

Friends of the Dominican Republic

Cyber News - Issue #48 - June 2009

President's Corner

Last issue we were advertising for board volunteers, and this issue we are announcing the great additions to our lineup. Two are in the DR where we will need lots of assistance for organizing the 2012 Reunion.

Muchas gracias to Kate Wallace, Anne Kopley, Theresa Zingery, Matthew Kaye, Michael Lisman, Iris Laurencio and Douglas Stone for serving FDR as board members. Iris was our PCVL member, appointed by the DR Director, who just completed her 3rd year of service, and we are expecting a replacement soon.

Invite your friends sign up with FDR, especially if you joined PC recently, because we have very few Volunteers from last 3 years due to restrictions on offering applications to Volunteers during service by the Bush Administration. We await the Obama appointment of a new PC Director.

Roger Weiss, DR 64-66 president@fotdr.org

Congratulations New FDR Board Members and Officers

FDR Board approved the following Officer nominations for 2009:

President—Roger Weiss
Vice President—John Epler
Treasurer—John Evans
Secretary—Kathryn Hanowell
Membership Director—Janice Jorgensen

New board members-
Kathryn Hanowell
DR Committee - Aaron Arnoldy
Tony Gasbarro
DR Committee Chair-Michael Moore
Invitee Match & RPCV Mentoring-Rachel Sanders
PC & NPCA Liaison-Mariellen Jewers

Check the photos and bios of each board member at:
www.fotdr.org/dnn/AboutUs/tabid/76/Default.aspx

How Does FDR Assist Dominicans?

There are two important FDR Funds that contribute to development in the Dominican Republic by supporting activities and projects of current Peace Corps Volunteers. These are the **Program Support Fund (PSF)** and the **Community Challenge Fund (CCF)**. Both of these funds provide a way for you to support

current PC-DR Volunteers to make a continued contribution to helping Dominicans improve their lives. Together, these two funds help volunteers to be more effective at their work and strengthen the overall impact of Peace Corps.

How \$11.00 can change a Dominican family's life - The Challenge Fund helps bring potable water to four mountain villages

The partnership of Peace Corps DR and the Community Challenge Fund assisted four communities, located high in the central cordillera, to construct an aqueduct which brings them drinking water for the first time in their history. The communities of El Corozal, Monte Fresco, La Sierra and Los Corocitos recently held a huge celebration to dedicate the project making the first time they have had potable water in their homes. Comments by community members at the dedication showed their great appreciation for the Challenge Fund contributions which made the project possible.



Community leaders and PCV celebrate the arrival of potable water to four small mountain villages in San Juan Province

Sustainability was built into the project. In addition to providing labor, each family was required (before receiving an individual household spigot) to deposit \$14 into a maintenance fund and commit to pay another \$1 monthly fee to sustain the fund.

Prior to the project, many of the 184 families were forced to travel 3 hours a day to just to obtain contaminated water. The 640 residents of the communities have had a long history of suffering from water borne diseases caused by use of local streams and ponds as their water supply. The new aqueduct

system now brings 14,000 gallons a day to the communities from 2 mountain springs. Proving once again the cost-efficiency of the Challenge Fund approach, the Fund provided only 25% of the total project costs, while the community made up the other 75% in contributed labor and other financial contributions. **The contribution of the Challenge Fund (\$2,000) represented just \$10.90 per household.**



Celebrating the arrival of water to the communities – Dominican style!

The Program Support Fund

This renamed fund is versatile in that it has funded a diversity of projects that include educational activities, equipment needed for doing rural water system construction projects, and environmental awareness training. The board recently defined the fund more explicitly for easier usage by PC DR. More details can be viewed at www.fotdr.org under Get Involved.

Two recently funded projects include the purchase of Adobe InDesign software (\$200 FDR support) that PCVs will use to produce project materials and the famous Gringo Grita publication.



A second project was the printing of a health booklet (\$2100 FDR support) that will be used country-wide by

Dominican health workers. Volunteers will instruct health workers in the use of this practical, illustrated education resource. This training material was developed by PCV Adrienne Gilbert.

The FDR Community Challenge Fund and the Program Support Fund are two great means to support the efforts of Volunteers in the Dominican Republic. Volunteers submit proposals through PC-DR to apply for these funds.

Events on the Horizon

FDR Annual meeting set for Seattle on August 15

Set your dates! The FDR General Membership Annual Meeting will take place this year in Seattle at the University of Washington Urban Horticultural Center on August 15th. This is in conjunction with the board meeting the preceding 2 days. We will convene for this General Membership Annual Meeting on Saturday afternoon from 2-5 pm for all members and contributors. Presentations and photos on FDR programs, as well as discussions on FDR initiatives and Peace Corps directions will be included in the program. A social time and refreshments will follow the formal meeting.

We have booked a block of rooms at the Executive Hotel Pacific, a boutique hotel in the heart of downtown Seattle. Rates are \$109 for a queen room \$139 for a room with 2 double beds during the August 13th-15th period. Call the hotel (206 623-3900) and make your reservations identifying yourself as with the "Friends of the Dominican Republic" group. Rooms will be held until July 9th on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Members and contributors planning on coming to Seattle for the meeting (whether staying at the hotel or not), should e-mail John Epler at johnnepler@comcast.net or call (206) 723-5396 **by July 9th** so you can receive information on the event and so we can have a head count.

If you want to tie in a vacation, there are lots of things to do in the area. Among them are the famous Pike Street Market, the Ballard Locks and salmon ladder, the Seattle Waterfront, the Seattle Music Experience, day trips to the San Juan Islands, and if enough people are interested, we can rent a van for a guided city tour by a Seattle native. No need to bring umbrellas to Seattle in August! August is the driest month in Seattle.

Further details will be posted at www.fotdr.org.

Albuquerque Gatherings

A Peace Corps reunion and Board meeting of the **Andres Hernandez Fund** will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, September 25, 26, & 27, 2009, at the Best Western Rio Grande Inn on Rio Grande Blvd (just north of Old Town). This gathering started years ago with the very old-timers meeting with Andy, the first DR Country

Director. The gathering has now expanded to include any of us that want to talk about experiences and learn from others.

We have the rate of \$83.00+12.75% tax per night with a 20% discount for Breakfast in the Grill. This price is good 3 days prior to and after the reunion.

To get the Special rate, make reservations before August 25th. The Inn's phone number is 800-959-4726. Mention you are with the Peace Corps/Santo Domingo reunion. There is shuttle service to and from the Airport, 7 am to 10pm daily. After retrieving your luggage, call 843-9500 for the shuttle.

The agenda is open. This is an opportunity to meet and greet friends old & new. Visit with Andy and persuade him to tell a story or two. Jerry Dupuy will catch us up on current affairs in the DR and relate the status of the Andy Prize for 2008. You can nominate a worthy recipient for the Prize.

Questions? Call Jess Stone @ 208-798-7043 or 208-305-3692 or Herb Trossman @ 520-749-5825

Frontier Program and CREAR Volunteers will be meeting in conjunction with the Andy Fund meeting. The Frontier Program started in the early 70s in the border area, and CREAR developed from that. If you were in these programs and want to know more, contact Mark Feedman at 505-454-3882. Check Mark's page at <http://community.peacecorpsconnect.org/profile/MarkFeedman> for more on his Frontier experience.

PCDR 50 year reunion in 2012

FDR, Fondo Quisqueya, and PCDR are preparing for our Reunion in Santo Domingo in early 2012, This is also the 50th Anniversary of PC in the DR. Stay in touch for details. **Note: The previous Cyber News erroneously said the DR reunion is in 2011 – Make sure it is correct on your calendar!**

Peace Corps and NPCA 50th Anniversary Celebration

Preparation is also underway for the for 2011 Anniversary in DC. See details at www.peacecorps.gov/50 and NPCA details at www.peacecorpsconnect.org/content/50th-anniversary-campaign

RPCV Mentoring: Don't Be a Fish Out of Water



Do you ever feel like a fish out of water or remember what it was like? Whether you are just coming home from Peace Corps or you've been back a while, the RPCV Mentoring Program is for you. Tap into the experience of someone who

knows what you are going through. Help someone with the transition back to the U.S.

NPCA's RPCV Mentoring Program is really taking off. This online system allows PCVs just returning from service ("mentees") to be matched with those who have been back a while ("mentors") for assistance with readjustment, career options and engagement in Third Goal activities. We have mentors and mentees already signed up that need to be matched! This is a great way for new RPCVs to be introduced to the area and for local RPCVs to keep in touch with a country of service or connect to some place new via the newly returned PCV. To learn more (and to register as a mentor or mentee), visit www.rpcvmentoring.org.

FDR is participating in the Mentoring Program to recruit mentors and mentees, as well as to administer our part of the program. If you sign up you should be referred to us to create a match between mentor and mentee.

Invitee Match Program

Invitees to Peace Corps DR receive much better materials to prepare them for the changes of living there. Peace Corps has great manuals for each country. We have the manual and other materials on our web site. However they usually have a few more questions to ask. If you would like to help an Invitee, or if you are an Invitee, please contact us at: PCDRMentoring@gmail.com.

PEACE CORPS NEWS of NATIONAL INTEREST –

Dominican Volunteer Flies High!

NASA astronaut Joseph Acaba (DR 94-96) addressed Peace Corps staff and volunteers as part of the Loret Miller Ruppe Speakers Series following his March mission and spacewalk.

www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=resources.media.press.view&news_id=1451

Are You Connected?

Peace Corps Connect is getting returned PCVs back in touch with fellow volunteers. According to Anne Baker, NPCA Vice President, Friends of the Dominican Republic is the 4th largest group, with Africa, Group Leaders and Northern California being the only 3 larger than FDR at 104 total. (note: numbers are changing daily)

FDR members have been working to get the word out to other members and other former DR Volunteers. If you choose to connect, you will likely encounter some old acquaintances, and maybe hear some memory joggling stories!

However, another very important benefit of networking more of us into the site is discovery of new potential members for our program and donations.

If you have not yet joined the PC Connect, please do so at <http://community.peacecorpsconnect.org>. Also, please invite your RPCV and former staff friends to also connect.

Dominican RPCVs have a page at <http://community.peacecorpsconnect.org/group/dominicanrepublic>

Neil Ross

Obituaries

JAVIER LINDEL GARZA 1949-2009

**Javier L. Garza, 60, passed away March 16, 2009
in Saltillo, Mexico.**

Javier was the 24th Peace Corps Director in the Dominican Republic serving from 2003 to 2005, and then was assigned as Director in Bolivia until 2007. He previously served two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Peru in 1970 to 1972.

L. ROBERT "BOB" SATIN 1931-2009

**Bob Satin died in Anchorage, Alaska on
April 26, 2009 at age 77.**

Bob was among the first Assistant Peace Corps Directors in the Dominican Republic from 1962 to 1963 when he became the country's second Peace Corps Director until 1965.

To see the extensive obituaries of these two distinguished former PC DR Directors, please go to: www.fotdr.org/dnn/PeaceCorps/Obituaries/tabid/244/Default.aspx

CONTACT US! Have a news piece, announcement, photo, or suggestion for the next Cyber News? Sent it along to the FDR Cyber News editor at CyberNews@fotdr.org. Visit Friends of the Dominican Republic online at: www.fotdr.org.

Cyber News is distributed by email and includes website links to more in-depth articles. View past editions of the Cyber News at www.fotdr.org by selecting Cyber News in the top menu bar.

Your Donations are the *combustible* that keep FDR's *Program Support Fund* and the *Community Challenge Fund* supporting Volunteer projects. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, all donations to FDR are tax deductible.

Keep your Membership up to date: FDR dues are only \$15 per year!

Pay dues and donate with credit card or Pay Pal at www.fotdr.org, or mail dues & donations, payable to "Friends of the Dominican Republic," to FDR Treasurer, John Evans, 4512 Park Road, Alexandria, VA 22312.

FDR is an affiliate of the **National Peace Corps Association** (NPCA). NPCA dues are \$35 per year! Add that to your check for FDR membership and send to either FDR or to NPCA Membership, 1900 L Street NW, Suite 404, Washington, DC 20036 (designate FDR as your affiliate group). You may join or renew membership for both FDR and NPCA online at www.peacecorpsconnect.org/renew.

Fondo Quisqueya - FDR collaborates closely with our sister organization, Fondo Quisqueya. Like FDR, Fondo Q is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Fondo Q provides scholarships for low income Dominicans at all levels below university, including vocational and non-traditional education. Fondo Q welcomes your support. For complete Information about Fondo Q, visit their website: www.fondoq.org. Contributions may be sent to Fondo Quisqueya, P.O. Box 6628, Falls Church, VA 22040-6628.

Send changes in postal or e-mail addresses to Janice Jorgensen: MembershipDirector@fotdr.org. Better yet, make the additions and changes to any of your data on the website.

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