

Amigos de Honduras

Vol. XL, No. 4

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EDITOR'S CORNER

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This November issue is the last of our Volume 40 anniversary year. Our treasurer and Steve Phelan have been encouraging Amigos to create an electronic means for paying dues and donating to the grant fund. We are also working to improve our social media outreach. As mentioned in the August issue there have been changes in NPCA leadership. John Evans, new **NPCA Board Chair**, is RPCV Honduras and has shared some thoughts with us. **Dr. Holland** contacted me about PC Honduras presence as part of her testimony and offered to write an article about amnesty. Long time contributor **Maggie Mcquaid** shared her famous St. Nick poem. Consider buying and sharing RPCV books for the holidays. **Barbara Joe** has a book review in this issue and **Scott Berg's** review was in the Feb. issue.

Last year around this time Honduran elections were held and of course Nov. 8 is legislative elections for the US. **VOTE!** Aug. 27 I zoomed in to the NPCA national affiliate meeting. We shared ideas and projects and voted on 3 nominees for Rupee Award. Check out prior issues for the long list of good organizations to donate to for **Giving Friday**. Don't forget **Amigos de Honduras Grant Fund**. NPCA. CAMO, SHI. Our **web site** has the forms for applying for Amigos de Honduras Grants, list

of Honduran NGOs and it has the old Amigos newsletters. <https://amigosdehondurasrpcv.weebly.com/> Check out and post at **HONDURAS PEACE CORPS** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2209604190>

Amigos de Honduras is going for greater outreach. We are in the process of organizing a fund raising campaign for our Grants program in Honduras. We are also creating a new web page with links for digital donations and digital membership renewals, more photos, description of grant projects, archives and news. Contact Tony if you are interested in helping create web, Facebook or Instagram content. (Our new site: amigosdehonduras.org will be going live in about a month.) **Keep an eye out for future announcements.** Yes, members will still be able to opt to receive the paper newsletter.

TREASURER REPORT

Anthony Ives (La Ceiba, 2003-5)
707-227-9932. **OJO**, New email: anthony2.ives@gmail.com **PO Box 91, Bremerton WA 98337**

Amigos de Honduras Treasurer's report for period ending 9/30/22

Beginning balance 7/31/22
\$1,762.19

Ending balance 9/30/22 \$3,027.19

Total deposits and transfers including NPCA: Aug \$ 920.00 Sep \$ 345.00

Total withdrawals fees, and projects funded: Aug \$ 0.00 Sep \$ 0.00

Amigos de Honduras (Friends of Honduras) is a 501-3c approved organization. All contributions are tax deductible.



SECRETARY REPORT

Brenda Sims Crumpacker (Pespire, Choluteca, 1990-1) 509-758-4165
kbc.olympic@gmail.com

Thanks to all of you who have paid your membership dues. We currently have a total of 192 members. There are 132 members receiving paper newsletters 60 receiving their newsletters by email. I totally understand how time flies by and the many demands on your time. I give members a two year grace period, after which I give you a reminder. After that you go on my Not-Active List. Just a reminder that your membership dues are \$15.00

per year or \$50.00 for 5 years. Your membership entitles you to a subscription of our Amigos de Honduras newsletter that is printed February, May, August and November. The back page of the newsletter, Membership Info, is how you can keep us updated. If you wish to change how you receive your newsletter please let me know.

Thanks to recent donors to the Grant Fund: the **Black Hills reunion RPCVs** donated \$460 and members **Edward W. Schoelz, Dale L. Schmitz, Ruth Spory, Mickie M. Lee-Merslich, Ron Reafs, & Marty Scherr** contributed for a total of \$870. **GRACIAS!**

All of a sudden autumn has made itself known. Seemingly overnight the weather went from a sunny, clear 80° to overcast, rain and 50°. Time to bring in the patio plants, don fleece jackets and extra blankets on the bed. I'm ready to hunker down inside, make stews, and catch up on my reading. **Happy Fall!**

BACK TO HONDURAS

Barbara E. Joe (El Triunfo and La Esperanza, 2000-03)

In late 2003, I left the Peace Corps after a 3 ½ year extended term as a health volunteer. When I returned home, I started working as an on-call Spanish interpreter on a flexible schedule, enabling me to make annual volunteer trips back to Honduras, which helped ease my reverse culture shock. My last trip there had taken place in Feb. 2020, when, as usual, I took a new wheelchair and other medical supplies and also served as a helper/interpreter for Operación Sonrisa, Operation Smile, which provides surgery for lip/pate problems. When it was found that most such congenital formations are due to a lack of folic acid in a

pregnant woman's diet, the problem among newborns began diminishing. After 2020, because of the pandemic, I did not return again, although previously I'd made annual medical/humanitarian trips to Honduras ever since leaving Peace Corps there in 2003.



Now I've been back once again in July 2022 after a 2 ½-year absence.

It looks unlikely that the Peace Corps will be returning to Honduras in the near future, although folks there spoke longingly about that possibility. A nearby country, Costa Rica, is already expecting PC Response volunteers early in 2023, but that's a much safer country. On this most recent visit to Honduras, I was fortunate to be able to travel by private car, much easier than by bus with less risk of exposure to Covid. A full report and photos can be found on my blog at honduraspeacecorps2.blogspot.com by scrolling back to the **Aug. 13, 2022** posting, entitled **Honduras 2022**.

Early in 2022, Honduras installed a new president, Xiomara Castro, wife of previous president Manuel Zelaya. US Vice President Kamala Harris attended her inauguration. The outgoing president, Juan Orlando Hernández, is now in US custody on drug charges. His brother was already serving time for drug offenses in a US prison. Some Honduran friends opined that Xiomara doesn't have as much control of the gangs as did Hernández, who was intimately involved with their leadership.

As before, this time I made a cash dollar donation to the Honduran Red Cross and brought Rx meds to the Triunfo health center in the south, as well as a brand-new wheelchair to a local lady there who had undergone a stroke.



Her family was able to take her out and about around town for the first time since her health setback. Hondurans asked me to please come back again, but I made no promises, as I'm not getting any younger. Is age just a number? Already, when I joined the Peace Corps in Honduras in 2000, I was far and away the oldest member of our training cohort, so back then, I started a support group for senior volunteers called OAKS for **Older And Knowing Souls**. Fortunately, I was already bilingual, as learning a new language gets harder as the years go by. For a longer nostalgic journey, you can read my award-winning book **Triumph & Hope: Golden Years with the Peace Corps in Honduras**. (See review below.) It would be wonderful to see Peace Corps volunteers return to Honduras. The need is there.

TRIUMPH & HOPE: BOOK REVIEW Barbara Joe (2000-03, La Esperanza & El Triunfo)
Triumph & Hope: Golden Years

with the **Peace Corps in Honduras** by Barbara E. Joe is a documentary of one woman's experience in joining the Peace Corps in her sixties. The book sheds positive light on joining Peace Corps at any age. **Triumph & Hope** by veteran human rights advocate Barbara E. Joe, takes readers on her **autobiographical journey of self-discovery, healing, and a chance for a new beginning upon joining the Peace Corps.**

When the author announced her plans to join the Peace Corps at age 62, a male friend was skeptical, predicting that she would return home "by Christmas at the latest." However, what she found in her encounters in two towns, **El Triunfo (The Triumph) and La Esperanza (The Hope)**, was adventure, new challenges, and the motivation to extend her service beyond the usual term. Most important, she was able to finally make peace with her son's untimely death. She says, "My book endeavors to show older, as well as younger, volunteers how much they have to offer and to gain from Peace Corps service"

After her service, Barbara became a Spanish on-call interpreter, a job she continued until the pandemic. She also began returning annually to Honduras to volunteer as an interpreter and operating room helper with medical brigades, missing only in 2021 when the pandemic halted the brigades. Barbara also mentions that **Pencils of Promise** is the little-known charity I chose to support through my Amazon book sales. It provides educational assistance to needy school students around the world. (Selecting a Honduran charity was not option.)

Book: [Triumph & Hope: Golden Years with the Peace Corps in Honduras](#), (also on Amazon's [Kindle](#) and B & N's [Nook](#)) For more info see: [Speaking about my book](#)

[Triumph & Hope on YouTube](#) ; [My Blog BARNESANDNOBLE.COM Triumph & Hope: Golden Years With The Peace Corps in Honduras | Paperback](#)



Barbara with Operation Smile.

NPCA, PC & FUTURE

John Lee Evans (Tela, 1975-8)
NPCA Board Chair I was elected Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Peace Corps Association on September 6, 2022. I served in the Peace Corps in Tela, Honduras working with rural schoolteachers and agricultural cooperative leaders for three years from 1975-78.

The last couple of years have been a crucial time for NPCA. Volunteers who were suddenly evacuated in March 2020 were given support by NPCA beyond what the Peace Corps was able to provide. More recently NPCA has been advocating for Peace Corps legislation on Capitol Hill. The House of Representatives recently approved the first reauthorization of the Peace Corps in 25 years by a close bipartisan vote. The legislation includes improved benefits and protections for Peace Corps Volunteers. We have also advocated for an increase in the Peace Corps budget for the first time in seven years. NPCA is keeping the Peace Corps front of mind for Congress. My goal is for the Peace Corps budget to reach 0.1% of the military budget, which would be a

reasonable investment in building peace. But this would require doubling the current Peace Corps budget to reach the 0.1% level.

Peace Corps has continued to evolve with the times since its inception in 1961. It has evolved from the mission of helping "poor people in other countries" to a true partnership with the local counterparts. In an increasingly globalized world, we share a common purpose in pursuing sustainability, as well as cooperating with other countries on mitigating climate change.

Your donations to NPCA support continued advocacy for the Peace Corps for future generations, as well as supporting other international and local projects of RPCVs. **In order to be inclusive of all 240,000 RPCVs, NPCA no longer requires a membership fee.** However, you can become a partner by donating \$50 or more each year to NPCA. Please consider [donating today](#) for Giving Tuesday to support NPCA for the future of the Peace Corps. www.peacecorpsconnect.org.

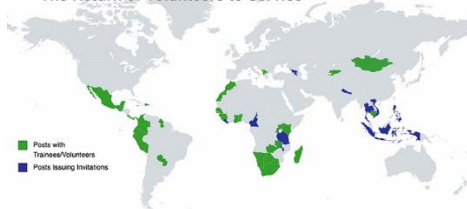
In the year prior to my joining the Board there had been allegations of sexual harassment and gender discrimination at NPCA, which were taken seriously and thoroughly investigated and determined to be unfounded. Unfortunately, a social media campaign had been launched against the CEO and staff members without having the full facts. NPCA is committed to creating a positive diverse, equitable and inclusive workplace and is also committed to protecting employees who are falsely accused.

I was recruited to the Board by NPCA CEO Glenn Blumhorst after

I completed 12 years on the San Diego School Board. Unfortunately, just prior to joining the Board, the previous Board had terminated the CEO for “other reasons” in a rushed process. After being on the Board for only a month, I was elected Chair, as the new Board decided to move in a new direction. All of the previous Executive Committee has resigned and nine of the sixteen elected members of the Board are new. We also have a very capable Interim President/CEO Dan Baker who was promoted from the staff. The new Board is committed to restructuring our governance model to avoid the problems of the past. We also recognize and appreciate the many contributions of Glenn Blumhorst over the past 9 years. He transformed NPCA from just an alumni association to a dynamic force for social progress by RPCVs in our communities and around the world.

NPCA NEWS Dan Baker Interim President

The Return of Volunteers to Service



October has already brought some exciting news for the Peace Corps community. In the past couple weeks alone, in South America, [Volunteers have returned to serve](#) alongside communities in **Guyana**. They have arrived in **South Africa**. And they have returned to **Mongolia**. These Volunteers’ work with local partners includes education to advance literacy, collaboration on community development, and efforts to nurture environmental stewardship and foster health and family-life education in local communities.

Many are new Volunteers — and some, like [Daniel Lindbergh Lang](#), waited two and a half years to return (in his case, to Mongolia) after being brought back to the U.S. because of COVID-19.

We’re grateful for all of you who have bolstered NPCA’s efforts to support evacuated Volunteers — and who helped lay the groundwork for new agency policies and legislation that will ensure a better, stronger, and more inclusive Peace Corps. You’ve raised your voices and provided critical financial support. And now hundreds of Volunteers have returned to some 40 countries around the globe, with more returning in the weeks ahead. If you tuned in to our [Annual General Membership Meeting](#) last month, you heard some news that we’ve been eagerly awaiting for years: **This month, the first cohort of Volunteers is expected to arrive in Viet Nam.**

Editor note: See the following links for more info on NPCA <https://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/cpages/home> Sept. 24 was the annual general membership meeting. For information on the Ruppe award-winning project announced at the General Meeting, reach out to Partnering for Peace at info@partneringforpeace.org, RPCV Alliance for Ukraine at allianceforukraine@gmail.com, and Friends of Moldova at thefriendsofmoldova@gmail.com.

RPCV FOTOS IN DROPBOX v5 Steve Phelan (Tegucigalpa, 1973-4)

(Editor Note: As part of this anniversary issue this is a reposting of Steve’s article from a few years back. The links can also be found in the Amigos website.) DropBox is a file sharing site where I set up a bunch of Peace Corps Honduras photo sharing folders. **These links will let you**

see about 10000 pictures taken by PCH’s over the years. They are mostly organized by decade, on the assumption that you are most likely to want to see photos from about the time period you served in Honduras. Just click on the links. You do not have to install any software to see these pictures on any device, including your Mac, PC or smartphone. (Damaged links corrected and updated 7/22/2020)

The PCH Documents folder is used for various documents that PCH's might want to download. YOU MAY NEED TO COPY THE LINK AND PASTE IT IN YOUR BROWSER TO SEE THE PHOTOS. For unknown reasons just clicking on the link (or sometimes CTRL-CLICK) often does not work. But you cannot edit the pictures or files, nor upload your own pictures or files to the various folders. Why not?

PC

docs: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ijo8biq6fmb9cg0/AAA6ywDkPjpuU2bE BYZyynTaa?dl=0>

PCH-

1960's: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/h/7ycwqd51ccxjvh/AABEGxbTBrnjeC227rNst9Y5a?dl=0>

PCH-

1970's: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/h/2cl7kimvne6ubp7/AABuLWO6u0u xmi4J3nDtGgAa?dl=0>

PCH-

1980's: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/h/x49czcsjxvaqy0/AADCAQrpwSvKKo QjBDrzBhHba?dl=0>

PCH-

1990's: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/h/zggt4jh9ydb0fr/AAAQCfHt9sHXmt rRIZO3xG6Ra?dl=0>

PCH-

2000's: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/h/03t7xirstxt0ndl/AABkHEIWKD4B yi4QPT3-LSia?dl=0>

PCH-

2010's: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/h/mpnoc5tss5buv6i/AAApI3Tes9OaJY qfACmZYZPa?dl=0>

**Peace Corps Reunion
2002:** <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/>

[p59jwlqr17dh2rj/AACxT8VuUsBT5qGZ9ROMWema?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/p59jwlqr17dh2rj/AACxT8VuUsBT5qGZ9ROMWema?dl=0)

Peace Corps Reunion 2006: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2e779b08inj43ga/AADjkO-ulfEfiUvdEBTOoS1Ea?dl=0>

Peace Corps Reunion 2008: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5I061rsss3uv9cy/AABeZi9FaPBAjF1p6UzzZcRPa?dl=0>

Peace Corps Reunion 2011: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ecfsw1hxba2nzif/AAABPhT_X_PGxyVy4qbJzs37a?dl=0

Peace Corps Reunion 2013: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5fqb4x4a81xq73p/AAD6Tib7HLgOWYI EiXXIZ6lma?dl=0>

Peace Corps Reunion 2018 Tahoe: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/t7hiblnb6cxhg9v/AAAAsz9V4L0pxPBO RGdCFPOh1a?dl=0>

Transfer

Folder: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/h/b6jwgvy9pfg7b9ya/AAAr4n3GFdEFQv39HDetZyXa?dl=0>

DropBox is a SYNCHRONIZATION site. When you have edit permission for any DropBox folders, the system automatically copies the entire contents of that folder onto your hard drive, then keeps your copy of the folder synchronized with the master copy in the cloud. If anyone adds photos to the Master, they are automatically added to your personal copy of the folder. But there are maybe 10,000 photos out there in these folders, and if you have edit permission to all of them, you will find that a LOT of your disk space gets eaten up. And since DropBox works on your phone, you will soon run out of memory somewhere. So, what are you tempted to do? To delete those folders on your hard drive, of course. Unfortunately, DropBox then synchronizes your folders with the Master folders by deleting the Master folders FOR

EVERYBODY! MAJOR HEART ATTACK for yours truly, at least the first time it happened. (It turns out they are easy to restore, since this happens all the time.)

If you would like to upload pictures, just let me know. I will give you edit permission to the PCH Transfers folder. You can bundle your pictures up in a folder and post that folder to Transfers. I will then move it into the appropriate PCH folder under your name and dates of service. That way, the Transfers folder never has anything in it for any length of time, it doesn't take up any space on your disk, and you won't be tempted to delete it. And if you do, it won't matter anyhow, since it's empty. Did all that make sense? Anyhow, have a look at the folder links above (and let me know if any of them don't work). If you want to add your own pictures, let me know that as well, and I'll give you permission to upload to Transfers. stephen.d.phelan@gmail.com Have fun with the photos!

SEEKING AMNESTY IN THE USA FROM HONDURAS

Dr. Lynn Holland, University of Denver

¡Saludos, Amigos de Honduras! For many years, Hondurans have sought refuge from a brutal and corrupt government that has long neglected their basic needs. As an academic who has studied the situation, I sometimes serve as an expert witness on behalf of these refugees in their appeal for asylum. My job is to describe conditions in the refugee's home country to the court, and show the likelihood that the refugee is indeed telling the truth. To be granted asylum, the refugee must have "a well-founded fear of

persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion."¹ Where an agency of government is the persecutor, as is often the case in Honduras, I will need to show that there is no safe location for the refugee in the home country.¹ **This definition of a refugee comes from the 1951 UNHCR Convention and its 1967 Protocol.**

The granting of asylum is an especially hard slog for Hondurans. Despite the compelling nature of their cases, Hondurans have had only an 18 percent success rate in the last twenty years, one of the lowest among refugees from Latin America. By comparison, the rate is 19 percent for Guatemalans, 20 percent for Salvadorans, and 29 percent for Nicaraguans, 36 percent for Colombians, 39 percent for Cubans, and 49 percent for Venezuelans. There is a bit of good news, however. In just the last year, a Honduran's chances of being granted asylum have increased by 9 percent.²

Among my recent cases was that of a former police officer, whom I'll call Diego. Prior to the coup, Diego had been part of a new generation determined to fight corruption in the Honduran National Police. Young and idealistic, he and his partner on the force chose to tail a corrupt police chief as he was making payoffs to drug traffickers. The tables were quickly turned on them, however, as senior officers learned of their investigation. As the two continued their work, they faced an increasing barrage of threats and harassment against them as well as their families. When Diego's partner was killed, he went into hiding. Soon after, his

girlfriend was also killed for not revealing Diego's whereabouts.

As with so many cases, I was moved by Diego's story and put long hours into researching the circumstances of the case. I learned that, at the time Diego joined the force, a vigorous anti-corruption effort aimed at the National Police was underway. This was soon met by a fierce backlash among corrupt officers, however. As the hearing approached, I grew increasingly confident in my understanding of the situation and certain that, Diego, his lawyer, and I would succeed in winning asylum for him.

"We are going to win," I told him cheerily when we met on the morning of his hearing. A moment later I was kicking myself. *What did I know? The odds were heavily against us. We all knew this. And now I had probably given him false hope.*

Soon after, Diego was set up with earphones and interpretation to enable him to follow the proceedings. His romantic partner, a U.S. citizen, had remained close by his side and was now seated in the gallery. Once on the stand, I recounted what I knew about police corruption in Honduras – routine harassment, torture, and killing of officers who refused to cooperate with drug trafficking operations within the department. The evidence, drawn from human rights organizations and courageous journalists, was extensive. Most recently, it includes the extradition to the U.S. of former police chief, Juan Carlos Bonilla Valladares, to be tried on cocaine trafficking and weapons charges in conjunction with "high-ranking" Honduran politicians and members of the National Police.

Diego had filed his own statement with the court along with witness accounts and a psychological evaluation. His story was painfully convincing and left no doubt of its veracity in the mind of the judge. But it was still far from over. As the judge explained, police officers were authority figures and agents of government themselves. How could they possibly belong to a "persecuted social group"? As the judge pressed the issue, I found myself unprepared. A second hearing was scheduled and a few weeks later, I was again on the stand. This time, I was able to cite several cases where honest officers in Honduras had been persecuted, some of them killed, precisely for their lack of cooperation. Honest police officers could be considered a persecuted group.

When it was over, the lawyer, Diego, his partner, and I stood outside the court building as the lawyer explained the outcome in Spanish. The judge had stated that there could in fact be an appeal on the part of the DHS attorney who had sought to prevent the granting of asylum, but it was unlikely. Diego listened intently then nodded, shook hands and thanked us, then walked silently away, his partner at his side. I watched until the two were nearly out of sight. Then very suddenly, they turned and wrapped one another in a fervent embrace. Diego then lifted his sweetheart from the ground and gently swung her around. Victory. **Lynn Holland, PhD Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver, Denver, CO 80208**



NEWS OF HONDURAS

Compiled by Loren Hintz

Facebook.10.24.22 For the first time in history a Honduran will be in the World Series. **Mauricio Dubón** was born in SPS and plays shortstop for the Houston Astros.

www.diez.hn.8.7.22 The young chess player, Valeria Viana age 15, who is originally from Choloma, Honduras has managed to win the first international title in nine rounds of the eleven World Olympics that are played in India. Thanks to her triumphs against Gabon, Senegal, Liberia and her draws against Guatemala and Eritrea, the great International Chess Federation awards her the distinction of Master candidate of the International Chess Federation (WCM). Her beginnings were in the Municipality Chess Club. She started chess at age 11. She currently studies in San Pedro Sula where she just started her senior year. Valeria *had to do charity fundraiser at nights to be able to get the flight ticket to India.*



Facebook.Mirna.Orellana.3.24.22 Gustavo Adolfo Morales Funez was one of the disappeared during the cold war of the 80s. He was kidnapped 3.18.84 in Tegucigalpa. He was a member of the SITRAPANI union and worked as subdirector of the National Lottery. His body was discovered 10.26.95. He was born 9.17.47 in Olanchito (week of Semana Civica.) The book **Cuando Las Tarantulas Atacan** by Logino Becerra describes this time in Honduran history.

News 360 10.16.22 The former president of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya Rosales, has unleashed a schism in the country's government after stating this Friday that the alliance signed with Salvador Nasralla, current presidential designate -- the equivalent of a vice president -- and his party, Partido Salvador de Honduras (PSH) has been broken. Zelaya Rosales expressed that he considered that the alliance had been broken by Nasralla's insults to the president, Xiomara Castro, to his party, Partido LIBRE, and for "comparing them with the dictatorship (of Juan Orlando Hernández), according to 'La Nación'. Nasralla has made numerous statements in the media and publications in social networks in recent days in which he has claimed that President Castro has not complied with the agreement signed before the 2021 elections in which promised him a leading role in the government. Castro and Nasralla won the presidential elections on a joint ticket, obtaining 51 percent of the support

TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE... Maggie Mcquaid (76-87 Pespire Choloteca) wrote this poem to send home to friends in December of 1977, when she was a Health Volunteer.

Twass the night before Christmas and all through Pespire.

It was one big fiesta with everyone cheery.

And I, in my hammock, in a cerveza haze

Was thinking back to my more northerly days.

When a knock on the door ruined my brief siesta

And I sprang to my feet, muttering "Quien es esta?"

It was a stranger! I drew back in fear When a voice said, in English "Does the gringa live here?"

His red coat was filthy, he looked tired and sick,

But I knew in that moment it must be Saint Nick!

"Santa!" I cried, "What are you doing here? Where's Dasher.

Where's Dancer, and all those reindeer?"

"It's a long story", he said full of gloom. "And I'll tell you

As soon as I use your bathroom."

"I was stopped at the border, they acted plumb loco,

'Cause I had no passport, ni visa tampoco. But then what was worse

Were those border guard boys. They took my reindeer and sleigh

And my sackful of toys." But how did you get here?"

I asked with a shiver. "Like everyone else does, I swam the river."

To his lips came a sigh, to his eyes came a tear,

"This is awful," he said, "Get me out of here. Send me back north,

To Fairbanks or Nome. I hate the tropics; I want to go home!"

"Now Santa," I said, "I'm in the Peace Corps.

And you know I've heard that old story before.

I'll tell you the truth, Nick, although you may rue it,

But down here, when there's work to do, you just do it.

The job may be tough, the environment sleazy,

But nobody said it was gonna be easy.

Folks from Guatemala way down to the Isthmus

Are all waiting for you because WE NEED CHRISTMAS!"

"Maggie," he said, "You have got me inspired,

I was wrong to give up, I guess I was just tired.

But now you have given me strength to pull through!"

"Oh shoot, Nick." I said. "I have been through it too."

So we drank a few beers, and then with no more fuss.

We went out and flagged down a Teguce-bound bus.

And I heard him exclaim, as they roared out of sight:

"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

Now this is the truth, folks, you know I'm no fool.

And I wouldn't lie to you (well, not during Yule.)

So wherever you are, on this Noche Buena,

Merry Christmas and love from your pal Magdalena.



LA CASA DE LA NIÑEZ por Fernando García

No vuelvas donde un día fuiste feliz,

es una trampa de la melancolía, todo habrá cambiado y ya nada será igual, ni tan siquiera tú.

No intentes buscar los mismos paisajes,

ni a las mismas personas, no estarán,

el tiempo juega sucio,

y se habrá encargado de destrozarse todo aquello

que un día te hizo feliz.

No regreses al lugar donde un día fuiste feliz,

retenlo siempre en tu memoria, tal como era, pero no regreses.

No vuelvas al pasado, ya lo conoces,

la vida sigue y hay nuevos caminos que recorrer,

nuevos lugares que visitar

y otras personas que nos esperan.



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 who 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 Anthony Ives, PO Box 91, Bremerton WA 98337 (Newest). 11/22

Amigos de Honduras : \$15

NPCA Supporter (Basic FREE): \$50

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

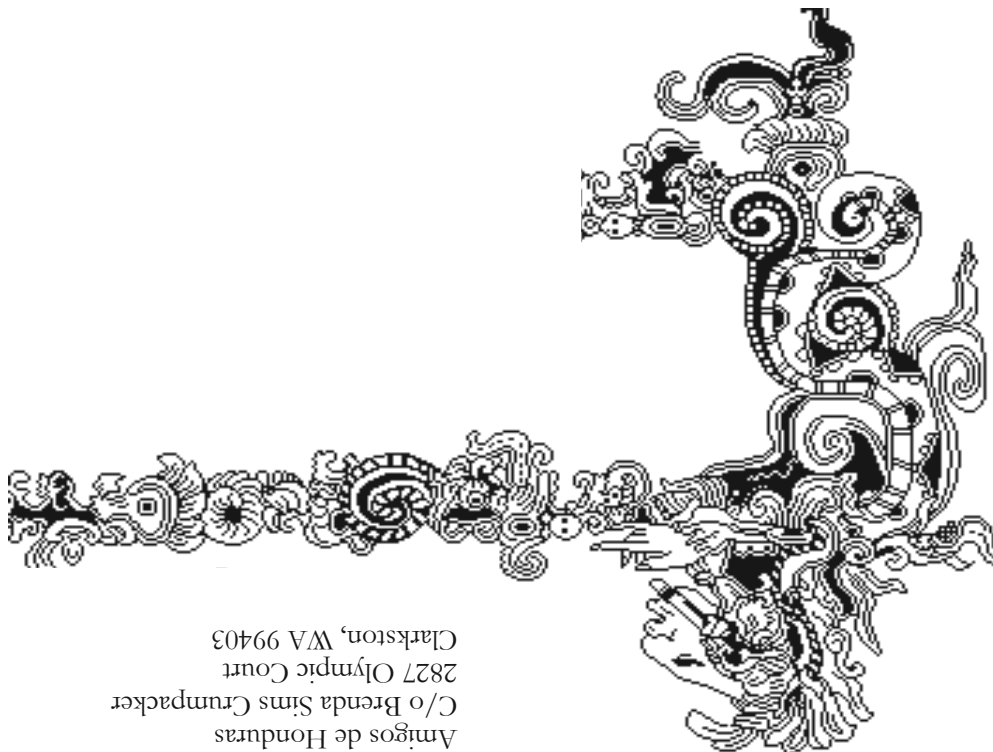
5 year membership Amigos: \$50 _____

Contribution to projects Amigos will fund in Honduras: \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

I would prefer to receive my newsletter in .pdf format.

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



Amigos de Honduras
 C/o Brenda Sims Crumpacker
 2827 Olympic Court
 Clarkston, WA 99403