

## MidYear Meeting

The NCPOA Midyear Meeting was held June 23, 2012 at the NCSU University Club.

The Board of Directors met in the morning. Some of the important topics covered were:

**Delmar Foundation Funding** (\$2000 in the Delmar account) in the March Board meeting, Delmar funding was approved for the Autism Conference in Bolivia, to meet any additional needs. Since funding for this now seems adequate, the Delmar funds can be released for another purpose.

**Interact** Kathy Johnson of Interact is working on the travel grant for August to Cbba. [note: subsequently the date of her travel was changed]

Hank suggested that we need more people to take responsibility for writing travel grants. Having a workshop to teach people how to write them was mentioned, with Kitty as possible leader.

**Sports** – With Travis Feezell, we are progressing toward a program in soccer clinics for children and youth who cannot afford membership in a sports club in Cochabamba.

**Marlene Mercado**, current Cbba Partners president, will be applying for a travel grant to come to NC

**Website for the Cbba Partners** - Cbbapartners.org – Chris Stalberg is designing a framework for their Website and will turn it over to the Cbba Partners.

Steve Gibson is traveling in January to El Alto (city on the Altiplano near La Paz) on a church mission, then to Cbba.

**RAFFE grant:** Steve Gibson proposed seeking strawberry varieties that will grow in high regions around Cbba. There is added benefit in producing jams and jellies for diabetics.

### AFTERNOON SESSION

Sallie Abbas, Leon Abbas, Karen Brown, Mary Helen Ferguson, Virginia Freedman, Judy Gibson, Steven Gibson, Hank Graden, Don Hopkins, Kathy Johnson and son, Charles Mann, Ana Cecilia Moreno, Larry Nelson, Christian Stalberg, Rodney Swink, Carlos Vargas, Willma Vargas, Jessie Cannon, Art Waber, George Wilson

Sallie made several announcements. The Abbases will have a picnic on July 3 as a welcome for Ana Cecelia Morales, the visiting choreographer from Cbba, after which people can go to a nearby concert.

Sallie shared handouts related to the Energy and Climate Partnership and activities of a former Youth Ambassador.

Committee representatives spoke about their plans. Christian Stalberg spoke for the Environmental and Natural Resources committee. After traveling to Bolivia, he is working on finding help for the development of an urban observatory, a project for which there is interest in Bolivia.

Ana Cecilia Moreno spoke about her experiences as a visiting choreographer through the Arts and Culture program. She has been at the American Dance Festival. She has been taking classes related to her focus areas and has met other choreographers from many parts of the world. Ana is a teacher and expects to share her experiences with her students and may integrate what she has learned into her choreography. She wants to work

with children through Partners in Bolivia.



Hank passed out reports about autism, InterAct, and sports projects. He spoke about the autism project. In addition to donors mentioned in the board meeting notes, UNC provided substantial support.

Kathy Johnson, Associate Executive Director at InterAct (a domestic violence and sexual assault organization), spoke about what her organization does and how they partner with other organizations. She may travel to Bolivia in November.

Hank spoke about Travis Feezell and the Sports project he may pursue. Belmont Abbey is may help to support his travel to Bolivia.

Christian Stalberg explained the POA program PartnersCampus. A pilot chapter exists at American University.

Art Waber spoke about Arts and Culture projects. He has been involved in hosting Ana for the American Dance Festival and thinks that this exchange may be a jumping off point for other projects.

Sallie spoke about Eva Morales' contributions to Partners, shared one of Eva's poems, and read her own poem about Eva. Attendees shared memories of Eva and lit candles in her memory.

Carlos gave an illustrated presentation about the medical team trip, including meetings about the autism project.

Charles Mann spoke about his otorhinolarygology experiences in Bolivia through Partners recently and in the past and expressed his gratitude towards Partners.

Sallie mentioned Dr. Jaime Montano's participation in the Government Fellows program –a month-long internship in treatment of breast cancer with Dr. Calvo in Chapel Hill.

Steve Gibson spoke about his recent Bolivia trip, which included a presentation of the "It Started with a Project" Award. Steve talked about the evolution of the rural development projects. High efficiency wood stoves have been provided to a number of students. Stoves are made in prisons. Partners provided funding for demonstration stoves. A municipality is giving cost-share for the stoves. He showed pictures of structures that have benefited from Partner member donations. He told of the beekeeping project, which involved collecting feral bees.

Member surveys were distributed and completed by members to give feedback to Partners International. She also distributed the annual plan, and attendees were asked to write comments about it.

### Ms. Moreno in NC as a Foreign Choreographer at ADF

Through the collaboration of Art Waber (NC) and Silvia Quiroga, Ana Cecilia Moreno of Cochabamba came for a month in July to work and learn and develop her art at the American Dance Festival which offers a few scholarships to choreographers from around the globe. She felt that her experiences in Durham helped advance her as a professional and she will be able to carry back to Bolivia new skills and ideas.



architecture with Rosario Claros (architect and VP of CbbaPOA) and Marlene Mercado (President of CbbaPOA), and met with head of linguistics as well, discussing the possibility of future connections and programs.



Laura and a diablo

She was treated to attending with Danny Balderrama the Festival of the Virgin of Urqupiña in Quillacollo, enjoying the folklore dancers, and a craft festival, as well as an excursion to Lake Angostura having a lakeside lunch of fish. She also went with Viveka Alba & her father to a natural spring and swimming pool up in the mountains that form part of the Cochabamba valley.



### A Very Successful Autism Conference

[Editor's note: Rather than a regular report, I felt that sharing these communiqués would best explain the value of this Phase II of the Autism project which took place in June for professionals who are learning to deal with the autism spectrum. Conferences were held in Cochabamba, La Paz, and Santa Cruz]

#### 2012/7/2 NOTE FROM MARLENE MERCADO ABOUT THE AUTISM CONFERENCE

AMIGOS, Luego de haber llevado a cabo el programa de Autismo, quiero hacer llegar mi agradecimiento a los compañeros que colaboraron en la actividad antes y después del evento, Clelia, Janeth Morales, Lucero Jorges, Gloria Bardales, Mónica Niño de Guzman, Phebe Jhonson, Noelia Colque, Tito Claire, y el último día Victor Morales, los padres de ASPAT, el Pos grado de la facultad de Medicina de San Simón, Jaime Montaña, Nelly Huerta, Miguel Aguirre. nuestras familias y los amigos que estuvieron prestos en todo momento para coadyuvar en el éxito de la actividad, bajo la sacrificada labor de Organización de nuestra querida Dra. FLAVIA AVILA que Junto a mi presidencia velamos por sacar el evento adelante.

El Casi centenar de asistentes, expreso su agradecimiento sincero por tan provechoso y académico seminario. el Exito lo debemos a la diversidad de profesionales que asistieron principalmente los responsables de hogares de niños con capacidades diferentes y especiales, educadores, y profesores de establecimientos educativos iniciales, fisioterapeutas y otros; siendo el 98% profesionales y algunos estudiantes de Medicina. Si bien el feriado nacional fue un gran contratiempo, pudimos superar con la movilización y asistencia de los padres de



A welcome party for AnaCe at the Abbas home



Fiesta de la Virgen of Urqupiña photo from <http://www.bolivia-online.net>

### Teacher-in-Residence goes from NC to Cbba

Laura Cernikova from the Wake County Public School System was selected as the Teacher in Residence, to visit and work in Cochabamba from July 19 – Aug. 19.

She was mainly involved at the Centro Boliviano-Americano, a bi-national center where English is taught. She observed classes, taught three classes, worked with the administration helping with methods on approach to the TOEFL exam and with improvement of placement tests. Laura gave a citywide weekend seminar on teaching English. She incorporated Youtube and music videos, and provided handouts.

At the universities UNITEPC and Católica she gave presentations on business English (2 full days).

She also visited San Simon University, including College of

niños autistas, quienes tienen la gran esperanza de que este programa continúe en todas sus fases.

El evento fue comentado en el Periódico Los Tiempos de circulación Internacional y por 2 canales Universitarios como el 11 de la Universidad mayor de San Simón y el de UNITEPC.

Creemos haber cumplido con tan brillantes profesionales su calor humano y sencillez hicieron que nosotros nos esmeremos más aun para que ellos se sintiesen como en casa. Lamentamos la inasistencia de Organizaciones que tienen que ver de alguna manera con el tema, como nuestros miembros como CERECO, Warmi, etc. y los compañeros que faltaron al evento.

A cada asistente se le entregará las conclusiones en medio digital junto con sus certificados. Este material ya fue entregado a los profesores disertantes al día siguiente de finalizado el evento.

Hago llegar mi sincero agradecimiento la nuestra contraparte, a HANK GRADEN, y todo el POA que hizo posible el programa, a la Embajada Americana, a American Airlines y las autoridades de la Universidad de CN Chapel Hill a todos mil gracias y mil disculpas por cualquier contratiempo. Marlene..

NOTE FROM FLAVIA ROXANA AVILA BELTÁN

Estimado Hank: En Cochabamba asistieron 100 personas a la conferencia, siendo más los asistentes, padres de familia y profesionales, muy poco estudiante.

Por medio de su persona quiero agradecer en representación a los Compañeros de las Américas de Cochabamba - Bolivia, Asociación de Padres y Amigos de los Autistas (ASPAUT - CBBA), Facultad de Medicina Universidad Mayor de San Simón y toda la población Boliviana, en primer lugar a Compañeros de las Américas de Carolina del Norte, a la Embajada Americana y a Aerolíneas Aéreas Americana, quienes hicieron posible la realización de este evento y la llegada de los expertos.

Tal vez en Santa Cruz y La Paz hubieron más asistentes, pero en Cochabamba fue muy provechoso y se motivó a un compromiso muy grande con las personas con autismo para poder seguir con el proyecto y ayudar a estas personas y sus familias.

Para mí fue muy emocionante porque no en vano esperé 13 años para este evento, humildemente le agradezco y pido bendición a su persona, los compañeros en Carolina del Norte y a cada persona que participó tanto en Estado Unidos como en Bolivia, realmente el Reyno de Dios está en la tierra y es una bendición la solidaridad que tenemos los humanos con nuestros semejantes y los instrumentos que utiliza no tiene un precio en este mundo.

También le agradezco por la posibilidad de conocer a una persona muy increíble que pude alojar en mi casa, me refiero a Magui, de le un abrazo de mi parte mis hijitos la extrañan un montón y mi hijita Daniela la reclama muchísimo, mis papitos también le agradecen mucho y le tenemos muchísimo cariño.

Admiro mucho a los 4 expertos, su humildad y todo lo que nos han proporcionado. Esto incentiva a que sigamos en el proyecto, aunque para mí es un sacrificio terrible.

Un abrazo afectuoso, Flavia

[translation] Dear Hank:

In Cochabamba, 100 people attended the conference, being assistants, parents and professionals, very few students.

Through you I want to thank on behalf of the Partners of the Americas in Cochabamba - Bolivia, Association of Parents and Friends of Autistic (ASPAUT - CBBA), Faculty of Medicine

University of San Simon and the entire Bolivian population, first to Partners of the Americas of North Carolina, to the U.S. Embassy and American Airlines, who made possible the realization of this event and the arrival of the experts.

Maybe in Santa Cruz and La Paz had more attendees, but in Cochabamba was very helpful and led to a huge commitment to people with autism to continue with the project and help these people and their families.

For me it was very exciting because I did not wait in vain 13 years for this event, and I humbly thank blessing to you, the partners in North Carolina and every person who participated in both United States and Bolivia, actually the Kingdom of God on earth and is a blessing that we have solidarity with our fellow humans and the tools used is not priced in this world.

Also thank you for the opportunity to meet a very amazing person who could stay in my house, I mean Maggy; please give her a hug for me; my children miss her a lot and my daughter Daniela speaks of her frequently. My parents also thank her very much and have great affection for her.

I really admire the 4 experts, their humility and all that they have provided. This motivates us to continue in the project, even though for me it's a terrible sacrifice.

A big hug. Flavia

## Seminario Internacional Sobre Transtornos del Espectro Autista -Jorge Ybarnegaray Urquidi Ph D.

*Coordinador del Seminario* [translation follows]

Entre el 18 y el 19 de junio, la Universidad Católica Boliviana San Pablo, Unidad Académica Santa Cruz, ha sido la sede de un importante seminario internacional sobre trastornos del espectro autista, que se realizó en el auditorio de la Carrera de Psicopedagogía. Fue organizado por la institución internacional COMPAÑEROS DE LAS AMÉRICAS, capítulos de Santa Cruz, Cochabamba y La Paz y su contraparte en EEUU del estado de Carolina del Norte y por la Universidad de North Carolina en Chapel Hill, la Universidad Católica Boliviana, La Fundación Centro De Salud Mental, APTEA y PREEFA. La embajada de los Estados Unidos en Bolivia otorgó apoyo económico y el transporte aéreo es provisto por **AmericanAirlines**.

Participaron como conferencistas invitados cuatro especialistas: Linda R. Watson, Ed. D, Elizabeth Crais, Ph.D, Terrence Carter Bethea, M.D, psiquiatra y Rosario Román, M.S. especialista en patología del lenguaje. Ellos presentaron los hallazgos de recientes investigaciones sobre la identificación y el tratamiento del desorden del espectro autista. La información compartida podrá tener gran impacto para los servicios ofrecidos a niñas y niños bolivianos que sufren de este trastorno, como también para los padres, maestros, médicos, investigadores y terapeutas en el país.

El autismo es un trastorno generalizado del desarrollo que afecta a un individuo a través de toda la vida y que se manifiesta usualmente por primera vez antes de los dos años, con problemas de comunicación e interacción social, junto con acciones repetitivas e intereses peculiares o restringidos. Se desconoce cuántos niños tengan el desorden en Bolivia específicamente. Los datos del Centro de Control de Enfermedades de EEUU revelan que el trastorno afecta a uno por cada 88 niños en ese país. Se informa también que en el mundo la prevalencia es en torno de 1 por ciento de la población. Aunque la diversidad de estándares de diagnosticar hace difícil saber conclusivamente cuántos sufren del desorden, es aceptado que la detección e intervención precoz pueden mejorar el pronóstico para estos niños.

Los conferencistas se refirieron al estado actual del conocimiento sobre asuntos relacionados a la intervención precoz y el tratamiento de los niños con autismo, el

diagnóstico y los síntomas más comunes, las ventajas y desventajas de varios instrumentos de evaluación, la eficacia de programas de educación e intervención temprana y los tratamientos para ayudar con el comportamiento negativo y las condiciones secundarias que a veces ocurren junto con el autismo. El seminario también ofreció oportunidades para conversación y discusión en grupo sobre preguntas y opiniones de los asistentes.

Se consideraron preguntas claves cómo ¿Qué es el autismo? ¿Por qué enfocamos en los niños pequeños? ¿A qué edad aparecen los primeros síntomas de conducta en el autismo? ¿Cómo parecen los indicios del autismo en los niños pequeños? ¿Cómo se diferencian los síntomas de un niño en comparación con otros niños con autismo?

El diagnóstico del autismo está basado en los síntomas de conducta. Los criterios específicos para el diagnóstico han cambiado en los últimos años. Los síntomas claves son: problemas con comunicación con los demás, problemas con interacciones sociales con otra gente, intereses y conducta restringidas y repetitivas.

Los organizadores de la conferencia esperan lograr como metas, sensibilizar y crear conciencia sobre los trastornos del autismo en Bolivia y establecer relaciones de apoyo mutuo entre comunidades internacionales, para poder proveer mejores soluciones a los niños afectados y a sus familias, en Bolivia.

[translation]

June 18-19, la Universidad Católica Boliviana San Pablo, Unidad Académica Santa Cruz were the site for an important international seminar about the autism spectrum. The event was held in the Psychopedagogy School auditorium. It was organized by the international institution Partners of the Americas of Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and La Paz, and their counterpart in the U.S. in North Carolina, and by the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, the Universidad Católica Boliviana, La Fundación Centro De Salud Mental, APTEA y PREEFA.

The United States Embassy in Bolivia provided financial aid, and American Airlines provided air travel.

Four invited specialists, presenters at the conferences were Linda R. Watson, Ed.D, Elizabeth Crais, Ph.D, Terrence Carter Bethea, M.D, psychiatrist and Rosario Román, M.S. specialist in language pathology. They presented findings of recent studies of the identification and treatment of autism spectrum disorder. The information shared can have a great impact for services offered to Bolivian children who suffer from this disorder, as well as parents, teachers, doctors, investigators and therapists in the country.

Autism is a developmental difficulty that affects an individual throughout his/her life and that usually presents itself first before the child is two, with problems of communication and social interaction, along with repetitive actions and fixations or narrow interests. It is not known specifically how many children in Bolivia have this disorder. Data from the Center of Disease Control in the U.S. show that it affects 1 or every 88 children in that country. They also have information that it affects 1% of the population. Although the diversity of diagnostic standards make it difficult to know conclusively how many suffer this disorder, it is accepted that early detection and intervention can improve the outlook for these children.

The conference presenters spoke of the current state of knowledge about early intervention and treatment of children with autism, diagnoses and common symptoms, advantages and disadvantages of the various evaluation instruments, effectiveness of education programs and timely intervention and treatments to help with negative behavior and the secondary conditions that sometimes occur together with autism. The seminar also offered

opportunities for group discussion of questions and opinions of attendees. They considered key questions such as 'What is Autism?' 'Why do we focus on small children?' 'At what age do the first symptoms of conduct related to autism appear?' 'What are the indicators of autism in small children?' 'How can the symptoms be differentiated of one child in comparison to other children with autism?'

The diagnosis of autism is based on the symptoms of conduct. The specific criteria for the diagnosis have changed in recent years. The key symptoms are: problems with communication with the others, problems with social interactions with another people, interests and conduct restricted and repetitive.

The organizers of the conference expect to achieve as goals, to sensitize and to create conscience on the inconveniences of autism in Bolivia and to establish relations of mutual support among international communities, to be able to provide better solutions in Bolivia to the children affected and to their families.



**PARTNERS of the AMERICAS**

Connect • Serve • Change Lives

### **New Initiatives from POA**

Partners of the Americas has established a number of new initiatives in order to keep itself vital and current. Here are some of them:

#### **Outreach to Partnerships to improve Communication**

Sallie Abbas is one of three ex-members of the International Board of Partners along with the current members functioning as liaisons to partnerships, helping to share project ideas among them, and providing additional communication from POA about resources and opportunities.

**PartnersConnect** is an initiative designed to create opportunities for our network and is a way of linking communities of volunteers as individuals, chapter, corporation, non-profit organization, or university.

Members of PartnersConnect will be able to communicate with other members, share experiences, promote opportunities, and work with Partners to connect, serve, and change lives. See *Steve Vetter's letter, next page.*

By joining PartnersConnect, members will gain the tools to connect with other members, share resources, and promote their efforts and skills. PartnersConnect members will also receive special access, prices, and information for Partners volunteer exchange opportunities, grants, peer-learning events, conferences, and strategic meetings with Partners in Washington, DC. Further your impact by registering at <https://www.partners.net/memberex.asp>

**PARTNERSCampus** – an innovative model for creating student-led, campus-based chapters of Partners of the Americas to engage the next generation of youth leaders in service and development projects and strengthen and expand the Partners volunteer network. Currently in a pilot stage, the first chapter was begun at American University. A resource for starting a student chapter is available at <http://www.partners.net/partners/PartnersCampus.asp>

**Partners Blog** In an effort to actively involve discussion and information-sharing, a blog is available at <http://www.partnersoftheamericas.net> Topics have included success of the Farmer to Farmer program in Guyana, stories of exceptional volunteerism, and a story in 3 parts of "decisión, dedicación, y trabajo" of how Lesly Zerna, a Youth Ambassador from Cochabamba got to go to the Youth Summit in Colombia in November.



Dear Partners Chapter Leaders and Volunteers,

**Great organizations aren't afraid to change when change is needed most.** Or as one well known US military leader said, "Those who don't like change will like irrelevance even less." Thankfully, in our 48 years of existence, Partners has not been afraid to evolve. In the 1970s, we broke away from the government and privatized; in the 1980s, you demanded quality control of our chapters and partnerships by setting the Standards of Excellence and forming the rechartering process; in the 1990s, our bifurcated governance boards were unified into one international board that represents the spirit of a truly hemispheric organization; in the 2000s, you approved governance reform to open our membership-only Board to individuals with the skills and connections the Board needs.

Today, after a series of dialogues, peer learning events, conventions, summits and surveys, I am proud to tell you that 2012 represents another historic change for Partners of the Americas. **Your International Board of Directors unanimously approved the PartnersConnect Affiliation Framework**, a framework that opens up our network and better connects Partners' Chapters and their collaborating "partners" and further offers an avenue for individuals, organizations, and higher education institutions to formally affiliate with Partners.

You rightfully and repeatedly demanded a Partners that embraces a network much greater than we imagined, that connects well in practice and not only in theory, that serves our member chapters and volunteers well, and that makes it easier for you to reveal and connect to the deeply committed network of people and organizations with whom you already work, or could be working with if they perceived the real value of the entire Partners' network. We are now poised, over the next several months, to make this happen through the implementation of the PartnersConnect Initiative.

**You might ask, what should we expect and when can we learn more?** Over the coming months members of the International Board and staff will reach out to you to on how to use PartnersConnect to strengthen the network. The ingredients of the PartnersConnect initiative were provided by you, and we will build and refine the initiative with you as well. Between September and December, stay tuned for:

- Information and materials explaining the foundation for and the components of the **PartnersConnect** Initiative;
- Information on how to renew your chapter's charter through the **2012 Rechartering Process**, a streamlined process focused on ensuring that our network meets core Standards of Excellence and that your chapters, volunteers and affiliates have the visibility you need;
- The opportunity to share your vision for Partners' **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** in 2014, including how we should celebrate it in your chapter, partnerships and across our network.

Finally, as you hold annual, quarterly and other meetings, please let us know about these meetings so we can better get you the information and support you need as you convene your dedicated members. I have great hope that as we enter our second half-century of service to the peoples of our hemisphere, we can be stronger and more deeply involved as we Connect, Serve, and Change Lives in the Americas and beyond.

In partnership and with deep appreciation for all you do,

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Steve Vetter  
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**A beautiful video of Bolivia** Aydee LaMadrid referred us to this on Youtube:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_detailpage&v=3oDyqrIRBs0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=3oDyqrIRBs0)

## Grants Available from POA

**Educational and Culture Exchange grants** –75 per year- for volunteers and Chapters are unlimited for any chapter. (10-day minimum for participant). These can be in the performing and visual arts, professional development of educators, Ethics education, judicial improvement/reform, promotion of rights of minorities and indigenous people, environmental protection and climate change. There are even grants available for learning first-hand about another chapter's success in an area of mutual interest.

Small grants (max. \$3,000) are available. Some in the past have been used for art exhibits, cultural presentations, curriculum development, vocational training, logistical support for a seminar.

## Newsbits

### Mary Helen Ferguson Leaves to Louisiana

Mary Helen has been an important contributor to our Partnership as Secretary and Board Member. She leaves to Louisiana to pursue an advanced degree. We will miss her!

### Steve Vetter's special Facebook site

President and CEO Steve Vetter travels the globe representing Partners of the Americas work, and Facebook is one of the best ways to follow his adventures. Find Steve at [www.facebook.com/vetterconnect](http://www.facebook.com/vetterconnect).

### Morales vows to fight Bolivia poverty

President used his Independence Day (Aug. 6) address to call for complete eradication of extreme poverty in his country by 2025. The speech focused on his goals for fighting poverty and improving access to basic services by the time Bolivia celebrates its bicentennial in 2025, 200 years after the country gained independence from Spain. He also called for improved food security and access to electricity and portable water for every citizen.



Wilma and Carlos answer the questionnaire



Karen Brown chats with AnaCe Moreno



Hank Graden and Judy Gibson work on some papers



Charles Mann recounts his trips to Bolivia



Kathy Johnson speaks about her work at Interact



Don Hopkins, Steve Gibson and Mary Helen Ferguson discuss a response to the Partners questionnaire.



Chris Stalberg explains a new feature of the Partners Website



Carlos Vargas gives a nicely prepared presentation about his medical trip to Cochabamba



President Sallie Abbas leads a candle-lighting memorial to Eva Marcus

Poem in honor of Eva Marcus'

**Homenaje a Eva** *por Sallie Abbas*

Alemana, Boliviana, del mundo ciudadana;  
 Amiga, mama, tía y ángel con los ángeles.  
 Para el hospital, Intermediario de medicinas,  
 Para Partners (Compañeros) como vitaminas...  
 Voluntaria extraordinaria, incansable  
 Anfitriona, dueña de la casa, hostelera generosa.  
 Consejadora para CERECO, SAR, viajeros, y todos  
 Poeta, con libros de sus poemas de familia, amigos, otros sujetos  
 Inolvidable, admirable, incomparable.  
 No olvidamos de su gentileza, su trabajo incansable  
 No hay otro(a) para comparar,  
 Nunca había una tal mujer.  
 Su ejemplo para ser sirviente de otros nos enseña, admiramos.  
 De este ángel nunca no olvidamos  
 Ahora que su voz calle con la muerte,  
 Pero sigue en nuestra memoria fuerte  
 Su corazón nos sigue hablando  
 Con este poema humilde estoy contando.

One of Eva Marcus' poems, read at the meeting:

Voluntaria del SAR Bolivia soy,  
 por eso a su aniversario me voy.  
 Pero algo yo quiero regalar,  
 dinero se ha terminado, otra cosa debo dar.  
 Creo que frazadas muy útil pueden ser,  
 porque lo que usan rotos son, este se puede ver.  
 Así los Voluntarios de turno se pueden tapar,  
 antes de salir a salvar vidas, se van a calentar.  
 Los Voluntarios del SAR su vida están arriesgando  
 y los sábados ni sus centavos les están pagando,  
 hasta don Mario la gasolina de su bolsillo están pagando  
 Pero Cochabamba de su SAR Bolivia muy orgullosos está  
 y rogamos que largos años funcionará

Eva an extraordinary volunteer for Partners, Hospital Viedma, SAR, CERECO, and more, honored by the full-page story in Cochabamba newspaper.

**Vida y Futuro**

**Eva Marcus, ejemplo de solidaridad y entrega**

Por más de 40 años dedica su trabajo al servicio de voluntariado en distintas instituciones de la ciudad. Consume la conciencia y trabaja con ella, reconociendo su importante labor de servicio «dentro» e «fuera» de la institución.

**TRABAJO y VIDA**

El mundo revuelto concuerda a ser integrante del Servicio de Voluntarios del Hospital Viedma. También, introduce voluntariado a los niños de Cochabamba.

En la vida de Eva Marcus, el trabajo y el servicio son inseparables. Desde que se graduó como enfermera en 1974, ha dedicado su vida a servir a los demás. Su labor se ha desarrollado en diversas instituciones, siempre con el mismo espíritu: el de servir y ayudar.

En 1980, se unió al equipo de voluntarios del Hospital Viedma, donde ha trabajado durante más de 30 años. Su labor se ha centrado en el cuidado de los pacientes, especialmente en el área de enfermería pediátrica.

Además de su trabajo en el hospital, Eva ha sido una gran colaboradora en el ámbito comunitario. Ha participado en numerosos proyectos de voluntariado, siempre con el mismo espíritu de solidaridad y entrega.

En 2010, fue reconocida como una de las mujeres más importantes de Cochabamba por su labor social y comunitaria.

En la actualidad, continúa trabajando en el Hospital Viedma, siempre con el mismo espíritu de servicio y dedicación.

**En la vida de Eva Marcus...**

En la vida de Eva Marcus, el trabajo y el servicio son inseparables. Desde que se graduó como enfermera en 1974, ha dedicado su vida a servir a los demás. Su labor se ha desarrollado en diversas instituciones, siempre con el mismo espíritu: el de servir y ayudar.

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Además de su trabajo en el hospital, Eva ha sido una gran colaboradora en el ámbito comunitario. Ha participado en numerosos proyectos de voluntariado, siempre con el mismo espíritu de solidaridad y entrega.

En 2010, fue reconocida como una de las mujeres más importantes de Cochabamba por su labor social y comunitaria.

En la actualidad, continúa trabajando en el Hospital Viedma, siempre con el mismo espíritu de servicio y dedicación.

**NC Partners Bid Farewell to AnaCe**  
 Lee Moore hosted a farewell potluck for Ana Cecilia at Lee's house, attended by a number of NC Partners members and friends.



Art Waber & AnaCe



Lee & AnaCe

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

**NCP History**

Years ago a small committee put together a history of our partnership, which was founded in 1976. Kitty Stalberg as Past-President is writing the summary of her two years as president.

The history is available in digital form

**NC Partners Website Visit our Website at [www.ncboliviapartners.org](http://www.ncboliviapartners.org) to see news, calendar, photos, past issues of the newsletter, and more!**  
**You'll find Partners International at [www.partners.net](http://www.partners.net)**  
 Dues and other payments and donations may be made at our Website through PayPal.

**Cell Phone and Printer Cartridge Fundraiser**

I recently sent in some donated printer cartridges, older cell phones, and a digital camera to the cash-for-recycling place we have dealt with over the past several years, and we are receiving a check for NC Partners. Don't forget to collect these items --your own, ask at your office, or any groups with which you're associated-- and turn them in at a meeting, or if you have a bunch, connect with Sallie Abbas for info on how to ship them directly, via FedEx, at no cost to you, and NCPOA benefits!

Thank you to Mary Helen, Heike, Rodney, and some others for helping collect these!



NCPOA Midyear meeting, June 2012

**North Carolina Partners of the Americas Officers:**

Sallie Abbas, President  
 h919-467-0382; [swabbas@nc.rr.com](mailto:swabbas@nc.rr.com)  
 Christian Stalberg, Vice-President  
[chris@stalberg.net](mailto:chris@stalberg.net)  
 Past President/Advisor Kitty Stalberg 942-7882;  
[kit@mindspring.com](mailto:kit@mindspring.com)  
 h 704-825-0586; [cvargas@mindspring.com](mailto:cvargas@mindspring.com)  
 Kitty Stalberg and Mary Helen Ferguson, co-Secretaries  
 Newsletter Editor: Sallie Abbas  
 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, Don Hopkins, March Krotee, Heike Meissner, Larry Nelson, Robert Pyle, John Sabella, Christian Stalberg, Kitty Stalberg, Rodney Swink, Benson Timmons, Carlos Vargas, Deborah Wilkes, Richard Whitmore, L. George Wilson.

**Subcommittees and Chairs:**

Culture and the Arts - Art Waber, Martha Keravouri, Lee Moore  
 Health and Clinical Practices-Carlos Vargas, Ben Timmons  
 Agriculture -Steve Gibson  
 Emergency Preparedness- Steve Cohen  
 Education –Karen Brown, Deborah Wilkes  
 Sports -March Krotee  
 Membership - Virginia Freedman  
 The committees Women and Development and Democratic Initiatives are not active.  
 We are in need of someone to lead the Social Committee

**Officers of the Cochabamba Partners**

*President:* Dra. Daysi Marlene Mercado V.  
[mar\\_daysi@hotmail.com](mailto:mar_daysi@hotmail.com)  
*President-elect:* Arq. Rosario Claros  
[Rosario-claros@hotmail.com](mailto:Rosario-claros@hotmail.com)  
*General Secretary:* Lic. Victor Morales Bardales  
*Treasurer:* Ms. Lesly Sandra Zerna  
*Immediate Past President:* Dra. Janet Orieta Morales B. de Villazón [jamobar@gmail.com](mailto:jamobar@gmail.com)

**On the Calendar (2012):**

Executive Committee meeting	Jan 9, Feb 13	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board Meeting*	March 17, 9am-noon	First United Meth Church, Cary
Executive Committee meeting	April 9, May 14	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board meeting*, Mid-year meeting	June 9	TBA
Executive Committee meeting	August 13	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board Meeting* and grant-writing wkshop	September 8	First United Meth Church, Cary
Executive Committee meeting	October 15, November 12	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board meeting*, Annual Meeting	December 8	NCSU University Club, Raleigh

\*Quarterly Board Meetings are held on Saturdays, 9:30-12:00