

## Highlands resident showcases Peruvian film and dance

By Jane Clemmons

As a 4-year resident and Area Representative in the Highlands, I wanted to share with the community my enthusiasm (some might say passion or evangelism) for documentary films. Following a 20-year career in high tech software and services in both the US and Asia, I embarked on a journey in early 2003 to better understand the documentary film landscape by traveling to many of the major film festivals in the world – much like someone who dreams of watching a baseball game in every major league ballpark. The journey has led me back to Europe, Canada and Australia, while introducing me to films highlighting my former stomping grounds in Asia, prior holiday destinations in South America and Africa, and the ever changing Middle East.

My film festival travel has triggered my involvement in some unique projects, including **an engaging new documentary film, "Soy Andina" (I am Andean)**, <http://www.soyandina.com>

In September I volunteered to raise completion financing for this film that weaves the story of two immigrant women (who actually met each other through the film's website) returning to their ancestral home in order to reconnect with their roots through folkloric dance, thus building a new sense of community in both their homeland and in their adopted country. It is a story of cross-cultural exchange, documenting the indomitable spirit of women who are eager to establish their own identity, bring people together through dance, and share their culture no matter where they are.

And here's exciting news: film subject/folkloric dancer Nelida Silva and director Mitch Teplitzky

*You are invited to attend a program of video, dance, music, and dialog about Peruvian/Andean culture and the immigrant experience. The fundraising dinner will be held at a San Mateo-based Peruvian restaurant on Wednesday evening, November 3. If you'd like to attend, please send a message to [jlclemmons@alumni-gsb.stanford.edu](mailto:jlclemmons@alumni-gsb.stanford.edu) or call 650.520.4315.*

will be coming to San Mateo in early November!

**Both the director and dancer will be featured at an assembly for the students at the Highlands Elementary School on November 3.**

Those interested in international documentary films, adventure travel, folkloric/ethnic dance, empowerment of women, preservation of cultural artistic traditions or Andean/South American indigenous goods often identify with the themes conveyed in the film.

I met the NYC-based filmmaker last June at a DC-based conference, exchanged ideas with him - both before and after his four-week film shoot (his fourth) in Peru - and met three of the Latina immigrants featured in the

film. The film is 95% shot and largely financed. The current goal is to raise \$35K for editing/post production and \$15K for initial outreach/distribution, to complete the film by spring 2005.

Email [jlclemmons@alumni-gsb.stanford.edu](mailto:jlclemmons@alumni-gsb.stanford.edu) if you have an interest in this project for a tax-deductible donation or corporate sponsorship.

Check out [www.soyandina.com](http://www.soyandina.com), sign up to keep posted on upcoming events and related news, and seek me out if you share my interest in becoming more educated about the world around us. The Highlands Community is like no other neighborhood I have ever been a part of, and I am happy to have been introduced to it by a former Highlands resident four short years ago.



**NACHO'S**  
Fresh Mexican Grill  
742 Polhemus, San Mateo, CA  
(Crystal Springs Shopping Area)  
650-341-3003

**Special Coupon for the Highlands**  
Buy one entree and 2 drinks at regular price  
Get one item of equal or lower value up to \$6 ...  
And Tuesday nights  
kids 12 and under eat ...

**FREE** **FREE**