



Connection

"Friendship through Service"

July 2011



General Meeting, and Extraordinary General Meeting July 13th, 9:30 am at the Aurola Holiday Inn, San José Our speaker will be Master Ingrid Azofeifa, who obtained her degree in Canada, and is currently a professor at the School of Geology, UCR. Her presentation is entitled **DO YOU KNOW THE SOURCE YOUR DRINKING WATER!**

*Avenida 5, Calle 5, across from Parque Morazán
Free Parking at nearby lots: el Herdocia, El Aurola & Avenida 7
(ticket validation at event)*

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

President's Letter

Dear Members:

The general meeting in June was very interesting. Dra. Laura Otero explained "**How Women Can Successfully Balance Their Professional and Personal Life and Women's Legal Rights in Costa Rica.**" The meeting was held in a new restaurant, Café Amanda in Escazú. The snacks were very different and absolutely delicious.

I want to announce that our new improved website will soon be ready. We will let you know when you can go to wccr.org.

When you have seen the site, if anyone has photos to add, please send them to me at patwccr.org. In the new website there will be an area (still under construction) that is for members only. Your basic information will be there once you register. If you want to share more about yourself, please fill in the other areas.

With friendship,

Pat MacKinnon

A Night at the Museum

An apology from the Editors: We wish to thank **BRIAN MOORE**, who performed so well as Auctioneer for our gala fund-raiser in May. We erroneously printed his name as "Barry" in the June edition, and we apologize deeply. His generosity, friendship, and support mean a great deal to us.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JUNE, 2011:

Income for June 2011	=	₡ 1,681,460
Expenses for June 2011	=	₡ 5,370,217
Year To Date Income (January to June)	=	₡16,289,528
Year To Date Expenses (January to June)	=	₡13,331,703

Condolences to Sandra Krause and her family on the recent death of her grandson, Mitch Krause. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.



For Sale from the **Estate of Norma Lenkowsky, 2 Bing & Grondahl Blue Birds Figurines Denmark Mint**, valued at \$120 each. The factory marks on the bases indicate that these were probably made between 1914 and 1915. There are several Danish porcelain pieces still available. To purchase these charming birds or for information and pictures of other beautiful and unique items available, contact Grace

Woodman at gracewccr@gmail.com, 8369-7992. *Remember all proceeds go to our Reading is Fun and Scholarship Programs. All reasonable offers will be considered.*

COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

READING IS FUN REPORT



11-23 **Escuela Mercedes Sur, La Legua, Puriscal -- \$200,000** for the acquisition of approximately 30 books according to the Ministry of Education (MEP) reading program.

This is a rural school with a population of 50 children of ages ranging from 5 to 12 years, including the kindergarten section. They received a donation from us of textbooks published by La Nación at the beginning of the school year. We have now received a request for a set of reading books required by the MEP. They also request didactical games, especially in the mathematical field. They are trying to re-furbish an area behind the school with the intention of encouraging the children to be more active during recreation; with that in mind, they would like to receive jump ropes and balls. The newly designed bookcase for the kindergarten would also be appreciated. This is probably the best kept and progressive small rural school that I have ever had the privilege to visit, and I know that anything we donate will be very well taken care of and put to very good use.

Anne Kreupeling, Chair

POST SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Student Profile -- From the time Shirley was a small child she learned that hard work was the only way to improve her life. She always worked hard at school and made high grades; she had little time to play. Her older sister helped her with her home work by explaining it and checking it for her.

Shirley was a high school student, who achieved excellent grades in a difficult environment when many would have given up. When she was seven years old, her parents separated because her father was an alcoholic who was abusive to her mother. They live in a rural area and Shirley's mother's only source of income is from some ironing she does. An uncle pays their electric and water bills and buys rice and beans for them. In high school, Shirley presented projects during Science Week and in the National Mathematics Contest. She likes and understands responsibility and punctuality. She enjoys her friends; they are very important to her; they support each other.

Shirley stays all day at the university. She leaves home at 7:00 a.m. and doesn't return until 10:00 p.m. She wants to become a Systems Engineer and would like to improve her English. She also wants to help her mother and improve their house. At home, Shirley cooks and helps clean. In her spare time she enjoys painting and art.

Mary Jo Miller, Chair

2011 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS



All is well. The third payment will be made by mid July to the 15 students receiving a beca.

Anne Sobel and Roslyn Beswick, Co-chairs

ESCUELA SAN MIGUEL, San José de la Montaña. Project 11-21

By Anne Kreupeling, Reading is Fun, Chair
Photos by Dagmar Mueller (used with permission)



On Tuesday the 21st of June 2011, Anne Sobel and Dagmar Mueller accompanied me to the Escuela San Miguel to deliver the materials requested by them.

Dagmar is a potential new member of the Club and has shown interest in our Community Service projects; so I invited her to come along. It turned out that Dagmar is a wonderful photographer and spent more than an hour taking about 200 photos (with a professional camera)! Once permission is received from the parents, a selection of her photos will be posted on the web site.

We provided this small rural school of 70 children, plus 16 youngsters in kindergarten, 66 reading books, (20 for kindergarten and the rest for the older children). Two sets of books are on the official MEP list and were written by our member Gloria Macaya Lehmann and a Club friend, Ani Brenes; both are well known Costa Rican writers of children's books. Also included were 2 dictionaries in Spanish for primary school children. It turned out that the school only had 1 dictionary. They definitely needed more! Wall charts, didactical games, blocks of colored paper, and about 60 note books completed the donation.

Also delivered was a bookcase built using our new design, which is especially attractive for the younger children since the books can be displayed front cover forward to make an appealing temptation for the child to pick it up and take a look.

On various occasions, I have been in touch with the young school principal, Elena Garro. She had expressed her concern for a group of children who were living in extreme poverty. The donation of the note books allows Elena to provide to one of these children with a note book whenever she feels the necessity.



With these children in mind, I approached a local private school near where I live which uses the regulation blue school pants; they sent out a message to the parents of the primary section and received 12 pairs of pants, used but in good condition; 2 pairs were actually new, with the label on. They also collected 6 pairs of black school shoes. These items were also delivered to the school.

Elena Garro had sent me the names of 23 children who really are living in very unfortunate conditions. Some of these are the children who might be the lucky ones to receive a decent pair of pants! Elena was also one of the teachers who did the Governmental Population Survey a couple of weeks ago. She then saw and verified what she had already told me. In fact 4 of these children are living in conditions which to us would be unthinkable.

This is one of these situations where many of us may be able to lend a hand. Any item of clothing, especially suitable for children between 5 and 13, could easily find a new home in San Miguel. Most of us don't have young children at home. Some of us have grandchildren here (me included). Most of us have neighbors with children. If you have a moment, please ask for any unwanted item of clothing or shoes! I'll take responsibility for delivery! (Donation items can be brought to any general meeting.)

The school also really needs a fresh coat of paint – especially in the kitchen and cafeteria. Luckily a group of 22 young students from the United States are due to arrive at the end of July and will paint the entire school, as their Community Project!! Fantastic!

WOMEN'S CLUB OF COSTA RICA GENERAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2011

By Cindy Marshall

Guest Speaker: Dra. Laura Otero Norza

Subject: *How Women Can Successfully Balance Their Professional and Personal Life, and Women's Legal Rights In Costa Rica*

Dra. Laura Otero N. talked about the diversity of family organizations and the increasing proportion of women joining the labor market. During the last century, productive and reproductive work was organized by rigid gender roles; however, in spite of socio-demographic transformations there has been no change toward a redistribution of domestic workload.

Labor and social security legislation and suitable policies need to consider family responsibilities, women bearing most of the burden, and injustice of labor discrimination in the labor market.

Work and family responsibilities: *Women's participation, autonomy, and welfare.* Women today have more education than men, but fewer women work because women's employment depends on other factors related to family responsibilities. Income from both partners is important to guarantee a family's welfare.

The integration of global markets has significantly changed the region; women have more jobs but earn low wages.

Socio-demographic transformations have had an impact on the Costa Rican family. The first major shift is away from the traditional family with the man being the sole breadwinner. Two-income families are more common today, as are single-parent households; also, the number of children per family has declined.

While women share the role of provider, men have not taken on an equivalent share of responsibility for domestic tasks.

Some strategies for reconciling work and family in the domestic arena (unpaid domestic work, paid caregivers) and outside the domestic arena (Market, Businesses/Workplace, State, Community) were addressed.

Dra. Otero discussed the legal framework and public policies in Costa Rica and the State's response to demand for caring (protecting maternity rights, i.e. a woman cannot be dismissed because she is pregnant or lactating).

The cost of not having policies to reconcile work and family has three negative consequences: at the macroeconomic level, at the company level and in the quality of individual and family life.

Proposals for work-family reconciliation policies through social co-responsibility requires 1) a redistribution of responsibilities between households, the market and state; and 2) redistributing reproductive work between men and women.

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME NEW MEMBER! (Approved by the Board of Directors June 27, 2011):

Guillon Garbanzo, Emmanuelle, Hernández, Ana, Marengo Vargas, María Natalia (Natalia), Norza Hernández, María, Otero Norza, Parsons, Amie and Petrunin, Lana

Rejoin: Cabezas, Ann

Amigo Asociado: Storbeck, Roland

HONORING RHODA OBOLENSKY, WCCR PRESIDENT 2003

By Phylliss Crist
Photo by Ken Booth



Rhoda has played the violin since age 8. Her multifaceted life has included her studies at the Indiana University (starting out as a music major and ending with a double major in sociology and psychology), working as a guidance counselor and eventually becoming the Chair of the department and as a teacher, as well as building a successful business in New Jersey distributing gourmet bakery products with her late husband Georges. One of their employees was Tico and when they decided to dismantle the business, he urged them to visit Costa Rica and consider living here. They arrived in 1995 and Rhoda began hearing about The Women's Club. As a former guidance counselor and teacher, she especially liked the club's charitable programs that were aimed at helping schools and students; she also found it to be a good way to make friends in her newly adopted home.

In 1996, Rhoda joined the Board as Recording Secretary and continued serving over the years - as Membership Directory Chair, Parliamentarian, Webmaster and as President in 2003. As she puts it "I enjoyed the challenge of being President; it was a big contrast to my previous experience as President of the Business & Professional Women's Federation of New Jersey that had 3000 members."

As our current Board prepares to launch our new website, it is interesting to remember that Rhoda was the first Webmaster we ever had. As one of our older members recalls it "she pushed us and she prodded us. She told us the Internet was the way of the future and that we HAD to learn how to use it to benefit our members and the community. Finally, she led us to our first website in the year 2000, and she managed it for us for several years."

When her term as president ended, Rhoda was heard to say that she had had enough of going to meetings to last her a very long time! She did remain active with the WCCR Book Club and she maintained the close friendships she had developed during her years of service. She was one of the 10 WCCR leaders who attended the organizational meeting of the WCCR Professional Women's Network, just one year ago this month, and she wishes them well as they develop and grow and find new expressions for the WCCR spirit of "friendship through service."

Now Rhoda has decided to leave Costa Rica and spend time being close to her daughter in the United States. We take this opportunity to thank you, Rhoda, for your service. We wish you all the best in this new chapter of your life!

Warm thoughts for a continued speedy recovery to **Dianne Rowley**, Doctor of Chiropractic, who is recovering now from a very serious surgery in May. She is receptive to phone calls at home, 2266-0123.

CONGRATULATIONS to Helen Dunn Frame. Helen's new book, ***Greek Ghosts Grief, Love and Mystery in Greece***, is now available in a paperback and Kindle edition at www.amazon.com. Bookstores in Costa Rica can also order it.

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S NETWORK NEWS:

The Professional Women's Network also strives to develop programs to contribute to all women in Costa Rica. We offer a Women in Leadership speaker's series, Professional Development Workshops and Community Outreach projects. Stay tuned for news of our next event via email invitation, Facebook and Twitter. If you are interested in assisting the planning committee please email Phylliss at 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>

CLUB CALENDAR & ANNOUNCEMENTS



August 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.

For additional information, call Pauline Walker at 2268-2182 or email at walkerpauline@gmail.com

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

ATTENTION: If you are interested in starting a new Interest Group that you think would be fun, please send an e-mail to Cindy Marshall, Chair, Interest Groups at cindyparis2000@yahoo.com.

Wanted: Leader(s) for Costa Rican History and Politics - invite historians/teachers to bring us up to date on these topics. Please contact Cindy Marshall for further details cindyparis2000@yahoo.com.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Little Theatre Group of Costa Rica, presents: **July 15, 16 and 17**, Joe Kaknes in *Van Gogh*, An Extraordinary Art and Drama Experience. An internationally acclaimed show. **July 22, 23, 24** "back by popular demand, "*Such Stuff As Dreams are Made Of*", a magical program of original monologues, song, poetry. Teatro Laurence Olivier, San José (next to Sala Garbo, Av. 2, Calle 28). Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm, Sundays at 2:30 pm. Reservations at 8858-1446 or www.littletheatregroup.org

LTG will welcome everyone back to our monthly **Open House starting October 3rd at 7:00 pm** (We'll be off August to-September) . Meet other theatre lovers, audition, participate and enjoy a boca at the Shakespeare Bar before the meeting.

MEMBERS CLASSIFIED



Skoda (Volkswagen) Fabia Ambiente 2010. Skoda is a **Volkswagen** subsidiary. Only 11,800 kilometers • Grey • Power two position Sun Roof • 5 speed manual transmission • 1600cc engine • Air conditioning • Special sturdy suspension for Central America • Remote door locks • Factory installed alarm • Power windows • Power mirrors • Power steering • Radio AM/FM CD/MP3. \$18,000. 8639-9420 or macandpat@gmail.com.

FOR SALE - beautiful single storey home, 4,800 sq. ft., Bello Horizonte, Escazú. Close to all amenities. Completely renovated. Lots of light. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms; maid's quarters; all floors wood or tile, granite counters. Large landscaped garden with flowers, tropical plants and fruit trees; Two car garage has teak floor - would make a great play room/artist studio. See photos www.pbase.com/phxphrank/smith_house&view=slideshow. Contact Liz Smith onionsincr@yahoo.com Price negotiable.

FOR SALE: 27" iMac - 2 TB HD & \$1,700 in software: \$2,850.00
13" MacBook Pro - 250 GB HD & \$2,300 in software: \$1,850.00
InFocus LP120 Mobile DLP Video Projector - \$1500
Apple AirPort Extreme Base Station (Wireless Router) - \$250.00
Contact either Cindy Marshall – 2244-3330, cindyparis2000@yahoo.com: or John Wallace - 8736-4592 or john.wallace75@gmail.com

FOR SALE – single storey home about 200m², total property 862m². Large living/dining with vaulted wooden ceiling, 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, 2 half baths, maid's room currently an office, rancho in landscaped back yard. Except for a few items, fully furnished. In a gated community with tennis court, pool, club house. 2249-1208, 2232-5016, <http://www.realtorcostarica.com>.

MOVING SALE – Escazú -- Vicki Skinner's SELLING IT ALL MOVING SALE! Now till Sun. July 17 (note: I'm NOT leaving Costa Rica & hopefully not Escazú!) <http://MovingSaleEscazu.info> 8378-6679

WCCR INTEREST GROUPS

Cindy Marshall: 2244-3330; interests@wccr.org

Amantes del Libro Español - María Eugenia Chacón: 2289-8336 in ESCAZÚ Primer martes de cada mes, 10 a.m. para discutir libros en español. Meets first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. to discuss books in Spanish. Call for information.

Book Club - If you are interested in joining this out-of-the-ordinary group that reads and reports on books from its own library, call Rhoda Obolensky at 2440-1531 or Linda Leake at 2290-4891. Group meets in the morning on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Bridge - Bonnie Murry (2288-1157, bpmurry@gmail.com) will assist members' participation in the Costa Rican Bridge Club or members can call 8835-0575 directly.

Costa Rican History and Politics - invites historians/teachers to bring us up to date on these topics. **A leader for this group is being sought.** If you are interested, please contact Cindy Marshall (contact information above).

Creative Cooking - Cyndy Vorih: 2282-9532 & Grace Woodman: 2249-1208. Meets the first Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Multi-course meals, participants make the food and then enjoy a terrific lunch.

Culture, Art and History - Cecilia Kuhn, PhD, and a new member, would like to co-chair a multidisciplinary group, where interesting and meaningful discussions on philosophy, art, etc. would take place. The members should have some 'intellectual' interests. Contact Cecilia at 2224.7101 or c.kuhn@developcomply.com

Exploring Costa Rica through Field Trips - Nidia Viquez at 2293-4276

Hiking -- The newly activated hiking group has gone on two wonderful hikes to Bosque Del Nino and to Los Chorros. If you are interested in joining any of our hikes please call Sandie BonSell 2433 1573 or email sbonsell@mac.com .

Le Cercle Francophone_– Kathy Chanowich: 2288-5087 or chanowich@hotmail.com
French speaking lunch club. Be prepared to speak French - no English allowed! Meets the third Thursday of each month.

Out to Lunch – Mij Sezzin (2289-9952, mijsezzin@gmail.com) and Glenda Johnson (2239-5102, johnsonglenda2004@yahoo.com) Around SAN JOSÉ (price varies) Meets 4th Thursday of each month. Members may bring guests; sample fine cuisine of various restaurants throughout San José. Register with Mij or Glenda for reservations and details.

Professional Women’s Network – The new interest group for women who work during the day. The Leader is Stacey Auch, stacey.auch@gmail.com.

Interest Groups are open to all members of WCCR.

The Women’s Club of Costa Rica is a philanthropic organization supporting education, primarily through scholarships and development of school libraries for children in Costa Rica.

Friendship through Service!