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# Amigos de Honduras

Vol. XXI, No. 1

February 2014

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## SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

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

A very happy New Year to all of you Amigos out there. First, a very big thank you to Alan Waugh who is stepping down from his position as Editor of the Newsletter after many years of dedication. Enjoy your new freedom, Alan, A big welcome to Loren Hintz who is stepping into that role.

Second, many thanks to Roxanne Cull [rcull@nwrain.com](mailto:rcull@nwrain.com) who continues as our Grants Chairperson and to her loyal Committee who look for worthwhile endeavors in Honduras. They are still finding organizations that we can help support.

The big search for "missing" RPCVs from Honduras goes on under the guidance of Fred Corvi. Suddenly, all the emailing, phoning and letter writing is paying off. We are finding people every day. Check the search team's list to see if perhaps you know of someone we still haven't located. You can check with Fred (he will be eternally grateful) at [fcorvi2002@yahoo.com](mailto:fcorvi2002@yahoo.com).

Our bank account for Amigos remains nice and fat. As I closed out 2013 we are carrying \$8484.99 at Chase Bank in Enumclaw, Washington. A big thank you to Judith Whitney Terry and Ron Reafs for recent donations to our Grants Fund. And speaking of Ron, if you didn't know

or had forgotten, he is our Archivist for Amigos de Honduras. At the end of each year, I send him all our records. So he is the official keeper of our past! All 24 years of it.

As of this month, we are again current with the State of Washington as a non-profit organization. Amigos sends the Washington Secretary of State a check for \$10.00 each January. And if you recall, as of this year the friendly managers of Chase Bank gave our account the once over and tweaked it to be very professional. So we now have an IRS number should we ever need it.

A reminder: if at all possible, keep me informed of your moves! A current address and up-to-date email is truly important. Amigo doesn't want to lose you unless you just decide to drop your membership.

## Editor's Corner

Loren Hintz, Olanchito 1980-82

This is my first issue as editor for Amigos de Honduras. I want to thank Alan Waugh and Joan Larimore for all of their help. Since Peace Corps has pulled out of Honduras, Amigos will become an even more important link for RPCVs. The creation of a website for photos and news as described by Steve Phelan will make it easier to share.

For those who did not see me at the Colorado reunion, let me tell a bit about myself. I was one of the many Volunteers

Honduras hosted from Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador as conditions deteriorated in those countries. (I hope folks will share their experiences being pulled out of their site.) I moved from Metapan, El Salvador to Olanchito, Honduras in March 1980 and worked in the education sector both at Instituto Francisco J. Mejia and also giving environmental education workshops throughout the country with other PCVs. I had secondary projects doing adult literacy, museum development and science clubs.

I managed to return to Honduras visiting friends at the National University and at my site. My last visit was in 2006 with my wife and son. (Please share your experiences returning to Honduras.) This past year I retired from teaching high school science, ran (and lost) for Chapel Hill Town Council and now am busy with a number of environmental and community organizations.

**Obtain The Best of the Amigos de Honduras Newsletter edited by Alan Waugh and think of new articles to send to me [ldhintz@bellsouth.net](mailto:ldhintz@bellsouth.net) 804 Kings Mill Rd. Chapel Hill NC 27517 919-933-8987.** Think of your stories about your housing, counterpart, novios/novias, transportation, training, money, best gift, communication (who used a radio: "cambio"?), favorite NGO, books, projects, illnesses, fiestas and tourist sites. We also need folks to summarize current events and sports news. **THANKS!**

**PEACE CORPS HONDURAS IN CYBER SPACE**

Steve Phelan, Tegucigalpa 1973-74

1. The same people who brought you the wildly successful 2013 Peace Corps Reunion in Estes Park have been working on converting the Reunion website to a permanent Peace Corps Honduras website, a place where we can all share experiences, information, pictures, etc. Work is just beginning at <http://www.peacecorpshondurasreunion2013.com/>

2. The current Master Lists of PC Honduras volunteers was sent via email. This may be the last time I send it around, since it will be available for download, perhaps on the website, certainly on Drop Box (see below).

3. If you would like to work with the Master List spreadsheets (or any other Excel spreadsheet) on an Apple device, but find it difficult to do so, you might want to try CloudOn. This is a free cloud service that works on the iPad and other Apple products, but runs genuine Microsoft Office in the cloud. It really works -- Excel looks and works just like it does on a PC, but you can also use a touch screen effectively. Download the free app from the Apple App Store.

4. There are around 8000 photos that PCH volunteers have posted to DropBox. You may see them at the links below. If you want to upload your own digitized pictures, contact me at [Stephen.D.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Stephen.D.Phelan@gmail.com), and I will send you an invitation to upload to a folder specifically set up for this purpose. Also let me know if we need additional Reunion folders. In addition, the current Master List can always be found in the DropBox PCH Documents folder. You may "pull" it from there, instead of our "pushing" it to you. Better for everybody.

PCH-  
1960's: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7ycwqd51lccxjvh/TNROJK2USA>

PCH-  
1970's: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2cl7kimvne6ubp7/q3PD6cSgE8>

PCH-  
1990's: [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zgqtd4jh9ydb0fr/u9z\\_dZZznA](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zgqtd4jh9ydb0fr/u9z_dZZznA)

PCH-  
2000's: [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/03t7xirstxt0ndl/P\\_aFLEiB-a](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/03t7xirstxt0ndl/P_aFLEiB-a)

PCH-  
2010's: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mpnoc5tss5buv6i/80xnQBHS7z>

PCH Reunion  
2002: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/p59jwlr17dh2rj/tRYuaxXFS2>

PCH Reunion  
2006: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2e779b08inj43ga/WPOaOXMjRX>

PCH Reunion  
2008: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5I061rss3uv9cy/IJwAD8InY7>

PCH Reunion  
2011: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ecfsw1hxba2nzif/FC5dNEE9I8>

PCH Reunion  
2013: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5fqb4x4a81xq73p/dlC63QRmkW>

PCH  
Transfers: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7nwm0bd207u89ey/Yfpu-IHNC>

5. If you are currently running DropBox linked to the Peace Corps photograph folders shown above, and are getting out-of-space messages, there is a simple solution. You only need to be linked to upload your pictures, not view them. I can un-link you from the photograph folders, and link you just to the new Transfers directory. In the future, you can upload digitized photos to the Transfers folder, let me know, and I will move them wherever you want. That means that the Transfers folder will normally be virtually empty, and will therefore not consume your own precious memory space. Let me know at [Stephen.D.Phelan@gmail.com](mailto:Stephen.D.Phelan@gmail.com) if you would like me to set this up for you.

6. If you still have old slides, negatives or prints you would like to get digitized, you might try one of the services that specialize in this process. Two that I have used are ScanCafe and FotoBridge. Results are pretty good, for about \$.20 per slide or print. And they clean up your pictures and color-balance them for that charge as well.

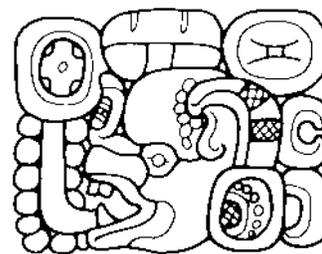
(As editor of the Amigos de Honduras Newsletter I want to encourage everyone

to use all media not just electronic. Please continue sending articles to share with Amigos. I have enjoyed looking at the DropBox photos. Once your photos are uploaded please consider going back and labelling them. Dates, locations and names of people would be great. I have had some success projecting slides to a white wall, then photographing them with a digital camera without flash and then transferring the images to DropBox. And for those of us who managed to find a job after COSing please pay dues to your regional, country and national RPCV organization.)

**COMMENTS ON THE 2013 REUNION**

This was a major celebration and we want to leave space in the next few issues to share your experiences. Please sent your comments to Loren Hintz: [ldhintz@bellsouth.net](mailto:ldhintz@bellsouth.net)

Stephen Dylinski 1971-73 "I took 25CDs of Spanish music, including 12 of the Voces Universitarios, and gave away all of them. I even have a list of people who did not get them but I will send them copies by mail. The Reunion was the perfect climax to a great trip. Jeannine and I had a good time talking to people. I suspect all who were there had good experiences. Therefore we were just positive, happy people. We are glad we did it."



## RPCVS CONTINUING TO SERVE IN HONDURAS

Joan Larimore (San Francisco del Valle, 86-88) and Loren Hintz (Olanchito, 80-82)

The 2013 Colorado Reunion, Facebook, Christmas letters, newsletters and even junk mail are the sources for these stories. Please learn more by emailing or visiting the founders. Share additional organizations with Amigos de Honduras. Don't forget to donate to Amigos to support new groups.

**Sherry "Pilar" Thorn, Tegucigalpa 1969-72** retired from the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Honduras after 40 years of teaching in the biology department. Besides training hundreds of Honduran biologists and being a well-known ornithologist, she founded in 1996 Helping Hands for Hounds of Honduras which strives to rescue and help dogs abandoned on the streets of Tegucigalpa and to help educate the public about the humane treatment of animals. Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Helping-Hands-for-Hounds-of-Honduras-HHHH/322080874486915>

**Robert Gallardo 1993-96(now at Lago de Yojoa)** has been working in Honduras since COSing. He ran butterfly farms in La Ceiba and Ruinas de Copan. He is an ornithologist and bird guide. For the last few years he has been working on a Bird Field Book for Honduras. In spite of the Honduran crime wave there remain many places eco tourists enjoy and a Honduran bird book will be welcome. Robert is raising funds for printing costs. See [www.birdsofhonduras.com](http://www.birdsofhonduras.com) for more information.

**Donald Hazlett, Siguatepeque 1973-74 (Pierce, Colorado)** is a botanist who returns to Honduras frequently. After Peace Corps he was the director of Lancetilla Botanical Garden. He is concerned that there are few botanists in Honduras. Don has been updating plant taxonomy of Paul Stanley's 1931 Flora. He has been helping with scholarships for botany students and has been finding employment for others. He is a supporter of the Lancetilla Foundation and can be reached at [newworldplants@gmail.com](mailto:newworldplants@gmail.com). See his article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Buiti Ugana: "Good News" Serving the Garifuna people of Honduras. The winter 2014 newsletter **from Fernando and Alison Sabio** reports many wonderful things. The Sabios have been in the United States since June and will return to Honduras as missionaries in early December 2013. These two young people are not only working to assure that the Garifuna language and customs are preserved but have discovered that they will become the parents of a little boy in February. Congratulations to both! Elvis, about whom you have read previously, is taking over for Fernando while he is gone. They just had a group of "First Principles" students graduate and are getting ready for future classes. If you want to read more about what Alison and Fernando are doing, go online to [www.cten.org/fernandosabio](http://www.cten.org/fernandosabio) and remember it is also possible to donate to their cause.

## PALM OIL, AGUAN VALLEY AND WORLD BANK

A recent news article by Jason Lange Jan. 10, 2014 (Reuters), reported that the World Bank has been criticized for a \$30 million loan it made to a Honduran company involved in Palm Oil Plantations in the Aguan Valley.

"A standard news article search required by World Bank rules would have turned up accusations that Dinant's owner masterminded the murder of an environmental activist and that his properties were staging posts for drug traffickers, the IFC's Office of the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) said in a report. The CAO said it did not try to verify the authenticity of the reports and noted that the businessman was acquitted on murder charges. But their existence should have raised red flags because they could damage the reputation of the World Bank."

"IFC staff either knew about these allegations and perceptions and failed to deal with them" or did not conduct required news searches, the CAO said, noting its investigators had conducted news searches using the same parameters mandated by the World Bank's rules. The IFC approved the loan program in 2009 to help Dinant develop its palm oil and food business. The CAO launched an audit of the project in 2012."

"Through the loan, IFC indirectly got involved in one of the thorniest land disputes in Central America. Dinant operates in a fertile region near Honduras' Caribbean coast that has been the site of violent clashes that have killed more than 100 people since 2009, according to the Honduran National Commission for Human Rights. Since the IFC approved the loan program, there have been reports in the media that Dinant helped forcibly evict farmers and that "inappropriate use" of its security forces had resulted in multiple deaths, the CAO said on Friday."



## DOCUMENTING HONDURAN FLORA

Donald L. Hazlett, Siguatepeque 1973-75

I worked as a botanist in Honduras for 5 years: 3 as a PCV at the Honduran Forestry School in Siguatepeque (1973-1975). The forestry school is now a university. When the Lancetilla Experimental Station (founded by the United Fruit Company) was transferred from the United Fruit Company in 1978, it was renamed the Wilson Popenoe Botanical Garden. After this transfer, I became the director of Lancetilla (1978-1980). In those years I did my Ph.D. work (U. of W, Seattle, WA) and have tried to keep in touch with floristic work in Honduras ever since. Since 1980, the directors of Lancetilla have been Honduran. The following is a brief summary of the status of recent and current floristic work in Honduras.

In 2008 Cirilo Nelson (Universidad Autónoma de Honduras) published a catalog of all known Honduran vascular plants (except for the ferns). This 1567 page book tallied 7276 species or 10,127 taxa (this tallies each subspecies, variety and form separately). Nelson estimated that 214 plant species (about 2%) are found only in Honduras – endemics. Nelson now lives in Spain, but Paul House has done an excellent job in Nelson's old position at UNAH. In 2013, however, House returned to England due to health-related issues.

One of the many reports done by House and others in the Pico Bonito forests is cited below. More recently (2011), José Linares (botanist at CURLA in La Ceiba and former curator of the Pan-American Agriculture School herbarium in Zamorano) published a full-color book,

with descriptions, for 100 trees at the Wilson Popenoe Botanical Garden. The positions held by Linares at El Zamorano and Paul House at UNAH is now filled by one person - Dr. Lilian Ferrufino, a specialist in the genus *Smilax* (Greenbriar or Sarsaparilla).

After 22 years trying to earn a living as a botanist in Colorado I became re-addicted to Honduran plants in 2012. I participated in floristic collections in the Agalta cloud forest in Olancho and have worked with Dr. Ferrufino on *Smilax* ethnobotany. In addition, I have funded thesis work for several students at the Honduran Forestry School. Jennifer Torres and I published a work (cited below) on the use of seed banana leaves near Lancetilla. More recently, I funded a student to document the medicinal uses by Lenca descendants in the department of Intibuca.

I plan to continue supporting both floristic work and student research at the forestry school with grants of \$500.00 per year (my own funds). **Anyone interested in supplying funds for either a scholarship or floristic research in Honduras could have a plant named in their honor.** Contact me at [newworldplants@gmail.com](mailto:newworldplants@gmail.com). For example, a new endemic plant species was discovered in 2011. The Fundación Madre Verde surveyed local cottage industries in rural Atlantida. They discovered that the *mimbres* (wicker or aroid roots) used for decades by local artisans for baskets and other products was from a species unknown to science. They named this useful plant *Monstera madreverde* Grayum & Karney (Araceae).

Hazlett, D. L. and J. C. Torres-Herrera 2012. Socioeconomic Value and Growth of Naturalized *Musa balbisiana* L.

A. Colla Leaves in Honduras. *Economic Botany* 66(1) 60-70.

House, P., J. Linares, L. Diaz & S. Zavala, S. 2006 *Inventario Florístico Cuantitativo del Parque Nacional Pico Bonito: La Montaña de Corozal y La Motaña los Hornitos* United States Agency for International Development – International Resources Group (IRG). USAID 63 pp.

Karney, A. P. and Grayum M. H. 2012. A New *Monstera* Species (Araceae) of Economic Importance from Honduras. *Economic Botany*, 66(2): 207-213.



### MONEY

**As of the end of 2013 the exchange rate for the Lempira is 20.74 per \$1.00. Devaluation was running at about 3% per year a bit less than the previous year. In 2000 it was 15.01/ dollar and in 1980 it was 2.00/dollar.**

The newsletter of Amigos de Honduras, an organization of people who served as Peace Corps Volunteers in Honduras. Dues and membership inquiries can be sent to Joan Larimore, San Francisco del Valle, Ocotepeque 1986-88, 2334 Sunset Avenue, Enumclaw, Washington 98022 [amigosdehondurasjml@gmail.com](mailto:amigosdehondurasjml@gmail.com)

**A BOOK REVIEW**

Joan Larimore, San Francisco del Valle  
1986-88

“A mysterious lost city, a World War II spy, and a true story of deadly adventure.” So spoke another book reviewer and it is true! The author of *Jungleland* (2013), Christopher S. Stewart, was looking to find himself when he chanced across the writings of Theodore Morde, an adventurer in the early 1900s, who had walked the Mosquito Coast rain forests in search of the fabled “Ciudad Blanca” and apparently found it.

If you like your adventure arm chair style, this is the book for you. By the time Stewart’s wanderlust was quenched, he had walked nearly 1000 miles, been constantly wet, hungry, lost bitten by mosquitoes, startled by dangerous snakes, avoided drug runners, had a run-in with pirates, met natives who were probably the descendants of the people who populated “Ciudad Blanca” and decided he was probably a very foolish man.

His book gives you a detailed description of the Mosquitia and many good reasons why it is under-populated! After all the harrowing adventures he experienced, did he locate the fabled White City of gold? I leave you to read the book yourself and enjoy a bit of Honduras most of us never knew.

**GRINGOS IN HONDURAS “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly”**

By Guillermo Yuscaran 1995

This book describes John Lloyd Stephens, discoverer of Copan Ruins and chronicler of Morazán and the end of the Central American Federation. Next he describes William Walker, his victory and defeat in Nicaragua; finally capture, execution and burial in Trujillo. William Sydney Porter (O’Henry) fled to Trujillo and wrote several short stories featuring experiences in Honduras.

Lee Christmas started working for the banana railroad and then a soldier of fortune during the civil wars between Nationalist and Liberal Party factions from 1890s to 1920s.

On a more peaceful scale Wilson Poneno collected and propagated tropical plants and founded Lantecilla Botanical Garden for Tela Railroad Company (United Fruit) and Escuela Agrícola Panamericana at Zamorano. Archie Carr worked at EAP and lead and wrote about many field trips throughout Honduras and later became famous for saving sea turtles from extinction. Finally Chet Thomas RPCV Colombia first worked in Honduras after Hurricane Fifi for Church World Service and later completed numerous refugee, agricultural water and environmental projects while with International Volunteer Services.

**ANSWER TO CANDIDATE QUIZ ON PAGE SEVEN:** faces are arranged from top to bottom by highest number of votes.

**HONDURAS IN THE WINTER OLYMPICS.**

Only one person from Honduras has participated in the Winter Olympics. In 1992 Jenny Placios-Stilo competed in and completed three cross country ski events. See [www.cohonduras.com](http://www.cohonduras.com)

**THE BEST OF THE AMIGOS DE HONDURAS NEWSLETTER 1999-2013.**

**Life & Times in Honduras: Then & Now Stories, Personal Narratives & Travelogues Published October 2013**

The title and subtitle tell everything. This book includes 102 articles written by former Honduras Peace Corps Volunteers and Staff published in the Amigos Newsletter over the last 14 years, 162 pages in all. The book is published in pdf format, 12.5 MB in size and is available electronically at no charge.

To obtain a copy, email your request to Alan Waugh at [awaugh@q.com](mailto:awaugh@q.com). The book will be emailed back to you.

A paper copy may be ordered: Write a check for \$24.00, payable to Alan Waugh, and mail it with your request to Alan Waugh, 2103 N.E. 70<sup>th</sup> St., Seattle, Washington 98115. (Price includes Xeroxing & postage.)

## Legislative Victory for Peace Corps Commemorative!

By [Jonathan Pearson](#) on Tuesday, January 14th, 2014

Speaking in support of his bill on the House floor earlier Monday, RPCV Congressman Joe Kennedy (Dominican Republic 2004-06), said the Peace Corps Commemorative legislation “represents the core values and ideals of our country.” 2014 is off to an excellent start for the Peace Corps community.

Monday evening, the U.S. House of Representatives gave final approval to Peace Corps Commemorative legislation. The measure was approved by a vote of 387 to 7. The vote in the House actually approved the Senate version of the commemorative bill. That bill ([S. 230](#)) was unanimously approved by the Senate last June. This means the legislation now heads to President Obama for his signature.

The legislation authorizes the use of space near the National Mall for a modest commemorative to mark the lasting, historic significance of the founding of the Peace Corps in 1961, and the ideals represented by Peace Corps service. Funds for the commemorative will need to be raised privately, as the bi-partisan legislation stipulates that no taxpayer dollars would be used for this project.

First introduced in 2010, the Peace Corps commemorative is one of the first pieces of legislation to win final congressional approval in 2014. It is also one of only a few dozen bills that have won full congressional approval in the current, 113th Congress. For more than four years, the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), has been educating, mobilizing and rallying the Peace Corps community, building momentum towards this day.

“On behalf of the NPCA, I want to thank the bi-partisan group of Senate and House leaders who guided the commemorative legislation to final passage,” said NPCA President Glenn Blumhorst (Guatemala 1988-91). “I also want to extend our thanks and congratulations to all the members of the Peace Corps community who over the past four years wrote a letter, made a phone call, or participated in a meeting to urge passage of the commemorative legislation. Your hard work helped pave the way to final passage.”

Two members of the community who worked countless hours over the years were Roger Lewis (Tunisia 1964-66) and Bonnie Gottlieb (Cote D’Ivoire 1972-74), Trustees of the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation (PCCF), which is authorized to advance the commemorative project. “As President of the PCCF, I am very grateful – and personally elated – that Congress has at last passed the Peace Corps Commemorative authorization bill,” said Lewis, who notes that challenging work lies ahead.



“Creating the Commemorative will require procuring a site on federal land in the heart of the nation’s capital; generating a Commemorative concept and design for the site; obtaining design approvals and building permits; and finally constructing the Commemorative. And, of course, funding all this will depend entirely on contributions. But I am confident that necessary financial support will be forthcoming – from the Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) community and from thousands

of individuals, corporations and foundations – motivated by belief in what the Peace Corps stands for and the American ideals and values its historic founding represents.”

## NOVEMBER 24, 2013 ELECTION OFFICIAL RESULTS

PARTIDO	DEMOCRATA
CRISTIANO ->	5194 (0.17%)
PARTIDO ALIANZA PATRIOTICA ->	6105 (0.20%)
PARTIDO LIBERAL DE HONDURAS ->	632320 (20.30%)
PARTIDO ANTICORRUPCION ->	418443 (13.43%)
PARTIDO LIBERTAD Y REFUNDACION (LIBRE) ->	896498 (28.78%)
ALIANZA UD-FAPER ->	3118 (0.10%)
PARTIDO INNOVACION Y UNIDAD SD (PINU) ->	4468 (0.14%)
PARTIDO NACIONAL DE HONDURAS ->	1149302 (36.89%)

## HONDURAS ELECTIONS 2013

Compiled from numerous sources by Loren Hintz, Olanchito 1980-82

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Honduras held its elections for President, National Congress and local municipalities. The results are now in and not surprisingly are still not without controversy. Election Day was relatively peaceful with high turnout (61%) and numerous international election observers including the Carter Center, National Lawyers Guild and the European Union Electoral Observation Mission were present.

For the first time since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century nontraditional parties received more than 10% of the vote. LIBRE candidate Xiomara Castro (wife of former Liberal Party president Mel Zelaya) won 29 % and Salvador Nasralla

of the Anticorruption Party won 13%. The National Party led by former president of the National Congress, Juan Orlando Hernandez, won the most votes (37%) and the old, split Liberal Party of Mauricio Villeda came in third with 20%. Unlike some other Central American countries only a plurality is needed to win. (After the recent Feb. 2 elections both El Salvador and Costa Rica will be having run off elections in March between the top two candidates.) So with 37% of the popular vote Juan Orlando Hernandez of the National Party is the new president until 2017.

No Political Party won the majority in Congress. Ulrike Lunacek of the European Union felt it was significant that the new parties of LIBRE (37 members) and the Anticorruption Party (13 members) held more seats than the National Party (48 members.) Recently the National Party made a pact with the old Liberal Party (27 members) to control the Honduran Congress with 75 of the 128 seats. There is still some speculation that Xiomaro Castro may be able to get some of the Liberal members to join a grand coalition against the National Party.

Smaller parties did very poorly in this election. PINU (Jorge Aguilar), Christian Democrats (Orle Soliz) and UD (Andres Pavon) received less than 0.2% of the vote and only one seat each in Congress. The new right wing Alianza Patriótica of General Romero Vasquez gained no seats. In the previous 2009 Congress these small parties had a total of 13 seats.

Voting was on a Sunday. Each voter had an ID card and a designated Location and Table to vote at. Poll workers from each party determined if voters could vote, counted the ballots and sent electronically summary sheets to Tegucigalpa. A number of problems

were reported before and during the election.

In October LIBRE candidate Elvin Hernandez of Yoro was murdered. Journalist Manuel Murillo was killed in November. Some electoral workers were killed the eve of the election and others were detained the day of the election and could not complete their duties at the polls.

There were numerous reports of vote buying (L100-L500/vote) and of people taking photos of their ballot (for payment later). Some voters arrived at polls and were told they could not vote because they were listed as dead. There were complaints that National Party members were able to obtain credentials from poll workers of other small political parties and dominate the process at the polls. There were also reports that the number of votes counted at a Voting Table was different from the totals received electronically in Tegucigalpa.

With a few exceptions most of the observers associated with governments felt the election was fair. Leo Gabriel of the European Union made headlines when he criticized the EU report validating the election. On Dec. 9 the Carter Center sent out a memo saying a timely response by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of complaints would strengthen the electoral process. LIBRE and the Anticorruption Party protested the results but by now things have settled down. One ongoing process is more decision making is being transferred to the municipalities. Perhaps this will result in a decline in crime, increase in social justice and better economic development.

## NAME THE CANDIDATE GAME:

Look at each photo and try to match the candidate with their name and party. Good luck. See page five for answers.



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

newsletter in .pdf format. **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

Amigos & NPCA \$50

Amigos, NPCA & another group name \$65   
of other group \_\_\_\_\_

contribution to projects Amigos will fund in Honduras:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would prefer to receive my

Amigos de Honduras

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



2334  
c/o Joan Larin  
Sunset A  
Enumclaw, Washington 98022

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