



# DIRECCIONES

Newsletter of the Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners of the Americas  
Bob Frans, Ed., 1366 W. Altheimer Dr., Fayetteville AR 72704-6898  
Phone 479-575-3978 or 443-5403, Fax 479-575-3975, [rfrans@uark.edu](mailto:rfrans@uark.edu)  
[www.partners.net](http://www.partners.net) (national); [www.uark.edu/misc/partners](http://www.uark.edu/misc/partners) (Arkansas)

Spring 2007 (No. 49)

---

## President's message

After that long report in March I really don't have much to say. By the time you receive this we hope to have:

1. had a successful visit from five Bolivian high school students in POA's Youth Ambassador Program;
2. An accepted application for **Cindy Lenke** (a new POA from Fayetteville) to go to Santa Cruz in the Teacher in Residence Program
3. had a good time at the Serifinis honoring our new Bolivian graduates from the U of A.
4. perhaps one or two other project proposals from here and Bolivia

Jeanine and I will be going the opposite direction from Bolivia in May, spending the month in Germany with our son Micah and two grandchildren Bryce (6) and Jayce (4). Their mother (a Major in the USAF) is doing a year tour in Iraq. We will get a little Latin flavor, however as the five of us will be spending a week exploring Portugal—getting tuned up for the International PO Conference in Brazil where Portuguese is the lingua franca also.

**Steven Neuse**

---

## The POA Baroque Music Tour - 2008

This is how it's shaping up for our Chapter sponsored trip next year. Forgive the occasional lapses in translation from Spanish to English. The Board has talked about the tour and approves of the general shape which includes participants paying their own fare to get to Miami and back home; two post-tour options including three day trips to either the Altiplano or to Amboro national park. We don't have everything costed out yet but the two package prices on the last page are firm. We should know about airfare, deposits, and cancellation policies soon

If you have interest in going on this trip (the dates are tentative, but only a day or two off) please let me know and I can give you first refusals later. We can take a few more than 15, but I'm not sure how many. We will be sending out information to a large number of music program and we anticipate some interest, particularly in light of the excellent coverage of the Bolivian Baroque tradition on the CBS Sunday Morning News show a few weeks ago. Also, I have talked about the program with many friends who are not associated with partners and I'm amazed at the positive response. You can contact me at [sneuse@uark.edu](mailto:sneuse@uark.edu)

Since this schedule is a working document, feel free to send me any other suggestions.

Steven M. Neuse

**April 24, 2008**

### Tour City of Santa Cruz

- Santa Cruz's downtown, museums, history and more.
- Lunch
- 18:00 Dinner: Hotel Cortez conference concerning Bolivia's political situation.
- Optional: Barroca music concert

### **April 23, 2008**

#### **Misiones Jesuíticas (Jesuistics Misionals)**

- San Ignacio - San Miguel-San Rafael - Sta Ana  
-Santa Cruz

4 Days 3 Nights

**Trip to:** San Javier – Concepción

Total Travel Time: Aprox 6 hrs

- 07:00 Departure Santa Cruz - Concepcion. Comfortable air-conditioned bus.
- 12:00 Lunch and Barroco Music conference.
- 15:00 Check-in at the Las Misiones Apart Hotel
- 16:30 Church visit. Known as “The Misional Jewelry XVIII Century”. Visit to Misional Museum located at former president Gral. Hugo Banzer’s home in Concepcion. . Late president Banzer was a dictator during the 70’s and then elected president in the 90’s.
- Visit to a wood carving shops and souvenir stores.
- Walk around Concepcion’s downtown.
- Barroco Music Concert (Tickets to this concert are included)
- 22:00 Dinner
- Rest at the Hotel

### **April 26, 2008**

#### **CONCEPCION – SAN IGNACIO DE VELASCO**

- 08:00 Breakfast at the hotel
- 09:00 Departure to San Ignacio de Velasco, approximately 4 hours trip.
- 13:00 Check in at the Las Misiones Hotel
- Lunch
- 15:00 Free time
- Barroco Music Concert
- Dinner
- Rest at the Hotel

### **April 27, 2008**

#### **SAN MIGUEL – SAN RAFAEL – STA ANA –SAN IGNACIO**

- 08:00 Breakfast at the hotel
- 09:00 Departure to San Miguel, San Rafael and Sta Ana
- Lunch
- 19:00 Arrive to San Ignacio de Velasco
- Barroco Music Concert (optional)
- 22:00 dinner

### **April 28,2008**

#### **SAN IGNACIO – SAN JAVIER – SANTA CRUZ**

- 08:00 Breakfast at the Hotel
- 9:00 Departure to San Javier
- 13:00 Lunch at Concepción
- 5:00 Arrive to San Javier. Visit the oldest Jesuits master peace: San Javier’s Church.
- Snacks will be served on the road going back to Santa Cruz
- 20:00 Arrive to Santa Cruz.

### **April 29, 2008**

#### **GUEMBE BIOCENRO (MARIPOSARIO – ORQUIDIARIO)**

- 10:00.- Visit to Biocentro Guembé, a butterfly and orchids nursery. It has ten natural pools and a lagoon to fish or just enjoy a canoe ride.
- ❖ We will provide the tickets and an English translator
- ❖ It does not include lunch

### **April 30, 2008**

#### **Santa Cruz Hotel Resort Los Cedros in Samaipata**

**Total Travel Time: Aprox 2hrs**

**Duration: 2 days and 1 night**

Departure to Los Cedros Resort

Lunch

Time to enjoy the place.

[www.resortloscedros.com](http://www.resortloscedros.com)

Dinner: Buffet with a “Peña Folklórica”

### **May 01, 2008**

Walk around Samaipata’s downtown and the Arquelogist Ruins called “El Fuerte de Samaipata”  
19:00 Los Cedros’s hotel check out  
20:30 Arrive to Santa Cruz

### **May 02, 2008**

#### **SANTA CRUZ LIVE**

Breakfast

Visit to ecological Ivaga Guazú park.

Lunch at “La Casa del Camba Mirador”

Peña Crucena (exclusive folcllorical music exposition)

Enjoy a folclloric dance

Night free time

### **May 03, 2008**

Desayuno en el Hotel

Visit to the Zoo  
Lunch at Lomas de Arena  
Barroca Music Concert (Tickets are included in the package)  
Free time to have dinner  
**Alternative:** Spend the day at a nearby ranch. We will get to do cow milking, ride back horse, cow riding and more

❖ The cost for the activities mentioned above is not including on the total cost of the package. Each person will have to pay an additional cost for these activities.

**Our Santa Cruz package ends here.**

### **LA PAZ (Optional)**

**May 04, 2008**

**Day 1**

#### **CITY TOUR LA PAZ - FULL DAY**

09:00: Visit to La Paz Downtown, Murillos Parker Square (Palacio de Gobierno, Congreso y Catedral), Colonial Jaen Museum (Gold museum and Murillo's house), walk around "The Witches" street and San Francisco Church  
11:30: Arrive to Killi-Killi Mirador  
Traditional food will be served for lunch  
14:00: Departure to Las Américas bridge and The Moon Valey (Valle de la Luna)  
15:30: Enjoy La paz  
19:00: Dinner and Peña Folklórica Show.

**Day 2**

#### **COPACABANA - FULL DAY**

07:00 Departure to Copacabana.  
10:30 Downtown and church visit.  
13:00 Visit by boat to Isla del Sol.  
15:30 Departure to La Paz city

**Day 3**

#### **TIAWANAKU - HALF DAY**

08:30 Departure Tiwanaku.  
0 Visit Tiwanaku.  
Hrs. 12:30 Lunch  
Hrs. 14:00 Return to La Paz.  
Afternoon free time

#### **Package includes:**

- Transfer In – Out
- Hotels:  
**La Paz:** Gloria, Pan American, Max INN o

Madre Tierra (subject to availability and reservations dates)

**Santa cruz:** Hotel Cortez \*\*\*\* (Two-people room)

**Concepción:** Apart Hotel Las Misiones (Five-people cabins with refrigerators, private restrooms and air conditioning.

**Samaipata:** Hotel Resort Los Cedros \*\*\*\*\* Samaipata (Two-people room)

Food on every location mentioned above  
Hotels at Santa Cruz and the Jesuits Missions  
Bilingual guide for the entire trip.

Private buses.

Tickets to museums

Be part of the entire Barroco Music Festival from April/04/2008 to May/04/2008 (Festival Internacional de Música Barroca Abril 2008 del 24/04/2008 – 04/05/2008) tickets are included

#### **Package does not include**

- Airfare from United states to Bolivia
- Airfare from Santa Cruz to La Paz
- Alcoholics beverages.
- Optional trip to the ranch.
- Conference about Political situation in Bolivia.

#### **Price:**

##### **Mínimum 15 People Party:**

Santa Cruz and Jesuits Missions package: \$777 per person

La Paz package: 300 \$u\$.- per person

Please make your confirmation before Feb / 24 / 2008.

**Lic. Carmen Ribera**

**Op. Tur. Jenecherú**

**Teléfonos: 591 3 3466252**

**591 3 3470925**

**760 02554**

**E-mail: [cribera@expresojenecheru.com](mailto:cribera@expresojenecheru.com)**

**Web Site: [www.expresojenecheru.com](http://www.expresojenecheru.com)**

---

## News from Kay

We have heard from **Kay Kraeft** and her Songs Unlimited work, both in the U.S. and in Bolivia. She tells us that she and her colleagues had successful seasons the last couple of years. She has initiated student exchanges between La Paz and UCA and expects a productive season in 2007. For more details on her project, go to [www.songsunlimited.org](http://www.songsunlimited.org). This is from a recent press release:

“Mezzo-soprano **Jennifer Crippen**, a senior in the University of Central Arkansas, Department of Music and an award-winning student of Martha Antolik, returned to Arkansas recently from La Paz, Bolivia where she spent the month of January 2007 in the high Andes capitol, singing the leading role of Rosina in the Bolivian National Opera production of Rossini’s *The Barber of Seville*. She was selected for this role on the basis of her successful participation in the Songs Across the Americas Festival - 2006 Arkansas held on the UCA campus in May 2006. Her appearance with the company was arranged through the combined efforts of Songs Unlimited, Incorporated of Conway, Arkansas, the Department of Music of the University of Central Arkansas, and the Philharmonic Society of La Paz. She joined professional artists from Bolivia, Argentina and Germany for six performances during the final week of January.

Songs Unlimited, an Arkansas non-profit organization devoted to the promotion of songs worldwide, which co-sponsored with UCA the recent Songs Across the Americas Festival - 2006 Arkansas, includes among its many projects numerous international student study and faculty exchange efforts between Bolivia and the United States. In that capacity it arranged for and welcomed in January 2007 the in-coming Bolivian freshman student, dramatic soprano **Andrea Ramos** of La Paz, under a full scholarship awarded by the University and the Department of Music. Ms. Ramos comes to the University through the International Programs Division under the Arkansas policy of offering out-of-state fee waivers for Bolivian students in recognition of the Partnership of Arkansas with Eastern Bolivia under the Partners of the Americas program, funded by the US Department of State.

Dr. Kay Kraeft of Conway, the President and founder of Songs Unlimited, and also a retired

faculty member from the UCA Department of Music, most recently returned from La Paz, Bolivia where as Director of the Songs Unlimited School of Singing she taught a 5-week Workshop in Lyric Singing at two Bolivian universities - Loyola University and University Real. As part of that Workshop she prepared and directed a concert performance of Henry Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas*, with soloists, chorus and orchestra to a packed house and rave reviews. Plans are currently under way for Bolivian projects in 2007.

---

## Leaders Orientation Seminars

Again, Partners of the Americas is sponsoring Leaders Seminars, one in Washington D.C. August 8 and 9 and 10, and one at the International Convention in Brazil, November 11 - 14. These seminars are directed, primarily, to new leaders in chapters, including committee chairs of strategic committees. If you are interested and feel you might qualify, contact President Neuse for more information.

---

## International Convention!

The next International Convention of Partners will be held November 15, 16, and 17, 2007, in Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais, Brazil. The convention hotel is Estalagem das Minas Gerais - SESC/MG, located three miles from Ouro Preto. The city is a Portuguese colonial city with Baroque architecture and is a World Heritage site. Registrations are being accepted for the convention - you can register online at [www.partners.net](http://www.partners.net), or you may contact **Rosalind Elahi** directly at [relahi@partners.net](mailto:relahi@partners.net) for more information. More details should be available on the Partners website as well. Cost for registration is \$375 per person before October 5 and \$425 after that date. Hotel registrations may be made at [www.sescmg.com.br](http://www.sescmg.com.br). We don’t have details on hotel costs at this writing.

---

## Youth Ambassadors

The following news article, reprinted here from *The Morning News* of Springdale, Arkansas does an admirable job of explaining the above program. The article was authored by **Bettina Lehovc** and their web address is: [www.nwaonline.net](http://www.nwaonline.net). Here's the article:

# The Morning News

## Local News for Northwest Arkansas

### Youth Ambassadors Visit Area

FAYETTEVILLE - Five Bolivian teenagers spent a week in Northwest Arkansas as "youth ambassadors" recently, sharing information about their homeland and gleaning insights to take back with them.

"It's very interesting," said Yhandira Guillen, a 16-year-old from Santa Cruz. "It's different from our country."

The teen's visit was sponsored by Partners of the Americas, a nonprofit organization fostering cross-cultural exchange since 1964. The Arkansas chapter partners with cities and towns in east Bolivia.

Exchanges have taken place in the areas of education, culture, health, agriculture and business, said Margaret Clark, coordinator of the youth ambassadors program. This is the first time Bolivian high school students have visited the country.

"They're here to represent their countries, provide information about their countries and be goodwill ambassadors," Clark said.

The young people began their trip with a week in Washington, D.C.. Partners of the Americas is funded by the U.S. Department of State. Fifteen young people from Bolivia took part. The other 10 students went on to North Carolina and Utah. Five came to Northwest Arkansas May 2-10.

All the teens are enrolled in an intensive English-speaking program in Bolivia. Their language skills made conversation flow with ease.

"Arkansas is really a nice state," said Vanessa Leon, age 18. "The people are very, very friendly."

The teens spent several days in high schools in Fayetteville, Lincoln and Prairie Grove. They marveled at the differences they found. In Bolivia, students remain in the same room all day while teachers change classes, for example. Students return home to eat lunch. They attend school only half a day – either morning, afternoon or evening shift.

Clark and other organizers planned a full week for the young people. In addition to spending three days in the high schools, teens went fishing, boating, golfing and shopping, they said. They enjoyed Cinco de Mayo activities at the Jones Center For Families, saw a piano performance at the Walton Arts Center, toured the University of Arkansas campus and spent a day in Eureka Springs. Other destinations included Roaring River State Park in Missouri, the Beaver Lake dam, the Fayetteville Public Library, the Clinton House Museum, the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks and both area malls.

"We've been very busy," Leon said. "It's been a good opportunity for us."

The teens stayed with several local families, imbibing the flavor of American home life. Dairy farmers Bob and Nadine Spears shared their afternoon routine, for example.

The Spears have visited Bolivia three times to teach dairy farming nutrition, they said. They've been involved with the Partners of the Americas program for about 10 years.

"We wanted to pay back for their hospitality when we were there," Nadine Spears said.

"It's a wonderful program," her husband added. "When they have needs, we send people down to help with those needs. (They do the same for us.)"

The reciprocal nature of the program is key, said Bob Frans, a longtime member and executive director of the Arkansas group. The state chapter has about 70 members in Northwest Arkansas and little Rock, he said.

"These are true exchanges, not paternalistic. We benefit and profit just as much for people coming here from Bolivia."

Members form lasting bonds with their counterparts, he said.

"Everyone who becomes involved develops a real love for Bolivia and our associations down there," he said. "We have really good friends there. ...It gives people an awareness of each other. We try to understand each other."

Bolivian member Ivon Rodriquez escorted the teens to Northwest Arkansas. She said she hopes the inaugural program continues year after year.

“The students need these kinds of programs and activities,” she said. “It open their minds.”

Partners of the Americas

Goal: To promote leadership, understanding and opportunity in the Americas through people-to-people volunteer contact. Members share in the areas of education, agriculture, health, business, culture and more.

Information: [www.partners.net](http://www.partners.net)

---

## “LoveCovers”

This is a program your Editor ran into through a party put on by the student International Bolivia Organization in April. Several of the students had become acquainted with **Joshua Foliart** since he and other students had traveled to La Paz to assess the possibility of starting their program there. I saw his video on the street children of La Paz and was intrigued, primarily because of the work of my late wife, Maria Teresa, with the children of that city. Although Josh represents a church in Fayetteville as their student pastor, I present his statement here only because of its humanitarian aspect and for your possible interest, realizing we are a non-sectarian organization. I believe his organization is entirely separate from his church affiliation. Here is his statement:

“LoveCovers is a humanitarian aid tool that exists as a means to deliver kindness to the most invisible population on the planet. UNICEF estimates there are 100 million street children living homeless throughout the cities of the world. That means that 1 in every 22 children that are currently living will have no warm place to lay their head tonight. The team at LoveCovers and our partners have proposed to be a solution to this problem by mobilizing thousands of LoveCovers packs to children throughout cities all over the world. We are mobilizing projects currently to the children of Bolivia, the children of Romania, the homeless that exist in the United States, and are prepared to partner with other teams and organizations to supply the LoveCovers packs for their projects. The cost to

place one of the LoveCovers packs into a child's hand and give them a place to lay their head is \$25. We encourage you to take action and visit our website at : [www.projectlovecovers.com](http://www.projectlovecovers.com) or email us at [projectlovecovers@gmail.com](mailto:projectlovecovers@gmail.com) for more information.”

Joshua Foliart

479-530-2444

---

## Resignation

We have just learned that the President of Partners of the Americas, **Malcolm Butler**, has resigned from his position, effective June 1. Apparently, this change has been contemplated for some time. Malcolm lists as his reasons the lack of growth in the organization in recent years and the belief on his part, as well as the Board, that after 6 years, it's time for a change, both for him and for the organization.

The Vice President of the organization, **Pablo Paz y Miño**, has been asked to serve as interim CEO. In a message to the Partners Board he states:

“I'd like to express my appreciation to you and other members of the Board for entrusting me with the responsibility to lead the day-to-day operations of the organization in the interim — I look at the immediate future with optimism. I'm convinced that the Partners family represents an enormous reservoir of energy and potential. I'm also confident that the commitment and talent of our staff, combined with leadership from our Board, can bring nothing but success. However, I'm also aware of the challenges ahead.”

---

## The Justice Project

The following came to us by e-mail from the Justice Project, headquartered in La Paz:

“Greetings from La Paz. Partners' Ciudadanos Trabajando por la Justicia Program has been involved in some significant projects over the past quarter throughout the country. Program personnel have been working concertedly on the program's

justice objectives, in particular into efforts related to working to promote justice system reform at the ongoing Constituent Assembly in Sucre. Through its campaign, The Justice That We Want, CTPJ personnel and Justice and Participation Network officials have successfully mobilized and collected the input of thousands of citizens to come up with proposals for justice system reform, which they have in turn promoted to a host of Assembly delegates and officials, as well as congressional and judicial branch members. CTPJ and the Network also saw recommendations from the two election monitoring campaigns signed into Bolivian electoral code, and have continued monitoring efforts of Assembly proceedings. Additionally, the Network, which the CTPJ program initially set up and still supports, has continued its legal institutionalization process and will soon be implementing projects as an autonomous Bolivian organization. Bolivia also recently sent 15 youth as part of the Youth Ambassadors program to stay with families from our partner chapters in Utah, North Carolina, and Arkansas. We thank you for your support and involvement in this exemplary program and the opportunity it provides for these young people.”

only continue to be vital if you continue your support. So – won’t you search your memory banks to see why you thought it important at one time to become a member? And if you are uncertain as to your membership status, just call or e-mail Bob Frans at 479-443-5403, or [rfrans@uark.edu](mailto:rfrans@uark.edu) to find out..

Next Board meeting (should be) - July 14 in Russellville - all are welcome to attend. The Annual Meeting (should be) - October 12 and 13 in Little Rock - that’s really **your** meeting – come! If the above dates change, we’ll let you know.

¡Hasta la vista!

---

## Final notes

Well, that seems to be it, and well it should be after 7 pages! Perhaps we should apologize for such a lengthy newsletter, but there just didn’t seem to be anywhere to stop. We would ask that you seriously consider these items: the International Conference in November in Brazil and the leaders orientation seminars (if you feel you are eligible) in August and November.

Finally - **have you paid your dues for 2007?** We know that this is easy to overlook, but your name is still on our membership roll. It’s there for a reason. Sometime in the past Partners was important enough for you to join - we hope it still is! It may be because of the involvement with Bolivian students on the campus in Fayetteville, it may be because of the music program in Conway, it may be because of the history and long involvement with the program in Little Rock or it may be just because you have developed a love for the country of Bolivia. Whatever your reason was (and we hope still is), the organization is still worthy of your support. It can