



November 2010

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members,

**We have fantastic news!** In addition to the great honor of celebrating our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the WCCR has achieved another landmark. Over 10 years ago Laura Montes de Oca began the laborious task of attempting to secure a Costa Rican form of non profit tax status for the WCCR. Grace Woodman has most recently been carrying the banner of battle, and she has succeeded in cutting the ribbon at the finish line! I have asked Grace to give us the more complete details, as follows.

A huge thanks to Grace, our attorney Vanessa Calvo, and all those who have contributed many hours to achieving this goal!

Warm regards,

*Bonnie Murry*

Donations to the Women's Club are now exempt from Costa Rican income tax! To obtain this non-profit tax status, an association or foundation must prove to the Costa Rican government that the organization is making a significant contribution towards solving a national social need and are, therefore, of "Utilidad Publica" or of benefit to the public.

The Club first applied for this status in 2000. The documentation presented to the Ministry of Justice was 1½ inches thick and represented many, many hours of work. The proof of the Club's contributions to Costa Rica was solid. However, Costa Rican law required changes in the WCCR Constitution.

A new constitution was written, and then several other amendments had to be added. The Scholarship and Reading is Fun committees collected supporting documentation of the Club donations to schools. Since our mission is education, a recommendation from the Ministry of Education was required.

On August 8, 2010, President Bonnie Murry, Treasurer Elena Austermühle and I were called to a meeting with a Ministry of Justice lawyer. She asked questions about all aspects of the Club's operations, taking copious notes. On November 3, 2010 decree #362339 was published in La Gaceta #213, granting the WCCR the tax exception.

It has been a very long and tedious process, but well worth the time and effort. The income tax exemption should be a factor in increasing corporate sponsorship of WCCR projects.

Thanks to Leonardo Garnier R. (Minister of Education), Adilia Morera V. (Head of the MEP Elementary School Library Department), Roslyn Beswick, Anne Sobel, Pat MacKinnon, Katy Tanzi, Grace Elizondo (WCCR accountant), and Andrea Aguilar González (Vanessa Calvo's Administrative Assistant).

Wiser about bureaucratic procedures, but delighted with the results, *Grace Woodman*



Today more than 285,000 children and youth in Costa Rica go to class without a text book in their hands!

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. Donations will be collected at the November and December General Meetings.

We will be concentrating on helping rural or poor neighborhood schools; with whom we have been previously working 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). It's estimated they will be €1.500 each.

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



**NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL MEETING** at 9:30 am at La Casona. The program is "Neither rain, nor mudslides, nor broken bridges" will be a presentation by Roslyn Beswick and Anne Sobel on some of the trials and tribulations they have experienced as they traveled around Costa Rica to the rural schools in which we have high school scholarship students. This will be eye-opening but humorous look at one of the major WCCR projects. Call Margie at 2268-9736 or email at [margiearias@msn.com](mailto:margiearias@msn.com) or Pauline at 2268-2182 or email at [walkerpauline@gmail.com](mailto:walkerpauline@gmail.com).

La Casona Centro Gastronómico, behind the Hotel Double Tree Cariari, facing the golf course. Telephone 2589-2224 [www.lacasonacr.com](http://www.lacasonacr.com)

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

#### How to reach La Casona:

The restaurant is situated behind the Hotel Double Tree Hilton Cariari, located on the service road parallel to the highway to San José/Airport Juan Santamaría. (website has map)

- 1. From S. José & East side areas** -- take the highway towards the airport; as far as the Mall Cariari. Take the right-hand exit to San Antonio de Belén. At the stop light, turn left going over the bridge crossing the highway.  
\*\*At the next traffic light, turn left. Follow the road as it turns, passing the large residential area Bosques de Doña Rosa. Go about 1 km., passing apartments and the golf course. Just before reaching the Hotel, turn right. You will be in the large, free car park belonging to La Casona in front of the golf course.
- 2. From the Airport & West side areas** – Take the highway towards San José. Pass the Intel and the San Antonio de Belén exits. Take the next exit for the Hotel Double Tree Cariari (immediately after going under a large bridge). You're on the service road. Turn right at the entrance of the Hotel Double Tree Cariari. At the fork in the road, go right 100 mts. La Casona is on the left.
- 3. From Santa Ana, Guacepelin and other points south** -- Use La Lindora route. Go through San Antonio de Belén, continuing towards the San José/Airport highway. Pass WaterLand and the Amanco factory on right. At the traffic light, turn right. Follow the road as it turns, passing the large residential area Bosques de Doña Rosa. Go about 1 km., passing apartments and the golf course. Just before reaching the Hotel, turn right. You will be in the large, free car park belonging to La Casona.
- 4. From the Heredia areas** -- a). Join the highway just after the Riteve complex & follow directions in number 1, or b). Go from Heredia, direction La Aurora. Go pass the entrance for Mall Cariari. Take the bridge over the highway. Follow directions in # 1\*\*.

# COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

## READING IS FUN AND OTHER INITIATIVES



These projects were published in the October bulletin but not voted on at the October general meeting. They will be voted on at the November meeting.

10-16 **Escuela Manuel Maria Gutiérrez, San Pedro de Coronado**, ¢600,000 for construction materials to fix an area that includes the offices, library and 2 classrooms.

10-17 **Escuela Manuel Francisco Carrillo Saborio, Canoas, Alajuela**. ¢600,000 for library books and educational games.

10-18 **Escuela de Atención Prioritaria Daniel Oduber Quirós, Villa Esperanza de Pavas**. ¢100,000 for games.



## UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The month of October was a transition month for our Committee. Mary Jo Miller is getting ready to take over this Committee. Approximately 15 of our 2010 students will continue to have our support in 2011. In January we will receive applications from new university hopefuls. Finances will determine how many new students we can help. Mary Jo has been busy recruiting new Committee members/"madrinas." In addition to the dedicated "madrinas" from this year, who will continue in 2011, the following excellent Spanish speakers will join our group: Elena Austermühle, Grace Woodman, and Ana Maria Booth. Recruiting people with the necessary skills will be an ongoing process. This is still a new dynamic Committee and we welcome any ideas or suggestions.

### Student Profiles

**Tatiana** is a very special student since she is a mother of three girls and started studying at the University several years after graduating from High School. She received a scholarship from the University to pay for her courses, but it doesn't include textbooks, photocopies, transportation or anything else. She is a regular student of "La Escuela de Literatura y Ciencias del Lenguaje" at "La Universidad Nacional de Heredia (UNA)". She is studying for a BA in "la Enseñanza del Inglés". She started her career this year. When she started, she had no knowledge of English, so it was tough for her. But she is studying hard, and even though, she's taking her English Course again, she is not giving up. She has excellent grades (from 90 to 100), and she's already getting good grades in English.

Tatiana is working at a Communal Project at La UNA. She has to interview people on the phone. She has already done many hours of communal service, which is part of the requirement to continue receiving the scholarship from the Women's Club.

**Eliécer** comes from a family of eight children. He lived with his parents and brothers and sisters in their native Nicoya. He is currently at UCR studying to become a nurse like his father. Being away from home has been a major challenge, forcing him to do some problem solving on his own. His first "experience" happened when he was just beginning to settle into city life. He took a taxi from downtown San José. When he arrived home he found that his wallet with all his documents was missing. This forced him to renew his Cédula and get another set of papers to complete the requirements for the university.

When he first arrived in San José, he was living at a place where he wasn't comfortable. After a couple of months he moved in with some friends from Nicoya; although it means getting up earlier and taking a bus to and from the university, he feels much better. Originally, Eliécer was assigned a UCR "Beca 9", which did not include room and board. Again, he had to find his way around to change his status. After knocking on all the doors you can imagine, he was able to obtain a beca that includes room and board. For a while he considered

packing up and going back home. But he remembered that he left home with a purpose and is determined to reach this goal. So he changed his mind and decided to continue. Although he has gone through lots of ups and downs, he is enjoying life as a university student. He is doing very well academically.

Eliécer is very grateful for the financial help that the Women's Club has given him during this first year; it has provided the opportunity to take his first steps towards his goal of becoming a nurse.

*Pat MacKinnon, Chair, Community Services Committee*



## **2010 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**Visitations** – One school is left to be visited in November. The counselor has to confirm the meeting. All packages for 2011 registration for the graduates and continuing students have been distributed.

**Payments** – The last payment of 2010 will be made the first week of November.

*Roslyn Beswick and Anne Sobel, Co-Chairs*

**2011 Membership**-- Collection of the 2011 membership fees starts now. 2011 memberships can be paid at anytime during the calendar year. To be included in the 2011 directory, your 2010 memberships must be paid prior to December 31, 2010. Payment can be made by visiting the membership desk during the General Meetings or, for information about payment options, please contact [membership@wccr.org](mailto:membership@wccr.org).

## **MEMBERSHIP – NEW**

**Members, if you missed getting your 2010 WCCR Directory, stop by the membership table and pick yours up. You don't want to miss reading the reflection of seven decades of WCCR.**



Please note the following new member information for your WCCR Directory:

***WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! (Approved by the Board of Directors November 1, 2010):***

***Boyce, Joan Kay, Cox, Sharon Ruby, DeLuisa, Katya, Farrier Galiano, Christ (Christina), Farrier Galiano, Karina (Kary), Ganta Mora, Cecilia, Glesby, Meranda, Monacell, Jacqueline, Schulz, Jani Jana, Spain, Kasey, Vermote, Vuurman, Dilly and Vuurman, Marjan.***

## **Technical Difficulties Delayed Presentation Of 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Film**

By Helen Dunn Frame

With Halloween approaching was it a fantasma, a poltergeist or a gremlin by any other name that sabotaged the featured event at the WCCR meeting on Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at the Aurola Holiday Inn? A technician from the hotel finally solved the problem enabling the showing of "A Celebration of 60 Years" following the business meeting and elections.

Ten years ago Club officers discussed how to celebrate the club's 60th anniversary and the turn of the century. Margaret Underwood, Mary Jo Miller and Marylu Tossi spearheaded the fashion show featuring music, dance and style that highlighted the club's history. A magical human train of members dressed in black with Mary Alice Lesko sporting a red jacket as the caboose, dubbed the "Choo Choo" Train, tied the voyage from 1940 to 2000 together. All participants were club members; some still are. Viewers were challenged to identify the cast.

Recently Margaret Underwood, Mary Jo Miller, Pauline Walker and others edited the video Joyce Venegas filmed in 2000 but alas technical difficulties with the equipment required showing the original transferred to a DVD. It halted abruptly about 1990 but not before members enjoyed a trip back in fashion (including seeing a poodle skirt among the clothes Norma Lenkowsky lent the models from her vast collection). The music and dances brought back memories too.

The good news: members will have a chance to see the edited version, including the part not viewed, at another meeting. Heard as members departed, "It was worth the wait."

## PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S NETWORK NEWS



### October 23rd Meeting Notes - Sustainability as a Business Strategy: A Competitive Advantage

The Professional Women's Network Interim Steering Committee would like to thank PWN WCCR members and guests for their support and enthusiasm as we established the structure and vision for the group these past three months.

At the October 23rd meeting the new 2010-2011 Planning Committee was announced, and preparations are already underway to bring PWN members exciting new programs for 2011. The new Planning Committee members are Stacey Auch, Marissa Fayer, Monique 't Hoen, Tara Stone, Christine Little, Adele Lurie, Colleen Bute, Galia Fonseca, Elle Alexander, Suyze Lawson, Jennifer Smith, Chrissie Long, Nicole Joos and Sanola Daley. If you want to volunteer to assist with our events or have event ideas please email Stacey at [BarrioBird@gmail.com](mailto:BarrioBird@gmail.com).

The Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting had over 60 attendees and many new tips were discussed about how to make small and big changes in personal and professional lives to reduce our environmental impact.

**PWN, November 12th Social Event: Cooking With Friends!** Friday, November 12, 2010 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the home of Cyndy Vorih. Loving the energy at PWN monthly meetings? Take time to relax and get to know members better at this month's social cooking class.

Attendees will create a social culinary experience geared toward their individual lifestyles with instructor and WCCR member, Cyndy Vorih. Cyndy is a life-long master in the kitchen with training in Italian, Southwestern Latino and Mediterranean styles. You'll learn some new cooking skills, take home recipes, make friends and of course EAT!

**Price: ₡3,500** - Includes supplies, final meal, recipes and fun! Payable in cash at the meeting.

Registrants will be required to pay if they give less than 24 hour cancellation notice. Pre-registration is required. Contact Ms. Elle at 8930-5958, [elle@ms-elle.com](mailto:elle@ms-elle.com). Registration closes Thursday November 11th at 10:00 am.

**PWN November Monthly Meeting:** Location and Speaker to be announced. Watch your emails for updates.

**PWN Community Outreach:** PWN is a strong network of women in Costa Rica with the great potential to make positive change for other women in the country. If you have ideas for community service projects PWN can start or assist in 2011 please email ideas to Stacey at [BarrioBird@gmail.com](mailto:BarrioBird@gmail.com).

**PWN Membership Advantages:** Please remember that when you become a member of PWN you receive discounted admission to monthly meetings, access to our member directory, invitations to social events and full WCCR member benefits. If you are already a WCCR member and would like to receive PWN news please email Elle at [Elle@ms-elle.com](mailto:Elle@ms-elle.com).

PWN News: Receive current news on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Professional-Womens-Network-Womens-Club-of-Costa-Rica/134514626592466>, or Twitter <http://twitter.com/PWNWCCR>.

## CLUB CALENDAR & ANNOUNCEMENTS



**December 8<sup>th</sup> General Meeting** – luncheon hosted by the Past Presidents at the Zamora Estates ([www.zamoraestate.com](http://www.zamoraestate.com)) in Santa Ana, a tropical paradise of plants and flowers, located behind the Bacchus Restaurant. . Tickets will be on sale at the November meeting at a cost of ¢10,000. Tickets are also available from Board and Advisory Committee members or by contacting Isabel Atienza, 2235-6303, [atienza@gmail.com](mailto:atienza@gmail.com).

### Used Book Sale



WCCR will be collecting books at all General and PWN meetings, for a January 22, 2011 Book Sale. Additional drop off locations will be announced at the end of December. Your donations of gently used books, DVD's, CD's, board games, puzzles and current magazines are appreciated. All proceeds from this event will benefit the WCCR's Scholarship and Reading is Fun Projects. For more information, contact Kathi Garrison at [kathigarrison@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kathigarrison@sbcglobal.net)

### and in conjunction with this event



Coffee and Baked Goods Corner. Mary Alice Lesko is coordinating this portion of the event. Volunteer bakers and persons to staff the event are needed. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Mary Alice at [malesko2000@yahoo.com](mailto:malesko2000@yahoo.com).

### HAVE ANY CORPORATE CONTACTS?

Please share them.

Having a name opens doors.

The Fundraising Committee will be telling companies about the income tax exemption for donations to the WCCR

Contact President Elect, Pat MacKinnon 2285-1276, [macandpat@gmail.com](mailto:macandpat@gmail.com)

## MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

**HOUSE FOR SALE** Very reasonably priced house for sale in Santo Domingo de Heredia. Urbanización Quizarco: 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, garage, 9 years old, secure, \$110.000. Phone 2249-1239 for visits.

**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.ioan@gmail.com](mailto:hankins.ioan@gmail.com)

**GOING TO THE BEACH?** Book your trip to Playa Grande or Langosta. WCCR will receive 10% & get a great rate on a super luxury beach destination! It's a win-win no-brainer decision! [www.VillasCostaGrande.com](http://www.VillasCostaGrande.com); for larger groups, the Langosta condo is the place to go!! Call Diane Sobel Globerman at 8377-0060 & book today!!

## COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Costa Rican-North American Cultural Center** (Barrio Dent) presents Metropolitan Opera Live in HD - *Don Pascuale*, Saturday, Nov. 13 at 12 noon. Individual & season tickets; prices for seniors & students. Info: 2207-7554, [www.centrocultural.cr](http://www.centrocultural.cr)