



October 2010

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Our September monthly meeting program was so well received that speaker Julio Fernández Armón was enticed by the audience to give a repeat performance early next year! Julio was invited to speak on Costa Rican History, but his engaging presentation unfolded into a colorful array of social mores and historical asides, making the facts far more interesting. We all learned a great deal about early Costa Rican history and a bit about the sociology and attitudes at the time. This is history at its finest!

In addition to being a historian (and Amigo Asociado), Julio is part owner of the delicious Sibú Chocolates. We invited Julio to attend the December 8th Christmas luncheon and to offer some of his gourmet delights for sale. The Club will also sell blocks of the Costa Rican chocolate to use in your holiday baking. (Attention all chocola-holics!) We will of course have other offerings for sale: arts, crafts; items to provide a bit of holiday cheer to friends and family.

Tickets for the December lunch at Zamora Estates have been distributed to Board members, and you may purchase yours at any time. For details, call Isabel Atienza. We hope that all of our Amigos Asociados will join in the holiday cheer. Also, all of our new members who came to us through the Professional Women's Network- we hope you schedule a long lunch for December 8th, and plan to join us! We will be enjoying Calypso music and a fine meal; the theme of the luncheon is friendship and socializing, the spirit of the holidays infused with the spirit of friendship amongst the WCCR. What a wonderful way to bring our 70th Anniversary to a close!

Happy Anniversary,
Bonnie Murry

October 13 General Meeting, 9:30 am, at the Aurola Holiday Inn will feature a video of the Women's Club's sixtieth anniversary celebrated with a fashion show and choreographed dancing by many familiar faces....this is not to be missed!!

Directions to the Aurola Holiday Inn at Avenida 5, Calle 5, across from El Parque Morazán, San José Centro. Parking at lots nearby: El Herdocia, El Aurola y El Avenida 7

- Parking "Aurola" located 25 mts. west of the Holiday Inn (Parqueo Aurola ubicado del Hotel Aurola Holiday Inn, 25 mts oeste)
- Parking "Herodocia" located at the left (east) side of the Holiday Inn (Parqueo Herdocia, ubicado al costado izquierdo (este) del Hotel Aurola)
- Parking "Avenue 7", 25 mts east. and 100 mts. north of the Holiday Inn, on the right hand side (Parqueo Avenida 7, del Hotel Aurola 25 Este y 100 Norte, a mano derecha)

Call Margie at 2268-9736 or email at margiearias@msn.com or Pauline at 2268-2182 or email at walkerpauline@gmail.com .

COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

READING IS FUN AND OTHER INITIATIVES



10-16 **Escuela Manuel María Gutiérrez, San Pedro de Coronado, €600,000** for construction materials to fix an area that includes the offices, library and 2 classrooms. The original part of the school is 61 years old with additions over the years. They have 411 students in a community that is urban/rural, where the majority of the families have scarce economic resources. This part of the school is deteriorating from lack of resources. The classrooms have open ceilings so there is intense heat and dirt falls on the students. Also there is exposed electrical wiring. The materials would be used to fix the open ceiling and the floor and then paint the repairs.

10-17 **Escuela Manuel Francisco Carrillo Saborio, Canoas, Alajuela. €600,000** for library books and educational games. The community is very poor with 2 to 5 kids per household, which means parents are not able to contribute much or any money to the school. The school has close to 900 students from kinder to sixth grade. They are teaching English, starting in second grade, three times a week. The English classes are full. The school is 110 yrs old; the old part is still in use; that is where the library is located. They are in the process of painting the school in very nice cool colors.

There is a full time librarian; she has a well organized library system for the students to check out books to take home. Every book has a piece of paper that identifies the school, name of student and date the book was taken out of the library. They are also required to leave their id card until the book is returned. The library was well organized with old metal cabinets for the books, the tables were in good condition, and the chairs were in fair condition but usable. All the books were very, very old; but they didn't want to throw anything out because the library would look empty.

10-18 **Centro Educativo LIC Daniel Oduber Quirós, Villa Esperanza de Pavas. €100,000** for games. There are 778 students in this primary school. The school is an "Escuela de Atención Prioritaria"; that means it is a school from a community that needs a lot of support to face social and economical problems. The Psychology Department is working hard to try to teach the kids not to be aggressive. They are asking for help to buy "non aggressive games", so the kids can play with their classmates in a peaceful and nice atmosphere.



UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

All of the students are doing very well with their studies and continuing to receive very good grades. We lost one student for personal reasons -- he has to go to work to help his family. The committee is revamping the application form in anticipation of the students who will apply from our graduating high school students.

STUDENT PROFILES

Karina is a student of Psychology at the U Latino in Pérez Zeledón. She has lived for 19 years in Mollejocitos Platanares, Pérez Zeledón, a very rural area. She belongs to a family of six, which includes an older sister, two younger brothers, her mother (a housewife) and her father (a welder).

She is a very enterprising and hardworking person who knows exactly what she wants from her life. She is someone who has never stopped dreaming and longing to graduate as a Psychologist; and, thus be able to help everyone who puts their trust in her. She hopes in the future to help her parents. She believes that, as a professional, she has the chance for better opportunities. She attends classes in the evening but is unemployed during the day because it is difficult to get work in Pérez Zeledón. However, she has continued studying so that all her effort and dedication will lead to reaching her goals.

She is really grateful to the Women's Club for placing their trust in her this year as well as during the 3 previous years she was supported by the high school scholarship program. She thanks the Women's Club for the money to pay her transportation to the college and other expenses. She sincerely hopes they feel proud of what she has accomplished so far.

Jorge Luis is the youngest child in his family. He has a brother and a sister. His sister is a teacher. Jorge Luis feels very fortunate to have such a family. They all live in Alajuela, close enough for him to commute; he was lucky he did not have to move away from home to attend the university in San Pedro. Jorge is studying to become a computer engineer at the University of Costa Rica. He also likes architecture. At the end of the first semester, he has been able to maintain his grades at a similar level as in high school.

He has several hobbies; reading, drawing, running, and practicing different sports especially basketball and soccer. At home he has to help with the housework.

For his 90 hour community service activity, he is working with a group of single mothers, a project with the municipality of Alajuela. The financial assistance given by the Women's Club has been very helpful in meeting the needs for this first year at university. For this he is very grateful.

Pat MacKinnon, Chair, Community Services Committee



2010 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Neither rain, nor sleet, nor hail, nor landslide, nor bridge closure, nor blockades... shall prevent visits to high schools this year. It has, however, been an exciting journey with the weather challenging us on every route.

Graduating students are keenly interested in the information available regarding the post secondary scholarships. Many are aware of 2010 recipients and are eager to be included. The visits have been timed so that students will have ample opportunity to devote extra time to completing the year successfully and meeting the requirements for 2011 applications.

The students, who will be continuing in 2011, currently are completing grades 10 or 11. All were assured that WCCR will award becas for their final years of high school. The necessary forms were left with the counselors. The administrator at Jicaral asked if his graduates in future years would be eligible for the post secondary awards. He was aware of the history of our association with the school and commented that the WCCR high school beca program has helped so many excellent students continue and graduate.

The last payment will be made to students at the beginning of November. Aside from the challenging weather, the process of program administration this year has been relatively smooth.

Roslyn Beswick and Anne Sobel, Co-Chairs

MEMBERSHIP – NEW



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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! (Approved by the Board of Directors October 4, 2010):

Antman, Dr. Lori L, Raymond Brindley, Tammy Russel, Solano Monestel, Andrea, and Westermann, Linda Zaniboni Burton

Amigos Asociados: Julio Fernández Armon

History of Costa Rica

By Mary Jo Miller

The September General Meeting of the Women's Club at the Robledales Restaurant in Santo Domingo de Heredia proved that "history can be fun!" Our speaker, historian and chocolate maker, Julio Fernández Amón, is imminently qualified to discuss the history of Costa Rica. After graduating from college in Costa Rica, he won a Fulbright Fellowship to study history at the University of Texas.



Julio Fernandes Amón & a staff member at the Sibú Chocolate

Julio did an amazing job of comparing the history of Costa Rica with the history of other Central and South American countries as well as with developments in Mexico and the USA. Several important issues affecting the development of Costa Rica were that Christopher Columbus discovered Costa Rica 47 years after he discovered Panama; there were fewer natives in Costa Rica; and there were fewer minerals to exploit. The Spaniards married and had children with the natives here and created a "mestizo" culture, where in other Latin countries there was much greater separation of the conquering Spaniards and the existing natives. Julio stressed that "the national myth is more important than the reality" in how Costa Ricans came to see themselves. Julio presented his ideas so clearly, interestingly and with such a sense of fun that we hope to have him return and continue our historical education while eating the delicious chocolates he makes.

Professional Women's Network



On September 25th, WCCR's Professional Women's Network welcomed meeting guest speaker, **D'Arcy Gauthier**, who offered attendees an educational tool to give them an opportunity to refine their marketing and sales pitch for future use in their day-to-day business activities, along with some guidelines on the do's and don'ts of business networking.



Thank you letter received by Monique 't Hoen for her mom Nelly 't Hoen for the Teddy Bears

We got them. The kids LOVE them! Please tell her thank you, thank you!!! They are so cute! Everyday my plan has been to come over and thank her. This week is my first week back at work and I have been getting home very late every night. We will come over very soon to thank your mom in person.

Both boys are sleeping with their bears tonight. (Ethan is convinced his is a robot.)

CONDOLENCES -- Marguerite Moore's husband, Bob, died after several years of illness, on the September 28th. As she was waiting for one of her two sons to fly down to Costa Rica, she received a call saying that her other son, Sam, died 24 hours later of a stroke. She flew up to Chicago, and we don't know when she will return. But we want to express our most deep and sincere condolences to Marguerite and her family at this heartbreaking time.

CLUB CALENDAR & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Professional Women's Network. "Sustainability as a Business Strategy: A Competitive Advantage?"
Saturday, October 23, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, Restaurant Tin Jo (Calle 11, Av. 6 and 8)

How can we use sustainability ideas to grow business and make us better professionals? Hear ideas from our panel of experts using sustainability in a variety of industries.

Alexis Fournier -- Recycle Art
Jani Schulz -- Rainforest Radio
Alida Francisco -- Bamboo Global Exchange
Kate Cruse -- The British Embassy



November 10th General Meeting at the Dutch Embassy Residence in Escazú at 9:30 a.m. Mattjies van Bonsel, Ambassador of the Netherlands in Costa Rica will present an entertaining and informative program.

Directions to the Residence of the Dutch Embassy: From the Paco Shopping Center Corner in Escazú, take Guachipelín Road north 350 meters (towards Multi Plaza). The Dutch Residence is on the right, a high, cream-colored adobe wall with Netherlands crest and guard's window beside the portón. PLEASE CAR POOL! There is limited parking inside the gate and roadside parking. We stress the importance of carpooling.

Call Margie at 2268-9736 or email at margiearias@msn.com or Pauline at 2268-2182 or email at walkerpauline@gmail.com

December 8th General Meeting – luncheon hosted by the Past Presidents at the Zamora Estates. 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.



Women's Club of Costa Rica Book Sale -- The WCCR will be collecting book donations for a book sale in early 2011. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Reading is Fun and scholarship programs. So start gathering. Books can be brought to the General Meeting. Drop off locations will be announced in the near future.

Turkish Lunch, a mini fundraiser and friend raiser, **Sunday, November 14** at Colonia de Prado Club House, Ciudad Colón, ¢15,000 donation. Savor the delights of the cuisine from Turkey. Chefs: Cyndy Vorih, Grace Woodman, Pilar Vitoria. Reservations gracewccr@gmail.com

MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

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

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; for larger groups the Langosta condo is the place to go!! Call Diane Sobel Globerman at 8377-0060 & book today!!

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Little Theatre Group presents The Birdcage: Adapted and directed by Andrew Gardener. Running from September 17th - October 10th, 2010 at Laurence Oliver Theater, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at 2:30 p.m

This wonderful extravaganza has been adapted for the LTG stage, and is a charming blend of *The Birdcage* and *La Cage Aux Folles*. Show-stopping musical numbers intersperse with the story to give a well rounded tale of two Jewish, middle aged gay men who run a night club in South Beach, Florida. Their son, the product of

one night of romance with a straight woman, wants to marry the daughter of a moral and upstanding Senator. Fun and laughs ensue when the son, Val, tells Armand and Albert that the Senator and his family are coming to dinner to meet them and they have to act straight and Christian.

For reservations call 8858-1446 or visit www.littletheatregroup.org

Halloween show the last weekend of October "**Murders at the Rue Morgue**" by Edgar Allan Poe. Contact LTG for additional information.

The Panamanian Women's Association is sponsoring a Masked Ball at the Costa Rica Country Club in Escazú on Friday, October 22nd, from 8:00 pm to 1:00 pm to benefit Fundacion GiaMaLa, which is dedicated to helping youngsters with cancer, especially Leucemia. Tickets are ¢10,000 and Fachas will be playing Latin rhythms. The Murga from Panama will also be playing in between sets. For tickets call Estilita at 2293-6430.

Show & Sell Arts and Crafts Exhibition Sponsored by: Newcomers Club of Costa Rica

Date: Sunday October 24, 2010 **Time:** 10:00am to 4:00 pm **Location:** Cariari Country Club, Cariari San Antonia de Belén. More than 55 Talented artists and crafts people -- paintings, ceramics, candles, unique clothing & footwear, blankets, wood carvings, soaps, books, home furnishings and decorations, jewelry, textiles, spices, body treatments & fragrances, photographs, batiks, pet services, children's clothing ***A good for the soul day***

WCCR has a table and will be selling teddy bears, cook books, dish cloths, arts and crafts. 100% of the proceeds go to our community service programs.

SASY AUCTION – GAME ON, Sunday, November 7th, 2:00 to 6:00 pm, Hotel Intercontinental, Escazú. \$30.00 per ticket includes wine, bocas and entertainment. More than 140 items up for bid. For additional information contact auction@sasycostarica.com or Lili Hale 2289-5620.

THE CENTRO CULTURAL SEASON OF OPERA AT THE MET begins Saturday, October 9 at 11 am. Information: Eugene O'Neill Theater at 2207-7570.

Connecting around the World

Below is the seventh 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 September/October 2010 issue of the magazine. I'd love to hear any ideas you have for future issues – Joan Dewar

Women's Club

By Joan Ritchie Dewar



It was a First for Costa Rica!

The people of Costa Rica responded from their hearts to rally around the Women's Club's initiative to raise \$50,000 to bring the first mammogram machine to the country back in 1980. Native and ex-pat communities all dug into their pockets to make the dream a reality.

\$50,000 is equivalent to \$130,000 in today's US economy and a lot of money to raise in six short months!

Mortality rates for breast cancer in Latin America were increasing in the late 70's. WCCR had just lost member Helen Ford to the disease.

WCCR president Olive Caffrey thought what better way to commemorate the club's 40th anniversary than to bring the newest mammogram scan technology to the country in Helen's memory.



The *Cancer Relief Fund* project was undertaken on behalf of Hospital San Juan de Dios in San José.

Fund-raising began in earnest July 31st 1979 with a Tea Party - teas were the mainstay of social life in those days. Held in the Colegio de Médicos ballroom, the

tea featured an extravagant Display of International Costumes, including WCCR president Olive (a Scot) in her kilt, dancing a rousing Highland Fling.

Even the Fling had special meaning in the battle against breast cancer as it is said that the dance originated in the 1700's to celebrate a Scottish war victory.

But, that was only the beginning and by November an incredible \$30,000 had been raised! Everyone

participated and projects appealed to the whole population.

There was a bake sale, a sale of artworks, a cooking demonstration at the home of the Chinese ambassador, a Youth Symphony concert, a wine and cheese party, sponsorship of a Little Theatre Group performance, and even something called selling of gasoline shares. If you know what that was, we'd love to hear from you.

A TV Appeal Was Made

Integral to fund-raising were a letter-writing campaign to major businesses and a 15-minute appearance on Channel 7 television by Laura Montes de Oca and Cristina Maria Cabezas, appealing for pledges.

Response was incredible throughout the whole country. Individual donations flowed from the general public. Corporate and employee donations came from Banco Nacional, CAJA, IBM, Bayer, Union Carbide and more.

The ladies of WCCR even donned their hats to hit Paseo Colón rattling tin collection cans.

Grand finale and major contributor to the project was the successful raffle of a Datsun 120Y. Thanks to the government, special consideration was made for the charitable cause, requiring no taxes to be paid by WCCR on purchase of the car. Tickets were 50 colones each (approx \$9). We wish we knew the winner's name that was drawn on December 4th, 1979.

The goal had been reached and a \$50,000 check was sent in February 1980 for a *Sistema de Mamografía "Mammorex II" para Radiografía del Seno* to Picker International in Cleveland, Ohio, a leader in radiotechnology machines, for delivery to Hospital San Juan de Dios.

The Machine Arrived

But, the story doesn't end there.

For almost a year, the machine sat in Customs while Doctors Amaña and Moreno were sent from Hospital San Juan de Dios to the US for training in the technology. Dr. Moreno later became head of radiology at the hospital.

Fast forward to 1997. This year WCCR funded 80 mammograms for women as yet another of their many charitable projects.

The mammogram machine was well used for decades at Hospital San Juan de Dios, detecting early cancer and saving countless lives.



Our machine is obsolete now and has been replaced, but a plaque still hangs in the hospital thanking the Women's Club of Costa Rica and the people of the nation for joining together in a

successful campaign to bring the first mammogram machine to Costa Rica.

Joan Ritchie Dewar has been a member of WCCR since 2009. *For more information about the Women's Club of Costa Rica, please contact us at www.wccr.org or secretary@wccr.org*