

YACHASPA

QUECHUA FOR "SABIENDO" [KNOWING]...

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF AMIGOS DE BOLIVIA Y PERÚ, INC.
SUMMER 2007

WWW.AMIGOSDEBOLIVIAYPERU.ORG

PEACE CORPS CELEBRATES 50 YEARS... IN 2011

Gloria Levin, Peru 66-68

Mark down the dates of June 23-26, 2011 – the capstone event of Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary celebrations. (On March 1, 1961 the Executive Order was signed that established Peace Corps). Peace Corps has reserved space on those dates on the National Mall, adjacent to the annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival, in Washington, DC for a gathering of the Peace Corps community. Considering the question of "what footprint will we leave when the tent comes down?," the plan is to educate the estimated 1 million visitors to the Folklife Festival about Peace Corps, the world and the U.S.'s role and influence globally. An event is planned at the JFK Library in Boston, an exhibit is planned for the American History Museum, and the Kennedy Center has been reserved for March 1,

2011. Peace Corps expects that RPCV groups will organize events in their localities (including partnerships with universities and NGOs who have had a role in Peace Corps' history), and the National PC Association (NPCA) will play a large role in publicizing the events. Peace Corps' ambitious goal is that the 50th anniversary will be celebrated in all 137 countries (currently, 73) in which Peace Corps has ever served. News will be posted on NPCA's website, and Amigos will keep you informed via Yachaspa, emails and our website. Be prepared: A large number of volunteers will be needed, since Peace Corps staff can only play a limited role, and, of course, fundraising is a top priority. For the conceptual plan, see NPCA's blog: <http://peacecorpsconnect.typepad.com/peacecorpspolyglot/>

PC/BOLIVIA REUNION SET FOR AUGUST 17- 20

Ed Stoll, Bolivia 67-70

Lee Arbuckle, Bolivia Staff 68-71

Sign-ups for the **reunion of Bolivia Volunteers and Staff from the 1960's through 1971** and their friends and families have continued to grow. We expect more than 100 at the three-day event at the Estes Park Center of the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park, Colorado starting the evening of Friday, August 17 and ending at noon on Monday, August 20, 2007.

Our block of reserved rooms is full, but if you would like to join us, there is still the possibility of space at the YMCA and, if not there, in a hotel or motel in the area. So if you are interested in re-connecting with your Peace Corps Volunteers, Staff and friends who served in Bolivia, contact us by e-mail: e_stoll@sbcglobal.net

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patt Behler
514 Belair
Jefferson City, MO 65109
573-635-0608
pabehler@socket.net

Ray Brown
510 E. 5th
Fulton, MO 65251
573-642-5429
brownr@westminster-mo.edu

Jeff Fletcher
Treasurer
113 10th St. NE
Washington, DC 20002
202-546-0817
jeff_tara@comcast.net

Gayle Hartmann
2224 E. 4th Street
Tucson, AZ 85719
520-325-6974
gayleh@theriver.com

Diane Hibino
Kantuta Awards Coordinator
5051 Waukesha Rd
Bethesda, MD 20816
301-263-9876
trihib2@earthlink.net

Stephen Paul Jacobs
Secretary
8317 Freret Street
New Orleans, LA 70118
504-862-0597
spjacobs@tulane.edu

Gloria Levin
**President &
Membership Coordinator**
7327 University Ave.
Glen Echo, MD 20812
301-320-5068
GloriaLevin@verizon.net

Franklin Salveson
Flat #E 59/F, Grand Promenade
38 Tai Hong Street
Sai Wan Ho, Hong Kong.
852-6075-1631
franklinsalveson@gmail.com

Jane Wolff Taylor
4 Sunset Terrace
Kensington, CA 94707
510-526-4655.
juana4@juno.com

BOARD-APPOINTED POSITIONS

Don Beck
Webmaster
donbeck@cox.net

Greg Bocquet
Yachaspa Co-Editor
yachaspa@gmail.com

Lindsey Parramore Oliver
Yachaspa Co-Editor
yachaspa@gmail.com

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.



THE KANTUTA FUND



by Diane Hibino, Kantuta Coordinator
Bolivia 67-70; Staff 91-96

In 1991, Amigos de Bolivia y Peru 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 Peru. Funds are raised from (tax deductible) donations from Amigos members and others. Donations can be made by sending a check payable to “Amigos de Bolivia y Peru” to Amigos de Bolivia y Peru, 7327 University Ave., Glen Echo, MD 20812. Please include a note (or complete the Membership Form in this newsletter) 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. You will receive a verification for tax deduction purposes.

Originally, the Fund supported local NGOs, but, since late 2005, it has been used exclusively to support current PCVs’ projects in their communities. PC/Peru was first, awarded \$1,000 in late 2005, which, in turn, funded three Kantuta grants to PCVs. In June, I met with Marko Dolan, PC/Peru Program and Training Officer (PTO) on his recent trip to Washington, DC to discuss the newly prepared grants manual for Peru PCVs and PC/Peru’s system for the management of small project grants. Marko said that Kantuta funding is a simple and effective way to help community projects. In July, Amigos’ Board of Directors approved an additional award of \$500 to Peru’s Kantuta program.

PC/Bolivia used its first Kantuta grant, awarded July 2006 at \$1,000, to support seven PCV projects; in March 2007, an additional \$1,000 was awarded. Recipients of Kantuta mini-grants are required to provide interim and final reports and account for all funds awarded. The awards and their outcomes are communicated to the membership via *Yachaspa*.

KANTUTA CON CAFÉ

Stephen Paul Jacobs
Bolivia 63-66

In late June, I was sitting in the Alexander’s Café near the plaza in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. I was telling my Colorado friends that when I was a Peace Corps Volunteer in the ‘60s, we could never have imagined a Starbucks-like coffee shop with wireless Internet. I boasted/complained that we had none of the communications conveniences that are now available, and mail from home was a real treat. “I couldn’t help overhearing your conversation” piped in Heidi Gerling, sitting at the next table and smiling warmly.

It turned out that she was a current Volunteer, working in the Oriente some days travel from Santa Cruz. She was in town for a meeting and was about to return to her site. When I mentioned Amigos, her smile became that much more enthusiastic. She had received a Kantuta grant as seed money for her “Cocinas Mejoradas” project. The funds paid for promotional materials and brought an NGO expert to her village to demonstrate the use of rocket stoves (which uses wood very efficiently), solar ovens, and other solar devices. Building on the Kantuta grant, she was able to obtain additional funds for the purchase of the fuel efficient units which were then sold to the members of the community at cost. As Heidi said, “If they buy it, they value it.” Her parting words: “I was definitely grateful. Kantuta funds made this all possible.”

Peace Corps/Bolivia recently funded the following three PCV projects, using Kantuta funds.

**Doreen Salazar, Program and Training Officer,
PC/Bolivia**

FISH FARM DEVELOPMENT - Tarija



Agriculture PCV Andrew McCown applied for \$35.26 to support the purchase of fish for a fish farming project in Salitral-Campo Verde. With the help of the Volunteer, the community in the last year has implemented a community fish farming project to produce pacú. It is a pilot project and promises to be the first of its kind in the municipality of Yacuiba. Recently, the community completed purchase of materials needed to implement the project including fish, nets, and fish food, and held a weekend-long workshop on fish farming with the help of la Universidad Gabriel Rene Moreno's "El Prado" located just outside Santa Cruz de la Sierra. As with most projects that find themselves in their beginning stages, there were some problems along the way. Specifically a large number of fish died in transit; these funds will be used to purchase 400 pacu fish to replace them and support this pilot project.

ROCKET STOVES - Santa Cruz

Integrated Education PCV Katie Conant applied for \$188.92 to implement a project to demonstrate the advantages of an alternative cook stove which has the potential to significantly reduce excessive wood burning, and associated environmental and respiratory health impacts in the community. Currently, nearly all cooking done in the community of La Laja is done with wood on 3-stone stoves or k'onchas made of mud. Lajeños walk up to an hour and a half to bring back enough firewood to last 4-5 days. Many have noted the lack of efficiency in their current cooking methods and the declining availability of firewood in the area. Funds will be used to purchase and transport one rocket stove, for a workshop, and for transportation of experts to the workshop. In Saipina, a similar demonstration led to 150 families purchasing the stoves, so we are hopeful about the positive impact of this demonstration.



BEEKEEPING - Chuquisaca

Agriculture PCV Erin Bingham applied for \$122.51 for an Agricultural Cooperative in San Mauro de Tomina. The funds were used to start a pilot project for apiculture in the community of Tomina, specifically to buy two modern bee boxes and apiculture tools, which the Volunteer has used to educate a group of six farmers interested in apiculture. A board of directors was formed, and the Volunteer has been teaching both practical and theoretical apiculture classes with these materials. Enough interest has been created by this pilot project that the farmers are putting together a larger beekeeping project.

NEWS FROM BOLIVIA

Compiled by your editors from AP and other news sources.

EVO WINS BATTLE OVER FIFA BAN ON HIGH-ALTITUDE PLAY

FIFA, football's international governing body, announced a ban in May on World Cup Qualifying matches played over 2,500 m (8,200 ft). The ban, adopted under the guise of unfair advantage and concerns over visiting players' health, was felt as a personal insult in Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia, all with venues over the proposed limit.

Leading the protest against FIFA's decision was Bolivian president Evo Morales, who staged several high-profile matches in and around the Bolivian capital, including one match played at 6,000 m (19,700 ft). Morales scored the winning goal in the 15-minute match.

In the face of a unified protest from South American football clubs, FIFA relented in



July, increasing its altitude limit to 3,000 m (9,840ft). Although this still excludes La Paz, at an altitude of 3,600 m (11,800 ft), the Bolivian capital was granted an exception for the qualifying matches of the next World Cup in 2010.

SUCRE TO REGAIN CAPITAL STATUS?

The committee charged with rewriting the Bolivian Constitution has proposed redesignating the city of Sucre as the national capital. Home of the Supreme Court, Sucre was Bolivia's capital until

1898, when La Paz gained its status as the seat of the presidency and legislature.

Although Sucre was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1992, protesters in La Paz voiced their opposition to the city being named capital. With much of President Morales' support coming from the Western highlands, the proposed move to the east is seen as a threat to the president's power.

BOLIVIA TO RE-NATIONALIZE RAILROADS

As part of his continued effort to reverse the privatizations undertaken by his predecessor, President Evo Morales has announced his plan to regain control of the country's railroads, currently in the hands of operators for the United States and Chile.

No details of the terms of the transfer were given, though previous experience suggests there is little room for negotiation over the government's decision.

NEWS FROM PERÚ

Compiled by your editors from AP and other news sources.

CHANCES INCREASE FOR FREE TRADE DEAL WITH U.S.

In June, Peru became the first of four countries waiting for free-trade deals to reach agreement on new trade provisions implemented by the Democratic-led Congress after the November 2006 elections.

The additional provisions reflect Democrats' criticism of the Bush administration's trade agreements, focusing on guarantees for workers' rights and protection of the environment.

With Peru's agreement to these additional conditions, the approval of a free-trade agreement with the U.S. is expected to come without any further delays.



MACHU PICCHU TRAIN FINED FOR ILLEGAL MONOPOLY

Trans-Andean Railways, the company that owns PeruRail, was fined \$185,000 in July for operating as an illegal monopoly.

Currently the only train operator serving Machu Picchu, PeruRail rents its trains and equipment from the Peruvian government, which operated the service until the 1990s.

Peruvian antitrust investigators determined the company was in breach of its contract by refusing to sublet its trains to other operators. Tourists will likely be very happy with the verdict, which promises to bring competition and, hence, lower prices to the popular tourist route.

AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED FOR CUSCO, LIMA

Cusco airport, a notoriously tricky place for a landing, is to receive a satellite landing system and improved runway lights to facilitate more landings at the mountainous site. These changes will allow same-day connections to Cusco for travellers arriving in Lima in the evening, by facilitating nighttime landings. Similar improvements are being planned for Jorge Chavez International in Lima, whose runways are often closed due to the everpresent fog in Lima's seaside capital.

Yachaspa spotlights three Amigos members who share their perspectives on the impact of their Peace Corps experiences on their lives. Special thanks to Jennifer Beer, Bolivia 03-05, for selecting interviewees and compiling all three RPCV Profiles featured in this issue.

NANCY NEAHER MAAS TARIJA/TARATA, BOLIVIA 1964-66



Assignment:

University Teaching in Tarija and Weaving Cooperative Facilitator in Tarata

Languages learned: Spanish, Quechua

Current Residence: Ithaca, New York

Current Occupation:
Art Historian and Artist

Language:

I occasionally get to use my Spanish, but my Quechua has taken a deep dive. Although I did bumble through a Cuzco market recently with some remnants of Quechua.

Remembered local expressions:

“Siga no mas” and “Macanudo”

What is the most important thing you learned in PC?

Hands-down, the most directly important

thing I gained from Peace Corps was a career goal. I became an art historian specializing in “non-Western” arts, which was not taught when I was in college.

Although Africa became my doctoral focus, I have a minor in Pre-Columbian American art. I owe my fascination with the arts, crafts, and architecture of the Andes to my time spent in Bolivia. Subsequent graduate study overseas in Nigeria never gave me the depth of experience that I got from those unstructured days in Bolivia. The magnitude of, then, unheralded achievements, spurred me to go into university teaching. Hopefully, I’m enlightening undergrads about the accomplishments of other civilizations. I seem to have chosen the education route for the long haul, as I recently “retired” after 30+ years of spreading the word.

In my current profession of practicing artist (www.nmaas.com), I frequently draw on images from Andean America. Women weavers, for example, continue to inspire me. A recent trip to Peru helped refresh my impressions for an upcoming series on Machu Picchu.

On a wider scale, my thinking about global politics has been deepened by the reality of living two years in Bolivia. This knowledge often incites personal anxiety as governmental decisions are made which contradict my own understanding of what works.

Book you’d recommend:

My favorite book for Inca aficionados is not an academic one, but Hugh Thomson’s *The White Rock*, reviewed in a recent *Yachaspa*.

ROBERTA "BJ" WARREN PAMPA DE COMAS, PERU 1962-1964

Assignment:

Urban Community Development

Current Location: Washington, DC

Current Occupation:

Management Consultant

Reason for Joining PC:

I thought I could be of service.

Housing Situation:

Esteras or woven straw houses, dirt floor; our water came from barrels, no electricity. We had the only latrine on the block.

Favorite local food: Ceviche

Most remembered saying/dicho:

"Si hay, pero no tenemos."

Favorite Peruvian music: La Marinera

Favorite memory from PC:

At the end of my Peace Corps service, I was asked to help deliver "little libraries" to very, very rural communities in the Andes in Apurimac. The memories of the inaugurations of these libraries are something I will never forget. The people were so accommodating and appreciative.

Least favorite memory from PC:

I had to throw stones at the dogs in order to walk down the street.

Interesting Story:

We were working with a local service committee, and one of their first projects was to build a jail. This group really wanted to become affiliated with the International Lions club organization. All looked like it was a go, and then the

Lima Lions said, oh no, not Comas! It is not that we have anything against them, but our wives would have to associate with their wives, etc. The Comas service group decided they really did not want to become members of any Lions club and said they were going to call themselves, "Club John F. Kennedy, Service to Comas."

**What do you remember most about being a PCV?**

How warm and welcoming Peruvians are. How supportive and saddened they were at the death of John F. Kennedy.

What do you miss most about Peru?

As usual, the people and the food.

What is the most important thing you learned in PC?

That we are members of a global community and do not have all the answers.

What are customs you learned in country that you still use today?

Dancing, hand shaking, abrazos, Pisco Sours

In what ways has PC impacted your career?

As a result of the PCV work done in Peru,

I was hired on as the first female former PCV to work on the Peace Corps Staff overseas (Dominican Republic). Peace Corps is also the reason I have been involved with International Development at the company where I work now, Management Systems International (MSI).

What other interesting places have you visited post PC?

Working in the evaluation field of international development, I have been very fortunate to travel extensively in Central and South America, Indonesia, and Africa. For fun, I have trekked in Nepal, completed a circumambulation of Mt. Kalash in Tibet, and visited Vietnam, China, Greece, and Cambodia.

Do you have any recommendations to prospective PCVs?

Learn the language, make host country friends, and travel in the region instead of going back home for vacation.

A book related to PC service that I'd recommend: "Sarge"**How do you keep connected with other RPCVs?**

Our Peru IV group is having a reunion in Chicago this fall -- October 26 & 27th. As a result of a celebration of the 25th anniversary of Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic, I was part of a group that organized a non-profit group which funds educational activities for low income Dominicans in the DR. This group is called Fondo Quisqueya. I am currently a member of the board; we fund about 40 scholarships each year. It is amazing how a relatively small amount of money (each scholarship is about \$300 US) can help change someone's life.

MATTHEW KENNEDY*MIZQUE, COCHABAMBA, BOLIVIA 2004-2006***Assignment:**

I worked with Peace Corps Bolivia's Basic Sanitation program, focusing on bathroom construction and operation and maintenance courses for potable water systems.

Language:

I learned to speak Spanish and every dirty phrase imaginable in Quechua.

Current Location: Chicago, Illinois

Current Occupation:

Construction Management

Reason for Joining Peace Corps:

My reason for joining PC is pretty simple and not very noble. I grew up, worked, and went to college in the same town. I figured the Peace Corps would free me from small town life. I never realized how much I would benefit from the experiences I had with PC and how we would affect other people's lives.

Housing Situation:

During the 10 week PC training, I lived with a wonderful family in the Chulla/Matenda area of Quillacollo, Cochabamba. When I arrived in country, my Spanish skills were virtually non-existent. I would spend a couple of hours after dinner each night chatting with my host sisters. We would gossip about the other volunteers and they would try to teach me about Bolivian women.

Favorite local food:

Pique macho was my favorite Bolivian dish and a close second being pollo con



jugo. My favorite beverage, of course, is chicha. I would call myself somewhat of a connoisseur of chicha and the best I found was in my site, Mizque. The region of Mizque is well known for its chicha, but I would have to say the best was made by Victor Sanchez in Thaqo Thago Bajo just outside Mizque. It was well filtered, not too bitter nor acidic, and not too sweet. Victor never added puro and never served chicha that was too fermented.

Least favorite in country food:

That would be a tie between the bowl of boiled potatoes and that pig skin/fat combination that made me nauseous every time I had to eat it.

A good/bad memory from PC:

I loved to run off into the hills on my motorcycle for an hour or two each day. It helped me blow off steam and visit communities at the same time. But motorcycles are prohibited by PC for a reason and I have the scars and lingering joint injuries as testimony. It was funny that the PC medical office never questioned any of my "bicycle" accidents.

Interesting story:

Joe Lowe from B-32 and I decided to hitchhike from Mizque, Cochabamba to Samaipata, Santa Cruz for a PC group

despedida. A trip that would have taken 10 hours on a bus turned into a crazy 23-hour fiasco involving taxis, camiones, buses and a fair amount of walking and waiting around. On the upside, we did get to see a large part of Bolivia on the Old Road to Santa Cruz that people don't usually get to see since the buses usually travel at night. On the trip back I took the bus, but got the hitchhiking itch again. I did the same trip on my own via the back of a truck. It took just as long.

Most remembered saying/dicho:

"Si, No?" I still use this phrase in English sometimes and it confuses the heck out of people.

What do you miss most about Bolivia?

There are so many things I miss about Bolivia, but if I had to pick one thing, it would be the friendliness of the people. In the rural areas of Bolivia, it always impressed me how many strangers would go out of their way to say hello or give directions. It was amazing how many people opened their doors and offered food and conversation. In Chicago, my neighbors are startled when I wish them a good morning.

How do you keep connected with other RPCVs?

During my service, MySpace.com became popular. A bunch of volunteers started pages, so I started one for PC Bolivia. It has links to about 160 volunteers' MySpace pages, including a few from the 1960's. It also includes some information for volunteers en route to Bolivia and current volunteers. The link for that site is www.myspace.com/pcvsbolivia.

PEACE CORPS/BOLIVIA: COUNTRY UPDATE

Javier L. Garza

Country Director, PC Bolivia

This is one of the most interesting times to be living in Bolivia. The Presidency of Evo Morales has pledged to forever (and finally) change the make up of the Bolivian government to reflect the pre-Spanish invasion reality of over 500 years ago. This is a tall order. The Constituent Assembly that has been at work for nearly a year is supposed to agree upon and present a new constitution by August.

I tell our volunteers that we have front row seats to this changing democracy and culture. Redefining a country to recognize the scores of indigenous groups that existed before Columbus, while awarding them autonomy and equal representation, is no small task.

The Assembly is meeting in Sucre and is a largely interesting cultural and democratic exercise. There have been fistcuffs and passionate disagreements followed by embracing factions when they agree on even the most miniscule of things. The political reality is such that the enabling law calls for a 2/3 vote approving measures, but a 2/3 result is tough to achieve.

The President's MAS (Movimiento Al Socialismo) party/movement has just over 50% of the delegates. Other than MAS, there are fourteen other parties and movements represented in the assembly. It is no wonder that garnering a 2/3 vote on any proposition is a daunting task which has mired the assembly in discord and disagreement.

A glimpse into the draft preamble of the constitution proposed by the MAS is indeed a view of the vision they have for the new Bolivia:

The Bolivian people, with its plural composition, expressed in the entirety

of Bolivians, pertaining to urban communities made up of different social classes and the indigenous peoples, original nations, campesino, intercultural and Afro-Bolivian peoples, have manifested their will to reconstruct the identities of the indigenous nations and peoples whose historic and cultural pre-existence has suffered from a permanent exclusion during colonial and republican life, having had ignored their rights to ancestral territories, institutions, judicial systems, politics, languages and culture.

Each of the fifteen groups represented has its own version of the vision statement.

There are several sticky wickets that have yet to be decided. While the indigenous groups all will be assured representation and autonomy, the MAS is vehemently opposed to a states' rights kind of measure that would grant autonomy for each of the nine departments. Clearly, the departments in the media luna -- Pando, Beni, Santa Cruz and Tarija -- are demanding this, since they largely oppose the MAS. However, the government does not want to give the departments these powers. It will be interesting to see just how this plays out.

The Draft Article 5, Principles and Supreme Values is quite interesting:

The state assumes and promotes as ethical-moral principles of a plural society: ama sua, ama llulla, ama qhella, nitaq sapa (don't be a thief, liar, lazy or individualist), Sumaj Qamaña (live well), ñandereko (harmonious life), Teko Kavi (good life), Ivi Maraei (dreaming society) y qhapaj ñan (noble path or life).

Language is also a cultural binder but in the draft, all languages are listed. It will be interesting to see if more than one language will be required to be taught in the public schools. You might recall that when the administration came in,



Photo courtesy of Dave Dolson

they were going to require all diplomats to be able to speak Spanish and either Quechua or Amara before they got their appointment. Here's the draft constitutional article on languages:

The official languages of the united, plurinational, communitarian state are Spanish and all the languages of the indigenous people and original nations: Aymara, Araona, Zamuco (Ayoreo), Baure, Bésiro, Canichana, Cavineño, Cayubaba, Chácobo, Chimán, Ese ejja, Guaraní, Guaras'we (Pauserna), Guarayu, Itonama, Leco, Machineri, Mojeño-trinitario, Mojeño-ignaciano, Moré, Masetén, Movima, Pacawara, Quechua, Maropa (Reyesano), Sirionó, Tacana, Tapieté, Toromona, Puquina (Uru-chipaya), Weenhayek, Yaminawa, Yuki, Yuracaré.

Peace Corps continues to teach Spanish, Quechua and some Guaraní.

Regardless of what happens with the new constitution, it is clear that a new country is in the making. Peace Corps continues to work in the county, often in MAS led communities and with their blessing. At that level, we are doing okay. Let us hope that this continues to be the case when the new definitions for Bolivia take place. Vamos a ver. This is Bolivia, and just like the climate can change, so can everything else here...and quickly.

PEACE CORPS/PERÚ: COUNTRY UPDATE

Michael Hirsh
Country Director, Peace Corps/Peru
mhirsh@pe.peacecorps.gov

Saludos de Lima, which is currently gray and drizzly. Time flies, and we now have our ninth group in training, with Peru #10 scheduled to arrive to begin training in September. We moved earlier this year to a new training center in Chaclacayo, about 40 minutes east of Lima. It's a big improvement from the previous facility in Santa Eulalia.

In April, we celebrated the fifth anniversary of Peace Corps' return to Peru. We had a large tent set up on our lawn, surrounded by tables at which Volunteers displayed items from their communities and shared information about their projects. A large crowd of government officials, NGO representatives, Embassy and USAID officials, former Volunteers, and other friends of PC joined Volunteers and staff for the occasion. This was another indication of how well Peace Corps is appreciated in Peru.

We have received approval from PC headquarters to initiate a fifth program area next year – Water and Sanitation.

The current Peruvian government is making water and sanitation a top priority, plus local governments are increasingly investing in this area. A number of Volunteers have already been



involved in latrine building and water conservation projects, and by making this a formal program, we expect to be able to have a highly positive impact in this sector. With the new program, we will also be expanding our numbers. By 2009, we expect our Volunteer contingent to average 160 to 170.

With our expansion into Arequipa earlier this year, we have Volunteers serving in nine departments. The Arequipa contingent has grown from one to four, and we will be assigning four of the new

Volunteers from Peru #9 there, all to indigenous areas in the Colca valley.

We recently had two inspection teams from headquarters, and both concluded that our program is strong, and our Volunteers are doing good work. Frankly, it's an excellent time to be working in Peru. The macroeconomic growth of the past five years has been strong and sustained enough that everyone seems to want to participate. The sense of hopelessness that one finds in so many third-world countries has been rapidly dissipating. Young people want to learn English and gain vocational skills. Artisan groups want to set up websites and learn how to export. People in remote areas want to augment their traditional production with beekeeping, fish farming, and other higher value crops. Of course, fulfilling such expectations creates challenges to the Peruvian government leadership, and there will be bumps in the road, but it is exciting being here during a time when so much is happening and so much can be accomplished.

As always, we invite you to visit our offices when you are in Lima, and meet our staff and Volunteers.

USPS CUTBACKS THREATEN INTERNATIONAL AID PROGRAMS

In May the U.S. Postal Service eliminated International Surface Mail. USPS now offers airmail service only, thus tripling the shipping costs that churches, schools, parents, and RPCV groups must pay to send books and supplies overseas.

Friends of Malawi and other organizations are protesting the USPS decision and have set up online petitions to Congress and the Postal Service urging a restoration of surface mail service and rates.

The petition to Congress is at <http://www.petitiononline.com/zikomo/petition.html>; the USPS petition is at <http://www.petitiononline.com/USPSISM/petition.html>.

BEHIND THE NUMBERS: AMIGOS MEMBERSHIP

Many Amigos members have belonged to the National Peace Corps Association (and its predecessor organization) for many years. Assuming the NPCA membership numbers are a rough indication of length of membership, the longest NPCA/Amigos members would be Jim and Zarela Hamill (#13881 -- 5 digits). They are followed by #16272, Judy and Ron Inskeep; #18401, Bob and Susan Knox, and #19651, Zoe Rae. In contrast, the newest NPCA/Amigos member is numbered #986460 (6 digits). Coincidentally, all are Peru RPCVs, except for Bolivia RPCV Zoe.

Gloria Levin
GloriaLevin@verizon.net

Summertime. IS the living easy? You wouldn't know by Amigos which is buzzing along. Many thanks to Yachaspa co-editors, Lindsey Parramore Oliver and Greg Bocquet, and those who submitted articles, for another splendid issue.

I am pleased (an understatement if there ever was one) to announce that Jeff Fletcher has agreed (and was just elected by Amigos' Board) to be our Treasurer, beginning August 1. This position has been filled on an ad hoc basis for over a year, with duties spread across several Board members. Now all the duties will be consolidated in one person, Jeff, who has proved to be a smart, thoughtful, meticulous and always helpful Board member. He replaces past Treasurer Franklin Salvesson who conscientiously prepared our 2007 budget, 2006 financial reports and our IRS tax return, despite his relocation to and establishment of his new life in Hong Kong. Three cheers, Franklin. To the many Amigos members I have been "coaxing" over the last year to be the treasurer: thank Jeff for your reprieve. You're off the hook!! On the other hand, Jeff's former position is now vacant -- Communications Coordinator -- providing policy oversight to our Yachaspa co-editors and our webmaster. Volunteers? (Remember, once a volunteer, always...)

Another happy announcement is the July 21 wedding of Michael Hirsh (PC/Peru Country Director) and Carmen Araceli Zelarayán (aka Aracely) at the Club Náutico in San Bartolo, on the ocean, near Lima. In an email sent shortly before "tying the knot," Michael reported they were expecting 130 wedding guests, and he had total enlightenment as to why one should (but they didn't) hire a wedding

planner since thousands of details are involved. I met Aracely last year when she accompanied Michael on a trip to the U.S. to meet his family, at which time I introduced her to the profoundly American cultural phenomenon of brunch at a deli. Congratulations, Michael and Aracely!

Another happy announcement, for Michael and PC/Peru, was the vote by Amigos' Board to provide \$500 of Kantuta funds for use by Peru PCVs in community-based projects. The Kantuta/Peru program has been inactive since early 2006, due to funds being available from another source to support PCV projects. However, that other source is time limited. PC/Peru staff has reaffirmed its appreciation for the flexibility that our Kantuta program provides for awarding rapid mini-grants and is reviving its Kantuta program -- Marko Dolan (Peru PTO) having recently prepared a grants manual for use by Peru PCVs. See the report on Kantuta/Bolivia in this issue and please make a donation (tax deductible) to either or both of our Kantuta grants program.

Incidentally, news of Ken Goodson - former Acting Country Director of Peru -- is that he recently left the post of Mongolia CD to become CD of PC/Romania.

I represented Amigos de Bolivia y Peru at the June annual meeting of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), NPCA's semi-annual Board meeting and the annual meeting of leaders of NPCA's affiliate groups. There, I heard a sketchy outline of events for Peace Corps' 50th anniversary celebration, all in 2011. PC hopes that the 50th will be commemorated in all countries where PCVs have ever served. The biggest event will be June 23-26, 2011 on the National

Mall in Washington, DC, during the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. (See article on p.1).

A selection of items from the NPCA meetings:

- PC is serving in 73 countries, with new countries being added. Of 7800 PCVs, roughly 1/3 are assigned to the Inter-America/Pacific, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Europe/Asia regions, respectively.
- RPCV Ron Tschetter, PC Director, has an initiative to recruit as PCVs persons over age 50. Assisting is AARP, whose head is an RPCV, proving yet again that we RPCVs are everywhere.
- On July 26, Congressional hearings were to be held on Sen. Chris Dodd's Volunteer Empowerment Act proposal; among the provisions of the legislative proposal is \$10 million to fund RPCVs' "third goal" (global education) activities. Another RPCV, Rep. Sam Farr, has introduced companion legislation on the House of Representatives side.
- The Madison (WI) affiliate group awarded NPCA \$10,000 (from proceeds of its sale of PC calendars) to underwrite costs of NPCA staff travel, so more of its meetings can be held outside of Washington, DC. Accordingly, next year's meetings will be hosted by NorCal in San Francisco in early October.
- NPCA pledged to provide more user friendliness in its online procedures for joining or renewing with NPCA (and affiliates). Music to my ears is the promise to create a method for members, when paying their dues, to direct affiliate dues to our bank account, bypassing the current procedure of dues being paid to NPCA and, months later, rebated to us.
- Concerns were expressed by many affiliate group leaders that recent organizational steps (including new bylaw provisions) are eroding NPCA's identity

as an RPCV and staff membership organization, resulting in less focus on and service to member groups.

- The current rallying cry for NPCA is “virtual community.” That is, NPCA has cast its lot with new communications methods for social networking – blogs, podcasts, etc. A \$10,000 challenge grant from an NPCA advisor was matched by donations from 29 affiliate groups, thus funding the next steps in creating this virtual community. In addition, an online survey of affiliate groups detailed the communication methods now in use to communicate with their members.

- Peace Corps is tightening ethics guidelines as they relate to PC personnel and PCVs, resulting in some negative impacts on NPCA affiliate groups.

NPCA's membership has been flat for three years, and affiliate groups are also struggling to find new members and retain old ones. A major deterrent to recruitment is PC's apparent decision to no longer provide NPCA information about PCVs – even those who sign privacy waivers – who are ending their service. Instead, we only know about (the few) COS-ing volunteers who take the initiative to join (free for the first year). To assist recruitment efforts, NPCA will

release several of its RPCV databases to those affiliate groups who sign a mutual database sharing agreement, in return for which we would provide NPCA data about those of our members who are not NPCA members which NPCA presumably would use to solicit them as members and donors. Amigos' Board is debating how we can protect your privacy via a procedure for our members to opt in/out of sharing all or part of your contact information with NPCA. More to come on this soon, but if you have thoughts (or prior experience) with this, let me know.

I always share a yapa (a little bonus) at the end of my messages (a shameless attempt to entice you to read to the very end). Here's your yapa: The Inter-America Foundation (IAF) is “an independent foreign assistance agency of the United States government” ... created “to promote self-help development by awarding grants directly...” in the region. Its operational costs are supported, in part, by Congressional appropriation. IAF publishes in English and Spanish *Grassroots Development: Journal of the Inter-American Foundation* which is available in glossy copy with gorgeous photos. Subscribe by emailing

publications@iaf.gov or view them (as well as IAF's annual and evaluation reports) online (in English, Spanish and Portuguese) at www.iaf.gov. All you members with tales to tell of your Andean development experiences and philosophies, the journal encourages submissions. The current issue (vol. 28, no. 1) focuses on Latin America's African descendants, estimated at 150 million. IAF's Andean expert (Peru RPCV) Kevin Healy, sent me vol. 27, no. 1 (2006) including his article on his former PC cooperatives supervisor, Aquiles Lanao. He details the history of the Lanao family's work in the Ayacucho region via FINCA Peru. In “Ayacucho's Super Savers: Village Banking Pioneers in the Peruvian Andes,” Kevin calls Aquiles (along with his late wife, Morena) a “grassroots visionary” for creating a network of bancos comunales that have empowered women in “an impoverished and violence-torn corner of the Andes...” Mike Wolfson (Peru 64-66) has told me that he had encouraged PC to hire Aquiles, the first host country national professional hired by PC full time, worldwide.

Wear sunscreen (SPF 15+), Gloria

GLOBAL RESCUE LISTS TIPS FOR TRAVELERS

Global Rescue, an NPCA partner organization that provides best-in-class emergency medical, evacuation, and security services to overseas travelers, offers the following travel tips:

- Book tickets for arrival during daylight hours;
- Register with the Department of State website before leaving the U.S.;
- Provide family and friends with a copy of your passport and itinerary;
- Learn local customs before leaving home;
- Travel with a rubber doorstop to block your hotel door from the inside;
- Request a 2nd floor room near the elevator or a 3rd floor room in a hotel corner;
- Know the location of hotel exits;
- Use different taxis every day or hire a hotel-recommended driver;
- Use a water purifier where appropriate; and
- Have an in-country contact that knows your itinerary and will check up on you.

Global Rescue, a membership organization, has an exclusive relationship with the physicians of Johns Hopkins Hospital. The company responds on short notice to medical emergencies 24/7/365. For more information on Global Rescue, visit <http://www.globalrescue.com>

FUJIMORI: EL ULTIMO SAMURAI

Greg Bocquet, Peru 03-05

Former Peruvian president Alberto Fujimori, who fled Peru in disgrace in 2000 after 10 years in office, has done his best to avoid suffering any consequences of his alleged illegal behavior while president. His efforts to evade extradition and trial in Peru have met many dead ends, with resolution finally resting on the shoulders of Chilean courts.

After a bribery scandal in 2000 saw Vladimir Montesinos, Fujimori's Intelligence Chief, caught red-handed with a suitcase full of Nuevos Soles ready to bribe public officials, the president left the country for Japan (where he is also a citizen). He lived in self-imposed exile while prosecutors of the new government brought charges against him both for corruption and human-rights abuses perpetrated during his crusade against the Shining Path guerrillas who terrorized Peru in the 80s and 90s.

November 2005

As his supporters in Peru campaigned for him to run again for president, Fujimori returned from Japan ahead of the 2006 elections. Landing in Chile, he was placed under house arrest while the Chilean courts decided on Peru's request to extradite him in order to bring him to trial.



June 2006

Around six months later, the Japanese "People's New Party" offered Fujimori a place on their ticket for elections to the upper house of the Japanese Diet. Fujimori accepted the offer, while Chile's government asserted that his candidacy will not bear any weight in the pending extradition request.

July 2007

Fujimori's campaign as "the Last Samurai" failed in July, as his party received a mere 2.2%. Despite the recommendation

by a Chilean Supreme Court Prosecutor to extradite the former leader, the judge deciding the case refused to order his extradition. The case now moves to Chile's Supreme Court.

Although the aforementioned Chilean judge made his decision based on a "lack of evidence", Peruvian government lawyers, as well as the Peruvian public, continue to campaign heavily for his extradition. Anti-Fujimori protests in Lima this year indicate the popular support for bringing the former president to justice.

With the decision resting ultimately in the hands of Peru's sometimes-antagonistic neighbor to the south, it is hard to foresee the outcome of what is now but a waiting game.

ATTENTION MAPMAKERS!

Chris Delcher (RPCV El Salvador, 1998-2000) seeks the maps and mapmakers of the Peace Corps from around the world. Many PCVs are trained to make community maps, ranging from the hand-drawn variety that live in tattered journals to sophisticated digital maps created with Geographic Information Systems. No matter the size or sophistication, if you have a map (or even a picture of you next to a map that you have created) or know an RPCV that does, please contact Chris at cddelcher@comcast.net. You can visit the growing collection at www.chrisdelcher.carbonmade.com



PC WIKI UP AND RUNNING

<http://www.PeaceCorpsWiki.com> is now up and running. Peace Corps Wiki is a collaborative project whose goal is to create a free, interactive and up-to-date source of information about serving as a volunteer with the U.S. Peace Corps. Anyone is welcome to edit, add, or change any entry, or start a new one. The beginning entries and original outline of Peace Corps Wiki were copied directly from the official Peace Corps website. Also, the Welcome Books for each country were turned into a wiki as the starting point for each country.

MY BRUSH WITH THE LAW

Frank Keim, Bolivia 66-68

It was just after Gay, my site mate, and I were on our way to a Sunday soccer game in Tiquina de San Pedro, Bolivia, that I was arrested and thrown in the *calabozo* (jail) for being a Communist spy. I was ordered out of town within 48 hours!

The town mayor, Miguel Navajas, came knocking at our humble faded-green door, distraught, talking about the failure of his potato crop. He had heard that I had some new hybrid potatoes (for use in demonstration plots) and asked me to sell him a bag.

After repeatedly explaining to Miguel, who was becoming increasingly agitated, that the potatoes had all been sold to farmers in the surrounding countryside who had already paid the Peace Corps for them, he exploded.

He burst out with the accusation that I was working with the *Indios*, that I was not being cooperative with the local officials, and I was performing seditious acts. And that I was, heaven forbid, a *comunista!*

“¡Manos para arriba!” “Hands up, you’re under arrest!” The drunken lieutenant was snarling at me.

Staggering drunkenly, he commanded three soldiers to bayonet their rifles and take me by force, if necessary, to the guardhouse. I could see that the soldiers, who were Aymara Indians and whom I had come to know over the past year, were reluctant. I continued to argue until he began to visibly foam at the mouth and squall red-faced at the soldiers to take firing positions and prepare to shoot me! He started his countdown.

“¡Uno!” The soldiers instinctively raised their rifles.

“¡Dos!” They placed themselves in a firing position.

A split second before the lieutenant spat out his third command to fire, Gay suddenly leaped between me and the rifles. Instantly everything changed. The soldiers’ mouths gaped wide, uncomprehending, totally bewildered as to what to do. They lowered their rifles. The lieutenant was speechless.

For me, Gay’s act was decisive. I glared squarely at the lieutenant’s bleary red eyes, muttered three well-chosen expletives, and marched deliberately past him and over to the soldiers, telling them in Aymara to take me to the *calabozo* before the drunk lieutenant lost it completely.

THE LIEUTENANT INSTRUCTED THE SOLDIERS TO TAKE FIRING POSITIONS AND STARTED HIS COUNTDOWN.

Gay immediately went back to La Paz to get reinforcements. Eventually, Peace Corps officials were convinced of the seriousness of my predicament and agreed to come to my rescue the next day.

My sojourn in the jailhouse didn’t last as long as I’d anticipated. I was free to go home a half-hour later, scheduled to appear the next day at 2:00 p.m., when my case would be heard by the mayor. Whether or not Gay and I would be allowed to remain in Tiquina would then be decided.

At the trial he read a list of the charges I was accused of:

1. You have not been cooperating with

local town officials;

2. You have not been cooperating with military representatives in Tiquina;

3. You have been involving yourself in questionable activities in Tiquina and the surrounding communities;

4. It is our opinion that you are probably a Communist agent and as such are attempting to incite the Indians to revolt against the established government;

5. You are unmarried and are living with your woman in an unholy relationship;

6. You possess a firearm, which is against Bolivian law;

7. Furthermore, a number of weeks ago you discharged this weapon at a member of the community of San Pablo, nearly killing him as you performed this unspeakable act.

Wham! I almost lost my composure as he read off the final two charges. I had completely forgotten about the incident with the pistol. Peace Corps Volunteers were not supposed to have guns, since it was against the law for civilians to possess firearms. I had one and had indeed fired the pistol three months before in self-defense at a certain drunken co-worker’s feet, but I had never dreamed that it would have such serious repercussions.

I maintained my composure as the mayor ended his tirade of accusations, even as I saw the Peace Corps Director, Gino Baumann, wince hard at each of the last charges,

It wasn’t only the representatives of the Peace Corps and Bolivian government that helped my case; it was the favorable testimony given by the local chief of police, whose friendship I had cultivated over the past year. He placed his job on the line in defense of a transient gringo.

The decision was made to permit us to stay in Tiquina until the captain received

the official word from his boss, General Ovando Candia, the head of the Bolivian Armed Forces. His answer arrived the following day and stated emphatically that Gay and I could remain in Tiquina for as long as we wished.

Meanwhile, back at our site, when we were finally done with all of the *boberia* (foolishness) of the courtroom and were drifting slowly out the door, Gino and Lou Stelzner, our district Peace Corps

Representative, asked with the same thinly-veiled shock, "What about the gun?"

I could only point out that 90% of the other male volunteers had guns, so I should have the same right. In Tiquina, every campesino family had a loaded rifle and ammunition stashed under their floors. Besides, the shooting was indeed in self-defense. (That's another story).

In our little adobe house, we argued until sunset. Inevitably, they won. They took my handsome little .32 caliber collector's item and stored it in the darkest corner of the Peace Corps safe in La Paz until my final hour before departure from Bolivia. So be it.

EL CAMINANTE RETURNS TO TUTUMO

Rich Catanzaro, Peru 68-70

Over thirty years ago, I walked into a small town known as Tutumo, Tumbes, Peru. The town was located in what in Spanish was called "ceja de selva" or dry jungle. I was young and idealistic. I was fascinated by the hanging Spanish moss and the deep green color of the Cebo trees that dotted the dirt road leading into this small village. I had learned that the people were in the process of establishing a small farm co-op, and I wanted to assist, to be a person of value. An agronomist named Roger Cava Villacorte accompanied me, and together we proposed to the village that I establish myself there and help them with their objective.

Everyone voiced some concern or other about my moving into Tutumo. Where would I live? Who would feed me? How would I wash, and what would I do in the evenings when the sun went down? The decision was finally made. I would be given a place to sleep in the school house during the evening and eat at the home of the school teacher. She conveniently lived directly across from the school house. In the evenings, I could do whatever I wanted. This was one of my first Peace Corps adventures.

My nephew Georgy married a woman (José) from Callao, Peru (a major seaport just outside of Lima), and I learned that her family was from Tutumo. I explained that I had lived in Tutumo during my

earlier years, specifically during the time that her parents had lived there. She contacted her parents and asked if they knew of any Americans who had lived in Tutumo. They, of course, did and, furthermore, there had been only one. He was el caminante (the walker).

I had never heard of myself referred to as the walker before, so I had to reflect on why I had been so nicknamed. I did walk everywhere; that was true. The one event that clearly stood out, however, occurred during the rainy season. One of Roger's functions was to contract from the farmers an agreement as to what they would plant, where they would plant and when they would plant. The contractual arrangement would result in a loan and technical support from Roger's organization (Servicio de Investigacion y Promocion Agripecuaria, SIP) and the farming community with whom the arrangement was made.

Roger had not come out to the community in order to make arrangements for a loan during the time that I was there, and the rainy season was just about to start. I decided that I would hop on the back of the only truck in Tutumo to go to Zarumilla, the town where Roger was living. I wanted him to accompany me back to Tutumo and initiate the process of aid that Tutumo needed to get its crops in the ground that year. I waited at a Cebo

tree, a tree which I knew the truck would pass. No truck arrived. A small boy told me that the truck had broken down and that there would be no truck for at least a week.

I replied that I would walk. The young boy became concerned -- too dangerous and too far, he said. It's 35 kilometers from here. I insisted until the young boy said to wait where I was. His father had to go to Tumbes, the Capital. The three of us could walk there, and I could jump a público (a public car) from there to Zarumilla. I had never walked 35 kilometers before in the dead of night through the ceja de selva. The walk was not easy. The gentleman who accompanied me carried a live, screaming piglet in a knapsack on his back. The distance consumed all of my energy. On my arrival at Tumbes, I went to the gentleman's house and fell asleep on his floor. When I awoke, I went to the parada to catch the público to Zarumilla.

Later, I called José's mom and dad, and we spoke about the past, some 30 or more years ago. Of course, the gentleman with the piglet was a cousin. I had Christmas dinner with them in Peru, and I went from being el Caminante to el Tio. Was this all coincidence or destiny? I don't know, but that's the Peace Corps!

WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

JOURNEY TO THE K-1 VISA

Lindsey Eaves
Peru 03-05

The Peace Corps experience means different things to different people. For many, it is an experience they'll never forget, where they learned a different language, a new culture and visited new places. And for others, it was where they fell in love.

So what happens when you fall in love with a host country national (HCN)? Do the American borders just open up in the name of love? What if you want to get married in the States, what do you do? Is it a long process? What resources are available? And more importantly, does it work?

For an HCN, coming to the United States is not as easy as just buying a plane ticket and hopping aboard. A very extensive visa process needs to be followed. There are several different types of visas. Most people are familiar with or have at least heard of tourist (B-2), student (F-1) or work (H-1) visas. But for couples who are engaged and wish to get married in the States, there is a different kind of visa, a fiancé(e) or K-1 visa.

Obtaining a K-1 visa involves three major steps. The first step begins with the American citizen who needs to file a petition to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). This includes a fee, two petition forms (I-129F and G-325A), passport photos, proof of citizenship, proof that you are legally able to marry and proof that you have met your fiancé(e) within the last two years and have a legitimate relationship. Effective July 30, 2007, all fees will be increased, so be sure to check out www.uscis.gov for the most current information.



Lindsey and Jorge in Peru

The second and third steps involve the HCN. They need to fill out forms sent to them by the National Visa Center (NVC) and mail them to the U.S. consulate in their country. The third step requires more forms to be filled out, a medical exam and an interview at the U.S. consulate. More fees are paid here as well. The entire K-1 process generally takes about three months; but according to the USCIS website, wait times can be as long as six months.

RPCV Victoria Orton (Peru 04-06) met her fiancé Jair in June 2005 in Canchaque, Piura. After dating for almost two years, they decided to apply for a K-1 visa. She had already completed her two-year PC service and was back in the States when they sent the first packet of paperwork to USCIS. The visa was approved in less than four months with no difficulty. Jair arrived to the States in May 2007, and they were married in July.

RPCV Jen Beer (Bolivia 03-05) met her fiancé, Cesar, in January 2004 in Tarija,

a small town in Southern Bolivia. After dating for one and a half years, they got engaged and applied for the K-1 visa. Jen stayed in Bolivia throughout the entire visa process, and they also hired a lawyer to assist with all of the immigration paperwork. They were approved in less than four months. Jen and Cesar traveled back to the States together and were married in November 2005.

I met my fiancé, Jorge, in December 2003 in Yanama, Ancash. We became engaged after dating for two and a half years and applied for the K-1 visa in May 2007. Three months later, we still have not been approved.

If you are applying for a K-1 visa or would like more information, there are a few good resources that you should check out. The USCIS website (www.uscis.gov) provides printable forms for all visa types as well as information on who to contact if you have questions. The book *Fiancé and Marriage Visas: A Couple's Guide to U.S. Immigration* by Ilona Bray is a must. This book not only provides step-by-step information on the K-1 visa process, but also on how to apply for a green card and what to do after. You can also check out www.visajourney.com. This website provides free information on the visa process as well as forums to ask questions about anything visa related. There are also lots of useful tips and techniques for getting your visa approved quicker.

After all is said and done, love has got a LOT to do with it. Going through the K-1 visa process really puts a relationship to the test. If you can successfully get through all the paperwork and bureaucracy, then you and your fiancé(e) are off to a good start in your new life in the United States.

BOLIVIA WITHDRAWS FROM INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE PANEL

Jeff Fletcher
Bolivia 67-69

Controversy has grown in recent years about the role and practices of the World Bank's International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). Critics cite rulings that nearly always favor companies over nations and decry the lack of transparency and inherent conflicts of interest built into the organization's structure and operations. The legal costs of pursuing an ICSID case also are significant for cash-strapped nations.

"We will honor our existing international commitments, but we want to clean up our house." With those words Pablo Solón Romero Oroza, Bolivia's Plenipotentiary Representative for Integration and Trade Issues, described his country's recent decision to withdraw from the ICSID, due in no small part to its experience with the body during the Bechtel-Aguas de Tunari "Water Wars" of the late 1990s [see sidebar].

"Neoliberal economic policies and institutions are not working for us," Solón said. "We need a more transparent, open process for dispute resolution, one that is balanced and that meets the requirements of our Constitution. Leaders at the World Bank know that the existing ICSID system is flawed, but the structure, politics, and policies of the Bank mean they won't fix it."

Under ICSID rules, investor rights are rarely balanced with investor responsibilities, Solón argued. A country can be sued several times on different issues by the same party. Sometimes, arbitrators serve as both judges and lawyers or shareholders for one of the parties in ICSID disputes. Often, both investors and government respondents to claims are clients of the World Bank.

Solón described the country's recent successes in renegotiating 44 energy contracts with private companies. These contracts must now be approved by Congress, offering additional security to investors as well as a check on executive power. Solón explained that previous profit arrangements, which favored companies over the state by huge margins,

have now been reversed. Acting against the advice of the International Monetary Fund, the government has raised royalty rates on hydrocarbons. As a result, the state share of revenue from the biggest gas fields has soared from 18 percent to 82 percent, producing a huge increase in revenue for the country.

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BECHTEL VS BOLIVIA

In the late 1990s, the World Bank forced Bolivia to privatize the public water system of its third-largest city, Cochabamba, by threatening to withhold debt relief and other development assistance. In a process with just one bidder, U.S.-based Bechtel was granted a 40-year lease to take over Cochabamba's water through a subsidiary called Aguas del Tunari.

Within weeks of taking over the water system, Aguas del Tunari imposed rate hikes on local water users of more than 50 percent on average, according to the Cochabamba-based Democracy Center. Families living on the local minimum wage of \$60 per month were billed up to 25 percent of their monthly income. The rate hikes sparked massive citywide protests that the Bolivian government sought to end by declaring a state of martial law and deploying thousands of soldiers and police. More than a hundred people were injured and one 17-year-old boy was killed. In April 2000, as anti-Bechtel protests continued to grow, the company's managers abandoned the project after the government warned that it could not guarantee their safety.

Aguas del Tunari retaliated by filing an ICSID claim for compensation and lost profits under a Dutch-Bolivia bilateral investment treaty. At the time there was no such pact between the United

States and Bolivia, and so although Bechtel is a U.S. corporation, it established a post office box presence in the Netherlands. Even the Dutch government was ambivalent about whether the corporate shell created by Bechtel should be entitled to take advantage of the treaty, but the ICSID tribunal accepted jurisdiction anyway.

Bolivian "Water Warriors" joined forces with supporters in the United States and elsewhere to pressure Bechtel to drop the lawsuit. In San Francisco, activists occupied the lobby of the corporate headquarters, while the City Council passed a resolution criticizing the company's legal action. Battered by several years of bad publicity, Bechtel settled the \$50 million lawsuit for a symbolic amount of about 30 cents on January 19, 2006.

Reprinted with permission from the 36-page monograph, "Challenging Corporate Investor Rule: How the World Bank's Investment Court, Trade Agreements, and Bilateral Investment Treaties Have Unleashed a New Era of Corporate Power—and What To Do About It," by Sarah Anderson and Sara Grusky, published in April, 2007, by the Institute for Policy Studies and Food and Water Watch. The full report can be viewed and downloaded at www.ips-dc.org or at www.foodandwaterwatch.org.

(from previous page)

“But we still have these investors,” Solón said, “and they are recovering their investments and making a profit. Foreign companies want what we want: an investment framework that provides a degree of certainty to both parties. Investors can feel secure in Bolivia, but as President Morales has stated, ‘We want partners, not bosses.’”

Solón hopes that Bolivia is able to resolve disputes with international companies

under existing Bolivian law or through a new organization independent of the World Bank.

In response to questions, Solón indicated that Bolivia will remain a member of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund and will renegotiate bilateral agreements with the U.S. as they expire. Solón noted that the momentum of direct foreign investment in sectors other than natural resources, negative throughout

2005, is now beginning to move in a positive direction.

Solón spoke to an interested group of 50 people at a June 1 seminar on Capitol Hill sponsored by the Center for Economic and Policy Research (www.cepr.net), an independent, nonpartisan Washington think-tank that publishes numerous policy research papers on Latin America.

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

COMMUNITY TOURISM IN BOLIVIA

David Dolson , Bolivia 67-70
with Michael McCaffrey

During a recent visit to Bolivia, I had the opportunity to discuss tourism projects with PCV Leader Michael McCaffrey, who supports those PCVs involved in Community Tourism projects.

Of Bolivia’s nearly 145 PCVs, there are only 11 who dedicate the majority of their work to tourism, though a number of volunteers assigned to other sectors also become involved in tourism.

Mike wanted to highlight for me the success of Ashley Bessire, a PCV from Fort Worth, Texas. She is stationed in San José de Chiquitos, a town in Chiquitania in the eastern part of Santa Cruz.

Home to about 9,000 residents and capital of Chiquitos province, San José is a growing hub for tourism, with a famous Jesuit mission, rich history, and vibrant culture. When Ashley arrived, the local government lacked both the infrastructure

and the vision for developing the tourist industry to realize its full income-generating potential.

Hoping to raise awareness about the development of community tourism, Ashley began teaching classes in the private Catholic high school. Her classes focused on the basics of tourism theory, business skills, and the history of Bolivia’s Jesuit Missions.

Last year, an international group of journalists decided to do an exposition of the Jesuit Mission sites in Bolivia. This was the catalyst Ashley needed, and with only a month to prepare, she helped San José get ready for its debut to the world. The community had much work to do, such as finding temporary guides, trash pick-up, the restoration of tourist attractions, and the refurbishing of hotels and restaurants. To organize the work, Ashley spearheaded an initiative to form

a Tourism Commission, and the response from the community was incredible. Many locals finally recognized the need for coordination and decided to assist, and the event was a great success.

Ashley used the momentum to undertake a project to open the first tourism office in San Jose. The local government eventually decided to establish the office in the municipality building, hire San José’s first tour guide, and pay for both his monthly salary and the maintenance of the office. With only a few more months remaining in her PC service, Ashley is currently overseeing the creation of San José’s first Tour Guide Association in coordination with the NGO, Hombre y Naturaleza.

Mike is hoping to use Ashley’s successful example as a model for other Bolivia PCVs working on tourism. His hope is to find new sites in the rest of the country where Ashley’s efforts may be replicated.



YUYACHKANKI, TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Stephen Paul Jacobs
Bolivia 63-66

“... the theatre isn't literature and its goal is performance not reading...”¹

Yuyachkani, perhaps Peru's best known troupe, has dedicated itself from its inception to be a theatre of political and social activism. In his introduction to the published text of *Allpa Rayku*, Miguel Rubio Zapata, the director of the Grupo Cultural Yuyachkani, makes a fundamental distinction between his group's work, which truly comes alive through performance, and written text.

Miguel Rubio Zapata, Teresa Ralli and others established the Grupo Cultural Yuyachkani in Lima in the early '70s, in an atmosphere of social and artistic experimentation stimulated by the government of Juan Velasco Alvarado. The Quechua word, Yuyachkani, can be translated as “I am thinking, I am remembering” and suggests the group's commitment to absorb and reflect on their cultural roots as Peruvians. In this process, Yuyachkani freed itself from traditional theatrical venues, bringing its work directly to the people by performing in public spaces.

Both Miguel Rubio, the artistic director, and Gustavo Boada, the group's mask maker, write of a key moment in the group's evolution. After the presentation of one of their early works, “*Puño de Cobre*,” they had a discussion with the audience. “*Compañeros muy bonita su obra, lástima que se hayan olvidado sus disfraces.*” (Friends, a beautiful performance, but it's a shame you forgot your costumes.) Rubio reflected on the comment:

“It took us some time to fully understand why the miners thought the way they did. It was more than our lack of costumes.



What they were trying to tell us was that we had not taken into account the miners' own artistic expression – indeed, we didn't know them. They were originally from the campo, and they possessed a rich cultural tradition of their own.”

In 1978, before the start of the Internal War, Yuyachkani presented *Allpa Rayku*, relating the 1969 conflict between campesinos and landowners in Andahuaylas. It was staged in the center of the very town where the events took place, adding to its effectiveness. In the production, a group of campesinos enter the Plaza from adjacent streets to local folk music. Combining spoken testimonials by the campesinos with enacted scenes, the characters remember times of conflict. As a result of the community's spirit of cooperation and compassion, a just and happy future evolves.

It is clear that Yuyachkani, from the beginning, became fully aware of the value of rejecting the barriers of traditional staging and started using streets and plazas for their presentations. *Allpa Rayku* ends with the cast singing and dancing with the audience in a shared fiesta, transforming theater into a public event.

During the Internal War, Yuyachkani continued to use theatre to stimulate awareness and discussion. They produced adaptations of literary works that dealt with the conflict, such as *Adios, Ayacucho* (Julio Ortega, 1990) and *Rosa Cuchillo* (Oscar Colchado Lucio, 2002). These presentations are often seen as being inspired by contemporary dance. In

other works, Yuyachkani has used Peru's traditions of satirical dance troupes, familiar from Saint's Day processions.

Rosa Cuchillo is a solo performance by a single actor tirelessly seeking her son. Ana Correa took the role, which was inspired by Angélica Mendoza, the leader of the most active organization of the families of the desaparecidos, whose son was taken 20 years before the production. “*Mamá Angélica's*” speeches were incorporated into the text. Taking place outdoors in public spaces, the character's bleached white campesina costume, seen against the colorful clothing of the women in the audience, emphasizes her ghostlike presence. A few seconds of this performance can be found on YouTube.²



Members of Yuyachkani were present at the opening sessions of the Commission on Truth and Reconciliation in Huamanga, on April 8, 2002, to welcome and support those presenting their testimony. The “*Tambobambino*,” designed by Fidel Melquíades, the Yuyachkani's technical director, celebrated the bravery of those coming forward to testify.

The works presented in Huamanga and Huanta, *Adios, Ayacucho*, *Rosa Cuchillo* and *Antígona* are each presented by one actor. The adaptations of the two Peruvian novels removed all secondary characters and subplots, while focusing on one central character and narrative. In contrast, the adaptation of Sophocles' play uses the same actress, Teresa Ralli,

to represent all principal characters. According to Francine A'ness, Ralli, "using a few props, and without ever leaving the stage... manipulates a beige costume (slacks, sleeveless blouse and tunic) to suggest each role change... and switches back and forth from narrator to participant to communicate the tragedy of Antigone."³

Yuyachkani's adaptation of Antigone was prepared by José Watanabe especially for presentation in Huamanga and Huanta. Unlike *Adios Ayacucho* and *Rosa Cuchillo*, text was emphasized over action. The work's theme supports the goals of the Commission – to fully arrive at a state of peace after the brutality of war. Antigone seeks a proper burial for her slain brother, against the wishes of the leader who has killed him. The Greek work underlines the recognition of the universal need for community-wide efforts to achieve peace.

The beginning of the play speaks of the necessity of fighting amnesia, to deal honestly and openly with a painful past in order to live with mental and emotional integrity. This version of Antigone postpones the revelation that the narrator and principal character is Ismene, Antigone's sister. Initially, she denies the reality of the war and refuses to help Antigone give their brother Polinices a proper burial. Like the other Yuyachkani works, the play is presented within a public space shared by the audience, reinforcing its immediacy.

Catharsis, as described in Aristotle's *Poetics*, was the goal of Greek tragedy and aimed at producing a purification of emotions. The experience was both personal and shared. Yuyachkani, working on behalf of the Commission of Truth and Reconciliation, attempted to use its artistic resources to achieve a theatre

that was both sensitive to individual experience and could serve therapeutic ends for the larger community.

Ironically, my only experience of Yuyachkani is through essays written by members of the group, critics and theoreticians and the published script of two of the groups' works, along with a few short videos posted on YouTube. I would appreciate comments by Amigos members who have actually seen Yuyachkani productions.

1 Miguel Rubio. *Allpa Rayku: una experiencia del teatro popular*. Grupo Cultural Yuyachkani. Lima: Centro de Información, Estudios y Documentación: 1983.

2 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D36nW3luppY>.

3 Francine A'ness, "Resisting Amnesia: Yuyachkani, Performance, and the Postwar Reconstruction of Peru." *Theatre Journal* 56 (2004) 406.

UPDATE FROM PC HEADQUARTERS

Shawn Wesner

swesner@peacecorps.gov

Greetings from the South America Desk at Peace Corps Headquarters in Washington, DC! This year has been an exciting one for both our Bolivia and Peru programs.

In August, Peace Corps Director Ronald Tschetter, accompanied by his wife Nancy and our Inter-America and Pacific Regional Director, Allene Zanger, will visit Bolivia, Paraguay and Ecuador. The Bolivia staff is excited about their arrival, and preparations have been in the making for several months already. In August, PC/Bolivia will welcome 20 Trainees in the areas of Municipal Development and Agriculture. The staging for the Bolivia group will be held in Washington, DC.

Peace Corps/Peru celebrated their fifth anniversary this spring with an event held in the Arequipa region. The program was well attended by current and former PCVs and staff, Peace Corps partners, and members of both governmental and non-governmental organizations. In addition to this, the PC program chose a new training facility located in the city of Chacacayo. This was a tremendous amount of work for the staff, but they feel they identified a wonderful location for

training to be held. In June, the team welcomed their first input of Volunteers in the areas of Youth Development and Small Business, Peru 9. A total of 33 Trainees arrived in country, and the staging event was held in Philadelphia, PA – a first for us! Peru's second input of trainees, Peru 10, will arrive on September 14, with 36 individuals working in the areas of Environment and Community Health. As if this wasn't enough, Peace Corps Peru is preparing for a new water and sanitation project to begin in 2008. This year has proven to be very busy for the entire team.

The South America Desk was lucky enough to receive a visit by both Bolivia and Peru's PTOs in the month of June. Doreen Salazar (PTO/Bolivia) and Marko Dolan (PTO/Peru) were in Washington to participate in the Programming and Training Officers conference. It was wonderful to see Doreen and Marko and spend time with them.

The summer months are always busy ones for us on the desk, with all six South America programs receiving Volunteers. Although it is busy, we welcome the opportunity to meet the new Trainees headed overseas. It's a real pleasure for us to be one of the first PC faces that these individuals see!

FILM REVIEWS

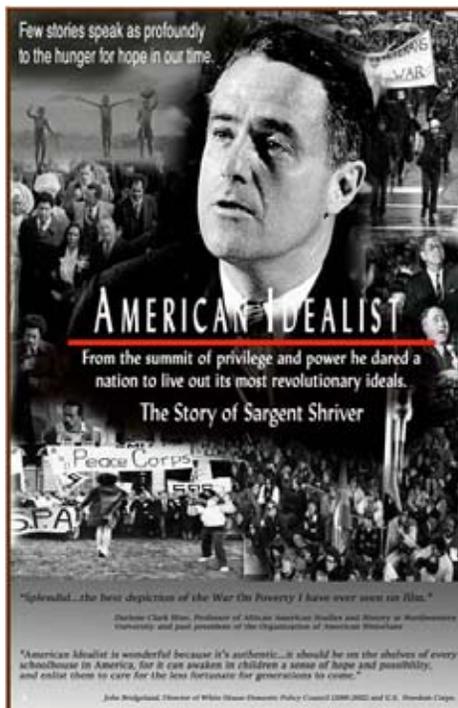
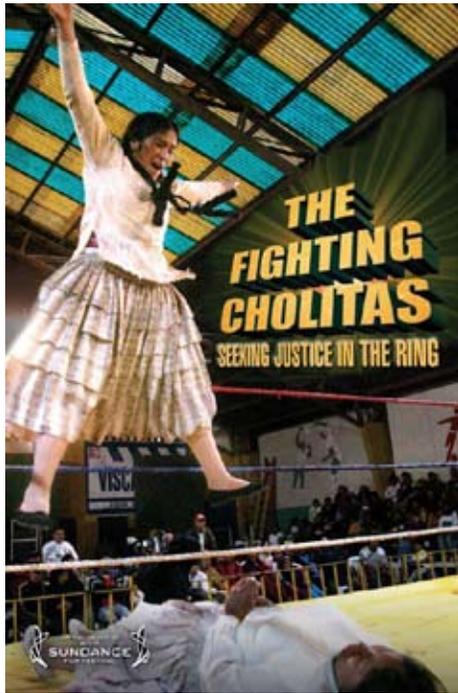
THE FIGHTING CHOLITAS

Gloria Levin
Peru 66-68

"I ask for justice in the ring!" fiercely proclaims one of the Fighting Cholitas featured in a 2006 film, winner of many film festival awards and an Honorable Mention for Short Filmmaking at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival. "The Fighting Cholitas" is a 20-minute documentary film produced by Americans but taking place in a poor Bolivian community, El Alto (pop. 800,000) overlooking La Paz. Every Sunday, two teams of indigenous Bolivian women wrestlers, dressed in *polleras* (multi-layered skirts and petticoats), wrestle in "Lucha Libre" style, at the local coliseum. The teams are the "Técnicas" (depicting good) and "Rudas" (evil). The teams were created to increase the dwindling audiences attending events at the Multifunctional Center, but a wrestling circuit has developed so the Cholitas are performing around the area, including Cochabamba, to avid family audiences.

The women are shown training and performing as well as among their children and families. Some rely on the small income to support their families, but others are wrestling for the celebrity, status, and spirit of competition. In interviews, they proclaim their pride in their indigenous identity, as expressed through their wrestling. Although the wrestling moves are carefully choreographed, the women are spilling real blood in the ring and risking serious injury.

A line that gets a big laugh comes when a Cholita distinguishes herself from señoritas, defined as women who wear pants!! Her quote is accompanied by a shot of a young woman, presumably a North American tourist, in blue jeans! See the film's trailer on YouTube -- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54cHAAiDefo>



AMERICAN IDEALIST: THE STORY OF SARGENT SHRIVER

Roger Sattler
Peru 66-68

Capping three days of meetings related to the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), a new film was screened on the life of Sargent Shriver, the founder and first director of the Peace Corps. The event was held June 30, 2007 at the Library of Congress' Law Library, hosted by an RPCV who is a Library of Congress employee. Produced by Shriver's daughter, TV newswoman and First Lady of California, Maria Shriver, and partially funded by the Shriver family's peace foundation, the film is entitled "American Idealist: The Story of Sargent Shriver." The film is among several efforts to recognize the unknown accomplishments of Shriver while he is still living but suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

The director, Bruce Ornstein of the Chicago Video Project, was greeted by extended applause as the credits rolled, saying "I knew this would be among my best audiences." Many Peace Corps staffers and RPCVs from the Shriver era were in attendance, relating humorous and inspirational stories about Shriver's courage and political skills in establishing the Peace Corps, especially insisting that Peace Corps be an independent agency. The film will be shown nationwide on PBS-TV in January 2008. The filmmakers are collaborating with several organizations that are creating educational curricula for teachers to use in association with the PBS showing. See <http://www.chicagovideo.com/library.htm>

READ A GOOD BOOK LATELY? SEEN A GOOD MOVIE?
SUBMIT YOUR OWN REVIEWS TO YACHASPA@GMAIL.COM
AND SPREAD THE WORD!

AMIGOS GETS A NEW WEBMASTER!

After a long period of a dormant website, we can finally announce the addition of an energetic and experienced Webmaster – Don Beck. Don is already the webmaster for the San Diego Peace Corps Association (see <http://edweb.sdsu.edu/SDPCA>) and does layout of SDPCA's newsletter. Right away, Don began improving our site, tweaking some design elements, re-organizing the files and the screen views and posting some new content -- see the results at <http://www.amigosdeboliviayperu.org>. Our plan to re-vamp the website, with a totally new design and new features, has not materialized, but we're ever hopeful.



Don (actually, George D. Beck, Jr.) joined Peace Corps in 1967 after graduating MIT with a B.S. degree. He was a member of Bolivia 29, the "first and last" Bolivia Mines group, and was assigned to Oruro and then Huanuni. Upon his return to the U.S., he studied city planning at Berkeley but then shifted to a career in

education – retiring in 2002 after 33 years teaching bilingual education, special education and computers. Along the way, Don joined People's Temple, "deeply impressed with its activist social concern" and helped build the original community in Guyana that later grew into Jonestown. Don raised four children from the Temple, adopting one. However, "we lost our adopted child as well as two of the other children we had raised in the tragic Guyana murders." Don now lives part time in San Diego and the rest of the year in Ireland with his partner of nine years. They expect to relocate to his partner's home country of Australia when he retires as a veterinarian in Ireland.

All of us owe Don "miles de abrazos" for taking on this extra work. Do check out the site, and please send announcements of current events, interesting news articles, photos, etc. as well as your evaluative comments and ideas to boliviayperu@hotmail.com.

MEET THE EDITORS: PART II



Lindsey Parramore Oliver
Co-Editor of Yachaspa
Trujillo/Huaraz, Peru 04-06

As a Youth Development volunteer (04-06), I served in two very distinct sites, for one year respectively. In the coastal desert town of Trujillo, I volunteered alongside the YMCA in a community center for land-fill workers and their families. In my second year, I worked with youth in the mountainous town of Huaraz at the Rainbow House orphanage. My life as a PCV is chronicled in my blog at <http://www.lindseyinperu.blogspot.com/>

Back in the US now for over a year, I've adjusted easily to post-PCV life. With my husband of two months and our two Cocker Spaniels, we reside in my home state of Georgia, in a fast-growing bedroom community just north of Atlanta. My work in community outreach for a Medicaid organization, WellCare, gives me the opportunity to organize health initiatives and events for lower-income families. In just a few weeks, I begin a Masters in Social Work program, with a focus in community development and nonprofit management, at the University of Georgia. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, cooking, hiking, and camping.

What an awesome challenge it is to strive to keep not only our experiences as Peace Corps volunteers, but the daily realities of Peru and Bolivia as well, in the forefront of our minds.

YACHASPA 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 memoir of 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 to yachaspa@gmail.com.

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.

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE FALL 2007 YACHASPA IS
NOVEMBER 7**

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 _____

WORK TEL _____ E-MAIL _____

SPOUSE'S EMPLOYMENT: _____

SPOUSE'S HOST COUNTRY & DATES OF SERVICE _____ (E.G. PERÚ, 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 (DOUBLE OR TRIPLE FOR 2- OR 3-YEAR MEMBERSHIP)	\$15 INDIVIDUAL	\$ _____
	\$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) (____ PERÚ) (____ 50/50)		
	GRAND TOTAL	\$ _____