

HISPANIC COMMUNITY CALENDAR

September is National Hispanic Heritage Month

Dolores Huerta Coming to Oregon October 6

Dolores Huerta, Co-founder and Secretary-Treasurer of the **United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO**, will speak in Woodburn on Sunday, **October 6**. Ms Huerta's appearance headlines an event honoring the work of the late Cipriano Ferrel, former President of the **Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN)**, or—in English—the **Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United**. This event will take place from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm at PCUN's Risberg Hall, located at 300 Young Street in Woodburn. For information, contact Larry Kleinman at (503) 982-0243.

César Chávez Leadership Conference

Latino high school students are invited to attend the 6th annual César E. Chávez Leadership Conference, which is the largest student event in the Hispanic community in Oregon. The conference will be held at the University of Portland's Chiles Center on **October 8**. Sign up through your school.

Minority Business Opportunity Day is coming!

The 12th Annual Minority Business Opportunity Day Trade Fair is coming to the **Oregon Convention Center** on **October 9**. This event is a procurement conference designed to help Women- and Minority-owned businesses be more successful in this increasingly competitive economy. For Trade Fair or Workshop information, call Don Matsuda or Bob Jensen at the **Small Business Administration**, at (503) 326-5105 or 326-5102. For information regarding the luncheon, call Zaida Klem at **Impact**, (503) 245-9253. The **Oregon Convention Center** is located at 777 NE MLK, Jr. Blvd. in Portland.

Oregon Latino Voter Registration Drive needs volunteers

OLVREP needs volunteers to help register voters for the November 5 general election. Cash contributions are welcome, too. Contact (503) 304-0058 in Salem for more information on how you can help this statewide effort.

Mexican-American art

An exhibition of both recent and retrospective works by Mexican-American artist Max Pruneda will be shown at **Art of the People**, located on First Street near Yamhill in Portland. The exhibit, titled "Translating Memory," will run through the month of September. For information, call (503) 221-0569.

Pre-Columbian art exhibit coming to Portland

An exhibition of Pre-Columbian art from Mexico, Central and South America will be shown in Portland in October at **Abante Fine Art**, a private art gallery located on the corner of Second Street and Yamhill, adjacent to the MAX line. For information, call Rudi Milpacher at (503) 295-2508.

Portland Observador seeks youth writers

The **Portland Observador** is seeking essays by young writers for our In Our Own Words (En Nuestras Proprias Palabras) feature. We would like to publish your thoughts, feelings and experiences from a Hispanic perspective. Contact Editor, **The Portland Observador**, 4747 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Portland OR 97211. Please include the name of the school you attend and a daytime phone number.

Hillsboro PHCRC welcomes public comments

The **Hillsboro Police Hispanic Community Relations Committee** meets at 1:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the Public Services Building at 155 N. First Street, Room 245. The PHCRC exchanges ideas with the public on issues of community interest and offers problem solving. Contact Nancy Arriaza at (503) 693-4705 for information.

Young Parents Program needs volunteers

The **Oregon Human Development Corporation** is actively recruiting for volunteers to help with its **Young Parents Program**. Volunteers 12 years old and older are needed for help with child care in a nursery setting during the weekly support meetings, **Wednesdays**, early evenings. The program's goal is to help young parents and pregnant adolescents in the Hillsboro area enhance their parenting skills and promote the healthy development of their children. The Young Parents Program is funded by the **Oregon Department of Human Resources**, the **Children's Trust Fund**, and the **Washington County Commission on Children and Families**. Contact Alison Peck, Coordinator of Volunteer Services at **OHDC** at (503) 640-6349.

Register and vote!

Your vote is your voice. *Su voto es su voz.*
You cannot afford to miss the opportunity to vote and help set the agenda for the future.
There is still time to register to vote in the **November 5 general election**. Registration cards must be postmarked by **October 15**.
If you have moved or changed party affiliation since you last voted, you must re-register by the same deadline.
The **Multnomah County election office** may be reached at 248-3720.
The numbers for **Washington County** are 648-8670 and **Clackamas County** 655-8510.

Hispanic American Profiles

Hispanic Americans have a long and proud history in the United States. **Hispanic American Profiles** is an easy-to-use reference that provides a record of more than 150 role models whose contributions have influenced every aspect of American life.
Included in the collection are biographies of farm labor leader César Chávez, novelist Oscar Hijuelos, Tejano singer Selena, and actor and activist Martin Sheen. Robert Goizueta, former Chairman and CEO of Coca-Cola, and Ellen Ochoa, the first Latina selected by NASA and a space shuttle Discovery astronaut are profiled as well.
Both inspiring and informative, **Hispanic American Profiles** (One World/Ballentine Trade Paperback; \$9.00, 1996) serves as an excellent introduction to the variety and richness of Hispanic American culture.

In our own words En nuestras propias palabras

Aidilicia Díaz, a 17-year-old student at Sierra Vista High School in Baldwin Park, California, won first prize in this year's student essay contest sponsored by the California Association for Bilingual Education.

Aidilicia says that she was so afraid to speak English when she first got to school in the U.S. that she asked her father to take her back to Nayarit, Mexico.

There, she continued her studies, but after three years, she returned to live with the rest of her family in California.

Because she was so well-educated in Mexico, she says, this time she found it easier to pick up her studies in English. Aidilicia says that she's extremely proud of being Mexican, and has found that in learning a second language she didn't have to abandon Spanish. "You don't have to forget your first language or your first culture," she says. "If you come here, it's because you want to learn another one. But you still have to keep your culture, cien por ciento, one hundred percent."

IN MY OWN WORDS by Aidilicia Díaz

"When I came to this school, I had bilingual classes for three years. I met many people who were from different places. They were from China, Vietnam, Mexico, South America and Germany. We all spoke different languages. We all marched to different tunes.

"As we sat in our bilingual classes, we sometimes talked about the



Photo and article, written by Mandelit del Barco, appeared in *Si Magazine*, Spring 1996.

Source: *New York Times News Service*. Photo credit: *Joe Rodriguez*

cultures of the country that we each came from. When we did this, we tried to communicate in English. We all sounded very different, sort of funny, sort of out of tune. At that time, anyone who listened to us speaking would have only heard what they would think was a symphony out of tune. We didn't think we sounded

like a symphony at all.

"A symphony is made up of many different instruments with one specific goal: to create harmony. I think of us, the students in my class, as the instruments with different languages. We are the ones who could only communicate together by way of the English language, as we tried to cre-

ate human harmony.

"Now, three years later, my friends and I have many regular classes. When we speak, it sounds as if we are marching to the same tune as everyone else. We are part of the symphony that guides us to a better future. I am proud of who I am, and of the language I brought with me from my own country. My language represents who I am and my new language represents who I am becoming. I feel I add a different rhythm to this symphony because of my culture, which is in me. My friends and I are a symphony of voices.

"As you can see, we, the bilingual program students, speak other languages. We have our own tunes, but we strive to communicate with others who also speak and have their very own sounds. When we communicate and we don't use our own sounds, we do it in English. That's when we come together and make a symphony. That is why bilingual education truly is a symphony of voices."

In Our Own Words (En Nuestras Proprias Palabras) will be a regular feature of *The Portland Observador*, offering to Hispanic youth the opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings—and to describe their experiences—as a Latino in a predominantly Anglo environment. The *Observador* encourages our young readers to submit their own writing and a photograph and we will try to find space in our pages for you.

Latinos, unions need each other

BY SHAROLYN A. ROSIER,
AFL-CIO NEWS

Hispanic Americans, the fastest-growing segment of the work force, are finding out that unions can be instrumental in helping them work their way up the economic ladder.

"If diversity is an asset for America—and it is—it is even more of an asset for the labor movement," said AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson. "America's unions are the best hope for winning higher wages, better benefits and more dignity for Latinos and other people of color."

Richard Bensing, AFL-CIO organizing director, sees Latinos as key to the future of the labor movement. "The ranks of the movement cannot increase significantly without Latino workers," he said.

The number of Latinos in the work force will increase 75 percent by the year 2005, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. One out of six new workers will be Latino.

Labor's involvement with Hispanic workers dates back to the founding of the Farm Workers Union in the early 1960s. From the 1968 grape boycott to the Service Employees' Justice for Janitors demonstrations, unions have stood by Latinos in the workplace and in the halls of government.

Besides the Farm Workers, other unions with strong traditions in organizing Latinos are SEIU, the Hotel

Employees and Restaurant Employees, UNITE and AFSCME. But as their numbers increase, Latinos are finding homes in other unions as well.

"Many of the most successful organizing drives have involved mostly Latino workers—the Laborers on Maryland's Eastern Shore, UNITE in Dallas, the Carpenters during the drywallers' campaign, and the Farm Workers, which is the fastest-growing union in the country today," Bensing said. "The challenge to the labor movement is to recruit more Latino organizers."

A major voice for Latinos in the labor movement is the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, an AFL-CIO constituency group founded in 1972. Starting with a hundred delegates at its first convention, LCLAA hosted more than 1,000 delegates at its August convention in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Power through the union card and the ballot box is the message that LCLAA brings to Hispanic workers and their families, said LCLAA Executive Director Al Montoya. "Many Hispanics have made big contributions to our nation in labor, business, politics, the arts, sports and other fields. But there are many who are denied such opportunities."

The key is to provide good, steady jobs at decent pay to help Latinos make a full contribution to the economy and society, he explained.

Young Latinos are ready and willing, as this year's Union Summer revealed. "We have between 100 to 200 Latinos in Union Summer," said Andy Levin, the program director. "We recruited at predominantly Hispanic colleges like Arizona State, San Francisco State University, Brookland Community College, the University of Texas at San Antonio and Los Angeles Community College."

Several Latino recruits already are working with the UFW organizing strawberry pickers in Watsonville, Calif. Eight Latinos also serve as Union Summer field staff directors.

Still, unions have a long way to go to break through to Latino workers. "They know Cesar Chavez but they don't know about Linda Chavez-Thompson and Dolores Huerta," said Tania Rosaria, assistant coordinator of the Washington and Sacramento, Calif., Union Summer sites.

But the union card definitely means an escape out of poverty for Latinos, whose poverty rate is three times as high as the rate for white families. Hispanic workers who are union members earn 50 percent more than non-union Hispanic workers, according to LCLAA.

"Within building services, there is a large percentage of Latino workers," said Anna Aviles, immigration coordinator for SEIU. "The Justice for Janitors campaign is an ongoing effort we will continue to do as part

of a new vision and leadership" within the union.

The union also has a pilot project to help immigrants become legal citizens so that they are eligible to vote in California. The project has been tested, and the union hopes to expand it to other areas and to include Asians.

California unions have joined Latinos to fight divisive initiatives like Proposition 187, which would prohibit immigrants from receiving public aid and attending public schools. Although the proposition passed, enforcement is forbidden until courts render judgment on several lawsuits.

With immigrant-bashing and attacks on affirmative action on the rise, these coalitions are becoming more important. Miguel Carreras, the newly elected executive secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles AFL-CIO, was able to arrange the first meeting between Latino leaders and African-American ministers in Los Angeles.

"Unfortunately, everybody has been fighting for the crumbs," said David Sickler of AFL-CIO Field Mobilization Department. "This alliance will make our coalitions much stronger."

Those strengthened ties are evident in the planning for the Oct. 12 national Latino and immigrant civil rights march. The AFL-CIO, its affiliated unions and constituency groups are major contributors.

Raise your children to resist violence

Research has shown that violent or aggressive behavior is often learned early in life. However, parents, family members and others can help them learn to deal with their emotions without using violence. Parents and others can also take steps to reduce or minimize violence. It is important that parents become better at working within the family, school and the community to prevent and reduce youth violence.

Suggestions for dealing with children

Give your children consistent love and attention. Without a steady bond to a caring adult, a child is at risk for becoming hostile, difficult, and hard to manage. Behavior problems and delinquency are less likely to develop in children whose parents are involved in their lives, especially at an early age.

Make sure your children are supervised. Insist on knowing where they are at all times and who their friends are. Never leave young children home alone, even for a short time.

Show your children appropriate behaviors by the way you act. The behavior, values, and attitudes of

parents and siblings have a strong effect on children. Values of respect, honesty, and pride in your family and heritage can be important sources of strength for children.

Don't hit your children.

Physical punishments stop unwanted behavior only for a short time. Even with very harsh punishment, children may adapt so that it has little or no effect.

Be consistent about rules and discipline. Children need structure with clear expectations for their behavior. Parents should involve children in setting rules whenever possible.

Make sure that your children do not have access to guns. Don't carry a gun or weapon. If you do, this tells your children that using guns solves problems.

Try to keep your children from seeing violence in the home or community. Children need a safe and loving home where they do not have to grow up in fear. Children who have seen violence at home do not always become violent, but they may be more likely to try to resolve conflicts with violence.

Try to keep your children from seeing too much violence in the me-

Teach your children ways to avoid becoming victims of violence

Teach them safe routes for walking in your neighborhood. Encourage them to walk with a friend at all times, and in safe, well-lit areas. Stress how important it is for them to report any crime or suspicious activities they see to you, a teacher, some other trustworthy adult, or the police. Show them how to call 911.

Make sure they know what to do if anyone tries to hurt them: Say "no," run away, and tell a reliable adult. Stress the dangers of talking to strangers. Tell them never to open the door to or go anywhere with someone they don't know and trust.

Help your children stand up against violence

Help them to understand that it takes more courage and leadership to resist violence than to go along with it.

Help them accept diversity in people

Children need to be taught to accept and get along with others from various ethnic, racial and cultural backgrounds. Teach them that criti-

cizing people because they are different is hurtful, and that name-calling is unacceptable.

An extra suggestion for adults

Take care of yourself and your community. Stay involved with your family, neighborhood and friends. Reducing stress and social isolation can help in raising your children. Get involved in your community. "Try to make sure guns are not available in your area. Complain to television stations and advertisers who sponsor violent programs.

Encourage your children to get involved in groups that build pride in the community. In addition to making your neighborhood a safer place, these groups provide a great opportunity for parents, children, and neighbors to spend time together in fun, safe, and rewarding activities.

(portions of this article were excerpted from the pamphlet "Raising children to resist violence—What you can do", published by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Psychological Association. For copies of the pamphlet, write to AAP, Division of Publications, P.O. Box 927, Elk Grove Village, IL 60009-0927)