

YACHASPA

QUECHUA FOR "SABIENDO" [KNOWING]...

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF AMIGOS DE BOLIVIA Y PERÚ, INC.
SPRING 2007
WWW.AMIGOSDEBOLIVIAYPERU.ORG

Peace Corps Perú Returns to Arequipa



by Michael Hirsh
Country Director, Peace Corps/Perú

When we announced in late 2006 that PC/Perú would be re-entering Arequipa after an absence of 32 years, and that we hoped to kick off our re-entry with a ceremony in Arequipa, I had no idea that I would receive such an avalanche of reminiscences and photos. Among the former staff who contacted me were Gino Baumann, David Buentello, George Baldino, Jerry Kinsman, and Aquiles Lanao. Among the former Volunteers were Gloria Levin, Mike Wolfson, Barbara Mainster, Gayle Harrison Hartmann, Jeanne Hanna, Marushka Hollen, Patt Behler, Jim Hamill, Richard Muirhead, Vince Beckman, and Mary Hennessey Wohn.

The ceremony marking the re-entry took place on February 12 and was a smashing success. It took place at the newly refurbished bi-national center ("el Cultural"). We were hoping for about

90 guests, and to our delight, at least 130 showed up, plus about 20 members of the press. As master of ceremonies, I spoke about Peace Corps, both past and present, while a visual slide show of photos sent in by former Volunteers and staff, as well as contemporary photos of PCVs at work, were shown on a screen. We also had posters in the back of the room with pictures and information about PC/Perú, from the 1960s and 1970s, and currently.

We were fortunate to have two RPCVs from that era, Vince Beckman and Chris Ryan, who participated along with their wives. There were also several family members of other RPCVs in attendance. Vince spoke at the ceremony about what PC had meant to him. We were also fortunate to have a former director of the Arequipa regional office present - George Baldino. We honored George with a certificate, and he spoke about his days in Arequipa.

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Amigos de Bolivia y Perú, 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 Perú and the peoples of the United States.

Peace Corps/Perú in Arequipa

(continued from page 1)

Several former counterparts who had worked with PCVs in the 1960s and 1970s also attended the ceremony. We honored one of them, Ing. José Domingo Choquehuanca, and he too made remarks about the accomplishments of that era.

We then spoke about the present. I introduced our first PCV to be assigned to Arequipa, Brian McHugh (who started working there in January), and the second (arriving in March), Ben Coleman. Brian McHugh's counterpart, Edith Garzón, is the Executive Director of ASDE, an NGO that works on income-generating

projects in rural and urban areas. She spoke about what it means for ASDE to have Brian there.

The U.S. Ambassador in Perú, J. Curtis Struble, then gave a speech about the importance of PC as part of U.S. government foreign assistance, and about the close ties between Arequipa and the U.S. The ceremony concluded with a pisco sour toast, gift giving, press interviews, and socializing. Among the guests were several mayors, who made requests for Volunteers to be assigned to their communities.

The ceremony was covered extensively and positively by the press, including national television. We're thrilled to be back in southern Perú, and we anticipate continued growth in that part of the country. I'd like to express my thanks to Gloria Levin for spreading the word and giving us excellent advice, and to all the former Volunteers and staffers who sent pictures, suggested people to be invited to the ceremony, and provided us with encouragement. We'll keep you informed of our progress. ✨



The Kantuta Fund



In 1991, Amigos de Bolivia y Perú established the Kantuta Fund (named for an Andean flower). The Fund provides small grants for sustainable projects at the grassroots level that will contribute to the development of Bolivia and Perú. Originally, the Fund supported local NGOs but, since late 2005, the Fund has been used exclusively to support current PCVs' projects in their communities. PC/Bolivia used its first grant, awarded July 2006, to support seven PCV projects; in March 2007, Amigos' Board voted to approve a second grant of \$1,000 to PC/Bolivia. PC/Peru was awarded \$1,000 in December 2005 and soon after, awarded three grants, expecting to have expended the initial grant soon.

Funds are raised from (tax deductible) donations from Amigos members. Donations can be made by sending a check made out to "Amigos de Bolivia y Perú" to: Amigos de Bolivia y Perú, 7327 University Ave., Glen Echo, MD 20812. Please include a note that the check should be targeted to Kantuta and specify if the donation is for Bolivia or Peru OR indicate the percentage to apply to each. ♦

KANTUTA UPDATE: BOLIVIA

by Diane Hibino, Kantuta Coordinator

IMPROVED COOKSTOVES



Heidi Everyitt Gerling of San Rafael of the Saipina valley writes that the ecological cookstove project was a success. Kantuta funds of \$134 brought skilled experts from the NGO Cedesol to lead three workshops with a total attendance of about 300 people. They instructed the attendees on the use of alternative stoves that need less wood or none at all, in the case of solar ovens. This is especially important due to deforestation in the area and the increased time it takes for women to gather wood for cooking. Gerling reports, "111 people purchased ecological cookers and participated in two days of classes to construct them. The local government donated 10,000 Bolivianos, or \$1270, in order to help lower the cost of the cookers to the beneficiaries." ♦

EROSION CONTROL

Matthew Cox of Quirusillas reports that the erosion control project with peach farmers used \$52 of Kantuta funds to help produce a total of 540 sq. meters of phalaris grass in the municipal nursery and in 8 farmers' plots in Rodeo and Rasete. This represents a ten-fold increase of the original phalaris and will serve to provide 1½ km of live barriers and even more (5km) for future replantings. One grey water system for watering plants is almost completed but work on the second system has been hampered by the rainy season. Matthew notes that being flexible, patient and creative about the use of scarce funds produces more successful projects. ♦



BEEKEEPING



Bonnie Cox of Quirusillas proposed two teaching apiaries and received \$192 to set up beekeeping training with proper equipment for two communities. In Rodeo, Cox notes, "one of the greatest successes so far has been my effort to teach bee veil making to families. One of the families' contributions was to purchase or make their protective suit, and to facilitate this, I created a simple design based on a store-bought mask, bought materials in bulk, and sold sets of prepared materials to sew. To date, 10 families have made their bee veils at a cost of 9 Bs. instead of 45 Bs. in the store." The second apiary will be located near Quirusillas using the example set with the first group. ♦

News From Bolivia

Compiled by your editors from AP and other news sources.

Coke Vs. Coca

President Evo Morales's party (Movimiento Al Socialismo), in its campaign to get the Coca leaf to replace the olive branch on Bolivia's national seal, has been joined by domestic coca growers in calling for Coca-Cola to respect the cultural value of the leaf as an Andean staple and drop the word "coca" from its name.

The rationale for Bolivians is simply that if Coca-Cola is allowed to commercialize the leaf, then the country that produces it should be allowed to do the same. While coca-derived products are criminalized in the international market, the Coca-Cola company imports reportedly around 200 tons of the leaf to flavor its trademark soda. Of course, Coke refuses to acknowledge the role of coca in its highly-guarded formula.

Although the sheer magnitude of the Coca-Cola brand makes a name change rather unlikely, the Bolivian government may indeed assert the country's cultural claims to the plant by allowing producers to start making other products like soap, shampoo, alcohol, and toothpaste out of it. If that is the case, the country risks

alienating the US government, whose coca eradication programs bring billions in aid money to Bolivia every year. Of course, that may be Mr. Morales' intent.



Bolivia for Bolivians

Fulfilling his central campaign pledge of 2005, President Evo Morales has continued to make headway on securing national ownership of the country's natural resources. The government has adopted various unjust and less-unjust methods in its efforts, focusing simply on the goal of nationalization.

On the most controversial side of the spectrum, the government refused to compensate the former Swiss owners of the Vinto tin smelter that was nationalized in February, despite the company's plans to bring the case before international arbitration. Morales is proving to be

less brazen in similar disputes with his neighbors, making plans to buy back Petrobras's ownership of two oil refineries that produce almost all of the country's fuel. Although it will not likely pay the full market cost of the refineries currently owned by Brazil's national oil company, some compensation is expected.

Whatever forms such actions take, the biggest question mark is whether or not the state can run the nationalized industries as efficiently and profitably as they have been under private ownership. Fuel shortages and price increases will surely erode the nationalist value of Bolivian ownership of its resources. ✦

Climate Change Vs. Bolivian Skiers

Global warming appears to be threatening Bolivia's only ski resort at Chacaltaya, a place that boasted the highest lift-equipped ski area in the world, until the lift reportedly broke last year. Glacial melt has hindered access to the glacier, now reached by hiking 300 vertical feet above the lodge's already extreme altitude over 17,000 feet. Bolivian glaciologists report that 80% of the glacier has disappeared in the last 20 years. Despite the very small number of visitors to the resort located in the mountains above La Paz, Bolivians will lament the loss of this national treasure, which may be gone completely in as little as three years. ✦

News From Home

Compiled by your editors from AP and other news sources.

Bush Cuts Aid to Bolivia and Perú

In his 2008 budget proposal, President Bush has lowered his request for the Andean Counterdrug Initiative, a program representing nearly half of US foreign aid to the region, to 40% below the amount appropriated in 2006. The cuts, which will apply to all Andean nations but Colombia, are steepest in Perú and Bolivia.

These reductions in aid come in the face of warnings from a bipartisan Foreign Affairs subcommittee in the House of Representatives, who believe the move sends the wrong message to our allies in South America.

Bolivia, set to receive less than half of the aid contained in the 2006 budget, does not appear worried, reporting on March 19 a pledge of aid from the European Union amounting to \$60 million, twice the amount proposed by the Bush government.

Perú, which has had a far less contentious relationship with the United States, plans to send a delegation to address the administration in hopes of salvaging a more favorable aid package for counternarcotics objectives.

Although the US State Department insists that Andean nations will still be eligible for aid under the president's Millennium Challenge Account, the proposed budget cuts risk alienating countries in a region where anti-American sentiment seems to be increasing with every election. ✦

News From Perú

Compiled by your editors from AP and other news sources.

World's Third-Highest Waterfall (re-)Discovered

Proving that the Age of Discovery is far from over in the more isolated and less-visited corners of the world, the Gocta waterfall in the Chachapoyas region was recently measured by the Peruvian government at the request of a local German water engineer, establishing it as the world's third-highest waterfall at 771 meters in height.

Falling in two drops at the end of an isolated valley, Gocta will surely bring a flood of new tourism to an area previously known for the archaeological ruins left behind by the pre-Inca Chachapoyas civilization. Peru's Ministry of Tourism plans to make the site more accessible to tourists by building a decent road, with high-end hotels and restaurants sure to follow.

Judging from the videos available on YouTube.com, the falls are well worth a visit from interested hikers before they are developed into a luxury tour spot similar to Macchu Picchu. ✦



García Sells Presidential Plane

In a move more symbolic than substantial, President Alan García announced that he would sell the presidential plane, proving his commitment to fiscal austerity as a means to improve the government's finances. While such baby steps do nothing for Peru's overall balance sheet, it is worth a pat on the back the next time you see Sr. Presidente in first class flying Lan Peru to Arequipa. ✦

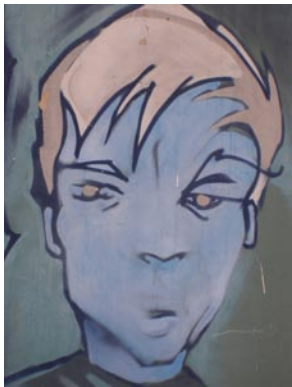
Taking the 'Blanca' Out of 'Cordillera Blanca'

Pastoruri, a principal tourist attraction outside of Huaraz boasting a modest ski area and dramatic ice caves, appears to be the latest victim of the rapid melting of glaciers in the Cordillera Blanca. Researchers from INRENA, Peru's official natural resources institute, report that the Pastoruri glacier has lost 40% of its ice in just the last 12 years.

Apart from worries about the loss of tourist revenue, the disappearance of glaciers brings long-term fears of water shortages, as countless communities in the department of Ancash depend on glacial runoff for their water needs.

As more glaciers recede and rivers dry up, Peru is likely to face the problem of rural communities moving en masse to the cities, putting even more strain on the country's urban centers, while the consequent drop in adventure/climbing tourism will leave the country with far fewer finances needed to address the problem. ✦

Meet The Editor



Greg Bocquet served as a Community Health Volunteer in Perú from 2003-2005. He dug many latrines, planted many gardens, and still ate almost 10,000 potatoes in his two years of service. Somehow, he managed to lose weight. Perhaps it was the thin air over 15,000 feet up the Andes, where his village is located.

After leaving Perú, a brief stint in a cubicle at the Brookings Institution in DC led to his current life at the top of the world in Iceland. In addition to earning some money from his writing, he has started an NGO with an Icelandic partner to channel the windfalls of Iceland's economic boom to countries in need, so far only in Africa. IceAid, as it is known, will begin a health project in Tanzania in May, with sponsorship from Actavis, Iceland's largest pharmaceutical company.

Visit him on the web at www.gregmatter.com ✦

Submission Guidelines

Yachaspa welcomes submissions on all Bolivia and Perú-related material. From simply sending a link to an interesting news story to writing a thousand words on your recent visit to your old site, we look forward to hearing from you.

Submissions will be edited for length and content, as well as relevance to *Yachaspa's* goal to provide Amigos members with continued links to developments in Bolivia and Perú. Of course, it may be impossible to include every story that is submitted, and whatever material is not used will be kept for possible use in future issues.

Please send submissions either in email text or as an attachment, WITH PICTURES whenever possible, along with your country and years of service and an email contact address for your byline, to: yachaspa@gmail.com, with CC to jeff_tara@comcast.net

Thank you for your contributions, big and small. We look forward to hearing from all of our members, regardless of country or years of service. ✦

RPCV Interview: Carolyn Kinsman

Ayacucho, Perú 1963-1965

Editor's Note: many thanks go to Board Member Patt Behler, who selected interviewees and compiled the questionnaires that stimulated such engaging responses. We look forward to continuing the series with other Amigos members in future issues of *Yachaspa*.

Assignment:

I joined the first Peace Corps Artisan Development project, which was conceived in 1962 by a U.S. citizen who was married to a Peruvian woman and had an art school in Miraflores, Lima, Perú. His great dream was to keep Peruvian folk art from the influences of industrialization and changing markets. He convinced the Peace Corps to take it on, and we were lucky enough to be the very first recruits -- actually, even before it was officially approved!

Housing situation:

Apartments and rentals were not very common. We went to see the Obispo (Bishop), who said, "Well, I do have a monastery that has been abandoned for 150 years. You can stay there if you help me with some restoration I've been trying to do." So we lived for two years in the San Cristobal monastery, with its 3-ft.-thick adobe walls, stone floors, 15-ft. ceilings, no electricity, and one water spigot in the interior courtyard, where there were very old lemon, fig, and chirimoya trees.

We occupied only two of the many rooms, which were used once a year by priests from out in the campo when they came in for an annual retreat. One Semana Santa (Easter week), we had a grand Peace Corps party there, with volunteers from all over Perú who slept on the floors in the many little monk's cells. I consider it one of the finest homes I have ever inhabited.

Favorite-in country food:

Oh, do I have to choose?! Lomo Saltado, Chupe de Camarones, anything Chifa (Peruvian Chinese cuisine).

Least favorite: Menudo

Most memorable saying/dicho:

"Si hay, pero no tenemos." (In response to the question in a restaurant: "Is there _____?")

Favorite memory from PC:

My "Tomato Lady" in the central market where I went every day to buy food kept her baby in the open area under the wooden vegetable rack and would let me hold her. On the day after John Kennedy



was shot, I walked into the market early in the morning. When she saw me, tears spilled down her cheeks and she said in her halting Spanish, "Mataron a su presidente." - They killed your president. That memory still moves me to tears and expresses so much of the relationships and caring I experienced with the people in Perú.

Interesting story:

One day as I was walking to my work at the Folk Art school in Ayacucho, Scott Palmer, a fellow Volunteer who taught at the university, came jogging across the plaza, waving at me. "Wait. I want to introduce you to someone," he said. The "someone" was Abimael Guzman, also a professor at the university, whom we all

much later came to know as the founder of the Sendero Luminoso -- The Shining Path.

Ways PC has impacted myself and others:

It entirely changed my life. It took me from a provincial existence to global citizenship; it helped me appreciate my culture and my country at the same time, and made me more discerning and even critical about the impact we have in the world. It taught me that there are many, many ways to see things, making "right" a very variable concept. It caused me to raise my children to see the whole while focusing on the minute details. It made me even more a wanderer!

My Peace Corps experience taught me that I can never use my energies for something that does not somehow contribute to the greater good. I've worked all my professional life as a designer, with a focus on education. I've been deeply involved in working against racism and for social justice. And my work as a mediator for over 35 years is a direct result of Peace Corps teaching me that there is ALWAYS another way to see it.

What you remember most about being a PCV:

The intense awareness of my own "otherness," while at the same time knowing what is meant by "we are all one."

Links:

My wonderful partner, Perry Wilkes, and I have a blog that mostly tells about our current life on the Sea of Cortez in Bahía de Kino, Sonora, Mexico. Come see us! www.wilkeskinsman.typepad.com ✦

RPCV Interview: J. Shane Townsend

San Juancito, Bolivia 2003-2005



Reason for joining PC:

There's never a single reason for doing anything worthwhile, is there? My dad had applied in the sixties, but was invited instead to Vietnam; the idea of international service was instilled at an early age. I considered it while in college, but decided to continue my education. After graduate school I was looking for something exciting to do, something that would teach me a language and give me some international work experience. "Peace Corps is the gateway to wonderful things," I was told; and it was.

Assignment:

I was officially a micro-enterprise development volunteer, but I spent a great deal of my time improving organizational safety & security planning and capacity for Peace Corps-Bolivia.

Housing situation:

Things changed many times for many reasons, but in the end I lived in an adobe cabaña across the fence from my counterpart: nearly as many children as chickens, toucans, pigs, horses, sometimes monkeys, donkeys, and a thousand birds I know by song rather than name. It was well worth the wait.

Favorite-in country food:

Chicha de Maní (sweet peanut drink) and cuñape (a baked cheesy bread about the size of a tennis ball).

Least favorite in-country food:

Ubre de vaca (cow udder) or maybe the pig cartilage

Favorite experiences:

I don't know if it's possible to choose. As an observer, maybe my favorite was the fire-walking ceremony on the Día de San

Juan, wherein the community members walked calmly across coals to test their fé.

As a participant, it must be all the late night fishing trips, wading through the Rio Paraguá with spears and machetes, catching dorado and caiman.

Most memorable saying/dicho:

"mas cambia que la yuca"

Favorite in-country music:

I'd have to say the Chiquitano and Guarayo violin and drum music we danced to in the villages: it somehow reminded me of the zydeco I grew up listening to. The Brazilian beats were sweet too.

Ways my PC service has impacted me since I returned:

There are not many things I am afraid to try here now. The setbacks and failures in Bolivia were chock full of lessons. The most important of which being that you can do most anything, in time. The second, most people are afraid to try, so if you step up, you're ahead of the game.

A book related to PC service that I'd recommend:

Read *Man's Search for Meaning*. Every volunteer should read that book. I think they'll find it indispensable in the hardest times.

What you remember most about being a PCV:

That I made it, even though sometimes I didn't think I would. In the end, I sat with a family and a community, knowing full well how fortunate I was.

Link addresses that you have created, such as blogs, websites, etc:

Contributor:

The Women and Infants Service Package (WISP), guidelines that provide the framework for the minimum and initial actions needed to respond to the essential health care needs of pregnant women, mothers, newborns and infants in an emergency.

<http://www.whiteribbonalliance.org/News/default.cfm?a0=36>

Author:

Rapid Assessments of Temporary Housing Camps for Hurricane-displaced Children and Families (Save the Children-US)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/AMMF-6S8G76?OpenDocument> ♦

President's Column

Gloria Levin

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Board update: Much has happened with Amigos since our last (Fall 2006) issue of *Yachaspa*. In two online Board meetings, in November and December 2006, the Board approved a 2007 budget, further refined our bylaws and elected new officers, among other agenda items. Continuing officers are me (President and Membership Coordinator) and Secretary Steve Jacobs; newly elected officers are Communications Coordinator Jeff Fletcher and Kantuta Coordinator Diane Hibino. Although elected as treasurer, Franklin Salvesson's move to Hong Kong has proved to be an impediment to his serving fully in that role, the internet notwithstanding. Still needed is a stable presence as treasurer. No heavy lifting (few transactions) but a critical position nevertheless. Many of our members have the needed skills but have not volunteered. Diane is updating the seriously outdated Kantuta webpage and is the liaison with in-country PC staff. Jeff has ably managed the transitions to new leadership of our newsletter and website. The other Board members are Patt Behler; Ray Brown; Gayle Hartmann; and Jane Wolff Taylor. The Board term of Gerard Maguire (former webmaster) ended in early January. We're delightedly awaiting the birth of Gerard's first child with his charming wife, Nam.

Communications: This is the first issue of *Yachaspa* under a new editorial arrangement and with a new design. We owe a major debt of gratitude to Ray Brown who ably produced *Yachaspa* for four years. Greg Bocquet and Lindsey Parramore (both recent RPCVs from Perú) stepped up to volunteer to be editors – Greg from Iceland and Lindsey from the Atlanta area. Because of the late production of the Fall 2006 issue (early December) and the need to organize, transition and redesign *Yachaspa*, we

skipped the Winter 2006-7 issue – a fact which I announced in an email to the membership, along with two interim news updates. We expect to be back on our quarterly schedule from now on.

Soon, you'll see a new look, added features and more frequent updating of our website (<http://www.amigosdeboliviayperu.org>) – made possible by our new Webmaster, Lorena Hinojosa, another recent returnee from Perú. The internet-based skills of our newer members allow us to take greater advantage of new technologies.

Thoughts on new RPCVs: I've come to know a lot of recent RPCVs, through mentoring -- mercilessly critiquing their resumes, alerting them to job openings, advising them on graduate programs,

“Amigos de Bolivia y Perú has a difficult balancing act to achieve in order to serve all our members with their diverse interests.”

putting them in touch with other RPCVs who can advise them on matters of readjustment and romances with host country nationals, etc. Their experiences as PCVs are another world from mine, with their cell phones, internet-based research, and extensive travel post-PC (no longer subject to a military draft!) I was dumbfounded when a trainee asked me if she could return to visit her U.S.-based boyfriend four times a year. I have since learned that many (most?) PCVs use vacation days to return home, free to do so as long as they have permission and report their absence. In my day, you'd go home only for medical treatment, the death of a close family member or to end your service, voluntarily or not. Now routine are trips home to celebrate holidays with their families or for a sibling's high school graduation; a friend's wedding; shopping to replenish clothes, toiletries or buy a

laptop, etc. This still strikes me as slightly illicit!!

A balancing act: Amigos de Bolivia y Perú has a difficult balancing act to achieve in order to serve all our members with their diverse interests. First, our membership (numbering about 220) includes a mixture of RPCVs, prior staff, parents of PCVs, and friends of the two countries. Second, we combine two countries in one organization (rare among NPCA affiliate groups), so we have to strike a balance between Bolivia and Perú interests. Third, posing the most significant organizational challenge is Amigos' generational bifurcation, owing to the fact that PC was out of Bolivia for two decades and out of Perú for three decades. With respect to representation of the two countries of service, Amigos' Board of Directors is well balanced numerically, as is our paid membership, between Bolivia and Perú. As to unpaid (i.e., “courtesy”) members, we have been reasonably successful in recruiting recent Perú RPCVs, especially from Perú 2 and 3, to accept free membership for a year. On the other hand, recent Bolivia RPCVs are joining at a very slow rate, even though they were told about the free membership by PC/Bolivia staff at their close of service conference. My March 12 membership-wide email requested a Bolivia RPCV to serve as a liaison -- both to encourage COS-ing Bolivia volunteers to accept their free membership and to seek Bolivia-related content for our newsletter and website. No response was received. (Of course, we'd love to have a recent Perú returnee serving as liaison also.) What can you do to help that process?

Kantuta Fund: The major way Amigos de Bolivia y Perú serves current PCVs (also giving visibility to Amigos for the purpose of recruiting prospective members) is through our Kantuta Fund. Our first donation to PC/Bolivia of \$1,000 (awarded July 2006) was

expended on innovative small grants to Bolivia PCVs' communities. The Board of Directors approved a new agreement and, on March 22, we sent to PC/Bolivia staff another \$1,000 from our Kantuta fund. The staff had already approved some PCV proposals for funding, so our funds will be put to good use right away. Our Kantuta/Bolivia cupboard is bare now, so your (tax deductible) donation would help replenish that fund. When making a contribution, use the membership form (see the bottom of the form), at the end of this newsletter (or any format that would provide the requested information), to donate and designate the country to which your money should be targeted.

Yapas: I like to provide in this column, *yapas* (bonuses), aka possibly interesting resources. A new resource for Bolivia PCVs and RPCVs is a community page created and maintained by new Amigos member, Matt Kennedy. Check out <http://www.myspace.com/pcvsbolivia>. Another resource is NPCA's hospitality network, produced by Alan Burrus (RPCV from Tonga) in New Mexico. The product is a hard copy directory of RPCVs who are willing to house traveling

RPCVs for short visits. A newly-updated directory will be available in April to those who ordered one. A recent email stated: "the Directory can be ordered at cost (\$8 to NPCA members, \$12 non-members & overseas) directly from the NPCA website. Most hosts request \$0-\$5 /person/night; average stay 2-3 nights, and many, many hosts are open to families and kids!!!" To order the directory, which is produced only infrequently, go to www.rpcv.org; click "What"; then go to the Hospitality Network. Finally, Jean Meadowcroft (Bolivia 66-68) suggests a video of Bolivian music rediscovered in the missions near Beni: www.cbs.com; then search for "Searching for Baroque in Bolivia."

Fulfilling PC's third goal: Amigos responds to requests sent to our email account (boliviayperu@hotmail.com), typically from people who find our website through an online search. In between the constant spam emails – such as BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES!! (or "sensual massages") in "our" two countries -- we receive substantive inquiries. Some examples of past inquiries to which we

have responded – many with help from PC in-country staff: traveling PCVs and RPCVs who are planning a trip to the Andes and seeking travel suggestions (aware that PCVs know all the good and cheap places). Or people planning to visit the Andes who want to contribute school supplies directly to a school (taking photos for use in the local newspaper back home). The underlying motives range from an opportunity to expose their children to the lives of children living in poverty (so they'll appreciate what they have) all the way to needing content for a college paper (aprovechar-ing their vacation on an Inca trail trek). We are also solicited for money (a recent knee slapper – "send money to "slicksenorita@...!"), for information about adopting babies or to sponsor someone for a U.S. visa, etc.

Spring brings forth new plant growth ... and weddings. Congratulations to Amigos member Lindsey Parramore on her May 12 wedding. On the same day, new members Dave Aabo and Meghan McNeil will tie the knot at a lodge on Mt. Hood near Portland, Oregon. Ah, Spring! ♦

Renewing your Amigos Membership: A Plea

Gloria Levin, President and Membership Coordinator

About 80% of our members let their memberships expire, despite my warning 2-3 weeks before and multiple reminders thereafter, including personal phone calls (all ignored.) Eventually, almost all members renew but sometimes only after three months of constant reminders, met by "oh, I forgot; I'll do it today" but then not doing so. This "forgetfulness" by Amigos members is rampant and increasing. What makes it even more difficult, in view of the fact that most renew with Amigos online via NPCA, is that NPCA's new system now drops names from our database within a week of your expiration date, a departure from the former method of listing lapsed members for a 3-month grace period. In early March, not a single one of the long-term members of Amigos renewed by their February 28 expiration, so no longer appear on our database from NPCA. And not a single one has renewed in the month since, despite my emails and calls and promises. This imposes an unnecessary burden on me, as membership coordinator – time I could use to benefit the

organization. Please remember, we are volunteers and are owed the courtesy of your responding (and paying if you choose to renew).

Please consider renewing your Amigos membership directly with Amigos. The downside is that we don't accept credit cards. But the upside is considerable -- in renewing directly with Amigos, you can renew for more than one year at a time (helpful if you are forgetful, travel a lot, etc.) and can take advantage of Amigos' member discounts – for couples, for full-time students, for retirees, and for financial hardship. (And you can contribute to Kantuta at the same time.) In contrast, NPCA now processes renewals one year at a time and no longer gives a discount for couples (we do, at \$22.50 for a couple, whereas NPCA charges a flat rate of \$15 for each Amigos membership). For more information, read recent issues of this newsletter or contact me at g-levin@comcast.net or boliviayperu@hotmail.com ♦

Peace Corps/Perú: Country Update

Saludos de Lima! As I write this (February 21), it's close to 90 degrees out. As you can imagine, the highways to the beaches are jammed on weekends.

Our most dramatic news is our re-entry into Arequipa (see separate article), but there are plenty of other activities going on. We have produced a number of "best practices" manuals and videos on our projects. We have received approval to add an eleventh week of pre-service training, which will enable us to do a better job in preparing our trainees for their technical activities, especially their secondary activities (e.g., teaching English, training community members in computer skills, promoting vegetable gardens, giving AIDS prevention presentations). We're also planning a celebration soon to mark the fifth anniversary of PC's return to Perú.

I thought it would be useful to give you a profile of our volunteers. As this is being written, we have 133 volunteers on board. They are working in the following program areas:

Small Business Development (33), Community Health (33), Youth Development (36), and Environmental Awareness (31). They are assigned to communities in the following departments: Tumbes (5), Piura (31),



Lambayeque (21), La Libertad (15), Cajamarca (33), Ancash (16), Lima (6), Ica (5), and Arequipa (1).

All of the volunteers in Perú are university graduates, and about 15% have graduate degrees. It is a young group, with 99 between the ages of 21 and 25. Twenty-four are between 26 and 29, seven are in their 30s, one in his 40s, and two in their

50s. Fifty-nine percent of the volunteers are females, and 41% are males. Twenty-three (17%) are identified as Afro-American, Asian, or Hispanic. There are four married couples, plus one volunteer is married to a Peruvian. The volunteers hail from 33 states and the District of Columbia. The home states of six or more Volunteers are California (17), Texas (14), Illinois (10), Massachusetts (7), Maryland (7), New York (7), Virginia (7), Michigan (6), and Minnesota (6).

We continue to have a constant flow of RPCV visitors. Most recently, Jim and Zarela Hamill stopped by the office, on their way to Arequipa to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. We look forward to your visit.

For more information on our program, e-mail me at any time: mhirsh@pe.peacecorps.gov.

Best regards,

Michael Hirsh
Country Director ✦

From the South America Desk

Shawn Wesner
sschwartz@peacecorps.gov

Greetings from the South America Desk at Peace Corps Headquarters in Washington, DC! We have had a busy year thus far, already sending out a group of 29 Natural Resource and Agriculture Extension Trainees to Bolivia in January. Our next group of 30 Basic Sanitation and Integrated Education Trainees arrive in Bolivia in early May and the final Trainee input to Bolivia for 2007 arrives in late August. This group will be comprised of 18 Agriculture and Micro-Enterprise Development workers.

Bolivia has certainly seen its fair share of activity this year with protests in January in Cochabamba and the recent flooding in the areas of Beni and Santa Cruz. Thankfully, these occurrences haven't affected our Peace Corps program too significantly and the staff and volunteers alike continue to do an excellent job.

Our first group of 36 Trainees in the areas of Youth, Small Business Development and IT arrive in Perú in early June. Our second group of 36 Trainees in the areas of Health, Environment and IT arrive in Perú in mid-September. The Peace

Corps Perú program continues to thrive and to make significant headway with communities and host country agencies alike. The program recently expanded into the Arequipa region, and has been met with great success thus far.

The big news for the month of August is that (PC) Director Ron Tschetter is considering a trip to Bolivia, Paraguay and Ecuador to coincide with Peace Corps Paraguay's 40th anniversary celebration. We will be sure to keep Amigos updated! ✦



NPCA Endorses National Service Academy

NPCA has joined a growing number of organizations endorsing the creation of a National Service Academy.

Under legislation soon to be introduced in Congress, the Academy would serve approximately 5,000 total students (1,300 in each entering class) from all states. Similar to military academies, enrolled students would receive free undergraduate education in return for five years of civilian service to the country. Curriculum requirements would include foreign language study and at least one semester abroad.

Details: 202-712-9121 or <http://www.uspublicserviceacademy.org> ♦

Increased Scholarships for NPCA Members

The School for International Training (SIT) has announced the availability of increased NPCA academic scholarships of \$10,000 for those pursuing a master's degree in international programs at the school's campus in Brattleboro, Vt. NPCA members can request information on this exclusive scholarship opportunity by calling 800-336-1616 or 802-257-7751, or by visiting <http://www.sit.edu>.

Several awards of \$10,000, available to NPCA member who have at least one year of significant intercultural experience, will be made each year.

The scholarship was established in 2000 to recognize the long-standing ties between SIT and the Peace Corps. The SIT President is former UNICEF director and NPCA advisory council member Carol Bellamy (PCV Guatemala 63-65; Peace Corps Director 93-95.) ♦

NPCA Urges Increased Peace Corps Funding, Farm Bill Reform

NPCA is urging former volunteers to write members of Congress in support of the administration's request of \$334 million in funding for the Peace Corps in FY 2008, a \$15 million increase over this year's level.

While the administration has proposed increased funding for Peace Corps in each of the past six years, Congress usually has reduced the President's request. In FY 2006, for example, the President proposed a nine percent increase and Congress cut that increase to less than one percent. Funding this year is frozen at \$319 million.

The number of volunteers in service today (7,750) remains near a 30-year high, but this is almost 50 percent below 1966 levels, when 15,000 volunteers were in the field. Peace Corps volunteers now serve in 75 nations and 20 additional countries are requesting volunteers.

In cooperation with Oxfam America and Bread for the World, NPCA also is lobbying for agricultural subsidy and fair trade reforms in this year's reauthorization of the nation's farm bill.

For background on how to participate in NPCA advocacy campaigns, visit www.rpcv.org or e-mail advocacy@rpcv.org. ♦

UPDATE: Plans for PC/Bolivia Reunion

Ed Stoll and Lee Arbuckle

Plans are progressing well for the reunion of Bolivia volunteers and Staff from the 1960's through 1971 and their friends and families. Approximately 60 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, staff and spouses are signed up to gather at the Estes Park Center of the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park, Colorado for the 3 day event starting the evening of Friday, August 17 and ending at noon on Monday, August 20.

Our block of 41 rooms in one lodge at the Center is rapidly filling. The largest groups represented so far are Credit Cooperative groups (1967-70) and the Mines Community Development group (1967-69). Other groups are represented in smaller numbers. Cost for the entire reunion in our block of rooms is \$453 plus tax for a single which includes all meals. Cost for a couple is \$274 per person plus tax. Room sharing by singles can bring the cost per person down further.

There is the possibility of arranging for more accommodations, so if you are interested in what promises to be a once in a life time opportunity to rekindle memories of Bolivia together with other Peace Corps people in a beautiful setting in Colorado contact us by e-mail: Ed Stoll (Bolivia 31, 1967-70) at e_stoll@sbcglobal.net or Lee Arbuckle (Peace Corps staff based in Cochabamba, 1967-71) at Arbuckle@bresnan.net. A Google Group website has been set up. To register to use it go to: Groups.google.com/group/Bolivia-Chichapcvs. If you have difficulties with registration e-mail one of us. ♦

A Return to the Heart: Crisis Corps

By Kim Glick
RPCV Bolivia '99-'02
Crisis Corps, Guatemala 2007

I was a PCV in Bolivia from 1999 to 2002. During that time, my fingernails were perpetually dirty from working the land. I smelled (just a bit) from the lack of a daily shower (I was lucky I had one once a week). I lived without the constant blare of the television armed only with a battery-powered radio cassette player for news and music. I went to sleep around 8 pm and woke up at 5 am to the sound of the roosters because we had no electricity for the first year of my service. The people, both men and women, who learned from my example and work ethic went on to create new lives for themselves. They were empowered by their new knowledge and the hope that someday their children would have more opportunities than they did.

I have found that the Crisis Corps has once again put me in touch with that side of myself that remembers why I wanted to be a Peace Corps Volunteer and work in international development in the first place. The daily one-on-one contact and the concrete results I see as I serve once again in Guatemala refresh my spirit and renew my soul. At a time when the United States is at a critical juncture in world history, the Crisis Corps offers the opportunity to demonstrate that Americans do care about the rest of the world.

The Crisis Corps has given me the opportunity to once again feel that connection to those fellow souls who without access to our compassion, knowledge and technical expertise could continue on the same road of endless poverty. It has reminded me why I am indeed here on this planet and what it is I can offer to make the world a better place for all of us.



If I sound idealistic, it is because I am. The way I see things, it is in all of our interests to remember the core values and sense of responsibility of our ancestors who made America the country it is (and I am not talking about the perceptions of oppressive civil and economic tyranny we see now throughout the world). I am talking about the Bill of Rights, the open-door policies (remember “bring us your poor, your sick, your oppressed”?), the love of individual freedom and its preservation at all costs, the “classlessness” of American

society in that even those from the most disadvantaged backgrounds could reach their full potential, the civil liberties, equal rights and the ideals of liberty and justice for all for which we fought and so cherish. To espouse and to live those values in our work both domestically and overseas is the greatest gift we have to give to the world along with our technical know-how to achieve those ends. We are not perfect and we have made a lot of mistakes in our short history as a nation, all of which I am reminded of on a daily basis while working overseas. However, we do have the chance to either correct them or make up for them with what we can give now.

Many organizations and companies will give a sabbatical for RPCV's to serve once again. The opportunities to give of oneself are endless and are only limited by one's own sense of time and resources. If you cannot commit to another two or more years of Peace Corps service, the Crisis Corps offers shorter-term service opportunities as well. Usually, the assignments are for expert technical assistance and emergency response for periods between three months to one year. All expenses are covered and the volunteer opportunities are carefully selected. Prior knowledge of the regional and/or local language is a great help as the assignments are of shorter duration and much is expected in terms of knowledge transfer and experience. These assignments are professional consultancies which are helpful for breaking into new regions and technical areas. ✦

For More Information About Crisis Corps

Visit the Crisis Corps section of the Peace Corps' official website at www.peacecorps.gov. Positions are currently available in the Eastern Caribbean, El Salvador, Fiji, Guatemala, Guyana, Namibia, Panama, Uganda, and Zambia.

If you would like to be considered for future opportunities, please submit your application immediately. If you've applied previously and wish to update your résumé, please send all materials to crisiscorps@peacecorps.gov. Crisis Corps positions generally require a commitment of three to six months and offer a living allowance, health care coverage and relocation allowance similar to that of a PCV.

Abraham Guillén: Los Huacanes de Mito

by Stephen Paul Jacobs
spjacobs@tulane.edu

Recently, I was browsing through a collection of photos by the noted Peruvian photographer, Abraham Guillén (1901-1985), in Tulane University's Latin American Library. I was struck by one image, in particular, of a group of folk dancers from the department of Junín, taken in 1960. The image, made directly from the negative, is highly contrasted, possibly a consequence of its age. It presents two rows of dancers, in costume, clearly lined up for a group portrait. Guillén has caught them in a relaxed state, more playful than they would be in a more formal take. They express more fully their individual personalities that, no doubt, play an important part in the dance itself.

Abraham Guillén has often been called Perú's "official photographer." In 1932, he was appointed head of the Department of Photography in the National Museum of Anthropology and Archeology, where he worked for 40 years until his retirement. His images have been used in the full range of Peruvian publications from magazines to encyclopedias to postage stamps. Guillén has worked closely with anthropologists and archeologists, documenting everything from Perú's pre-Columbian and colonial architecture to folk dances, crafts and daily life.

The Huacones is a dance from the earliest colonial period, if not from earlier times; it was mentioned in Guaman Poma de Ayala's commentary written in 1615. All of the dancers wear similar masks, hats, tunics and capes. The masks are the most carefully crafted elements of the costume, seemingly made out of either carved wood or clay. While they follow a standard model, there is a great deal of individual expression in the way the eyes, mouth, and chin are represented. In contrast, noses are uniformly straight, long and narrow and project strongly from the face. As a composition, the photograph builds upon the marked rhythm

of accented verticals produced by nose and shadow that contrast with the soft rhythm of curved hat brims.

Some commentators refer to the bird-like quality of the masks. In my opinion, the hats, which resemble hats worn by Spaniards and Criollos during the colonial period, along with the manufactured (as opposed to hand-woven) and therefore imported cloth, suggest that the dancers are making reference to Europeans – the colonial overlords. The exaggerated nature of the masks, the playful attitudes of the dancers and the freedom of movement facilitated by their costumes suggest that the powerful and high-status group will be satirized in the performance.



I was a volunteer in Bolivia in the '60s, shortly before this picture was taken. In my time, the massive folk celebrations such as La Paz's Fiesta de Gran Poder and Quillacollo's Fiesta de Urqupiña were celebrated on a much smaller scale. Unfortunately, in those days I was much less interested in the cultural manifestations that now fascinate me.

Perhaps there are some Amigos members who served in Perú who attended the Fiesta de Mito and viewed a performance of Los Huacones who can share their insights. Have the costumes changed significantly in the last 45 years? Is the dance as subversive as I believe? It would be fascinating to compare the present ritual performance with the pre-Contact huaconada referred to by Guaman Poma de Ayala, to trace the evolution of costume and performance from colonial times to understand how it reflects the changing self-perception of this charismatic group. ✦

Field Report: The Chijnaya Foundation

By Rolly Thompson, Perú 64-66

"Short-term Volunteer Opportunities on the Altiplano" read the title of a short article as I skimmed the table of contents in *Yachaspa*, Spring, 2006. Ralph Bolton had my attention immediately. He was seeking RPCVs to offer their skills and experience to projects of the Chijnaya Foundation in the Peruvian department of Puno. I had been ready to go back to Perú since I returned from my last trip in 1990. My husband, Wayne, and I were Peace Corps Volunteers in the Urubamba Valley from 1964-66 and are now retired from careers in public education in Eugene, Oregon. For 30 years we have also had an alpaca and natural colored sheep farm where we specialize in natural fibers, which we sell to fiber enthusiasts.

So I answered Ralph's invitation and spent a couple of weeks working in Chijnaya, Pucarayllo, and Coarita, Paratía in September and October of 2006. It was a memorable and rewarding experience. My primary objective was to gather information about the handcrafts and alpaca industries in Chijnaya, Pucarayllo, and Coarita, Paratía and to discuss what projects they would like to see in their communities.

My arrival in Chijnaya coincided with Chijnaya's annual birthday celebration on September 23. I remember how much preparation went into community celebrations. They work as hard at celebrating as they do at their work. My first four days were spent walking around the community observing sheep-raising practices and briefly chatting about the production of traditional embroidery. Most people were focused on preparing for the celebration, so my information gathering was limited to my own observations.

The handwork I saw was of exceptional quality, but everyone, with the exception

of only one person, used synthetic fabric and yarn dyed with synthetic dyes. The lower cost of synthetic materials makes them more accessible than natural fibers. In addition, the sheep in Chijnaya have changed. Most sheep are crosses of the Churro type sheep introduced by the Spanish 500 years ago and North American meat breeds. The wool from these sheep is much different from the wool used to weave the wool bayeta that was formerly used. I would love to see them return to using natural fibers, but understand completely the need to earn money for one's family.

At 5:30 in the morning of September 25, I'm on my way to Pucarayllo, a bumpy hour or so ride from Chijnaya. Climbing to over 14,000 feet, there was about a 10-20 degree temperature difference from Chijnaya. The people of Pucarayllo are pastoralists; there is no cultivated land. They raise alpacas, llamas, sheep, some cattle, and have horses and burros. In the two days I spent there I attended a meeting of interested alpaca herdsman and visited the communal herd of alpacas.

Pucarayllo is a traditional Peruvian settlement: homes are spread out over the entire area of the community. The center of the community is the school compound. Each family's home is on the land they own, unlike in Chijnaya where the homes are concentrated in one area and farming land is outside of the town itself. I stayed in a home about a mile from the school. The family raised alpacas, llamas, sheep, and cattle. They had a few horses and burros, as well as several springs on the property, though only one of them was used.

In Pucarayllo, there was an emphasis on knitting rather than weaving. I met one woman in a knitting group who was doing knitted work out of wool and

alpaca. The knitting I saw was good, but the weaving, done using stationary rather than backstrap looms, was truly exceptional.

I then went to Coarita, Paratía for four days, attending a community meeting and visiting several herds of alpacas, shearing facilities, and the site of a possible vicuña and avestruz (Suri) reserve. This community is over 15,000 feet above sea level, and the colder air was visible in the ice on the pond and creek one morning. The people of Coarita are also pastoralists; there is no cultivated land. They raise alpacas, llamas, and sheep. There were almost no cattle or horses.

Like Pucarayllo, Coarita is a traditional Peruvian settlement, with property boundaries delineated by rock walls that climb up the hillsides. I stayed in the home of a family that raised alpacas, llamas, and sheep. This farm was located in the valley of the community and had access to lots of water from ponds and streams. Other families live on the hillsides, with much less access to water.

Alpacas are the main livestock there, mostly white Huacaya; almost no Suris or colored alpacas (Huacaya alpacas are the teddy bear looking alpacas. Suri alpacas are the alpacas with the dreadlocks.) There were a few sheep in my hosts' herd, and somewhat more llamas than sheep, though the emphasis was on alpacas. The animals knew when it was time to move out to the grazing areas in the morning, and the herder would follow the herd and stay with it all day. In the evening they grazed their way back to the family compound.

The community of Coarita is very well organized and has a vision for the community. It maintains a communal herd of alpacas, which is being improved

A Word from World Wise Schools

by Robert Fournier
Returned Volunteer Services/
World Wise Schools
rfournier@peacecorps.gov

Correspondence Match is a program offered by Coverdell World Wise Schools that links up local teachers with Peace Corps Volunteers working overseas. Participating Peace Corps Volunteers share stories, artifacts, photos, and much more with students, all the while promoting the third goal of the Peace Corps: bringing other cultures back to the people of the United States. Enrolled teachers will have access to an array of educational resources: the Match Handbook, which provides practical guidance and ideas for the correspondence; monthly topical e-newsletters; rich publications with

stories by Peace Corps Volunteers, along with suggestions for classroom use; and a variety of multimedia resources. Participants will also have the opportunity to apply for overseas phone calls with their Peace Corps Volunteer during the annual Peace Corps Week celebration in March.

If you are interested in connecting with a currently serving Peace Corps Volunteer through our Correspondence Match program, please contact Coverdell World Wise Schools at wwsinfo@peacecorps.gov or call us at 800.424.8580, ext. 1450. For more information, visit our website at www.peacecorps.gov/wws/correspond.

We look forward to hearing from you. ✦

by introducing superior breeding stock, and it has built a shearing shed, a dip tank for external parasite control, and a fleece storage shed. In my conversations with people I was told that the community works together to get the shearing done and the fleeces stored. They would like to develop a reserve for vicuñas and avestruz (literally “ostrich”, but actually the Suri, a bird similar to the Rhea).

I regret that I was not able to spend more time in each of these communities. Overlooked in all three communities is the need for increased forage production and forage management, a vital concern. Someone with pasture and animal management expertise could help the people of these three communities make these positive changes.

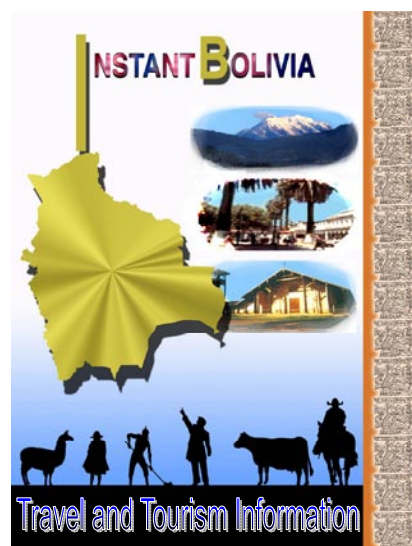
The Chijnaya Foundation would like to have experienced volunteers for short-term assistance. If you have expertise in animal husbandry, forage management, textiles, or marketing, please contact Ralph Bolton at chijnaya@aol.com. Let me know; I'd love to be involved again.

Fox Hollow Farm and Fiber, Inc.
30781 Fox Hollow Road
Eugene, Oregon 97405-9501
541 343-6596 ✦

New Bolivia Travel Guide From RPCV David Dolson

Instant Bolivia: Bolivia Travel and Tourism Directory for International Visitors, a project coordinated by an RPCV from Bolivia is again available online. The Directory, in addition to an introduction to Bolivia, contains chapters on (1) preparation for your trip, (2) hotels, (3) restaurants, (4) shopping & entertainment, (5) travel and tourism services and (6) healthcare.

Instant Bolivia was written by David Dolson who was an Altiplano volunteer from 1967-1970. Since completing his PC service, David has worked on a number of educational projects with the Bolivian Secretaría de Educación, primarily focusing on programs of bilingual instruction for Aymara and Quechua-speaking pupils. David is also the former editor of Amigos' newsletter, *Yachaspa*.



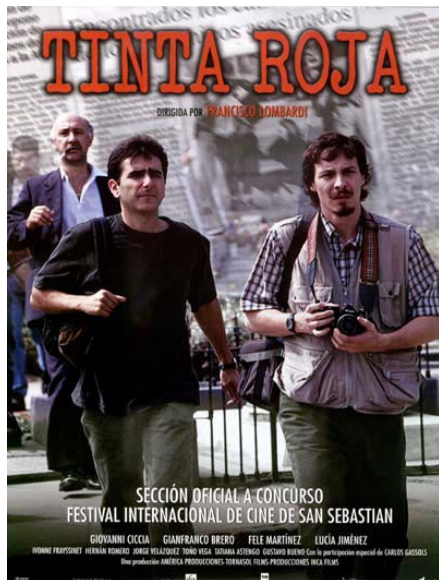
Instant Bolivia is available free-of-charge from BoliviaNet (www.bolivianet.com), a Bolivian Web portal. Additional information is available by contacting David at d_dolson@yahoo.com.

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Film Reviews: Some of Perú's Best

by Gloria Levin
Perú 66-68

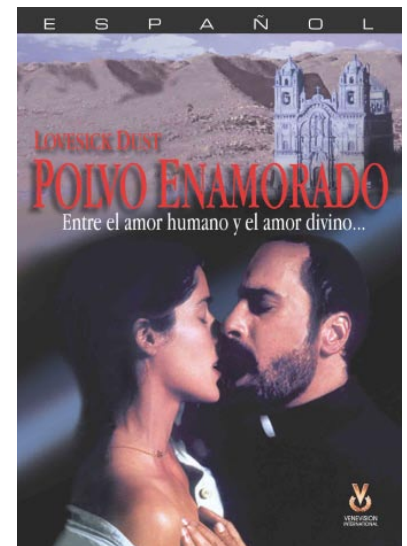
Perú continues to produce excellent films, an increasing number of which are being distributed abroad and are winning international film awards. Many of the best Peruvian films address the rapid urbanization and modernization of Perú, with the attendant corruption which challenges traditional Peruvian values. The most prominent of these films can be rented via Netflix and Blockbuster, including "Tinta Roja" and "Polvo Enamorado," both of which were adapted from Chilean works for the Peruvian context.



Released in 2000, "Tinta Roja" was directed by Francisco Lombardi (born in Tacna in 1947), the director of the most widely distributed Peruvian films, including "Ojos que no Ven", "Pantaleon y las Visitadoras", and "No Se Lo Digas a Nadie". Lombardi's films explore the ongoing battle between corruption and idealism in Perú. In "Tinta Roja", that theme is realized by an exploration of tabloid journalism in Lima. A talented writer who aspires to be a novelist, recent college graduate Alfonso applies for a scholarship for graduate studies, a requirement of which is to perform a newspaper internship at a newspaper.

He applies to the tabloid *El Clamor*, expecting to be assigned to culture and arts but instead this "practicante" (intern) is assigned to cover crime, apprenticing to the veteran but sleazy reporter, Faundez, joining his team of a driver and photographer. Under Faundez's tutelage, Alfonso abandons his scruples, cranking out sensationalized (and untrue) accounts of murders and accidents and taking up smoking, drinking and nights out with his colleagues. In one section of the film, the veterans explain the value of their work to their mostly poor readers: *"If you don't appear on TV or in the press, you're nobody ... (otherwise) poor people don't exist. That's where we come in. The crimes section is the only place where they appear. It's like the social column for the poor."* The intern and the veteran are both revealed to have family secrets, and several subplots unite in the end. This film runs 119 minutes; the English subtitles are better than most.

The 2003 film, "Polvo Enamorado," spins a tale of love and passion prohibited by the Catholic Church. With the revelation of many priests' sexual indiscretions recently, this film is timely. Natalia, a beautiful woman in her early 20s living in a quiet coastal Peruvian town, entered a convent as a small girl, but left the novitiate at age 17 to marry, at her campesino parents' urging, the town's kind, well off, 60-year old Mayor, Matia. Adoring Natalia, he agreed to respect her wish to remain chaste and untouched, and did so for four years. However, he was tortured by his unconsummated marriage and began slipping a sedative into her evening coffee, fondling her while she slept. Terrified when she woke to find Matia in her bed, she runs to confession, where the town's priest (Matia's close friend) advises her that the Church teaches that she should consummate their marriage. At the same time, Father Santiago, a handsome young



and liberal priest, arrives to replace the old, conservative padre. He counsels her on free will and that her body is her own property, improving her self-confidence. Natalia and Santiago are mutually attracted and, at Natalia's initiative, begin a passionate affair. Santiago attempts to resist and is tortured by breaking his vows by this adulterous affair but, by this time, Natalia is persistent in pursuing her own carnal desires. Santiago succumbs and plans to leave the priesthood, marry Natalia and relocate to Lima. Warned by his grown son (who himself lusts for Natalia) that he is being cuckolded, Matia discovers the lovers, sparking a dramatically tragic ending that takes several unexpected twists and turns. A political subplot involves the townspeople fighting corporate fishing poachers off the coast, with no protection provided from the central government in Lima. The central theme is how the town, the church, the couple, and the local police cope with the disintegration of religious and moral values in a modernizing Perú. This 106 min. film, directed by Luis Barrios, was a nominee for best foreign language film at the 2004 Miami International Film Festival. ✨

READ A GOOD BOOK
LATELY? SEEN A GOOD
MOVIE? SUBMIT YOUR
OWN REVIEWS AND
SPREAD THE WORD!

Amigos Members Celebrate Peace Corps Week to Honor Third Goal

by Patt Behler
Perú 62-64

Each year as I receive notices from Peace Corps about doing some local celebration of Peace Corps Week, I start with the best of intentions to cover the community with glorious talks and presentations that will immediately send people to the PC phone number or website to investigate and to volunteer. This year was not different; I thought of spots where I might be welcome, such as the local university, the public schools, the home schoolers, etc.

I annually receive an offer from the Peace Corps to receive a promotional packet with handouts, ideas for presentations, sample news releases, etc. As time went by, I realized that I had failed to send in my request card for the material by the deadline but, knowing the ways that PC (sometimes) works, I sent it in anyway!

No response and the week to celebrate (February 26 to March 4) was fast approaching; an 800 number gave me the regional office in Chicago and thanks to the staff member there, I did receive my packet just in time. It included a guidelines sheet with the latest PC statistics such as how many, where, age, gender, etc. Also included was a handsome oversized map illustrating all of the countries in which PC has served since 1961. I also found a poster saying “friend” in many languages promoting Peace Corps Partnership that I mounted in a frame for display.

Earlier I had been approached by the local *News Tribune* (because I'd already made friends with a reporter who covered the Lewis and Clark Corps adventure in our parts) and she actually asked ME if she could do an article on the PC. I gave her names of several other RPCVs in this area, one a retired Missouri Association of Social Welfare director (RPCV Tanzania), another the Director of our Missouri

Dept. of Natural Resources (RPCV Costa Rica), and an agricultural worker (RPCV Brazil), as well as “yours truly”.

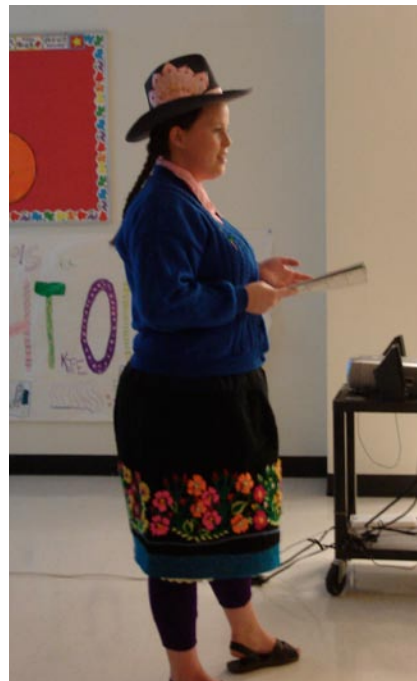
With “Then and Now” photos reproduced along with a full page article, it hit the Style page the Sunday before PC Week began. Folks, this turned out to be big news in our locality. Numerous people recognized me – they said I was “so young” in that photo!

An elderly woman in a local retirement center called me and talked, and talked, about her young granddaughter and new husband who are currently serving in PC/Namibia. The woman's family keeps in close touch with them by e-mail and cell phone conversations. Ah me! I remember the ONE phone call I made during my two years of service and that was from Chile because the phone connection was supposedly better from there than from Arequipa.

In addition, I had the opportunity to suggest that Peter de Simone, (the retired RCV) and his wife Mary, come to our Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to talk that last Sunday of PC Week. They had recently made a return trip (for Peter) to Tanzania after 43 years. It was great; Peter compared what was with what is, people asked questions, and I handed out PC stickers and bookmarks provided in the kit.

Maybe this is “small news” but to me when each of us does something to promote the idea of “Peace, not War”, it's a worthwhile endeavor. I hope you have opportunities to do the same. If you feel so inclined, why don't you write up some experiences you've had with “explaining the Peace Corps to our fellow and sister citizens (Oh, is the Peace Corps still around?)”.

We'd really like to hear about your experiences. ✦



Bringing the Peace Corps Home

by Lindsey Eaves
Perú 03-05

After returning to the United States only four short months ago, my adjustment process was well underway. Of course the first few weeks were difficult. Remembering to put the toilet paper in the toilet instead of the trash can was the hardest concept for me to grasp, but in the end, I learned to adapt. Being home all the time and job searching was a drag. I mean, really, who LIKES looking for a job? But the highlight of that period was having time. Time to go to the gym, time to be with my family, and most importantly, time to get the mail every day! And one day I got an envelope in the mail from Peace Corps. When I opened the box and saw Peace Corps printed on the envelope, it immediately brought me back to the days when I was anxiously awaiting my acceptance letter. After already completing my two-year service in Perú and staying an additional year in South America, I knew it wasn't another assignment. Curious, I opened it on the spot. It was an information packet telling me that Peace Corps Week 2007

was coming up. And to honor the 46th anniversary of Peace Corps and support the third goal of its mission I was asked to share my experience with someone.

I contacted the local Boys and Girls Club and spoke with the Program Director, April Chervenka. Every Friday from 7 pm-8 pm is "Girls Night Out" at the club. This program has been running since October 2006 in an effort to get more girls involved. Usually the girls work with arts and crafts or cook. Ms. Chervenka invited me to speak with them about

Perú and Peace Corps.

On Friday, March 2, I met with 10 girls between the ages of 8-12. I wore the traditional Andean outfit, which included a hat, several skirts and llanquis (tire sandals). I introduced them to Peace Corps and answered their questions about Perú. I showed pictures of my host family and also a short "day in the life" video I made about my time in my village. We also made "arroz con leche," a traditional Peruvian dessert similar to rice pudding.

After the presentation was over I played a traditional music CD and showed everyone how to dance "huayno".

The girls really enjoyed learning about Perú and its customs. Everyone had questions and wanted to know how they could go to Perú with the Peace Corps. I think that by completing the third goal of helping to promote a better understanding of other people and cultures, RPCVs are opening up other opportunities to young people that they didn't even know existed. ✦

Historians Explore Andean Indigenous Movements

by Jeff Fletcher
jeff_tara@comcast.net

History professors Brooke Larson (Stony Brook State University of New York) and Erick Langer (Georgetown University), both accomplished authors in the study of modern indigenous movements, discussed the cultural roots of the indigenous radicalism now sweeping Bolivia in a lecture on March 1 in Washington, D.C.

In her remarks, Larson argued for a new framework for looking at the root causes of what is happening in Bolivia today. Conjunctural history, which involves reading backwards to the past to look at the roots of indigenous movements, can explain much of contemporary politics: the election of Evo Morales; the repudiation of neoliberalism, fiscal austerity policies, and globalization; the reframing of the coca debate; the rejection of two centuries of oligarchic homogenization in favor of local autonomy; and the awakening of grassroots movements designed to preserve languages and land structures. That approach cannot, however, explain why this awakening of indigenous fervor occurred.

Cultural history, in contrast, explores in depth the collective memory of a people, through long periods of quietude, oppression, and awakening, to offer a more cohesive view of the deep roots of conflict in a country like Bolivia, where

52 percent of the people live in extreme poverty today.

Larson advocated for viewing history as cultural construct forged in struggle. In Bolivia today, she said, the people "are changing the dead past into living memories, reconstructing ancestral titles to land, and reclaiming cultural memories and practices in music and agriculture."

To answer her own question of "What Makes Bolivia Special?" she cited three major factors: the specifics of Aymara history and culture, especially the centuries-old tradition of land-based kinship units and communal lands; the newfound desire of the Aymara people and their intellectual leaders to re-write their own history; and the awakening among Aymaras, Quechuas, Guaranis, and other indigenous peoples, of an interest in citizenship and a desire to claim their commensurate rights as citizens.

Responding to Larson's points, Langer urged caution about reading too much into Bolivia's cultural history or about using it as a model for other countries. First, Langer explained, there are differences of geography. In Perú, coastal area inhabitants now outnumber highlanders and dominate the Altiplano population in politics and economics. In Ecuador, indigenous people are greatly outnumbered in many parts of the country but the government, until

recently, has provided relatively equal attention to all groups. This is different from landlocked Bolivia, where the human problems of the lowland provinces (as opposed to their natural resource wealth) have seemed to be a low priority for the Morales administration, as shown by the slow pace of the declaration of emergency for the recent Beni flooding. Moreover, the lowland areas of Bolivia have only become population centers important to the nation during the past forty years.

Langer noted that President Morales was quite late in discovering his Aymara roots, and that considerable tension still exists between leftist Bolivian politics and the indigenous movement. In terms of numbers and clout, the Quechua continue to gain ground at the expense of the Aymara in Bolivia. So, is Aymara really a collective memory, or just a language?

Neither Larson nor Langer was willing to predict the outcome of the current divisive struggle between the lowland and highland peoples in Bolivia. The speakers noted that both President Morales and wealthy lowland landowners are trying to develop alliances with the poor in Santa Cruz and other lowland provinces, but a *camba-colla* lovefest seems unlikely in the near future. ✦

AMIGOS DE BOLIVIA Y PERÚ
MEMBERSHIP FORM (REV. MARCH 2007)

*Mail this form and a check (made out to Amigos de Bolivia y Perú) to
Amigos, 7327 University Ave., Glen Echo, MD 20812
To join or renew via the National PC Association, using a credit card, go to
<http://www.rpcv.org> and click "Join/Renew"
When prompted for an affiliate group, choose Amigos de Bolivia y Perú*

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 _____

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