



Yachaspa

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

Newsletter of Amigos de Bolivia y Perú, Inc.

Have You Ever Thought that You'd...??

by *Patt Behler*
Amigos President

At my age, I find myself reading quite a few health journals! I picked one up recently and found the following text accompanying a photo of a middle aged woman in ethnic dress striding down an old city street. "Do people tell you you're over the hill? What if you were over the

hill, and over an ocean, to another continent where elders are looked to as leaders. What's over that hill anyway?Peace Corps. Life is calling. How far will you go?" Well, to me that sounds like a definite invitation to us oldsters! But....perhaps you say, there is a reason you can't join up, again. Perhaps there are reasons you don't want to join up

again. Perhaps, as I said, there are reasons that Peace Corps wouldn't want some of us to join up again. However, for those who find themselves at a point in life, regardless of chronological age, at which they want to offer something significant as an elder, I say, "Consider it!" You're never too old to feel young again!!

(Continued on page 2)

Kantuta Update: Peru & Bolivia

by *Gerard Maguire*
Kantuta Coordinator

Three projects have been funded in Peru by *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru*. A few months ago we signed a Donation Agreement with Michael Hirsh, Country Director - Peru, in which *Amigos* agreed to

provide an initial \$1,000 Kantuta Grant to PC/Peru to help fund development projects in communities where current Peace Corps Volunteers are serving. We are happy to report that \$900 of the funds has been utilized for three projects, as follows (project descrip-

tions were provided by Michael Hirsh):

Latrines in Chalaco, Peru

This project, submitted by PCV Justin Overdeest, will build 17 latrines in the community of Chalaco (Piura), Peru, a town of 2,200, with a similar

(Continued on page 8)

National Gathering Rescheduled!

NPCA has rescheduled the 45th Anniversary National Gathering! **It will now take place Sept. 15-16, 2006.** Please update your calendars!

A request to change the 2006 National Gathering

was made by Frank Schwarz (NPCA, Friends of Colombia, and Amigos de Honduras).

The originally publicized dates fell on the Jewish New Year/Rosh Hashanah and the start of

Ramadan. As a result, the NPCA Board voted unanimously to change the event date.

Once again, the NEW dates are September 15-16, 2006.

Winter 2005-06

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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 .

Have you ever...? (continued from p. 1)

Ending this President's column for 2005 with a brief additional message to the membership, I want to thank all of the members who have taken the time to be in touch with me and any of the other Board Directors who have served as Officers this year. I feel sure that we all appreciate your interest in and support of what we are trying to do within the *Amigos* structure.

This has been a year of change for all of us; our former coordinator, Ken, has relinquished the reins and is going on to other, perhaps more exciting things. New officers have taken over, attempting to change the structure of several features so that we can continue to meet the goals of our group.

In the next years, I anticipate more and more activity among all of

us in re-defining our goals and objectives. Please help us...to grow...to keep in touch...to help out our friends in Bolivia and in Peru...to make *Amigos* an even better organization than it is today.

Recruiting New RPCVs to *Amigos*

By Gloria Levin
Membership Coordinator

A prime goal for *Amigos'* Board of Directors is encouraging the active involvement in *Amigos* by the new generations of PCVs from Bolivia and Peru. To this end, the *Yachaspa* newsletter is sent in email and hard copy formats to PC in-country staff, for distribution to PCVs. And our new targeting of Kantuta financial contributions to PCVs' community projects should hopefully increase the visibility of *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* among current PCVs. However, an ongoing problem is enlisting new returnees to join *Amigos* upon their completion of PC service. Although the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) provides them a free, one-year membership in NPCA

and in the RPCV's choice of one affiliate organizations, fewer than 30% have accepted this generous offer. (The new member saves \$50 ~ \$35 earmarked for NPCA and \$15 for the selected affiliate organization.)

Of those few who do join NPCA, most select free membership in the affiliate located in the city or state to which they are relocating - mainly for making social and job contacts. Country of service affiliates, like *Amigos*, are only infrequently selected. And privacy statutes restrict affiliates from learning the identities of potential members, unless the PCV takes the initiative of signing a privacy waiver and joining.

As an experiment, the Board voted to offer a free membership in *Amigos* for one year to any PCV soon to complete service in Bolivia or Peru, even

if the person selects another affiliate via NPCA or never joins NPCA. We have had excellent cooperation from PC/Peru Director, Mike Hirsh (himself, a long-time *Amigos* member and Bolivia RPCV) who made the offer to Peru III volunteers at their close of service (COS) conference this Fall, resulting in emailed acceptances from eleven new members. Most satisfying for me has been communicating with these new members - learning of their PCV accomplishments and frustrations and offering them tips on their post-PC travel, job searches and graduate education. Bolivia PCVs are being contacted to extend the offer to them also.

Get in Touch & Reconnect...

Editor's Note: This section has been added to Yachaspa for your use in soliciting information or when you are seeking to reconnect. Feel free to pass along updates or requests to brownr@westminster-mo.edu.

From Patt Behler, Peru, 62-64
pabehler@socket.net

While I was in Arequipa as a PCV, I spent quite a bit of time working on a "furniture project"; we designed furniture that could be made from local materials in an attempt to show our Peruvian friends how they could make furnishings for their homes. We designed bunk beds of wood and rope, for instance, to encourage

them to make these instead of buying the expensive, imported ones sold in the market. We designed lots of other items and then produced a booklet with instructions about materials, measurement, etc. and later conducted classes in some of the barriadas, using a few power tools that the PC purchased for our project.

My question is, are there any RPCVs or current PCV's who have traveled to Arequipa who have heard anything about this project since then? We distributed the booklet widely. Maybe somewhere, someone is remembering our exhibits of samples, and is making furniture for their home today. I'd sure like to know. Any responses?

From Patt Behler, Peru 62-64
pabehler@socket.net

I worked in Ciudad de mi Trabajo, one of the barriadas in Arequipa, teaching in a "preschool project" established by Barb Wiggins, wife of Chet Wiggins, who once used the available PC jeep to take an expectant mother to the hospital (They named the baby "Chet.") Any chance that anyone has ever run into someone who remembers the PC being there and is named Chet?

Steve Jacobs returned to New Orleans Thanksgiving weekend.

Chagas: A Hidden Affliction



forwarded by
Steven Huffstutlar,

Most of you have lived in the Andean region or know something about this disease.

In my recently ended 6 years of living in Cochabamba, there was nothing more painful than those days when co-workers would come to work and announce they had just been diagnosed. Many Cochabambinos don't go for the test and don't want to know.

They say about 70% of the rural population of Cochabamba department have the disease, and most don't know it. The percentage in Cochabamba city is supposedly somewhat less. Anyone who has lived in a house with adobe walls is a potential victim.

Recent Bolivia Peace Corps volunteer Kelley Satterfield sends this along:

Andy and I went to a screening of, *Chagas: a hidden affliction* at the Virginia Film Festival. It was absolutely fantastic and spoke volumes.

The filmmaker, originally from Argentina, lives in Charlottesville. His name is Ricardo Preve, and he spent three years making this factual movie.

I can't say enough about the movie, but afterwards, there was a Q&A session with a panel of speakers, including Legal Justice Aid, an epidemiologist from the University of Virginia (who has studied Chagas for some 20 years), the head of Nuevas Raices (a regional Latino newspaper), and a doctor from Williamsburg, who was a part of the movie.

The purpose of the movie is to inform people of chagas, something that may spread to even developed countries due to migration patterns. There's congenital chagas, chagas contracted by the bug bite, and chagas passed through blood transfusions and organ donation.

The fear, of course, is the stigma of Latin Americans being infected by this disease and bringing it to the States. especially, since there's already a stigma towards immigrant workers, taking "American" jobs. However, I believe the filmmaker hopes that people will understand the larger picture, a silenced disease five years or so before its time (like AIDS, which was once believed to be a disease of homosexuals living in San Francisco - so if you did not fit into that category, AIDS did not matter to you).

Through publicizing the disease and educating the public, I believe he hopes to encourage developed countries to take this disease seriously and fund research towards finding a cure. This is something that could seriously effect them as well-it's not just a disease of developing countries, and actually the vinchuca (the insect that serves as the carrier for Chagas) is native to the Americas, including

the US.

Anyone working in family practice, may want to study up on this. They say in med school most students get a breeze over of parasitology but not much further. Many people who donate blood are not tested for Chagas, and the number of people with Chagas in the US is increasing and going undetected—since it is asymptomatic or shows deteriorating heart conditions.

It was also interesting to see the interworkings of the pharmaceutical companies - the politics of drug production.

Proceeds from DVD sales will go towards research on the disease. Doctors without Borders is working in conjunction with them (using the money raised). The film crew is making presentations to many organizations all of the world. I hope you will have a chance to see this. Maybe some of you already knew about this movie, but for those of you who haven't, I hope you enjoy it and pass on the information to others.

Take care *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru,*
Un abrazo,
Kelley Satterfield

Virginia PBS stations will show the movie, Friday February 24, 2006 at 10:00 p.m. You may also check www.chagasthemovie.com/ for more information and other opportunities to view the film.

Update from PC/Peru

by *Michael Hirsh*
Country Director

Saludos from Lima, where the days are getting sunnier and warmer.

I'm pleased to report that Peace Corps/Peru has made great progress in its expansion. We currently have 118 Volunteers in the field, up from 82 a year earlier. Thirty-three are serving in our Health program, 38 in Small Business Development, 28 in Youth Development, and 19 in our brand-new Environmental program.

We are expanding geographically as well. We are now working in eight of Peru's 24 departments – Tumbes, Piura, Lambayeque, La Libertad, Cajamarca, Ancash, Lima, and Ica. I know that many RPCVs would like to see us expand into the central and southern sierra as well, and in due time that may well happen. For now, we are working in many desperately poor communities in the eight departments I've mentioned, accomplishing many worthwhile things. Here is a brief overview of what we are doing in each sector:

In Health, most of our Volunteers are assigned directly to local Ministry of Health facilities. They train health promoters and local leaders, and organize community-wide campaigns on nutrition, good hygiene practices, and disease prevention. Some of the campaigns are disarmingly simple on the surface, but surprisingly effective. For example, epidemiological studies have shown that the incidence of

diarrhea can be reduced in rural Peru by 35 to 40% just by people washing their hands before eating, after going to the bathroom, and after changing a diaper. This has led to a nationwide hand washing campaign, sponsored in part by the World Bank, in which PCVs are playing an active role.

In Small Business, many PCVs are assigned to work with groups of artisans, while others are assigned to work with farmer groups. In both cases, PCVs help their groups identify new markets and teach them appropriate business practices. Interestingly, PCVs have found ways for the farmers and artisans to work together. For example, one set of PCVs was helping sugar producers export organic cane sugar to Europe, while another set was working with women weavers. Someone came up with the idea of enclosing the packs of sugar in hand woven bags. The resulting product (a hand-woven bag with a Peruvian design containing a pack of organic cane sugar) is selling well in European gift shops, and has provided excellent new income for both groups of producers.

In Youth Development, PCVs are working with a variety of organizations, including residential facilities for abandoned children, drop-in centers for street children, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health programs for at-risk children, and a creative police-sponsored program for kids who have been experimenting with drugs. While PCVs assist with tutoring, vocational training, and recrea-

tion, probably their most important job is to build the self-esteem of the youth they work with. One of the most interesting recent activities organized by Volunteers was a weekend leadership camp for adolescent girls, held in Cajamarca and Piura.

Six of the new Environmental PCVs are working with the Peruvian Natural Resources Institute in protected areas, including the Tumbes mangroves, Parque Nacional Huascarán, and Paracas. The rest are working with NGOs and local municipalities on a number of creative environmental education initiatives.

As described elsewhere in this newsletter, the Kantuta contributions *Amigos* has provided have had a significant impact in three communities. PC/Peru staff, PCVs, and counterparts are grateful for your generosity.

We have enjoyed visits from a number of RPCVs over the past few months. Please let us know when you'll be coming to Lima (my e-mail address is mhirsh@pe.peacecorps.gov), and we'll be happy to have you spend some time with us.

I look forward to continue with these quarterly updates, and I appreciate your interest in Peace Corps/Peru.

Resources of Interest

The Andean Information Network

AIN recently revamped their website and changed the web address to: www.ain-bolivia.org. A recent posting includes information on U.S. Interests and Bolivian Elections: Demonizing Morales, Jeopardizing Stability.

AIN is an international, independent, non-profit organization that seeks peaceful long-term solutions to the social conflicts, injustices, and inequalities created and exacerbated by the U.S. War on Drugs in Bolivia. Based on thorough investigation and documentation, we inform international human rights organizations, along with U.S. policy makers and activists, of human rights violations committed by U.S.-funded security forces in coca-growing regions, as well as the relationship between drug policy design and the endemic climate of impunity.

The Democracy Center

Jim Shultz has posted informative articles on the recent elections. See the December 1, 2005 posting, "Bolivia's Uplanned Elections" and the December 19, 2005 article,

"Bolivia's Election Stunner " at: <http://democracyctr.org/blog/>.

Shultz concludes that, "Morales and his backers, and the Bolivian people along with them, have won a victory that is both sweet and historic. When I first moved back to Bolivia in 1998 the country was governed by Hugo Banzer, a former dictator. World Bank and IMF economics was the rule of the day. In a month Bolivia will be governed by a man who earned his political stripes confronting Banzer and others in the streets and the market fundamentalism forced on Bolivian from abroad will begin to be dismantled piece by piece.

Bolivians have succeeded remarkably in declaring what kind of country they don't want. Now the challenge is to build, in a practical and sustainable way, the country that they do want. I think there is a decent chance that they'll pull it off. If they do they will set, once again, an example for all of us - that what's possible in the world is often more than what we think."

Power and Interest News Report

"Bolivia's Evo Morales Shifts the Hemispheric Balance of Power," prepared by Dr. Michael A. Weinstein is available at www.pinr.com. The PINR is an independent organization that utilizes open source intelligence to pro-



vide conflict analysis services in the context of international relations. PINR approaches a subject based upon the powers and interests involved, leaving the moral judgments to the reader.

NPCA Long Sleeve T-Shirts

Hand-printed on sweatshop-free fine cotton from American Apparel and screened with non-toxic ink, this NPCA limited edition shirt displays our newly refreshed logo (on the back of the shirt). These long sleeve shirts are a great way to make a statement and stay warm during the holiday season. The front of the shirt in-

cludes a "deployed for peace" slogan in response to attempts by the Department of Defense to tie their recruitment efforts to Peace Corps service.



You can order on-line at: www.pigeonex.com/peacecorpsconnect.

Assistance Requested...



Through the Global TeachNet program, the NPCA staff is working on a small pilot program to bring global education activities to public libraries in 2006, the 45th anniversary of the Peace Corps. We ask for your assistance in two ways: (1) If you have implemented successful programs in public libraries in your community, please send a brief description and contact information for the coordinator in your group and/or the library to Ellen Frier-

son, Program Associate, at teachnet@rpcv.org.

(2) The NPCA seeks librarians and individuals with strong connections to libraries for pilot global education program in U.S. public libraries in 2006. Please contact NPCA Program Associate, Ellen Frierson, at teachnet@rpcv.org with a brief description of your position or connection along with your contact information.

Progress of NPCA Advocacy in 2005

A review of activities for NPCA Advocacy in 2005 is available at www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=1312

Significant steps forward were made this past year on key issues of

de-linking the Peace Corps from military recruitment, the campaign for fair trade, increased funding for the Peace Corps. There was also success in the growing involvement of a grassroots constituency, finding

accomplishments through a team effort. Jonathan Pearson (Micronesia 1987 - 1989) serves as the NPCA Advocacy Coordinator.

Thank you from NPCA President Quigley

On January 6th, President Bush signed into law the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006." Included in this legislation is a provision supported by the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) that removes references to Peace Corps in the "National Call to Service" (NCS) military recruitment program.

The NPCA wishes to express its sincere thanks to Senators Chris Dodd (CT) and Ted Kennedy (MA) and Armed Services Chairman John Warner (VA) for introducing an amendment to the Defense Authorization Act to de-link Peace Corps from the NCS program.

We also wish to thank House Armed Services Chairman Duncan

Hunter (CA) and Ranking Member Ike Skelton (MO) for advancing the legislation by agreeing to the Senate amendment.

A special thanks also to Congressman John Kline (MN) for introducing House legislation to address this issue, and to the bi-partisan list of 38 other House members who showed support for this measure (go to the thomas.loc.gov website for the entire list), including RPCV Congressmen Mike Honda (CA) and Sam Farr (CA).

We are also grateful to a bi-partisan group of former Peace Corps directors who provided advice and support on this effort, including Carol Bellamy, Joe Blatchford, Richard Celeste, Nick Craw, Kevin

O'Donnell, Mark Gearan, Donald Hess and Mark Schneider.

Last and certainly not least, thanks to all our members who took action through letters, emails, faxes and phone calls. Your actions provided an important citizen voice for this change, and helped protect the safety and security of volunteers and Peace Corps' independence.

For more information on the NPCA and background on this issue, please visit our website at www.peacecorpsconnect.org.

With very best wishes,

Kevin F. F. Quigley
President
National Peace Corps Association

Kantuta Update: Peru & Bolivia

number of persons in surrounding rural villages. The area is classified as "very poor," and health statistics show a high level of malnourishment and disease. Justin is working with the Ministry of Health, NGOs, and local authorities on introducing latrines to nine of the rural villages surrounding Chalaco. Three to seven families in each community will be chosen by the community itself to receive latrines. The community will be heavily involved in the construction, and in classes on proper use and maintenance of the latrines.

Each latrine costs about US\$71.25. The community is contributing 200 adobes per latrine, tiles for the roof, and most of the labor, for a total value of about US\$31.25. Kantuta funds of \$700 (and other outside funds) will purchase cement, rock and sand, the zinc door, other needed materials, specialized hired labor, and transport of the materials to the site.

From an email I received from Justin on December 13th, he confirmed that approximately 8 of the latrines are complete, and that the remaining latrines will be completed within the week. This project has been so successful that Justin has decided to pursue further funding through the Peace Corps Partnership Program (for more information on Peace Corps Partnership Program, please click this link: www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=resources.donors) Justin will send updated photos of the project in January, but for now he provided us the following pictures:



Justin Overdevest with a community member.



Latrines



Construction of latrines

AIDS Prevention in Catilluc

This project was submitted by Laura Beranek, a Youth Development PCV in Catilluc (Cajamarca), Peru. This is an extremely poor area, with low levels of education and high unemployment - leading to low self-esteem and a host of additional challenges for adolescents and young adults.

Working with the local Ministry of Health facility, Laura and her counterparts have mounted a campaign centered on the prevention of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. This has involved presentations in schools and various community meetings. Laura has mounted a youth brigade to help with the prevention efforts and has been working with them on songs, socio-dramas, dances, and poems.

The highlight of the campaign was a community health fair on December 6th. The youth of the community put on their songs, dances, and plays, and there was a display on a variety of health-related topics. Pamphlets were handed out, and there were other give-aways. Laura and the community received a Kantuta grant of US\$100, for the purchase of a banner, balloons, craft paper, markers, and other similar supplies.

To date, Peace Corps/Peru has utilized \$900 of the \$1,000. The result will be 17 latrines, a bio-digester, and a health fair, all of which will be models for future development activities. As part of our agreement with PC/Peru, we will consider providing additional

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Kantuta Update (continued from p. 8)

grants to be distributed amongst deserving PCV projects.

Bio-digester in Canchaque

This project was submitted by PCV Kevin Fitzpatrick who is assigned to Canchaque (Piura), Peru. This past year, he has been working with his community and two NGOs on building a demonstrative swine raising facility. The goal is that by introducing technical swine production to the area, community members will have an additional source of income and a supply of protein-rich meat. The facility, supported by a USAID Small Project Assistance (SPA) grant, has recently been completed.

As the facility was being constructed, Kevin and the community explored the possibility of building a bio-digester to capture methane gas from the pig manure to be used as cooking fuel. They studied designs and selected a model that will be feasible. The bio-digester will cost a little more than US\$200. The community will be contributing local materials, land, and labor, for a total value of a little more than US\$100. The remaining \$100 for this project, which will be used to purchase bricks, cement, steel, plastic tubes, and plumbing fittings, was provided from the Kantuta grant.

This project is currently in progress. Attached below are pictures of the swine raising facility, the first phase of this project.



PCV Kevin Fitzpatrick

Bolivia PCV Project in Samaipata (Santa Cruz), Bolivia Solicits for a Kantuta Grant

PCV Mark Graziano, who is located in the Samaipata (Santa Cruz), Bolivia region, submitted a Kantuta Grant request for industrial fruit dryers as part of a small business development project. He is assigned to a women's group which produces jams and jellies from the abundant fruit that they harvest. (This region has endless varieties of fruit - papaya, oranges, tangerines, strawberries, raspberries, grapes, peaches, mangos, bananas, etc.) The group has recently begun to produce dried fruit after completing a workshop on fruit drying with PCV Graziano. From the workshop they were able to build a few solar fruit dryers, but the capacity of the solar dryers is low and dependant on the weather (Samaipata is a tropical climate and having two or three straight days of sun, the minimum required to dry fruit with solar dryers, is nearly impossible.) For this reason, the group wishes to purchase industrial fruit dryers so they can more efficiently preserve the fruit.

In my communications with Mark, he has decided to move forward on this endeavor through the Peace Corps Partnership Program

(<http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=resources.donors>) *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* will make a Kantuta Grant to this project through the Peace Corps Partnership Project.

If you wish to make a contribution to this project in Bolivia or to Kantuta in general, please send a check or money order to the following address: Kantuta, 925 Forest Creek Drive West, Columbus, OH 43223.

Please indicate on your donation where you would like your donation applied (i.e. Peru Kantuta, Bolivia Kantuta, or a specific project). Be sure to check the *Amigos* website for additional information on Kantuta (i.e. its mission and types of projects funded) and periodic updates on current Kantuta projects.

If you have further question, feel free to contact me at gjmaguire@hotmail.com

Extraditing Fujimori from Chile

by Gloria Levin

The extradition of ex-Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori from Japan (to which he fled in 1990) and more recently from Chile (where he appeared unexpectedly November 6 and was subsequently detained in jail) is the consuming topic in Peru. On December 1, 2005, the George Washington University Seminars on Andean Culture and Politics and the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) co-sponsored a high-quality seminar on the topic, with the audience including Latin American ambassadors and representatives to the Organization for American States (OAS). The most informative presenters were Sofia Macher and Jose Miguel Vivanco. Macher, a Peruvian human rights activist, is a former member of Peru's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, currently located at the Instituto de Defensa Legal, and, as a civil society representative to the OAS's Mesa de Dialogo, participated in returning Peru to democracy in 2000. Vivanco is a Harvard-educated attorney born in Chile, currently the Executive Director, Americas Division at Human Rights Watch who has been working with Peruvian government officials on the legal case for the extradition.

They agreed that the crafty Fujimori left Japan for Chile, among multiple rationales, to take advantage of current tensions between Chile and Peru. Macher charged that Japan "protected him totally" in his exile. Buoyed by political polls in Peru showing 15% support for him running again for the presidency (April 2006), he fled to Chile which

has a favorable (for him) extradition policy. (The extradition treaty between Peru and Chile dates back to 1932.) Macher suspected corruption in his entry to Chile because he was confident that he would not be detained, and she regaled the audience with telenovela-like stories of his first hours in Chile. Her analysis was that Fujimori had over-estimated his political support and noted that his move to Chile has backfired, serving to remind Peruvians of his role in corrupting civil rights and reactivating the populace. Macher passionately advocates Fujimori's extradition to Peru to "undergo justice" and noted that Peru's justice system now is greatly reformed since that of the 1990's. She was optimistic that Chile will extradite Fujimori, in view of its own agonizing efforts earlier to extradite Pinochet from Europe and to bring him to justice in Chile.

Vivanco agreed that the Pinochet case makes a strong parallel but disagreed that Fujimori had miscalculated. On the one hand, since Fujimori's former collaborators have testified against him (not just his opponents), the case for his extradition under Chilean law is strengthened. Also, Chile's extradition of Fujimori might decrease current bilateral tensions between the countries. However, Vivanco was somewhat pessimistic, noting that "all power for extradition is in the hands of the Chilean Supreme Court," which he characterized as being extremely conservative and provincial (not so responsive to international law) and employing a new penal code which advantages Fujimori. In addition, the Court might be reluc-

tant to insert itself into another country's political matters. "Neither the Chilean nor the international public is fully aware of what Fujimori did to Peru. But this is not subject to a political solution, but to a small group of judges."

Another panelist, attorney Lisa Magarrell, cautioned that, although Fujimori has 21 charges against him ranging from embezzlement to homicide, the definition of criminal liability for ex-leaders represents "an uphill battle."

Update: The deadline for Peru to present a legal extradition request to Chile is January 6. Before Christmas, the Peruvian Cabinet approved 12 out of 17 charges recommended by Peru's Supreme Court. The remaining five charges have been sent back to the judiciary for further consideration.

Some URLs from NGOs that are following the case include (the best and most current so far) Human Rights Watch (www.hrw.org and pick "Americas"); WOLA (www.wola.org and pick "Andes"), and Amnesty International (www.aiusa.org, pick Country and Peru). The URL, www.fujimoriextraditable.org.pe, is produced by the National Coordinator of Human Rights (CNDDHH), a consortium of NGO's advocating for Fujimori's extradition. (The Spanish version has more current updates than the English version.)

Coming Home

by *Christean Cole*
RPCV Peru '03-'05

Before I joined the Peace Corps as a volunteer I worked as a paralegal at a large law firm in Washington DC for a year after college. It was exciting. It was fast paced. I dreamt about making photocopies and missing deadlines. It was stressing me out. But I knew that eventually I would be leaving. And after working and waiting for a year I left for Peru in November 2002.



As a Peace Corps volunteer in a rural community in northern Peru I worked on projects that focused on how to reduce maternal and infant mortality, how to improve hygiene and how to develop strategies to help families meet their nutritional needs. I worked closely with more than 300 students in the elementary school in developing and implementing a school gardening program. And I hosted a weekly radio program dealing with community health issues. Cross-

cultural understanding, flexibility and determination got me through those 24 months.

I finished my service in January 2005 and after traveling for two months I caught a flight and landed back on US soil. I spent my first two months living with my sister in New York City. However, I knew that I wanted to come back to Washington DC to work. As my readjustment allowance dwindled and my sister's patience ran short I migrated to DC.

I began temping for an agency that specialized in non-profit agencies. After going through an interview process and doing a computer skills test I was assigned to my first job. I worked two weeks as a receptionist at a non-profit that supports the arts. I answered phones and received packages. It was boring but it was perfect. I hardly put the phone down at lunchtime but would spend my afternoons searching the internet for jobs and tailoring my resumes. It was a good transition into the 9-5 work week. After my two weeks were up I moved on to being an administrative assistant for a medical association. I was definitely getting the exposure to the non-profit world that I wanted but what I was really looking for was a permanent position. Then I started to take advantage of all the resources the Peace Corps offers to returned volunteers. From the bi-weekly "Hotline" publication to the listservs, the services offered were encouraging. Finally, after a long search and a few more temp jobs, I found a job.

I am now proud to say that I work at Peace Corps Headquarters.

Working with other RPCVs and people who understand and embrace the mission of Peace Corps has broadened my perspective of my own volunteer service. In my job I deal with invitees who are worried about what to pack and it reminds me of the great excitement and uncertainty leading up to being a volunteer. I also deal with returned volunteers who want to make sure all their paperwork is sent to their new address and it reminds me of the challenge of readjusting to life back in the US. And the things that made my service a success—patience, collaboration and a willingness to learn—are essential to the job I am doing now. Learning more about the Peace Corps from this side makes me appreciate how much time and effort went into making my service rewarding and successful. I consider myself fortunate that, after a long and intense job search, I can now bring what I learned in my Peace Corps service to other volunteers and support the good work that Peace Corps is doing all over the world.



Peruvian Jewelry Available

During visits by several of our *Amigos* members and friends to Arequipa, Peru, in the past years, we have become conscious that in the artisan's market up the hill from "la Plaza mayor," there are numerous artisans who are creating and selling, of course, jewelry that appears to be well made, in exciting designs and that includes semi-precious stone work. Necklaces are prominent, although they make rings, earrings and bracelets also.

Gayle Hartmann, Mary Wohn and Patt Behler have each, at various times, visited the market and purchased items in quantity to bring back to the States. These can be made available for a donation to *Amigos*; in fact, during the NPCA Chicago conference, almost all of the items available at that time were "purchased" with donations.

Here you will see an illustration of a sample necklace. The donation



for a necklace has been set at \$20, which includes postage/handling. If you are interested, Patt Behler can

send you photocopies of other available necklaces.

We have the names of many of the artisans and hope to continue obtaining their jewelry work when members or other visitors go to Arequipa so that we will have more items available in the future. Donations will go into the general operating fund of *Amigos* rather than into the Kantuta Awards fund, although, since *Amigos* makes a contribution to the Kantuta Awards fund periodically, the benefits of these donations may be part of some Kantuta funds in the future.

Contact Patt at her e-mail address, phone number or mailing address if you're interested (see p. 2 of *Yachaspa*).

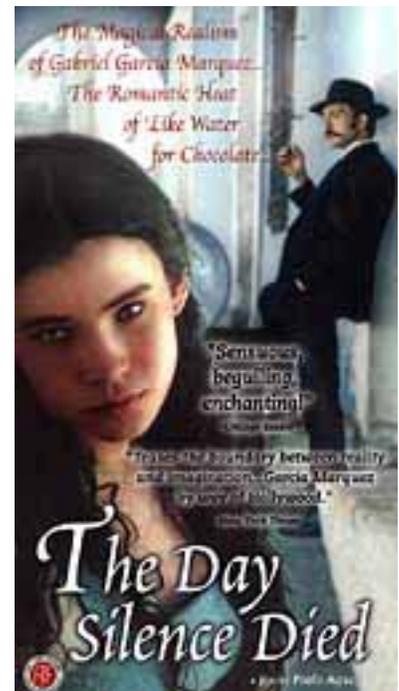
Film Review: El Día que murió el silencio (The Day Silence Died)

by Gerard Maguire

This film, directed by Italian filmmaker Paulo Agazzi, takes place in the picturesque Bolivian hamlet of "Villaserena" (the movie was filmed in both Tarata and Totora in the province of Cochabamba, Bolivia). Villaserena, a sleepy town of cobblestone streets and Spanish colonial architecture, exists outside of the modern world. That is until it receives a mysterious visitor named Don Abelardo who convinces the town mayor and priest to allow him to set up speakers in the main plaza.

Don Abelardo's "Radio Nobleza" initially broadcasts rock and roll hits (like "Jailhouse Rock"), but he eventually allows the locals to make personal announcements for a small fee. Before long, the people of Villaserena are publicly broadcasting the town's secrets, scandals, and gossip. Needless to say, life in Villaserena quickly descends into bickering and squabbling.

With elements of both "Cinema Paradiso" and "The Milagro Beanfield War," this film is a must see and can often be found at independent video rental stores.



Documentary film attests to Peru's Reign of Terror

by Gloria Levin

A gripping, must-see film, "State of Fear" (2005) centers on Peruvian society's Faustian bargain in the midst of Peru's 20-year (1980-2000) reign of terror, exchanging "security" for human rights. It confronts the question of how a democratic society can balance demands for security in the face of terrorism. "State of Fear" dramatizes the human and societal costs a democracy faces when it embarks on a war on terror It masterfully blends personal testimony, history and archival footage to tell the story of escalating violence in the Andean nation and how fear of terrorism was used to undermine the democracy, making Peru a virtual dictatorship where official corruption replaced the rule of law." Secret, faceless courts were convened to silence Peruvians who dared to assert their human rights. Noteworthy in the film is the indictment of Limenans who are charged with ignoring terrorism inflicted against the rural poor until the guerrillas moved their operations to the capital city.

I saw the film at Amnesty International's Film Festival in Washington, DC in early October 2005, followed by a panel including two of the producers - Paco de Onis and Peter Kinoy - and Eric Olson, AI's Advisor for the Americas. The film is being screened around the U.S., and may be broadcast on public TV in the future. (It was shown on cable TV, via the National Geographic Check Channel, this Summer. Check this URL for upcoming screenings of the film - <http://www.skylightpictures.com/so>



f_screenings.html - and/or Google the film by entering "State of Fear" / film / Peru. The producers are translating the film into Quechua and Aymara for showings in Peru, especially in small, remote villages via an outreach program that is intended to pressure the Peruvian government to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Despite extreme intimidation against Commission members and witnesses, 17,000 Peruvians provided testimony to the Commission of abuses inflicted by the Peruvian government which excused its brutal excesses by invoking the need to fight terrorist organizations. A small number of arrest warrants have been issued, so that few of the official perpetrators are being held accountable, according to the producers, who estimated that approximately 380 Peruvian military have been charged, representing a small

number of those who are culpable. The provisions of the Commission's reparations report had not been funded as of the October presentation. Forensic anthropologists brought into Peru to assist in the exhumation of bodies have examined the remains from only half the known graves. The panel concluded that Peru can not move forward until these issues are resolved.

In addition to their concern that the recommendations of the Truth Commission have not been followed through, the impetus for the film, panel members also worried about the root causes of the terrorism - Peruvian poverty and the exclusion of the indigenous poor from Peru's political process which they depicted as entrenched corruption. The film traced the history of successive Peruvian presidents having emphasized austerity rather than confronting poverty.

In the Q&A session, the panel answered that the U.S. focused on its own interests (such as drug control) during the repressive years in Peru rather than promoting human rights. Also, many of the most culpable Peruvian Army officers were trained at the U.S.'s School of the Americas. Ironically, this film provides a stark cautionary tale for the U.S. government's current approach to fighting the "global war on Terror."

Peruvian Films Available on DVD

By Gloria Levin

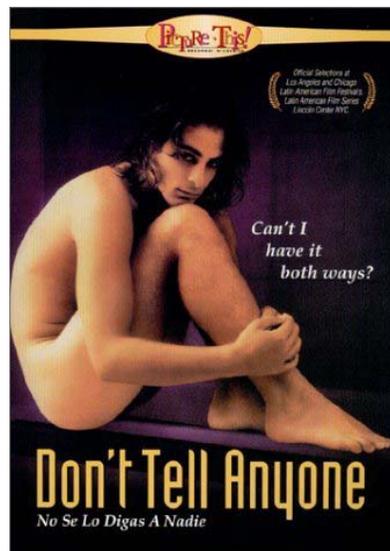
Both Netflix and Blockbuster Online offer a number of fairly recent Peruvian feature films for “rent,” including the following (in the order of my preference), all of which are subtitled in English. None are suitable for children.



“Pantaleón y Las Visitadoras” (2000) A social comedy, this film is based on a novel by Mario Vargas Llosa. A young, by-the-book Captain is assigned by his military superiors to establish and manage a “floating brothel” in order to divert lonely soldiers in remote outposts of the Amazon jungle from assaulting the local women. The Captain organizes his job as if it were a military campaign – with a complex strategy, maps,

statistics, logistics, and morale building lectures with the entrepreneurial and energetic hookers. Good acting and film quality.

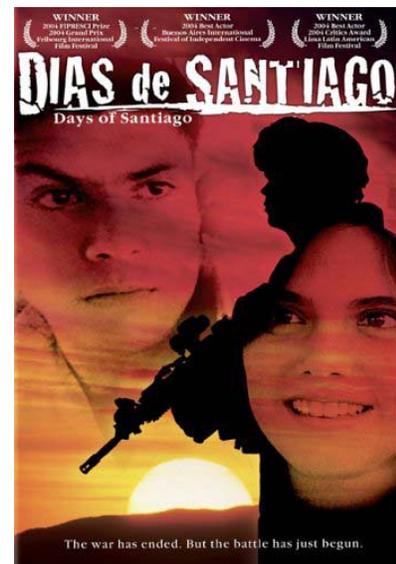
“Don’t Tell Anyone” (“No Se Lo Digas a Nadie,” 1998) Based on a best-selling book, this film depicts closeted homosexuality in a Peru that is both macho and rigidly Catholic. A “sensitive” boy from a wealthy Peruvian family is caught between his overprotective Catholic mother and his macho



father as he comes to terms with his sexual identity. He falls in (platonic) love with a female classmate (who thinks she can change his sexuality) but soon begins an affair with a male lover. A parallel to the film “Brokeback Mountain,” he learns one cannot be openly gay in Peru but would

have to marry while having homosexual affairs on the side.

“Dias de Santiago” (2004) A very grim film that depicts Peru’s “lost generation” of men who were forcibly enlisted into the military as teens. In this case, the protagonist, Santiago, was a Navy Seal on the Ecuadorian border, involved in committing unspoken atrocities. He returns home to Lima, a retired veteran at 23, suffering from post-traumatic stress with paranoia and



rage. An unwelcoming society makes it difficult for him to find work or fit back in with his family. The film is derivative of Scorsese’s “Taxi Driver,” and he even becomes a taxi driver. He rejects his friends’ criminal behavior, but his identity crisis leads to a desperate act.

Update from PC/Bolivia

Doreen Salazaar
PC/Bolivia Program &
Training Officer

PC/Bolivia concluded a successful year and we send greetings for the new year to members of *Amigos*. Here are some descriptions of volunteer SPA projects completed this past fiscal year:

La Laja, SCZ: Latrines & Education

Almost 75% of the families in La Laja, the community PCV Rebecca Hornbach supported, had no latrine at the start of this project. Because of the poor sanitary conditions, most of the people in La Laja and surrounding communities suffered from intestinal diseases such as dysentery, diarrhea, and intestinal parasites. In a health analysis of children from these communities, Doctor Edith



PCV Rebecca Hornbach

Vegas discovered that 25% of children below age five are malnourished, mostly related to poor hygiene and poor sanitary conditions. In addition, the community of La Laja is located at the high point of a watershed, contaminating the water of 15 down-

stream communities.

The purpose of this Project was to improve the sanitary conditions in La Laja through hygiene education and the construction of 20 dry composting latrines. The community will use the methods established by the Bibosi Institute to assure good use of the latrines and the improvement of sanitation in the entire community. The project was completed in March of 2005.

Independencia, Coch: Strengthen Agroforestry Systems for two women's groups

This Project, coordinated by PCV Stefanie Avery, strengthened an integrated natural resources manage-



ment project supported by FUPAGEMA, La Fundación para la Autogestión y el Medio Ambiente. This project benefited forty rural women in the communities of Manzanani and Hualliquiani of the municipality of Independencia, Cochabamba. Activities included in or resulting from the project were as follows: 19 women constructed fences around their family gardens with the help of professionals, 17 women planted vegetables in their plots with the help of professionals, 40 women participated in various workshops (planning and design of

family gardens, nutrition, salad-preparation instruction, construction of home-made sprinklers) organized and dictated by professionals, 40 women signed a contract with FUPAGEMA to complete the project according to the original design, 30 women left no un-planted areas in their plots (to reduce erosion).

Pucara, SCZ: Construction of Greenhouses

This was a nutrition project supported by Michelle Peña in communities of the municipality of Pucara. During the course of the project, a total of 25 greenhouses were constructed (ten more than initially planned): seven school greenhouses and 18 family greenhouses, in seven different communities. The first few greenhouses were completed in December 2004, but then due to the rainy season, agricultural schedule of planting and harvesting, there was a period of about three months where there was a delay in the project, which was completed in July of 2005. The project was capacity building in that it taught members of various communities how to build greenhouses. One member of the community, Iver Leon, the community leader of the project, was in some way involved in the construction of all the greenhouses. The contribution of each benefactor and school was to build the greenhouse to the point of roofing. During the course of the project, the PCV gave nutrition and cooking classes to each of the communities involved in the project. Women were the main participants. The classes focused on how to im-

(Continued on page 16)

prove the nutrition of families by increasing the amount of vegetables consumed in the family diet, and in the cooking demonstrations, the focus was on how to use different vegetables in typical Bolivian dishes and in new dishes. Classes were also given on planting of vegetables in a greenhouse, and on the harvesting of seed from the plants themselves.

Palmar Chico, Tarija: Assembly and Processing Plant for Agricultural Products

Agricultural Business and Marketing PCV Robert Johnson Stewart worked with the agricultural institute of Palmar Chico, at the cultural epicenter of the Bolivian Chaco, where young men and women of the region study for degrees in technical agronomy. Traditionally the students have received a strong education in the field of agriculture, but have substan-



tially lacked the necessary skills and information for the commercialization and marketing of agricultural products.

In the new product transformation center, the students practice making value-added goods such as marmalades, peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables, yogurt and other derivatives that enjoy higher profit margins and extended shelf lives. Drawing on the agricultural business and marketing theory learned in the classroom, the students conduct marketing studies and create comprehensive business plans in order to successfully commercialize the goods produced.

Agua Blanca, Tarija: Corn Farmers Cooperative

Agua Blanca is in the department of Tarija on the border of Argentina. Agua Blanca has 36 families and sits



on the river Itaú in the mountains. PCV Elizabeth McKee encouraged corn growers in her community to form a cooperative, then led their effort to write and managed a USAID Small Project Assistance grant to build corn silos and purchase a corn degranator, and

to sustainably manage these resources to improve incomes and food availability in and around her community. She also taught agriculture extension, cost of production and marketing practices to local producers.

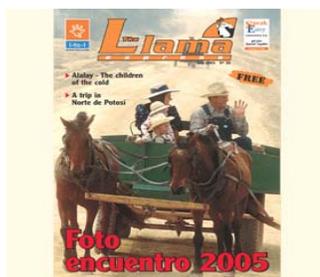
The project was completed in September of 2005. The community learned to work as a group to



reach a common goal. The Cooperative was built in a way that requires the community to share skills and time to maintain. The community now has a working community that includes roles such as President, Secretary, Vice President, Speaker and Treasurer. The community has the skill base to write and implement a project that has long term impact. An ongoing learning is how to run an efficient accounting system of the cooperative. Other base skills include how to utilize grain silos and run a corn degranating machine.

Welcome to *The Llama Express*

The Llama Express is a free, monthly publication dedicated to promoting and sustaining tourism. The new paper replaces *The Bolivian Times*, a for profit publication which was declared bankrupt in 2002. The Peruvian equivalent, *The Cuzco Weekly*, also ceased produc-



tion that time, leaving *The Llama Express* as the sole English language publication in the region. Although primarily aimed at tourists, the paper is also accessible to others. See www.theexpress.org/.

Membership Form (rev. Sept 2005)

Mail form and check (made out to *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru*) to
Amigos de Bolivia y Peru, 925 Forest Creek Drive West, Columbus, OH 43223

Surname _____ First Name _____ Surname as PCV _____

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 _____ (e.g., Peru, 2002-2004)

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

_____ Annual Dues for NPCA and *Amigos* \$50 Individual \$ _____

Double for 2 years; \$135 (single) / \$185 (couple) for 3 yrs.

\$65 Couple/Family \$ _____

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

_____ Annual Dues for *Amigos* only \$15 Individual \$ _____

Double or triple for 2 or 3 year membership

\$22.50 Couple/Family \$ _____

\$8 Student/Retired \$ _____

\$4 Hardship \$ _____

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

_____ Tax deductible donation to *Amigos'* *Kantuta* development programs \$ _____

If desired, earmark your donation to (____ Bolivia) (____ Peru)

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Amigos Website Update

by Gerard Maguire
Webmaster

Please be sure to periodically check the *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* website (www.amigosdeboliviayperu.org) for news articles, Kantuta updates, Internet links, and the photo album. New photographs courtesy of Peru PCV Justin Overdevest will be

loaded on the website over the next few weeks. Also, the Board Members page now includes updates bios and photos of *Amigos'* board. To see a bio, simply click the name of a board member and a new window will launch in your browser. We are actively soliciting photos on of members' service in Peru and Bolivia. Please send electronic photos to gjmaguire@hotmail.com If you have

regular photographs you wish to submit, please send them by mail to: Gerard Maguire, 2929 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20008.

I will scan them, and then return the photos. All comments and questions concerning the website can be emailed to: gjmaguire@hotmail.com

Vacancy for Treasurer of Amigos...Volunteer Needed!

Bill Sherry recently resigned from the Board of Directors for *Amigos*. Bill provided important leadership in this role, including service as

Treasurer. A volunteer is now needed for this important position. If you are interested, contact President Patt Behler by calling 573-635-0608 or

e-mailing her at pabehler@socket.net.

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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