

EL CENTRO de LA RAZA

Verano/Summer 2006

El Centro de la Raza

2524 16th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98144
www.elcentrodelaraza.org 206.957.4605

Free Latino & New American Homebuyer Fair!

By Leilani Finau, Homeownership Counselor

Don't miss the upcoming **Latino & New American Homebuyer Fair 2006 on Saturday, August 19, 2006 from 11:00am to 4:00pm at El Centro de la Raza!** This is a great opportunity to learn about homeownership and meet industry professionals. We will have workshops and presentations from lenders, FREE food, children's activities, entertainment, piñatas for kids and adults, and a raffle! Please call 206.957.4610 to pre-register for the fair and receive your FREE raffle ticket for one of our great prizes! Eligible first time homebuyers may even win a major home appliance!

The El Centro de la Raza Homeownership Program provides FREE One-on-One Counseling & Educational Workshops. These include a 5-hour First Time Homebuyer Seminar, sponsored by the Washington State Housing Finance Commission, and Financial Literacy Workshops that cover topics like Building & Maintaining Good Credit, Budgeting, Saving and more. We can also help identify Down Payment Assistance Programs that are available to eligible First Time Homebuyers to assist with closing costs. Also, for a limited time only, we can run a credit report for FREE for those interested in buying a home. In addition – we are working with lenders to provide a product for residents with a valid Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITIN) or Muslim residents in need of No-Interest Financing (a Co-ownership Model).

Please call 206.957.4610 if you have questions, would like to pre-register for the upcoming fair, or schedule an intake appointment with one of our homeownership counselors.

The Latino & New American Homebuyer Fair 2006
brought to you in part by:

Platinum Sponsor: **Bank of America, Washington Mutual**

Gold Sponsors: **US Bank, BECU**



Traducción por Gabriela Santiago:

¡No te pierdas la próxima **Feria de compradores de casa Latinos y nuevos Americanos 2006 el sábado 19 de agosto de 2006 a partir de la 11:00am a las 4:00pm en El Centro de la Raza!** Ésta es una gran oportunidad para aprender sobre el proceso de compra de una casa y para conocer a profesionales de la industria. ¡Tendremos talleres y presentaciones de los prestamistas, comida gratis, actividades para niños, entretenimiento, piñatas para niños y adultos; y una rifa! Para registrar tu asistencia a la feria llama por favor al 206.957.4610 y recibe tu boleto GRATIS para la rifa de nuestros fantásticos premios! ¡Los compradores de casa primerizos elegibles pueden incluso ganar un gran aparato electrodoméstico!

El programa Compradores de casa de El Centro de la Raza proporciona GRATUITAMENTE Asesoramiento Uno a Uno y Talleres Educativos tales como. El comprador de casa primerizo: Un seminario de cinco horas patrocinado por la Comisión de Financiamiento de Vivienda del Estado de Washington. Talleres de Instrucción Financiera Básica: Los cuales cubren asuntos como. Construir y mantener un buen crédito, Presupuesto, Ahorro y más. También podemos ayudar a identificar Programas de Pagos Menores que estén disponibles para los compradores de casa primerizos elegibles y que les ayuden con el cierre de costos. Además, por un tiempo limitado solamente, podemos dar un informe de crédito gratis y asesorar en cuestiones de crédito. Actualmente estamos trabajando con los prestamistas para proporcionar un producto para residentes con Números de Identificación de Impuestos Individuales válidos (ITIN) o para los residentes Musulmanes que necesitan un financiamiento Sin Interés (un modelo de Co-propiedad).

Llama por favor al 206.957.4610 si tienes preguntas, para preregistrarte para la feria próxima, o programar una cita con uno de nuestros consejeros.

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It Is With Great Sadness...

Told By Raquel Garcia, Senior Program Coordinator

That we mourn the loss of Inez Policar, a long time participant and volunteer in the Senior Program.

Inez began coming to El Centro's Senior Nutrition & Wellness Program in 1983 and also volunteered for 12 years in the program up until the day before her passing.

"Inez had perfect attendance. She was here everyday to volunteer for three hours. She was caring and loving, and very intelligent; she knew everything about anything you asked her. We called her La Abuelita de El Centro, The Grandmother of El Centro, because she was like a mother to everyone," said Raquel, the Senior Program Coordinator.

Inez, who was Jewish, was born in Turkey and



Inez Policar
October 10, 1912 to
June 6, 2006.

migrated to Cuba with her family at a young age and has always considered herself Cuban. She would greet the seniors, register participants and help during check-in for lunch. She was very independent and was known to crack a few jokes. She suffered from asthma for a long time, which may have had a part in her death.

Inez died at the age of 93 after a fall in her home and complications at the hospital. She is survived by her only child, Sara Shames. We will remember you always, Inez.

Make El Centro money by just searching the internet! Through www.goodsearch.com El Centro will get a penny for every search you do from your computer at work or at home through their website which uses the Yahoo! search engine. Go to www.goodsearch.com every time you need to search the internet, select El Centro de la Raza in the "I'm supporting" box. Make www.goodsearch.com your Home Page for easy searching!

El Centro Receives Family Strengthening Award from NCLR

By Ashley Haugen, AmeriCorps*VISTA

The National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States, along with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a national foundation building better futures for disadvantaged children and families, elected El Centro de la Raza as one of five recipients of the 2006 Family Strengthening Award (FSA).

The winners were honored at the 2006 NCLR Annual Conference in Los Angeles on July 8th and El Centro received \$10,000 for the Homeless Assistance Case Management Program for its work in helping families educate themselves financially and become self-sufficient. Lupe Ontiveros of *Desperate Housewives* presented the award to El Centro's Estela Ortega and Graciela Gonzalez.

Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels congratulated El Centro for receiving this

award on July 21st and in his letter wrote, "It is a significant honor, to be recognized by the largest national Latino civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States. The city is pleased to have refunded your Homeless Assistance Case Management Program...We are gratified that this project helps us work together as we carry out the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness."

El Centro works by the philosophy that: children do well when their families do well, and families do better when they live in supportive communities.

Mil gracias to NCLR and the Annie E. Casey Foundation for this great honor! And congratulations to Graciela Gonzalez, Sylvia Rubio, Virginia Culbertson and all the staff members who have helped stabilize and advocate for families.



Homeless Assistance Case Manager, Sylvia Rubio, presenting completion certificates to a family in the program.

"To stabilize a family is more than just taking a family, referring them here and there, and paying for the first and last month's rent. You need to involve them in the community and build a sense of civic engagement."

-Roberto Maestas, Founder and Executive Director

Good-bye and Good Luck!



Roberto, Steve and Ricardo at Steve's farewell party.

El Centro de la Raza says good-bye to Security and Facilities Manager, Steve Erickson. Steve started out as a volunteer at El Centro in the early 1980's and has worked here for 23 years.

Steve took great care in the maintenance and security of the building and has helped many people, both staff and participants, here at El Centro. At his farewell party, many staff members recalled the most tearful and joyous times they shared with Steve.

He will set out for adventures in travel and the outdoors. We wish Steve the best of luck on his journeys and will miss him tremendously! El Centro de la Raza will always be your home Steve.

Graduating Staff & Work-study Students!

El Centro would like to congratulate **Diana Elenes** for completing her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Human Services with Bilingual and Bicultural Specialty at Antioch University and **Maria Luisa Aguilera** for attaining her Bachelor of Science Degrees in Education, transferred from the National Pedagogical University in Mexico.

We'd like to thank the following **Seattle University** work-study students for their hard work at El Centro and congratulate them on graduating this spring: **Ada Mares, Tom Martinell and Pedro Meza**. ¡Buena suerte siempre!



Bachelor Degree Graduates Diana and Maria Luisa with José Martí Director, Hilda Magaña.

New Staff Update



Back: Melissa, Nicole & Noemi.
Front: Aimee, Veronica & Cassie.
(Janet is not pictured here.)

We welcome the following new staff members to El Centro de la Raza:

Noemi Escamilla, Homeownership Education Coordinator

Janet Guzmán, Parent Involvement Coordinator

Veronica Johnson, Frances Martinez Receptionist (Teens in Public Service)

Aimee Khuu, El Día de los Muertos Coordinator (Seattle U. Work-study)

Cassie Martinez, Homeownership Office Assistant (Seattle U. Work-study)

Nicole Rangel, Homeownership Office Assistant (Volunteer)

Melissa Verrilli, Development Associate (Teens in Public Service)

Cristina Jimenez has been promoted to Director of Facilities. Congratulations Cristina!

Welcome New Board Member Elisa Maria Miranda



Elisa is widely known for writing and performing her poetry and has been recognized as a published poet on a local, national and international level. She has been involved with El Centro and social justice issues since age 6 and is a new El Centro Board Member beginning in June.

RECYCLE your old cell phones, print cartridges and more to support our programs and services. Drop them off at El Centro or call 206.957.4611 for more information!

President Fox's Visit to Washington Turns Serious

Told by Roberto Maestas, Executive Director

"The United States appears destined by Providence to plague America with misery in the name of liberty." -Simón Bolívar, August 5, 1829.

Roberto Maestas began his speech with this quote as one of three community leaders selected to present to President Vicente Fox and his delegation, the first lady, Governor Gregoire, and the Mexican media at the Westin Hotel in downtown Seattle in May. Maestas welcomed all to Martin Luther King County and thanked the President for bringing the national focus of the immigration crisis to Seattle. Maestas spoke about the every day reality of immigrant life in the U.S. and shared the tragic story of Saul Garcia, an El Centro employee, who died in an automobile accident after an exhausting day of working three jobs to support his family.

Of the three presenters, the Mexican media reported that Maestas made Fox's visit the most "uncomfortable". Maestas condemned Fox's administration and NAFTA as counter productive to Mexican workers and chastised the president for his divisive election tactics and corrupt Mexican officials.

Fox took the podium and disagreed with most of what Maestas said. Both received standing ovations.

Traducción por Gabriela Santiago:

"Los Estados Unidos parecen destinados por la providencia para plagar la América de miseria a nombre de la libertad." -Simón Bolívar, cinco de agosto, 1829.

Con esta cita de Bolívar, Roberto Maestas empezó su discurso como uno de los tres líderes comunitarios seleccionados para presentarse ante el Presidente Vicente Fox y su delegación, la Primera Dama, el Gobernador Gregoire y los medios de comunicación Mexicanos en el hotel Westin del centro de Seattle. Maestas dio la bienvenida al Condado de Martin Luther y procedió a agradecer al Presidente por traer el foco nacional de la crisis migratoria a Seattle. Habló de la tragedia y realidad diaria de los inmigrantes en Estados Unidos y se recordó de la muerte de Saúl García, un empleado del El Centro, en un accidente automovilístico tras un exhaustivo día de laborar en tres diferentes trabajos para sostener a su familia.

De los tres líderes, Maestas hizo las preguntas más duras, según reportan los representantes de los medios Mexicanos presentes. Él hizo la visita de Fox "incómoda" al condenar su administración del TLC como contraproducente para los trabajadores Mexicanos.

Fox tomó el podio y mostró su desacuerdo hacia casi todo lo que Maestas dijo. Maestas como Fox recibieron ovaciones de pie.



Maestas, Gregoire and Fox in the procession line.

RENT A ROOM! Call 206.957.4601 to reserve space for a meeting, wedding, or other event.

Citizenship Success!

By Norma Cuevas, ESL & Citizenship Coordinator

Over seven years ago, Ricardo came into our office asking for help with his citizenship application. His case involved extra attention and extra paperwork because he had been wrongfully accused of a misdemeanor that stayed on his record and as a result, delayed his citizenship application process. Over the years, Ricardo faced many set backs and was helped by five different El Centro employees, trying to get all of his court documents and extra paperwork in order. He also moved from place to place so it was difficult to contact him.

After doing some follow-up with him and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Ricardo finally received his interview date from USCIS. I called him personally to give him

the news and he came the same day to pick up his interview notice. His problems were not over yet. He expressed his lack of knowledge about the civics questions for the citizenship exam. After finding this out, we quickly placed Ricardo in our ESL & Citizenship classes where he was an active student. With his interview date just around the corner, we also provided him with one-on-one tutoring.

On Thursday, March 16, 2006 Ricardo left a message saying he had passed his exam and received his citizenship! I called him back to congratulate him and he expressed his great appreciation for our program and the help we provided him. He talked about the struggles that he experienced with his application process and was very thankful for the help El Centro provided him. Congratulations Ricardo!

The Racist Roots of Our Immigration Crises (excerpt)

By Enrique Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant

Just because something is said to be legal doesn't necessarily make it right (e.g. slavery, discrimination, or rip-off gas prices). White people in the United States are here, generally speaking, legally. Does that make it right that they took the land of the indigenous inhabitants? Many Latinos and others are here "illegally." Does that make them wrong?

Within its nested environment with its homeland security, the general U.S. population needs to consider the push-and-pull factors behind illegal immigration that the population does not know about. People don't leave their home countries to work long-term out of curiosity or because they are criminals; they do so because they have to.

Some might say immigration isn't the United States' problem and that the immigrants' countries are to blame. However, consider things like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Simply put, NAFTA is a way for corporations to make larger profits with relaxed trade restrictions. Consequently it promotes cheap labor outside of the U.S. As a result, providing a reasonable income to many people in Mexico, for example, has become nearly impossible.

It's sad that in our presumed democracy, which soldiers supposedly die to defend, people who are racist don't even feel like they can speak up about what they really feel. Instead they choose to hide behind laws of the past and systemic racism because it's more socially convenient and politically expedient.

Seattle is but one city that is seeing marches with thousands upon thousands of people showing their unity when they chant "si se puede" (yes we can!). As Latinos we stand behind our united position and do not hide anything. Leaders opposing fair treatment should just come out and say what they really think. We are.

It's amazing to me how so many people can say that Latinos should go through the "proper" procedures if they want to work here. This reminds me of the method through which Caucasian males acquired the majority of the North American continent. I wouldn't exactly call that "proper procedure," and I don't think any of the tens of thousands of people who marched in Seattle on April 10 and May 1 would either. All one has to do is a little bit of research to find that throughout history the United States has failed to follow "procedure." Why the sudden shift to doing things in a "proper" manner?

The answer is simple, but embarrassing to some: convenience and selfishness. What will it take for people in power to be up front about what they think regarding this? Thousands of people in Seattle, and millions around the country, want to know. Do the leaders of this country have the courage to stop hiding behind their rhetoric and start being honest?

Look for Enrique's articles in the Beacon Hill News & South District Journal or visit www.sdistrictjournal.org under the Opinion section.

Traducción por Bridget Barni:

Aunque algo se dice legal, no signifique que sea tambien lo correcto (en ejemplo, la esclavitud, la discriminación, o los timos de precios del petróleo). Generalmente, la gente blanca de los EU. están aquí legalmente. ¿Significa eso que era lo correcto agarrar la tierra de la gente indígena? Mucha gente Latina y muchas otras personas están aquí "ilegalmente." ¿Significa eso que hayan hecho lo incorrecto?

Entre su nido protegido, hecho por el Departamento de Seguridad de Patria, la gente de los EU. deben considerar los desconocidos factores contrarios detrás de las leyes de la inmigración ilegal. La gente no salen de sus países patrias a trabajar largo rato porque sean curiosas o porque sean criminales. Lo hacen porque tienen que hacerlo y porque no les quedan otra opción.

Algunos dirían que la inmigración no es el problema de los Estados Unidos sino que lo de los países de origen de los inmigrantes. Pero considera cosas como el Trato de Libre Comercio de Norte América (NAFTA). Simplemente, NAFTA es una manera para las corporaciones hacer lucro con restricciones relajados. Por eso, se promueve labor a precios bajos fuera de los Estados Unidos. Se resulta casi imposible proveer un sueldo razonable para muchas personas de México.

Es muy triste que en nuestra debida democracia, supuestamente para cual los soldados mueren a defender, personas racistas piensan que no pueden decir lo que realmente sienten. Elijan esconderse detrás de las leyes del pasado y el racismo sistemático porque es más conveniente socialmente y políticamente.

Seattle es una ciudad entre muchas en que se ven marchas y manifestaciones de miles y miles de personas que enseñan su unidad cuando dicen, "¡Si se puede!" Como Latinos, mantenemos una posición firme y unida y no escondemos nada. Líderes opuestos al tratamiento justo deben decir lo que de verás piensan. Es lo que nosotros hacemos.

Me sorprende cuantas personas dicen que Latinos deben seguir el proceso "correcto" si quieren trabajar aquí. Eso me recuerda del método en que los hombres blancos adquirió la mayoría del continente Norteamericano. Yo no llamaría este proceso "correcto" y no pienso que los miles de personas en Seattle el día 10 de abril o el 1 día mayo lo llamarían así tampoco. Al hacer poca investigación, uno aprenderá que en toda la historia, los Estados Unidos no ha seguido el proceso "correcto". ¿Porqué quieren cambiar de repente?

La respuesta es simple, pero les hace vergonzosas unas personas; conveniencia y egoísmo. ¿Que se necesita para que la gente en poder sean honestos con lo que sienten acerca de este tema? Miles de personas en Seattle y millones de otras en la nación quieren saber. ¿Tienen los líderes de este país el ánimo a dejar de esconderse detrás de sus palabras y empezar a ser honestos?

Busca los artículos de Enrique en el Beacon Hill News & South District Journal o visita www.sdistrictjournal.org en la sección de opinión.

A Wedding Request Brings a Heartfelt Donation

A Letter from Debra Kay Hannula, Long Time Friend of El Centro de la Raza

If you are invited to a wedding nowadays, you might be asked to give to your favorite charity in lieu of giving a gift or money. Here is an excerpt from a letter of one such donation made by Debra to El Centro de la Raza: "I was moved by a program that included poetry by their teens. Their preschool is named for Cuban poet, José Martí. The recognition that the poets were often the leaders for change is not lost on El Centro. Their teens, many of them labeled by our society as 'at risk' teens, have become brilliant public speakers and accomplished poets reading their works at rallies throughout Washington...But El Centro is my favorite because it does all of the above and more. El Centro is my favorite, because...it is not just their good works, it is their humanity, their love, their kindness that is evident in all they do."

¡Mil Gracias for Empowering Thousands of Families!

El Centro de la Raza would like to thank the following donors from April–July 2006:	Washington Mutual	Miguel, Angel y Georgina Ortega
<u>PUBLIC SUPPORT</u>	<u>FAMILIA \$100-999</u>	Matthew Perez
AmeriCorps	Allan Bonney	Silvia y Alejandro Pinzón
City of Seattle Human Services	Roberto y Audelia López	Taraneh Sefrioui
Department	Ivan Maeda Barrera	Jacinto Luis Vivar Prado
Early Learning Network	Amr y Dina Drovetto	Hilltop Red Apple Market & John Thai
Emergency Shelter Assistance State	Ivan Maeda	Homestead Community Land Trust
Program	Amalia Maestas	R.E.I. - Charitable Action
Federal Funding	Mayra y Jeffery Martinez-Roswall	<u>IN-KIND SUPPORT</u>
King County Housing & Community	Manuel y Lisa Montoya	Juana Briseño
Development	Rogelio y Leticia Riojas	Sally Carley
Seattle Housing Authority	Amaya Souarez	Laurie Chiddix-Olson
Seattle Public Library	Martha Zahuita	Diane Cowles at Beacon Hill Library
Seattle Urban League	1st American Title	Michelle Cruver at Carlson Center
Seattle Step Ahead Preschools	The Bottler Foundation &	Elizabeth M. Ellis at Sound Transit
Seattle & King County Public Health	Edgar y Elisabeth Bottler	Roberto Galindo at Consejo
Department	CASA Latina	Mary Gallagher at Kimball Elementary
State of Washington Office for	Cedar River Mortgage	Mercedes Garcia at Radio Variedades
Community Development	Center for Responsible Lending	Lorena M. Gonzalez
U.S. Department of Health &	Charter Funding	Cherish Hart at March of Dimes
Human Services	Chicago Title	Jackie Jainga-Hyllseth at School's Out
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban	Costco Wholesale Matching Gift Fund	Scott Kirkpatrick at Sound Transit
Development (HUD)	Countrywide Home Loans	Kerry Kozuki
WA State Department of	Fannie Mae Foundation	Fernando de Leon
Communication, Trade & Economic	Fremont Public Association	Siya Manyakanyaka-Kelley
Development (CSBG)	Housing & Urban Development (HUD)	Cecilia Martinez
Washington State Legislature	Key Bank	Mary K. McNeill
<u>VOLUNTEERS</u>	Liberty Financial	Jaime Mendez at Radio Sol
From April-June 64 volunteers provided 1,488	Mario Zahuita Inspector	Sonia G. Morales Osegueda at WSU
hours of service. Thank you volunteers!	Microsoft Giving Campaign	Kwame Morrow, Kitone & WD40
<u>¡MIL GRACIAS!</u>	Non-Profit Comedy & Yoram Bauman	Glen Osborn
Thank you Kristin Houser and Mark Burke at	Skyline Properties	Lili Rodriguez
the Law Offices of Schroeter, Goldmark &	Taco Time-Legato, Inc.	Heather R. Romero at Seattle Pacific U.
Bender for providing free, bilingual legal clinics	Washington Homeownership Center	Mrs. Sampson at Maple Elementary
for our clients!	Zauhita Team Real Estate	Gabriela Santiago
<u>BENEFACTORES \$10,000+</u>	<u>AMIGOS \$1-99</u>	Enrique Serna
National Council of La Raza (\$30,000)	Anonymous	Nicole Trudeau at Kimball Elementary
United Way	Carissa Allen & Travis Adams	Zach Wilson at School's Out
Wells Fargo Housing Foundation (\$10,000)	Harrison & Grace Bailey	Rita Zawaideh
<u>SOCIOS \$5,000-9,999</u>	Kip y Suzanne Callahan	Commercial Sound & Video
Puget Sound Energy (\$6,474)	Linda y Gordon Canney	Denny Middle School & Proyecto Saber
SKCCH Funding Resources Com. (\$5,400)	Justin Carder	Lutheran Volunteer Corps
United Way of King County (\$5,000)	Jennifer Crow	National Council of La Raza
<u>PARTIDARIOS \$1,000-4,999</u>	Juan Gerardo Garcia Barrios	Nike
Bank of America	José Gonzalez	Old World Marketplace
Boeing Employees Credit Union (BECU)	Bernice Funk	Pacific Science Center
Seattle Mortgage Bankers Association	Debra Hannula	SeaPrint
US Bank	Herminia Nina Laboy	Sears
	Hannah Love	Seattle Aquarium
	Cristina Mone	Secondary Bilingual Orientation Center
	Mike Olden	The Seattle Channel
		U.S. Postal Service

El Centro de la Raza in Action

- 1. José Martí students march along Beacon Avenue with elders in the Senior Nutrition and Wellness program showing their support for fair immigration rights.
- 2. Students from Granger High School listen to the inspiring words of Executive Director Roberto Maestas on his visit to El Centro.
- 3. José Martí parents attend the March parent meeting at El Centro to discuss program issues.
- 4. National Day of Action on April 10th brought estimates of 16,000 to 25,000 to the rally and march in Seattle.
- 5. El Centro welcomed United Way of King County Co-Chair, Patricia Raikes on June 1st!
- 6. Acclaimed Mexican author, Laura Esquivel, reads from her new novel *Malinche*, at the Elliott Bay Book Company on Mother's Day with special guest El Centro de la Raza!
- 7. Students show the signs they made for El Centro's immigration march for our children and seniors.
- 8. Chief Sealath High School Proyecto Saber students graduate from the Hope for Youth program at a ceremony at El Centro de la Raza.
- 9. Elaine Bast, Senior Reporter for Globo TV in Brazil, visited El Centro on June 5th to discuss how El Centro reaches out, supports and advocates for the Latino community. Thank you to the World Affairs Council for making this possible!



ASHLEY HAUGEN



JESSICA HARRIS



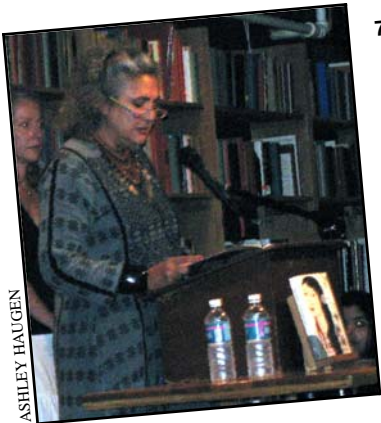
HILDA MAGAÑA



ROXANA AMARAL



ASHLEY HAUGEN



ASHLEY HAUGEN



ASHLEY HAUGEN



MIRABELLA MENDIOLA



ASHLEY HAUGEN



ASHLEY HAUGEN



ASHLEY HAUGEN



MARTHA DIAZ



MARTHA DIAZ



14.

ASHLEY HAUGEN



15.

ASHLEY HAUGEN



16.

ASHLEY HAUGEN



17.

MAYRA SOTO

- 10. El Centro at the Silent March for Immigration Rights on May 1st with United Indian Tribes leader. Reports of 20,000 to 30,000 attended the march and rally in Seattle.
- 11. Associate Director Estela Ortega and Fadime Örgü, a member of parliament for the Dutch Liberal Party (VVD) in the Netherlands.
- 12. José Martí students sing at the first annual Cinco de Mayo Festival at El Centro. The event was organized by Beacon Hill Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Macy's, Obayashi Construction, Sound Transit, and Java Love/Baja Bistro.
- 13. José Martí students perform at Children Sing for Peace at the Seattle Center in June.
- 14. Talía Vázquez Alatorre, Migrant Outreach Coordinator for Mexico's PRD Presidential Candidate, Andrés Manuel López Obrador with Roberto Maestas at a press conference.
- 15. McDonald's corporate office held a two day Diversity in the Workplace Seminar at El Centro. Corporate representatives thank El Centro staff members for their work in coordinating the affair.
- 16. President Elect 2007 of the Latina(o) Bar Association of Washington, Lorena González, gives staff a seminar on sexual harassment. Thank you Lorena and her firm, Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell, Malanca, Peterson & Daheim.
- 17. Raquel Garcia, the Senior Program Coordinator, weds Fidel at El Centro. Board Member and King County Superior Court Judge Steve Gonzalez performed the ceremony. El Centro staff are pictured here with Raquel and Fidel.

The Seattle Channel Profiles Hilda Magaña

By Ashley Haugen, AmeriCorps*VISTA

The Seattle Channel's *Community Stories* series aired a ten minute documentary about Hilda Magaña, Director of the José Martí Child Development Center, and her perilous border crossing into the U.S. The segment premiered on Sunday, June 18, 2006 at 7:00 PM on cable channel 21 and can be seen at www.seattlechannel.org.

The Community Stories series captures the lives of amazing people, relevant issues, cultural traditions and rich histories that make up the greater Seattle community. The short documentary series has invited individuals, community leaders, community associations, neighborhood centers, ethnic groups, new Americans, seniors and young people to share stories about their community and themselves.

The finished stories are part of a series to be featured on the Seattle Channel, at their website and are part of a permanent archive available for distribution to schools, libraries and interested individuals.

Thank you to the Seattle Channel, producer Shannon Gee, director Lynn Shelton and their entire staff for making this possible!

For more information about the José Martí Child Development Center, please call 206.957.4619.



Hilda Magaña leading the student and senior immigration rights march at El Centro.

Early Learning at the José Martí Child Development Center

By Ashley Haugen, AmeriCorps*VISTA

The José Martí Child Development Center will hold its graduation ceremony on Thursday, August 31, 2006 for forty-two students starting kindergarten this autumn. These students have completed the early learning program at El Centro, which utilizes a unique bilingual and bicultural curriculum.

José Martí CDC is unique among child development centers in that the children's participation in organization events is an essential part of their education. From cultural celebrations to immigration rallies, these young activists are involved with their local and sometimes international community.

In the classroom, there is music, dance, story telling and other activities that involve students and their families. It is a rich curriculum that integrates day-to-day celebrations, holidays, festivals, events and visitors into the classroom.

This summer's themes involve music, movement and dance. Students get the opportunity to experience the food, music, dance, and clothing of other countries in the world. "When children connect with the culture

and become familiar with it, they feel like they belong," said Maria Luisa, a teacher at José Martí. She has been sewing traditional and modern, age appropriate clothing using multicultural fabric for the children to wear as they learn about different cultures, especially cultures represented in the classroom. "Stimulation through music allows the children to have contact with different cultures, become aware of the world and be open and inclusive of others," said Hilda Magaña, José Martí CDC Director.

The early learning curriculum is designed to engage the five senses and incorporates music and movement into many activities that relay positive messages, help build self-esteem, focus on brain development and promote real life and real learning.

The child development center is the only nationally accredited bilingual, multicultural childcare center on the west coast and offers preschool and toddler programs. Free half day care is now being offered.

To enroll your child or for more information, please call 206.957.4619.



A José Martí graduate from the 2005 graduation ceremony at El Centro de la Raza.



Maria Luisa with a cape she made.

El Centro de la Raza Principle: To provide a collective, healthy, safe and friendly workplace for members of our community and all participants in our sphere of influence.

Financial Literacy Classes Offered in South Park

By Emily Stoll, Lutheran Volunteer Corps.

El Centro's Financial Literacy Classes are now being offered in the South Park area. The classes are taught in Spanish at the South Park Neighborhood Center the first two Wednesdays of every month, from 6:30PM to 8:30PM. These classes address issues of economic development, empowerment, asset building, budgeting and more!

For more information or to find out how you can receive a free credit report, make a financial counseling appointment, or register for classes please call 206.957.4646.

Traducción por Gabriela Santiago:

El Centro de la Raza ahora ofrece Clases de Educación Financiera en el área de South Park. Las clases se ofrecen en español en el Centro Comunitario de South Park los primeros dos miércoles de cada mes, de 6:30 p.m. a 8:30 p.m. En estas clases veremos los tópicos de Desarrollo económico, Empoderamiento, Ahorro asertivo, Presupuesto y más.

Para más información o para saber como puedes recibir un reporte de crédito gratis, hacer una cita para recibir asesoría financiera o registrarte a las clases, llama por favor al 206.957.46.46.

Hope For Youth: Civil Rights Seniors Graduate

By Alex Bautista, Hope for Youth Coordinator

A total of 156 students completed our Civil Rights Program, with 77 of them successfully satisfying the GPA and credit requirements to graduate. This was the first year that our class was able to host a senior graduate event that recognized the students from our classes in a formal setting. It was a successful luncheon and it wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for the Youth Development Team at the Human Services Department of the City of Seattle as well as the great partnership we have with the Proyecto Saber Program at both Chief Sealth High School and Ballard High. For more information about the Hope for Youth program, call 206.957.4620.

Geoffry Barbareno

"...El mundo no se acaba
El mundo queda
Lo que se va somos nosotros
Dejamos un recuerdo aquí
Un recuerdo que quede
Para tus nietos, tus hijos que vienen en camino,
tu esposa, tus bisnietos, you know.
Ese es la poesía de Big Geoffry,
You know what I'm saying..."

-Geoffry Barbareno, age 18, student at the Secondary Bilingual Orientation Center
Geoffry was deported to Honduras in June and has not been heard from since.

HOPE FOR YOUTH POETRY CD AVAILABLE WITH DONATION! For a donation of \$25 you can receive a free copy of a CD featuring spoken word, hip-hop and poetry from the youth in our after school poetry class at the Secondary Bilingual Orientation Center. The CD was produced by poetry instructors Danny Kogita and Ernesto Iraheta with special guest DJ's and local hip hop artists WD40, Kwame Morrow & Kitone. Call 206.957.4611 to find out how you can receive your poetry CD today!

El Centro de la Raza Principle: To strengthen the family as an elementary formation of society, which contributes to the development of society as a whole. To respect and recognize the rights of children as full and privileged members of our society. To strengthen the extended family relations. To develop programs which fulfill our obligation as family members of the larger society to bring up the future generations with clear vision that leads to the recovery of our fighting spirit. To struggle to ensure that family life is nourished and respected. To protect the rights of women and children to live their lives free from any form of abuse: physical, psychological, or sexual.

CLASSES AT EL CENTRO DE LA RAZA

We offer free home buying classes and counseling, financial literacy seminars, ESL and citizenship classes, legal clinics, infant mortality prevention classes and wage progression workshops.

Please check out our website at www.elcentrodelaraza.org for a complete list of classes and times.

*All classes offered are in Spanish and English.
Please call program to register and confirm room location.*

Financial Literacy Seminar



Infant Mortality Prevention Class



ESL/Citizenship Class



Fleeing Political Terror, Chile 1975

By Jessica Harris, Seattle University Work-study

The Frances Martinez Community Service Center offers many services, such as the Senior Nutrition & Wellness program. This program addresses the emotional, physical, social, intellectual, spiritual, and vocational health and wellness of seniors. Participants partake in daily social and educational activities, healthy lunches, exercise classes, and receive fresh groceries from the food bank every week.

Alicia is a participant in this program and has come a long way to El Centro. Alicia was born in Parral, Chile. She was married with two children by 1973, when General Augusto Pinochet led a brutal military coup, backed by the U. S., and overthrew democratically elected president, Salvador Allende. Amidst the atrocities committed by Pinochet and his soldiers, Alicia's husband was shot and taken to a prison camp. For over a week Alicia didn't know if he was dead or alive. He had survived but was detained in prison for a year and a half.



Alicia at El Centro.

Her husband's detainment left Alicia at home to care for two young daughters alone; she sold most of her belongings just to survive. When her husband was released, he was expelled from Chile for his political affiliation, so Alicia and her family decided to move to Chicago in November 1975 as refugees.

After 21 years in Chicago, Alicia and her husband moved to Seattle. She first heard about El Centro from her younger daughter who worked here. Alicia has greatly enjoyed her time in the Senior Nutrition & Wellness Program, especially since her husband's death in 2000. She appreciates the hot lunches and exercise sessions, but she returns day after day for the company, to share her time with others her age, doing activities she enjoys. Alicia's time spent at El Centro de la Raza provides valuable companionship, a sense of community, a support system, and resources for any problems she may encounter.

For more information about the Senior Nutrition & Wellness Program please call 206.957.4643.

DONATE YOUR CAR! We are currently asking for donations of saleable vehicles. Vehicle donation proceeds benefit homeless and low-income children, youth, families and elders. Please call 206.957.4611 to donate your vehicle.



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Mission Statement

Our mission includes ensuring access to services and advocating on behalf of people regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, gender, level of income, age, ability and sexual orientation. El Centro de la Raza was founded in 1972 to address the problems that people face related to poverty, literacy, health, and education.

EVENTS

The Latino & New American Homebuyer Fair at El Centro de la Raza

Saturday, August 19, 2006 from 11AM-4PM.

Attend free workshops and meet industry professionals!

Please call 206.957.4610 to pre-register and receive a ticket to win one of our great prizes.

United Way Volunteer Day of Caring at El Centro de la Raza

Please join El Centro and the United Way of King County on

Friday, September 15, 2006 from 9AM-4PM.

Volunteer projects will include: The Accidental Painter, Oh The Pressure, Honor Your Ancestors, Back to School, Get in Touch with Nature and Hunting for Treasure.

Please call 206.957.4605 for more information.

El Día de los Muertos at El Centro de la Raza

Ofrenda/Altar Exhibits November 1-21, 2006

Be a part of El Día de Los Muertos, a traditional Mexican celebration that commemorates the cycle of life and death. Today, in Mexico and much of the Spanish-speaking world, El Día de Los Muertos is a colorful blend of indigenous beliefs and superstitions, European religious beliefs and contemporary interpretations.

Volunteers are needed for set-up, tours, kitchen help, directing event traffic and clean-up.

This event is made possible by Vulcan, Inc. and Qwest.

Please call 206.957.4653 if you would like to volunteer or create an Ofrenda.

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