

ADVERTISEMENT

Oregon Employees Federal Credit Union



Earn a \$100 Gift Card...On Us!

click here for details www.orempfcu.org

Now Featuring:

communities

[click here]

StatesmanJournal.com

Customer Service | Subscribe Now | Pay Bill | Place an Ad | Contact Us

StatesmanJournal SALEM, OREGON

StatesmanJournal.com : CALENDAR : WEATHER : JOBS : CARS : REAL ESTATE : APARTMENTS : SHOPPING : CLASSIFIEDS :

SEARCH:

SEE STORIES FROM:

NEWS NATION WORLD SPORTS BUSINESS TRAVEL NOTICES OBITUARIES THINGS TO DO SPECIAL SECTIONS

Sunday, July 9, 2006

news

EMAIL THIS STORY PRINT THIS STORY LETTER TO THE EDITOR EMAIL HEADLINES SUBSCRIBE NOW!

SILVERTON Spanish-speaking women unite for cultural support

Hispanas Unidas promotes literacy via storytelling -- in English and in Spanish

BY OMIE DRAWHORN Silverton Appeal Tribune March 16, 2005

Twelve women sit in a semicircle in Douglas Jenkins' classroom at Eugene Field Elementary School, sharing laughs, knowledge and stories.

The women have formed a group called Hispanas Unidas to provide one another support and to read and write in both English and Spanish.

Susana Ghio passes around copies of a book written in English and Spanish. It's a children's book with color drawings and words, titled "Upside Down Boy," or "El Niño de Cabeza." The women read from it in the meeting, and they will take it home to read to their children.

"Susana searches and finds these wonderful books," said Doreen Kelly, resource coordinator for Silverton Together. "The women learn English, and the children remember their Spanish."

The story is about a little boy going to school for the first time, getting used to unfamiliar surroundings, which many women in the group can relate to. These women are from different parts of Mexico and South America, but their Hispanic heritage and their desire to learn, grow and support one another bring them together.

Being uprooted from a familiar culture, leaving behind families, friends, language and traditions to join a culture with unfamiliar traditions and languages, can make anyone feel alone.

But these women are increasingly not alone. In 1990, 7.7 percent of the population in Silverton, Mount Angel and Scotts Mills was Hispanic. In 2004, the number was 14.6 percent, with 10.95 percent of the population speaking Spanish in the home.

Hispanas Unidas unites them.

The group of local Hispanic women, which formed in 2001, allows the women to express themselves and promote literacy by encouraging women to write stories of their culture and read books in English and

Meetings

Hispanas Unidas has been meeting once per month but will add an extra meeting to work on computer skills.

The next meeting will be at Mark Twain Middle School.

ADVERTISEMENT

careerbuilder.com Search over a million jobs JOBS WITHOUT MONKEYS ARE WAITING FOR YOU

Click here for Careerbuilder!

Spanish to their children.

"They all have a chance to share stories from their childhood," said Ghio, a native Argentinean and Spanish teacher and group leader for Hispanas Unidas.

Rosa Campos said that through talking and writing, she can express to the group everything she remembers about her country and has been able to write more and more.

Each group member plans to eventually write her own story, and the group will compile the stories into a book.

Twelve women. Twelve stories.

The group includes its four original members:

- Cecilia Poblete moved from Chile to Silverton four years ago to be with her husband. She works as an instructional aide at Parrish Middle School in Salem.
- Mary Carmen Cressey is from Puebla, Mexico, and earned a degree in marketing in Mexico.
- Campos is from Puebla and left a career as a veterinarian to come to Oregon to make more money to send back to Mexico.
- Karla Smith moved to Salem from San Luis, Mexico, and has two children. All are at least semi-fluent in English, through means such as English as a Second Language classes, watching television and talking with people.

The group received a \$9,500 grant from Verizon in September, allowing Ghio to purchase books for the group members, pay for child care and arrange for a bus to pick up the women who live in Silverton.

"The women really bonded with each other," said Kelly of Silverton Together, "and so their project was to become a permanent group."

[▲ TOP OF PAGE](#)

 **SOUND OFF**

[Post Comment](#)

OTHER ARTICLES FROM: Sunday, July 9

News

- › Contamination an issue at Boise site
- › Man faces rape, sex-abuse charges
- › Four people homeless after house fire
- › A reminder of sacrifices
- › Salem woman dies in single-car crash
- › Salem planning panel may grow by 2
- › Park honors Faussett's feat, era
- › Salem-based educator for blind will get award today

State Government

- › State managers' salaries often fall short
- › 4-year freeze sets some salaries askew
- › In 22-state comparison, legislator pay near middle
- › Democrats aim for gains in state Legislature

Business

- › County fairs have grown from their rural roots
- › Salem program makes permit process a priority

Columnists

- › TV section reflects changing viewing habits
- › Real arts drama happens behind the scenes

Sports

- › Timbers beat Coventry on penalty kicks
- › Withnell to play for tournament title today
- › Rhodes set for nationals
- › Bateman realizing dream behind steering wheel
- › Hough qualifies first in Top Alcohol Funny Car
- › Volcanoes drop 2nd straight

Arts, Culture & Entertainment

- › Law experience tints new murder thriller
- › Volunteers sought for Salem Art Fair
- › Kites
- › Trivia contest

Editorials

- › State's top executives need to earn their pay
- › Raise 5-cent deposit for bottles, cans

Letters

- › The Rant
- › It's good to read both sides of forest debate
- › Let Oregonians have traditional July 4 fun
- › People in 30s and 40s need to vote to protect interests
- › Columnist glossed over bad policies about Iraq
- › Fireworks scare pets, fill homes with smoke

careerbuilder.com

Guest Opinion & Commentaries

- [Q&A: Debriefing Ollie North](#)
- [If Hillary runs, she'll win](#)
- [Cartoons: litmus test for a society's freedom](#)



StatesmanJournal.com

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Things to Do](#) | [Notices](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Cars](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Our Services](#) |

Copyright ©2006 StatesmanJournal.com All rights reserved.

Use of this site indicates your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#), updated June 7, 2005.

Jobs: [CareerBuilder.com](#) - Cars: [cars.com](#) - Apartments: [apartments.com](#) - Shopping: [ShopLocal.com](#)