



NOTABLE MINORITIES WHO CHANGED HISTORY

September 12, 2008

Featuring
Sherman J. Alexie

“ The dream he needed most was the dream that frightened him more.”

Quote by Sherman Alexie

Jalapeno Corn Bread

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month here is a quick Jalapeno corn bread recipe using a cornbread mix that would go great with a bowl of chili.

- 1 8.5ounce package of Betty Crocker cornbread mix
- ¾ cup of shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 1 small jalapeno, finely diced, seeds removed
- ¼ cup of frozen corn, thawed

Preheat your oven to 400 degrees.
Follow package directions and add the shredded Monterey Jack cheese, jalapeno and frozen corn. Place into an 8-inch cast iron skillet and cook for 15-20 minutes. Serve warm.

September Dates to Remember:

- 1— Healthy Aging Month (thru September 30)
- 1 - Ramadan
- 9 - Grandparents Day
- 11 - Patriot Day (United States)
- 15 - Hispanic Heritage Month (thru October 15)
- 16- Mexico's Independence Day
- 19- San Gennaro Day (Italian -American)
- 21-27 - Deaf Awareness Week
- 23 - Autumnal Equinox (Japan)
- 26 - Lailat-UI-Quadr (Islamic, Muslim)
- 28 - Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)

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Sherman Alexie

Sherman J. Alexie (1966–) Writer

Sherman J. Alexie was born in October of 1966 as a Spokane/Coeur d'Alene Indian. He grew up on the Spokane Indian Reservation in Wellpinit, Washington. Alexie was born a hydrocephalic, which means he was born with water on the brain. He underwent surgery at the age of six months and was given very little chance to live. When he did exceed the doctor's expectations they believed that he would suffer from severe mental retardation. He did not however develop this side effect, but he did have other side effects such as seizures. Despite all of this Alexie was able to learn to read by the age of three and was reading books such as John Steinbeck's *Grape of Wrath* by the age of five.

When Alexie was a teenager he was issued a textbook with his mother's name in it and at that moment decided to attend a high school off of the reservation. He preceded to attend Reardan High where he knew that he would receive a better education. He was the only Indian attending Reardan, except for the school mascot. While he attended Reardan High he excelled academically and also became a star basketball player.

Alexie graduated in 1985 from Reardan High. He attended Gonzaga University in Spokane on a scholarship. After attending for two years he transferred to Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. Alexie had every intention to become a doctor, but after fainting several times in Anatomy class he realized he needed a career change. By accident Alexie stumbled into a poetry workshop at Washington State. Encouraged by the poetry teacher, Alexie excelled in writing and thus he found his new path.

After Alexie graduated from WSU with a BA in American Studies, he received the Washington State Arts Commission Fellowship in 1991 and the National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Fellowship in 1992. Soon after receiving his second fellowship and only one year out from graduation Alexie published two of his collection of poems, The Business of Fancydancing and I Would Steal Horses.

Since these were published Alexie has become an award winning poet and novelist. He has also dabbled in standup comedy, music, films and even boxing. His gift to enthrall his readers with the skill of his pen that has made him most notable.