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# Amigos de Honduras

Vol. XXVII, No. 1

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## EDITOR'S CORNER

**Loren Hintz (Olanchito, 1980-82)**

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Happy New Year! I did not receive many articles for the newsletter so I included part of a Christmas letter I received about migrants at the border. There are not one but two announcements of **reunions**. Tony and Brenda continue to work at their new jobs. Please look at their reports and **note that Tony has a new mailing address**. Brenda pointed out that this is the **30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Amigos de Honduras in 1990**. The website I created has now had 533 visits. Please look at <https://amigosdehonduraspcv.weebly.com/>. The web site has the forms for applying for Amigos de Honduras Grants. It has a link to the August 2019 newsletter with detailed contact information for officers and movers and shakers of Amigos. It contains links to all the old newsletters since 2014.

## TREASURER REPORT

**Anthony Ives (La Ceiba, 2003-5)**

707-227-9932

[luckyp49@yahoo.com](mailto:luckyp49@yahoo.com) Amigos de Honduras/Friends of Honduras Treasurer's report for period ending December 31, 2019. As the previous treasurer retired from the official duties of the organization, it is with much appreciation that all officers helped with the transition process.

As of close of year 2019, the ending balance of the Amigos de Honduras account was **\$5,529.21**. Non grant withdrawals were nominal during the second half of the year.

Ending balance	\$5,529.21
Deposits /1	\$680.00
Withdrawals & fees /2	\$1374.00

Notes /1 Deposits were from Oct-Dec 2019/2 The fund supported a grant in Honduras for **\$1,000** for the organization Montana de Vida. Withdrawals also included reimbursements for Newsletter printing and mailing, Washington Secretary of State Amigos corporation fees, wire transfer fees, and other bank related fees.

I moved to Seattle. **NEW ADDRESS TO MAIL CHECKS TO AMIGOS DE HONDURAS: c/o Anthony Ives, P.O. Box 46605, Seattle, WA 98126. Editor note: Remember to send dues and donations to our treasurer, Anthony Ives and National dues to the National office in DC.**

## SECRETARY REPORT

**Brenda Sims Crumpacker**

(Pespire, Choluteca, 1990-1) 509-758-4165

[kbc.olympic@gmail.com](mailto:kbc.olympic@gmail.com) Thanks to all our wonderful members who pay your memberships and donate to the Grant Fund. My records show that we currently have 182 members with 101 in good standing.

Remember that the date on your address label is the expiration date of your membership. Your membership includes a subscription to our Amigos de Honduras newsletter that is printed February, May, August and November. You may receive your copy through email or a printed copy that is mailed to you. This choice is also found on the Membership Info page.

Until Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year I was unaware that National maintained a list of our paid members and their expiration dates. Their list didn't match the one I got from Joan and have been maintaining. All that to say, many of you haven't been receiving your newsletter. I've reconciled the lists and since National does not know *how* you'd like to receive your newsletter we're sending out the February edition to members new to my list on paper. Please let me know of your preference. It recently came to my attention that Joan sent out notes (post card or email) confirming receipt your membership. I apologize for not doing this. I'll be sending out emails unless I don't have an email address or hear differently from you. Thanks to all of Loren's work last fall with the Washington State Corporations and Charities division we are current as a non-profit organization until January

31, 2021. Thank you for your kind notes, they put a smile on my face and in my heart. A definite bonus to this position!

**Fall 2019 Amigos De Honduras Grant Fund Donors:** Thomas Cobb, Michael Hancock, Otto Hausch, Clyde Morris, Deborah & Robert Moskovitz, Frank & Carol Schwarz. **Many thanks** to those of you what have sent grant funds and apologies to those who have and we haven't recognized. We are still getting our 'ducks in a row'. The most recent recipient was **Junior Rangers of Montana de Vida**, Santa Barbara. The Grant Committee consists of Anthony Ives, Loren Hintz, Judith Whitney-Terry and Suzanne Mills. Please send new grant requests to Anthony at [luckyp49@yahoo.com](mailto:luckyp49@yahoo.com) See the website for Grant form.

## IN MEMORIAM NEWS

Loren **Hintz (Olanchito, 80-82)**

Since there is a team (special thanks to Fred and Steve) keeping track of all RPCVs and Staff who worked in Honduras, we also learn when folks pass away. Sometimes, someone will share an article for the newsletter. The information will also be added to the database. Recently Fred explained to me that "NPCA has a program that scans obituaries and death notices for the words 'Peace Corps'. They then put it on their monthly **In Memoriam website**. Frequently, PC is not noted on obituaries but I find out from other volunteers who has passed on. In those cases I cc Jonathan Pearson of NPCA and he gets it on their website. I do notify people of Amigos if they feel strongly about a write-up on PCVs who have passed on." I recently looked at the NPCA peacecorpsconnect website. To send info directly to the In Memoriam

website you can email info to: [obituary@peacecorpsconnect.org](mailto:obituary@peacecorpsconnect.org)

If you go to <https://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/search?searchable=obituaries> you can see a monthly list of names since August 2016.

## HONDURAS 89-91 REUNION

**Charles Rogalinski (Marcala, 89-91)**  
The February training group that served from 1989-1991 will host its second reunion April 2 - 5, 2020 in Chicago. We will gather together: TREMONT HOTEL. 15 rooms are secured. Your "check in" is RPCV Honduras 89-91. You are responsible for making your own arrangements at Tremont.  
CONTACT: Bev Tautalatasi, Tremont Hotel, 100 E Chestnut St, Chicago, IL 60611  
203.536.0060

We have a light schedule for the extended weekend. The invitation is for the members of this training class who served when the Peace Corps Honduras was the largest program and later many helped to open or re-establish Peace Corps across the globe. Register today and look forward to seeing you in April 2020. Contact Charles Rogalinski [crogalinsk@yahoo.com](mailto:crogalinsk@yahoo.com) or click Facebook for more info <https://www.facebook.com/events/941497802855589/?ti=icl>.

## MEGA PC REUNION. AUG. 6-10, 2020. Peggy Goebel (Yoro, 1973-75)

**We can't wait to see you all in Sonoma County! Best always!**  
Peggy Goebel: [PeggyGoebel@comcast.net](mailto:PeggyGoebel@comcast.net), 707-620-0505 (landline), 707-292-5680 (mobile), 310 Summer Rain Drive, Windsor, CA 95492

Terri Salus: [TerriSalus@gmail.com](mailto:TerriSalus@gmail.com), 301-587-5017 (landline), 240-401-

8622 (mobile), 8501 Aragon Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

## Peace Corps Honduras Reunion 2020 in Sonoma County, CA

(Thurs., Aug. 6 – Mon., Aug. 10, 2020) for our next Peace Corps Honduras Reunion in beautiful Sonoma County, CA for more comradery, reminiscing, jamming, and fun! We have blocked rooms at three hotels, so we can accommodate many, but to keep the gathering "intimate," we want to cap at 200. **Deadline to register 4/1/20; refund cancellation 7/10/20.** Sonoma is known as Wine Country, but the area offers much, much more. Our central location will be Windsor, CA. Windsor is about 1 hour north of San Francisco/Oakland, 30 min. east of the Pacific Ocean, 30 min. east of the majestic giant Redwoods of Armstrong Woods, 20 min. east of the beautiful Russian River, 10 min. north of Santa Rosa, and 0 min. from the home of reunion **organizer Peggy Goebel**. Windsor is close to everything: Wineries and breweries for tours and tastings; regional parks and forests for picnics, hikes, and birding; Russian River for canoeing; Bodega Bay for whale watching; Safari West (400-acre preserve of wild, rescued animals); Indian casinos for those who like to take their chances; and of course, world renowned wonderful food, ice cream, and weather! Nearby Santa Rosa is home to the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center, Snoopy's Home Ice, and the Warm Puppy Café.

## Tentative Agenda for Reunion 2020 Thurs., Aug.6:

Arrive! Check in at our base hotel, the Holiday Inn Windsor Sonoma Wine Country ([Holiday Inn Windsor](#)) and then walk to Windsor Green for open air concert, dancing, food trucks, and mix and mingle. **Friday, Aug. 7:** Breakfast at hotels; 9 AM bus to Armstrong Redwoods for

picnic, hikes, group picture. Then, at 2 PM, to Doran Beach. Then, we will be driven along the “Bohemian Highway to Occidental, where we will have dinner at the Union Hotel (formerly, a railroad saloon, but since 1943, famous for its old-fashioned Italian specialties served family style, dancing). We will ride the bus back to the hotels, where we will offer a champagne toast to Frank and Antoinette Almaguer, who will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary and visit to their 50th state. **(Bus transportation, picnic lunch, dinner, champagne toast included)**

**Sat., Aug. 8:** Breakfast at hotels, followed by optional trips (you will need to sign up and pay for the wine and brewery tours before the reunion so that we can arrange for bus transportation): Wine Tour (Rodney Strong, Kendall-Jackson, Coppola (Francis Ford Coppola), and Korbel (producer of “California Champagne” since the late 1800s) with lunch and bus. Brewery Tour (Russian River Brewing Company, Lagunitas) with lunch and bus transportation. Other optional trips.

Then, from 4-7 PM, we will regroup in the Holiday Inn Windsor Ballroom to view and talk about the Peace Corps documentary, *A Towering Task (featuring four of our own: Tom Camero, Tessie Siegel, Arlene Goldberg-Gist, and Jerry Bauer, as a narrator)*. We will be able to continue the conversation at the Holiday Inn Windsor over a casual, catered dinner of grilled meats (brisket, ribs, chicken) and vegetables, corn, and salad. The remainder of the evening is open for visiting, jamming, and relaxing. **(Dinner included)**.

**Sun., Aug. 9:** Breakfast at hotels, then Sunday morning (or late afternoon), as we did in Cottonwood, we will set aside time for discussion, moderated by Ken

Roberson, 1975-78, regarding the impact of our Peace Corps experiences on our lives. The bulk of Sunday will be open for optional, small-group adventures, such as:

Hikes in Shiloh Regional Park; Canoeing down the Russian River; Safari West Animal Preserve; Charles Schultz Museum and Snoopy’s Home Ice (ice rink); Bodega Marine lab; Epicenter Game Center; Scandia Pee Wee Golf and real Golf; Graton Casino

Sunday dinner will be another casual, catered dinner (taco bar?) at the Holiday Inn Windsor Ballroom (or, depending on our numbers, cook-out at Peggy Goebel’s home). In either case, dinner will be followed by a party at Peggy’s home—pool, hot tub, s’mores, and wine!

**(Optional Sunday dinner with separate charge).**

**Mon., Aug. 10:** Hasta la vista! **Hotel Information:**

Hotels in California Wine Country are “pricey,” year-round, but particularly high at harvest time. Perhaps some of you will want to share a room. Following is information for the hotels where we have negotiated blocks of rooms. **The Holiday Inn Windsor Sonoma Wine Country (Holiday Inn Windsor) and the Holiday Inn Express Windsor Sonoma (Holiday Inn Express) are very close to one another;** the Hilton Garden Inn property, at the airport, is a few minutes away. Note that the Holiday Inn Windsor will be our base hotel. We will have the ballroom at our disposal for dinners, talks, films, gathering, happy hours, etc.

**Guests can call each hotel directly and make reservations under the Peace Corp Honduras room block or they can use a booking link below (code PCH).** Rooms and rates are good until June 26, 2020 for the Holiday Inns and July 7, 2020 for the Hilton Garden Inn,

after which, unclaimed rooms will be returned to inventory. For full refunds, all three hotels require cancellations at least 48 hours prior to avoid a penalty. When making reservations, confirm the minimum night requirement (2 or 3 nights). Peggy negotiated to have breakfast and parking included at all three hotels. Holiday Inn is offering its reduced rate for three days before and three days after for those who wish to extend their stay (Hilton will likely grant the courtesy, but did not expressly state so in their contract).

**Please use the following link and phone to make reservations for Holiday Inns in Windsor.** Please tell reservations that you are reserving for the PEACE CORPS HONDURAS ROOM BLOCK AUG 6-10, 2020. **Do not call:** Stephanie Turcotte, Regional Director of Sales: 707-838-5105, Sales@sonomahi.com) directly as stated below as she is not always at her desk and this may delay your ability to make reservations. Looking forward to seeing you next August! Best! Peg and Terri

**GROUP ROOM RATES** Holiday Inn Windsor, Holiday Inn Express, Hilton Garden Inn Fri & Sat. @\$239-\$249; Sun. to Thurs. @ \$169-\$179

1. Holiday Inn Windsor Sonoma Wine Country (**Holiday Inn Windsor**) 8755 Old Redwood Highway, Windsor, CA 95492  
Phone: 707-838-8800

Link to [Peace Corps Honduras Reunion Holiday Inn Windsor Wine Country](#)

2. Holiday Inn Express Windsor Sonoma Wine Country (**Holiday Inn Express**) 8865 Conde Lane, Windsor, CA 95492  
Phone: 707-837-0808

Link to [Peace Corps Honduras Reunion Holiday Inn Express Windsor](#)

3. Hilton Garden Inn Sonoma County Airport; 417 Aviation Blvd, Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
Phone: 707-545-0444  
(POC: Erin McCauley, Director of Sales)

**Registration** will be approximately \$100 per person and will include two dinners (Friday and Saturday), one lunch (Friday), breakfast each morning at the hotels (negotiated by Peggy), and bus transportation where noted. **Checks, payable to “Peace Corps Honduras,” can be sent to Terri Salus at 8501 Aragon Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.**

**Editor note:** Go to the Amigos website and click on **link reunions** to learn more. <https://amigosdehondurasrpcv.weebly.com/>

## **OBITUARY: LIANNE SCHEER Marty Scheer (SPS 66-68)**

It with sadness that I write to inform you that **Lianne Scherr**, the Peace Corps “den mother” of the North Coast Region from 1966 until late 1968, passed away on October 29, 2019, at the age of 82. Many of you, especially Northern Region PCVs, knew Lianne; she was the one who kept our house in San Pedro Sula open as a welcome wagon to itinerant PCVs from our region, the rest of Honduras, as well as other Central America’s visiting PCVs. Volunteers were often lucky enough to take advantage of her formidable skill and Social Work training to assist in coping with issues. As many of you are aware, Lianne and I arrived in San Pedro Sula in September 1966. Our job was to open a new region and an office to support the PCVs in the region, and to stay in contact and communications with the Volunteers’ governmental and NGO Partners. Our son Peter was born in December 1966 in **Clinica**

**Bendana**—some of you had medical service from that friendly MD/Veterinarian-run clinic. Although Lianne and I parted ways in the early 1970s, we remained in contact and cordial. Her passing leaves a huge gap for all of us. **Marty Scherr** Regional Director, San Pedro Sula, 1966-1968 [marty638@gmail.com](mailto:marty638@gmail.com)

## **MIGRANTS AT THE CIUDAD JUAREZ BORDER** Father Peter Hinde

**Editor note: I still send out and receive Christmas (and Groundhog Day’s) letters. After Christmas, I received a long letter from Fr. Peter Hinde of Casa Tabor, Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, formerly of El Salvador. He wrote the following of the status of migrants at the US/Mexico border:** “We check on Mexican migrants at the foot of the bridge sheltering from last night’s rains in small tents. Afraid to lose their place in line should another four or five be admitted to US immigration this week. They fled by the thousands the states of Michoacán, Zacatecas, Guerrero, many stacked up for months at three points of entry in El Paso, risking the violence in Juarez... up to 4 killings a day.

Jose Bautista, his wife Esmeralda and their two year old Melena sat at one tent. As others there, they fled the violence in Guerrero. Drug gangs demanded that Jose join them or have a family member kidnapped. They picked up and fled. Here at the Border they have been on the street for the past six weeks waiting a hearing. Same story with Eduardo Hernandez and family also of Guerrero.

Churches and civil organizations have stepped in. <http://www.tgoldmanphotography.com/> has an extensive photo

commentary on the amazing work for migrants in El Paso. Over the past 30 years the US government in its absurd border policy has over ridden the rights and livelihood of the O’odham native peoples and other US private landholders. (cf. Sand and Blood by John C. Frey)

Alejandro and pregnant wife Yulisa from El Salvador, asked for asylum in May, but were separated. She had a first hearing and permitted to go to Iowa City at a Catholic Worker community where she had a contact. Alejandro was sent back to Mexico to await a Nov.2th hearing date. Three Catholic Workers and a deacon of the Davenport diocese, who had received Yulisa, had come with her to the border and received hospitality of the Columbian Mission Center in El Paso. She still waits a judge’s decision. After our Friday vigil we stopped to visit with them. The next day the CW group crossed to Tabor, and with Alejandro, for a meal and a congenial visit. On Monday prior to his hearing in El Paso he was able to see Yulisa and their new born for 15 minutes. Alejandro was returned to Juarez but he has a lawyer continuing to help him.

Molly Molloy reports that the misleading “Migrant Protection Protocols “has so far forced more than 57000 asylum seekers to wait in Mexico. Michael Knowles, a longtime asylum officer and president of the a union that represents US Citizen and Immigration Services employees, said in his testimony to a House Homeland Security panel: “These policies are illegal, they’re immoral, and they’re the basis for human rights abuses on behalf of our nation.” Our Juarez diocesan Casa Migrante can handle only 500 of 12000 such Central American refugees needing support in Juarez. Other shelters have sprung up for the most desperate to escape the

violence back home. Many go into the desert to find gaps in DT's "wall." Others get bussed back south desperate for shelter even when risking more violence there. Two bilingual nuns of the Columbian Order, one from the Philippines and the other from Ireland, just arrived to help at the Casa. ...

Rev. Tina (Episcopal priest from Boston) spends all day helping Mexican migrants fleeing violence at home and now living for months in plastic tents in cold, rainy weather. Tina holds classes for the children. Another friend, Beth on crossing: "saw children climbing out of their houses (tents) in their pajamas and stocking caps. It was 8AM, the temperature was in the low 30s. You could see their breath in the cold air, yet a new day shone hope in their eyes."

Betty and I stay in touch with such marvelous Samaritans on both sides of the border. A journalist friend, Morgan and wife Sherry from Santa Fe, NM come to take every other week or so to Casa Migrante on the other side of Juarez. Great news is that a Federal Judge condemned DT's policy that defies all humanitarian law, hopefully to result in nullification.

Betty has written the names in her mural out back: in Mexico 263 journalists killed since 1993. 57 Priests killed since 1990. She notes that just in Juarez 147 women have been killed this year... 172 since 1993. Men killed: 1284 this year...17050 just between 1993 2018. The total for all Mexico from 2007 to 2019 is 300,000. Betty has created a liturgy with delegations coming to Tabor. After telling the story at each mural out back that she has put up for these and other categories of victims, she asks one with a "strong voice" to read a poem placed at the end of the wall: "The permanent struggle to change the

conditions of the life of our people constitutes: our profession of faith, our song of love, the celebration of memory bringing the Christs down from their crosses, giving out whole heart, sowing dignity, risking our very life, for the poor, for those in need" (Rafael Correa)"

## PEACE CORPS NEWS

Fred Corvi shared: Our very humble and honorable 1992-1994 **PCV Misty Vaughn Allen is at the top of Time's Top 50 list for most influential in healthcare.** (1.Misty Vaughan Allen, Nevada's suicide prevention coordinator) Congratulations and I'm so glad Misty was able to help and attend the PCH reunion in Lake Tahoe. This was sent to me via 1992-1994 PCV Elana Brennan Rogers.

The NPCA reports a bi-partisan group of ten former Peace Corps directors are unified in their opposition to Senate legislation (by Sen. Rick Scott, FL) that would place **Peace Corps operations under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of State**, ending the agency's independent status. "The independence of the Peace Corps has been carefully protected by Presidents, Secretaries of State, and Congress for the past 58 years," said the letter addressed to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and signed by ten former directors. "Part of the reason (for this independence) is to ensure that Volunteers would not be confused with those carrying out day-to-day U.S. foreign and security policies. Turning the Peace Corps into a bureau of the Department of State would void that independence." The letter also references the 1961 statement of then Secretary of State Dean Rusk, who outlined the importance of Peace Corps independence at its inception: "The Peace Corps is not an instrument of foreign policy

because to make it so would rob it of its contribution to foreign policy."

**Albuquerque Journal.11.20.19 Honduran Ambassador Mari-Luci Jaramillo** died at age 91. The daughter of a Mexican-born shoemaker/musician father and a homemaker mother descended from a pioneering Spanish family, Jaramillo excelled at school, encouraged by her parents and teachers who recognized her intelligence and her drive. In 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed Jaramillo as ambassador to Honduras, the first female U.S. ambassador of Hispanic descent. She was instrumental in helping the government of Honduras institute democratic reforms and ease the country's military dictatorship. In an interview years later, Jaramillo recalled the phone call she got from then Secretary of State Warren Christopher, informing her that President Carter had reviewed her credentials and nominated her as ambassador to Honduras. "I couldn't believe it. First of all, I didn't know how President Carter would find out about me. I didn't have any political connections. My reaction was: 'Who? Me? No.'" Jaramillo served as ambassador from 1977 through 1980, then became the Pentagon's U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs.

**Register-Mail 11.2.19** by Rob Buck It's no vacation. **But Jerry Bauer says the rewards of Peace Corps service last a lifetime.** The 1971 Abingdon High School alumnus spent two years doing forestry work in Honduras after graduating from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in 1975. Two decades later he learned the impact of his work there extended beyond the environmental endeavor. A degree in forestry in hand, Bauer landed in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in October 1975. "I remember it like it was

yesterday,” he says. In addition to nurses and educators in the Peace Corps contingent were 15 U.S.-trained foresters to help with the Honduran Forest Service, which was then in its infancy. “Our group was scattered literally all over the country,” Bauer says. “I was in a town called San Pedro Sula. We set up a forestry operation in that area. We got topographical maps and binoculars and got on mules and rode around the mountains and mapped the country.” The Peace Corps foresters helped the Hondurans comply with the rules and regulations of the new forest service, set up fire towers and established radio communications that were nonexistent at the time. “That was more important than you realize,” Bauer says, noting the benefit especially during natural disasters or other emergencies. Foto: R. Rodríguez, J. Betancourt, O. Fajardo, L. Lara (L to R), Jerry Bauer



Flash forward 20 years and Bauer returned to Santa Barbara, another small village where he lived during his PC experience. “In 1995, 18 years after leaving this small village to return to the U.S. after my PC service, I was moving from Guatemala to Nicaragua (where I was working with USAID),” he wrote in an email accompanying a photo from 1977. “We decided to drive through the town, Santa Barbara, where I lived when I was in PC. I walked around town and found the current-day Honduras Forest Service Office. I was the ‘jefe’ (chief) of that office and the folks in this photo all worked for me. Ruben was the driver for our field vehicle and Joel, Orlando and Luiz were forest technicians. “I found the office,

walked in and a young guy looked up and asked if I needed help.



I mentioned my name and he stopped dead in his tracks, looked at me and said, ‘oh my God, just yesterday someone mentioned your name and I went through the files and I see that the maps I have been using were made by you.’ “Then a female voice came in from the door (I had my back to the door) and said, ‘Is Señor Bauer here?’ I turned, looked and saw a woman maybe 25 years old or so. She looked at me, a tear came down her face. She looked me straight in the eye and said, ‘Thank you. I am sure you don’t remember me, I am Ruben’s daughter. You gave my dad a job. We were poor, we had no food, and my father had no job. You gave him a job. I was next door and I heard your voice, I will never forget your voice. Thank you.’ “So in a nutshell this is what the Peace Corps is about. Hearing this, I knew my job was complete. I have never forgotten that moment.”

Today, Bauer is director/program manager for international cooperation with the USDA Forest Service International Institute of Tropical Forestry in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He returns to Abingdon a few times a year to spend time in the home of his late parents and visit old friends and family. He also attends Returned Peace Corps Volunteers reunions every couple years, and he’s

quite the ambassador for the service organization.

## HONDURAN NEWS

Compiled by Loren Hintz

**Honduras Tips** still gives tourist info and features natural parks like PANACAM near Lake Yojoa. <https://www.hondurastips.hn/2018/03/30/panacam-el-refugio-de-aves-mas-grande-de-honduras/>

**Reuters 11.11.19 False Alarm.** The US Embassy in El Salvador announced today a tsunami heading for the Gulf of Fonseca affecting El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. “Toda la población que se encuentra en nuestras costas, por favor movilizarse a tierras más altas.” Warnings were issued by the Honduran and Salvadoran governments. Many friends in the area passed on warnings to editor via Facebook. A few hours later it was announced there was no tsunami. A US military plane had detected a tall wave 600 miles off the coast it mistakenly thought was a tsunami.

**10.16.19 El Caminante, El Libertador and LPH** reported the President of Honduras fired 11 coronels in order to prevent a coup. The administration is asking private enterprise to take action to prevent a recession next year. A number of businesses are closing including Argos in San Lorenzo.

**The Economist 1.12.19** Reports that thanks to new conservation efforts the Scarlet Macaw is making a comeback in the Mosquito Coast. Once common across Central America, they are extinct in El Salvador and rare elsewhere in the region. The 500 or so on the Mosquito Coast are the last big population, says Marlene Arias of the Fort Conservation Institute, a Honduras government agency. (There is also a small population that was reintroduced at Copan Ruins.) Four years earlier, Lora Kim Joyner

of One Earth Conservancy, an American parrot conservation group, had enlisted the residents of **Mabita**, which consists of a score of wooden huts, to patrol the forest. At first little happened. That changed in 2015 when the group started paying villagers 200 lempiras (\$8) a day. They began camping in the forest to chase poachers away. Last year 103 nests were left undisturbed in the area, says Ms. Joyner. About 150 baby guaras survived. The money from patrolling has seeded a cash economy in Mabita. The inhabitants have used it to build a small stone church. Five other villages in the area have joined the scheme, which is financed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. And the folk of the Mosquito Coast seem to get as much pleasure from watching guaras as those who pay to have them stolen from their habitat. “It is so beautiful to see them flying in the morning,” says Ms. Pántin López.

**Gabby Rosazza, USLEAP Program Coordinator, Oct.11.19** led the effort that got 55 Members of Congress to deliver a [letter to the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Trade Representative](#) about the failure of the CAFTA Central America Free Trade Agreement complaint in Honduras. The Members expressed their deep concern about how the Honduran government has failed to put a stop to rampant labor violations committed by transnational corporations and instead aligned with employers in their efforts to bust workers’ efforts to form unions. The letter cited two cases in the melon and palm oil sector and stated, “If the Government of Honduras is allowed to undermine STAS and its members’ rights, it will only further entrench corporate impunity and weaken rule of law, one of the many

factors that contributes to the cycle of poverty and pushes people to migrate”

**Reuters 12.21.19** At least 18 inmates were killed and 16 wounded during a fight between rival gangs in a Tela penitentiary on Friday, authorities said, in one of the worst recent outbreaks of prison violence in Honduras. Two days earlier, the government declared a state of emergency in the prison system, transferring control to security forces in a bid to clamp down on a recent wave of violence. Fights in Honduras' overcrowded prisons are frequent as street gangs vie for control inside the institutions.

**Wall St. Journal 12.20.19** Guatemala is set to finalize within days a deal to expand its asylum agreement with the U.S. to begin accepting Mexican migrants sent from the southern U.S. border, U.S. and Guatemalan officials familiar with the talks said. Under an agreement that the U.S. and Guatemala signed in July, asylum seekers—many of whom pass through more than one country before reaching the U.S.—could be sent to Guatemala to make their claims there instead. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security began sending a small number of migrants to Guatemala in November, but it limited eligible asylum seekers to those from El Salvador and Honduras, who must pass through Guatemala en route to the U.S. The three countries, known collectively as the Northern Triangle, made up the majority of asylum seekers crossing the border since 2014. But the terms of the deal didn’t limit the nationalities of migrants who could be sent there. After an Oval Office meeting on Tuesday between President Trump and Guatemalan President Jimmy

Morales, Guatemala is likely to begin accepting people of other nationalities, including Mexicans and Brazilians, the officials familiar with the talks said. The majority of migrants taken into custody by border agents this fall have been Mexican, reversing the trend of the last half-decade, monthly U.S. Customs and Border Protection figures show.

**news.mongabay.com 8.13.19** Powerful drug-traffickers and landless farmers continue to push cattle ranching and illegal logging operations deeper into the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage site, in eastern Honduras. Satellite data show the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve lost more than 10 percent of its tree cover between 2001 and 2017, more than a third of which happened within the last three years of that time period. Preliminary data for 2019 indicate Río Plátano is experiencing another heavy round of forest loss this year, with UMD recording around 160,000 deforestation alerts in the reserve between January and August, which appears to be an uptick from the same period in 2018. Local sources claim the government participates in drug trafficking, and those involved in the drug business are allegedly the same people who are involved in illegal exploitation of the land for cattle ranching and illegal logging of mahogany and cedar. Deforestation in Río Plátano means a loss of habitat for wildlife and a loss of forest resources for indigenous communities that depend on them. But another threat is emerging: water resources are becoming increasingly scarce as forests are converted into grasslands.

# Amigos de Honduras Membership Info

Use this form to renew membership or notify us of a change in address. Or, copy and give to a friend whom you think might like to keep in touch with Honduras and RPCVs. Other than your name, enter only the info that has changed.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**Peace Corps Info:**

Years of service: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Group # \_\_\_\_\_ Site(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Job \_\_\_\_\_

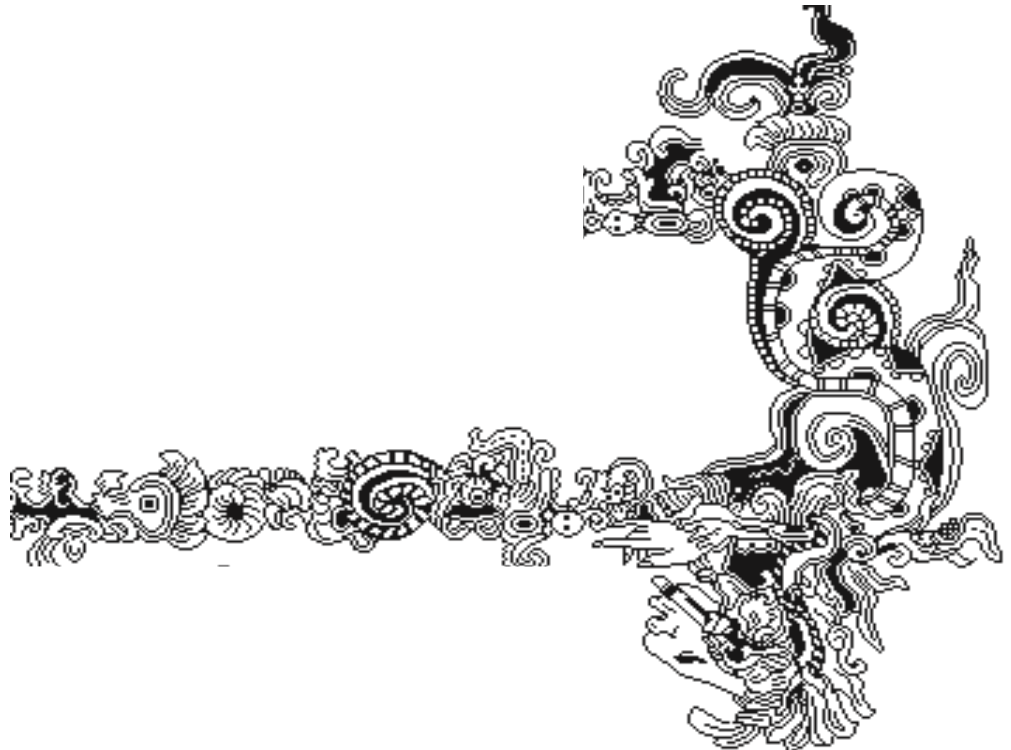
**Post-Peace Corps Experiences** (occupation, marriage, children, travels, interests) \_\_\_\_\_

Amigos de Honduras :	\$15 <input type="checkbox"/>
NPCA Supporter (Basic FREE):	\$50 <input type="checkbox"/>
Amigos, NPCA & another group: .....name of other group _____	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>
5 year membership Amigos:	\$50 _____
Contribution to projects Amigos will fund in Honduras:	\$ _____
<b>Total Amount Enclosed:</b> _____	

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