

CINCO DE MAYO



A Celebration of Mexican Heritage

- ◆ Cinco de Mayo is Spanish for the “Fifth of May”.
- ◆ It is celebrated by Mexicans and Mexican-Americans on May 5th.
- ◆ It is a celebration of the Mexican’s victorious battle (“Batalla de Puebla”) over the French on May 5, 1862.
- ◆ This battle was a great victory for the Mexicans because they defeated the French army that was better armed and much larger.
- ◆ This battle became a symbol of Mexican pride and patriotism.
- ◆ Cinco de Mayo is celebrated differently in different areas of Mexico.

Rigoberta Menchú Tum

- Rigoberta was born January 9, 1959 to a poor Indian peasant family. She was raised in the Mayan culture of Guatemala located south of Mexico.
- At an early age Rigoberta became involved in social reform.
- She worked for social justice and respect for the rights of native Indian peasant peoples.
- She became increasingly unpopular with the military who wanted to control the native peasants.
- In 1981 she went into hiding in Guatemala and then fled to Mexico in fear for her life. She continues to carry out her work from Mexico. She has returned to Guatemala several times to plead for justice for the Indian peasants.
- The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to Rigoberta Menchú Tum in 1992. She has also earned several other international awards for her social reform work.



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION
FAMILY NUTRITION PROGRAM
EXPANDED FOOD AND NUTRITION
EDUCATION PROGRAM

University of Illinois * United States Department of Agriculture * Local Extension Councils Cooperating

University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

The Family Nutrition Program is funded with Food Stamp Administrative funds by the Food, Nutrition & Consumer Services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.