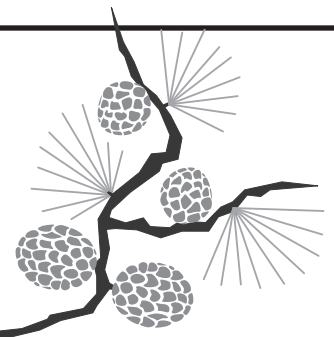


# The SEED



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

FALL/WINTER 2007

A PUBLICATION OF THE LEARNING AND LOVING EDUCATION CENTER

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## Mission Statement

*The Learning and Loving Education Center, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of the Presentation, strives to be an agent of change in the educational process for immigrant women. In a warm, loving atmosphere the women learn basic English and Computer skills.*

*Additionally, the Center seeks to provide enrichment and self-development opportunities that encourage women to use their gifts and talents in building relationships among themselves, their families and the community.*

## Song of Community

There is a favorite song: *Song of Community* by Carol McDade that has been singing in my heart for the past twenty years. I have delighted to hear it sung by elementary students with vibrant voices. My own community of Presentation Sisters has sung it, with its Irish lilt, at our celebrations and conferences. I share it in this issue of the Seed as we continue to endeavor to build community through education and love. On March 25th we will celebrate thirteen years. It seems like such a short time ago on that first day, we were privileged to welcome twenty women and their small children.

*We'll weave a love that greens sure as spring  
Then deepens in summer to the fall autumn brings  
Resting still in winter to spiral again,  
Together my friends we'll weave on, we'll weave on.*

*A love that heals friend, that bends friend,  
That rising and turning then yields friend.  
Like the mountains to rain or frost in the spring  
Or darkness that turns with the dawn,  
It's by turning, turning, turning my friend,  
By turning that love moves on.*



*Sister Pat congratulating former student, Maricela Naranjo on becoming a US citizen.*

Our troubling world and local events, as well as people's attitude changes and concerns about who "should be" in their neighborhoods and cities causes us much concern today. Right before we began the school year in the fall, the entire staff, teachers and volunteers spent a morning in reflection and sharing on welcoming the immigrant. We were led in discussion by Greg Kepferle, the CEO of Catholic Charities. We considered our mission of changing hearts and minds to be more compassionate and welcoming. Several of our staff also participated in house meetings of neighbors and friends to listen as people told what it was like for their parents,

*Continued on page 2*

## *Spotlight's on Josefina Orozco*

It is a joy to talk about Josefina. She lives in Gilroy with her husband, Javier and four year old daughter, Alexis Maria. She has been a student with us for four years. She has attended our English levels, Computer, Math, Art and GED classes. Last year when she was in the Advanced Level she took the Leader in You class taught by Pat Cohen-Hadria. Josefina took part in one of the public speaking activities and spoke to two junior high classes at St. John Vianney School. This year she is concentrating on finishing her GED and she is part of Peggy Thompson's Advanced Writing class. A recent assignment was to write three paragraphs on the subject: "My parents and I agree on some things but disagree on others."

*My parents and I agree to be responsible in everything we do. Also we like to work hard to have a better life and have some money in case of emergency. We like to help and share with others the things we have. Also we agree to keep our home clean and we don't like violence. We like to give thanks to God for everything we*

*have, especially health and life. On the other hand, we disagree on some things, especially how to educate children. They were very strict with us when we were children. My parents kept us working. We didn't have time to play around with our friends. Also, they didn't think that education was important. I think that education is very important because if we stay in school we can learn many things. We can become a professional person and get a better job and life. Also we can have a better car, home and perhaps travel. Also we can be more helpful to others. Education is the most important thing in our life.*

~ Josefina Orozco



*Josefina and Alexis Maria*

## *Arts Council Silicon Valley's Contribution*



*Mari Faizi (top-left)  
Maria Elena Garcia (top-right)  
Rosa Ramirez (left)  
Julia Hernandez (middle)  
Carla Garcia (right)*

Our Center received a grant from this wonderful organization. All the art supplies and materials came with a gifted artist, Sara Baldik. Sara spoke with our students and Sister Pat about their feelings about the Center and then designed the mural that you see in the picture next to this article. The painting was done by members of Kathy Whiteaker's art class and other students from the different English levels. A few weeks later five art students had the opportunity to work with Sara. Their art work and the mural hung in the Morgan Hill Community Center during the months of September and October. At the end of the exhibit our artists were honored by the Directors of the Arts Council during a special ceremony.



*Our mural which now greets students and visitors in our side hallway.*

## *Song of Community, cont. from page 2*

grand or great-grand parents when they first came to this country. Many of us with our students will be at the Town Hall Meeting on Immigration in San Jose. We are invitees of Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren who is the Chair of the House Sub-Committee on Immigration. Together at one table we will hear testimonies from agribusiness, high tech, students, labor and the immigrant community. We will talk

about the need for immigration reform from each of their perspectives. We believe that we must continue ***"to weave a love that opens our eyes... a love that touches our pain... a love with roots growing deep... For together my friends we'll weave on."***

~ Sister Pat Davis, Director

## Community Based Education Training



*Pre-kindergarteners using the Leap Frog Math Pad to practice their numbers with Yolanda Perez, their teacher.*

The first classes on Mondays and Wednesdays find Ellen Yu Costa, a teacher from the Morgan Hill School District, greeting mothers who want to learn about the American school system. They also are encouraged to be active in their children's schools. Many mothers volunteer weekly in their children's schools either in the classroom or the library. The elementary schools have a parent's club: English Language Acquisition Committee that meets regularly. Several mothers attend the meetings and now are officers of the groups. Delia Gomez, an advanced student of English, is the District President representing all of the ELAC groups. In October, students from Ellen's class attended the School Board Meeting. They spoke about and demonstrated the Leap Frog Learning Pads for reading and math. This program has been adopted for use in the elementary schools for the English Learners. It is also part of our curriculum preparing our children for kindergarten. The students of this class are a great source of pride.

### Crafts Classes with Mercedes

Four days a week in our gathering and hospitality room there is a special energy and buzz going on in the right side of the room. Mercedes Zarate, the mother of Carmen Guerrero, an advanced student, is teaching remarkable crafts. Students crowd around and wait for the next vacant chair near Mercedes to ask questions or seek her approval of their work. There seems to be a new project everyday. Our students are making jewelry, metallic bonsai trees, piñatas to name just a few items. Our dream of starting a cottage craft cooperative here in town is beginning to sprout. No doubt you will hear more about this in future editions of the *Seed*.



*Mercedes (front right) introducing a new craft to Martha, Raquel and Claudia.*

### San Jose Mercury News – Wish Book 2006

The Wish Book is an annual project of the Mercury News that invites readers to help their neighbors. Our sewing classes were featured in a great article written by reporter, Michele Jurich. The article: *Stitching Together New Life Skills* appeared on a Saturday in November. Since that time, sewing machines, supplies, fabulous fabric for quilting and other sewing projects have come to us in abundance. The Mercury also sent a very generous check to buy new sewing machines and needed supplies for our sewing classes. Receiving the machines and material has been touching. Many donations came from family members of seamstresses who have moved to heaven. We were told some wonderful stories of loved ones who shared their sewing with others in the form of gifts or needed clothing. We treasure their special memories.

### A Special Event to benefit Learning and Loving Education Center!

It's on Saturday, April 21st from 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm. See the enclosed flyer for the exact details. Can we count on you and your friends to make it a success? We have reserved a special place on the bus for you! We are planning on spending the afternoon with two-hundred twenty friends of our Center! Hope you can come!

Committee: Toni Tripoli, Lucy and Joe Dinis, Marian and Joe Cauchi, Chris and Armand Conti, Heather Rottenborn, Teresa Chan, Sister Pat

# THE SEED

## Weavers of Love and Outreach

As the master calendar fills up each month, it is so evident that we are encouraged and supported by so many members of the community. You will be impressed as much as we are grateful. In the last six months we have been blest by: Our Board of Trustees - New volunteer teachers – Sister Rachela, DC, on site flu shots, glucose and blood pressure tests - Citi Bank workshops - St. Christopher’s School donations of healthy snacks for our pre-school – Sobrato Grantee Tribute – Las Madres groups visiting with books, supplies and holiday gifts for our small ones – a visit from Emmet Cox, the new CEO of Community Foundation Silicon Valley – Christmas giving from Paramit Corporation - Employees from ten different departments of St. Louise Hospital - Mandell Communications Corporation – Angel Star Inc. – Christmas Angel Program (people who adopt Learning and Loving



*Diocese of San Jose Retired Teachers, hostesses of the 2007 Valentine Tea for all our students*

families) – Diocese of San Jose Retired Teachers – San Jose Mercury – Morgan Hill Charter School’s Second Grade donating eight hundred books for families and visiting and reading to the children – Our Special Event Committee – Asians for a Better Community.



*Second Graders from the Charter School reading and singing to our children.*



### Eco-Care Professional Housecleaning

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