

SAIIC hosts "The South American Indian Update" the first Friday of each month at 8:00 P.M. on KPFA (FM94.1) in northern California. The program includes interviews with South American Indians regarding current issues, an update of recent events in South America from an Indian perspective, and traditional and modern South American Indian music. Listen in.



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#### INTERVIEW WITH NILDA CALLANAUPA, QUECHUA FROM PERU

SAIIC was fortunate to be visited by Nilda Callanaupa, who was in the United States to participate in the Handweavers Conference held in San Jose. Nilda is a weaver from the community of Chincheros, about a day's walk from the city of Cuzco, Peru.

SAIIC: Do the people in your community use what is woven there?

NILDA: Yes, especially the mantas. The women use them all the time. Women use them daily. One wraps the baby; one is to keep you warm from the cold mountain air; and one is for carrying the baby or other things on your back. So women use three mantas every day. And each woman weaves her clothing.

SAIIC: Can you tell us about your family?

NILDA: My father was a peon on a hacienda. He had a small piece of land, but he had to work for a hacienda to be allowed to work his land. When Velasco became president in 1968, he reduced the size of some of the haciendas, and my father was fortunate to be freed of this system. He tells many things about life on the haciendas. He suffered terribly because of the hacienda owners. For example, my father had to work from six in the morning until six in the evening, and it was two hours to walk from home to where he worked, all of it up a steep hill. At night he returned home exhausted; he slept a few hours and had to return to work. And the best sheep and cattle went to the hacienda owner. He could just say, "This one and this one is for me." The situation was incredible under the hacienda system.



Agnes Tso, Navajo weaver and teacher at Hintil Kuu Co, the American Indian pre-school in Oakland, with Nilda Callanaupa (right). Photo: S. Lobo