

March 2011



March

Women's Club annual kickoff luncheon on March 9th, 2011, at the Aurola Holiday Inn, San José. Event starts at 11:00 a.m.

2011 Directories will be available to current members.

WCCR annual dues are ₡10,000.



Attend our April 13th General Meeting at Centro Cultural in Los Yoses at 9:30 am for bocas and coffee followed by a fascinating presentation by veterinarian, Pia Martin, from "Kids Saving the Rainforest".

Additional details and directions on page 4.

President's Letter

Dear Members:

Three lovely teas were held during January and February. I want to thank Mary Alice Lesko, Su Pardo, & Laurie Blizzard for hosting the teas. All were very well attended with wonderful goodies. It was fun seeing some ladies who I hadn't seen in a while and also meeting new guests.

The Directory Committee was very busy soliciting ads to cover the costs of printing the directories. They did a wonderful job and were able to accomplish their goal. The directories will be ready for

distribution at the March Luncheon. A very special thank you to Grace Woodman, Cindy Marshal, and Jenny Mesen for all their hard work to bring everyone their directories in a timely manner.

The programs that are being planned for the general meetings sound VERY exciting. A little hint is that one involves chocolate and another is a cooking demonstration; and, we know everyone loves cooking demos.

Pat MacKinnon

A Night at the Museum

Saturday, May 14, 2011

7:00 to 10:00 pm

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 bocas from local restaurants, music by a group of Columbian musicians for listening and dancing, silent and live auctions of hotel getaways, restaurant dinners, airline tickets, artwork and much more. One hundred percent of funds raised will be devoted to our charity projects.

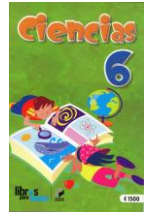
Tickets will be on sale at the March 9th Luncheon and from Board and Advisory Committee members at a cost of ₡20,000.

Contact Margie Arias at 2268-0975 (margieawccr@gmail.com) or Jeannine Hurd at 2239-8619 (gregoryhurd@racsa.co.cr) for ticket sellers in your area.

COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

READING IS FUN REPORT – TEXT BOOK REPORT

A total of 446 students ranging from 1st to 6th grades received the text books published by La Nación, giving them the possibility of being able to study with a simple, colored text book, full of photographs, diagrams and work sheets. For most of these students, it is the first time they have ever possessed a text book.



11-01	Escuela Calle Liles	San Rafael Poás, Alajuela	51 students
11-02	Esc. Sta. Margarita de Naranjo	Naranjo, Alajuela	82 students
11-03	Esc. Ujarrás	Ujarrás, Sarapiquí	32 students
11-04	Esc. Mercedes Sur	Puriscal	52 students
11-05	Esc. Jilgueral	Puriscal	20 students
11-06	Esc. Altos del Roble	Sardinal, Guanacaste	34 students
11-07	Esc. El Poro	Puriscal	24 students
11-08	Esc. Rincón	Osa	11 students
11-09	Esc. Potreros	Osa	10 student
11-10	Esc. Dominical	Osa	45 students
11-11	Esc. Domenicalito	Osa	50 students
11-12	Esc. Escaleras	Osa	5 students
11-13	Esc. Puerto	Osa	30 students

The total amount donated by the Club to La Nación for text books was ¢2,680,000. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who so generously contributed to this initiative.

Anne Kreupeling, Chair, Reading is Fun

2011 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS



Public school students dressed in crisp new uniforms can be spotted in towns and villages across the country. The 2011 school year has begun and 13 students are continuing to receive a scholarship of \$250. All the students are in grade 11 or 12 and have been awarded the scholarship since grade 9. For most, this is their final year. Thank you to all our donors, many of whom have supported their student thorough high school studies.

The first payment has been deposited in each student's account at Banco Nacional. These funds will help pay for school supplies and transportation. As the year proceeds the committee will provide periodic updates on the progress of the students.

Anne Sobel and Roslyn Beswick, Co-chairs 2011

POST SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS 2011



We are supporting twenty-five students with scholarships this year. They are studying in all the public universities in Costa Rica -- some at the main campuses in the Central Valley and some in regional campuses in Nicoya, Pérez Zeledón, and in other small rural towns.

These are very bright students from very poor families from all corners of Costa Rica, mostly from rural areas. The common denominator is that they were all in our high school scholarship program. Many of our scholarship students are from families of 5 or 6 members who live on \$150.00 per month and some, even less. Some of these students are from single mother families. One new student's mother had to leave the father two years ago because he was an alcoholic and he abused her. Her only income is from doing ironing in the rural area where she lives. Her brother pays their electricity and water and gives them rice and beans. This woman already has one daughter with a full scholarship at the UCR (University of Costa Rica); and, now, her younger daughter has just begun studying at UNA (National University) in Nicoya with a university scholarship, and with our help. Some of these students are so poor that, even with a good scholarship from the university, they struggle to find money for bus fare, copies of necessary documents, paying for computer time, etc.

Our **Night at the Museum** Fundraiser in May will help provide scholarships to students who will be some of the future leaders of Costa Rica.

Mary Jo Miller, Chair

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome our new member approved by the Board, February 28th, Melba Cascanate de Bonilla.

CLUB CALENDAR & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S NETWORK (PWN) -- is focusing on 5 areas in 2011: Women in Leadership, Networking, Mentoring & Shared Professional Experiences, Professional Development, and Community Outreach.

PWN will host its **Inaugural Women in Leadership Speaker Series with U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica Anne Slaughter Andrew**. The first female U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica will discuss the U.S. Government's role in promoting the economic empowerment of women in Costa Rica and her own professional development experience in the areas of foreign policy, private consulting and law. This event will be held at the Aurola Holiday Inn in Barrio Amón from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 19th. Registration for meeting and/or lunch required. For full event details visit, <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=bxww8yn6&oeidk=a07e3ge1ota69db576f&oseq=a013fqcduiivk>

PWN has been developed specifically for women of all nationalities to encourage personal and professional development through networking with other professional women and to develop programs to contribute to all women in Costa Rica. PWN is an English speaking group and beginner level English is welcome. For more information email pwn.wccr@gmail.com.

Website: <http://www.wccr.org/text/signs/pwn.shtml>, Twitter: <http://twitter.com/PWNWCCR>, Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Professional-Womens-Network-Womens-Club-of-Costa-Rica/134514626592466?ref=ts>

ONE DAY TOUR TO MONTEVERDE – Excursion includes round trip transportation in a new air conditioned bus, breakfast, lunch, visits to a hummingbird garden, cheese and coffee factories by train and to Santa Elena, 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, which will be determined by the response. Call Nidia Viquez at 2293-4276 for more information and to sign up



APRIL 13TH GENERAL MEETING at the Centro Cultural in Los Yoses at 9:30 am for bocas and coffee followed by a fascinating presentation by veterinarian, Pia Martín, from "Kids Saving the Rainforest" The concept of this wildlife rehabilitation center was started by a nine year old girl in Manuel Antonio. Join us to learn how this project started and what they currently do to rescue rainforest animals. Pauline Walker: 2268-2182.

Directions to the Costa Rican-North American Cultural Center (Centro Cultural Costarricense-Norteamericano) 150 meters north of Gasolinera La Favorita (Gas Station) There is street parking in front of the Center; but during the day, it is often filled. The best places to park are the Auto Mercado parking ramp or a parking lot about ½ block further. The street in front of the Center is **ONE WAY SOUTH**.

Taking the Circunvalación Road

1. Get off at the San Pedro exit
2. Go towards SAN JOSÉ (west), passing the San Pedro Mall, Subaru dealer & Auto Mercado
3. At the 3rd STOP LIGHT (La Favorita Gas Station on right-hand corner), turn RIGHT
4. Go (north) 1 block; turn RIGHT (east)
5. **PARKING:**
 - a) Go about 1/2 block, to the entrance of the Auto Mercado Parking Ramp on right or
 - b) Go 1 block to a parking lot at the end of the street

From San José:

1. Take Avenue 2nd all the way through San José towards San Pedro (EAST)
2. Merge onto Avenue Central at KFC
3. At the 1st STOP LIGHT, turn RIGHT & take the service road that parallels the main street
4. Go about ½ block to the first STOP LIGHT
5. Veer LEFT, crossing the main road (pass La Favorita Gas Station on northeast corner); follow STEPS 4 & 5 above

FROM THE PARKING RAMP

Walk to the street behind the parking ramp (north)

Go LEFT ½ block

Go RIGHT for about ½ block (long one)

The Cultural Center is a big building on the right; there is a ramp for those who have trouble with steps

FROM THE PARKING LOT

Walk back down the street you drove west on to the lot & follow # 3 & 4 in "From the Parking Ramp".

REMINDER: It would be helpful if you have exact change for the €1,000 we pay at General Meetings

The **NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM EVENTS COMMITTEE** is actively seeking sponsorships and auction prizes. The Committee would greatly appreciate receiving any contact information from members or assistance in obtaining sponsorships and prizes. The Committee also needs volunteers to sell event tickets and to assist on May 14th. Please contact Margie Arias at 2268-0975 (margieawccr@gmail.com).

Wanted: Leader(s) for OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH. Interest Group -- Requirements:

1) Interest in area restaurants; 2) willingness to visit and schedule monthly lunches for WCCR members and friends; and 3) to contact members who are interested in attending (at their own expense).

This job can be shared by several people who can divide the responsibilities. It's a FABulous way to get to know other WCCR members, potential members, and local restaurants! Please contact Cindy Marshall for further details: cindyparis2000@yahoo.com.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Little Theatre Group presents, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Directed by Noel Montagano, running from April 15th to May 1st, 2011 at Laurence Oliver Theater, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m **with a Special Show — March 19th & 20th** For reservations call 8858-1446 or visit www.littletheatregroup.org

Costa Rican National Symphony Orchestra 2011 Season starts March 18 & 20 - at National Theater, Fridays at 8 pm & Sundays at 10:30 am. Program information: Grace 2249-2319, 8369-7992, gracewccr@gmail.com.

HOGAR CASA DE PAN – operated by Doña Melba and Don Victor Gutiérrez for the past 40 years as a home for orphaned and abused children. At the moment, they have 38 children of all ages, from 18 years to a month-old baby. Many of the adults they have raised have adopted them as their parents and come to help with the chores at the Hogar. Some of the children come to them through the "Patronato Nacional de la Infancia"; others are brought by people who know the children have been abused or mistreated.

I have been so touched by the work this couple does, that I have made it my job to seek "Padrinos" and "Madrinas" for these children. They receive food and clothing donations, but not much help in cash, and all of us know how much money is needed for maintaining a family. So, if any of you would like to be a Padrino or Madrina, donating €15,000 a month, please send me an e-mail, and I will help you get in contact with Doña Melba, they also welcome visitors.

Judy Paskel-van der Wielen

Fundación Debra de Costa Rica (www.debracr.org) or Hotel Bougainvillea (www.hb.co.cr)

MEMBERS CLASSIFIED

WANTED an Electric floor polisher - please call Roslyn Beswick 2293 – 5118

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 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. Finders fee to any WCCR member whose referral results in a successful sale.

FOR SALE 1862m lot in Vista de Oro, Escazú, 400 m 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!!! 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 Diane at 8377-0060 or 2289-9880

Deadline...for next month's Connection: **Friday, April 1, 2011.** Please submit **COPY READY:** news, classified ads, reports, member information, community events, etc. Contact: newsletter@wccr.org