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# Amigos de Honduras

Vol. XXII, No. 1

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## SECRETARY /TREASURER'S REPORT

**Joan M. Larimore 1986-88 San Francisco del Valle**

Can you believe that another year is gone? Our Amigos Archivist, Ron Reafs, reports that the materials from 2014 have been duly carried up to his attic for storage. For those of you who have forgotten or never knew, Ron has been our Archivist for several years now. Ron lives in Sacramento, California.

It took almost 8 months but I can finally access the NPCA records once again and keep the Amigos Roster up-to-date. Your dues, paid through NPCA, are again showing up in our bank account. For those of you who pay your NPCA dues through Amigos, there was never a problem.

Many thanks to those of you who completely fill out the Membership Info Blank when you send in your dues. It is a big help in keeping our records up-to-date. Our corporation dues for 2015 have been paid to the State of Washington. We pay \$10.00 per year for the right to be called a corporation. Why such a small amount? Because we give grants as opposed to "fund raising" for profits.

Your Secretary/Treasurer has finally gotten our records corrected and in easily accessed order. **Contact me at [amigosdehondurasjml@gmail.com](mailto:amigosdehondurasjml@gmail.com).**

## EDITOR'S COLUMN

**Loren Hintz 1980-82 Olanchito**

**This issue has a lot of news about PC Honduras: Plans for the 2016 reunion in New Orleans, update on the PCH data base and photo collection, a history of Amigos de Honduras, a project funded by the Amigos Grant Committee and advice on travelling to Honduras. I am also sharing some recent headlines about Honduras. There is also some news from National Peace Corps Association. Please continue to share Honduran news and your old Peace Corps experiences with me at [ldhintz@bellsouth.net](mailto:ldhintz@bellsouth.net) (Chapel Hill, North Carolina).**

## AMIGOS GRANT COMMITTEE REPORT

**Joan M. Larimore 1968-88 San Francisco del Valle**

Your Grants Committee (Judith Whitney-Terry, Loren Hintz and Joan Larimore) authorized two recent grants. The NPCA Community fund was allocated \$100. The Lempira Coffee Cooperative was granted \$1000. The families of

the cooperative and community lost their grain crops. The money is to be used to purchase food stuffs to see the families through until the next planting and harvest. Amigos will be receiving reports on how this funding has been utilized. We will keep Amigos members updated. **Please read the report by Maria Robinson in this issue of Amigos for more information.**

We are very fortunate to have RPCVs who remain actively engaged with rural Hondurans and keep us informed of the needs in Honduras. The generous grant donations of our membership definitely go to worthwhile causes! **Since November 2014 we have received donations from:**

**Ed Fischer**

**Cherl Damschroder**

**Otto M. Hausch**

The Amigos de Honduras members are an important link to worthwhile causes in Honduras. If you know of special needs in our PC country, let your Grants Committee know and we will investigate and hopefully be able to help fund the project.



## 2016 PEACE CORPS HONDURAS REUNION IN NEW ORLEANS

Terri Salus 1978-80 Tegucigalpa

**Editor Note:** Terri has been sharing info for the 2016 PC Honduras reunion. Please use her special PC Honduras email [TerriSalus@gmail.com](mailto:TerriSalus@gmail.com) to contact her. She needs volunteers to help including web masters and data managers.

With New Orleans gearing up for this year's Mardi Gras 2015, I probably will not get more information or be corresponding to you again until just before our Conference Call on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 9 PM EST (Free Conference Call Bridge: 1-605-475-3200, participant code: 710386#), but I want to share some exciting developments since our first conference call (Monday, 1/26/2015). FYI, I am planning on leading monthly planning/check-in conference calls at 9 PM EST (Free Conference **Call Bridge: 1-605-475-3200, participant code: 710386#**), On March 30 (Monday), April 28 (Tuesday), May 27 (Wednesday), June 22 (Monday), July 28 (Tuesday), and August 26 (Wednesday), we'll set the Fall/Winter schedule later.

**We are on for our "Peace Corps Honduras" Reunion Dates: Friday, 2/12/2016 – Monday, 2/15/2016.** Mardi Gras will be Tuesday, 2/9/2016 and Presidents' Day is Monday, 2/15/2016. Some wild and crazy folks may wish to head down to NOLA for Mardi Gras and stay on for our reunion, but I imagine that most will be coming in after Ash Wednesday. Our weekend is not as expensive as Mardi Gras weekend, but still peak rates. For general tourist information, you may wish

to check first the New Orleans Convention & Visitors Bureau ([www.NewOrleanscvb.com](http://www.NewOrleanscvb.com)).

**1) Money:** I was able to open a free bank account, linked to my personal PNC checking account, for our reunion so that I can avoid commingling reunion funds with my personal banking. The new account is titled in my name "Therese Salus" (this is how checks should be addressed and I will sign them) and sub-titled "Peace Corps Honduras." **Soon, so that I can make deposits, I will need folks to contribute \$50/person (made out to "Therese Salus," and sent to 8501 Aragon Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815; include your name(s), contact information (mobile phone/text/email, home phone, snail mail address, and site/years of service) so that we can start a registration list.** These payments will cover the Reunion registration fee (which may, in turn, cover the banquet at Mulate's). I know this is a leap of faith, but I believe that I have a good track record with you. Any excess funds remaining after our gathering, will go to *Amigos* to provide seed money for the next reunion (and I will close the PNC account).

**2) Hotels:** I and CVB will continue to look for more hotel options, including an upscale venue in the French Quarter (but not near Convention Center) and I have already arranged for blocks of rooms, without financial commitment or liability, at the Hampton Inn Downtown \$169/night at (226 Carondelet Street, contract signed 2/6/2015) and La Quinta (\$229/night at 301 Camp Street, contract pending)—both in the CBD/Arts District a couple of blocks from each other and a couple of blocks from the Quarter. Both

hotels have agreed to set aside small blocks of rooms and as they are reserved, more rooms will be added as available. Both have Breakfast Rooms that we can use for casual gatherings (hospitality) after noon. You should be able to reserve rooms in a couple of weeks at the Hampton Inn and La Quinta, I encourage you to book your reservations as soon as possible; not only will we get good rates (for high season), but early bookings may allow us to increase our blocks (once initial blocks are reserved, additional rooms will be added as available) and essentially let us take over the hotels before convention-goers/tourists start reserving.

### 3) Group Meals and Activities:

Other than for the Mulate's banquet and perhaps the party on Frenchmen Street, folks will be able to sign up on their own with the providers for the other activities (in addition to making their own travel and lodging reservations). I will let you know when and how you will be able to reserve. Tentative Schedule:

--Friday Lunch: [Dooky](#)

[Chase Restaurant](#) by Leah Chase (NTE 60)

--Friday Eve: Gray Line Tours: Cocktail walking, New Orleans at Night bus, Ghost walking, etc.

--Saturday

Lunch: Natchez Steamboat Cruise (NTE 200 in dining room)

--Saturday Eve: Party on Frenchmen Street

--Sunday Eve: Dinner Mulate's Original Cajun (NTE ~200 seated at tables or ~300 at high tops)

--Sunday/Monday: City sightseeing (Park Service Tour, French Market, Mardi Gras World) and

Day tours (Swamp Tours, River Road Plantations, Avery Island (McIlhenny Tabasco), Abita Brewery).

**4) Transportation:** City bus, shuttle, and taxis are available from the airport. Within the city, consider walking, taxis, Pedi cabs, buses, and, of course, the streetcar. We have rented cars often from Enterprise (provided excellent service, good rates, good hiring practices), but consider the cost of parking in and near the Quarter (\$35+/night).

**5) Swag:** T-Shirts, License Plate Frames, Beads: I am hoping that folks will be able to order "Cuerpo de Paseo Honduras" t-shirts from <https://www.booster.com>. **But, we need someone(s) to design the shirts and open the Booster site.** I hope that proceeds will go through and benefit Peace Corps Partnership Grants through Atlanta Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers ([www.AARPCV.org](http://www.AARPCV.org)). I have been trying, unsuccessfully, to get license plate frame information from the Santa Barbara Peace Corps Association; will keep you posted. I will order a gross or two of Honduras flag beads next fall.

**6) HELP NEEDED:** Communication and Webmaster.

**Fun stuff:** for those who missed it in Colorado, attach is the link my son, Jay (Peace Corps Namibia 3/2013-5/2015) sent to me for Poop in a Hole: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koUWaAr-itY>

In sum, we will be working out logistics, but for the most part, folks will need to make (and pay for) their own bookings.

Terri Salus

[Terri.Salus@gmail.com](mailto:Terri.Salus@gmail.com)

## PC MASTER LIST AND PHOTO ARCHIVE

Steve Phelan 1973-4 Tegucigalpa

Last month the latest Master Lists of RPCV's who served in

**Honduras was sent to all email addresses in the data base.** Nobody seems to have kept figures as to exactly how many volunteers actually served in Honduras, so it's hard to be sure. But the fact that we are finding fewer and fewer names implies we are close to the end of the quest, at least until PC reopens the Honduras program. We will continue to maintain the list, so please let us know if ANY of your contact information has changed (e.g., mailing address and phone #). **VERY IMPORTANT:** A few phone numbers got accidentally shuffled around on the list, so please check and make sure all of your information is correct.

Wherever possible, give us permanent personal email addresses such as those from Gmail and Yahoo. As you change jobs, retire, and relocate, it is easy to lose track of you if we have only temporary domain addresses. Send updates to Steve at [Stephen.D.Phelan@Gmail.com](mailto:Stephen.D.Phelan@Gmail.com) and copy Fred at [PCHondurasList@yahoo.com](mailto:PCHondurasList@yahoo.com).

**Remember also that this list is intended for PCHV's to be able to reconnect with old buddies and friends. To that end, please do NOT share the list with non-PCHVs, and do not use it for commercial purposes. Avoid spamming everyone on the list, especially about politics. We cannot police the list, but have consideration for your fellow volunteers.**

By the way, if you see a message about Macros when you open the List, it doesn't matter what you say. There are a couple of internal routines in the list that let me copy template date into the list easily. They cannot do any harm to

your system. And the list is sorted in two "flavors", by dates of service (so you can find the people you served with) and alphabetically (so you can find an individual). Same data, just different sorts.

**I have built an archive of about 8000 photos taken by lots of PCHV's.** For detailed information about how to use the archive, go to this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/cj3aq9n9f1n1ps6/DropBox%20Folders%20for%20Peace%20Corps%20Honduras%20Photographs.doc?dl=0>

Please let me know if anything doesn't work, at [Stephen.D.Phelan@Gmail.com](mailto:Stephen.D.Phelan@Gmail.com).

## A 25 YEAR CELEBRATION

Joan M. Larimore 1968-88 San Francisco del Valle

In the fall of 2015, Amigos de Honduras will turn 25 years old! As a review for those of you who have been with us since the beginning and for the edification of whom are recent members, the story of our beginning is well worth repeating.

In 1990 the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers held its first Conference on the west coast. Marilyn Watts, Phyllis Bloch Shelton and Joan Larimore, who became friends at our Miami PC Staging in 1986, decided to attend. At the very first meeting where all attendees gathered, these gals entered, looked around the room at tables with signs reading "FRIENDS OF ....." and not one said FRIENDS OF HONDURAS. At every available time during the three day Conference, these three had their heads together planning.

Marilyn became the first Editor. She learned how to construct and publish a Newsletter on her computer. Phyllis managed the data base. Joan was busy with her job as a PC Recruiter in Seattle and supplied some articles.

Then, as often happens, Marilyn and Phyllis were temporarily swamped by Life and a computer, printer and all records to date were passed on to Joan. She sent out a plea to the membership and one brave soul responded. Unfortunately, he became ill and had to quit as editor.

We “coasted” for a while, reluctant to give up completely. Following Hurricane Mitch (1998), which hit Honduras hard, concern for friends in our country of service brought Amigos back to life once again. **Alan Waugh**, who went to Honduras to help in the wake of “Mitch”, volunteered to be our editor.

He continued until his retirement and involvement with Habitat for Humanity and other agencies began to absorb more of his time. Joan became editor (with Alan’s help) for a few editions of Amigos. But the task of Secretary/Treasurer was more than enough to keep her busy so **Loren Hintz** took up the reins in the beginning of 2014.

We have continued to grow, involve our organization in activities which support the Honduran people, and keep our membership updated on what is happening. Oh yes! We recorded in Washington State in 1999 as a non-profit corporation. And we have also published two Directories of Amigos members.

So, as we venture into 2015, we are still holding true to our original objects of keeping in touch with each other, staying current on events in Honduras, and exploring ways to fund projects that support Hondurans.

Amigos, we share a proud and enduring history of our stay in our Peace Corps country, Honduras. Despite the drug trafficking, the sad closing of the PC Honduras Office in Tegucigalpa and the withdrawal of PC Staff and Volunteers from Honduras, Amigos de Honduras continues on.



## LEMPIRA COFFEE COOP

**Maria Robinson 1962-64**  
**Siguetepeque**

I first met the members of the Coffee Cooperative in La Union, Lempira early last year, through **Rigoberto Matute Ponce**, a young teacher from the coffee-growing region of Lempira who had served as a human rights observer during the Honduran election season of 2013.

Rigo had mentioned that the most pressing problem in his area was La Roya, the coffee rust disease ravaging most of Central America and I promised to “see what I could find out”. INCAE was selling replacement plants, but they were expensive, and also didn’t have the same flavor that Honduras is

becoming noted for. In some villages growers found that the premium coffee buyers couldn’t accept the coffee from the new strains.

Thanks to the internet, some Returned PCV’s, the Fair Trade Coffee folks in Oakland, and some helpful coffee roasters in the bay area, we were able to accomplish a lot long-distance. And by the time I next visited La Union, expecting to meet Rigo, there were 11 more compañeros gathered to discuss forming a cooperative! Don Mauricio, in his 60’s, was the oldest (and reminded me of the campesinos I used to work with in the aldeas around Siguetepeque.) Most of the rest are, like Rigo, college graduates who couldn’t find employment without leaving their home town. We met at the home of Profesor Mesa who was the director of the local collegio and who even had Wi-Fi, about the only private home with internet in La Union. At that meeting, the group decided it wanted to form a co-op, and **COOPERATIVA CAFETALERA LEMPIRA NORTE LIMITADA (COCALENP)** was born.

Several of the group spent 4 days at Los Cascabeles, the organic farm and teaching center of Don Mario in Chusmuy near Marcala, and on their return started a biodynamic fertilizer project. La Roya can be treated with copper nitrate (inorganic but still considered organic); improvement of the soil with organic fertilizer; cutting back the diseased area as soon as the disease is discovered; and, most important, by farmers working together. It will do little good if one farmer combats the disease if his neighbors do not, since the disease is airborne and quickly spread.

In our third meeting last November, we were treated to mariachi and a presentation of the group's long-term work plan, which includes a plant nursery and a solar drying plant. The women also met and decided to form their own group. I found, interestingly, that women will work in the fields with their husbands during coffee harvest (where they can earn about \$10 a day), but are still cautious about attending meetings at night.

About two months ago I learned that because of the unusually long rainy season in the area of La Union, mildew had ruined their entire corn crop, and corn prices were rapidly rising. The co-op came up with the idea of starting a "grain bank", which could buy the corn more cheaply, (\$19 per quintal, rather than \$24 and rising.) and keep it to sell by the pound as the corn became scarcer, and the prices keep rising. The group made a grant request to the Amigos de Honduras, and \$1,000 was speedily allocated. The group is buying the corn with this money and some savings, and is constructing bins to store the grain safely. (Co-op members are contributing storage space.) The members are also using it for seed corn for the next planting season. **Thanks to Amigos de Honduras, a lot of families will not be going hungry or going into debt to eat.** The group will plow the small profit they make into buying the new rust-resistant varieties of coffee trees, not only to plant themselves, but also to sell the small plants in a few months to other coffee farmers in the La Union area.

When I served as a community Development volunteer in Siguatepeque and Santa Barbara, I had always wanted to work with co-ops or other small business

ventures, but in the 60's, the most pressing needs were health and nutrition, so that's what I did. It gives me great satisfaction to be working with such a creative and active group of Hondurans, who have so many ideas and projects to help themselves. If you'd like to help, or have ideas to contribute, please contact me at [mariarobinson1@earthlink.net](mailto:mariarobinson1@earthlink.net). Honduras may have problems, but this is one bright spot.

### NEWSPAPER HEADLINES

Here are translations of some headlines of the Honduran newspapers Jan. 2015 with a few editorial comments. **Trial of murderer to begin** (The reigning Miss Honduras, Maria José Alvarado, and her 23-year-old sister, Sofia Trinidad Alvarado were killed last November in Dept. of Santa Barbara according to the BBC.) **Partido Nacional has 82 votes for the Militar Police** (the proposal to amend the constitution failed in the National Assembly a bit later); **Two Children (ages 12 and 16) shot by desconocidos on motorcycle;** **Businessman arrested for hiding coca in wood;** **CID-Gallup Poll shows better perception of direction of the country;** **Parents denounce public schools that charge matriculation fee;** **Honduran migrant murdered near bestia train on Guatemala-Mexico border;** **Many organizations ask approval of animal protection law** (in the press and on TV there was repeated coverage of a case where 5 children blew up a dog and where two soldiers tortured and killed a dog); **Bribery Case Postponed** (the director of the IHSS is accused of accepting \$2Million bribe for transferring the Social Security Health funds to others; hospitals no longer have any medicine); **New**

**airport will be constructed in Palmerola in two years** (by the way the Tegucigalpa airport has a slightly longer runway now); **Increase in the cases of Dengue in the capital;** **Kimberly Cruz is the Queen of Sabanagrande;** **Five members of Mara 13 arrested in El Progreso;** **Extortionists are bankrupting taxi and bus drivers** (since 2014 67 taxi and bus drivers and helpers have been murdered for not paying guerra de impuesto); **Value of metals** (lead, zinc, iron and silver) **exported fall;** **Still unidentified bones found in sacks buried at the Comayaguela Cemetery;** **In Futbol Yoro dominates Group A;** **Honduras is Changing!** (Most papers had a 40 page supplement praising President Juan Orlando Hernandez on the anniversary of his first year in office. Honduran businesses included full page ads thanking him for his service.); **Publication of book about the birds of Honduras** (this is Robert Gallardo's book!); **"Don H" may be extradited today** (the news was covering the extradition to the US of narcotraficantes and of the expropriation of their property); **School children begin campaign to eradicate chikungunya;** **Obama asks for \$1,000,000,000 in aid** (to fight corruption, violence and drug trafficking in C.A.)

### LANGUAGE PASSED TO IMPLEMENT PEACE CORPS EQUITY ACT

Washington, DC — December 17th, 2014 — The National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) today praised the inclusion of language to implement the Peace Corps Equity Act as part of federal omnibus appropriations bill passed last week by Congress and signed into law Tuesday night by President Obama.

The language -- championed in legislation introduced by New Hampshire Senator Jeanne Shaheen and New York Congresswoman Nita Lowey – fixes an inequity in the treatment and support of female Peace Corps Volunteers. For the past two years, these Volunteers were singled out as the only individuals serving our nation overseas in extended term assignments who were denied support should they choose to terminate a pregnancy in narrow and rare circumstances involving rape, incest and life endangerment.

“We are grateful for the leadership of Senator Shaheen and Congresswoman Lowey in advancing this bill” said NPCA President Glenn Blumhorst. “Thousands of individuals who served in the Peace Corps have stepped forward in the past two years to share their beliefs and – in some instances – their very personal experiences to state that Peace Corps Volunteers should receive equal support and equal treatment as others serving our nation overseas.”

More than 3,000 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and former Peace Corps staff signed a “[Statement of Support](#)” and added personal comments in urging Congress to implement the Peace Corps Equity Act. Seven surviving past directors of the Peace Corps also signed a letter of support urging the legislative fix necessary to treat Peace Corps Volunteers equally.

Founded in 1979 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., **the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA)** is a nonprofit organization at the center of a vibrant and united community of 215,000 individuals

who share the Peace Corps experience. <http://www.PeaceCorpsConnect.org>.

## HOW TO TRAVEL IN HONDURAS

**Maria Robinson Siguatepeque 1962-1964**

Have you wanted to go back to Honduras, but were concerned about safety since the Peace Corps pulled out its volunteers? There are a number of groups that sponsor delegations to Honduras once or twice a year. The trips are packed with meetings, rough roads, long days—and if you’re like me, you will often feel like you’re in the Peace Corps again!

For example, in November 2013, a number of US group non-profit groups together recruited over 150 people to assist local human rights activists in monitoring first the primaries and then the Honduran national elections. We all received official credentials to observe the opening of the ballot boxes as well as to document irregularities. Because we each worked with a local person from the area, our information was accurate.

The trips are usually 7-10 days, cost about \$1,000 or less, and include two meals a day and hotel and transportation. Groups usually travel in small busitos, with extremely competent and reliable drivers, a group leader, and almost always a translator.

Here’s a sampling of the types of trips planned this year:

**The Cross Border Network for Justice and Solidarity**, based in Kansas City, is sponsoring a fact-finding trip at the end of May focusing on Privatization around the country, and its impact on local communities. Contact Melissa

Stiehler  
at [melissastiehler@gmail.com](mailto:melissastiehler@gmail.com).

The Marin Interfaith Task Force on the Americas ([www.mifamericas.org](http://www.mifamericas.org)) usually has one or two trips a year to Honduras, the last one of which focused on Development Models Good and Bad, looking at everything from tourism development near Tela and its effects on indigenous people living there for over 200 years, to an inspiring visit to the newly-formed coffee coop in La Union. There we were even treated to a mariachi band, as well as a presentation on their ambitious plans. After a visit to a Fair Trade beneficio in Marcala, we ended up in Tegucigalpa, where we met with the former head of the Honduran Central Bank who also had been Ambassador to the US. Connecting with both ends of the spectrum felt exactly like Peace Corps again- one day in the capital, the next on a remote village with terrible roads!

MITF is organizing a trip to examine the question “Why are women and children fleeing Honduras?”

La Voz de los de Abajo, based in Chicago, usually visits the North coast of Honduras, focusing on the land struggles in the Aguan, which has been pitting campesinos against the owners of the palm oil plantations. Contact Vicki Cervantes at [honsolnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:honsolnetwork@gmail.com).

The Alliance for Global Justice ([afgj.org](http://afgj.org)) Usually plans one or two trips a year, one recently focusing on Charter cities (aka “Model Cities”) in the south. They are planning, among other trips, one contrasting Honduras and Nicaragua. Contact Chuck Kaufman [Chuck@afgj.org](mailto:Chuck@afgj.org)

There is even a trip for coffee roasters and sellers: Mayra Orellana Powell (married to an RPCV – Honduras), just led a delegation of coffee buyers to some of the most beautiful and productive coffee-producing areas of Honduras. Wish I would have qualified! She's at [mpowell@royalcoffee.com](mailto:mpowell@royalcoffee.com).

If you just want to visit Honduras in peace and quiet, there are birdwatching tours. Contact Robert Gallardo (RPCV 93-96) [rgardo32@gmail.com](mailto:rgardo32@gmail.com); William Orellana [info@beaksandpeaks.com](mailto:info@beaksandpeaks.com) Or facebook the Club Nacional de Aviturismo de Honduras.

For service trips consider International Health Service of Minnesota, IHS, ([www.ihsmn.org](http://www.ihsmn.org)) described in the November issue and Sustainable Harvest International started by RPCVs [www.sustainableharvest.org](http://www.sustainableharvest.org) All in all, there are many safe ways to travel to Honduras with people who are most knowledgeable about the current situation, and they all deserve a look.... buen viaje!

## RETURNING TO PC HOME

### Loren Hintz 1980-82 Olanchito

I just returned from a great trip to Honduras. Given all the PR of violence I decided to travel first on a formal tour and then travel on my own. **The occasion was Robert Gallardo's celebration of his new book Field Guide to the Birds of Honduras** and a six day birding trip afterwards. Twelve of us travelled from San Pedro Sula airport to Lago de Yojoa then PAMACAM and finally at Rio Santiago Nature Resort and Cuero y Salado near Pico Bonito. I saw over 200 species of birds and learned about the ongoing efforts to maintain the national parks and

private reserves. (More about this in the next issue of Amigos.) After the bird tour I visited a number of friends at my old site of Olanchito and in Tegucigalpa. All went well and there were no problems.

**The Lempira is now 22 to the dollar.** The newspaper costs L8 and a bottle of water is L10. There is lots of armed security. Restaurants often have an armed guard. The National Park Cerro Azul Meambar PANACAM had armed soldiers patrolling the area. All the banks had armed guards. In Tegucigalpa I took the local bus by the old Peace Corps office, near the Hotel Granada (still going strong) and got off at the downtown cathedral. I visited the new museum MIN across from the old Post Office. The vendors from the Peatonal are gone and have a market in front of Iglesia El Dorado. Most of my Honduran friends in Tegucigalpa no longer use the buses. I visited the National University and was amazed at the number of cars there. Friends told me that because of security concerns many students commute by private car. The UNAH Science Museum and Botanical Garden looked good.

To save time I flew from La Ceiba to Tegucigalpa via Avianca (TACA/SOSA) airlines. My luggage (lots of books, newspapers and folders) triggered security concerns so my name was called, I walked down to the air strip to a special baggage room where all my books and folders were politely examined. I think they were looking for smuggled money. I took the local bus from La Ceiba to Olanchito for L86 and bought food on the bus for L20. I walked around my old barrio and admired the paved roads. Most of

the teachers I worked with have retired. The daughter of one coworker Prof Ester is now married and hosted a PC Volunteer in 2006.

Everyone I met had stories of the current wave of violence. In Tegucigalpa a neighbor was kidnapped and released after paying ransom. A nephew was murdered after he refused to pay the impuesto de guerra (money business has to pay to gangs for security). The owner of a building receives no rent because the woman running the store there has to pay her impuesto de guerra first. A friend lost his arm in an accident on the Mexican train taking migrants to the US.



### Prof. Ester Ramos and children

So with this list of stories why visit? First much of this tragedy is limited to sections of the large cities. Most violence is among the gangs themselves. In many communities people are living normally (except there is much less travel and visiting at night.) There are many wonderful places to visit and our Honduran friends always want to see us. Visiting lets Hondurans see that we still care and, of course, sustainable tourism can benefit the local economy. Ironically, Honduras has fewer cases of crimes per capita on tourists than does Costa Rica. **Please share with Amigos your own experiences.**

# 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) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

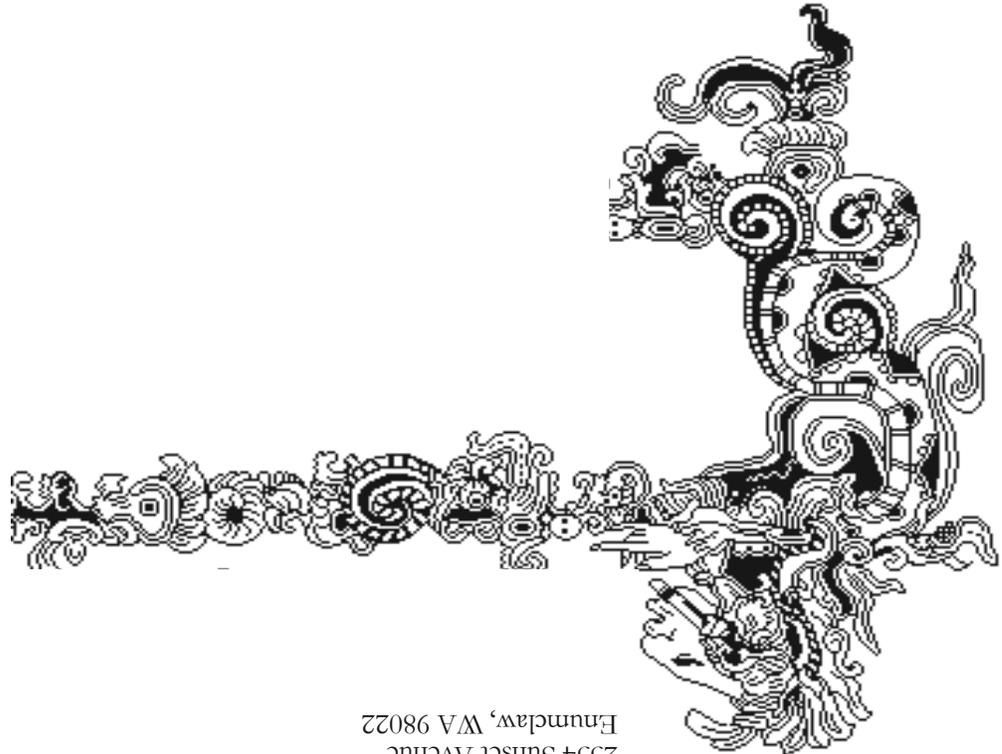
Make check payable to Amigos de Honduras: Mail to Joan Larimore, 2334 Sunset Avenue, Enumclaw, WA 98022

02-15

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

Amigos de Honduras	\$15 <input type="checkbox"/>
Amigos & NPCA	\$50 <input type="checkbox"/>
Amigos, NPCA & another group name of other group _____	\$65 <input type="checkbox"/>
contribution to projects Amigos will fund in Honduras:	
\$	_____

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



Amigos de Honduras  
c/o Joan Larimore  
2334 Sunset Avenue  
Enumclaw, WA 98022