Civil Rights Activist	<b>18   Wilma Mankiller</b> Chief of Cherokee Nation (1985-1995)	<b>19   Emma Lazarus</b> 19th c. Author: <i>The New Colossus</i>	<b>20   Nora Kizer Bell</b> Proposed a Feminist Perspective to Medical Ethics  <i>Transgender Day of Remembrance</i>	<b>21   Presentation of Mary</b>	<b>22   St. Cecelia</b> 4th c. Musician, Martyr	<b>23   Our Lady of Peace</b> Mary of Nazareth, Bringer of Peace
<b>24   Las Mariposas</b> The Maribal Sisters, Martyred Opposing Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic	<b>25   International Elimination of Violence Against Women Day</b>  <i>International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women</i>	<b>26   Emma Goldman</b> 20th c. Speaker and Writer on Women's Rights	<b>27   Dorothy Day</b> Pacifist, Advocate for the Poor, Author: <i>The Long Loneliness</i>	<b>28   Mary Walker, MD</b> Civil War Surgeon  Thanksgiving	<b>29   Shirley Chisholm</b> 1st Black Woman in Congress	<b>30   Elizabeth Kenny</b> 20th c. Pioneer of Physical Therapy



# ESPERA Program



## Red de Mujeres Morelenses por una Economía Solidaria

*Morelos, Mexico*

Cultivating community with monthly meetings and workshops.

*Red de Mujeres Morelenses*, located in Cuernavaca, Mexico, joined the ESPERA program in 2010. The group's primary goal is to promote women's economic empowerment as an essential factor in eradicating poverty.

In the photo, you can see them during one of their monthly meetings. On this particular occasion, they organized a workshop exploring "superfoods." They learned more about nutritious and wholesome ingredients as they prepared a heartwarming bowl of wheat Pozole.



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December/Diciembre 2024

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
1	<b>Rosa Parks</b> Civil Rights Activist	2	<b>Jean Donovan, Maura Clark, Dorothy Kazel, Ita Ford</b> Maryknoll Sisters Martyred in El Salvador	3	<b>Patty Mink</b> Advocate for Women and the Poor	4	<b>Edith Cavell</b> Nurse in WWI, Executed as a POW	5	<b>Remember the Alabama Bus Boycott (1955)</b>	6	<b>Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ</b> Feminist Theologian	7	<b>Cynthia Maung</b> Physician, Humanitarian
First Sunday of Advent													
8	<b>Sr. Mary Aloysia Hardey</b> Catholic Educator	9	<b>Ruby Dee</b> Entertainer, Civil Rights Activist	10	<b>Emily Dickinson</b> 19th c. Poet	11	<b>Marie-Marguerite d'Youville</b> Founder: Sisters of Charity, Montreal	12	<b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b> Patron of the Americas	13	<b>Ella Baker</b> Civil Rights Activist	14	<b>Catherine de Hueck Doherty</b> Social Worker, Founder: Madonna House
Immaculate Conception Buddha's Enlightenment				International Human Rights Day				Our Lady of Guadalupe					
15	<b>Senai Sarihan</b> Malaysian Human Rights Attorney	16	<b>Margaret Mead</b> Anthropologist	17	<b>Amy Carmichael</b> 20th Century Missionary to India	18	<b>Clara Hale</b> Humanitarian, Cared for Orphans	19	<b>Sacagawea</b> Indigenous Guide for Lewis and Clark	20	<b>Madam C.J. Walker</b> Entrepreneur, Philanthropist	21	<b>Emma Tenayuca</b> Latina Labor Leader
		Las Posadas Begins										First Day of Winter	
22	<b>St. Frances Cabrini</b> Founder: Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart	23	<b>Sr. Mary Antoinette, DW</b> Missionary, Martyr in Africa	24	<b>Hortense Powdermaker</b> Anthropologist	25	<b>Mary Gives Birth to Jesus</b>	26	<b>Our Lady of Chiquinquirá</b> Patron of the Andean Region of South America	27	<b>Eve Ensler</b> Feminist Activist, Playwright: <i>The Vagina Monologues</i>	28	<b>Arundhati Roy</b> Author: <i>The God of Small Things</i>
				Christmas Eve		First Day of Hanukkah begins at sundown Christmas		First Day of Kwanzaa					
29	<b>Sr. Thea Bowman</b> Educator, Scholar, Evangelist	30	<b>Remember Families Living in Poverty</b>	31	<b>Sr. Marie Neal, SND</b> Sociologist								
				New Year's Eve									