



YACHASPA

Quechua for “sabiendo” or “knowing”...

Newsletter of Amigos de Bolivia y Perú, Inc.

Spring 2005

Volume 16, Issue 1

It's the Same the Whole World Over

by Patt Behler

As your new President, sometimes I feel overwhelmed with what our organization SHOULD do....and other times, with what it COULD do. We have the potential to affect so many lives both here in the US and in Bolivia and Peru. We ourselves came back as changed persons from our work overseas.

Many of us have tried, since Peace Corps days, to maintain the strong bonds of friendship that we made during our training and days in Peace Corps service overseas; many have succeeded.

Some of us have gone on to change professions because of our PC experiences. I, for instance,

spent the last 25 years of my working career in the field of library service for youth; this was due primarily to the fact that while I was in Peru, in Arequipa, we were given a trunk full of publishers' sample booklets and Organization of American States pamphlets and (yes!) Classic Comics en Español. With it I established a small lending library for the children of the neighborhood where I lived and learned "on the job," so to speak, how to be a children's librarian.

When I came back to the States, after a year as an art teacher at my previous job, I turned about face, worked in a library in Kansas City, Missouri, for a while and then was granted a scholarship

which allowed me to get my professional degree. Libraries for young people, often sadly lacking in developing countries, suddenly became terribly important to me in my own society.

I'm reading *The Middle of Nowhere: Helping Refugees Enter into the American Community*, by Mary Pipher, PhD, (Harper Books, 2002). Pipher describes the experiences of refugees who have been settled in Lincoln, Nebraska, where she has worked as a cultural broker, teacher and therapist. There are striking similarities in the needs of our citizens on the fringe of society to some of the needs of citizens who are marginalized in their own countries: finding a job; voting; obtaining health

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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 150 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@westminster-mo.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 .

Amigos Joins in PC Recruiting Event

by *Gloria Levin*

Bolivia and Peru were well represented at a Peace Corps recruiting event, "Around the World in 90 Minutes," on March 3 at PC Headquarters. Each country participating had an assigned table, staffed by *Amigos* members. Kate Raftery, former director of PC/Peru, now chief of operations of PC's Inter-America and Pacific region, and Christean Cole, recent Peru returnee (Community Health, 2003-5),

staffed the Peru table. Dan Baker (Bolivia 1999-2002) was pulled from the Bolivia table to staff one for East Timor, having been prior staff there, but left behind Echo Domingues to ably sing the praises of PC service in Bolivia. Gloria Levin (Peru 66-68) moved between both tables.

The room was colorful, with artifacts from participating PC countries, and many eager potential PCV recruits moved among the tables, seeking advice and asking questions.

A number had already received invitations from PC and had their country assignments. One piece of advice given to aspirants was to apply to PC approximately one year before the date one might be ready to go overseas. The application process is typically 8 months to a year. I was impressed with how many had "real skills" and language fluency, compared to my era of the monolingual B.A. generalist.

Update from PC/Peru

by Michael Hirsh
Country Director

Saludos from Lima! Kate Raftery and Ken Goodson told me that I would find a well respected PC in Peru, that I would find an outstanding staff, and that I would be impressed by the enthusiastic, dedicated group of Volunteers. After two months at post, I have not been disappointed. I feel blessed to be leading such a dynamic, exciting program.

At this writing, there are 81 Volunteers serving. A new group of 16 Small Business and 17 Youth Development trainees will be arriving in June, and in September we will receive 17 Health trainees and our first group of 17 Environmental Awareness trainees. Once these two groups swear in, PC/Peru should maintain an average of around 125 Volunteers over the next couple of years.

Currently, all Volunteers are living and working in the departments of Ancash, Cajamarca, Piura, La Libertad, and Lambayeque. This decision was made because of the needs in those areas, as well as for safety and security reasons. Within those departments, there is a great deal of variety between coast and sierra, urban and rural, mestizo and indigenous, accessible and remote. For now, we will continue to concentrate in those five departments, but we are beginning to explore other areas as well.

PC has evolved considerably from the 1960s and 70s. One major change is an increase in accountability. Volunteers are expected to prepare quarterly work plans with their counterparts, and then prepare quarterly reports on their activities. In such programs as Health, Volunteers are asked to conduct community surveys to have baseline data against which the results of their efforts can be measured.

Another change involves communications. Today, most Volunteers have

cell phones and Internet connections, even those in remote rural sites. In cases of emergency, we are able to contact all Volunteers within 24 hours.

Those differences aside, most Volunteers have very similar experiences to their predecessors 40 years ago. They are welcomed into their communities, are able to impart new skills, help change some lives for the better, and experience a dramatic cross-cultural adventure that will impact them the rest of their lives. Peace Corps continues to be a great idea, 44 years after its initiation.

We are always pleased to have former Volunteers visit us and see what we're up to. Please send me an e-mail: mhirsh@pe.peacecorps.gov. I look forward to hearing from you and meeting you.

Muchos saludos

Rendezvous 2005

by Ken Rustad
Rendezvous Coordinator

I would like to hear back from you if you plan to participate in the 2005 Rendezvous and/or the 2006 Rendezvous. Any comments or information regarding the above would be appreciated. Please respond as quickly as you can by phone at 505-325-9194 or e-mail at rustadkg@earthlink.net.

As matters now stand there will be a get together over dinner in Cochabamba on July 18th and/or 19th, 2005.

There is also the possibility that there will be another Cochabamba rendezvous in 2006 with the dinner on the third Monday and/or Tuesday of July.

There have been some concerns expressed over the current situation with regard to Rendezvous 2005.

If the political situation in Bolivia is a factor in your plans, I suggest avoiding La Paz and Oruro. Political instability is always a possibility and difficult to predict. Getting around within a country is more often affected. Getting in and out of a country is usually less problematical.

Another factor is the price of tickets, which has gone up by as much as \$300 for a round trip (from Columbus, Ohio). I don't see the price of tickets being any better in 2006. The sooner you can lock in prices, probably the better.

I, personally, may have to cut back what I do as part of the rendezvous due to health problems regarding kidney disease. I can't seem to get anything definite out of my doctors except more tests and one of them is moving back to Massachusetts. This uncertainty accounts for most of the delays about Rendezvous 2005 (or 2006) on my part.

Update from PC/Bolivia

by *Doreen Salazar*
Program and Training Officer

Peace Corps Bolivia is still going strong! We currently have 120 volunteers in country, 18 more participated in swearing-in on April 15th, and we expect the program to grow to 150 next year. We have a new Program Manager, Wendy Van Damme, who came on board in January 2005, and is re-energizing our integrated education program. She was a volunteer in Guatemala from 1986-89, and has particular interest and training in adult education and gender issues.

While the country has been unusually free of protests and road-blocks since the week before Easter, blockades and protests in February and early March kept about 30% of our volunteers from returning to their sites for days after picking up their March monthly stipends. The political situation in Bolivia remains unstable. President Mesa is an intelligent man, but lacks the political backing needed to build consensus on major political issues.

And now, following the example of Charna Lefton, let me include in this issue of *Yachaspa* stories of volunteers from each of our five programs, as included in our annual Project Status Reports.

Integrated Education Volunteer Travis Jo Cufley, a Seattle native, has been living and working in Redención Pampa, a small rural farming community in Northeastern Chuquisaca, for fourteen months. She loves her assignment because it allows her to engage in a variety of interesting and challeng-

ing projects, which all contain components of health and education. In the local high school, Travis Jo holds weekly "lectura" groups with seventh and eighth graders to explore the worlds of reading, learning, and sharing. She also works with interested tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders in an ecological club. Together they have organized a weekly community garbage collection and have painted and placed garbage cans around the town plaza. The eco club is also currently collaborating with community members in order to begin a long term recycling project. This work is all a refreshing change from the common rural garbage management strategy of dumping trash in the nearest river in hopes that it will disappear. Travis, however, has been successful in gaining support from both the school system and municipal leaders for a more eco-friendly and sustainable garbage management system.

Outside of the high school, Travis Jo provides support and leadership to local youth groups and one girls' club. Through discussion and activities these groups cover life skills topics including gender roles, self-esteem, goals, careers, decision-making, communication, alcohol awareness, body image and healthy relationships.

Travis Jo also proudly works with a small group of active women that meet on a weekly basis in order to discuss pertinent health topics while knitting plastic bags and planting family gardens together. In their spare time, they also enjoy cooking together and trading healthy recipes to ensure better nutrition for everyone's families.

Once a week Travis works alongside the facilitators in Redención

Pampa's preschool in order to engage the children in participatory learning through games and activities while simultaneously promoting better hygiene practices for the children's health. Along with a fellow PCV living in a neighboring community, she recently gave a day long training workshop to preschool facilitators in health, hygiene and didactic educational materials, and hopes to carry out a number of other workshops for these facilitators on conflict management, positive reinforcement, and methodologies of alternative discipline.

Additionally, Travis Jo is working on a Partnership funded high school orchard, in which 225 peach, pear and apple trees will be planted. The fruit produced by these trees will be given to students on a daily basis in order to establish a sustainable school breakfast program in Redención Pampa.

Before becoming a Peace Corps Volunteer in Bolivia, Travis Jo graduated from Whitman College in 2002 with a B.A. in history.

Basic Sanitation volunteer Karin Wadsack works in a region where there is hardly any water. For part of the year, the inhabitants mostly drink from dirty water reservoirs, but in the very dry season their water is trucked in. This is a huge expense for the communities and, further, this water is dumped into the dirt water reservoirs making it very dirty and unhealthy to use. Unfortunately, there are no other sources of water for the drought-stricken Chaco region. Some families have storage containers for rainwater, but these are very costly and only a few

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Update from PC/Bolivia (continued from p. 4)

privileged families own them.

Realizing the dire situation these communities are in, Karin, along with her counterpart Juan Carlos Llanos, decided that the area was a perfect candidate for rainwater catchment systems.

After comparing all of the alternatives, Karin and her counterpart decided to search for funding for Ferro cement tanks that would be used in the rainwater catchment systems. Karin was able to obtain funding for 15 Ferro cement tanks from the NGO UNITAS. After seeing and assessing the positive impact the initial tanks had on the beneficiaries they served, the municipality of Villa Montes financed 50 more tanks in the area. Later, the prefect jumped on the new craze and came up with funding for 600 more tanks.

Along with the rainwater catchment systems built, Karin created the, "Ferro cement Tank Program," designed to aid others in the construction of Ferro cement tanks that can be used in rainwater catchment systems or water systems. This program included not only the manual, but also spreadsheets to allow people to design and create a budget for their own tanks, educational materials, and technical notes for construction and material lists. In addition, Karin has done mason training courses, and fellow PCV Kevin Rieder made a video out of one of these which is now used as an educational tool amongst volunteers and their counterpart agencies.

Impressively, Karin accomplished a remarkable project and made it possible for other volun-

teers and agencies to execute similar projects without having to "reinvent the wheel".

Karin Wadsack is from Madison, Wisconsin. She graduated from the College Of William and Mary, and received a Masters Degree from Arizona State University.

JJ Singh, a Business Education volunteer, is in his second year of service as a Business Education volunteer. JJ has spent his service in the city of Oruro. With the fall of tin prices in recent years, the city of Oruro has struggled to redefine itself and provide employment for its young people. JJ's first year was spent working with Project Concern International (PCI.) JJ spent his time giving small business administration workshops to local agriculture associations. He also helped in designing a 'Values and Principles' workshop given to youth and adolescents in the rural communities.

After being replaced at PCI by an Agriculture Marketing Volunteer, JJ has been working with Aldea S.O.S. Oruro. Aldea provides support and training to single moms and an orphanage. The Aldea works with single moms who have multiple children and who earn, on average, \$50 a month. The orphanage has 120 kids ranging in age from 3 to 15, who live in 12 houses at the Aldea. JJ's primary project with the Aldea is as a small business educator and consultant with businesses that have received micro-credit loans. He also does self-esteem with the adolescents in the youth center.

JJ has reworked the PC/Bolivia Business Simulation workshop to be more applicable to the students, mostly orphans, he works with and to increase the sustainability of the skills transferred. JJ gives the simulation to high

school aged students at the Aldea.

The goal of these workshops is to give the students the confidence and skills necessary to start their own business. JJ has given basic business skills workshops to 27 mothers who have received micro-credit loans. He also travels within the city of Oruro, visiting the mothers who have received micro-credit loans. He checks on their progress, repayments and accounting systems.

JJ is also involved in a wide variety of secondary projects. He has completed the World Map Project with the students. He helps to coach basketball and volleyball and has been teaching the students how to play ping-pong. JJ taught a class at the local university called "Multiculturalism from an American's perspective." He has also worked with a local artisans group, helping them create promotional material to prepare for this year's Carnival.

Environmental Education PCV Chloe Dowley (Vallegrande), lives and works with her husband, Natural Resource Management PCV Tom Boutoureira. Collaborating with her counterpart agency, Fundación CEFIL (Centro de Formación Integral Lacayotal), Chloe and her Bolivian work partner focus on training local teachers in environmental topics such as watershed and soil conservation, reforestation, and solid waste management. To date, they have worked with nearly 70 elementary, middle and high school teachers, from Vallegrande and surrounding communities.

At the request of teachers and school directors, their workshops

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Update from PC/Bolivia (continued from p. 5)

mix environmental theory with pedagogical practice, always including interactive teaching ideas (games, puppets, demonstrations, audio-visual materials, etc.) which can be reproduced in the classroom.

At the culmination of one such training series, the teachers and their students partnered with Chloe and Fundación CEFIL to organize a week of environmental activities in Vallegrande including an environmental movie night, a town clean-up day, an afternoon of puppet shows, an open forum on local environmental issues, and a day-long environmental fair featuring themed games and informational booths. The week's events were popular with all ages, with as many as 400 people in attendance at times.

With an ever-increasing population, Vallegrande, like many large towns in Bolivia, faces the challenge of properly managing its solid waste. Over the past six months, Chloe and her counterpart have mounted campaigns to help local residents form good habits with regard to trash.

Together with the municipal government and the Catholic University in Cochabamba, they began a battery collection project, focusing special attention on outlying communities without electricity that consume more batteries and have no disposal facilities which leads to water and soil contamination. Battery-collection

containers can increasingly be found in the schools of outlying communities as the project continues to grow through ongoing coordination with the Catholic Parochial of Vallegrande.

As a result of their public environmental awareness campaign, the local municipality has consulted Chloe and her work partner regarding the design and implementation of a special disposal area that will be constructed in Vallegrande's new solid waste facility.

In addition, to raise awareness of the benefits of recycling, Chloe, her counterpart and a recently formed eco-club have collected and processed over a ton of paper from offices and schools in the area. The paper is then sent to the city to be recycled, generating a supply of much needed toilet paper for the schools.

Agricultural Extension PCV John Nicholson lives in the municipality of Samaipata in the Department of Santa Cruz, at the threshold of the Andean mountain range and the Amazon Basin. As part of his primary project, he works with an association of over 70 beekeepers from rural communities to increase family income and promote conservation of neighboring Amboró National Park. The association and John are currently managing a World Bank-funded community agricultural development project to improve production practices and develop new products and marketing strategies.

With the help of PC/Bolivia, the association has begun a new line of bee products including soap, shampoo, lip balm and hand cream.

As a complimentary secondary project, John works with a women's club on organic farming. Agricultural activities with the women's club include: improved soil management practices, alternative natural pesticide solutions, and more efficient irrigation systems. He and the women are also making value-added products such as yogurt, canned fruits and vegetables and dehydrated fruit that have a higher profit margin and a longer shelf life. Capacity-building activities include: harvest and selection, transformation process, packaging and customer-targeted marketing strategies.

In addition, John is working on a SPA-funded irrigation project that incorporates the construction of Peace Corps-developed cement tanks that are more economically viable for farmers in rural communities.

John is from the coast of North Carolina. He has a B.A. in Journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

A Decidedly Atypical (Peruvian) First Lady

by Gloria Levin

Stating that “the greatest paradox of Peruvian society remains the fact that the poorest populations literally sit on the wealth of the nation with no access to it,” French-born Elaine Karp Toledo, signaled that she is not your typical First Lady. On a visit to Washington, DC to open an exhibit of Peruvian antiquities at the National Geographic Society, she addressed an invited audience of over 100 people on February 22, 2005 at George Washington University. This address was co-sponsored by the Embassy of Peru and GWU’s Center for Latin American Issues and was entitled: “Emerging Democracies and the Indigenous Peoples: A Peruvian Perspective.” Speaking in almost flawless English, Sra. Karp Toledo’s exceptional linguistic skills (she speaks seven languages) were on display in a televised interview appearing on local cable TV a few days later, when she was interviewed in Spanish. She is also a serious student of Peru’s indigenous languages, having already achieved fluency in Quechua.

To assist her husband, President Alejandro Toledo, in “building a new democracy” in Peru, the First Lady is studying and promoting the status of Peru’s indigenous population. She heads a government Commission to those ends. “The great majority of the population is within the margins of poverty or extreme poverty,”

she said. She cited a statistic that 17% of Peru’s population lives in “extreme poverty,” which she defined as living on less than \$2 per day. Territory inhabited by indigenous peoples constitutes the poorer areas of Peru. Finding a direct statistical correlation between Peruvian poverty and “minority” status, she noted that Peru’s indigenous minority is primarily located in over 6,000 separate rural peasant pueblos in the sierra and 1,267 Amazonian native communities in the selva.

Notwithstanding that no census that has been conducted in Peru has enumerated the extent of Peru’s indigenous population, she estimated that at least 8 million or 1/3 of Peru’s population is indigenous, approximately 6 million living in the sierra. (Actually, her numbers didn’t add up, e.g., she later stated Peru’s population at 28 million.) Sra. Karp Toledo is attempting to develop measures of the essence of being indigenous in Peru so as to better enumerate that population. To illustrate the complexities involved in this identification, she cited spoken language which many consider an appropriate marker of being indigenous. However, she calls language a “feeble measure” because, when asked, many respondents deny using or understanding an indigenous spoken mother tongue, such as Quechua, Aymara, Uru, Haku (all in the Andes) or one of 14 linguistic families, amounting to 60 languages (in the rainforest) because of the perceived and actual stigmatization attached to indigenous status. A fur-

ther limitation is that a segment of indigenous communities, especially those in the selva with its negative encounters with the rubber trade, are inaccessible to researchers or census takers, because they have either voluntarily isolated themselves after earlier contacts with outsiders or are still “noncontacted.” Racial markers are complicated by most indigenous Peruvians denying their indigenous status, representing themselves as having mixed blood (mestizo) which she found to be more myth than fact.



Peruvian First Lady, Elaine Karp Toledo and Ambassador, Dr. Eduardo Ferrero respond to questions.

According to her, the indigenous population has been essentially excluded from legitimate forms of governance for five centuries in Peru. Very few indigenous have held political office. With the ascension of her husband to the presidency, Toledo is the first indigenous person to hold that office in 500 years. (Prickling at negative media coverage of the President, she opined that their ridiculing him as “an Indian” is to mock Peru itself.) Sra. Karp Toledo said her husband was the first president to have mentioned indigenous rights, starting with his inaugural address.

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A Decidedly Atypical (Peruvian) First Lady (cont. from p. 7)

She depicted the Incan empire in glowing terms as a multi-cultural, pluralistic and collaborative society, marked by political alliances, with an efficient administration. (Later, in the question and answer period, one questioner countered the Inca mystique, characterizing it as militaristic, employing slave labor and collaborating with the Spanish invaders until they were conquered.) She blamed the conquest of Peru with not only demeaning indigenous as a defeated people leading to “cultural amnesia” (aided by the Catholic Church) but also with political atomization of the country, employing a homogeneous European model of governance which essentially excluded Peru’s indigenous. The Spanish colonists retained the best (valley) lands for themselves, relegating indigenous to farm at higher altitudes (3-5,000 meters), and they were derogatorily labeled “serranos.” In addition, “Andean agriculture ... was replaced by ... mining and sea trade,” of more interest to the colonists’ economic interests. Thus, the delicate balance between cultures built over thousands of years was broken within a few decades by the colonists. Toledo, in contrast, is attempting to open a “constructive dialog” and create a “real democracy,” returning Peru to the spirit of “pachamama” (the motherland). “In Peru, our native people, having the patience of the mountains, have waited the most and must now be the first participants of this new project...” One effort involves encouraging those who left their communities for the coastal cities to return to their home communities to serve their people. Another ef-

fort underway would train indigenous leaders in governance and participative representation and thereby empower indigenous prior to the 2006 general elections.

The Catholic Church did not escape her criticism either, reminding the audience that Peru is, by law, a secular country. She cited her concern that traditional forms of spirituality are eroded by missionaries. However, she conceded that evangelical missionaries are tenacious in bringing their spiritual beliefs and service directly to remote communities where they are willing to live for years. This is in contrast to public health workers who resist assignment to these communities. She recognized the spiritual role of coca in the cultural identity of



Peruvian First Lady, Elaine Karp Toledo speaking at GWU.

Peru’s traditional societies and promotes its legalized use in rituals. She sympathized with coca growers, mentioning the appeal of a crop that needs no fertilization and that has a market more lucrative than the current alternatives. Calling campesinos “excellent economists,” she noted that they will produce that which yields the highest price.

Noting that an estimated 40% of indigenous own their land, particu-

lar attention is needed to assure they will have control of this treasure. Peasants are constantly making archeological discoveries on their land, eliciting newfound appreciation for their rich cultural heritage. Another clue that Sra. Karp Toledo is a nontraditional First Lady was her call for a Constitutional reform that would allow indigenous people to “directly benefit from a percentage of their own national resources in their own territories. This royalty would increase their scarce monetary resources and facilitate their integration to the modern economy.” She cited industries that exploit mining, gas, oil, and timber as well as “industries (that) process their knowledge and technology without previous consent.” She was optimistic that a new social contract with deep respect for all cultures could be created eventually, drawing on Peru’s significant social capital.

Sra. Karp holds a BA from Hebrew University in Israel and studied anthropology and economics at Stanford where she met Alejandro Toledo whom she married in 1979. She has not completed her doctoral degree yet but worked for the World Bank and USAID (in Peru), among other international organizations, specializing in rural economic development. She heads Peru’s National Commission on Andean, Amazonian and Afro-Peruvian Affairs.

Time-Travel

by Stephen Paul Jacobs

In 1955, Jesus Lara, the noted Quechua scholar, published his translation into Spanish of *El Tragedia de la Muerte de Atahualpa*. The Quechua text had been discovered in 1935, itself based on an oral tradition. The events in Cajamarca involving the capture and execution of the last Inca ruler Atahualpa by Pizarro and his forces in 1532 were recounted and reenacted throughout the Colonial Period and after Independence as part of village ceremonies. Lara believed this manuscript was directly related to a 1555 performance described by Arzáns in his *Historia de la Villa Imperial de Potosí* (1735.)

Shortly after I returned from Bolivia in 1966, I saw Peter Shafer's play *The Royal Hunt of the Sun* on Broadway. David Carradine and Christopher Plummer played Atahualpa and Pizarro. At the time, I was unaware of the traditions of Quechua theatre and the importance of the memory of Atahualpa's execution to indigenous rebellions (Juan Santos Atahualpa and Tupac Amaru in Perú and Tomás Catari in Bolivia.) I certainly couldn't have imagined that 40 years later, I

would be writing a semester paper comparing Shafer's play with traditional Quechua presentations.

In the 1960s, Peace Corps training focused more on language skills and US foreign policy than an understanding of history and culture. In country, we were immersed in a contemporary world that had been shaped by events and interactions that took place long ago. As a young university professor, I was surrounded by well-educated and highly cultivated Bolivians. Indeed, one of my colleagues in the Facultad de Arquitectura de la Universidad de San Simón in Cochabamba was Don Augusto Guzmán, the author of definitive literary histories and, in particular *Antología colonial de Bolivia*, published in 1956, eight years before my Peace Corps service.

Unfortunately, I haven't been able to figure out a way to time-travel. I sadly cannot consult with Don Augusto on my paper. I am probably older than he was when I showed up, a recent architecture graduate eager to communicate a passion for Le Corbusier and modernism. In my two years in Bolivia, I developed an appreciation for Colonial Architecture and Urbanism. I began to understand the re-

ciprocal relationship between culture and the built environment. At the time, however, immediate concerns were more pressing.

My retirement has given me the luxury of returning to the issues, images and encounters that made such an impression on me as a volunteer. I am supported in my efforts by my teachers at Tulane and by the many publications on Andean issues. I recently attended the annual conference of the Bolivian Studies Association at Miami International University. The presentations only served to underline missed opportunities.

Perhaps, some sort of time-travel is possible. I'm sure all of us find that our memories of our Peace Corps experiences are among the most vivid of our remote past. In the past 40 years, Bolivia and Perú have become the focus of attention of many talented and imaginative scholars, some of whom were Peace Corps Volunteers, themselves. I'm just in the second semester of my graduate studies and am becoming increasingly aware of the range and the quality of this research. I look forward to contributing my own investigations and, in the process, continuing to enrich my Peace Corps experience.

It's the Same the Whole World Over (cont. from p. 1)

care; getting an education for themselves as well as for their children. We all know the problems.

When I think of the wealth of knowledge that we, collectively as RPCVs, have in understanding the human predicament of those in need, I get impatient, thinking of what we in *Amigos* could do, both here...and there.

The new Board, with a new Membership Chair, Treasurer, Corporate Secretary, Publications Coordinator, Webmaster, Kantuta Coordinator and Elections Coordinator is becoming more active, with more new ideas and plans all of the time. It's true that we, as an NPCA affiliate, have problems to solve but,

nonetheless, with a solid foundation within our group laid by our former President, we can go a long way toward making a positive effect on the lives of Peruvians and Bolivians, here in the US as well as in their host countries. In other ways yet unknown, we ourselves can support *Amigos* as well as maintain those ties that bind us together, as RPCVs.

I've discovered that "you get back about what you give." We're looking for some hardy souls to help *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* with developing regional gatherings of our members and alerting our Kantuta coordinator about cooperative non-profit programs established (or to-be-

established) between the US/Peru and Bolivia that *Amigos* could support. We could also use ideas on how to do fundraising by long distance! What's happening in your neck of the woods?

If you are reading this newsletter, you know how to find me...and the other Board members; all of us are listed on the top of p. 2 of *Yachaspa*. So, why wait? Communicate!! Re-dedicate! Take up the bait! We welcome you to do some leg work with our get-up-and-going group!

Not so Boring Board Notes...Wow!!

During the first three months of the current year the Board can count the following as accomplishments:

- * Held its first teleconference, followed by comprehensive minutes
- * Winter issue of *Yachaspa* newsletter published
- * Transfer of legal papers to new officers
- * Transfer of operating funds to new Treasurer
- * New P.O. Box mailing address established
- * *Amigos* website updated
- * By-laws revision initiated

- * Membership list update in progress
- * Re-affiliation with NPCA accomplished
- * Elections coordinator named
- * Elections judge confirmed

In April, May and June, we have plans for the following:

- * Kantuta project(s) received, evaluated and granted
- * Rendezvous 2005 planning continued
- * New Bolivia Coordinator named
- * Additional members named to a Peru Coordinating Committee

- * Membership roster expanded
- * Fund-raising ideas solicited
- * By-laws revisions presented to Board
- * Articles for Summer issue of *Yachaspa* newsletter submitted
- * Board conference in May
- * Regional time-zone leaders named

Questions? Comments?
Volunteers? Contact Patt Behler!

Looking for James R. Martin Peru 65-67

From: Erica Burman
To: boliviaperu@hotmail.com
Date: Fri, 22 Apr 2005

Greetings, I am working on a story about the Carter Center award to a senior RPCV, given in honor of Miss Lillian. The first recipient in 1986 was James R. Martin (Peru 65-67). Evidently he was the one who spoke with Miss Lillian and inspired

her to join. Unfortunately, the NPCA has no record of him in our database.

I was wondering if perhaps you could put out the word in the RPCV/Peru network to see if he is still alive and if so, how he might be contacted.

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Best regards, Erica

Erica T. Burman
(The Gambia 87-89)
News Director
National Peace Corps Association
1900 L Street, N.W. Suite 205
Washington, DC 20036
email: news@rpcv.org

Deadly Consequences: The International Monetary Fund and Bolivia's *Black February*

The Democracy Center recently released a new book, *Deadly Consequences: The International Monetary Fund and Bolivia's Black February*. The book tells the story of Bolivia's Black February (2003), in which 34 people were killed during public uprisings against an IMF-forced economic belt-tightening package. It is not just the story of two tragic days in La Paz, but also of the global eco-

nomnic system that set that violence in motion.

The report is based on interviews with Bolivia's current President and senior government advisors, IMF officials, economists, Bolivian human rights leaders, eyewitnesses, and with the family of the victims. It also draws on dozens of original source documents and testimonies. The

report is available for both free viewing and purchase in book form on The Democracy Center Web site at: www.democracyctr.org/publications/imfindex.htm

You can also request to be added to the distribution list by sending an e-mail note to: info@democracyctr.org.

Cycle of Instability in the Andes: Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru

An in-depth article on the situation in the Andes, authored by Dr. Michael A. Weinstein is available as a Power & Interest News Report (PINR) at www.pinr.com/report.php?ac=view_report&report_id=262&language_id=1

The Power and Interest News Report (PINR) is an independent organization that utilizes open source intelligence to provide conflict analysis services in the context of international relations.

You may visit the PINR web site at www.pinr.com to review reports by region or sign-up for their regular e-mail distribution of reports.

Membership and Related Matters

by Gloria Levin

Amigos' Board of Directors voted to increase annual dues to \$22.50 per year for couples. This makes the cost for joining *Amigos*-only (without NPCA joint membership) equivalent to the amount that NPCA "rebates" to its affiliate organizations (such as *Amigos*) when a couple joins NPCA. Membership in NPCA (at \$50 per year for an individual or \$65 for a couple/family) includes membership in one affiliate. For an individual membership, \$35 stays with NPCA, and \$15 goes to the affiliate. For a couple/family membership, \$42.50 stays with NPCA, and \$22.50 goes to the affiliate.

Amigos' membership form has been revised to reflect this change. The membership form always appears on the penultimate page of *Yachaspa* and on our website at: www.amigosdeboliviayperu.org.

No one could remember why the *Amigos*-only dues for couples had cost \$20; most likely this was overlooked at

an earlier year when NPCA dues for couples were raised to \$22.50. *Amigos'* regular membership dues for an individual remain at \$15 per year ~ both for those joining *Amigos*-only and those joining NPCA with the selection of *Amigos* as the chosen affiliate. However, of your \$15 or \$22.50 *Amigos* dues, NPCA assesses affiliates \$1 per paid membership each year, up to \$500.

You are encouraged to renew your memberships for two or three years. This cuts down on paperwork and reminders that come all too frequently for single year memberships. You can accomplish this by using *Amigos'* membership form to write a note indicating "2 years" or "3 years" and sending a check for the appropriate amount. NPCA members can renew online at www.rpcv.org.

Did you know that recent volunteer returnees receive a free membership for one year in both NPCA and one affiliate? We're delighted to welcome the first two returnees from Peru se-

lecting *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* as their affiliate: Keri Lynn Badach and Christean Cole. We have long provided a free one-year membership to recent Bolivia returnees. Of course, we hope that "free" members will join *Amigos* as paid members upon the termination of the free year. To encourage this, *Amigos* offers a reduced membership fee of \$8 per year for students and \$4 for the rare financial hardship. (At the other end of the lifespan, retirees can take advantage of a discounted membership for \$8.) However, reduced dues are only available to persons joining *Amigos* without NPCA membership (known as "*Amigos* only").

Finally, because of fiscal problems, NPCA had been withholding affiliates' portion of dues collected since July 2004. Last month, NPCA paid the affiliates all back dues owed; for *Amigos*, that amounted to a check for a much-needed \$1,117.50.

Amigos de Bolivia y Perú

Membership Form (rev. April 2005)

Mail form and check to Bill Sherry, 925 Forest Creek Drive West, Columbus, OH 43223

Please complete thoroughly and legibly

Surname _____ First Name _____ M.I. _____

Street _____

City _____ State/Country _____ Zip Code _____

Home Telephone _____ Work Telephone _____

Vocation/Employer: _____ E-Mail: _____

Host Country & Dates of Service _____ (e.g., Bolivia, 1997-1999)

(If spouse is also joining Amigos) Spouse surname as PCV _____

Spouse surname now _____ First Name _____ M.I. _____

Work Tel _____ E-Mail _____

Spouse's Vocation/Employer: _____

Spouse's Host Country & Dates of Service _____

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

_____ Annual Dues for NPCA and Amigos	\$50 Individual	\$ _____
	\$65 Couple/Family	\$ _____

<<If you are already a member of NPCA and another NPCA affiliate, check here: _____>>

_____ Annual Dues for Amigos only	\$15 Individual	\$ _____
	\$22.50 Couple/Family	\$ _____
	\$8 Student/Retired	\$ _____
	\$4 Hardship	\$ _____

_____ Foreign Address (Non-U.S. Mail Address) \$5 Individual/Family \$ _____

_____ Donation to *Kantuta* or Other *Amigos* Project \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

News from NPCA

NPCA's Annual General Meeting (AGM), Group Leaders Forum (GLF), and Board Meeting have been scheduled for Friday, July 29, 2005 in Washington, D.C. All meetings will be held in Dupont Circle at 1875 Connecticut Avenue in the Universal North building, Greeley Room (3rd Floor). Please check www.rpcv.org for future updates to this schedule, along with hotel recommendations and other useful information.

John Coyne (Ethiopia 62-64) of Peace Corps Writers is collecting stories from volunteers and Peace Corps staff who knew Sargent Shriver during his Peace Corps years, and creating a library of reminiscences under the caption, "And Then Sarge Said to Me..."

Send your short (around 500 words) fond or humorous recollections of the man who created the Peace Corps to:

jpcoyne@peacecorpswriters.org.

Include your name, country and years of service, and a sentence or two about yourself. John will post submis-

sions on the Peace Corps Writers Web site, creating a digital archive of Shriver stories for generations to come.



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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