

Amigos de Honduras

Vol. XXIV, No. 1

February 2017

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT Joan M. Larimore (San Francisco del Valle, 1986-88)
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Thanks to those members who have paid their dues, our bank account now stands at a very respectable \$2,180.57. Our Grant fund has also grown and is part of that figure. Just a reminder: you can always check your membership due date by looking at your mailing label. For those of you who receive your Newsletter electronically, Brant Miller keeps you advised of your due date.

NPCA is finally letting me know who has paid through them but there are still some of you whose info I am missing. If your label or pdf due date is incorrect, please let me know. As some of you have figured out, Windows 10 keeps making my life interesting. I'm finally back on line and hope that this time it is permanent. A final note for 2016: our Washington State Incorporation dues (\$10.00) was paid and our Amigos data was sent to our Archivist, Ron Reafs.

Please continue to donate to our Amigos Grant Fund and also apply for to Joan for Grants. In 2015 we received 19 individual donations and in 2016 we received donations from 36 individuals. So far in **2017** we say

a special THANKS to the following donors: **Stephen Dylinski, Jerry White, Barbara George, and Patti Soderberg.**

EDITOR'S CORNER
Loren Hintz (Olanchito, 1980-82)
ldhintz@bellsouth.net

It is a new year with a new U.S. president. I have to admit I was surprised that we now have President Trump. I was looking forward to having a Vice-president who had lived in Honduras but thanks to the Electoral College it was not to be. Soon we will have a new Peace Corps Director and a new US Ambassador to Honduras.

Once again this issue has a lot of information: four books you may find interesting; a call to action from the National Peace Corps Association, local and international news and events. I did not receive very many articles this time so I included some emails and posts from **HondurasPCFacebook**.<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2209604190/?ref=bookmarks>.

We still need volunteers. Please consider helping write obituary summaries for RPCVs who have died. Please donate to the Grant Fund. Please volunteer to help with our web page. Please send in articles to your editor.

RPCVs and REFUGEES
Glenn Blumhorst NPCA
President & CEO (Guatemala 1988-91)

In 1958, then-Senator John F. Kennedy wrote *A Nation of Immigrants*. The text outlines the history and importance of immigration to the United States, as well as proposals to liberalize immigration law. As one of his first presidential acts, President Kennedy established Executive Order 10924 to promote world peace and friendship through a Peace Corps. Since 1961, 225,000 Volunteers have been welcomed in 161 countries — including Muslim majority ones, as well as many below our southern border. As foreigners, we were accepted without prejudice into homes, schools, offices, and houses of worship by our hosts. At the time, each of us made an oath: *I promise to serve alongside the people of my Country of Service. I promise to share my culture with an open heart and open mind. I promise to foster an understanding of the people of my Country of Service, with creativity, cultural sensitivity, and respect. I will face the challenges of service with patience, humility, and determination. I will embrace the mission of world peace and friendship for as long as I serve and beyond. In the proud tradition of Peace Corps' legacy, and in the spirit of the Peace Corps family past, present, and future - I am a Peace Corps Volunteer.*

Because of this, those of us who have served in the Peace Corps have a special responsibility. We are tasked with sharing, in a spirit of humility

and respect, what it means to be an American. We must speak up on behalf of the refugees who have now been prevented from entering our country and receiving our welcome in return. Now is the time to rededicate ourselves to the mission and goals of the Peace Corps, to commit ourselves to constructive dialogue – to representing the open hand of America, rather than the closed fist. To do this, multiple channels exist:

- Call 202-224-3121 to connect with your member of Congress. Ask to speak with the foreign policy or homeland security staff representative. Pledge your support for refugees and disapproval of the executive order titled, “Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States.” [Learn more](#) about your representative's statements on the executive order.
- [Send an email](#) to urge Congress to reject intolerance.
- Connect with the NPCA affiliate group, [Peace Corps Community in Support of Refugees](#), to learn how to take local and national action.
- Contact [local resettlement affiliates](#) to inquire how to lend support.
- Engage in community-level activities with your [local affiliate group](#). Ask RPCVs to [sign up](#) with NPCA to receive updates and information on key issues.
- [Join our nationwide National Days of Action](#), March 3 - 15, to meet with Congress at the district

level and urge their support of Peace Corps values.

- [Donate to NPCA's advocacy efforts](#) to bolster our presence on Capitol Hill and provide more grassroots opportunities for you to advocate.

Our national security depends not on building walls, but bridges. Peace is a product of friendship and understanding, and the Peace Corps community demonstrates our lifelong commitment to those ideals by following through when it's needed most.

LOS PLANES LATRINE PROJECT



(Editor Note: Via emails of **Suzanne Mills**, June to Dec. 2016)

1. “As I mentioned in a previous message, the community of Los Planes is located in the buffer zone of Montana Corralitos Wildlife Reserve, located in a cloud forest in Francisco Morazan. The community has a school, community center, and new health center. However, they have no electricity, running water, or waste management. Located high in the mountains, their waste stream contaminates the drinking water resources used by several downstream communities. Most notably, the downstream community of Agalteca, with a population of about 5,000, suffers from poor drinking water quality due to lack of upstream waste management. Sr. Raudales and

AJARCO propose constructing 60 latrines in Los Planes to solve this problem.

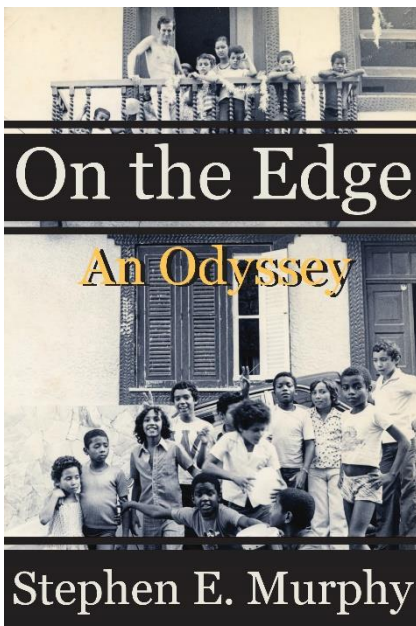


2. I spoke with Yonis Raudales this week, our contact in Honduras for the Los Planes latrine project. He has received the MoneyGram money just fine and is waiting for an opportunity to visit Los Planes to confirm with community leaders the way in which they plan to apply the money to latrine building. Unfortunately, the rainy season is in full effect, and the road to Los Planes is out halfway up the mountain due to a landslide. It is 2 days of walking from that point to the community, which is currently not feasible for Sr. Raudales. However, he is hopeful that with the beginning of the coffee harvest this month, the people who need to transport their coffee beans to Tegus by truck will be motivated to clear the road soon.

3. Sr. Raudales walked 12 hours this past weekend to visit Los Planes and talk about the latrine project with its leaders. Community members are digging the holes for the latrines and building the "casetas" (housing) while they are waiting for the weather to dry out a bit. Once things are a bit drier, they will coordinate the delivery of the materials that Amigos is buying.



4. I recently received these photos of our latrine project in Los Planes! I did not receive captions for the photos, but in a phone call before Christmas with Yonis Raudales, he informed me that most of the holes for the latrines have been dug and 4 of the "planchas" (concrete foundation of the latrine that goes over the hole) had been laid. Due to heavy rain (see awesome mud photos!), setting the planchas is taking a while, but poco a poco the project is coming together!"



STEPHEN E. MURPHY'S MEMOIR: ON THE EDGE: AN ODYSSEY Reviewed by Bob Arias (Colombia 1964-66) On the Edge: An Odyssey Stephen E. Murphy (Regional Director, Inter-Americas Region, 2002-3) 2016 188

pages \$15.95 paperback, \$5.99 Kindle
<https://www.amazon.com/Edge-Odyssey-Stephen-Murphy/dp/1536851876>

Harvard missed an opportunity to welcome young Steve from Seattle, and work on his MBA with Boston's finest...their loss, our gain! **On the Edge, An Odyssey** takes you from the Northwest to Boston to Rio and South America. Full of surprises and adventure, as well as serving in the administrations of Bush 1 and Bush 2. I found his book both exciting and a joy to explore funny moments as Steve becomes an adult in Brazil. But before he can continue, Vietnam calls and he becomes a US Navy Lieutenant junior grade, and finds himself as a participant in the war.

Steve, or as the Brazilians call him...Estive, never allows grass to grow under his feet, always on the go. He gives us a view of an individual searching for his place in life. Never a dull moment. At his lowest point with no clear picture of who he is...he considers ending things, but first talks to a local Boston priest who tells him, "Pay attention to the little things in life, that is what matters.

He had a special appreciation for Latin Americans, this man from Seattle. As a native speaker, he functions in Portuguese, Spanish, and some French. Steve fully understands the cultural differences and challenges of day to day contacts. Learning who Estive is, kept me focused on his book and very interesting life...difficult to put down! I would recommend **On the Edge** to recent graduates and folks going into retirement, asking what is

next in life. If you are searching, this book can share with you what is really important...the small things in life! Steve's motto is simple, "live life to the fullest." Or as the Colombians would say, *chevere*, awesome!

On the Edge: An Odyssey **Stephen E. Murphy, IAP regional director, Peace Corps (2002-2003)**

I wrote this memoir for the University of Washington's reunion last year, focusing on the 'turning points of life'. UW colleagues said: "You've led an interesting life – you should write it down," so I did. On my visit to Honduras in 2002, a special PCV stood out as exemplary, whom I quoted in pages 147-148. Here is the dialogue quoted between PCV Michael Wunsch, now at North Dakota State University, and the author at El Cantoral:

"So Michael, tell me your story, as you seem a hero to these people on the hill," I said.
"I ran 5Ks in college – good training to run up and down Honduran hills," he affirmed.

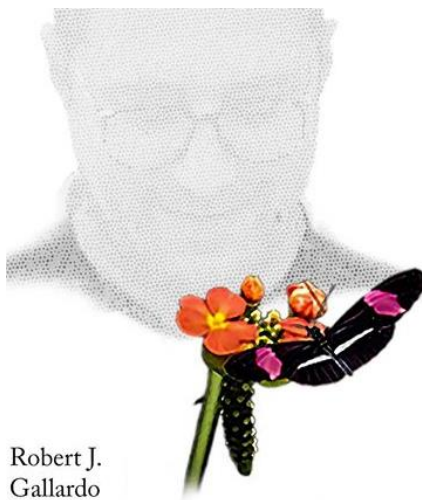
"So is running part of your task as volunteer?" I inquired to this fit young man.
"My task is to help our community plant new products besides traditional crops," he said. "So I often run down the hill to the highway to catch a ride to Tegucigalpa's market in the morning."

"I once lived on a hill in Rio, so I credit your energy to get their produce to market. Also, why did your community choose bok choy as its cash crop?"
"Our village leader and I visited the market thirty miles away, and found bok choy's prices higher than other produce. We talked it over with

community farmers and planted last year. Now they reap the rewards, with higher family income,” he said, excusing himself to run down the hill.

The village spoke highly of Michael, proudly showing their bok choy and long carrots to this visitor from Washington with broad smiles.

The author is currently, Senior Advisor, Latin America, for Pacific NW Advisors. He has taught ‘Doing Business in Latin America’ at Seattle University and serves on the UW’s Board of Advisors, AIESEC. With friends and family, he founded the *Pixote Literacy Fund*, Partners of the Americas (Washington DC). He is in frequent contact with Agros Foundation about expanding its villages among poorer farmers in Honduras.

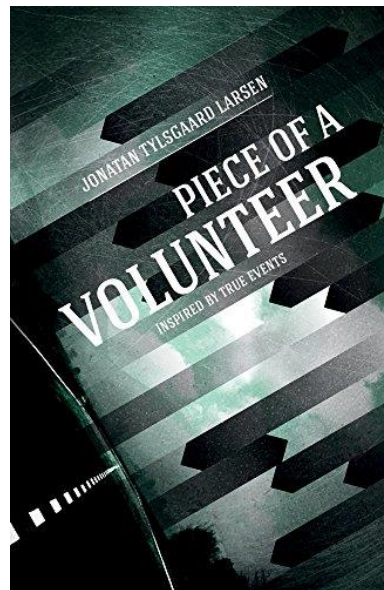


Robert J.
Gallardo

DR. SIDEBOTTOM AND THE FLOWER OF YOUTH. If anyone likes a good read, I (**Robert Gallardo**) have just published my first work of fiction. Part of the story takes place at various locations in Honduras. During my off-season (from being a bird watching guide) I will continue

to write other fiction and a couple of non-fiction books. This first one is already available on Amazon as a Kindle book or a printed version through **CreateSpace**.

PIECE OF A VOLUNTEER



Acclaimed [#PieceofaVolunteer](#) is inspired by the 2006 murder of Honduran human rights lawyer Dionisio Diaz Garcia. Michael has just finished his studies in journalism when he joins a U.S. relief organization in Honduras. He finds himself unprepared for the brutal reality of the gang-ridden country. Through his work, he steadily gets more and more entangled in the battle against a corrupt security company – the part he plays could cost him his life. The book originally appeared in Denmark Now, in recognition of the 10-year anniversary of the murder of human rights lawyer **Dionisio Diaz Garcia**, on whom the book is based, it has now been translated by Andrew Culligan for the English-speaking market. Dionisio worked for the Honduran justice organization the **Association for a More Just Society** (national chapter of Transparency International in Honduras), an organization that

continues to defend human rights in the country. The author, Jonatan Larsen, is a former Danish volunteer in Honduras and has conducted in-depth research with police, investigators and judges around the case.

MARI-LUCI JARAMILLO SCHOLARSHIP

Tanya Phillips (Danli 77-79)

Many of you will remember **Dr. Mari-Luci Jaramillo** when she was our Ambassador in Honduras during the President Jimmy Carter years in the late 1970’s. In the late 80’s, she lived here in the San Francisco bay area. I was working on a state project at Educational Testing Service, and, as often, was blathering about my time in Peace Corps Honduras. One of the employees looked at me and said: “did you know Ambassador Mari-Luci Jaramillo while you were there”? I responded that I had met her and had swum in the Ambassador’s pool, but I’m sure we wouldn’t know each other to meet. She replied, “Well, she just walked down the hallway; do you want to meet her?” Of course I did! So I got introduced and we couldn’t stop talking about our experiences in Honduras. We’ve been good friends ever since.

Since then, she worked in the Pentagon under the Clinton administration, and was given the Medal for Distinguished Public Service (a very big deal). After her service, she moved back to Albuquerque, and eventually moved into a large retirement community. Would you believe, one of her classmates from elementary school

also moved in some years later; they fell in love and got married recently! She never stops and is always full of surprises! She's my shero! If you haven't read her autobiography, you'd love it: it's terrific, inspiring, and upbeat. **Check it out:**

<http://adst.org/oral-history/fascinating-figures/mari-luci-jaramillo-shoemakers-daughter-to-madame-ambassador/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Madame-Ambassador-Shoemakers-Mari-Luci-Jaramillo/dp/1931010048>

Some weeks ago I got an email from Mari-Luci, and here's a partial excerpt: "Good news! The University of New Mexico has established a scholarship in my name. It is for outstanding Graduate Latino students. I am so happy...my work will continue long after I am gone. It is an endowment, one that goes on forever if we collect enough money. I told them that I had no rich friends but lots of middle class friends that might contribute smaller amounts. I am as excited as heck." Here's the link, and I sent a donation yesterday:

<https://www.unmfund.org/fund/mari-luci-jaramillo/> I found 2 wonderful YouTube videos of Mari-Luci, and I think they are worth viewing:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQ96jg3oyIY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yyd5gcMKrSQ> I'm so pleased that this has happened, and I hope that funds will start pouring in! I am going to Albuquerque in April to visit and to check up to see the new escapades she has pursued (and to take her shopping).

RECENT OBITUARIES

Compiled by Fred Corvi et al.

Christopher Noble Jr. 1987-1989

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/hartfordcourant/obituary.aspx?n=Christopher-Noble&pid=183405875>

Courtney Anne Lee Dunham 2007-09

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/registerguard/obituary.aspx?n=courtney-anne-lee-dunham&pid=183273183&fhid=27975>

Jan Hansen 1970-72

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sunsentinel/obituary.aspx?pid=175243196>

Kathleen "Kathy" Lozano 1971-73

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/latimes/obituary.aspx?n=Kathleen-Lozano&pid=182591976>

Thomas Keenan 1970-72

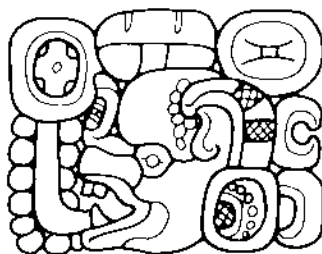
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/azcentral/obituary.aspx?n=Thomas-Keenan&pid=181484727>

Lesa Morrison 1986-89

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?pid=183197651>

Jim Couzzourt 1965-67

<http://amarillo.com/obituaries/2016-11-08/jim-couzzourt>



LA LAGUNA, YORO NY/HELP Gordon & Ginger Comstock

In the past, Amigos de Honduras has supported NY/HRLP projects. Here is a recent report. Jan. 17-29, 2017 the NY/HELP January trip to Honduras was held. 7 people worked in the communities of the tribe of Mataderos around La Laguna. They were met in Yoro by our UCC missionaries there, who have been working at CEVER, the vocational school sponsored by our sister E&R churches there. The main focus for NY/HELP this trip is to institute a sewing academy for the women of the tribe. Connie, one of our NY/HELP volunteers, is an expert seamstress, and will be leading the class. She will be teaching alongside Aracely Amaya from La Laguna, who has a diploma as a seamstress. NY/HELP hopes to supply each village with a treadle sewing machine for these women to use. New sewing machines are available in Honduras for less than \$150 each. In addition, some of the group worked on school construction and cook stove projects in near-by communities.

Maryjane Westra writes “We made it down the mountain in two hours, walking neither fast nor slow. As you said, David, the last part, maybe 1/4, was the roughest with a lot of steep downhill slopes with no rocks on which to brace your feet and no trees nearby on which to grab hold. But there were switchbacks, a lot of them, and I used every one. We dismissed our guide when we could see we were nearing La Habana and he seemed grateful. We gave him a flashlight for his return trip. I wonder if he used it. I admit to some sore muscles but they are soooo worth it. The walk was spectacular, breathtaking, inspiring. I am so glad we did that hike. What a wonderful way to end our visit to Honduras. If you get the opportunity and you are able bodied, and sure footed, DO IT!! The shoes were a god-send. “

“I'm glad to see that you didn't always seem rushed to get to the next project or work. Be still and know your God. We North Americans are not good at stillness. In my not-so-humble opinion, you can't build relationships if you are constantly trying to accomplish something. This international work is all about trust-building which can't be accomplished without taking the time to build relationships. But, I'm not telling you anything you don't instinctively know. I am, however, affirming what I saw. “

PEACE CAR HOLY ROLLER Maggie McQuaid
Nov. 29, 2016 it was my pleasure to meet the Peace Corps Peace Car at Montezuma Well National Monument and give the driver and PC recruiter Sophie a tour of the Well. I certainly didn't join the Peace Corps (or do two tours as a VISTA volunteer) with the thought of

volunteering for the Park Service late in life. But meeting and talking to Sophie today, I realized that part of my motivation for joining these programs is that I believe in the value of national service. Working in literacy programs for migrant farmworkers, teaching classes in nutrition and first aid in rural Hondurans, and finally, helping establish a domestic violence prevention program in rural Southeastern Alaska were all ways I tried to make things better for people under the aegis of national service. Today, being able to meet and talk to Park visitors, out in some of America's best places, is a way of continuing service, though the exercise and fresh air benefit me just as much. I am grateful to the Peace Corps for toughening me up, for making me realize I'm capable of all kinds of action, and today, as a retired person and Park Volunteer, it was nice to be able to express it.



HONDURAN NEWS

Loren Hintz (Olanchito, 1980-82)

It has been 5 years since Peace Corps pulled out of Honduras! And just one year since our reunion in New Orleans.

Terri Salus shared: PC Honduras friend, Bethany Yarrow (daughter of Peter Yarrow and a successful musician in her own right), asked us

for support, via a GoFundMe campaign, a little clinic started by Fernando, a friend of hers, in Honduras. The clinic was helping a lot of people in remote rural areas that had been infected by Zika. Bethany wrote that "Someone broke into the clinic that they had started over Christmas and stole all the medications and nebulizer. We are in the process of trying to raise more funds now for the construction material and now this. One step forward and two steps back. The campaign for the construction of the clinic and to replace the medications and nebulizer is here. **Please donate.**" <https://www.gofundme.com/CliniCentroYarrow>

The Guardian Nov. 17 reported that young migrant children held in one of the most controversial privatized detention centres in the US have been banned from playing with crayons after staff members accused them of causing damage to property. The centre at Karnes is one of three federal facilities that holds migrant mothers and children. These family centres are one of the most controversial elements of the Obama administration's border protection program, which looks set to rapidly expand under the incoming Trump presidency. A spokeswoman for the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services said the detention centre staff enforced the ban after accusing children of damaging a table as they drew inside the prison's visitation centre last week. The damage is said to have occurred as some mothers were taking legal advice. The GEO group, the \$2bn global security company that operates the centre, has made over \$57m from it since November

last year, according to local media reports.

Dr. Yensi Flores of Tegucigalpa was recognized at Dublin University by **Michael D. Higgins**, the Irish President, for her research on rapid identification of mosquito borne illnesses. She completed her graduate studies in Ireland after graduating from UNAH. She also obtained a € 250,000 donation for UNAH of lab equipment for the study diseases such as dengue, Chagas and Zika. ([Orgullo Catracho](#)).

Mirna Orellana reported that the Mexican Ambassador visited Olanchito to help return from Mexico to Honduras the remains of the poet Jacobo V. Carcamo of Arenal, Yoro.

The authorities have recovered the corpse of a man with his hands tied, wearing a white shirt. He is believed to be the lawyer Marlon Alexander Banegas, brother of the former mayor of Tocoa and current candidate of the Liberal party for the alcaldía of Tocoa. 1/7/17#CanalTVaguanHD

National Geographic continues to report on archaeological finds in the Mosquitia revealed by 3-D Lidar Mapping. IHAH website has links about **Kaha Kamasa or Ciudad Blanca**. Douglas Preston's tale: **Lost City of the Monkey God** has been published about the exploration of the site. Archaeologists surveyed and mapped extensive plazas, earthworks, mounds, and an earthen pyramid belonging to a culture that thrived a thousand years ago, and then vanished. The team discovered a remarkable cache of stone sculptures that had lain untouched since the city was abandoned. The most striking object emerging from the ground is the head of what Fisher speculated might be "a were-

jaguar," possibly depicting a shaman in a transformed, spirit state. Alternatively, the artifact might be related to ritualized ball games that were a feature of pre-Columbian life in Mesoamerica. Team member Oscar Neil Cruz, head archaeologist at the [Honduran Institute of Anthropology and History \(IHAH\)](#), believes the artifacts date to A.D. 1000 to 1400. **Editor Note: See back issues of Amigos for further commentary about this.**

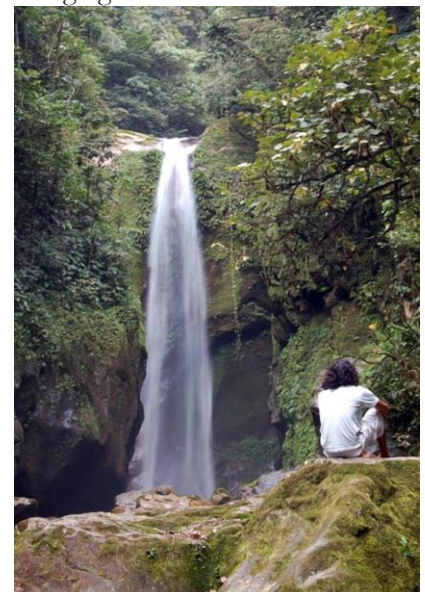
The Honduras Birding Tour for Conservation ended Nov. 13, 2016. It was sponsored by USAID, Marca Pais Honduras, and private companies from the US and Honduras. There were 5 teams lead by Honduran bird guides and included 50 visitors from Canada, US, UK and South Africa. The winning team saw 352 species of birds over a ten day period. The top 3 teams received money which was donated to Honduran Conservation organizations. **The Parque de Aves of Copan Ruins** received \$20,000. **The Biodiversity Center of Zamorano** received \$10,000 and **La Fuente de Vida in Santa Barbara National Park** received \$5000. Recent issues of Amigos have talked about PCV projects at Zamorano and Santa Barbara. Nov.14.16 [Marca Honduras](#)



Jim Barborak shared a Daily News article.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/life-style/rainforests-wildlife-mountains-sea-pico-bonito-park-article-1.2942993> Featured was **Pico Bonito National Park, Cangrejal River, Cayos Cochinos Marine**

Reserve, Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge and The Lodge at Pico Bonito. On Facebook [Jorge Alberto Betancourth Rivera](#) said "Dear Jim, thank you for sharing Pico Bonito and other protected areas with "Honduras Peace Corps". It is about time to be more out front and let the world know that there are many positive actions taking place in Honduras, than just the negative press releases and the US state department warnings. Your efforts to help to improve the image about my country are always highly appreciated." **This generated other comments:** One person was concerned that the article made light of the violence and act as though it's just a misperception, an unfortunate reputation that's no longer deserved - and that's just not true. She just returned from a two-week trip and had no issues but took more precautions than before. Another had a great trip to Honduras and thought people in Trujillo were a bit more successful than 10 years ago. He did note that that any size of business down to a pulperia is now **subject to extortion**. People are closing their businesses altogether rather than have to make the choice to pay the impuesto de guerra or "war tax" that the cartels are charging.



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) _____

Make check payable to Amigos de Honduras: Mail to Joan Larimore, 2334 Sunset Avenue, Enumclaw, WA 98022

2-17

Amigos de Honduras : \$15

NPCA Supporter (Basic FREE): \$50

Amigos, NPCA & another group: \$30
name of other group _____

Contribution to projects Amigos will fund in Honduras:

\$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

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the date on the mailing label is the expiration date of your membership - please renew if you're due!



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