

LOVE IN THE TIME OF TOXICANTS

IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LITERACY IN COMMUNITIES THROUGH CREATIVE APPROACHES

Young adults and prospective parents are a key audience for messaging on how and why avoidance of toxic exposures, good nutrition, regular exercise, positive social interaction, and stress reduction can help create the conditions for health across the lifespan. Improving Environmental Health Literacy of Young Adults, a project of the Center for Integrative Research on Childhood Leukemia and the Environment at the University of California, Berkeley, in collaboration with the Western States Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) and the nonprofit research and education center Commonweal, is developing innovative educational materials to reach, initially, the young adult Latino population.

Materials include the fotonovela “Rosa and Carlos get Married” and a shadow puppet play “Love in the Time of Toxicants,” designed to create awareness of the role of pre-conception and prenatal environmental influences on a range of health conditions from childhood leukemia to asthma to reproductive health. Materials are based on A Story of Health eBook and free Continuing Education (CE) course. (CE course offered through the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.) Look for the new community outreach materials in late 2016 at <http://wspesu.ucsf.edu>.

Below: Scenes from the bridal shower in the fotonovela “Rosa and Carlos get married” Illustrations: Stephen Burdick Design.

