

NEWSLETTER

Latin American Solidarity Committee of the Western New York Peace Center



Spring 2016

LASC Dental Clinic/ Dr. Tom Potts' Report

We again provided free dental services in our clinic in Chenalho' Chiapas Mexico from Nov.'15 - Feb,'16. In addition to our usual services of cleanings, filings, & extractions we began treating the children in the school adjacent to the clinic with fluoride varnish. We treated approximately 200 children in Nov.'15. At the same time we trained Aurea Vasquez, dental assistant, in the technique of varnish application so that she can again apply the varnish six months later (May 16). We have also supplied the clinic with the necessary supplies to carry out this program. A reduction of up to 50% in the incidence of dental caries can be expected from this type of intervention at very minimal cost (approximately \$600 per yr.)

Unfortunately Tom Potts is getting old (70) and crochety and doesn't want to deal with any more screaming and biting five year olds (who can blame him?) Consequently he has decided to retire from dental work in Chenalho' but will continue the fluoride varnish program for the foreseeable future. The Chenalho' community gave him a wonderful retirement party with endless speechifying, lots of "caldo de pollo" and mountains of fresh tortillas (see the photo below)

LASC is also working with the Mayan Educational Foundation to provide a scholarship to Ceiba Marisol to study dentistry. She will complete her studies in 4 years and has promised to return to Chenalho' to deliver services. Ceiba spent a morning at the clinic in February. She is very dedicated and serious with a sincere interest in helping her community, Our friend Dr. Christine Eber was central in arranging the scholarship program.

www.mayaedufound.org



Seek Justice for Murdered Honduran Indigenous Leader

comments by Bill Jungels
First Honduras was Reagan's base for the "Contra" and their American advisors. Then, when an elected President attempted modest land reforms, there was a coup to which Obama tepidly objected, followed in quick succession by recognition of the illegitimate government. Since then there has been open season on anyone championing reform, human rights or indigenous autonomy. In a milieu of hopelessness for the poor, gangs imported from LA are rampant and murder rates are through the roof.

The latest killing of a beloved indigenous leader, Berta Cáceres, has brought worldwide attention and action. She led the fight against an environmentally destructive mega-dam hydroelectric project. The government is trying to make a case that someone in her own organization did it. With her when she died, and twice wounded was Mexican activist **Gustavo Castro**, whom I have twice interviewed for documentary projects. Honduran authorities forcibly prevented Gustavo from leaving the country where, as the endangered living witness to the crime, he holed up for his personal safety in the Mexican Embassy. Finally after he gave numerous depositions the Honduran authorities, bowing to heavy international pressure, 24 days after the crime they allowed him to return home.

Add your voice to those calling for justice in the investigation of Berta Cáceres and the protection of her followers who continue to be threatened. Read: <http://otherworldsarepossible.org/alternatives/justice-honduras>
En español: <http://www.otrosmundoschiapas.org/>
(Gustavo's organization) Take Action: <http://www.rightsaction.org/action-content/berta-caceres-did-not-die-she-multiplied>

Let's remember our friends who are no longer with us:
Rev. Phil Smith
and
Cynthia Dwyer

DELEGATIONS/TRIPS
to Latin America
witnessforpeace.org
Alliance for Global Justice:
www.afgj.org
Nicaragua Network:
friendsatc.org

Latin American Solidarity Committee Membership Form

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Wk/cell _____

email (IMPORTANT) : _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Comments _____

Annual Membership \$15 _____ \$6 (limited income) _____ Other \$ _____

Checks payable to **WNY PEACE CENTER, INC. - LASC** are tax deductible *Thank You !!!!*

LASC is a consistent and constant presence in Western New York. Our task force grew out of the National Pledge of Resistance movement of the 1980's, when many of us worked to prevent US sponsored wars in Central America. Over time, we expanded our work to accompany popular and indigenous movements of the Western Hemisphere.

We work on **Humanitarian Aid Projects** and **Assistance to Solidarity Organizations** there, and **Education** and **Legislation** here at home, through informational lectures and coffeehouses, editorials, letter writing/telephone campaigns, congressional visits, petitions, and support of farmworker issues, dental clinics in Chiapas and Nicaragua, Pastors for Peace aid caravans, community centers in Chiapas, and many other projects. We link our Latin America issues to globalization, US militarism, cultural tolerance, and the environment.

For more information go to www.lascwny.org

Some Upcoming Events:

Sat 4/30. WNYPC ANNUAL MTG, 2 pm FUNraiser & 5 pm Potluck: St. Mary's School for the Deaf, 2253 Main(main building)
If you are interested in being on the WNYPC Coordinating Board please call the office at 716-332-3904

Also sign up for the Peace Center's Weekly News at weeklynews@wnypeace.org

School of America Watch www.soaw.org has May, 2016 DELEGATIONS TO VENEZUELA

Monday 7-9 May 23 COFFEEHOUSE at HALLWALLS corner Delaware & Tupper - Showing recent documentary/film **MAESTRA** with our friends from the Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association (CCFA) Niagara



Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization

**June 20 Monday 5:30 +
27th US-Cuba Friendship Caravan
CELEBRATE with a backyard BBQ,
food, live music with BILL NOWAK & musicians
from 5 to 1 band, dancing, & camaraderie
& discussion w/Manolo representing P4P
at 74 Wellington Rd near Hertel**

for more info call: 835 4705

**You can travel to Cuba as a caravanista. Let LASC
know of your interest and check:**

www.ifconews.org