



# DIRECCIONES

Newsletter of the Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners of the Americas  
Bob Frans, Ed., 1366 W. Alzheimer Dr., Fayetteville AR 72704-6804

Spring - Summer 2001

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## Editor's note

This will be a collection of somewhat unrelated items that we hope will be of interest to you. There's lots going on, so we hope this will give you a sense of that. Enjoy!

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## Directory of Officers - Santa Cruz

We have received the results of the recent election of Officers and Board members for our Partners in Santa Cruz. Here's what we have:

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**Desiree Mostajo** - Fellows

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Please note: country code and city code for Santa Cruz telephone numbers is 591-3. For Beni it is 591-4.

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## Membership and Dues

One of the major things we have to be concerned with in our partnership is membership and how that relates to our dues. Basically, there are three categories of membership: individual, family, and sustaining. There is a fee structure with each of these as follows: Sustaining is \$100 per year, family is \$30 and individual is \$20 per year.

These are the main source of income we have to operate the partnership, so we hope you will forgive us for our constant reminders about paying your dues. To this end, we thought it might be of some interest to you to see the membership list as far as payment of dues this year is concerned as follows:

### Sustaining

Bob Frans  
Kay Kraeft  
Louise Montgomery  
Steven and Jeanine Neuse

### Family

Jeanine & Rafael Acosta  
Wade & Sarah Burnside  
Ed & Andrea Hawkins  
Carolyn & Bill Hester  
Jim & Margaret Johnson  
William & Gwen Millager  
Alice Guffey Miller & Gary Marshall  
Paul & Eunice Noland  
James & Jane Scroggs  
Phil & Mary Alice Serafini  
Bob & Nadine Spears  
George & Sera Vena  
Tom & Connie Westing  
Laurin & Erlizabeth Wheeler

### Individual

Debra Ahrent  
Margaret Clark  
Heather Daniel  
Teresa Elder  
Thomas Evrard  
Susan Heily  
Gerald Klingaman  
Bettie Lu Lancaster  
Roald Peterson  
Raeann Refeld  
Mary Anne Sennett  
Kimberly Smith  
Wayne Swegle  
Thecia Taylor  
Cheryl Wall-Trimarchi  
Beth Washburn  
Chuck West  
Leah Wilkinson  
Cora Zabala-Holt

As usual, if your name is not on this list, and you are on our regular Membership mailing list, you should receive a dues statement for this year's dues. We hope you will consider bringing your membership up-to-date. You are considered a member if you have paid dues in at least one of the last three years - that is, you receive all the regular mailings of the partnership. If, however, we do not hear from you in that three-year period, then your name tends to drop quietly out of sight - now you wouldn't want that to happen, would you?

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## International Convention

June 18, 2001

### INVITATION TO THE PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS 2001 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 15-17, 2001

Fellow Partners:

The Partners of the Americas International Convention offers a great opportunity for volunteers, collaborating organizations, government supporters, and friends and families to share success stories, exchange information and ideas, and get to know each other. Many of you have done this before, but none of you is more excited than I am at the prospect!

This year's convention in Orlando is dedicated to our youth. We are accepting proposals from chapters for participation in various panels and there will be keynote speakers you will be excited to hear from. The agenda is filled with exciting activities including a mural painting project, computer training, and experiential learning through the Project Adventure.

As you all know, 2001 is also the "International Year of the Volunteer," and the Partners organization is a model of volunteerism in our hemisphere. Let's make this a true celebration of Partnership and friendship across the Americas!

For me, personally, it will be a great pleasure to get to know you and to hear of your ideas for Partners' future. I hope to see as many of you as can possibly attend in Orlando November 15-17!

Best wishes,

Malcolm Butler  
President & CEO

P.S.: Remember, if you register before September 1, you pay only \$275. For the latest information, please visit [www.partners.net](http://www.partners.net)

Note: you still have time!

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## News from the Board

The Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners Board met on April 28, 2001 in Russellville AR. It was agreed that all committee chairs would update their areas of interest and provide this information to the Board and to the membership via *Direcciones*. This is an ongoing need as responsibilities and personnel change over time.

Reports were received from both the Central group (**Sue Heily**) and the Northwest Arkansas group (**Laurin Wheeler**) concerning recent activities. Both reported on recent visitors from Bolivia and other social activities carried out in each group. Interest in and attendance at all functions remains high.

Regarding recent visitors, **Thecia Taylor** reported on the visit of the two nurses from Trinidad (See *Direcciones*, Winter 2001 for details of their visit).

**Margaret Clark** reported on the visit of **Maria Teresa Rivera**, also of Trinidad and our need to purchase videos for their use (See below for details of her visit).

Plans were made for the forthcoming graduation of several Bolivian students, with a party to be held at the **Serafini** home. Plans were also begun for the Annual Meeting in October, to be held in Conway. **Sue Heily** is to contact various potential speakers and to make other arrangements.

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## News from Washington

We have been informed by our Washington office that our partnerships all have to be re-charted this year. This now occurs about every three years - the last time we went through this exercise was in 1998. We've begun the process of collecting together information needed - fortunately, we have on hand the materials used last time. In addition, thought is being given to some of your officers making a trip to Santa Cruz in late August for the purpose of helping them with the process and to draw up a plan of work - a necessary part of the re-chartering process. Santa Cruz is hard at work on the same project. They have provided us with "Estatutos de Compañeros" which should be of help as both sides go about this process. Re-chartering is necessary for us to continue our work, and to allow us to participate in the elections at the national level.

The Washington office continues to remind us that money is available in the area of Education and Culture programs. These funds are available to support travel and project programs. Our partnership has begun to take advantage of these funds through small grants, and so have our colleagues in East Bolivia. Already we are seeing an increase in the numbers of grants being written. If you have an interest in further information about these special funds, you can access the Partners web site at [www.partners.net](http://www.partners.net). Guidelines and objectives are listed there.

A fairly new benefit for our travelers, either North or South is the insurance program. Partners of the Americas provides medical insurance for all international travelers, northbound and southbound, whose travel is funded by Partners of the Americas and authorized through the Partners of the Americas travel grant application. This program has been in effect since 1997, but many may not have heard of it.

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## Travels

Several travels have been completed in recent months and we have reports on them. The first of these was that of **Profesora Maria Teresa Rivero Chavez** from Trinidad. She was in Arkansas from April 2 until April 16. Her interest was in the field of family planning and she came to Arkansas after attending a seminar on this subject in Quito, Ecuador. She stayed at the home of **Bob Frans**, who was assisted in hosting her by **Bettie Lu Lancaster, Heather Daniel, Mary Anne Sennett, Thecia Taylor** and **Margaret Clark**. She was able to visit many places and people during her stay, including the Arkansas Midwives School (**Teresa Elder**, Director and **Lynn Rogers**, interpreter), the Child Care Center at Fayetteville High School with **Beth Higgs**, The shelter for victims of domestic violence with **Roberto Mere** and Mary Anne, the Poplar House, St. Mary's Hospital in Rogers, with Administrator **Greg Graham**, the Planned Parenthood Clinic with **Dr. Elizabeth Wood**, The GED Adult Education Program with Director **Karolyn Farrell**, a Senior Democratic luncheon where she met Sen. **Blanche Lincoln**, the Altrusa International club for professional and business women, where she met with **Betty Battenfield**, retired director of the University of Arkansas Nursing Program and the Washington County Health Department Family Planning Session with **Peggy Waddell**, Team Leader for Women's Health. All in all it was a busy time for her, but she managed to squeeze in a trip to Eureka Springs with Margaret, a reception at Bettie Lu's home for the partnership, and a visit to the Farmer's Market with **Sue Heily**. As a follow-up to her visit, several videos on these various topics in Spanish have been purchased with a small grant for use in her work in Trinidad.

New Partner **Beth Washburn** participated in a Farmer to Farmer trip to East Bolivia, also in the spring, and she filed this report:

"In December of 2000 I was contacted by **Miguel Cortez** and asked to participate in a Partners project in the spring of 2001. While excited and interested, I approached the project with a bit of trepidation. Never having traveled in South America at all, I was unsure as to what to expect. As those of you who have had the opportunity to visit Bolivia certainly know, my doubts and fears were for naught. The warmth and affection of the Bolivians I met and bonded with is beyond whatever we hospitable Southerners might expect.

"The main focus of the trip was to be the establishment of a technical English curriculum for veterinary students working on Farmer to Farmer and Partners projects. These are projects linked to dairy farming and the processing and marketing of dairy products by the small, medium, and large production dairy farmer.

"In addition to meeting with the student group, I was able to visit the UAGRM (Universidad Autonoma de Gabriel Rene Moreno) campus, meet a medium level dairy farmer and tour his operation, tour the extensive holdings of a large beef cattle production, tour schools and teach a Foreign Language methodology course to university English students and English teachers. The degree of activity was exhausting yet exhilarating. All the while, wonderful Crucenos guided me along and facilitated all activities. Miguel Cortez escorted me on my visit to the UAGRM Veterinary Campus. I was able to meet the Dean of the campus and several professors. What most touched me was the degree to which the system functions due primarily to the dedication of the instructional staff. The facilities at this public university, frankly, were not up to par with those on the campus where I teach, a public high school in the Arkansas Delta. However, much is accomplished by individuals who simply choose to overcome obstacles instead of wasting energy complaining about them.

"This theme of individual-driven accomplishment and progress was prominent throughout the visit. In Montero I was blessed to meet and spend the day with **Zenon and Isabel Flores**. This modest couple operates a medium production dairy facility and is active in local politics. In addition, a great deal of their time is devoted to the betterment of local indigenous populations. They sponsor various projects in the most humble 'barrios' such as the controlled breeding of guinea pigs to supply the protein needs of children and the cultivation of high-protein bean crops, allowing these people to provide for themselves. Zenon sees this as a kind of teaching a man to fish as opposed to giving him a fish. He is very interested in not only tackling issues at a basic level, but sees his mission as one that fosters self esteem and independence. What an admirable and ambitious goal, especially when one realizes that this is done without any government intervention. The success of the project is born solely of effort and dedication on the parts of those volunteers involved. Mrs. Flores is quite involved in a project designed to teach handcraft skills and develop a market for the items produced. This humble couple

works tirelessly to better the lives of those around them. They are driven by a vision that encompasses much more than the world just outside their front door.

"The same kind of determination was evident in the workshop I conducted for English teachers. The modest facilities and materials available to those who choose to teach in Bolivia is to say the least, daunting. Yet, every night, the hall was crowded with active and eager participants seeking to find ways in which to tackle the obstacles faced each and every day in the classroom. I was quite touched by the enthusiasm and warmth with which my modest attempts were met. The audience was the kind that reaffirms what education is essentially about: a communication and exchange of ideas that results in growth on the part of the student and the instructor.

"Throughout the visit, I encountered numerous examples of raw human courage as well as the conditions that inspire it. In truly difficult situations one overcomes, exists, or surrenders. The overwhelming majority of those whom I met have overcome. Not only have they overcome, but they have done so with grace and generosity intact. The Crucenos, above all, are a truly remarkable people. I was sent home with much more than photographs, gifts, hugs, and kisses. I carried with me a sense of belonging to a higher purpose and the knowledge that together the Bolivian and Arkansas Partners can and do plant seed that yield a bountiful harvest."

Long-time Partner **Sue Heily** just returned from her third trip to East Bolivia where she continued seminars for persons interested in special education needs of children. This is her report:

"The purpose of my activities in Santa Cruz and Trinidad was to familiarize the professionals and parents with some of the more profound learning handicaps such as autism and to introduce them to the concept of positive discipline.

"In Cobija, the purpose of my activities was to present methods and materials that could be used with students with special needs and the theories of grouping them by I.Q. instead of age. A final goal was to have the Partner from Trinidad, Bolivia, **Patti Kinn**, share her model for teaching health and sex education to mentally retarded students. Thanks to the Homer and Maureen Venters Grant, we were able to leave all the materials needed to teach that health course in Cobija's Special Education School.

"To the above ends, a parents meeting and a teacher's seminar were held at Fusindo, Down's Foundation in Santa Cruz, and a seminar at La Escuela Especial in Trinidad and 5 seminars in Cobija at the Alcaldia. A final meeting with parents of special needs students was held in Porvenir scheduled by the Partners group of Cobija. In Trinidad, Partners started a lending library of health and sex education videos in Spanish available to the institutions.

"Fusindo is interested in working with Santa Cruz Partners in possibly getting a speaker down to show the basic steps to writing grants and looking for them. It would be open to health and education professionals. Fusindo has volunteered a translator. Fusindo is also

interested in working with Santa Cruz Partners in possibly getting a vocational technical methodology speaker. Again, Fusindo has offered a translator. Trinidad is interested in these two items but are unable to come up with a translator at this time. After there are sufficient borrowers of the lending video library we are hoping to file for a small grant to purchase perhaps 10 more. There may be a way to courier these back and forth to Cobija.

"Another highlight for me during my visit to Santa Cruz visit was the opportunity to attend the ceremony honoring our Santa Cruz partner president, **Miguel Cortez Escalante**, for 20 years of service to national education and in meeting his daughter at that time. There was much fanfare with the national hymn, the district hymn, and 3 honorary speakers before presentation of the 25-year pin.

"The Partners group in Trinidad has become energized and organized as a whole. Everyone pitched in to wine, dine, inform and entertain me. The city was celebrating the Santisima Trinidad and La Entrada. I had several rides into the country, one of which afforded me the opportunity to come within inches of 'el Perezoso' a sloth. The most relaxing ride was with Roxana 'en Moto' (motor scooter) to Laguna Suarez where we ate lunch and relaxed in the shade. Finally, I was given tours to the school for the deaf and blind, La Carrera de Enfermera, and the hospital Materno e Infantil.

"The Partners group in Cobija is small but enthusiastic, optimistic and positive. They made sure our needs and desires were met. We even got to tour rural Brazilian river towns and Porvenir.

"Patti Kinn and I shared special education materials, methods and theories with 450 people representing 27 health and educational professionals as well as parents. The most unusual participant to our talks was a huge black and white pig that wandered by the special education school in Porvenir during my scheduled meeting with parents there!"

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## Our Annual Meeting

Time to put this one on your calendar! Mark the weekend of October 19, 20, and 21. The venue will be Conway at the Agora Center. **Sue Heily** is in charge of putting this all together this year. Friday evening the 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be a welcoming cocktail hour - the 20<sup>th</sup> will be devoted to the main meeting. Sue has been contacting several speakers, promising to bring us an interesting and productive time together. There's even to be a silent auction, so that should prove interesting and fun. These are her comments regarding the purpose of the silent auction:

"I think we would all agree that it truly is a joy to see the plans and dreams of a young person fulfilled. The Maria Teresa Villanueva de Frans Foundation focuses on helping Bolivian students reach their plans and dreams by providing scholarship funds when possible. The Partners Board affirmed at their last meeting a silent auction to be held at the Annual Meeting to

benefit the foundation. **Peggy Turbyfill** will be organizing this to be held in Conway on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> at the Agora Center. I ask you to please solicit donations in your area and NOTIFY PEGGY OF THE ITEMS so that she can coordinate the auction. The tax-free number for our partnership is 71-0562044 and can be used in making donations. Please share in the joy of a young Bolivian's accomplishment. SEEK DONATIONS. Don't expect others to do it. Bolivian Partners and Bolivians have already responded to this request. See you in Conway in October for the Annual Meeting."

And yes, we will have a banquet and are expecting to obtain the services of an interesting speaker. Sunday morning will be the usual meeting of the Board. Obviously, full details regarding the meeting are not yet available, but we hope to tantalize you and to encourage you to come. Publicity regarding the meeting is building, and soon you will receive full information regarding the site, motels, and other information. We need a good turn-out of our Partners, both to keep you informed and to keep our energy high. Hopefully, you can tell from the foregoing that there is a lot going on - almost as never before, so join us in October for a great time!

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## Dr. David Saladino - A Visitor to La Paz

We think this following article will be of interest to many. It was written by **Pamela Nelson** for the *Northwest Arkansas Times* and appeared in that publication January 7, 2001. We apologize for this late report, but we did not have this article for the last issue of *Direcciones*.

"**Dr. David Saladino**, University of Arkansas director of choral activities, recently returned from La Paz, Bolivia, after three highly successful performances of Handel's 'Messiah.'

"Held at the Municipal Theatre of the city of La Paz, known locally as Alberto Saavedra Perez Hall, on Dec. 20-22, the performances were held in collaboration with the Orquesta Municipal de Camera of La Paz. The concerts were presented under the auspices of **Robert Borda Montero**, official mayor of cultural affairs of the city of La Paz.

"While in the United States on a Fulbright Fellowship in 1998, **Ricardo Estrada**, an operatic tenor and general manager of the Philharmonic Society of La Paz, attended a performance of Verdi's 'Requiem' at the UA. Estrada was impressed by what he heard. Saladino was excited to accept Estrada's invitation to conduct in La Paz, a city with a rich choral tradition.

"A cultural Mecca, La Paz was introduced to European church music in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by Jesuits from six countries, most notably, Spain. That artistic infusion has been the foundation of the flourishing artistic culture of current Bolivia.

"The Jesuits, who set up missions in South America introduced Spanish and Renaissance music to almost

every country throughout the vast continent, particularly in Bolivia where these musical traditions remain very popular throughout the country today.

“Santa Cruz, about 400 miles east of La Paz (at about 600 feet above sea level) in the tropical zone of the country, even holds an international festival biannually. The Indians of that region still play modern violins as well as other standard string instruments introduced by the Spanish.

“Interestingly, La Paz is also a city conducive to building strong voices. The residents, who reside at an elevation almost three times higher than Denver, must adapt to a thin atmosphere, according to Saladino.

“The word is that people develop tremendous lung support. Those who sing there have very impressive instruments. I worked with a chorus of over 100 who sounded like an American chorus twice that number. It was thrilling,” he said.

“Saladino was especially pleased to discover an operatic bass who presented his credentials for perusal by the UA music department.

“This young singer, **Enrique Salinas**, (from Santa Cruz) in his mid 20's, is one of Bolivia's leading young bassos. He is eager to study in the United States and is very interested in our opera program and the possibility of working with UA Distinguished Professor and world-renowned operatic conductor, **Sarah Caldwell**,” he said.

“The trip also allowed Saladino to expand the UA's cultural ties in the region.

“Besides being an artistic and professional opportunity, the visit provided me an opportunity to expand the UA's cultural ties,” said Saladino. “Today, the University of Arkansas has 70 students from La Paz (Editor's note: most of these are from Santa Cruz), with an active exchange program for both faculty and students through the Partners of the Americas program. This program was established by President Kennedy as the Alliance of Progress in the early 1960's.”

“Now known as Partners, the nonprofit group, with offices throughout the country, fosters academic exchanges, English as a Second Language programs and farmer-to-farmer exchanges. The program also has an arrangement with the UA to offer instate tuition rates to students from eastern Bolivia.

“While a portion of my research takes the form of choral composition and writing articles for periodicals - such as the Choral journal and publications of the Music Teachers National Association - my principal research is to conduct,” Saladino said. “The experience in Bolivia was a marvelous international opportunity. While in La Paz, I met not only singers but instrumentalist, especially string musicians, who are interested in the opportunities the UA can offer them. As our university already hosts a large population of Bolivian students, the door is now wide open to have the musical elite of Bolivia take their training at the University of Arkansas. This is very exciting.”

“My mother was Cuban, and like my childhood friends growing up in Miami, Fla., I only wanted to speak English. While in Bolivia, I regretted this, as my Spanish was rusty,” Saladino said, “but it returned,

however, remarkably well during my 11-day visit to La Paz.”

“Saladino has received an invitation for an encore performance and plans to return to La Paz next year to conduct the Verdi ‘Requiem.’”

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## New Members

We're pleased to welcome some new members who have joined recently. They are:

**Debra Ahrent**, 1698 Porter Rd., Fayetteville AR 72703, Tel. 501-973-0599

**Heather Daniel**, P.O. Box 44041, Fayetteville AR 72702, Tel. 501-521-7891

**Teresa Elder**, 10123 N. Hwy 16, Elkins AR 72727, Tel. 501-643-3655

**Jim & Margaret Johnson**, 2333 N. East Oaks Dr., Fayetteville AR 72703, Tel. 501-442-3691

**Beth Washburn**, 1210 W. 18<sup>th</sup>, Stuttgart AR 72160, Tel. 870-673-2780

Debra works for the University of Arkansas in agriculture (soybeans). She used to be stationed at Stuttgart before transferring to Fayetteville. She was a member of the LEADAR 8 group that went to Bolivia.

Heather has assisted us with visitors from Bolivia, notably the two nurses who were here last fall. She speaks fluent Spanish, has been a member of the Fayetteville City Council and is involved in many civic activities.

Teresa has also assisted with our recent visitors from Bolivia - she's the Director of the Arkansas Midwife School

Jim & Margaret have literally been “all over the world” including Bolivia with the diplomatic corps. After an active life of moving around the world they chose Fayetteville as their retirement home.

Beth is a Spanish teacher and is interested in getting a Partners group started in Stuttgart. (See above for her trip report).

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## Next Board Meeting

Although we're thinking ahead to the Annual Meeting, we still will have a Board meeting before then. Our July meeting will be **August 11** in Russellville, presumably at the Italian Garden Restaurant. Yes, we know - August is not July, but we simply could not find a Saturday in July when enough people would be available. ALL BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS SHOULD BE AT THIS MEETING - YOUR PRESENCE IS MANDATORY!! (unless you have a good excuse, of course).