

TWO 2016 US TOURS COMMEMORATE THE CUBAN LITERACY CAMPAIGN OF 1961

In 1960, Fidel Castro announced at the United Nations that Cuba would eradicate illiteracy in one year's time. In 1961 the National Cuban Literacy Campaign was launched and in that year the promise was fulfilled. The campaign called on the Cuban people of all ages to volunteer as teachers in this campaign, and many participants were girls and young women who left home for the first time to travel in literacy brigades that lived and worked with people needing literacy skills in communities all over Cuba. In that one year, literacy rose to 96%. Today, Cuba's literacy rate is 99.8%. The National Literacy Museum documents the history of the campaign as well as ongoing international efforts to eradicate illiteracy through the Yo Si Puedo Program.



Resources:

www.maestratefilm.org

Catherine Murphy's award winning film, *Maestra*, is useful to show in conjunction with Literacy Campaign tours.

Luisa Campos Gallardo 2016 US Tour

Luisa Campos, MA in Education, has 48 years of experience as a university professor, for most of that time at the José Enrique Varona Pedagogical University. She has taught literacy at undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels, as well as teaching special courses in the areas of Cuban history, ethics, the teachings of José Martí, adult education, and various issues within literacy studies. She has been a significant leader with the Yo Si Puedo program, teaching methodological seminars in Cuba and abroad, training teachers who will run and advise the program in many countries. She currently directs Cuba's National Literacy Museum, which is a repository for history, treasures and mementos of the campaign.

APRIL

- April 22 Invited participant Days of Action for Cuba in Washington, DC
(Unable to participate due to travel visa delay by US State Department)
- April 23 Travel HAV-MIA and MIA-Cleveland
- April 24 - 26 Penn State Behrend - Erie, PA (Contact: Jessica Piney <jup33@ucs.psu.edu>)
- April 27 - 29 Event at Penn State @ Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy, Lifelong Learning and Adult Education Program - University Park, PA (Contact: Dr Esther Prins <esp150@psu.edu>)

MAY

- May 1 Memphis (Contact: Kimberly Waller <nyearb@yahoo.com>)
- May 2 - 5 University of Memphis (Contact: Sharon Wrobel <swrobel@memphis.edu>)
- May 5 - 10 Minneapolis-St. Paul (Contact: Greg Klave & others <gregklave@msn.com>)
- May 10 - 13 Bloomington, IN (Contact: Cynthia Roberts <cynrober@umail.iu.edu>)
- May 13 - 20 STILL OPEN - New Mexico?? Keira Elizabeth Philipp-Schnurer <kphilipp@unm.edu>
- May 20 - 26 Baltimore/DC (Contact: Caridad Morales-Nusa <cnuusa01@gmail.com>)
- May 26-Jun 1 New York City (Contacts: various - LASA underway - parallel events with US Women and Cuba Collaboration & other Cuba organizations Cindy Domingo <cindydomingo@gmail.com>, Victoria Kill <vkill@seattleu.edu>, Jan Strout <peacewomen4ever@yahoo.com> Nataka Moore <NMoore@adler.edu> Moon Vazquez <jmoon57@earthlink.net>)

JUNE

- June 1 - 3 Philadelphia - WILPF / ANSWER Coalition (Contacts:)

June 3 - 6 Cape Cod - WILPF (Contact: Chris Morin Morinchris60@gmail.com)
June 9 - 10 New York/Pastors for Peace (Contact: Manolo De Los Santos
<manolo.enrique@gmail.com>)
June 11 - 14 Chicago (Contacts: Rico Gutstein <gutsteinrico@earthlink.net>, Rita Sacay
<ritasacay@gmail.com>, Steve Ekhart <seckardt@aol.com>)
June 15 - 17 Milwaukee (Contact: Art Heitzer <artheitzer@gmail.com>
June 18 – possible return to Havana, or possibly stay longer depending on additional invites and duration
of US visa; other June date hosting opportunities are possible: contact Catherine Murphy

Griselda Aguilera and Tatiana Rodriguez October 2016 US Tour

Griselda Aguilera is a lifelong educator who answered the call to volunteer as a teacher for the literacy campaign when she was only 7 years old. Perhaps the youngest of all the maestras, she tutored a 58-year old man who lived near her home in Havana.

Tatiana Rodriguez Vergara is an ESL professor at the Center for Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment in Havana, and she is the proud daughter of a literacy campaign teacher from the 1961 campaign.

Tentative tour dates are the first weeks of October.

**Contact Catherine Murphy for information about
hosting opportunities and details regarding both tours.
catherine@theliteracyproject.org**