



YACHASPA

Quechua for "sabiendo" or "knowing"...

Newsletter of Amigos de Bolivia y Perú, Inc.

Un Paseo Peruano

Hello once again to all of our members who served in Peru or have other attachments to "la tierra linda." Whenever I hear Peruvian conjunto music, it takes me back to the times when I felt really close to my Peruvian friends and so happy to be with them! I'm sure many of you have the same kinds of memories.

I am pleased to tell you that we have completed our first fund raiser project! A small but helpful sum will be added to the Kantuta projects/Peru from the sale of Peru calendars which were offered

at a special price to Amigos members earlier this year.

Now I would welcome ideas from members regarding money making projects that we could market nationally: perhaps Peruvian designed objects, note cards with photos or drawings of Peruvian subjects, or ...?

Do let me know if you have an idea of something that we can develop for sale to make money for projects to assist non profit projects in Peru. Artists and graphic designers....get busy!

Another development

that is in the works is a request from Peace Corps/Private Sector representative Karen Fjeld. A U.S. organization has offered to donate used computers to various Peruvian schools, IF (and this is a big if) about \$3500 can be raised soon to cover shipping and customs charges. The donation will be approximately 300 Compaq Pentium II computers with CD-ROM and floppy disk drives and Ethernet cards.

Kate Raftery, Country Director/Peru, has in-

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See you in Chicago!!

Join RPCVs heading to Chicago August 5th to 8th for the NPCA Conference.

See www.burnisongroup.com/rpcv/ndex.html for a listing of the many RPCVs and friends who have already committed to meet.

Summer 2004

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PC/Peru Update...

Well here we are two years down....and many more to come. In May 2002 staff began to arrive to re-establish the Peace Corps mission here in Peru. It has been nothing if it has not been exciting.

Two weeks ago we had the Peace Corps Director Gaddi Vasquez here for the swearing in cere-

mony of Peru 3. The ceremony was held at the Presidential Palace with President Toledo officially hosting the event. We had over 100 well wishers in the audience, many of whom are RPCVs from around the world who live here now with various jobs and institutions. As usual the President captured the

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Amigos de Bolivia y Peru, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation, affiliated with the National Peace Corps Association. As an affiliate of NPCA, *Amigos* is one of approximately 140 organized groups of returned Peace Corps volunteers, former staff and friends who work together and separately. *Amigos* promotes and supports a variety of activities for the purpose of enhancing cooperation and understanding among the peoples of Bolivia and/or Peru and the peoples of the United States.

Yachaspa, the newsletter of *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru*, is distributed quarterly with the following anticipated deadlines for submitting materials to the editor: Spring Issue-March 15th; Summer Issue-June 15th; Fall Issue-September 15th; Winter Issue-December 15th.

Articles are welcome and may be submitted to brownr@jaynet.wcmo.edu.

Yachaspa is distributed to members by mail or electronically in .pdf format. Past issues are also available at www.amigosdeboliviayperu.org on the *Amigos* web site .

Let us know if you've visited Bolivia or Peru recently...or, know a good book or resources of interest to other *Amigos* members.

Editor's Corner...

Electronic transmission of this newsletter saves considerable printing and mailing costs; in addition, the electronic version permits our inclusion of color. The efforts of *Amigos'* Webmaster, Bill Sherry, and Membership Coordinator, Gloria Levin, have allowed us to accelerate the conversion of most *Amigos* members to electronic receipt of the newsletter. Recognizing that the html version was highly unsatisfactory to navigate and print, we have

switched to a pdf version. Bill will post future *Yachaspa* issues on *Amigos'* website (www.boliviayperu.org) as pdf files. Gloria will email all known email users the link to the pdf file for each issue, as soon as it is available on the website. Her email will explain how to install, at no cost, the Adobe Reader software that will open the .pdf link (the newsletter).

She has aggressively searched for email addresses of members who had been receiving *Yachaspa* by postal

mail because they had not provided or updated their email addresses. Direct all changes of address to Gloria, and also if you have received a mailed paper copy but have email access. Or if you need help in accessing *Yachaspa* electronically, contact Gloria (g-levin@comcast.net).

Ray Brown, *Yachaspa* Editor, will continue to print and mail hard copies of the newsletter to those for whom we have no email address.

Update from Acting Board Chair

Recently the NPCA mailed out ballots for the election of seven new members of their Board of Directors - five regional and two country of service board positions. Six of the positions are uncontested but for the first time in a long while, one of the board positions (The Americas Country of Service Region) is being sought by two candidates. This is a very healthy development and one we hope to see more of in the future. Both Josh Busby and Maury Sterns are fine candidates, both are qualified for the board position but they have differing views on their vision of priorities for the NPCA. (*Peace Corps On Line.*)

One of these days it would be a positive development if *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* had more than one

candidate for a Board position. Currently we have a Board of seven members. Three have submitted themselves to elections and four are appointed to do specific jobs as well as vote on policies. Basically, our Bylaws provide for a maximum of four Board members per time zone so we do have a ways to go before we'll have two candidates for Board elections.

Generally, after a two-year appointment, Board members who wish to continue can do so by being elected (six-year term) by the dues-paid members residing in the same time zone. Although there have not been any two-candidate races, the elections to the Board of *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* are more of a vote of confidence in the work being done and such elections are a check on the Board becoming a closed group which has

been problematical for many corporations (non-profit and for-profit.) It is important in order to keep Board members somewhat accountable, that members vote even if there is not more than one candidate.

Currently we have no one on the Board from the Pacific Time Zone or from among the post-1990 RPCVs ~ we need young blood or risk fading away. A lot of you seem timid about subjecting yourselves to elections. Anyone interested in being on the Board, should contact me and we can discuss the possibilities for two-year appointments by the Board. No one has to run for election right off.

Ken Rustad, Board Chair

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Editor's Note: We learned recently after Ken wrote the article indicating that Josh Busby won the NPCA election representing Latin America.

Amigos Board Appoints Stephen Paul Jacobs

Stephen Paul Jacobs has been appointed by the Board to a two year term as Corporate Secretary and Board Facilitator.

Steve has been a member of *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* almost from the beginning.

His interest in both countries stems from his "extraordinary" years as a Peace Corps Volunteer (Bolivia 1963-1966). As a volunteer, he taught architecture at the Universidad de San Simón in Cochabamba. As the only Peace Corps architect in Bolivia during those years, he was also involved in small design projects and worked with volunteers in the field.

He just retired from 33 years on the Architecture faculty at Tulane where he served as Associate Dean and taught design and computer graphics classes. Last spring, during his final sabbatical, he returned to Bolivia and taught in the Architecture Program at San Francisco Xavier, in Sucre. In August, he will begin his new career as a PhD candidate in Latin American Studies at Tulane. He hopes to acquire the necessary skills and historic perspective to research and write about the urban cultural environment in the Andean countries.

Because the Board business of *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* is done virtually on the internet, Steve will be in charge of facilitating these meetings and in

charge of finalizing agendas. He will maintain the computer records of e-mail, and other forms of teleconferencing such as web meetings.

He will also be in charge of other corporate business records provided by Board members and other officers which will be passed on to future Corporate Secretaries for the duration of *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* as a viable corporation in accordance with Board policies and legal standards.

Welcome aboard Steve!!

Ken Rustad, Board Chair

Letter from Katie Gass, PCV from Peru

I would be lying if I were to say I was not shocked by the caseríos that dotted the desert landscape as our bus made its way up the Pan-American Highway to Piura.

We were on our way to our first site visits and I remember thinking to myself, "Just as long as my site doesn't look like this I'll be okay."

Being a PCV in Perú had put all sorts of romantic notions in my head of towering Andes landscapes, frolicking alpacas, and colorful warm clothing...it was beginning to dawn on me that life in Bajo Piura would be a little different.

Nonetheless, after over half a year in site I'm pleased, and a little bit shocked, to say that Piura feels like home. Despite the daily hardships, such as having water only 6 hours a week, +100 degree heat, rodents living in my bamboo walls, sand stuck in every place imaginable (and unimaginable), and a poverty with which I'm still grappling, I feel pleased and fortunate to be having what most would consider to be a "classic Peace Corps" experience.

In the PC of the 21st century these rustic living conditions appear to

be diminishing and the days of scarce communication are nearly extinct. I'm one of two volunteers (out of 10) in Bajo Piura without a cellphone. I found it too ironic that I could have my first cellphone while in the Peace Corps. Nevertheless, international phone cards are so cheap that I can easily afford to call my family once a month from our payphone in town and Internet is just a short 45 minute combi ride away. So, I'm expected to check my email several times a month to receive PC Perú updates.

However, volunteer life is not the only thing affected by the information age. Many people in my community have a basic understanding of the U.S. based on current events they have pieced together. Of course there are still those people who ask if the U.S. is "más allá que Lima," but more often, people want to know if I saw the Twin Towers fall or if the war with Iraq has reached my house. One of my greatest challenges has been to correct and educate people about the current situations in the US while remaining as apolitical as possible.

My other challenges come from living the day-to-day life of a community health volunteer, though

these days the rewards and mini-successes seem to outnumber the frustrations. If there were such a thing as a "typical day" it might involve preparing lunch in a comedor, motivational visits to the local health promoters, running errands and doing paperwork for upcoming meetings, teaching computer skills and, of course, playing fútbol.

Though my project is technically in health, I've broadened it to include female empowerment and through sports, theatre, and leadership workshops have found women of all ages to be extremely excited and receptive to becoming more active members in the community.

Upon a recent trip to Lima I felt a surge of excitement as our bus passed through my district along the Pan-American Highway. I found myself craning my neck to see if there was anyone I knew and whether or not the terrain had been prepared for a garden we were going to start. Though it is always nice to have a break in Lima, I was eager to be back home.

Katie Gass
PCV/Peru

Letter from PCV in Bolivia

I'm beginning to think there's no such thing as a quiet night in Bolivia.

Or a meal wherein potatoes don't figure prominently.

Or a clean pair of shoes.

At 1 a.m. this morning, music from a nearby disco played loudly; occasionally, someone would crank it up for extra emphasis. Every once in a while, one of the abundant neighborhood dogs would begin barking, followed by a crowing rooster. At 2 a.m., I was awakened by a similar burst of life, and again at 3 a.m.

Yesterday, I and my fellow Peace Corps volunteers were dropped off at our host families' homes for three months of training before our two years of service. It was a strangely emotional procession. We had spent only five days together, cloistered in a relatively comfortable hotel. Still, bonds had formed. This would be our first night apart. I and one other volunteer were to be the last to be dropped off. At each of the 13 stops prior to mine, my anxiety level mounted.

The entire group, accompanied by our trainers, walked en masse to the first volunteer's home. His host family greeted each of us with a shy, but warm, "buena dias" and a kiss on each cheek. Their sincerity touched me deeply. We were taken, again en masse, to his room, where the walls were covered with colorful posters and drawings. They ranged from pictures of Winnie the Pooh to the

Latin American version of Playboy bunnies. The effect, though bizarre, was festive and welcoming. The room was typical of the rooms each of us would have, mostly bare with concrete walls and floor. The bed stood starkly in the middle, boxed in by a mosquito net. I wondered how this tall American would sleep in a bed that was easily 6 inches too short for him.

Right now, however, it didn't seem important. The mood of the group was one of buoyant anticipation. When it came time to say goodbye and move on to the next house, each of us embraced our comrade. Tears flowed from my eyes, though I couldn't say why.

At each subsequent stop we went through a similar scenario. The comfort of the homes ranged widely. Some volunteers were escorted into very comfortable accommodations with stereo systems, TVs and shiny clean tile floors. Others walked to their rooms over dirt floors, where junk cars, dogs and pens full of squealing guinea pigs (a delicacy in the Bolivian diet) lounged.

But in almost every case, the family had gathered to welcome each of us. One situation was particularly touching to me. One of the more sensitive volunteers in our group had spent the morning crying after learning her family was standoffish and very strict.

Furthermore, they were said to have spoken very little Spanish - the language we were all striving to learn.

Instead, they spoke Quechua, the language of one of the oppressed groups of indigenous people in Bolivia. As we walked closer to her home that afternoon, she grew visibly more tense. When we arrived at her host family's house, however, we were all greeted with an immense smile. The "Dona" (woman) of the house, when introduced to her volunteer, threw her arms around her and gave out a joyful cry. The two stood there in a tight embrace for several minutes. I stood by on the road with the other remaining volunteers choking back my tears. As one, we breathed a sigh of relief. Our friend, at least, was going to be in good hands.

Further along, we came to a stop where two large groups of Bolivians had clustered on either side of the road. To our amazement, we learned they were two different families waiting for their Gringos (here, the term "Gringo" is used affectionately to refer to white Americans.) As we climbed out of the car, smiles burst out all around. The remaining seven of us were crowded into the tiny living room of one of the families and offered a cool drink. As we sat, the father gathered his family around him and offered a toast.

"We do not have a large house with many nice things," he began, "but our hearts are big and our arms are open wide to all of you."

This time, my tears flowed freely.

Three hours after we had started, I and the last volunteer arrived at our temporary homes. Their houses were

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Urban Market Women of Andean Peru and Bolivia

While meandering through the seeming chaos and harsh environment of open-air central markets in Peru or Bolivia, you'll observe that the vendors are almost entirely women, either *vendedores* (who rent established stalls inside the market) or *ambulantes* (unregulated selling on the streets surrounding the market). Several social scientists specialize in the study of these women traders and the markets' informal organization.

One, anthropologist Linda Seligmann of Virginia's George Mason University, recently published Peruvian Street Lives: Culture, Power and Economy among Market Women of Cuzco (University of Illinois Press, 2004) which was the topic of George Washington University's March 2004 Andean seminar series.

Dr. Seligmann has, for 20 years, specialized in these informal economic, social, and political networks. In her research, she observed the main Cuzco market daily, conducted taped interviews in the market and among other key informants, visited the women's homes, and did archival research.

These markets can be conceptualized as a microcosm of the Peruvian economy (and a sign of its economic failure). The top stratum is occupied by the market's butchers and the wholesalers; the lowest stratum is the street vendors, plying her wares from a plastic sheet on the ground.

The main dynamic of the market is a fragile balance between competi-

tion (a vendor's capitalist desire to make money) and interdependence (the need to keep peace with neighboring vendors). This tension is demonstrated at the wholesaler level where vendors try to get an edge (usually a lower price) over their competitors, since they all buy the same products from the same wholesalers. Nevertheless, according to Dr. Seligmann, the women maintain a sense of humor. Extended families tend to sell the same products, their almost identical stalls being located in the same general area of the market.

The markets are organized via a system of credits and debits, constantly flowing via multiple "exchange relationships." No one tracks the exchanges, but it all seems to work out, based on trust. In the exchange with customers, vendors typically offer *yapas* to regular customers, a little "extra" in exchange for their loyalty.

Despite the fact that market women fill an essential role in the perennially weak economy of Peru, they are routinely disparaged on gender and racial grounds. Dr. Seligmann hypothesizes that this is because the women are considered a throwback to "deep Peru," antithetical to the desire for modernity among many Peruvians.

Ritual and religiosity are important for them, and they support social ideals of marriage, although most are single mothers. They are ambivalent about men, and many have been victims of domestic abuse. They are street smart, yet are frequently nostalgic for the country-

side. They are the "eyes and ears of the street" and represent a dynamic but untapped power in Peru.

A specialist in Bolivian politics, anthropologist Robert Albro of Wheaton (MA) College on leave to the Library of Congress, a discussant for Dr. Seligmann's talk, noted that market women in both countries are uniquely positioned, by role and by iconoclasm, to exercise political power. Although there is increasing convergence of popular politics among market women in the two countries, Bolivian market women are more likely to be politically engaged.

Bolivia's informal markets have seen some unionization, generating neo-populism. Manipulative efforts are made to co-opt market women into politics, as symbolic icons of endearing *cholitas*. The women depict an intimidating androgynous appearance (wearing their *pulleras*, layers of heavy skirts, to appear larger and more fearsome). However, this image doesn't square with the reality of their lives as poverty stricken and frequently abused.

Representing an urban indigenous base, a few Bolivian market women have become important national leaders. One former coca seller, now a Congresswoman, strongly defends coca growers and sellers in the legislature.

Finally, Dr. Seligmann discussed the family lives of market women. Although toddlers accompany

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Peace Corps Director Participates in Swearing-in Ceremony

Peace Corps Director Gaddi H. Vasquez arrived to a warm reception in Peru this past week, where he met with President Alejandro Toledo and participated in the swearing-in ceremony of the first group of volunteers to serve in the new Youth Development program.

“The 13 new volunteers will work with youth in Peru, where 60 percent of the population is under the age of 24, and only 34 percent of Peruvians complete high school,” said Director Vasquez. “One of the goals is to help them become productive workers, and perhaps achieve things their parents and grandparents never had the opportunity to try.”



PCV Amanda Alexander shows Director Vasquez the pottery her community has been creating as part of a small business development project.

During the swearing-in ceremony at the Presidential Palace, President Toledo thanked the Peace Corps for returning to Peru. In expressing his deep appreciation for the volunteers, President Toledo said, “I can’t be objective about the Peace Corps because the Peace Corps changed my life when I was just a young man.”

President Toledo, a strong advocate of the Peace Corps, first encountered volunteers as a youth. They lived with his family, taught him English and later helped him gain admission to a college in the United States. President Toledo later earned his graduate degree at Stanford University. After being elected

president in 2001, he invited the Peace Corps to return to Peru after a 27-year absence.

Director Vasquez also spent time visiting volunteers and touring the communities in which they serve. He talked with volunteers involved in the CARE regional programming and community impact areas dealing with small business, health and youth.

Accessed at http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=resources.media.press.view&news_id=956 on June 18, 2004



Peruvian President Toledo, PC Director Vasquez and Country director Raftery with PCV's at Presidential Palace.



Urban Market Women (cont. from p. 6)

their mothers to the market, the adolescents are “lost souls,” left at home for hours to fend for themselves and increasingly turning to drug use. An alternative solution is to operate a *tienda*, a front room of the house converted into a small store, which allows the mother to

multi-task, running a business while raising children and running a household. However, this career path requires that the woman have a house. Overall, precariously living hand to mouth and lacking a social safety net, poor urban Andean women are dependent on recipro-

cal relationships such as those observed in central markets.

Gloria Levin
(RPCV, Peru 66-68)

Check out the current issue from PC Writers On-Line. Features include:

Shriver honored in D.C.

To celebrate the life and work of Sargent Shriver, a panel discussion was held on May 5th in Washington. Laurette Bennhold-Samaan (PC/W 1994-2001) sent us a "Letter from Washington" reporting on the afternoon of honoring the accomplishments of the first director of the Peace Corps.

Also in this issue is a review by Maureen Carroll (Philippines 1961-63) of the new authorized biography of Shriver.

How not to write a Peace Corps book

Bonnie Lee Black (Gabon 1996-98) served as a health Volunteer in Gabon after having been a writer/editor and food professional in NYC for many years. An honors graduate of Columbia University's writing program, she is the author of the nonfiction book, *Somewhere Child*, and now lives in rural northern New Mexico where she teaches essay writing at the University of New Mexico at Taos.

Bonnie is also working on her second book and is a free lance editor for RPCV writers seeking help in the editing of their manuscripts. Bonnie offers her advice to RPCV writers

working on their own Peace Corps story. Her essay, "The Ticking" appears in this issue. Read it before putting pen to paper.

Two Corps, Peace and War: A Memoir

Jim Jackson went to India in 1965 with the Peace Corps and then he came home to work briefly on the Peace Corps Training staff before being drafted into the army and going to Vietnam. This is his memoir of the two experiences, and the second installment of our occasional essays by and about PCV's who also went to Vietnam. In moving prose, Jim delineates his two experiences, from dreaming of food in India, to living on the edge of terror at Long Binh, a U.S. Army base 20 miles from Saigon. Surviving the Peace Corps and Vietnam, Jim is today a lawyer living and working as a law school librarian in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Writers write

Two amusing short essays by PCV's who served in Latin America are included. The essays are nice bookends for all experiences in the Peace Corps. Finn Honore' (Colombia 1967-69) lives in Ashland, Oregon where he works as a free lance journalist. His "At First Light" is about his third morning in Cartagena where he wandered into a café looking for breakfast and asked a favor of a woman "might she bring my coffee

first?" and then thinks to himself: "A gringo who spoke Spanish and was mannerly. Already I was an ambassador of good will, ordering with ease and deference. I could do this." Well, maybe not.

"Bringing the Peace Corps Back Home" is from Meghan Maguire (Honduras 2001-03). Meghan writes, "Now that I'm back in the U.S., I love smelling like a girl again." Meghan lived in Danlí, Honduras and worked as a Municipal Development Volunteer, teaching computer and basic writing skills to women, girls, and local government employees. In her essay she remembers what she misses and what she can live without from her Peace Corps tour.

Also —

Seven reviews of new books by RPCVs, an interview with Maureen Orth about her career and new book *The Importance of Being Famous* (which is one of the reviewed books). There is also the list of newly published books, and news about what RPCVs are writing and where they are being published in "Literary Type."

All of the above might not be "beach reading," but it is well worth your time. And as many waiters and waitresses irritatingly say, "Enjoy!"

John Coyne
Editor

Un Paseo Peruano (cont. from p.1)

formed us that PC, in cooperation with Peru PCV's, has the capacity to distribute and maintain the computers. We are hopeful that sometime in August things will be clarified so that we can get this project done.

I realize that money is not popping out of our pockets, but certainly we can come up with some support. It seems reasonable to me that we ask all of you to PLEDGE a certain amount and that if we reach our goal we will then pay up! If we do not reach our goal, we will not donate what money we have pledged.

We can also try to beat the bushes for organizational pledges from groups that we know in our localities who may be willing to support the project.

I'm asking you to let me know what amount you, or an organization that you have contacted, will pledge contingent on a successful campaign to raise the required shipping and customs amount. My e-mail address is pabehler@socket.net or you can write me at 514 Belair Dr, Jefferson City, MO 65109.

Remember! August is the time. Pledges should start rolling in as soon as possible.

For the NPCA Chicago conference, we have scheduled a great meal get-together and other discussions and country of service gatherings. If you haven't signed up, DO! The registration deadline has been extended. Major speakers will be there as well as interesting workshop activities. And let's face it, it's

just fun to get together and talk about old times!

Last, be on the look out for a new *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* brochure, designed by Carolyn Kinsman and produced by Gayle Hartmann. It will encourage more of our Peruvian and Bolivian RPCVs and friends to join up and help make our projects a reality.

By the way, have any of you found that great Peruvian fresh asparagus in your supermercado lately? It's delicious and should help the Peruvian economy. So, buy it and eat it when you find it!

Con pensamientos del Peru,

Patt Behler
Peru Coordinator

Memorial Project at <http://www.fpcv.org>

I was contacted by Chelsea and Donna Mack, who created the Fallen Peace Corps Volunteer Memorial. They are the sister and mother of Jeremiah Mack, who was a friend of mine in Niger and died in a car accident while serving as a volunteer. Jeremiah was a superb volunteer and a wonderful guy who gave enormously in support of the Peace Corps mission. They created a memorial website for all those who died while serving peace as a volunteer. It is a wonderful, touching website, please take a look at the messages in the guestbook, sign it and let your members know about it.

Thank you,

Steve Hoyt

President RPCV's of Northeastern NY



PCV's from Bolivia and Peru listed on the web site at www.fpcv.org:

Bolivia

Joy Darling 1965
Sandra Smith 1969
Gloey Wiseman 1991
Walter Poirier (missing) 2003

Peru

Troy Ross 1966
Gail Gross 1970
Marie Clutterbuck 1970
Dennis Pfof 1974

PC/Peru Update (continued from page 1)

essence of the PCV experience, both in country and as we return to the U.S. The Director and I spent about 30 minutes with the President before going in to the ceremony. I know it was the highlight of the Director's visit.

The PCV's are challenged by the possibilities that they see and the commitment of dedicated Peruvian professionals throughout the country, yet at the same time they struggle with the consequences of poverty that are seen and felt in their communities on a daily basis. They have grappled with the theme I am sure that each of you struggled with, "What do I really have to offer?" "What can I do in two years?"

We have looked at the level of development here in Peru and although there is still much to be done, I imagine that those of you who have returned have seen quite a difference. Although services and support do not reach as many as we would like, the government and non governmental agencies are trying to reach as many as possible.



Offices of PC/Peru

We have looked at the profile of the PCV today and the PCV of my day...1973. There are some significant differences in terms of technology and opportunities. There is a whole study about the Millennial Generation - those born since the early '80s.

I prepared a paper with the Country Director in Bolivia for a group discussion we recently held in Miami. But the PCV today in Peru will say that even if the motivators are slightly different and where they "come from" is slightly different, there is a shared desire to improve the quality of life of the people they serve for two years. There is a shared desire to return to the US a better world citizen.

As I said to the PCV's recently, I commend them for grappling with this...I think my group spent roughly 30-40 minutes on this and then we moved along. Maybe that says something too.

I am very proud of the efforts of about 90% of the Volunteers serving here in Peru. And with the other 10% it is only disappoint-

ment that I feel because I believe they could do more; take the experience more seriously; and grow broader as individuals. But adults make their own decisions and it is my job to be sure they are given the best options possible so they can make the best choices possible.

The Volunteer Advisory Council will meet with me in July. We will talk about policies and rules and I will solicit their opinions. We will then talk more about our challenge as an agency to make sure that we make the most significant contribution we can as an institution to the people of Peru. I will let you know how it goes. The decades long conversation goes on.

Kate Raftery

Country Director
PC/Peru
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PS...The current PCVs would love to know if anyone is out there who was in their site. One PCV just called from Ancash to see if you all knew David Haley.



Current PCV's from Peru



PCV from Bolivia Writes... (Cont. from p. 5)

right next to each other and again we were surrounded by anxious Bolivian families. As soon as I stepped out of the car, I met the searching and not entirely friendly gaze of one of the women.

"Qual es mi Gringita?" (which one is my American), she demanded.

I sensed, though I clung to a faint hope that I might be mistaken, that I was her Gringita.

A month has passed since that memorable day. I have grown to cherish this teasing, quick-witted woman. Despite her occasionally harsh manner, she has treated me as one of her own family, hugging me to her often and (though I am older) affectionately calling me her daughter. I have learned that the night sounds fit Bolivia's vibrant life, and they disturb me less. Or, perhaps I am just too tired most nights to care.

I have begun to appreciate potatoes. They are, at times, the only food on my plate that I recognize (the skinny, curled chicken claw that showed up in my soup one day not withstanding). My Spanish language acquisition seems incredibly slow. I still stare at my host family in bewilderment when they speak to me. After a second repetition, they look at me and sigh, sometimes repeating

their words with exaggerated pronunciation. After three tries, they give up and I wonder, am I the slowest of their eight former volunteers to pick up this language?

But yesterday, I began to realize something else about his unfamiliar land. We had been having rain for nearly four days straight. Many of the dirt and cobblestone roads were a nightmare of muddy, rushing water, that was in places several feet deep. A row of cobblestones down the center of my road barely poked up out of the torrent. I set out from my house to buy a packet of coffee, my one comfort here, from a small store about 10 houses away. Several clusters of Bolivians were navigating their way along the same exposed cobblestones toward me. As I passed each group, they carefully stepped around me, avoiding the deepest waters, and smiling politely as they did so. The serenity of each passing individual has left a permanent impression on me.

Soon, I came up behind an older Quechua woman. She was dressed in the traditional wide, pleated skirt that exposed much of her skin to the chilly air and splashing water. Her shoes were cracked in several places, showing leathery feet. Ahead, a car approached, also in the middle of the road, trying to avoid the deep water. I looked to

my right and my left. Both sides were hopelessly flooded far into the cornfields. I felt a rising panic. Most times the cars here are indifferent to the people walking. Where would I go? The woman in front of me continued to move forward with dignity. Humbly, I followed close behind. The car came closer and closer, not budging an inch from dead center on the road. Again, I frantically searched the sides of the road for an escape. There was none. The woman, however, appeared undaunted. She strode forward, bound straight for the oncoming car. Suddenly, with only inches between it and the older woman, the car veered to the right, plowed into deep water and stopped cold.

My silent comrade, with me trailing close behind, continued down the center of the road past the car. I looked down at my feet. They were dry.

By *Deanna Ochs*

Appeared on May 23, 2004 in the Michigan City News. Accessed at <http://peacecorpsonline.org/messages/messages/467/2021548.html> on July 14, 2004.

In Memoriam: Johnny Delgado

There is some sad news to share with you. Johnny Delgado had died. As you know, he has been fighting several life threatening illnesses for many years.

In spite of having cancer, heart problems and emphysema he came to Washington a couple of years ago and greatly enjoyed seeing his friends. E-mails were his lifeline and he answered them until a couple of months ago when cancer of the sciatic nerve made it too painful to sit and write. Recently he's been in hospice care and died in his sleep a night ago. He had a wonderful wife who took very good care of him and put up with all the peace corps people that stayed with them on and off from Puerto Rico to Hawaii and California.

His was such an unusual story, truly a story of someone who felt the Peace Corps saved his life and started him on a long career with the State Department. But not before first deselecting him. What a story! He was truly one of the most unforgettable people I met in the PC.

Johnny was in Peru 3. We lived in Arequipa, surely one of the world's most beautiful cities, where a volcano (Misti) and two mountain ranges could be seen from the city's square. Only a very few Peace Corps people climbed Misti and Johnny was one of them.

Think a bit of Johnny tomorrow and see what you can remember.

Marushka

John (Johnny) Delgado made his transition on June 22, 2004 in Ventura, CA. after a lengthy illness.

He was born July 21, 1927 in Los Angeles, CA and attended public schools there. He joined the Air Force and was a Tuskegee Airman. After his release from the Air Force he worked as a photographer for the *LA Sentinel* and *California Eagle*.

Johnny joined the Peace Corp in 1960's. He served as a volunteer and a staff member in Peru and Puerto Rico, where he worked in Community Development.



He married Gerry Ingram Greenfield in 1969. They moved to NY where he worked for Vista for a time before moving to Puerto Rico, where they owned and operated a guest house, The Casa Delgado.

In the early 70's they moved back to Los Angeles, where Johnny worked as an Equal Opportunity Specialist with the Department of Labor. He retired in 1987 and they then

moved to Kailua Kona, HI.

During his retirement Johnny worked with Kahua na'au a'o in their Elder Hostel Program. He taught basket weaving and participated in their many activities. He also demonstrated and taught basket weaving during the Hawaiian Festival held every July at the Place of Refuge at Pu'uuhonua o Honau-nau, at the Festival at Volcanoes National Park, and at the Art Center in Holualoa.

Johnny served as President of the Kona Hawaii Returned Peace Corps Volunteers until his return to the mainland in 1999 for medical reasons.

Johnny is survived by his wife, Gerry, brothers, William, Joe, Bobby and Bernard and a host of nieces and nephews and extended family.

Condolences can be sent to Gerry at: 1406 Vicksburg Lane, Ventura, CA 93003 or mgeedee@aol.com.

RPCV/Peru and Michigan State University President Meets Peace Corps Members

Former Peace Corps members, prospective members and their families gathered in the living room of Cowles House on Wednesday evening listening to MSU President M. Peter McPherson speak about his experience in the organization.

"These were great experiences, they really were," he said proudly of his time organizing credit unions in Lima, Peru, in the early 1960s. "Most of us feel we got as much or more than we were able to give."



Many of the former members had traveled to countries such as Ukraine, Morocco and Paraguay

to help struggling citizens in various areas of life.

McPherson said he considers his time in the Peace Corps an important time in his life and encourages other people to join.

"The Peace Corps was a very special time for me," he said. "Those times and those friendships were just wonderful."

And he doesn't just encourage graduating college students to join the organization - people of all ages can do it.

Phyllis Gloden, 75, went to the African nation of Lesotho from 2001 to 2003 working with quilters to help them market their product. "Look at me," she said. "It doesn't matter how old you are. As long as you pass a physical and you're not a felon, you can go."

Gloden said before she applied for the program, she wondered if there were an age limit. There isn't. E.J. Buss also went to Lesotho to

help quilters but had to cut her trip short because of sickness. Buss, 68, chose to join after she retired and her two children were older.

"It was kind of one of those things that was always an interest," she said. But added that the corps isn't for everyone. "My kids were worried," she said. "It's not for people with families, but I encourage all my grandchildren to do it."

The experience affected her so much, she said, that she wonders how different her life would have been if she had traveled to Lesotho at a younger age. "If I had had these experiences when I was younger, I probably would've had a different career," she said, adding that she would have wanted to be involved with foreign affairs. "It definitely broadens your life."

By Amy Bartner

Accessed at www.stateneews.com/article.phtml?pk=23643# on April 21, 2004
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Letter from Dave Aabo, PCV from Peru

A think piece with a deadline is one way of describing Peace Corps service in 2004. The rich cultural interaction and mutual learning is limited only by the amount of time spent in service. For me it is a privilege to use this time as a learning experience for the Masters International program.

The Peace Corps of the future is here in Peru. This attempt to live sustainably and translate theory into practice in an inter-culture arena is a big task to undertake. The way I look at it, someone has to give another face to the U.S. other than what friends from other cultures may see on TV. With a superb supportive staff like we have here in Peru, this privilege and responsibility is made less daunting... as does the partnership with progressive NGOs (such as Pidecafé promoting Fair Trade and Organic agriculture).

A smile and a saludo go a long way towards some quick third culture

building in the tropical sierra. My red beard, white skin and blue eyes are characteristically *not* Peruvian. How quick though, community members seemingly look past the colors and see a person proud of their own heritage and accepting of others. I may not be able to control what people say when I'm not around, but I certainly have a say in what I choose to talk about and how I live my life.

This attempt to appreciatively inquire and respectfully advocate isn't always the easiest task. It is a challenge to respectfully decline free motorcycle rides after growing up with go-carts and three wheelers. The explanations to the reasoned limitations that we live by along with the actions of our government and/or other Americans that we may not completely agree with is tough; but ones that should be given.

Ceteris Paribus, I still love this job and where I'm from. That will

never change. The benefits outweigh the costs. As volunteers we are constantly being offered the best community members have to offer - whether it be "primera" sugar cane juice or a criollo chicken egg, these gestures we can accept. With acceptance comes the responsibility to do *our* best and with this responsibility comes commitment. The dedication and passion that make up commitment are evident in the numerous meaningful conversations with staff, other volunteers and community members alike.

Giving the best of our learning, living and loving is the Peace Corps of the future. Hey, somebody has to do it - figure out a way to go beyond life's calling...

Dave Aabo
PCV/Peru

Amigos de Bolivia y Perú

Post Office Box 901, Flora Vista, NM 87415-0901

Membership Form

Please complete this form as thoroughly and accurately as possible and mail it to the address indicated above.

Surname _____ First Name _____ M.I. _____
Street _____ City _____
State/Country _____ Zip Code _____
Telephone (H/W) _____ E-Mail: _____

[Amigos typically uses e-mail for communication with members to enhance efficiency and reduce costs.
You have the option of leaving this blank if you prefer not to receive these e-mails.]

Host Country: _____ Years of Service: 19 _____ – 20 _____
Spouse's Name _____ PCV Surname _____

[Include spouse's name if he/she is also joining Amigos and indicate the surname used during Peace Corps service.]

Vocations _____ / _____

Please check each box as appropriate and tally the subtotals in the right-hand column.

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|--------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Annual Dues for NPCA and Amigos | \$50 Individual | \$ _____ |
| | | \$65 Couple/Family | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Annual Dues for Amigos Only | \$15 Individual | \$ _____ |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Foreign Address (Non-U.S.A. Mail) | \$ 5 Individual/Family | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Donation to Kantuta or Other Amigos Project
(Optional) | | \$ _____ |
| | | GRAND TOTAL | \$ _____ |

Make checks out to *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru, Inc.*

¹ NPCA is the National Peace Corps Association.

² Recent RPCVs (within 6 months of PC Service) are eligible for a complementary membership. Hardship refers to those members with economic hardships such as unemployment or disability.

2005 International Calendar Now on Sale

The 2005 edition of the International Calendar, published by RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison, is now available.

To purchase, click "shop" on the homepage at www.rpcv.org and follow the links or visit www.rpcvmadison.org/Calendar.htm.

NPCA member price is \$8.50 and the non-member price is \$10.00.

The International Calendar is designed as a teaching aid to introduce people to varied lifestyles, terrains, foods, occupations and crafts from around the world. Since 1987 this group has donated over 2,000 calendars to schools and other educational institutions.

Wondering where they get those stunning photographs? The answer is: you!

Consider submitting your own photography for the 2006 edition of the International Calendar.

The RPCV's of Wisconsin-Madison are always looking for the best slides of countries that have hosted Peace Corps volunteers. If one of your slides is selected for the 2006 International Calendar, you will receive 25 complimentary calendars.

Yachaspa is published quarterly by Amigos de Bolivia y Perú for its membership. The newsletter welcomes articles and other material pertaining to the general purposes of the organization. Except for copyrighted material, items may be reprinted as long as attribution is provided to Yachaspa and Amigos.

YACHASPA

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