**Maya Angelou** ([**i**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File%3AEn-us-Maya_Angelou.ogg)[/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English)[ˈmaɪ.ə](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English#Key) [ˈændʒəloʊ](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English#Key)[/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English);[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maya_Angelou#cite_note-1)[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maya_Angelou#cite_note-2) born **Marguerite Annie Johnson**; April 4, 1928 – May 28, 2014) was an American author, poet, dancer, actress and singer. She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, and several books of poetry, and was credited with a list of plays, movies, and television shows spanning over 50 years. She received dozens of awards and more than 50 honorary degrees.[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maya_Angelou#cite_note-whosehonor-3) Angelou is best known for her series of seven autobiographies, which focus on her childhood and early adult experiences. The first, [*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Know_Why_the_Caged_Bird_Sings) (1969), tells of her life up to the age of 17 and brought her international recognition and acclaim.

3. [Laleh Bakhtiar](http://muslima.imow.org/content/islam-inherently-misogynistic%22%20%5Ct%20%22_hplink) is the first American woman to translate the Quran into English and the first woman to present a critical translation of the Quran in any language. She[says](http://muslima.imow.org/content/how-islam-confirms-women%E2%80%99s-rights), "The veil is the wrong thing to be stuck on when discussing Muslim women's rights in Islam. In fact, in many cases, the Quran reinforces a Muslim woman's self-esteem. And Muslim women worldwide are using the Quran to reassert their rights -- rights that have been taken away from them through patriarchal interpretations and laws."

**Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Balkhī** ([Persian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_language): جلال‌الدین محمد بلخى‎), also known as **Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī** (جلال‌الدین محمد رومی),**Mevlana** or **Mawlānā** (مولانا, meaning *Our Master*), **Mevlevi** or **Mawlawī** (مولوی, meaning *My Master*), and more popularly in the English-speaking world simply as **Rumi** (30 September 1207 – 17 December 1273), was a 13th-century [Persian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_people)[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rumi#cite_note-EI-1)[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rumi#cite_note-8) poet, jurist, theologian, and [Sufi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sufism) mystic.[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rumi#cite_note-9) Rumi's influence transcends national borders and ethnic divisions: [Iranians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_people), [Turks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_people), [Cappadocian Greeks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cappadocian_Greeks), [Afghans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghans), [Tajiks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tajiks), other [Central Asian Muslims](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Asian_peoples), and the Muslims of [South Asia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asia) have greatly appreciated his spiritual legacy for the past seven centuries.[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rumi#cite_note-Nasr1-10) His poems have been widely translated into many of the world's languages and transposed into various formats. He has been described as the "most popular poet in America"[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rumi#cite_note-BBC-Haviland-11) and the "best selling poet in the US".[[12]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rumi#cite_note-BBC_Culture-12)[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rumi#cite_note-Time-13)

**Aleksandar Hemon** (born September 9, 1964)[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aleksandar_Hemon%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-1) is a [Bosnian American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bosnian_American) fiction writer, essayist, and critic. He is the winner of a[MacArthur Foundation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_D._and_Catherine_T._MacArthur_Foundation) grant. He has written five books: *The Book of My Lives* (New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2013); *Love and Obstacles: Stories* (New York: [Riverhead Books](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riverhead_Books), 2009); *The Lazarus Project: A Novel* (New York: [Riverhead Books](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riverhead_Books), 2008), which was a finalist for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Awards, and was named as a [*New York Times*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Times)Notable Book and [New York magazine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_magazine)'s No. 1 Book of the Year; [*Nowhere Man*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nowhere_Man_%28Hemon_novel%29) (New York: Nan A. Talese/Doubleday, 2002), also a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award; and *The Question of Bruno: Stories* (New York: Nan A. Talese/Doubleday, 2000). He frequently publishes in [*The New Yorker*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_Yorker), and has also written for [*Esquire*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esquire_%28magazine%29), [*The Paris Review*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Paris_Review), the Op-Ed page of the [*New York Times*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Times), and the Sarajevo magazine [*BH Dani*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BH_Dani).

**Malala Yousafzai** (*Malālah Yūsafzay*, [Pashto](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pashto_language): ملاله یوسفزۍ‎ [[məˈlaːlə jusəf ˈzəj]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA);[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malala_Yousafzai#cite_note-1) born 12 July 1997)[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malala_Yousafzai#cite_note-2)[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malala_Yousafzai#cite_note-Class_dismissed-3) is a [Pakistani](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) [activist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Activism) for[female education](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Female_education) and the youngest-ever [Nobel Prize](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Prize) laureate.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malala_Yousafzai#cite_note-4) She is known mainly for [human rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights) advocacy for [education](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Right_to_education) and for [women](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_rights) in her native [Swat Valley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swat_Valley) in the [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa) province of northwest Pakistan, where the local [Taliban](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tehrik-i-Taliban_Pakistan) had at times[banned girls from attending school](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taliban_treatment_of_women). Yousafzai's advocacy has since grown into an international movement.

**Maya Ying Lin** (born October 5, 1959) is an American designer and artist who is known for her work in [sculpture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sculpture) and [landscape art](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landscape_art). She came to fame as the designer of the [Vietnam Veterans Memorial](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_Veterans_Memorial) in Washington, D.C. and has gone on to pursue a remarkable career in art and architecture, while continuing her interest in memorials.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maya_Lin#cite_note-NYTimesPeople-1)

**Yitzhak Rabin** ([Hebrew](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_language): יצחק רבין; IPA: [[jitsˈχak ʁaˈbin]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_Hebrew) ( [listen](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/eb/He-Yitzhak_Rabin.ogg)); 1 March 1922 – 4 November 1995) was an [Israeli](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_Jews) politician, statesman and general. He was the [fifth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Prime_Ministers_of_Israel) [Prime Minister of Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Israel), serving two terms in office, 1974–77 and 1992 until [his assassination](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assassination_of_Yitzhak_Rabin) in 1995.

In 1992, Rabin was re-elected as prime minister on a platform embracing the [Israeli–Palestinian peace process](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian_peace_process). He signed several historic agreements with the Palestinian leadership as part of the [Oslo Accords](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oslo_Accords). In 1994, Rabin won the [Nobel Peace Prize](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Peace_Prize) together with long-time political rival [Shimon Peres](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shimon_Peres) and Palestinian leader [Yasir Arafat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yasir_Arafat%22%20%5Co%20%22Yasir%20Arafat). In November 1995, he was [assassinated](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assassination_of_Yitzhak_Rabin) by a right-wing Israeli radical named [Yigal Amir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yigal_Amir%22%20%5Co%20%22Yigal%20Amir), who was opposed to the peace process.

Rabin was the first [native-born](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabra_%28person%29) prime minister of Israel, the only prime minister to be assassinated and the second to die in office after [Levi Eshkol](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levi_Eshkol). Rabin has become a symbol of the Israeli–Palestinian peace process.

**Eliezer "Elie" Wiesel** [KBE](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_the_British_Empire) ([/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English)[ˈɛli](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English#Key) [v](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English%22%20%5Cl%20%22Key%22%20%5Co%20%22Help%3AIPA%20for%20English)[ɨˈzɛl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English#Key)[/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English); born September 30, 1928)[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elie_Wiesel#cite_note-britannica.com-1) is a [Romanian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romania)-born[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elie_Wiesel#cite_note-2) [Jewish-American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Jews)[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elie_Wiesel#cite_note-britannica.com-1) professor and political activist. He is the author of 57 books, including [*Night*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Night_%28book%29), a work based on his experiences as a prisoner in the [Auschwitz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auschwitz_concentration_camp), Buna, and[Buchenwald](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buchenwald_concentration_camp) [concentration camps](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concentration_camp).[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elie_Wiesel#cite_note-AP-3) Wiesel is also the Advisory Board chairman of the newspaper *[Algemeiner Journal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algemeiner_Journal%22%20%5Co%20%22Algemeiner%20Journal)*.

When Wiesel was awarded the [Nobel Peace Prize](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Peace_Prize) in 1986, the [Norwegian Nobel Committee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norwegian_Nobel_Committee) called him a "messenger to mankind," stating that through his struggle to come to terms with "his own personal experience of total humiliation and of the utter contempt for humanity shown in [Hitler](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adolf_Hitler)'s death camps," as well as his "practical work in the cause of peace," Wiesel had delivered a powerful message "of peace, atonement and human dignity" to humanity.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elie_Wiesel#cite_note-4)

**Mickey Mouse** is a [funny animal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Funny_animal) [cartoon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animated_cartoon) [character](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fictional_character) and the official [mascot](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mascot) of [The Walt Disney Company](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Walt_Disney_Company). He was created by [Walt Disney](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walt_Disney) and [Ub Iwerks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ub_Iwerks%22%20%5Co%20%22Ub%20Iwerks) at the [Walt Disney Studios](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walt_Disney_Animation_Studios) in 1928. An [anthropomorphic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthropomorphism) mouse who typically wears red shorts, large yellow shoes, and white gloves, Mickey has become one of the most recognizable cartoon characters in the world.

**John Ono Lennon**, [MBE](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Member_of_the_Order_of_the_British_Empire), born **John Winston Lennon**; (9 October 1940 – 8 December 1980), was an English musician, singer and songwriter who rose to worldwide fame as a founder member of the rock band [the Beatles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Beatles), the most commercially successful band in the history of popular music. With [Paul McCartney](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_McCartney), he formed a [songwriting partnership](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lennon%E2%80%93McCartney) that is one of the most celebrated of the 20th century.

**Zilha Bajraktarević**[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silvana_Armenuli%C4%87%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-1) (10 February 1938 – 10 October 1976), known professionally as **Silvana Armenulić** (pronounced [[silvǎːna armɛ̌nulit͡ɕ]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_Serbo-Croatian)), was a [Yugoslav](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yugoslavia) singer-songwriter and actress from [Bosnia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bosnia) and one of the most prominent commercial folk music and traditional [sevdalinka](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sevdalinka%22%20%5Co%20%22Sevdalinka) singers in [Yugoslavia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SFRY).[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silvana_Armenuli%C4%87#cite_note-2) She is called the "The Queen of Sevdalinka".[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silvana_Armenuli%C4%87#cite_note-3)[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silvana_Armenuli%C4%87#cite_note-4)[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silvana_Armenuli%C4%87#cite_note-5) Her life was cut short when she died in a road accident at the age of 38, but she continues to be well regarded in the region and she is recognized for her unique singing style and voice. Armenulić's song "Šta će mi život", written by her friend and contemporary [Toma Zdravković](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toma_Zdravkovi%C4%87%22%20%5Co%20%22Toma%20Zdravkovi%C4%87), is one of the best-selling singles from the former Yugoslavia.

**AISHA FUKUSHIMA** is a singer, educator, writer and selfproclaimed 'RAPtivist' (rap activist). She has lived and engaged in hip hop communities in France, Japan, Morocco, England, South Africa, Senegal, India and Denmark. Leader of a global 'RAPtivism' (rap activism) project, Aisha works to raise awareness around the intersections between hip hop and social justice. Her RAPtivism work has been featured in publications such as Oprah Magazine, The Bangalore Mirror and HYPE : South Africa's #1 Hip Hop Magazine.

**Edin Dervišhalidović** (pronounced [[ědin derʋiʃxaːlǐdoʋitɕ]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_Serbo-Croatian); born 12 September 1962), known by his stage name **Dino Merlin**(pronounced [[dǐːno měrlin]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_Serbo-Croatian)), is a prominent [Bosnian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bosnians) [singer-songwriter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Singer-songwriter), musician, and producer. He is considered[[*by whom?*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AManual_of_Style/Words_to_watch#Unsupported_attributions)] to be one of the most prominent and commercially successful artists from Bosnia and Herzegovina and is also widely popular in the other countries of the [former Yugoslavia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Former_Yugoslavia). He is also famous amongst the Bosnian and ex-Yugoslav diaspora communities in the United States, [Turkey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey), [Norway](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norway), [Sweden](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweden), Germany, [Bulgaria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulgaria), and Austria.

**Bugs Bunny** is an [animated cartoon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animated_cartoon) character, created by the staff of [Leon Schlesinger Productions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warner_Bros._Cartoons) (later [Warner Bros. Cartoons](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warner_Bros._Cartoons)) and [voiced](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voice_acting) originally by the "Man of a Thousand Voices," [Mel Blanc](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mel_Blanc).[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bugs_Bunny#cite_note-2) Bugs is best known for his starring roles in the[*Looney Tunes*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Looney_Tunes) and [*Merrie Melodies*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merrie_Melodies) series of animated [short films](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Short_film), produced by [Warner Bros.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warner_Bros.) during the [golden age of American animation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_age_of_American_animation). His popularity during this era led to his becoming an American [cultural icon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_icon), as well as a corporate [mascot](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mascot) of [Warner Bros. Entertainment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warner_Bros.).[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bugs_Bunny#cite_note-3)