



## Nobel Laureate and Indigenous Social Activist Coming To Fayetteville Oct 12th and 13th

According to Robert White, former Ambassador to El Salvador: "If you had to pick one date where US policy towards Latin America went wrong, that date would be 1954 and the place Guatemala." The Ambassador refers to the date that the CIA caused the overthrow of the democratically elected government in Guatemala. The US encouraged the Guatemalan army to take over the country, which resulted in decades of violence and genocide. "Guatemala was unbelievable....200,000 dead that we have accounted for, more than 50,000 missing. Eighty-three percent of those executed and missing were Mayas", recounts Rigoberta Menchu in a video shared by herself and the Ambassador. "The pain is too strong. Our people will never be able to forget."



Rigoberta Menchu  
Nobel Laureate, Peace and Social  
Justice Activist

Born into a poor peasant family, Rigoberta, whose father was a leader supporting the citizens of Guatemala, lost most of her family through torture and assassination by the army. After spending several years constantly moving and staying with friends to escape that fate, she finally fled to Mexico in 1981. There she continued to work for justice in Guatemala. At this point, she told her story to a biographer in a series of interviews, resulting in the book: "I, Rigoberta Menchu", which brought international attention to the atrocities in Guatemala. This book is described by Amazon reviewers in the following way: "Above all, these pages are illuminated by the enduring courage and passionate sense of justice of an extraordinary woman"

In 1992, Rigoberta Menchú Tum was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize "in recognition of her work for social justice and ethno-cultural reconciliation work based on respect for the rights of indigenous peoples in her native Guatemala." She is the first indigenous person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, and one of only a handful of women. Thanks to her efforts and those of other activists, the decades long civil war in Guatemala finally ended.

Currently, she is a lecturer and travels the world as a keynote speaker and representative of PeaceJam, an organization whose mission is "to create young leaders committed to positive change in themselves, their communities and the world through the inspiration of Nobel Peace Laureates who pass on the spirit, skills, and wisdom they embody." She, and twelve other Nobel Laureates, provide what has been praised as award winning curriculum to the young people of today, paving the way for their enactment of "one billion acts of peace".

Rigoberta is coming to Fayetteville as part of the Rockefeller Distinguished Lecturer series and PeaceJam. She will speak and act on behalf of indigenous rights to coincide with Indigenous Rights/Columbus Day. She will be presenting at the University of Arkansas on Oct 12th and Oct 13th. See calendar listings below for more details. Additional information is also available at this link: <http://news.uark.edu/articles/32391/nobel-laureate-rigoberta->

## [Dick Bennett's Blog](#)

OMNI founder, Dick Bennett, presents thought provoking information on peace, justice and ecology.



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## **OMNI Calendar**

### **[How to add an event to the OMNI Calendar;](#)**

- 1. No PDFs please - text only.**
- 2. Please include in the following order: a. What, b. Where, c. When, d. Accurate links to further information, e. Short description.**
- 3. Email to [Omni@omnicenter.org](mailto:Omni@omnicenter.org).**

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Sept 27th - Eco-Feminist Book Forum, **1:00 pm**, OMNI Center.

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Sept 29th - Hog Factory Cesspools Permit Modification, 6pm, Jasper High School Cafetorium, Buffalo River protection groups are requesting as many people as possible to attend.

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**Rescheduled from:** Sept 29th to Oct 20th - Goddess Festival Planning & New Member Orientation, 6:30 to 7:30, OMNI Center. See October 20th entry below.

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Oct 3rd - Spanish Conversation Club, 10-12 noon, Yvonne Richardson Center.

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Oct 4th - Omni 350, 1:30pm, Climate Change, Fayetteville Public Library.  
Discussing: "A Line In The Tar Sands", forward written by Naomi Klein and Bill McKibben.

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Oct 4th - Open Mic For Peace, 7pm to 10 pm, OMNI Center

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Oct 5th - Civil Rights Roundtable, 6:30pm, OMNI Center

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Oct 8th - Women's Support Group, 6pm, OMNI Center

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Oct 8th - Panel on Mayan Activism, Food Sovereignty, Social Justice, and the life of Rigoberta Menchu; 9 am to 3:30 pm, University of Arkansas, Multicultural Center

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Oct 9th - Veterans Appreciation Day, 9am - 1pm, Steel Creek Acupuncture, free acupuncture, massage, haircuts, stress reduction.

<https://www.facebook.com/Steel-Creek-Acupuncture-308937942473615/timeline/>

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Oct 12th - Rigoberta Menchu Walks In Trail of Tears Commemorative Walk, 11am, begins at ARKU Connections Lounge and ends at corner of Stadium Dr and MLK

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Oct 13th - Nobel Peace Prize Awardee, Rigoberta Menchu, Coming to Fayetteville:

- 9 a.m.: Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Q&A presentation Mullins Library Reading Room, University of Arkansas. Free and open to the public
  - 7 to 8:30 p.m.: A Night with Rigoberta Menchú, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation Lecture. Verizon Ballroom Arkansas Union, University of Arkansas. Free and open to public
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Oct 14th - Veggie Potluck, 6pm, OMNI Center

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Oct 17th - Spanish Conversation Club, 10am to 12pm, Yvonne Richardson Center

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Oct 20th - Goddess Festival, 6:30 to 7:30, OMNI Center, The Goddess Festival Planning Circle will be meeting on the third Tuesday of every month to plan next year's Festival. This is an open meeting and everyone, of all genders, is welcome. For more information, contact Gladys Tiffany at the OMNI Center, 479-935-4422

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Oct 22nd - Trash Class, 6:30pm, Fayetteville Library. More details to come

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Oct 23rd - Celebrate the Buffalo River, gala fundraiser,  
<http://www.celebratethebuffalo.com>

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Oct 24th - Roy Zimmerman, Comedian and Musician, OMNI fundraiser

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Rooted Vision Healing Drums - First Sundays 1-5 pm.

**Weekly @ OMNI**

**Spanish Conversation Table** - Every Wednesday, 6pm, El Camino Real  
Restaurant, S. School, Fayetteville

**Quaker Meetings** 9:30 am Sundays. Everyone welcome

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