



EL CENTRO DE LA RAZA

Si se puede

Primavera / Spring 2007

Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Recipients

A while back we told you about Jonny, who came to El Centro as a 15-year-old sophomore in high school and was considering dropping out of school. He had less than half of his credits completed and a 1.5 GPA. Raised by his mother with five other siblings in California, Jonny's older brothers were caught up in gangs, violence and criminal activity. One of his brothers served time in prison on violence related charges and Jonny himself had been in trouble for stealing. His mother brought him to Seattle for a better life. Jonny's mother said he was depressed and angry before he came to El Centro. His teachers said he skipped class, was disruptive when in class, and suspected he had a mental or learning disability.

With the help of El Centro's Seattle Team for Youth program (STFY), Jonny enrolled in alternative school and worked tirelessly to get caught up, which he did within five months and entered a mainstream high school. After eight months with STFY, Jonny could maintain his academic and personal life on his own. Jonny's mother says her son is helpful around the house, active in school, and goes to the gym.

Jonny went from almost dropping out of school to being student of the month in English and will be the first in his family to graduate. He expects to graduate with a 3.0 GPA, while currently working and volunteering. He will be attending Seattle Central Community College in the fall with plans to transfer to a four-year college. Jonny is also one of 23 recipients of the Mount Baker Community Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship for 2006, which helps "neighborhood students from racial or ethnic minority groups that are educationally disadvantaged achieve their dreams of higher education."

Scholarships are awarded to students who are positive role models, who exemplify the spirit of Martin Luther King,



MLK Scholarship winners, Terrell (left) and Jonny (right), are graduating this spring and are pictured here with El Centro STFY case managers, Mirabella and Belinda.

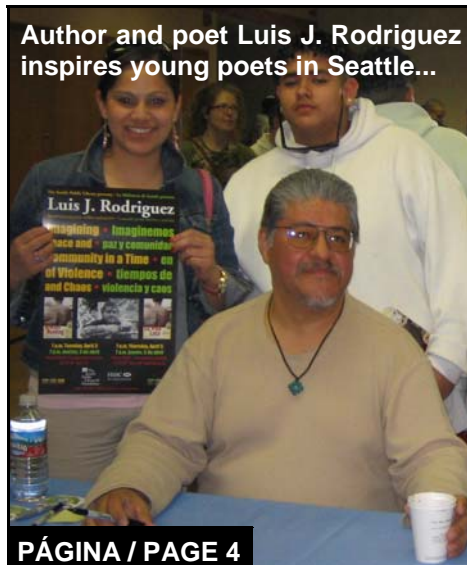
Jr. and who are outstanding citizens despite having faced incredible adversity, having shown the strength, discipline and spirit to overcome obstacles and to contribute to their communities. Jonny also received the Diversity Scholarship, a scholarship started by a contestant on The Apprentice, to further his academic goals and future. Congratulations Jonny!

As told by Mirabella Mendiola, Seattle Team for Youth Case Manager. For more information about Seattle Team for Youth, please call 206.957.4612.



Local high school students donate books to José Martí...

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Author and poet Luis J. Rodriguez inspires young poets in Seattle...

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What Kind of World Will We Leave Our Children?

This question will be posed as the theme at our 35th Anniversary Banquet on October 13th at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center.

For 35 years, El Centro de la Raza has worked tirelessly to build the “Beloved Community” that Dr. King envisioned here in Martin Luther King, Jr. County by providing a wide array of highly innovative survival, educational and cultural services to children, families and elders who would otherwise have done without.

In the spirit of continuing with this legacy of justice, dignity and equality, and in light of the growing global warming and environmental justice crisis, we turn to the imperiled state of our environment for reflection and guidance on “where to go from here.”

Global warming threatens all ecosystems of the world from the rainforests to the seas, and low-income communities and communities of color are unjustly jeopardized. These endangered communities and ecosystems serve as symbols of the perils the larger world community faces in the current social, political and environmental climate.

We all can impact our environment, and this event will challenge us all to work on creating a beautiful and healthy world for future generations free of environmental racism,



El Centro at the National Day of Climate Action: A Call for Global Warming Solutions in Seattle in April in support of Environmental Justice.

while also celebrating 35 years of struggle, commitment and progress in building the “Beloved Community.” Please join us on October 13, 2007 to share in this progress.

From the 35th Anniversary Team. For details about the event and to find out how you can support us by becoming a Table Captain, please call 206.957.4649.

Tax Preparation Success!

El Centro was a United Way Free Tax Campaign site this year for the first time and filed 400 tax returns for low-income families while providing access to tax credits like the Earned Income Tax Credit for working families. Volunteers helped provide tax preparation assistance in Spanish and English filing \$105,531 in total earned income tax credits and \$399,292.00 in total federal refunds. Mil gracias to the United Way of King County and all our volunteers!

The service was offered on Wednesday evenings from 5-9 PM. Volunteers filed online tax returns for clients who brought in their W-2 forms and other tax related information. Clients were able to receive a higher refund than if they had filed on their own without paying a professional to file for them. This service was free and open to anyone, regardless of income. Watch out for more tax preparation sites next tax season!

By Ashley Haugen, Development Associate. For more information about Tax Preparation or the Financial Literacy Program, please call 206.957.4646.



In total, 300 volunteers provided over 10,000 hours of service during the United Way of King County’s Free Tax Prep Campaign at 16 sites in Martin Luther King, Jr. County.

TABLE CAPTAINS WANTED! Help support our 35th Anniversary Banquet by becoming a Table Captain and recruiting family, friends, and co-workers to your table. Please call 206.957.4649 for more information.

Local High School Spanish Club Supports Family Literacy

The Edmonds-Woodway High School Spanish Club presented materials for a reading center for children and parents at the José Martí Child Development Center on April 20th, which provides bilingual early childhood education to families with children ages one to four and an after school tutoring and mentoring program for children ages five to twelve.

In an effort to support family literacy, students in the Spanish Club received a \$1,000 grant from State Farm Insurance and collected donations from the community to provide multicultural books, book shelves, cabinets, a chair and a lamp for the reading space in José Martí. Activity books were also provided for the students to take home. Mil gracias to these generous students for supporting their community!

By Ashley Haugen, Development Associate. To enroll your child in the José Martí CDCD or for more information, please call 206.957.4619.



Edmonds-Woodway High School Spanish Club students volunteered at José Martí to organized books, set-up book shelves and read to the children. Photo by Laura LaBedz.

Children March to Protect Their Families



José Martí students preparing to march downtown. Photo by Steve Araujo, Hope for Youth.

On April 11, 2007, children and families marched to “Stop Tearing Families Apart!” The Children’s March, from Westlake Park to the Federal Building, demanded comprehensive immigration reform that reunites families, protects workers, ensures due process for all, and provides a path to citizenship.

Fifty-eight children and twenty adults and staff from El Centro, joined community members, demanding dignity and justice for all children and families. The time has come for our children's voices to be heard!

Some participants dressed in black to show the solemn mood as families are being racially profiled, separated, and detained by Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) operations.

By Ashley Haugen, Development Associate. For more information about the José Martí Child Development Center, please call 206.957.4619.

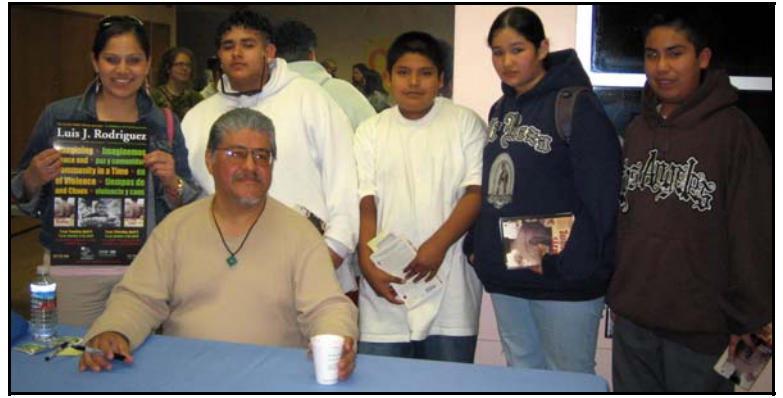
El Centro de la Raza Principle No. 9, adopted in 1976:
To struggle for a clean, safe, and nuclear waste free environment for our people and future generations. To work for the rational use of natural resources in the interest of preservation of Mother Earth and the peaceful development of humankind.

Luis J. Rodriguez Speaks to Young Poets

Eighth-grader Christina Garcia Valdez was one of six area youth selected from 50 entries to present her poetry on the same stage as Luis J. Rodriguez, best-selling poet, author and activist at the South Park Community Center. Christina is involved in Hope for Youth Hip Hop Poetry workshops in Denny Middle School's Proyecto Saber classroom.

Christina also organized her friends to attend the community event. She has developed her writing ability to express her inner thoughts on paper and has been defining who she is and wants to become through her writing. She is a shining example of how the arts can positively make an impact on a young person's life.

By Alex Bautista, Hope for Youth Coordinator. Please call 206.957.4620 for more information about the Hope for Youth Program.



Luis J. Rodriguez, best-selling poet and author, spoke to a group of students in South Park including Hope for Youth participant, Christina (second from right), who was chosen to read her poem at the event. Read her poem below!

Graduation Celebration at El Centro

Este año escolar, El Programa Hope for Youth Poetry and Civil Rights y el Seattle Team for Youth ayudaron a 80 estudiantes a terminar los requisitos para la graduación de la preparatoria, y a 21 estudiantes del octavo grado a pasar al noveno grado. El 8 de Junio, estos estudiantes celebrarán sus logros junto con sus padres, compañeros, y los empleados de El Centro de la Raza en una cena de graduación en su honor.

Cada año 50,000 estudiantes en los Estados Unidos no terminan su preparatoria. The Washington State Workforce Board reporta que a nivel nacional, más de uno en cuatro jóvenes Latinos dejan la escuela, y casi la mitad de estos lo hacen cuando están en el octavo grado. Los estudiantes en ciudades grandes también están más propensos a salirse de la escuela antes de graduarse que los jóvenes de lugares urbanos.

Traducción por Diana Elenes. Para más información llame 206.957-4620 o (206) 957-4612.

This school year, El Centro de la Raza's Hope for Youth Poetry and Civil Rights and Seattle Team for Youth programs helped an estimated 80 students complete their high school requirements for graduation and 21 eighth graders move onto ninth grade. On June 8th, these students will celebrate their success with their parents, peers and El Centro staff at a graduation dinner in their honor.

Every year, 50,000 students in the United States do not complete their high school diplomas. The Washington State Workforce Board reports that nationwide, more than one in four Latino/a youth drop out of school and nearly half do so by eighth grade. Students in large cities are also twice as likely to drop out of school before graduating than non-urban youth.

By Ashley Haugen, Development Associate. For more information about these services please call 206.957.4620 or 206.957.4612.

Purpose

So much in my life it's hard to move on
With a blink of an eye
My years have past by
Thinking of what might of happened to me
I move on to become what I always wanted
To become something that's worth living for
But I can't imagine myself doing these things that I really see
Living la vida loca of a dealer or gangbanging
Doing no good to me and disrespecting my familia
Who has always supported and protected each other
Never in my life will I do such a thing
To put people I love the most
In dangerous situations

When I see the homies doing these kinds of things
I just hush and stay silent
Not to speak out on the things that I really think of
My life is full of problems but
As I stay quiet I will see what my life comes to be like
It is all I have and am willing to risk it all or nothing
I want to become successful
Like a writer, therapist and a counselor
Living a life that I'm determined to vivir for my entire vida
I choose this for my life
Por vida.

*Christina Garcia-Valdez
Denny Middle School, 8th Grade*

Capital Campaign Update: New Windows Installed

The installation of 212 new windows is underway. The new windows make the building more energy efficient and will save El Centro money by keeping the building cooler in the summer and warmer during cold months. Thank you again to the Washington State Legislature for making this possible!

Mil gracias to Governor Gregoire, Senators Prentice, Fraser and Kline; Representatives Gutierrez-Kenney, Chopp, Fromhold, Santos, Pettigrew, Hasegawa, Hudgins, and all our supporters for allocating \$821,000 in state funds to replace and seismically upgrade our roof this summer!

By Ashley Haugen, Development Associate.



Formerly Beacon Hill School, the building was built in 1900 and became El Centro de la Raza on October 11, 1972 after a peaceful three month occupation.

¡Conozca Sus Derechos! Know Your Rights!

Estos son tiempos temerosos para muchos inmigrantes que están en los Estados Unidos sin documentos. Mientras Congreso debate las propuestas para proporcionar la condición jurídica para la parte del estimado de 12 millones de inmigrantes sin documentos que están aquí, la Ejecución de la Ley de Inmigración y la Aduana de EEUU ("ICE") invade más hogares y los lugares de trabajo en un esfuerzo de deportar a personas a su país de origen. El conocimiento de sus derechos le puede proteger de ser detenido y deportado.

No es un Crimen Ser indocumentado. Es importante recordar que ser un inmigrante sin documentos no es un crimen. Cada persona en los Estados Unidos tiene los derechos garantizados por la Constitución de EEUU, no solamente ciudadanos. Estos derechos incluyen la libertad de búsquedas y ataques desrazonables y el derecho de quedarse silencioso cuando este detenido.

ICE en la Calle, en un Coche, en el Trabajo. El ICE puede parar y hacer preguntas a personas en la calle, en coches, y en lugares de trabajo si ellos tienen la "sospecha razonable" que la persona puede ser indocumentado. Si usted es acercado por un oficial de ICE en la calle, en un coche o en el trabajo, sigue estas pautas:

- Da su nombre si el oficial se lo pide.
- No contesta cualquier otras preguntas. En particular, no diga donde usted nació o cómo usted entró los Estados Unidos.
- Usted debe decir: "Quiero hablar con un abogado antes de que contesto cualquier pregunta".
- Nunca lleva identificación extranjera ni documentos falsos.
- No corre cuando este acercado por ICE ni la policía. Corriendo puede ser suficiente en causar la sospecha para un arresto o para ser interrogado.
- No firma nada a menos que usted hable con un abogado o entienda completamente lo que usted firma.

ICE en Casa. Los oficiales del ICE pueden venir a su casa para buscar algo o para detener a alguien. El ICE debe tener una autorización para entrar en su casa, a menos que usted los invite adentro. Por lo tanto, no abre la puerta cuando alguien toca. Siempre pida que las personas se identifiquen. Si ellos no

(Continúa en la página 10)

These are fearful times for many immigrants who are in the United States without documents. While Congress debates proposals to provide legal status for some of the estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants now here, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") is raiding more homes and workplaces in an effort to deport people to their country of origin. Knowledge of your rights may protect you from being arrested and deported.

Not a Crime to Be Undocumented. It is important to remember that being an undocumented immigrant is not a crime. Every person in the United States has the rights guaranteed by the US Constitution, not just citizens. These rights include freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures and the right to remain silent when arrested.

ICE on the Street, in a Car, at Work. ICE may stop and question people on the street, in cars, and in workplaces if they have "reasonable suspicion" that the person may be undocumented. If you are approached by an ICE officer on the street, in a car or at work, follow these guidelines:

- Give your name if asked by the officer.
- Do not answer any other questions. In particular, do not say where you were born or how you entered the United States.
- You should say: "I want to speak to an attorney before I answer any questions."
- Never carry foreign identification or false documents.
- Do not run when approached by ICE or the police. Running may be enough to cause suspicion for an arrest or questioning.
- Do not sign anything unless you speak to an attorney or fully understand what you are signing.

ICE at Home. ICE officers may come to your house to search for something or to arrest someone. ICE must have a warrant to come into your house, unless you invite them in. Therefore, do not open the door when someone knocks. Always ask people to identify themselves. If they do not have a warrant, tell them that they can not come into the house and do not answer questions. If they do have a warrant, ask the officer to slide the warrant under the door. If the warrant is looking for a person and the person is at home, send the named person out

(Continued on page 10)

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

El Centro de la Raza en Acción

1



2



3



1. El Centro holds a Workplace Giving Campaign to support United Way by hosting 30 child development center directors and teacher instructors from Texas, California, Massachusetts and Seattle.
2. The Second Annual Cinco de Mayo Festival at El Centro was sponsored by the Beacon Hill Chamber of Commerce, Sound Transit, Obayashi Construction and El Centro de la Raza. Mil gracias to everyone involved.
3. The May Day rally and march for immigration reform with human, labor and civil rights brought estimates of 5,000-10,000 to a rally at Seattle Center Fisher Pavilion and a march through downtown Seattle.

El Centro de la Raza in Action

4



5



6



4. From Crown to King, the new Martin Luther King, Jr. County logo is unveiled at Mt. Zion Baptist Church.
5. Liga Latina de Basketball visits El Centro. Pictured here are Francisco Quiroz and Roberto Maestas.
6. Schools First holds a Vote Yes! press conference at El Centro to discuss support for Seattle Propositions 1 and 2 supporting 45,000 plus students in Seattle Public Schools. Both measures passed successfully.

¡Mil Gracias to Our Spring Donors!

35TH ANNIVERSARY SPONSORS

Renewed World Sponsors:

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Please call 206.957.4649 to become a sponsor

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Please call 206.957.4649 to become a sponsor

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PUBLIC SUPPORT

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AmeriCorps*JustServe
AmeriCorps*Literacy
AmeriCorps*VISTA
Child Care Resources
City of Seattle Human Services
Department
Early Learning Network
Emergency Shelter Assistance State
Program
Federal Funding
Food Resources
King County Housing & Community
Development
King County Department of Community &
Human Services
Seattle Housing Authority
Seattle Public Library
Seattle Urban League

Seattle Step Ahead Preschools
Seattle & King County Public Health
Department
State of Washington Office for
Community Development
U.S. Department of Health &
Human Services
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban
Development (HUD)
WA State Department of
Communication, Trade & Economic
Development (CSBG)
Washington State Legislature

VOLUNTARIOS

Since January, **48** volunteers provided **1,631**
hours of service to El Centro. Mil gracias!
Please call 206.957.4605 to volunteer.
We are a community service site.

¡MIL GRACIAS!

Thank you Kristin Houser and Mark Burke at
the Law Offices of Schroeter, Goldmark &
Bender for providing free, bilingual legal clin-
ics for our clients!

BENEFACTORES \$10,000+

McKinney Vento Seattle King Co. (\$17,603)
March of Dimes Washington (\$11,385)

SOCIOS \$5,000-9,999

Solid Ground (\$5,500)
HomeStreet Bank (\$5,000)

PARTIDARIOS \$1,000-4,999

Key Foundation (\$2,500)
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FAMILIA \$100-999

Michelle Copeland
Eddie y Demmings-Canales Familia
Sandra Fried
David Gandara
Judy Harding
Ty Ribera
Lynn y Bonnie Stowell
Philip Talmadge
Dan Tenenbaum

AMIGOS \$1-99

Edward Alejandro

Robert Andolina
Elsa Araujo
Harrison y Grace Bailey
Alicia Braman
Herbert y Shirley Bridge
Florita Caparida
Ed y Virginia Casillas
Heles Contreras y Karen Zagona
Mario Cruz
Lorena y Erik Denny
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Ricardo García
Annabel y Third Garcia-Andresen
Jean Givins
Anthony Gomez
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Tracy Hahn
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Alfonso y Marci Hernandez
F. John Jeannot
Michelle Kowals
Herminia Nina Laboy
Barbara Lampert
Manuel Llanes y Rosa Caro
Deniss Llanes Caro
Manuel Family
Matthew McCullough
Michelle McGreen
Loretta McIver y Familia
Enrique Montez
Julie Palacios
Carmen Palomera
Jill Reifschneider
Enrique Rico-Solis
Urbano Santos Lopez
Janine Vughn
Veronica Villarreal

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Ernest Aguilar
Xio Emtiazi
Keiko Kawasaki
Rachel Steilberg
Wasi Tetemke
Edmonds-Woodway High School
Lutheran Volunteer Corps
Solid Ground
Starbucks Coffee Company
Washington Athletic Club-Kerry Kozuki

We apologize if we have left your name off of this list. Please call 206.957.4611 and we will correct this error.

Lo sentimos si hemos dejado su nombre fuera de esta lista sin pensar. Por favor hable al 206.957.4611 y corregirémos el error.

Does your company match donations to charitable organizations?

Check with your human resources department to see if your company is one of over 1,000 businesses that match donations, fill out a matching donation form with El Centro's information and send it to us!
Employer Identification Number (EIN): 91-0899927. Please call 206.957.4652 for more information.

First Time Homebuyers: The Guzmán Family

Rogelio Salinas and Teresa Guzmán came to one of El Centro's Homeownership Seminars several months ago. The family was in dire straits. One of their three daughters has Down's Syndrome and most of their income went to medical care for her. However, they wanted to build equity and assets, and felt that homeownership would be the best way to do so. They discovered El Centro's home buying seminar on the Internet and attended one of the workshops that is currently available on a drop in basis to anyone who needs homeownership counseling.

After attending the seminar, they were enrolled in our Homeownership program. Our counselor discussed their situation with them to determine where they needed the most help. When it was discovered that they had some debt owed, they were referred to credit and budget counseling with another staff member. After that, they received aid in selecting a lender and a real estate agent, getting a mortgage, going through the real estate process and closing on the house.

Working with a knowledgeable team of volunteers and staff, with many years experience assisting new homebuyers

and who speak Spanish, Rogelio and Teresa's first language, they felt much more comfortable and confident with the process.

Our team of counselors assisted Teresa and Rogelio from the initial credit counseling through the closing process, even accompanying them to appointments with their lender and real estate agent as needed. Our staff also helped Teresa and Rogelio obtain financial help from Parkview Services, an organization that assists families who have developmental disabled members, in purchasing homes.

At the end of the process, we provided Teresa and Rogelio with advice about owning a home, including how to take care of the house, and prepared them for making their mortgage payments. Teresa and Rogelio were grateful for the assistance we could provide to them in building their equity and assets, and their daughters are excited to have their very own home!

By Laura LaBedz, Development Assistant. For more information about our Homeownership Program, please call 206.957.4610.

Clock In for Equality: LGBT and HIV Workplace Rights

El Centro sponsored a Clock In for Equality event, Lambda Legal's national day of action for workplace fairness for LGBT people and people with HIV. More than 200 organizations and 1,200 people participated in all 50 states to discuss the importance of workplace equality to co-workers, family members, friends, employers and politicians in communities all across the country. Staff in attendance discussed how to make El Centro a safer place for LGBT and HIV positive community members and staff.

Lambda Legal combats discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and HIV status, which has become an intrinsic part of the struggle for civil rights. It is the oldest

national organization pursuing high-impact litigation, public education and advocacy on behalf of equality and civil rights for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and people with HIV. Their legal and public education experts select the cases and issues that will have the greatest impact in protecting and advancing the rights of LGBT people and those with HIV. Lambda Legal's work ultimately benefits all people, for it helps to fashion a society that is truly diverse and tolerant.

For more information about Lambda Legal, and workplace rights for LGBT people and people living with HIV, please call 866.542.8336 or visit www.lambdalegal.org.

Verizon Invests in Financial Literacy for Women

The Verizon Foundation honored El Centro with \$10,000 for the Financial Literacy for Women Program, a new branch of our already established Financial Literacy Program.

The program focuses on empowering women through education on financial literacy, which includes one-on-one counseling sessions, an Individual Development Account program, and covers topics like budgeting, saving and credit. The program hopes that by empowering women, they will come forward and reveal oppression they face as victims of domestic violence. Outreach is also aimed at women who are enrolled in domestic violence programs.

The Chairman of the FDIC noted in 2005 that only around 50% of Latinos in the United States have an understanding of the U. S. financial system.

By providing Financial Literacy classes and counseling, we are able to assist participants with utilizing savings and credit effectively, so that they can stabilize their financial situation and work with our Homeownership to build their assets and take steps toward owning their own home.

By Ashley Haugen, Development Associate. For more information about this program, please call 206.957.4646.

CLASSES OFFERED 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 life skills employment workshops. Check www.elcentrodelaraza.org for a complete list of classes and times. Please call program to register.

Los TexManiacs y Eva Ybarra Visit El Centro

The musical sensations from San Antonio, Texas, Los TexManiacs and Eva Ybarra, filled the halls of El Centro with a mix of contemporary and traditional music that sparked singing and dancing by all ages.

Los TexManiacs are known for their mix of Tex Mex, Texas rock, blues, and R&B. The TexManiacs played for the Seattle community, which included shows at Chief Sealth High School, El Centro de la Raza and other community venues.

Eva Ybarra played traditional Texas polkas, waltzes, redowas, corridos, and cumbias on her accordion for children, seniors and staff at El Centro. Eva received her first accordion at age four and is self-taught. Her fast tempos and booming voice had everyone cheering!

The TexManiacs and Eva Ybarra joined other performers for "Mexico in Seattle" at Town Hall as part of the Global Rhythms program. El Centro helped sponsor this event.

By Ashley Haugen, Development Associate.



Los TexManiacs members Max Baca on the bajo sexto, David Farias on accordion, and Israel Villanueva on bass.

(Continúa de la página #) **¡Conozca Sus Derechos!**

tienen una autorización, los dice que ellos no entrar venir en la casa y no contestes las preguntas. Si ellos tienen una autorización, pida que el oficial pase la autorización por debajo de la puerta. Si la autorización busca a una persona y la persona esta en casa, manda a la persona a fuera para hablar con el oficial. Si la autorización es de buscar la casa, los oficiales pueden entrar pero todos en cases deben decir que ellos quieren hablar con un abogado antes de contestar cualquier pregunta.

Margaret O'Donnell y Karol Brown, abogados de inmigración en Socios Globales de Ley en Bellevue. Han trabajado para la justicia de inmigrantes para muchos años. Ellos pueden ser alcanzados en 206.792.1300 o en info@globallawpartners.com.

(Continued from page #) **Know Your Rights!**

of the house to speak with the officer. If the warrant is to search the house, the officers may enter but everyone in the house should say that they would like to speak to an attorney before answering any questions.

By Margaret O'Donnell and Karol Brown, immigration attorneys at Global Law Partners in Bellevue. Long-time advocates for immigrant justice. They can be reached at 206.792.1300 or info@globallawpartners.com.

Rita Zawaideh Awarded for Leadership and Advocacy

Rita Zawaideh was selected to receive the Farhat J. Ziadeh Leadership Award for 2007 at the award banquet on January 28th. Chosen for her leadership and contributions to the Seattle Arab community, Rita is active in the community and its support of cultural heritage. Representative Jim McDermott spoke at the event.

The award, named after University of Washington professor Ziadeh, is given by the Seattle Arab community to recognize a leader and his or her cultural contributions in the community. Rita is known in the travel industry for her depth and knowledge of the Middle East and North Africa, and particularly for Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan.

Rita was also a recent recipient of the first Pillar of Peace Awards in Seattle, given to those who have followed a path as advocates for peace and justice. The award was pre-

sented by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), established in Seattle by area Quakers in 1942.

Rita is a board member at El Centro de la Raza, appointed by Representative Jim McDermott of the 7th Congressional District of Washington State. She is a founding member and chairperson of the Arab America Coalition Committee, an Arab American grassroots, civil rights organization.

Rita owns Caravan-Serai Tours in Seattle, which specializes in Middle East and North Africa travel and provides unique cultural and educational programs and tours. Congratulations Rita!

By Ashley Haugen, Development Associate. For more information about Rita, her involvement and tours, please visit www.caravan-serai.com.

El Centro de la Raza Principle No. 10, adopted in 1976:

To support the rights of self-determination of Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latinos, as well as our brothers and sisters in developing countries around the world. To promote the development of foreign policy by our government which puts into practice principles of sovereignty, justice, democracy, self-determination, international respect, and above all, peace with dignity.

¡Adios y Buena Suerte!



El Centro says farewell to Belinda, Bridget and Sandra. Belinda is moving on to Portland, Bridget to pursue a career in law, and Sandra to the public health field.

New Staff Members



We welcome the following new staff members to El Centro de la Raza (clockwise from top left):

- Dennis Johnson**, Facilities Assistant (AARP Volunteer)
- Adelaina Mart**, Fiscal Office Assistant (Seattle University Work-Study)
- Alberto Mejia**, Seattle Team for Youth Case Manager
- Anastasia Mendoza**, Property Administrator
- Jesse Navarro**, Facilities Assistant (AARP Volunteer)
- Alicia Northway**, Fiscal Office Assistant (Seattle University Work-Study)
- Patricia Rangel**, Seattle Team for Youth Case Manager
- Elizabeth Rios**, Office Assistant (Seattle University Work-Study)
- Mike Moore**, Database/Technical Specialist (AmeriCorps*VISTA), *not pictured*

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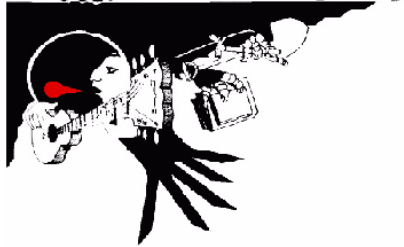
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MISSION STATEMENT

As an organization grounded in the Latino community, our mission is to build unity across all racial and economic sectors, to organize, empower, and defend our most vulnerable and marginalized populations and to bring justice, dignity, equality, and freedom to all the peoples of the world.

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

Latino Homebuyer Fair 2007

Saturday, August 18th, 11 AM-3 PM at El Centro de la Raza.
 Please join us for free workshops, information booths, food and a raffle!
 Please call 206.957.4610 for more information.

35th Anniversary Celebration Banquet

Saturday, October 13th at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center.
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Large 956 sq. ft. rooms will be available to rent in the historic El Centro building.
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This is the Puertorriqueño Mural, an expression of "orgullo puertorriqueño" (Puerto Rican pride) by Carlos Cherena, painted in 1984. The mural depicts a mix of Seattle and Puerto Rico and is a tribute to the struggle for independence by the Puerto Rican people.

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