



January 2011

Come and meet some of your neighbors at the following Teas

**January 26**  
Santa Ana  
1-3 pm

**February 9**  
Moravia  
10-12 am

**February 23**  
Cariari  
12-2 pm

**IMPORTANT**

To read the whole newsletter click on our website:  
[www.wccr.org](http://www.wccr.org)

**Presidents' Message**

I wish each of you a Happy, Healthy, & Prosperous New Year. We celebrated 70 years of existence during 2010. We kicked off the year with a lovely lunch where we presented a movie of our heritage with interviews of some of the previous presidents. Sadly we lost two of those presidents during 2010, so we are very fortunate to have captured some interesting stories from these ladies along with other past presidents.

Our final 2010 celebration was enjoyed by many at a lovely Christmas luncheon provided at Zamora Estates in Santa Ana. What a beautiful venue and meal; a scenic reflection of the beautiful country in which we live! We appreciate the Past Presidents for their attentive efforts given to planning such an enjoyable day. Thank you, Presidents & Chair, Bonnie.

During 2010 a new group of dynamic women started a new interest group, the Professional Women's Network. This group meets on various Saturdays for professional development activities and networking with each other.

Also during 2010, after a very long and in-depth scrutiny by government agencies of our completed and ongoing projects, the Club has obtained the much respected status of "Utilidad Pública" which means that donations to the Women's Club can be deducted from Costa Rican income taxes.

I would like to invite all members to participate in WCCR activities this year, whether your interest might be to help with Reading is Fun, Scholarships or to meet some of the interesting ladies of the WCCR. We hope to see you at our monthly meetings

**Pat MacKinnon**

**2011 FUNDRAISER**

**A Night at the Museum**  
Saturday, May 14, 2011

The recently renovated Museum of Costa Rican Art is opening its doors for the Women's Club!

The landmark building, international airport terminal in La Sabana, was inaugurated in 1940. Guided tours of the museum, delicious food, music, silent and live auctions of hotel getaways, restaurant dinners, gift certificates from stores, airline tickets, artwork and much more.

One hundred percent of funds raised will be devoted to our charity projects.



Today more than 296,000 children in Costa Rica go to class without a text book in their hands! Also, based on La Nación's statistics, youth who complete grade 9 and beyond are less likely to end up on the streets.

The WCCR is joining the campaign launched by La Nación to provide text books to as many children as possible.

Please be generous! The Club will match an equal amount for each donation.

Help us with your donation! €6,000 buys one set of 4 books for a primary school student. Thanks to those who gave at the December General Meeting. Donations will continue to be collected through January and February 2011. For information on making a donation, please contact Anne Kreupeling at [gumbolimbo@hotmail.com](mailto:gumbolimbo@hotmail.com).

We will be concentrating on helping rural or poor neighborhood schools that we have previously worked with through our Reading is Fun program.

La Nación is also going to publish two more books, one for 1st grade and one for 3rd grade, to help the children learn to write correctly (3rd grade for the transition to cursive); these will be included in the package at no extra cost.

To date the Club has sponsored 5 rural schools (221 students). La Nación is printing WCCR stickers for insertion into the text books donated by the Club; the newspaper and distributed the text books once the school year begins.

For additional information: [www.librosparatodos.com](http://www.librosparatodos.com)

### READING IS FUN – 2010 YEAR END PROJECTS REPORT

Escuela Santa Margarita, Naranjo, Alajuela	Textbooks	136,800
Escuela San Vicente, Santo Domingo, Heredia	Textbooks	378,000
Escuela La Isla, Guadalupe	Textbooks	279,515
Escuela Paso Marcas, Río Pacuare	Library books	124,530
Escuela Mercedes Sur, Puriscal	Library books, bookcase	100,585
	Textbooks	61,200
Escuela Los Angeles, Ipis, Guadalupe	Library books, table	688,495
	Cement	170,940
Escuela Calle Liles, San Rafael Poás	Library books, bookcase & tables & chairs	271,190
	Windows & bars	272,000
	Textbooks	115,200
Escuela Carlos Sanabria Mora, Pavas, San José	Library books	435,975
Escuela Jilgueral, Puriscal	Library books	33,600
Biblioteca Diamante, La Florida de Baru	Library books & whiteboard	289,521
Asociación de Bienestar Social, Escazú	Bookshelves	95,500
Escuela Manuel María Gutiérrez Coronado	Building materials	594,273
Escuela Manuel Francisco Carrillo Saborío, Alajuela	Library books	155,685
Centro Educativo Liceo Daniel Oduber Quiros, Pavas	Non violent games	99,925
Unidad Pedagógica Rafael Hernández Madriz, Cartago	Library books	318,215
Liceo San Nicolás, Taras de Cartago	Library books & Bookshelves,	421,532
Asociación Ancianos Amigos Fray Casiano, Pavas	Cookies & Gifts for Christmas Party	Donated by Members
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17 ORGANIZATIONS</b>	<b>5,042,681</b>

**2,839,328 colones 56% - Reading is Fun projects**  
**970,715 colones 19% - Textbook projects**  
**1,232,638 colones 25% - School aid projects**

## MEMBERSHIP – NEW

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! (Approved by the Board of Directors January 10, 2011):** Susannah Baring-Tait, Holli Barrett, Mary Borbon Arias, Germaine Hargreaves, Sandra Krause, Patricia Kaye, Ina Krone, Fiorella Medrano, Amalia Montalto Padilla, Tara Stone Medina, Wendy Strebe and Natalie Vargas Marin.



Current President Pat MacKinnon, Beulah Wiebe (in front ) with, from left to right, Past Presidents, Cyndy Vorih, Anne Sobel, Mary Alice Lesko, Angela Lenderink, Su Pardo, Joyce Venegas, Anne Kreupeling, Grace Woodman-Fernandes and retiring President Bonnie Murry

Photo by Margarita Persico

## DECEMBER LUNCH-ENDING THE 70<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

Opening the lunch at the Zamora Estates, Bonnie Murry thanked all the members for a wonderful 70<sup>th</sup> year and dedicated the lunch to our long serving members who passed away during the year: Past Presidents Norma Lenkowsky and Betty Mooney and member Hazel "Jeri" Duffield. She also thanked the Past Presidents for their wonderful arrangements and beautiful gifts, which were given throughout the afternoon as door prizes.

Bonnie Murry turned over the gavel she had used to incoming President Pat MacKinnon. The gavel had been Past President Norma Lenkowsky's. Thanks, Bonnie, for your 2 years of service!

Zamora Estates prepared a delicious meal, several Amigos Asociados were on hand to pour wine and Cyndy Vorih prepared gift wrapped, homemade, delicious treats for everyone.

## CLUB CALENDAR & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Ladies and amigos, mark your calendars for Women's Club annual kickoff luncheon on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at the Aurola Holiday Inn, San José. Event starts at 11 a.m. Cost of the luncheon meeting is ₡10,000.

**ONE DAY TOUR TO MONTEVERDE** – Excursion includes round trip transportation in a new air conditioned bus with air-conditioning, breakfast, lunch, visits to a Hummingbird Garden, cheese and coffee factories by train and to Santa Elena led by an English speaking guide. Be prepared to hike in the garden to see the waterfalls. Maximum 15 people. Leaves at 7:00 am and returns at 8:00 pm. Non-refundable payment of \$85 will be due three days before the tour date that will be determined by the response. Call Nidia Viquez at 2293-4276 for more information and to sign up.

## Connecting around the World

Below is the ninth in a series of articles published in *El Residente* magazine, the in-house publication of ARCR (Association of Residents of Costa Rica), which reaches 2500 members in 14 countries. It ran in the January/February 2011 issue of the magazine.



**CONNECTION**  
Women's Club of Costa Rica  
**Scholarship Comes Full Cycle**

For 35 years the Women's Club of Costa Rica (WCCR) has awarded scholarships. In the beginning the recipients were 5 young women pursuing training to become nurses. The program evolved to focus on needy secondary school students with promising ability. Now, the focus is aiming at graduating high school students who are going on to higher education in university or trade schools.

**WHO were the students; how were they selected?**

School counselors nominated students for committee consideration based on three criteria: strong academic potential, good school citizenship and financial need for continuing studies. As many as 158 students received scholarships each year in 43 rural colegios (grades 7–12) and liceos (grades 7-11) in all seven provinces.

**HOW has the program been managed?**

A scholarship committee of passionate women, most with background in education systems, has been responsible for selection of students, communication with the schools, maintenance of records, payments to students, visitation of schools and fund raising in various forms. A facility in Spanish and a willingness to drive to rural schools were assets.

**HOW has the program been funded?**

The majority of funds for the program have been solicited through private donors – many members of ARCR. Donors received annual reports on their student's progress. Numerous bequeaths were received and for seven years all funds donated by Canadians through the Canadian Club were matched by the Canadian Embassy. All funds collected go directly to the students.

Small projects by WCCR members have provided many scholarships over the years: the sale of hand-knit Teddy Bears and contributions to Miss Piggy bank at meetings.

Banco Nacional de Costa Rica facilitates the program by depositing funds bi-monthly to the account of each student. Ten years ago the scholarship award was \$100. Not one of the hundreds of students in the program had a bank account prior to being awarded a scholarship. The process of opening an account, accessing funds and managing the payments has been an opportunity for each student to learn about the banking system and budgeting funds.

**WHAT is the secret to our success?**

A well-defined mission and goal and women with both passion and experience have contributed to the success of the scholarship program. Communication with the schools and donors has been the key.

**WHAT were the problems or challenges?**

Communicating with schools was also the greatest challenge: one telephone per school or perhaps one fax machine (often without paper), no answering service and frequent staff changes in high school counselors. The reality of visiting rural schools has been difficult; inclement weather, mudslides resulting in road closures, heavy traffic on mountainous routes, diligent policemen and the short school day have made visiting an inefficient process. Students might even be absent on the day of arranged visits.

**WHAT changes have been made in the last decade?**

The amount awarded to students has increased from \$100 to \$250, remaining competitive with government scholarships and allowing for increases in cost of living. Grades 7-8 students were eliminated through attrition as it was obvious that selection based on elementary school academic standing was not the best indication of student performance in high school. Focus was changed to grades 9-12 and the number of schools reduced from 43 to 20 to make access more manageable. Communication with schools became easier through internet service and cellular telephones.

**WHY change focus from high school to post-secondary scholarships?**

Quite simply, WCCR's high school program is obsolete! To our delight, the government has initiated a new program (IMAS) that is financially a better option for our students.

But, we're still in business! Back in 2003/4 WCCR had piloted a program to award a few high-school graduates scholarship for first year post-secondary studies. Funded by a donation given in memory of Betty Dahlstrom, the results of the pilot indicated that such a program was much needed and manageable. Scholarship focus now brings us full cycle, back to the original plan involving post-secondary students (remember the nursing students of 35 years ago).

## **HOW and when will the high school program finish?**

The process of attrition will gently bring a close to the high school program. Forty students will graduate in 2010 leaving only 17 students for scholarship in 2011. The last high school scholarship students will graduate in 2012.

## **WHAT is the new program?**

WCCR membership moved quickly to form a new committee to determine criteria and administrative process for the new post-secondary program. Graduates of 2009 were offered a scholarship for first year of studies at an institution of higher learning. Of 40 graduates, 28 have received awards of \$900 - \$1000 for the 2010 school year.

WE have made a difference! Letters of appreciation and thanks from the students confirm the success of the scholarship program. One father expressed his feeling recently when he approached a visitor and asked, "Women's Club? Thank you from my daughter and my family. Thanks to God for the Women's Club."

*Submitted by Roslyn Beswick,  
member of WCCR since 1999*

## **MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS**

**USED WHEEL CHAIR NEEDED** – call Nidia Viquez 2293-4276

**COUNTRY HOUSE FOR RENT** -- in San Luis, Santo Domingo, Heredia for \$550/month. 12 minutes from San José by car. Bus to and from San José stops in front of the gate. Three bedrooms with closets, one bath with hot water, living room, dining room, small kitchen, space for washer and drier hookup, telephone, internet. Grocery store, hardware store, vegetable stand, cafes, etc. right down the road. Price includes water and gardener for the landscaped property. Telephone, electricity and internet/cable service not included. Friendly neighbors in a tranquil environment with many birds and wild life. E-mail [martha\\_rollins@yahoo.com](mailto:martha_rollins@yahoo.com) or call cell phone 8828-2785.

**CARIARI HOUSE FOR SALE:** A 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 baths home is for sale in Bosques de Doña Rosa, Cariari, a very secure and friendly neighborhood. This is the perfect home for a retired couple or a single person. Contact [hankins.joan@gmail.com](mailto:hankins.joan@gmail.com). Finders to any WCCR member whose referral results in a successful sale.

**FOR SALE** 1862m lot in Vista de Oro, Escazú, 400m above CDS, in the heart of the neighborhood. Views, zoned for 3 homes in condo. One of the lowest per meter & per home site prices in Escazú - \$110m/best offer and financing available! A real deal!!! Diane Globerman 8377-0060, 2289-9880

**ENJOY THE BEACH & SCHOLARSHIP FUND WINS TOO!!!** It's time to go to the beach and what's good for you is good for the scholarship fund!!! Diane Globerman has generously offered a 50/50 split on all income generated from Women's Club members over the next 6 months. Prices start at \$130 a night for a couple up to \$300 a night for up to 10 people!!! Not only is the split a super donation but the villas and the locations are 5 star destinations at 3 star prices!! (Ask Anne and Roslyn - they've been there!!) So choose between Playa Grande and Playa Langosta, and we all win!! [www.villascostagrande.com](http://www.villascostagrande.com) Diane at 8377-0060 or 2289-9880

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**Little Theatre Group presents Steel Magnolias:** Running from February 11<sup>th</sup> for 3 weekends at Laurence Oliver Theater, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at 2:30 pm

For reservations call 8858-1446 or visit [www.littletheatregroup.org](http://www.littletheatregroup.org)

**Costa Rican National Symphony Orchestra 2011 Season Tickets:** 12 concerts March 18 to November 27 at the National Theater, Fridays at 8 pm & Sundays at 10:30 am. Get 6 or 12 concert series. Program & Prices: Grace 2249-2319, 8369-7992, [gracewccr@gmail.com](mailto:gracewccr@gmail.com).