

December 2011

In-Coming President's Letter

Dear Members:

In October, Michele Côté, a relatively new member and busy business woman, assumed the presidency of the Club. We are truly grateful for her leadership and generosity of spirit. Many thanks, Michele.

As I begin my year of presidency, I thank you for your support and vote of confidence. I would like to introduce you to the 2012 Board and Advisory Committee (see list on page 2). We are an enthusiastic, passionate, and creative group who has spent hours preparing for 2012. The WCCR motto is *Friendship through Service*; we hope that the activities planned will

provide an opportunity for members to make new friends while serving the club. It is our goal that 2012 will be a year where members are motivated to participate and to encourage others to join us.

Please attend meetings, volunteer to help with projects, participate in the book sale (which is the best in the country), bring a friend to the neighborhood gathering and join an interest group. I encourage you to enjoy being a member of WCCR.

Season's Greetings to all,

Roslyn Beswick
In-coming President



December 7th General Meeting immediately followed by an Extraordinary General Meeting (the only agenda item is the proposed amendment to the Constitution) at 11:00 am – luncheon hosted by the Past Presidents at the Zamora Estates, located behind the Bacchus Restaurant. Please contact Bonnie Murry, 2288-1157 or bpmurry@gmail.com or Anne Sobel, 2237-4173 or anluso@ice.co.cr for additional information.

See page 7 for details.

2012 MEMBERSHIP DUES – on September 5th, the Board of Directors approved maintaining the membership dues at ¢10,000. In order to be included in the 2012 Directory, your 2012 dues must be paid by December 15, 2011.



Women's Club of Costa Rica Book and Bake Sale – Mark your Calendars. The date has been set for January 28th at the Pan American School. So start gathering books and watch for the book drop off locations in the January Connection. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Reading is Fun and Scholarship programs. Be sure to check our new Volunteer Corner in the January Connection for ways that you can help with this event. If you would like to volunteer as a drop off location or require additional information, please contact Kathi Garrison at kathigarrison@sbcglobal.net. If you would like to participate in the bake sale, please contact Mary Alice Lesko at malesko2000@hotmail.com.

2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Voting Members

President	Roslyn Beswick
1st Vice President	Margie Arias
2nd Vice President	Michele Côté
Recording Secretary	Cindy Marshall
Treasurer	Elena Austermühle
Corresponding Secretary	Christy Bookhout
Vocal/Member at Large	Mary Jo Miller
Vocal/Member at Large	Ana Cecilia Torres
Vocal/Member at Large	Pauline Walker
Fiscal	Cyndy Vorih
Fiscal Suplente	Anne Kreupeling

Advisory Committee

Anne Sobel	Advisor/High School Scholarship Program
Bonnie Murry	Historian/Advisor
Grace Woodman	Directory
Kathi Garrison	Membership
Jeannine Hurd	Connections
Linda Manoll	Donors
Sylvia Prince	Reading Is Fun
Stacey Auch	Professional Women's Group
Vanesso Calvo	Legal Consultant

COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

TEXT BOOK REPORT

**HOLIDAY GIFT-GIVING MADE EASY!
HOSTESS GIFTS WITH SPECIAL MEANING!**

**GIVE THE GIFT OF LEARNING!!!!
WCCR GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR TEXT BOOKS!**

**What better way to honor your friends and family,
whether it be as a Christmas gift,
a Happy New Year or Valentine's Day greeting
or even a simple Hostess Gift?**



Incredibly, it had been estimated that more than 285,000 children and youth in Costa Rica have been attending class without a text book in their hands! Over the last 2 years, the Women's Club has joined the campaign, launched by La Nación, to provide textbooks to as many children as possible in state primary schools.

The project, with the cooperation of many companies and thousands of individuals, managed to provide 42,345 children with a set of text books. The Women's Club is proud to have been able to donate these text books to 486 primary school children.

Please help us with your personal donation or purchase a Gift Certificate! One set of 4 books costs only ¢6.000. Think how many gift solutions you can solve while helping a child to learn! Donations will be collected

at the December General Meeting and through January and February 2012. For information on making a donation, please contact Anne Kreupeling at gumbolimbo@hotmail.com.

WCCR's textbook donations will concentrate on the rural or poor neighborhood schools with whom we have been working in our **Reading is Fun** program. Already, we have requests from four schools for text books for 268 pupils this year, with many more expected.

As a bonus at no extra cost, La Nación has added two more sets of books to this year's package, two for 1st grade and two for 3rd grade, to help the children learn to write correctly (3rd grade for the transition to cursive). For additional information about La Nación's program: www.librosparatodoscr.com

Thank you for all your support; I hope to see many of you at the Christmas meeting. A table will be set up in the lower room of the restaurant, where you can see samples of the text books. Bring your list for Gift Certificates, too!

Anne Kreupeling, Chair

Artwork provided by La Nación

READING IS FUN REPORT

11-29 Escuela Guadalupe, Guadalupe de San Marcos de Tarrazù -- €800,000 be allocated for the purchase of 2 bookcases, tables and chairs, reading books, both for kindergarten and grade school and some didactical materials, wall maps, etc.



Nelleke Bruyn and I visited this rural school on 15th November 2011. The school is 4 years old and has 182 children, 42 of whom are in the 2 kindergarten sections.

A large, new classroom has recently been completed; part of it can be destined to forming a library. There is no resident librarian in this school, but the school director and several teachers are more than willing to look after the library and make it an interesting supplement to the general learning process of the students.

The initial request from this school was very complete, including a large amount of photos, covering all aspects of this very progressive school. We have no doubt that all donated material will be put to very good use in this very progressive school.

Anne Kreupeling, Chair

2011 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS



High School Scholarship Report Passing the torch..... December 2011

As we approach the end of the year and the graduation of the students, we are also virtually coming to the end of the high school division of the scholarship program. Next year the two remaining high school students will receive a scholarship.

The Scholarship Program has been one of the Club's major service areas for over 30 years.

Originally, the Club awarded funding to five girls who wished to become nurses. The program changed to focus on students in colegios and liceos in grades 7 - 12, then was modified to include only grades 9 - 12. The goal remained to help able and deserving students complete high school, regardless of their personal financial restraints.

The high school program peaked in the first decade of the 21st century to include 158 students. Many of the scholarship students aiming for a wide variety of professions needed financial assistance in order to continue with post secondary studies. The Club recognized this need and responded in 2010 by creating the Post Secondary Scholarship Program.



It is important to thank all the members who have toiled over the years to make the Scholarship program a success. Members such as; Laura Montes de Oca who served on the original committee, Barbara Lininger who chaired scholarship for years and Ofelia Murphy who worked so hard during Barbara's chairmanship. Then we would like to thank those whom you all know, who are too numerous to mention, who have worked in the last ten years on the visiting, collecting donations and managing the program. Finally a really big thank you is necessary for those who have faithfully donated for individual students over the years, the club members involved in fundraising who have helped to support students and finally all those donations given at general meetings to Miss Piggy a.k.a. Señorita Chanchita Bonita. Without all these sources the funding of the program would not have been possible.

We have been asked from the floor at meetings whether we could re-establish the high school program should the government withdraw support to poor students and families. Of course we could revive the program, if we felt that it was necessary again, but would need to consider the funding.

Scholarship is now focusing on our high school graduates who have won a place in public universities and technical institutions throughout the country. They are pursuing a professional education and need our continued help and support. A new committee administers the program with a group of dedicated 'madrinas' helping to monitor the students, while donors and club fundraising activities continue to fund the awards.

Anne Sobel and Roslyn Beswick

POST SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Our Post Secondary Scholarship Program is composed of several essential components and one of the major ones is the woman power required to "make it happen". Our Scholarship Committee members are the "madrinas" who supervise the university students. Their work is very "hands on"; they are the link between the WCCR and the student. These invaluable, giving women make the effort to meet their students personally at the beginning of each year and then are in touch by phone and email and sometimes, depending on distance, visit with the students during the year. They insure that the students send in their grades and their new registration each semester and that they complete their volunteer service project hours. They also listen to any problems or ideas the student might have.

The madrinras give of their time to attend Scholarship Committee meetings during the year to discuss our plans and problems. From personal contact with the students, each madrina sincerely cares about her students but, at the same time, has to be objective and discuss any issues or problems. They know the detailed background of their students, the family income, how many children in the family, if the student lives with parents or a parent, or with grandparents or older siblings, if there is an alcoholic parent, if there are unusual health issues in the family, if the student has enough clothes to wear to school, and many other issues. Knowing such personal information creates a strong bond of friendship and caring. Our madrinras, who are accomplishing one of the WCCR's major missions, are as follows: Maria Elena Amador, Joice Anglin, Isabel Atienza, Nelleke Bruyn, Anne Kreupeling, Ana Cecilia Torres, Nidia Viquez, Pauline Walker, Grace Woodman, and Mary Jo Miller. Anne Sobel and Elena Austermuhle will join the madrinras in 2012. I hope you will join me in saying a personal "thanks" for their contribution when you see these special Club members.

Mary Jo Miller, Chair



GOODBYE JEAN KILLORIN AND OUR BEST WISHES GO WITH YOU ON YOUR NEW ADVENTURE.

Jean recently moved to a retirement community just outside Raleigh, North Carolina. She is now living closer to her son. You can contact Jean at jeankillorin@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP – NEW AND DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS



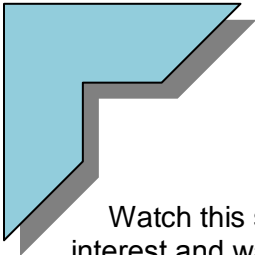
There were 4 new members in November.

Morris, Erin
Ross, Gamboa Fabiola
Sintonen, Heidi
Varela, Tannia

Amigo Asociado: Murillo, Victor

DIRECTORY CORRECTION

Professional Women's Group (the interest group formerly called PWN) e-mail address is pwg.wccr@gmail.com



VOLUNTEER CORNER

Watch this space for events/programs where help is needed. You may find one of particular interest and want to assist with it to help support WCCR's mission. An estimate of the time commitment, skill levels if any, locations, etc. will be highlighted along with contact information.

Volunteers are needed at the **December 7th luncheon** to assist with check in, at the membership and name tag tables, as greeters and step monitors. Arrive before 11:00 am and help before the meeting starts.

Book Sale -- drop off locations are required, volunteers to sort books before the sale, volunteers to assist during the sale as cashiers and to help our customers and to act as a cleanup crew. If you'd like more information, please contact Kathi Garrison at kathigarrison@sbcglobal.net.

Bake Sale – volunteer bakers and persons to staff the event are needed. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Mary Alice at malesko2000@yahoo.com.

Our sincere condolences to the family & friends of former member Ilse Gasser who recently passed away after a short illness. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Funeral services will be held in Venezuela.

THE FORGOTTEN CHILDREN

Article and photo by Martha Rollins



About 100 miles from the Central Valley, high in the Talamanca Mountains live the “forgotten children”, children of the largest and most isolated indigenous group, the Cabécar. According to the parents, each year during the rainy season small children die or are badly injured trying to cross the Rio Pacuare to attend school.

November 29-30, our team of volunteers visited two schools to deliver 20 Cabécar - Spanish Dictionaries, tick medicine for the horses, seeds for a school project, copies of magazine articles featuring several of the children, 100 pounds of food for school lunches, and a navidad gift of a notebook, pencil, pencil sharpener and candy for each of the 70 children. WCCR members Suzy Nagel and I were joined by James Houston, son of WCCR member Norma Merritt, George Sellers from Post #10 of the American Legion and Marina Masserini, a knowledgeable friend and Suzy's neighbor. This is our 4th trip (WCCR members Sylvia Prince, Nelleka Bruhn and Ana Cecilia Torres came on the last trip) and the first during the rainy season. James Houston donated the 20 dictionaries to Escuela Sikua Ditsö, a small school on the way up the mountains to Paso Marcos, the larger school.

The schools are reached by a series of dirt roads from La Suiza, Platanillo, and Jacotea to the bridge over the river at Bajo Pacuare. Several kilometers from the bridge a right turn onto an unmarked road leads up, up, up to the first school. We slipped and slid our way through the mud and over three streams (one deep enough to clean the car off) to park the car safely at Escuela Sikua Ditsö. Since we were not entirely sure that we were on the right road, it was with great relief and joy that we passed a group of children and Paso Marcos director Adolfo Acuña, who had come down to greet us and carry our supplies for the 45 minute hike up to the last school. The children politely waited outside Escuela Sikua Ditsö while we distributed navidad gifts to the children there and James gave out his dictionaries. We split into two groups so that conversations could continue at Sikua Ditsö while others could start the slippery hike up to Paso Marcos. Since the children live so far from their school and must start walking home it was necessary to get to Paso Marcos as soon as possible. We distributed the gifts to each child there, promising to see them the next morning.

We prepared and brought with us the makings of dinner, using the stove in the cafeteria (there is no refrigerator). We ate a communal meal by candle light with two of the teachers and one hungry child who asked if he might join us. We had chile and rice, bread, cheese, avocado, fruit and brownies. One of the Cabécar women brought a small container of homemade fruit jam for us to share. Outside, two very malnourished dogs happily received the few leftovers!

We then hit the sack in our sleeping bags on the floor of one of the classrooms. The next morning we again ate a communal meal with the teachers, having gallo pinto, bacon, scrambled eggs, juice, cheese, bread and avocado. I forgot the coffee, but one of the Cabécar women roasted and ground some coffee early that morning for us to use, and joined us for breakfast when we invited her. One day I will ask her to teach me how to roast and grind the coffee Cabécar style!

On our last trip we noticed a severe tick problem with the horses. George researched treatment and brought with him medicine and information to control that problem. He demonstrated how to spray the medicine taking care with the ears and then had the owners of the horses do it themselves. As the treatment continued, more and more horses were brought forward, some led by small children. One of the horse owners, an artisan, gave George a beautiful handmade blow gun for hunting small game.

George was unable to demonstrate the planting of the seeds he had brought, because it still was raining and too muddy to work the soil. We still are hopeful, particularly since WCCR member Isabel Atienza, who also helped in the selection of books and translations, told me that in the initial stages of our social services committee she worked with a BriBri indigenous group to plant a communal garden, which then was named after her. The Cabécar have a problem with poor nutrition, but the adults are resistant to preparing new vegetables. We are hoping to work through the children using a school project to introduce the garden. On another trip we will follow-up with this project.

We obtained a great deal of information on this trip which I will be happy to share with all interested parties. There is much to be done. The Cabécar Women's Group built themselves a very lovely basic Community Center and have ideas for productive projects. Progress is slow and discouraging because of the difficulty in getting supplies up the mountains, funding and problems with mud during the rainy season.

At both schools each community is building a traditional thatched dwelling with government funds and both are very conscious about maintaining their cultural heritage through both school and community activities. One of the teachers at Paso Marcos is recording the oral heritage of the older members of the group to give to us. Suzy also has found a series of recently published books in Cabécar and Spanish describing the legends and practices of the Cabécar which she will be donating to the schools.

We are collecting money to defray some of the costs of our trips and projects. Any donations will be much appreciated since we are working mostly with our own money. Please contact Martha Rollins 2268-6802 home 8667-8623 cell or rollinsmartha@gmail.com for additional information.

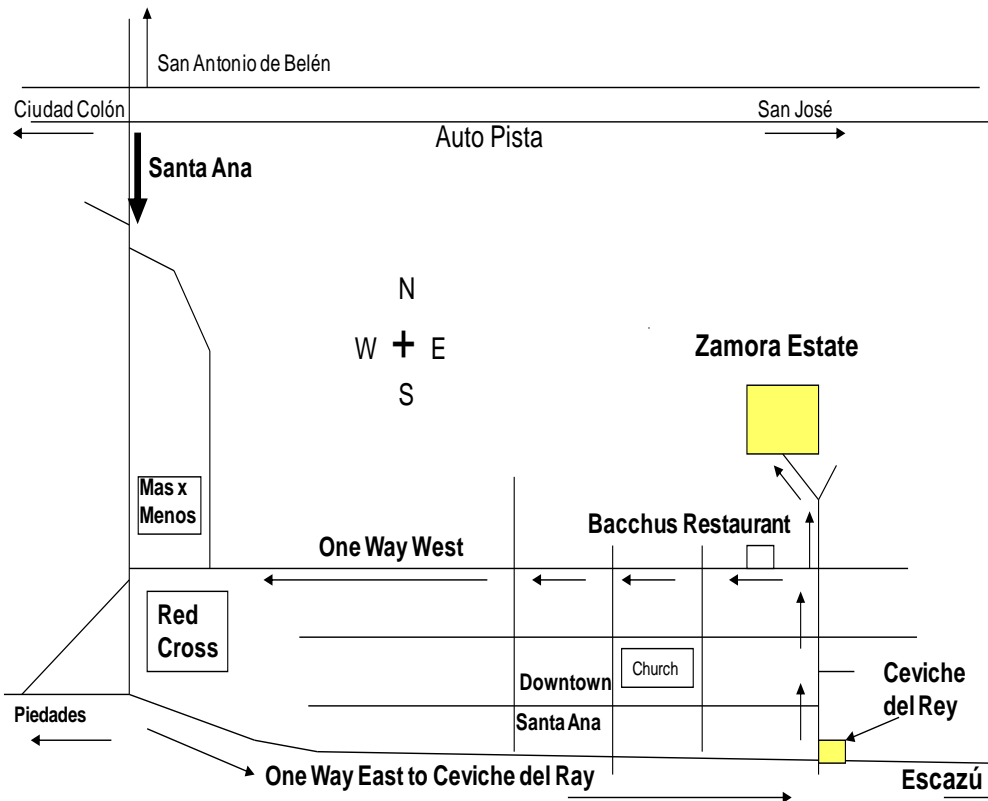
CLUB CALENDAR & ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Please Note: WCCR’s policy is to allow guests/non-members to attend any two meetings of WCCR prior to joining.]



December 7th General Meeting immediately followed by an Extraordinary General Meeting (the only agenda is the proposed amendment to the Constitution) at 11:00 am – luncheon hosted by the Past Presidents at the Zamora Estates (www.zamoraestate.com) in Santa Ana, a tropical paradise of plants and flowers, located behind the Bacchus Restaurant. Please contact Bonnie Murry, 2288-1157 or bpmurry@gmail.com or Anne Sobel, 2237-4173 or anluso@ice.co.cr for additional information.

Directions to Zamora Estate: 500 meters north of Restaurant Ceviche del Rey, Santa Ana, just behind Baccus Restaurant. It will be signed WCCR.





LEAP INTO 2012 NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERINGS

Please join us at our East side Neighborhood WCCR Coffee.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8th At the Home of Su Pardo --10:00 am-12:00 pm

All members and their guests are welcome. Traditionally a time of renewal and reunion, this is a perfect opportunity visit with old and meet new friends.

Members: Please bring a sweet or savory boca to share.

Please Carpool -- Su Pardo: 2235-2424

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. Go through 5 stop lights to the traffic circle, La Hispanidad, with 3 tall water fountains.
4. Go $\frac{3}{4}$ around the circle.
5. Get on the Circumvalación road going towards Guadalupe
6. At the next traffic circle (huge CR flag in center), go $\frac{1}{2}$ around & continue towards Guadalupe & Moravia. (Pass Hipermas on your right)
7. When the road ENDS, turn RIGHT
8. The street will curve, KEEP TO THE RIGHT
9. Go through 2 stop lights, passing the Hospital Hotel La Católica (on right) & El Tribunal de Justicia (on left)
10. At the 3rd STOP LIGHT, turn LEFT
11. At the 1st STOP LIGHT, turn RIGHT
12. At the 1ST STREET, TURN LEFT (There is a guard house and gate here)
13. Follow the street around to house #109 on left

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16th at HotelTerrazas de Golf, hosted by Cecilia Esquivel de Arias – North

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29th at the home of Cyndy Vorih – West –



Ladies and amigos mark your calendars for Women's Club annual kickoff luncheon on March 14, 2012, at the Aurola Holiday Inn, San José. Event starts at 11:00 am. The cost of the lunch will be ¢10,000. Ticket and program information will be included in Connection and also posted on the website www.wccr.org.



The WCCR sponsored a fundraising event on November 20th at the Little Theatre Group's performance of *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, a play by Neil Simon. The play was a fun hit and the WCCR bocas were very well received. 104 tickets were sold. We made ¢368,000 minus ¢10,000 we paid for Maria, an assistant, who helped us with the bocas and the clearing up, for a total profit of ¢358,000! Thank you to all who bought tickets, sold them and made the delicious bocas!!!

Cindy Marshall and Pauline Walker

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Potluck Donation for Kids' Christmas Party

Love to cook? Want to make a little kid's Christmas party special? We are collecting plate donations for the Los Anonos Christmas Party for children living in extreme poverty on December 10th. You can bake Christmas cookies, make a fruit salad or share a bean dip!

Donations can be dropped off at Fundacion Children Without Borders in Los Anonos on Friday, December 9th or early morning Saturday, December 10th. They can also be left at the luncheon on December 7th at the Zamora Estates. Please e-mail or call Christina Marin to coordinate (Tel: 8640-6930; cmarin@cwbfoundation.org).

We have several children without Christmas gifts. If you want to donate a wrapped gift (between ¢5,000 and ¢10,000 in value) to a child between 3 and 14, please also get in touch with us. We are also grateful for cash donations, which can be deposited at the following account at Banco Nacional: 02-171-000281-3.

The clinic is located on the old road to Escazú. From the Puente de los Anonos, it's the third right (if heading to San José) and 25 meters south. The exact address is: De la UCIMED en La Sabana, 300 metros oeste y 25 metros al sur. Donations can be dropped off at any time before the 10th.



Sunday December 11th -- Starting at 3:30 pm "**DecktheHalls**" Christmas Concert -- The Little Theatre Group is opening its theatre doors and inviting you to "Deck the Halls" in preparation for Christmas. In years past the group has used its annual Christmas concert to entertain and to raise funds for one of its favourite charities, the Tom and Norman Home in Guápiles, and this year will be no exception. The Tom and Norman Home was established some years ago in Guápiles to provide shelter for abandoned seniors. Charitable donations are its main source of income.

A merry band of carolers will invite the audience to join them as they bring to life, with pleasing and colorful harmonies, their favourite songs of the season. The hall will be decked with crystal concert performances by such musical talents as Manuel Matarrita, Ernesto Rodriguez, Stacy Chamblin, and Silvia Schneegans, while gaily wrapped gifts of wit and sentiment will be revealed, in time-honored fashion, by such LTG stalwarts as Ann Antikiw, Caroline Kennedy, Kevin Huey and Steve Friedman.

This is a one-time only performance so, although tickets will be on sale at the box office, you are advised to reserve your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Sunday, December 11th 2011 @ 3:30 pm. Teatro Laurence Olivier, Av.2, Calle28. (contiguo la Sala Garbo).Reservations : www.littletheatregroup.org; Telephone 8858-1456.

2012 COSTA RICAN NATIONAL SYMPHONY SEASON Mar. 16 – Dec. 2. The 12 concert series are at the National Theater on Fridays at 8 pm & Sundays at 10:30 am. Season Tickets Sale: January 2 – February 17, 2012. Reserve now. Tickets Information: Grace Woodman, 2249-1208, 8369-7992, gracewccr@gmail.com

MEMBERS CLASSIFIED

HOME FOR RENT, in a very special garden above Barva de Heredia on 2 hectares, 2 bdrm, 2 baths, fully furnished with all appliances, lots of light, cabinets and closets, private phone line, very secure. Cable and internet available. \$650 per month, Dianne Rowley or Chuck Jennings, 2266-0123

CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT IN SANTA ANA, 2,000 sq. ft., located in Residencial Prados del Oeste, 200 meters west, 500 meters north of the Musmanni bakery. The two-level condo has 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths, living room-dining area, and "cuarto de pilas" with a washer and dryer, a kitchen with granite countertops which includes a stove and refrigerator. There is a spacious terrace with a small-maintenance yard, covered carport area for two cars. Gated community with a 24/7 security guard, direct intercom to the guard and an alarm

system in the condo, pool and club house. Close to all amenities. If interested, contact Cindy Marshall at 2244-3330 or at cindyparis2000@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE, beautiful one-story house in Bello Horizonte, Escazú, 4,800 sq. ft., .close to all amenities. Fully restored four bed/four bath with maid's room. Landscaped garden full of flowers. This house is very light and bright with huge glass windows. Former owner converted the garage to a billiard room with teak floors....ideal for a children's' playroom or artist's studio. Pictures:

www.pbase.com/phxphrank/smith_house&view=slideshow. Contact: Tony and Liz Smith, onionsincr@yahoo.com 2288-6451

FOR SALE – single story 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. Grace Woodman-Fernandes at gracewccr@gmail.com or 2249-1208, 2232-5016, <http://www.realtorcostarica.com>.

BEAUTIFUL APARTMENT FOR SALE offered by Marie Hermann-Legueu: Alto de Las Palomas, Santa Ana, San José. Approx. 300 m² / Approx. 3.228 ft². Great view. Central AC + floor to ceiling windows throughout. Vestibule with half bathroom. Large social area with marble and hardwood floors. Family room. 3 bedrooms en suite + views. Two of them with walk-in closets. Master bathroom has Jacuzzi + independent shower + bidet. Modern kitchen with granite counter top + pantry. Laundry area. Maid's quarters with separate bathroom. Four-car garage 24 hr. security. Call Oscar Murillo: [\(506\) 8995.0844](tel:50689950844)

PLAYA GRANDE BEACH VILLA -- Beautiful, 3-bedroom villa with shared pool located 1 block from the beach in Playa Grande (a quiet oasis just north of Tamarindo). 10% goes to scholarship funds. REALLY workable with rates till December 15!!! Also available for Christmas and New Years (7 night minimum).

<http://VillasCostaGrande.com> Diane Globerman 8-377-0060



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.

Deadline...for next month's Connection: **Tuesday, January 3, 2012**. Please submit **COPY READY**: news, classified ads, reports, member information, community events, etc. Contact: newsletters@wccr.org