



Yachaspa

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

Newsletter of Amigos de Bolivia y Perú, Inc.



President's Column

Gloria Levin
Amigos President

We enthusiastically welcome, as of November 1, three new members I appointed to Amigos' Board of Directors (and approved by a unanimous Board vote), of whom one was elected as Amigos' new Treasurer. They are named and profiled in this issue. But our needs for more volunteers are not over, by a long shot, with several roles still vacant as well as regular turnover of Board members. In particu-

lar, our treasured Ray Brown has announced, after the next issue, his resignation as *Yachaspa* editor, after more than 4 years of outstanding service. A replacement editor is needed in time for Ray to train him, her or them while preparing the Winter 2006-7 issue. Most of the editor's job is "pasting up" (assembling) in an existing template content submitted by others. While the newsletter has doubled in size, content is increasingly being submitted by

others, so the editor no longer has to search.

At the risk of whistling in the wind, yet again, here goes. Not a single (zip, zilch, ningún) volunteer has stepped forward in several years in response to constant calls in the newsletter for your participation. (It takes considerable work to beat the bushes, enlisting volunteers individually.) BREAK THE CURSE!! Whatever skills you have (writing, web development, mentoring, liaison with Bolivia or Peru, new member recruitment

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New Directors Added to Amigos' Board

Stephen Paul Jacobs
Amigos Secretary

Congratulations to Jeff Fletcher, Franklin Salvesson and Jane Wolff Taylor who will join the Board of Directors on November 1, as appointed members, serving 2-year terms. Franklin also was elected by the Board as its Treasurer.

Jeff served in Bolivia, working first in a small, southern Altiplano mine near Atocha and then in a rural, lowlands, agricultural colonization program near Santa Cruz. For 32 years, he worked in a variety of communications roles for the

National League of Cities. He edited the NLC's weekly newspaper, managed media relations and membership development, and directed NLC's department of membership services. Retired from NLC, he now works for a Washington, DC historic preservation group, consults to a nonprofit organization that serves local government communications professionals, and volunteers on a neighborhood planning and zoning committee.

Frank was a rural community development PCV, operating a Maryknoll Fathers' experimental farm near Puno. After PC service, he

trained agriculture PC volunteers headed to Central and South America and was on PC/Nicaragua's technical staff, working with agricultural co-ops. He has owned and/or managed agricultural businesses and was a financial planner and insurance salesman. As an outgrowth of a 2 ½ month stint as a post-Katrina Crisis Corps volunteer last year, he is now working in Texas for the Small Business Administration, processing loans for disaster recipients. Earlier this year, Franklin managed balloting for Amigos' mem-

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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.

PC/Bolivia Reunion in 2007...

Ed Stoll and Lee Arbuckle
Amigos Members

We are planning a reunion for Bolivia Volunteers and staff who worked in cooperatives, community development, rural electrification, nursing, the mines and other groups ~ roughly between 1967 through 1970. Any Bolivia RPCV or staff member with interest is welcome, however.

The reunion will start Friday evening, August 17 through Monday,

August 20, 2007, at the Estes Park Center of the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado, 65 miles northwest of Denver at the gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park. The facilities are set on 860 acres at 8,010 feet; view them at www.ymcarockies.org.

A block of 41 rooms in one lodge is on hold, pending final confirmation at the end of 2006. Each room has 2 queen beds and a queen sofa bed. Cost for one adult: \$ 151 per day - includes 3 meals a day starting with dinner on

Friday. Cost for a couple: \$ 184 per day. Prices are reduced for shared rooms. Meals are buffet style.

We have formed a Google group for communications. For further information, e-mail us: Ed Stoll (Bolivia 31, 1967-70) at e_stoll@sbcglobal.net or Lee Arbuckle (Peace Corps staff based in Cochabamba, 1967-70) at arbuckle@bresnan.net.



President's Column (continued from p. 1)

and programming, etc.), assume we need them. Now is timely because *Amigos'* Board will be "meeting" (virtually) in December to plan, elect new officers and approve a budget for 2007. Contact me (g-levin@comcast.net) – especially, but not only, returnees from the 90s onward (Bolivia) and 2004 onward (Peru). (Sigh.)

Amigos is making solid progress in fulfilling its mission. You'll read in this issue about the implementation of our Kantuta program, assisting "our" PCVs' community based development projects. We are expecting many more proposals. Now that we're building the demand side, we need to strengthen the supply side; I'd hate to see approved but unfunded proposals piling up – each of which represents a lost opportunity for improvement in people's lives, at the grass roots. After you read about current Kantuta projects in Bolivia (see the Winter 2005 issue for Kantuta projects funded in Peru), I hope you'll be inspired to "give back" to Bolivia and Peru, where we were treated with generosity, to say nothing of tolerance for our cultural slips. Your donation is tax deductible.

We also provide an unheralded service in networking for and among our members. For example, we're increasingly receiving requests from *Amigos* members wanting to organize reunions of their PC comrades or to return to "our" countries after years of absence. My (Peru) training group held a reunion last year (reported on in an earlier

issue), and I am happy to share with you the materials we prepared as well as strategies. In this issue, two efforts are described of Bolivia RPCVs trying to locate their missing friends. My offer stands to look up for you RPCVs and former staff who listed themselves in the NPCA directory.

We're continuing to reach out to the new generation. Rather than wait until PCVs despedir (leave) PC, *Amigos* is attempting to introduce itself before they enter training and then continuing in country. Informal mentoring of recent returnees includes every imaginable topic but especially helping new returnees find jobs or apply to graduate school. There is a treasure trove of blogs written by "our" trainees, PCVs and recent RPCVs, providing wonderful insights into today's PC via their online journals and photos. Many of them demonstrate serious writing talent. In a future *Yachaspa* issue, I'll list URLs for individual blogs I've found. It's been fun to follow the development, through training, assignment, adjustment, etc. of many I met in their U.S. orientations ("stagings") when they were unsure of what they'd face. Meanwhile, you might be interested in the electronic bulletin boards on which pre-applicants, applicants, PCVs, and RPCVs anonymously inquire or comment about PC, especially the medical clearance process which seems daunting. (For those of us from the Vietnam War protest era, our legal clearances were far more worrisome than our medical clearance!!) Three forums have the root: <http://community.livejournal.com>.

I consider the best (in terms of the quality of the responses) to be (add to the root) [/peacecorpsfolks/](http://peacecorpsfolks/). Quite similar are [/4pcwomen](http://4pcwomen) and [/rpcv/friends](http://rpcv/friends). Also, <http://www.thirdgoal.com>. Mike Sheppard (RPCV/Gambia) maintains a website on which he lists blogs of PCVs from around the world. For Peru, it's <http://www.peacecorpsjournals.com/pe.html>; for Bolivia, replace "pe" with bl." Be forewarned: Reading PCV blogs is fascinating but addictive.

Finally, if you visit D.C. regularly or if you just want to be "in the know" on activities in the D.C. area pertaining to Bolivia and/or Peru, ask to be added to my email list I circulate to *Amigos* members in or near Washington. Not comprehensive, I merely forward information, from time to time, on lectures, museum shows, charity events, restaurants, film showings, etc. pertaining to Bolivia and Peru. I was reminded of this when New Yorkers Judith and Noah Ingber, visiting D.C. to participate in NPCA advocacy events, had to learn elsewhere about the September 14 event to which local *Amigos* members were invited, as discussed in this issue.

I hope you're enjoying the Fall and that your favorite candidates won in the recent U.S. elections. Not only has leadership of the U.S. Congress turned over, but we have a new PC Director (Ron Tschetter) who is only the fourth RPCV in the history of the Peace Corps.

In Search Of...

Bolivia 29 Mines/Community Development Volunteers

A group is seeking to re-connect and discuss a possible reunion with PCVs and trainees from the Bolivia 29 Mines/Community Development group, which served in Bolivia from June, 1967, to June, 1969.

The following members of that group are missing: Jim Baltz, Penny Barley, Bill Coolidge, Cathy Coolidge, John Fischer, John Griffith, Jim and Susan Kauppi, Ed Landen, Bob Levitt, Joanne Kauffman, Kevin Lynch, Bruce and

Maria McFarren, Joe Nixon, Scott Reed, Karen Shell, and David White.

If you have any information or leads about any of these individuals, please e-mail Don Beck at donbeck@cox.net.

Update from PC/Peru



Michael Hirsh speaking at Peru #8 Staging. Photo courtesy of NPCA at <http://www.rpcv.org>

PC/Peru continues to grow and thrive. By the end of the year, we will have over 140 PCVs in the field. There will be fairly equal numbers among our four programs – Community Health, Small Business, Environmental Awareness, and Youth Development.

Gloria Levin, Mike Wolfson, and other former PCVs will be glad to hear that we are about to assign our first

two PCVs (both third-year extendees) to Arequipa. We hope that they will help us identify assignments for future PCVs. That will give us a presence in nine of Peru's 24 departments.

I was honored to be invited to participate in the ceremony commemorating Peace Corps' 45 years in the Americas, held at PC headquarters on September 14. *[Editor's Note...see the article on p. 7 with details and pictures.]*

Our Peru #8 Trainees were called to the stage to represent all past and present PCVs serving in the hemisphere. They were pinned with lapel flags of Peru and the U.S. by a large contingent of Peru RPCVs, from both earlier times and more recent years. One of the main speakers was John Hatch, a former PCV from Colombia and staff member from Peru, who was inspired to start FINCA, the first community banking/micro-finance program, based on his work in Peru. It's gratifying to see what an excel-

lent reputation PC/Peru enjoys, thanks to the efforts of PCVs and staff from both earlier and recent years.

While in Washington, I attended the day and a half orientation (called Staging) for the new Peru #8 Trainees. We look forward to them enriching the PC/Peru program, contributing to development efforts here, and being excellent representatives of the United States.

It's always enjoyable greeting former PCVs and showing off our program in person. As I write this, I've just gotten back from lunch with Ray Rifenburg, who visited his old site in Lima and is active with Ralph Bolton in the Chijanya Foundation in the Puno area. I look forward to more of you visiting in the future.

Saludos,
Michael Hirsh
Country Director
mhirsh@pe.peacecorps.gov



Amigos Participate in a Fundraiser for Peru

Mike Wolfson
Amigos Member (Peru 64-66)

Washington, DC area Amigos members participated in an annual fundraiser organized by the Ivy Inter-America Foundation-Peru Committee, a terrific group of Peruvian ex-pats. Organized as a silent auction, the event is held at the Organization of American States building each November. The \$37,000 raised in 2005 benefitted a home for abandoned minors (CIMA), a facility for sexual violence survivors (Hogar Sta. Michaela) and Mother Teresa's House of Peace, all in the Lima-Callao area.

A troupe of young Andean dancers performed, and the adults took to the floor, dancing to a band playing Andean tunes.

Auction items included a trip to Lima, fantastic theme gift baskets, jew-

elry and paintings (colonial and rustic). Among the handicraft items bought in Peru and auctioned were retablos; alpaca blankets, sweaters and handbags; silver picture frames; a carved gourd; various items incorporating Shipibo designs or Huayruro seeds; and tapestries and rugs.

Bolivia RPCV Jeff Love-lace's girlfriend sported a colorful Colca handbag, and Amigos Board member, Gerard Maguire, successfully bid on a huge gift basket packaged for a dog. Toting purchases were Peru RPCVs, Bill and Joan Gordon. Amigos members, Mike Wolfson and Gloria Levin, have long assisted the group. Mike solicits gift certificates to be auctioned, and Gloria sets up the ceramics display. Ivy's website is http://www.ivyinteramericanfoundation.org/peru_committee.html.



Mike Wolfson, pictured in center of photograph at the fundraiser for Peru



Our Kantuta Donations at Work

Gloria Levin
Amigos President

Amigos' Kantuta program provides funds to assist PCVs initiate and sustain community projects in Bolivia and Peru. As announced in *Yachaspa* (Summer 2006), *Amigos* transmitted \$1,000 from Kantuta funds to PC/Bolivia, for dispersal to PCVs who submit worthy applications. Doreen Salazar (PTO) reports that PC/Bolivia staff has made considerable progress in communicating the availability of Kantuta funds to PCVs and in implementing a review, award, monitoring and reporting system. The review committee has awarded four grants recently. Doreen writes: "Volunteers are very happy with the opportunity to do these smaller-scale projects with quick-turn-around funding, so thank you once again."

Two grants were awarded to PCVs assigned to the municipality of Quirusillas. Bonnie Cox, an agriculture extension PCV, requested support for a beekeeping project in two communities. Kantuta funds (\$192) represent 41% of the total costs and will purchase modern equipment to construct two apiaries to be used in training community members to manage honey bee colonies. Thereafter, funds will be sought from other sources to set up a cost-share program that will permit the trained beekeepers to construct their own family and/or community apiaries. The other Quirusillas grant was made to natural resources PCV, Matthew Cox, working with a peach growers associa-

tion, the town's water cooperative and the municipal nursery. This project amply demonstrates how a small amount of money (\$190, of which \$52 are Kantuta dollars) – provided rapidly and with minimal bureaucracy – can serve as a catalyst to change in poor communities. The project goals include teaching peach farmers to practice modern erosion control and to construct live barriers made of phalaris, requiring the purchase and construction of an erosion control box and a phalaris nursery. In addition, demonstration grey water reuse systems will be established, showing community members the benefits of recycling used domestic water.

The third grant was approved for Vanessa Hunter, a micro-enterprise PCV, in San Lorenzo, a town of 45 families, most of whom engage in subsistence farming. Awarded \$200 in Kantuta funds, the town's Club de Madres will be able to implement a resource-starved project by making an initial purchase for constituting a revolving artisan lending "bank" of disposable materials and permanent tools. Having few opportunities for income production, almost half the town's women have organized an effort to create marketable products, including new products incorporating native seeds of Chiquitania. The crochet, weavings and jewelry produced are to be sold at artisan shops in Santa Cruz. Each participant will commit to produce 5 handbags, a hammock, or 10 jewelry items monthly, but without any disposable money, they cannot purchase the needed string or tools such as sandpaper, drill bits, scissors and crochet needles.

The newest proposal was initiated by Heidi Gerling of San Rafael, another agriculture extension specialist, who requested

\$133 from Kantuta/Bolivia, half of the \$265 cost needed to bring three technicians from a Cochabamba-based NGO (Cedesol) to Saipina Valley, Santa Cruz in November. They will conduct three workshops in ecological domestic cooking and also will meet with community leaders to promote food dehydrators and new technologies for sugar cane processing. The intent is to address the local overuse of wood for cooking. Saipina Valley is suffering from deforestation, unnecessary time is spent in gathering wood and tending the commonly-used rustic mud stoves, and the residents' respiratory systems are adversely affected by the resultant air pollution. Alternative cooking methods will be demonstrated. Later, community residents will construct their own solar ovens and "rocket stoves" and will be taught how to maintain these cocinas ecologicas.

Similarly, \$1,000 of Kantuta funds was sent to PC/Peru in September 2005. PC Country Director, Michael Hirsh, reports that Marko Dolan (PTO) is preparing a manual for Peru PCVs on how to use and solicit outside funding. He wrote: "Sometimes a hundred dollars here or a hundred there can have an enormous impact."

Your check for a (tax deductible) donation to Kantuta (designating Bolivia and/or Peru as the recipient) should be made out to *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* and mailed to 7327 University Ave., Glen Echo, MD 20812. I can't think of a better use for our extra dollars. Can you?



Three new Directors added to *Amigos'* Board (continued from p. 1)

bership-wide Board elections. Franklin's son is an RPCV (Dominican Republic).

Jane served in Chimbote, Peru with an adult literacy project run through the local teacher training college and worked with the elementary school in Miraflores Bajo, her barriada. She met her husband, Clif Taylor, in training although

he was assigned to Lima. She has been a bilingual teacher in the Oakland (CA) Public Schools for the last 25 years. Jane and Clif (an attorney) have two grown sons and live near Berkeley. They keep in touch with many Peru RPCV friends. Jane has offered to assist in the preparation of the *Yachaspa* newsletter and will

fill a long-unfilled gap in representation of *Amigos* members on the West Coast.

Their addresses and biographies are found on the *Amigos'* website, <http://www.amigosdeboliaviayperu.org/board.htm>.



Notable RPCVs from Bolivia and Peru

By Gloria Levin

RPCVs from Bolivia and Peru are well represented among “notable RPCVs” in various categories, listed on the Peace Corps website at <http://www.peacecorps.gov>. Follow the links for “What is the Peace Corps?” and then, “Notable Former Volunteers.”

Yachaspa (Winter 2004) announced *Amigos* member, Taylor Hackford (Bolivia 1968-9) as an Academy Award nominee (for directing and for producing Best Picture nominee, “Ray”); Taylor has won Academy Awards for some of his earlier films. Peace Corps cites another *Amigos* member, Joseph (“JW”) Lown (Bolivia 99-01), as a notable leader in government, having been elected in 2003 as the mayor of San Angelo, TX, with 58% of the vote and at age 26.

Ron Arias (Peru 1963-5) was named to the notables list for being senior editor at

People magazine, to which could have been added his authorship of several books.

Listed in the education field are M. Peter McPherson (Peru 1964-6), former head of Michigan State University, and Robert Trumble (Peru 1963-5), a former Dean at Virginia Commonwealth University. Since RPCVs comprise much of the U.S. diplomatic and international development corps, it is no surprise to find several of our RPCVs listed by Peace Corps as notable in foreign service – former Ambassadors Robert Gelbard (Bolivia 1964-6) and Vicki Huddleston (Peru 1964-6, currently Chief of Mission in the U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia), in addition to David Greenlee (Bolivia 1965-7) who is the current U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia,

American business is well-served by two Peru RPCVs, both having served 1967-9. Frederic Poses is listed as the CEO of American Standard Company. Have you ever wondered about the derivation of the

name for Tumi luggage? Another “notable,” RPCV Charlie Clifford (Peru 1967-9), founded the company in 1975, naming it after an Incan deity, although he later sold Tumi.

A remote but interesting connection to the Andes is well-known RPCV, Donna Shalala – Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services throughout the Clinton Administration and currently President of the University of Miami. Although Donna was a PCV in Iran, she was the administrative assistant for my (Peru) training in 1966 at Syracuse University, where she was then a doctoral student.

Recommend other RPCVs from Bolivia or Peru who could qualify as “notable” by sending your suggestions to me (g-levin@comcast.net). I’ll encourage PC to expand or update its list with our additions.



NPCA to Change Membership Structure

By Gloria Levin

Amigos Membership Coordinator

At three meetings (general membership, affiliate leaders and National Peace Corps Association Board meetings), all held on September 15, 2006, a new membership structure was introduced, discussed and voted upon. Due to its severe financial position, NPCA staff needs to simplify membership procedures. The major structural change: joining group affiliates (approximately 138 active ones, such as *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru*) will be separated from NPCA’s procedures.

As of Jan. 1, 2007, the changes will affect NPCA members in the following ways: NPCA membership will be available only on an individual basis. That is, the “family” category will be eliminated; each member of a couple will join separately, paying \$35 each, eliminating the current

“discount” for member couples. However, only one mailing per household will be made.

Multi-year memberships will be eliminated; that is, members will have to renew each year with NPCA. This eliminates the current “discount” for members joining for 3 years.

In the process of joining or renewing with NPCA, members will no longer be required to select an affiliate group. They will pay \$35 to join NPCA. To join one or more affiliate groups, they will join each separately. NPCA has dubbed this “a la carte membership.”

A side agenda is to encourage everyone to join NPCA online, paying dues online via credit card. This will save NPCA staff from opening envelopes, manually entering data, and processing enclosed checks.

A proposal to reduce NPCA dues to \$25 (vs. the current \$35) was defeated, in view of NPCA’s weak budgetary situa-

tion. This proposal was based on a theory that lowering dues by \$10 would bring in a flood of new members – a theory that was met with widespread skepticism.

The organizational implications for *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru*? We risk losing members who, in joining or renewing with NPCA, do not take the affirmative extra steps needed to join or renew with *Amigos*. (Currently, a high percentage of our members join us coincident to joining NPCA.) Affiliate groups will do much more database work. However, the NPCA database is so error prone that time currently spent on trying to find NPCA errors and get them fixed can be invested in maintaining a correct affiliate database, solely within our control. Also, we’ll receive funds quickly. Currently, your *Amigos* dues (paid via NPCA) don’t get “rebated” to us by NPCA (i.e., deposited in our bank ac-

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Peru 8 gets a Special Send-Off

By Noah Ingber, Chuck Kleymeyer and
Gloria Levin
Amigos Members

Peru 8, while undergoing staging (orientation) in Washington, DC and just before taking off for their training in Peru, was honored on September 14, 2006, in a formal reception at Peace Corps headquarters in Washington, commemorating PC's 45 years of service in Latin America. The trainees (whose names were listed in the formal program) received an unusual send-off, addressed by the Acting Director of Peace Corps (Jody Olsen) and two ambassadors. A pair of Peruvian guitarists strummed traditional music in the background; hors d'oeuvres were served; and trainees and a few of their families chatted with PC staff, RPCVs in town to lobby Congress with NPCA; and applicants who had been issued invitations to other countries in Latin America. Also greeting Peru 8 was a contingent of *Amigos* members who had served in Peru ~ Jim Bass, Alice Fitzgerald, Katie Gass, Noah Ingber, Judith and Ron Inskeep, Chuck Kleymeyer, Gloria Levin, Roger Sattler, BJ Warren, and Mike Wolfson.

According to *Amigos* member Chuck Kleymeyer (Peru 66-68) ~ "The event was enhanced by two, excellent singer-guitarists who played a variety of types of music ~ Vals Criollo, Huaynito, etc. They certainly added flavor to the evening. The event began with a Peace Corps-

produced promotional video about the history and purposes of the organization. This video, I have to admit, brought tears to my eyes, especially the early footage of John Kennedy and Sarge Shriver waxing eloquent with a kind of honest inspiration which is sorely lacking in politics today. Helping to personally send off the new volunteers was also moving, as they eagerly shook hands and asked, "Where were you stationed?" and I wished them 'Buena suerte!'"

Photos of Peru taken by currently serving PCVs were prominently displayed at the entry to Shriver Hall, the site of the reception. The main "photo op" was the "pinning" of each Peru 8 trainee by *Amigos* members with a pin depicting the flags of the U.S. and Peru. The event's organizers labeled this ceremony "passing the torch to a new generation of PCVs." Peru 8 members waved little Peruvian flags, brought from Lima by Peru Country Director, Michael Hirsh. In his speech, Michael presented a breakdown of the 38 members of Peru 8. All are college graduates, ten with master's degrees, and their average age is 28. The group also includes three married couples. Peru 8 has "several wilderness leaders, a triathlon organizer, and one young man who hiked the Appalachian Trail from end to end," he said.

A spirited speech was given by John Hatch (a Colombia RPCV), founder and currently CEO of FINCA and an early regional director in Peru, and the two ambassadors who spoke about the role of PC in the region were the Paraguayan Ambassador to the U.S. and the U.S. Representative to the OAS.

Another *Amigos* member, Noah Ingber (Peru 2004-6), grew nostalgic: "I caught myself staring at the trainee class, and I drifted away in a deep day dream about Peru 3's staging in Miami, my adobe village in the Andes and about ceviche. With small Peruvian-American flag-pins, I poked blouses and lapels and wished good luck to Peru 8. I couldn't stop thinking how incredibly fast I went from trainee to RPCV."

After the reception, *Amigos* members dined on dishes such as chupe, aji de gallina, and flan at the nearby Peruvian restaurant, El Chalan.

"Since the Peace Corps' inception in 1961, more than 57,000 Volunteers have served in 33 countries in the Inter-America region. ... Today there are over 2,000 Peace Corps Volunteers and trainees working in the areas of health, water sanitation, small business development, the environment, agriculture, education, and youth. Volunteers working in these program areas also focus on cross-cutting themes such as income generation, HIV/AIDS, and information technology." (From Peace Corps' formal program for the Peru 8 reception)



Photos Courtesy of NPCA
<http://www.rpcv.org>

News from NPCA...

Let's Finish the Job...with GlobalGiving



Many in the Peace Corps community remain motivated to alleviate the worst aspects of human suffering in today's world. A new initiative between NPCA and GlobalGiving.com gives us a proven tool to finish the job we started as volunteers—eliminating global poverty through high-impact, grassroots projects.

GlobalGiving.com is a non-profit online marketplace for international giving, connecting individual and institutional donors directly to social and economic development projects and environmental causes around the

world. "Let's Finish the Job" will provide training in fundraising and communication to interested RPCV groups, and work with them to identify or develop their own projects. Groups can then promote their own projects on this customized Web site, significantly expanding their reach to potential donors.

As a pilot, projects of two NPCA affiliate groups and one NGO with strong ties to the Peace Corps community are now posted on the GlobalGiving Web site, <http://www.globalgiving.com/npc.html> for the Friends of

Thailand, Friends of Burkina Faso and High Atlas Foundation, as well as Tony Gambino's blog. Learn how GlobalGiving can be a powerful tool for the Peace Corps community!



RPCV Mentoring Is Focus of NPCA-Peace Corps Cooperative Agreement

Under a recently signed one-year Cooperative Agreement with Peace Corps, NPCA will coordinate a pilot program that connects newly returned Peace Corps volunteers with RPCV mentors.

Through face-to-face meetings and other communication, mentors will offer support and guidance to returning volunteers as they transition from Peace Corps service into educational programs or jobs. The pilot program will take place in three cities and run from January through June 2007. Visit www.peacecorpsconnect.org/mentoring for updated program information.

NPCA Celebrates 45th Anniversary of Peace Corps in Washington, D.C.

NPCA concluded the 45th anniversary year of Peace Corps with a series of highly successful events in Washington, DC on September 14-16. See <http://www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=1618> for a round-up of Advocacy Day, events, meetings, links to photos of the festive reception at the Embassy of Ghana, and more.

"Best Advocacy Day Ever"

Nearly 100 returned Peace Corps volunteers representing 25 states and the District of Columbia held close to 90 meetings with congressional offices and helped distribute information to an additional 230 House and Senate offices. Our requests: Increase Peace Corps funding and support reforms that remove trade-distorting subsidies.

A Wednesday evening training was followed by Thursday activities that included an orientation, meetings with congressional offices and a social hour/celebration. See <http://www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=1484> for a detailed recap of Advocacy Day, photos, plus information on how you can support the work of our NPCA advocates.

New Peace Corps Director

Ronald A. Tschetter was sworn in September 26, 2006, as the 17th director of the Peace Corps. Director Tschetter, who was nominated by the president on July 25, was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate on September 13. Mr. Tschetter is the third director in the Peace Corps' history to have served as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Director Tschetter and his wife, Nancy, served as Peace Corps Volunteers from 1966-68 in India as community health workers. After returning home from India, Director Tschetter worked in the financial securities industry for over 30 years, gaining strong management and leadership skills throughout his distinguished career.

Prior to his Peace Corps appointment, Director Tschetter was the president of D.A. Davidson & Co. in Montana, the largest full-service investment firm based in the northwest, a position he held for 2-1/2 years. Before that, he served as president of the Private Client Group for Dain Rauscher, a position he held for ten years until his re-

tirement in 2001. Director Tschetter began his career in 1970 with Blyth Eastman Dillon Union Securities and joined Dain Rauscher in 1973.

Director Tschetter is an active public servant and has received numerous awards for leadership and community service. He has served on the Securities Industry Association sales and marketing committee and on the New York Stock Exchange Regional Firms advisory committee. He was chairman of the board of trustees of Bethel University (formerly Bethel College and Seminary) in St. Paul, Minn.; chairman of the board of Daystar U.S., an affiliate of Daystar University, Nairobi, Kenya; and director of the Community Bank of Plymouth, Minn. He also is a former chairman of the National Peace Corps Association.

Director Tschetter holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and social studies from Bethel College. He and Nancy have two grown sons and three grandchildren.

Director Tschetter replaces Gaddi H. Vasquez, who recently became the

United States Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture in Rome.

Source for article and photo:
http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=resources.media.press.view&news_id=1158.



Peace Corps Director
Ronald A. Tschetter

Excerpt from *A Life Inspired...*

"One of the oddest experiences I had during my first month in my site was going to the wake for a man I had never met... A neighbor took me because she thought it would heighten my cultural understanding. We walked into the front room of the family's home, and right there, elevated on a table, covered in a white sheet, was the figure of a man..., surrounded by neon purple lights and wailing women. We all sat around the body and were served popcorn. It was a surreal experience ~ more like a night at the movies than a wake

from my American perspective."
Christina Luongo (Bolivia 2002-5)

The excerpt is from *A Life Inspired*, a lively book recounting the encounters and experiences of 28 Volunteers as they pursued their Peace Corps service. The book was published to mark the 45th anniversary of the Peace Corps in 2006. It is available for \$15.95 through: http://bookstore.gpo.gov/collections/a_life_inspired.jsp.



The White Rock (An Exploration of the Inca Heartland)

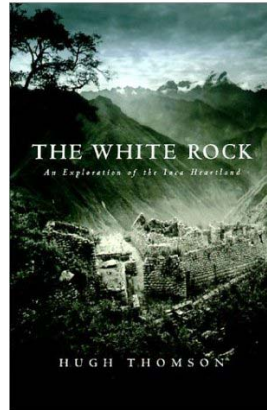
Ken Rustad
Former President of Amigos

Hugh Thomson's *The White Rock: An Exploration of the Inca Heartland* is a book that intermixes exploration, archeology and history with cross cultural references and experiences that ring a few bells for RPCVs and others who lived and recreated in the Andes, notably the Amazonian slopes.

Thomson, a British documentary filmmaker, first explored the Inca trails and ruins beyond Machu Picchu in 1982, at the age of 21. While *Sendero Luminoso* prevented him from completing his Andean adventures, he returned to his postponed trek to old Vilcabamba 17 years later and wrote this 316-page book about his experiences.

The book's passage below documents the author's "culture shock" on encountering today's Peru.

"Landing again at Cuzco in 1999 was a shock. The population of the city had tripled since 1982. The old airport



had been an isolated field: the new improved one was already surrounded by fast growing suburbs...The hotels had changed out of recognition. The El Dorado looked like something out of Las Vegas...[with] soft new-age muzak piped into every room...In The Royal Inka there was an enormous mural stretching the length of the dining room which showed a sort of Body Shop fantasy of pre-Columbian life: dusky bare-breasted maidens were bathing in an idyllic Amazonian paradise...

This was the way Cuzco liked to sell itself, an ecological gateway to the jungle resorts ...with a little bit of Inca Golden Age mythologizing thrown in, a prelapsarian alternative to the evils of the fallen West. The small ads in the press offered tourists the services of 'local shamans' who could guide you to 'places of fulfillment on journeys of the spirit.'"

Thomson's book also updates several findings about Incan civilization. Anthropologists now believe that "Cuzco," traditionally thought to mean "navel of the world," really means "placenta of the world," making it less suitable for tourist T-shirts. Forensic scientists also have debunked the notion that Machu Picchu was last occupied by female virgins; apparently skeletal remains at the site were evenly divided among male to female.

From describing the hip-hop styles of today's young Peruvians to offering theories about Machu Picchu's meaning in a cultural context, the Thomson book is a stimulating read.

Update from PC/Bolivia (continued from p. 13)

11 community-members' local income has increased as a secondary impact, because they sold their products to the students who made the salsa.

Says Chris: "For me, the volunteer, the project has been interesting on a personal level, since it is an area that I enjoy and am constantly eager to learn more about (cooking and foods). My work with high school students has proved to be mutually productive and educational. They are often less tainted by the negative influences of society and more open to trying new ways of doing things. They also have their lives ahead of them to benefit from the knowledge transfer that collaborations with Peace Corps volunteers bring. This close involvement with younger community members has been the highlight of my

past two years of service in Bolivia, and has proven to be a fantastic experience."

In the past 2 years, Chris has also established a tourism office in the local cultural center, set up a small library, taught tourism classes to 90 students, and successfully convinced the local Mayor's Office to hire a full-time tourism professional, who he has supported and helped train. Chris has decided to extend for a third year of service, and that request has been enthusiastically granted.

Doreen Salazar
PTO

Bolivian Film about El Ché is Shown in D.C.

By Gloria Levin
Amigos President

On October 7 and 8 – the 39th anniversary of the capture, assassination and presumed burial of Ché Guevara by the Bolivian military – Bolivian filmmaker, Fernando Vargas, answered audience questions after the American Film Institute's showings of his film "Di un buen día a papá" as part of AFI's Latin American Film Festival in suburban Washington, DC. (Vargas is the Bolivian director, co-screenwriter and co-producer of the film.) "Di un buen día a papá" ("Say Good Day to Dad") was the Bolivian government's code phrase ordering the military to kill Ché where he was held overnight in a small schoolhouse in La Higuera, Bolivia. Filmed in the nearby village, Vallegrande, Bolivia (the actual site where the military displayed his body to peasant witnesses and buried him in secret) the screenplay was written from the perspective of the local peasants who have felt repercussions over the years from his death. According to Vargas, in 1967, the peasants were unaware of Ché's identity as a revolutionary guerilla fighter, believing the military's depiction of him as a common thief and child rapist. "Only years later, as Ché cultists began making pilgrimages to Vallegrande, did the peasants come to understand the reason for his celebrity."

In 1997, a Cuban team of experts, acting on behalf of Ché's family and with the cooperation of the Bolivian government, exhumed his remains (also finding remains of seven comrades). The Cubans were the only team permitted to examine the bones, so issued the only reports, verifying the exhumed remains were Ché's. The exhumation's depiction in the film involves local officials, who wanted the bones to remain in Vallegrande (promoting tourism), undertaking clever schemes to thwart the Bolivian government until modern technology was brought in. In reality, Mr. Vargas covered this expedition as a

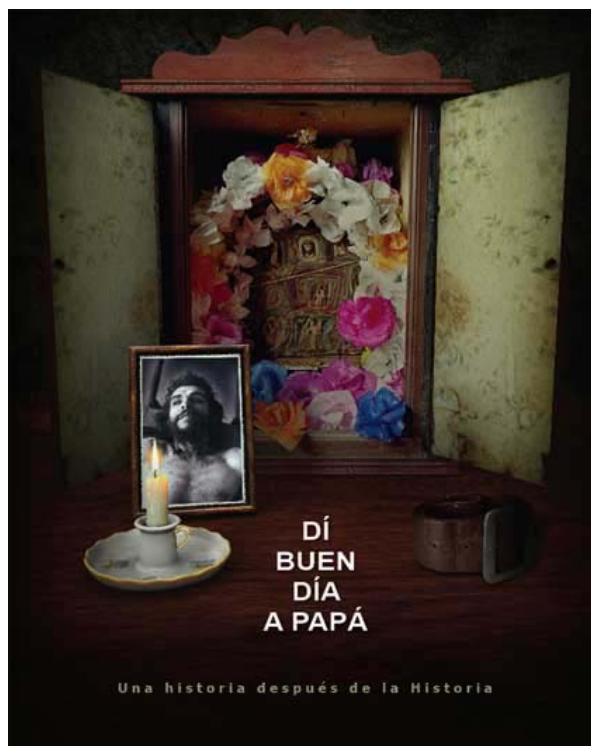
journalist and was inspired by the stories he collected from the long neglected peasants, with whom he lived for a month. While this film focuses on one of the stories told to him, involving three generations of women in one family, it weaves in snippets of other stories he heard.

Vargas learned that local mythology holds that, because he died tragically, Ché's soul wanders the earth while helping people, until it is permitted to ascend to heaven. The peasants of Vallegrande have, over several generations, asked for and claim to have experienced Ché's assistance in their daily lives. The mode of his body's transport to Vallegrande from La Higuera fueled the mythology; his body had been lashed to the helicopter's landing skids, intensifying the peasants' belief that he descended from heaven.

Secrecy still surrounds the circumstances of Ché's death. For example, according to Vargas, some photos taken of Ché at the time of his death were first published in 1997, but many more (estimated at 70%) are still being kept from the public by the Bolivian military. (Ché and his compatriots were amateur photographers, capturing images of their revolutionary efforts.) Due, in part, to continued secrecy by the government, revisionist history is rampant around the circumstances of Ché's death.

Mr. Vargas noted that only about one Bolivian film is produced every 5-7 years; in fact, it took him 7 years to raise the funds for this film. Ex-

cept for the three main female roles (played by one Cuban and two Bolivian actresses), most roles were played by locals who had never acted before. (Although Vargas pleaded with them, the three central characters refused to play themselves in the film, consider-



ing the memories too painful.) Almost all of the locations filmed and props used are either actual or almost identical to the real thing, including the use of an old military helicopter. Vallegrande's participation in the film's production was exceptionally generous, and so the filmmakers premiered it (for 3,000 people) outdoors, in Vallegrande's central plaza.

Wikipedia states that a monument to "El Ché" and a memorial in the schoolhouse where he was held after his capture and in which he was presumably assassinated are the major tourist attractions for this area, found in Santa Cruz Department. Ruta de Ché (Ché Guevara Trail) was inaugurated there in 2004.

Ambassador Describes Bolivia's Cultural and Democratic Revolution

by Jeff Fletcher
Amigos Board Member

The new Bolivian ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Gustavo Guzmán, explained some of the profound social and economic changes taking place in Bolivia in a speech to a large and interested audience on November 20 in Washington, D.C.

Guzmán briefly described some of the events and long-standing dissatisfaction that led up to the historic election of Evo Morales as President in December of 2005 and the rise of Morales' Movimiento a Socialismo (MAS) party to a leadership position within the national legislature. Morales was elected with nearly 54 percent of the vote, the widest margin of any president in 25 years.

"Sixty percent of our population is indigenous, and that is the largest percentage in Latin America," Guzmán said. "But these indigenous people were excluded from the political process. In Evo Morales, an Aymara, a former Congressman, and a peasant union leader, the people once again have found hope for the future, a hope that our impotent and broken system can be made to work for the poorest among us."

Guzmán also cited widespread public dissatisfaction with national initiatives that privatized much of the nation's hydrocarbon resources and water supplies as a factor in the election of Morales, noting that "we sold our resources too cheaply, without benefiting the people."

Guzmán, sporting what he calls his "John Lennon look" haircut and casual clothes, was an untraditional pick to be ambassador. He had never visited the United States prior to his selection.

He had a career as a professional journalist, serving as a writer for *La Razón* in La Paz and other newspapers and as a principal writer for *Pulso*, a weekly journal featuring opinion and investigative journalism. "Usually, I am sitting where you are," he joked.

When Guzmán answered a pre-dawn summons to the Presidential Palace and President Morales offered him the ambassadorship, Guzmán demurred, citing his lack of credentials for the post and saying he was not prepared for the role. Guzmán said, "The President then told me: 'I know how you feel. Do you think I have had the necessary preparation for my role?'"



Embajador Mario Gustavo
Guzmán Saldaña

(Source for Photograph:
www.bolivia-usa.org/)

But the ambassador's journalism background will serve him well because, as he notes, "My job is to tell stories about my country and about its new realities."

In his prepared remarks, Guzmán focused on three primary initiatives of the Morales government: nationalization of oil and gas resources, land reform, and the attempt to re-write the Constitution through a constituent assembly.

"Despite projections of disaster, the nationalization of hydrocarbons has gone well because our program is flexible," Guzmán said. "It is not wholesale expropriation. It acknowledges the importance of foreign investment by guaranteeing those investors a reasonable rate of return."

Most foreign-owned companies, including large energy concerns based in Brazil, Spain, Argentina, France, and Britain, have agreed to contracts giving the Bolivian government a majority share of their Bolivian hydrocarbon revenues and control over their in-country operations. The nationalization, proposed by Morales on May 1, received final Congressional approval on November 28. Bolivia's natural gas reserves are the second largest in South America.

Morales' long-stalled and much more controversial agrarian reform legislation also received Congressional approval in late November. The measure will allow the government to seize private land it deems unproductive for redistribution to the landless poor. "We already have distributed four times the amount of land that was distributed in the past thirty years," Guzmán said, "and we plan to redistribute 20 million hectares over the next five years."

The land reform proposal would affect some 77,000 square miles (nearly one-fifth of the country.) It met with stiff opposition from the conservative Podemos party and from agribusiness leaders and others in Santa Cruz and the eastern provinces. Although Morales has stated that the government will not seize productive land, fierce battles are expected over how the government will decide whether land is productive or not, and some agribusiness leaders have vowed to defend their landholdings by force.

The ambassador noted that the re-writing of the Constitution through a

(Continued on page 13)

Bolivia's Ambassador (continued from p. 12)

constituent assembly process, underway since August, also has been controversial. "It has been a confrontational process with lots of mistrust," he said. "We have won a key vote in the assembly recently, after a bitter debate over bylaws, and we hope progress can continue."

The Morales-proposed Constitutional reforms would increase the power of social movements, indigenous groups, and labor unions in the government, while diminishing the clout of opposition parties, governors and regional assemblies. The proposal has sparked a walk-out in the Senate, hunger strikes, and rebukes from many of the country's governors, whom Morales is now seeking authority to fire.

Any final draft of a new Constitution must be approved by two-thirds of assembly delegates and then ratified by voters next year. The current Constitution was adopted in 1967.

Some observers say that Morales' reform agenda is exacerbating longstanding economic and racial tensions between the indigenous majority of the Andean highlands and the European-descended population of the eastern regions.

"Our country is going through a period of profound change," Guzmán said. "We are in a process of transformation and it is a struggle. But we are confident that the result will be one country—a just and equitable country—

that represents all people in our society."

The speech, part of an ongoing "Ambassadors Forum" series, was sponsored by George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs, the GW Latin American and Hemispheric Studies Program, the Center for Latin America Issues, and the Washington Office on Latin America. For more information on the Bolivian embassy, visit <http://www.bolivia-usa.org>.

Jeff Fletcher was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Bolivia from 1967-69.

Update from PC/Bolivia

PC/Bolivia continues to steadily increase both our activities and impact. Staff as well as selected volunteers recently met for a monitoring and evaluation workshop in September. We also looked back at 4 years of data for the Basic Sanitation Project. I thought that particularly those of you who are Basic Sanitation RPCVs would be interested to see how we are doing.

We have trained an estimated 18,000 people in how to improve their access to clean water and have helped 15,000 people gain access to cleaner water (including SODIS household disinfection), well over our established goal.

We are well on our way to meeting our goal of training 6000 people in the use of latrines and improved sanitation, as well as our goal of 1500 latrines + 300 greywater systems built and that half of these systems meet at least 67% of the criteria on the evaluation sheet when visited one year later.

Yet more exciting than the numbers has been the replication of our successes and the strong contribution of local organizations including municipalities and prefectures. In the Chiqui-

tania, local organizations have replicated hundreds of family rainwater catchment systems, and in the Oruro area the prefecture is funding over \$50,000 in low-cost wells.

I'd also like to highlight a volunteer from our microenterprise project... more to come from other projects in the next issue of *Yachaspa*.

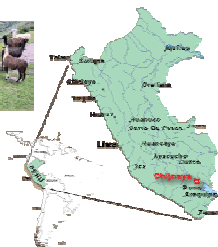
Originally from Philadelphia, Christopher Behr lived internationally and worked in a variety of businesses before joining the PC in 2004. Chris received his BA in history from Denison University, Ohio, in 1995 and his MBA from Columbia University in New York in 2001.

Chris' site is Totorá, located 140 Km southeast of Cochabamba along the old road to Santa Cruz. Totorá has a population of approximately 1,000 inhabitants, the majority of whom work in agriculture and commerce. The town's colonial architecture and traditional festivities have attracted many Cochabambinos (but few foreigners) to the area. The European Union invested in restoring many of the colonial houses near the plaza after the earthquake in 1998.

In Totorá, Chris has focused on several areas including: community tourism development, training and capacity-building activities focused on the local high school, and a SPA-supported project to create a mini processed foods industry to produce and sell nutritious sauces, such as tomato sauce for spaghetti. In particular, the project allowed the formation of a collaborative relationship with outstanding young members of the community, all working toward the same goals and objectives.

Chris has facilitated the training of vocational students in how to prepare foods in a hygienic fashion, and to market a salsa product. The participating students have, to date, enjoyed the work, learned new skills, developed new areas of interest, received monthly payments for more than 8 months straight, become more aware of dietary and health issues, received clothing and household items, eaten more than 75 nutritious meals, participated in training workshops in Cochabamba, and practiced leadership and promising organizational behavior. In addition,

(Continued on page 10)



Update on the Chijnya Foundation

Ralph Bolton (Peru 1962-5) reports from his recent visit to his former PC village, Chijnya, for which he developed the Chijnya Foundation.

During 2006, the Foundation implemented an artificial insemination program, built 51 animal sheds, rehabilitated the health post and, with the help of Peruvian volunteer doctors and nurses, provided medical care to 175

residents. More computers were added in the community and, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, internet service was installed. The tourism project has begun a beautification campaign and is acquiring land for lodging tourists. Villagers are being trained in English so they will be able to communicate with prospective tourists. Eleven volunteers were recruited to work in

Chijnya in 2006, ranging from 10 days to two months. Nearby villages in the Puno area have proposed projects for funding consideration in 2007 ~ Coarita in Paratia, Tuni Requena in Taraco, Tuni Grande and Tuni Requena Nuevo in Pucara, and Ccotos in Capachica. For information see <http://www.Chijnyafoundation.org>.



NPCA Membership (continued from p. 6)

count) for approximately two months. Under the coming system, your dues will be almost immediately available to us, by direct deposit to our bank account. Although NPCA will charge us (amount currently unknown) for contracting with a third party to process your credit

cards online, the silver lining is that NPCA can never again cover its own budgetary shortfall by withholding, without notification for nine months, money due us.

Once the new procedures are announced, we'll inform you. Contact me (g-

levin@comcast.net) if you'd like minutes (or my notes) from any of the September 15 meetings.



Peace Corps Encore! Sends Volunteers to Amazonia

Peace Corps Encore! (Encore!) – a nonprofit organization founded by RPCVs – partners with organizations to provide opportunities for RPCVs to serve again on short term volunteer assignments overseas. Many assignments are funded, but for some assignments with small NGOs, Encore! volunteers pay their own expenses.

In its first year of operation, Encore! is partnering with a nonprofit organization in Peru's Amazon, headquartered in Iquitos, called the Association for

Promoting Education and Conservation in Amazonia (APECA), Inc. APECA was founded by Gina Low, an American who has worked 13 years in the Amazon with river villagers, after visiting there as a tourist. In its first pilot project, Encore! sent one volunteer (Lon Barash, Peru RPCV, 1965-7; now an expat living in Peru) to work with APECA in June to help expand their study center.

Another volunteer will be leaving for Peru in November to provide organiza-

tional development assistance to APECA staff.

APECA's website is at www.APECAperu.org. Encore!'s website is www.peacecorpsencore.org. You can register on Encore!'s website to enroll in their talent pool. Encore! is also looking for volunteer expert consultants to help develop the organization in the U.S. and/or to suggest partner organizations overseas.

Microsoft Offers Quechua as an Option with Windows & Office

Microsoft Corporation teamed up with Bolivia's president, Evo Morales, for the local debut of Windows and Office software in Quechua.

Morales, elected as the country's first Indian president, joined local Microsoft executives in late August in Sucre for the programs' Bolivia launch.

"The translation of these technologies into Quechua helps to re-value the language so that it will

not be lost over time," Javier Medrano, spokesman for Microsoft's Bolivia operations, told The Associated Press.

The software was first launched in Peru in June and is now available for download online as a patch that translates menus and commands into Quechua.

For example, "file" becomes "quipu," borrowing the name of an ancient Incan practice of recording information in an intricate system of

knotted strings.

Several articles are available for viewing at <http://www.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/americas/08/25/inca.microsoft.ap/index.html> or <http://business.bostonherald.com/technologyNews/view.bg?articleid=154260>. Or, check the Microsoft web page at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/globaldev/reference/winxp/XPLocLang.msp>.

CHINA AND TIBET: PERU AND BOLIVIA

by Patt Behler,
Amigos Board Member

Recently returned from a three week Elderhostel tour of the "Border Kingdoms of China and Tibet," I have found one of the most interesting aspects of the journey to be my need and willingness to compare my reactions to visiting in a country that is still "developing" after thousands of years with my more in-depth experiences in Peru during the 60s as a Peace Corps volunteer.

When I travel "foreign," I look for ways that people live in various societies; the sociological aspect is much more interesting to me than the tourist attractions. Watching how the waiters and waitresses look, act and relate to our group makes me think about their life "at home"; how do they fit into their particular society? What about the lives of the street people? In most instances, of course, I can imagine that selling on the street is their only (or best means) of livelihood. How does this affect the rest of their society? For instance, I found that in China, there was rampant street selling that was

much more aggressive than that which I remember in Peru and Bolivia (when I visited there). This is an indication to me that many, many people in China and Tibet are desperate to make a living in that country and must resort to selling what they can on the street, day after day.

Second, I find it disturbing to realize that most people from the United States who travel on tours are not conscious of what the ordinary life of citizens of the country visited must be like, nor do they want to find out about it. They appear to be there to look at the historical sites, to buy what they can and to socialize (as Americans) among themselves. I found myself saying, during the recent China visit, "I don't fit in with this bunch of people on this trip," even though I must say they were nice, pleasant people to be with for the most part.

However, one shining positive example came through! Many of my co-tour members were familiar with Peter Hessler's writings on China, *Oracle Bones: A Journey Between China's Past and Present* and *River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze*. Peter served as a Peace

Corps Volunteer in China and as a result authored two very readable and thought-provoking books on his experiences. He retains close ties with the country today. He reflects his thoughts developed as a Peace Corps volunteer as well as after his time of service.

Realizing this, I was encouraged about the effect, albeit unrecognized, that our Peace Corps volunteer experiences can have on other US citizens. "They" and "we" may not realize it, but putting voice to experiences that we RPCVs had does influence others and serves to help form conceptions of other countries' socioeconomic and cultural conditions. Sometimes we find that people don't appear to listen when we wax eloquent about our PC experiences; on the other hand, let's realize that there are some willing listeners (and readers) out there who may be eager to understand more through our experiences.

Not only do I see China through different eyes now, I also see my time spent in Peru in the '60s in a different light. Travel expands one's vision in various and sometimes strange ways.

Correction from the Last Issue of *Yachaspa*

Editor's Note: We made an error in the last issue of *Yachaspa*. The RPVCs in the picture are from left to right, Betsy Edmonston Evans Banks, Sue Dickinson Sobenes Fisher, Patt Behler, Marushka Lutz Benevides Hollen.



Peace Corps

In-service training for PCVs in Bolivia includes the following six training events: "Reconnect in-service training: Provides an opportunity for Volunteers to share their experiences and re-affirm their commitment after having served for 3 to 4 months; Language enhancement in-service training: Assists interested Volunteers in upgrading their language skills after having served for 3 to 4 months; Midterm conference: Assists Volunteers in reviewing their first year and planning for their second year of service; Project meeting (biennial): Improves technical skills and promotes communication and support within project sectors; Project design workshop (done in conjunction with Project meeting): Assists Volunteers and their counterparts in designing effective community projects and applying for outside funding; Close of service conference: Prepares Volunteers for the future after Peace Corps service and reviews their respective projects and personal experiences."

Excerpt from *The Peace Corps Welcomes You to Bolivia* (for New Volunteers), January 2006

"Each Peru Volunteer is provided a Medical Kit containing basic items necessary to prevent and treat illnesses that may occur during service, and these items can be restocked at the medical office. Contents include: Ace bandages, acetaminophen, adhesive tape, alarm whistle, antacid tablets, antibiotic ointment, anti-fungal cream, antiseptic antimicrobial skin cleaner, aquatabs (for water purification), Band-Aids, butterfly closures, condoms, cough drops, dental floss, Diphenhydramine HCL 25 mg (Benadryl), Emergency First Aid Pocket Guide, eyewash, gloves, hydrocortisone cream, Ibuprofen, insect repellent stick, lip balm, oral rehydration salts, Pepto-Bismal tablets, Pseudoephedrine HCL 30 mg (Sudafed), scissors, sterile gauze pads, sunblock (SPF 30), thermometers (disposable), throat lozenges, and tweezers."

Excerpt from *The Peace Corps Welcomes You to Peru* (for New Volunteers), February 2006

"Life is Calling. How Far Will You Go?"

"Life is Calling. How Far Will You Go?" is a public service announcement campaign offered by the Peace Corps. The campaign features television, radio, and print ads.

The PSAs are narrated by Ricardo Chavira, who currently stars as Carlos Solis on the ABC show "Desperate Housewives." Ricardo's parents, Juan Chavira and Elizabeth Ries Chavira,

were both Peace Corps Volunteers, serving in Peru from 1966-68.

Ricardo narrated both the English and Spanish language version of the PSA. "I grew up hearing about how my parents' Peace Corps experiences shaped their careers and attitudes," said Chavira. "I'm delighted to share in this legacy by working with the Peace Corps to support its mission of

promoting world peace and friendship."

Other individuals donated their time and talents for this campaign, including Matthew McConaughey, Forest Whitaker, and Eduardo Verastegui. The announcements are also available for download from <http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=resources.media.psa>.

Amigos de Bolivia y Perú

Membership Form (rev. Nov 2006)

Mail this form and check (made out to Amigos de Bolivia y Peru) to
Gloria Levin, 7327 University Ave., Glen Echo, MD 20812

Surname _____ First Name _____ Surname as PCV _____

Street _____

City _____ State/Country _____ Zip Code _____

Home Telephone _____ Employment: _____

Work Tel: _____ 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 _____

Work Tel _____ E-Mail _____

Spouse's Employment: _____

Spouse's Host Country & Dates of Service _____ (e.g., Peru, 2002-2004)

Check, if you are a member of NPCA: _____

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

_____ Free (close of service within one year)	1 yr. FREE membership	
_____ Annual Dues	\$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 (if no email)	\$ _____
_____ Tax deductible donation to Amigos' Kantuta development programs		\$ _____
Earmark your donation to:		
(____ Bolivia) (____ Peru) (____ 50/50)		
GRAND TOTAL		\$ _____



!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

News Flash

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Taking advantage of a delay in the production of *Yachaspa* for several weeks, we are able to update *Amigos* news to the moment (December 6, 2006). Notably, the Board of Directors voted to approve the President's appointment (to a two-year term) of Diane Hibino to be a Board member. Her term started December 1.

Diane served as a PCV in Bolivia 1967-1970, working in a tuberculosis eradication program with the Ministry of Health in the Yungas valley region and, extending for a third year, she worked out of the PC office in La Paz. On her return to the U.S., she was a bilingual social worker in Connecticut but then moved back to La Paz where she taught and raised two children. She then held teaching

and administrative positions in Connecticut and Miami. From 1988 to 1996, she held several positions with Peace Corps, the last 3 years as PC Country Director in Bolivia. Beginning in 1996, she accompanied her (State Department physician) husband to South Africa, Austria and currently Washington. She worked for USAID/South Africa in Democracy and Governance projects and later assisted in the hiring of new PC Country Directors. Since returning to the Washington, DC area in 2005, she has served as Vice President for Civic Education of her local League of Women Voters.

The Board held a "virtual" Board "meeting" in November, fine tuning *Amigos'* bylaws and making changes

in the composition of the Board's membership. Underway is the election of the Board's 2007 officers, to be followed by another (mid-December) Board "meeting." *Amigos'* 2007 budget also will be voted upon. The results will be announced in the Winter 2006-7 *Yachaspa*. To maintain a healthy ratio of elected to appointed Board members, an election will be administered soon among dues-paying *Amigos* members to convert some Board members from appointed to elected status. (Two members are needed to conduct this election – just the kind of short term, minimal effort but important volunteer opportunity you're looking for. To volunteer, contact: g-levin@comcast.net.

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