



Winter 2014

## Newsbits

- Interested in learning more about the Bolivian cultural dance, Tinku? Check out this [website](#)
- NC Partners of the Americas pictorial history is [available](#)
- [San Miguel del Bala Bolivia](#) offers eco-tourism
- What do Evo Morales and North Carolina have in common? [Barbeque!](#)
- Learn more about the youth social media program [Red 2021](#)
- [Teaching volunteer](#) opportunity in Cochabamba, Bolivia
- Steve Vetter, the CEO of Partners of the Americas, talks about his new book, [Sou! Deep: The Power to Connect, Serve, and Change Lives.](#)
- [Photos](#) available from the 50th anniversary conference in Florianopolis, Brazil .
- Grants [available](#) for travelling and thematic workshops

**Cary NC**— Formed in the 1970's and one of the longest-running nonprofit organizations in the US, Partners of the Americas has been instrumental

in exchanging information and ideas between the Southern/Northern hemisphere.

Some North Carolina projects throughout the years are medical teams visiting Bolivian burn centers and performing reconstructive surgery. UNC professors provided autism training in Bolivia, where there are still delays in diagnosis. Farmer to Farmer exchanges have provided stoves, best agricultural practices, beekeeping, and food packages to schools in remote areas in Bolivia. The environmental exchanges have led to university students working on marketing for ecotourism and standardizing building codes for all of Bolivia. Environmental exchanges have also led to an exchange of ideas on LEED certification, preserving natural areas and building green projects. The education committee is presently working on an online ESL certification for the Northern and Southern hemisphere.



Festivities will be held at First Methodist Church, 117 S Academy St, Cary, NC 27511. For more information, contact Sallie Abbas at [swabbas@nc.rr.com](mailto:swabbas@nc.rr.com)

## 50th ANNIVERSARY PLANNED FOR THE NC PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS CHAPTER



Clockwise from top left: Caporales Ruhay group from Fairfax, Virginia; Bolivian Tinku group; and two examples of the fighting styles of Tinku.

Not to mention the countless teacher, sports, and musician exchanges between North and South. For a full pictorial history of the NC chapter, click [here](#).

On Saturday, October 25th, NC Partners of the Americas will host a benefit so that these vital projects can continue. Featured guests are Caporales Ruhay and Tinku. Founded in 2008, Caporales Ruhay is comprised of all ages. Their dance does have a religious/historical aspect and, in June 2011, through a Supreme Decree, caporales was declared an Intangible Cultural Heritage of the State of Bolivia. Comprised of 100 dancers, this dance group tours for the sole purpose for disseminating Bolivian folkloric traditions.

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Tinkus will also be featured. Similar to caporales, it is a national treasure that began as a disguised ritualistic combat against conquistadores. Tinku is an Aymarian word, meaning "physical attack" The women will form circles and begin chanting while the men in colorful, elaborate costumes proceed to fight each other.

There is no fee to attend but donations are being accepted. Help is still needed to arrange and sell refreshments. Volunteers can contact Sallie Abbas or Christian Stahlberg at [swabbas@nc.rr.com](mailto:swabbas@nc.rr.com) or [christian@ncboliviapartners.org](mailto:christian@ncboliviapartners.org).

# REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

## NCPOA seeks Environmental Committee Chair

The environmental committee is one of the most active committees of the North Carolina POA chapters. Its projects are making great strides such as involving US students in developing a standardized Bolivian building code and collaborations between Bolivian and US groups. The chair would begin at the end of 2014. If you would like to fill this position or know of someone, please email Christian Stalberg at christian@ncboliviapartners.org

Rosario Claros, president of the Cochabamba partnership, visited North Carolina in July and met with a number of environmental organizations in the area. She gave a well-attended talk at the EPA on pollution in Bolivian cities, which is among the worst in Latin America. She met with local non-profit NEEM, which runs "agroecology" and food security tours in Cuba and may be interested in organizing a trip to Bolivia. She met with a representative of the City of Raleigh's Solid Waste Services division, who would like to collaborate on a recycling project in Bolivia should the

opportunity arise. She toured the LEED Platinum office and witnessed other projects led by the local company Build-Sense. The founder of Build-Sense is a Rotary member interested in collaboration with Partners on international projects.

The president of POA, Christian Stalberg, will be traveling back to Cochabamba this month to follow up on the ideas described above. He will be talking with specific environmental groups, architects and planners, and government officials about the idea of helping develop the country's first building codes. He will also be

making headway toward holding an international EcoCities conference in Cochabamba in 2016 or 2017. This is a joint project idea between Christian and a well-known planner of such conferences based in California, and it has been very well received so far, including by Bolivia's former ambassador to the Organization for American States. In short, there is a great deal of potential for North-South collaboration around environmental issues.

## Cochabamba Partners

**President:** Arq. Rosario Claros

Rosario-claros@hotmail.com

**Vice President:** Lupe Buendia

**Past President:** Dra. Daysi Marlene Mercado V.

Mar\_daysy@hotmail.com

**General Secretary:** Monica Nino de Guzman

## PHOTOS FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY



A Ganar simulation where participants learned to play adapted soccer games to demonstrate job skills.



100K Strong panelists at the 50th convention in Brazil



Eddie, A Ganar alumni, explains the challenges of living in Honduras.

## HOLIDAY WREATH SALE COMING SOON

While summer is slowly turning into fall, and the Halloween candy is just popping up on the store shelves, it is hard to think about Christmas. But NCPOA's annual holiday-wreath sale is just around the corner. This annual project is our primary fund-raising effort and we depend on good participation from our members to make it a success. Funds from these sales help underwrite projects and member activities.

While fund raising is still the main reason for this activity,

many participants find that there is a certain joy in providing holiday wreaths to friends, family and co-workers each year and they look forward to the call announcing

wreaths will once again be available. NCPOA wreath sales, for many, have become a part of the annual holiday ritual. Hopefully even more members will participate this year and we will be able to share this feeling across an even larger audience.

Once again Rodney Swink will

spearhead sales. Ordering, pricing and delivery details will be announced in late October. Watch the NCPOA web site and member emails for information. Members are encouraged to contact Mr. Swink at rodney.swink@att.net with questions or to express interest in this project.

**NORTH CAROLINA PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS OFFICERS**

Christian Stalberg, Vice-President  
[chris@stalberg.net](mailto:chris@stalberg.net)  
 Karen Brown, Vice-president  
 Past President/Advisor Sallie Abbas, President  
 h919-467-0382; [swabbas@nc.rr.com](mailto:swabbas@nc.rr.com)  
 Kitty Stalberg, Secretary 919-942-7882; [kit@mindspring.com](mailto:kit@mindspring.com)  
 Judy Gibson, Treasurer  
 h704-487-4228 [hbgibson@hotmail.com](mailto:hbgibson@hotmail.com)

**Board Members:**

Includes the Executive Committee above, and Hank Graden (chair), Karen Brown, Mary Helen Ferguson, Virginia Freedman, Stephen Gibson, Judy Gibson, Hank Graden, Katie Houk, Heike Meissner, Larry Nelson, Katushka Olave, Robert Pyle, Christian Stalberg, Kitty Stalberg, Rodney Swink, Benson Timmons, Carlos Vargas, Deborah Wilkes, Richard Whitmore, L. George Wilson.

**Subcommittees and Chairs: (chairs are in bold)**

Autism Project- **Hank Graden**  
 Culture and the Arts - **Art Waber**, Martha Keravouri, Lee Moore  
 Health and Clinical Practices - **Carlos Vargas**, Ben Timmons  
 Agriculture -**Steve Gibson**, Don Hopkins  
 Emergency Preparedness- **Steve Cohen**  
 Education –**Karen Brown**, Laura Cernikova, Richard, Whitmore, Deborah Wilkes  
 Environment and Natural Resources- **Darren Legge**  
 Sports - **March Krotee**  
 Membership – **Katushka Olave**  
 (The committees Women and Development and Democratic Initiatives are not active.)  
 Newsletter Editor- **Virginia Freedman**

**NCPOA seeks  
 Sports and Arts/  
 Culture  
 Committee Chair**

If you would like to fill either one of these positions or know of someone, please email Christian Stalberg at [christian@ncboliviapartners.org](mailto:christian@ncboliviapartners.org)



**CEOLI CARDS ARE AVAILABLE**

CEOLI cards, originally ordered through Martie and Marvin Wachs, are now available to order through Amizade, which is a 501 (c)(3) dedicated to service learning programs worldwide. CEOLI, the Center for Educational and Vocational Preparation for the Disabled, was founded in 1986 as an oasis of caring and help for nearly 150 children and young adults in the Cochabamba area. Staffed with dedicated teachers and health-care providers, CEOLI strives to provide the disabled with services and opportunities for improved quality of life that the Bolivian government has thus far failed to offer. CEOLI can be supported through purchasing their cards.



A small group of severely handicapped young artists, led by a talented art teacher named Daniela, hand-paint greeting cards of typical Bolivian scenes.

To learn more about the CEOLI cards, click [here](#).  
 To order cards, click [here](#).

Pay your dues easily online now! **Go to the Website** [www.ncboliviapartners.org](http://www.ncboliviapartners.org), go to the **DONATE** page, and you'll be able to make a secure payment of dues or other donation!