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**Washington State/Chile Partners of the Americas**

# Amigos Americanos

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**July 2007**

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## **Partners Picnic-August 19**

On Sunday, August 19, all members, with their friends and families, are invited to a potluck picnic at [Volunteer Park, at picnic tables just south of the kiddie wading pool. This location also has a play area for kids, shade, and bathrooms, and is near the Seattle Asian Art Museum in the park.](#) Partners' special guest will be Chilean Partner Ana Luisa Jouanne, who will be in Washington on a Partners-sponsored travel grant through August 31.



Volunteer Park [address: 1247 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. E., North Capitol Hill in Seattle \(near Susan Sola's house, 1204 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. E., where we will go if it rains\).](#)  
[Time: 4:00-7:00 p.m.](#)

## **Chilean Peña-September 11**

Please join well-known local poets and Partners Arts & Culture committee members Eugenia Toledo-Keyser and Carolyne Wright for an authentic Chilean peña, with empanadas, wine, music and poetry, in memory of "The Other 9/11- El otro 11 de septiembre" from 7-9 p.m. at Richard Hugo House, 1634 11th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122, tel. (206) 322-7030. This event is co-sponsored by Richard Hugo House and Washington/Chile Partners of the Americas. Please visit [www.hugohouse.org](http://www.hugohouse.org), or call 206-367-0242 for further information.

Note: Eugenia and Carolyne will be teaching a class on the poetry of Pablo

Neruda at Hugo House in the fall, on Wednesday evenings, 7-9 p.m., October 3-November 7, 2007.

The two poets are also spearheading a Partners project to exchange poetry and poets between the Northwest and Chile. Both our "Partners Poets" have recently published new books of poetry, and Eugenia is featured in the new local Spanish language magazine "Latino Cultural." [See more information on these poets on page 13 of this newsletter.]



Youth Ambassador Andrea Cifuentes from Iquique, Chile, climbs the REI wall in Seattle. [See article, p. 7]

## **2007 Membership Dues**

At a recent board meeting, we realized we have not done a good job of reaching out to our past dues paying

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members and so many others that remain interested in our partnership's annual activities. Through this newsletter we hope you'll see we've planned for and carried out or supported several worthwhile exchange and cultural awareness programs in the past year.

To keep our organization thriving, solvent, and able to meet our goals, we are asking for your continued support through membership annual dues. We are an all volunteer organization and renewing your 2007 membership dues will help support chapter costs and activities such as:

- Annual dues of \$100 for our membership in our parent organization, Partners of the Americas (PoA), Inc.
- An annual donation of about \$200 from our chapter to PoA, Inc. to help defray the routine costs of assisting us throughout the year on travel and project grant applications and awards. This is based on a percentage of dues received.
- Annual hosting costs of about \$180 for our chapter website. The website is currently undergoing needed reconstruction and updating thanks to chapter board member Tim Hilliard.
- Chapter hosted receptions for our local members, invited guests and Chilean visitors when we provide beverages and food.
- Incidental costs (transportation, parking, country entrance fees, and occasional meals) that are not covered by Partners-funded travel or small grants.

Your annual dues also give you an official voting voice at our annual meetings in November or December when board members are nominated and elected by the general membership. At the first meeting of the year in January, board members elect chapter officers (President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary and Executive Director). Current dues paid members are also eligible to run for the board and, if elected, are eligible for election to the leadership roles noted above.

Annual dues donations are: Student-\$10, Individual-\$30, Family-\$60, Business/Professional-\$100, Corporate or Institutional-\$250, Lifetime-\$500 or more. Partners is a 501(c)(3) organization, so your dues are tax-deductible. Please send your check to: Washington/Chile Partners of the Americas, P.O. Box 1017, Seattle, WA 98111-1017.

We thank those who have paid so far for this year: Victoria Bennett, Christina Bruning, Oren and Gay Campbell, Mariela Darnell, Steve & Carla Dean, Ana Dvoredsky, Julie Edsforth & Jabe Blumenthal, Buck Frymier, Susan Hagist, Tim Hilliard, Edmundo & Anita

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Hoffens, Karen Jones & Erik Rasmussen, Barb Klein, Christine Knorr, Paula Laschober, Yvette Mallow, Paul Mocha, John & Jerene Morford, Steve Murphy, Wally Pereyra (lifetime), Susan Sola, Eugenia Toledo-Keyser, Gwen Vernon, Nancy & James Williams, Frank Woodruff & Jan Agosti, Carolyn Wright, Rodrigo Yanez, and Bill Zachmann.

## WA Partners 2006 Annual Meeting and 2007 Officers

The all-members annual meeting was held December 9, 2006, at Barnaby's Restaurant in Tukwila. Discussion included recent visit to Washington by Chilean Partners member Monica Alcalde, recent visit to Chile by Washington President Bill Zachmann, and information from the International Convention (held in Belize) provided by Paula Laschober and Barb Klein.

An election of 2007-2008 General Board members was held and Oren Campbell, Mariela Darnell (returning), Ana Dvoredsky, Susan Hagist, Barb Klein, and Yvette Mallow (returning) were elected. Continuing Board members, elected for the 2006-2007 period, are Buck Frymier, Tim Hilliard, Paula Laschober, Paul Mocha, John Morford, Steve Murphy, Susan Sola, Jerry Thornton, Gwen Vernon, Rodrigo Yanez and Bill Zachmann.

At the first meeting of the year in January, officers re-elected were Bill Zachmann-President, Steve Murphy-Vice President, Paul Mocha-Secretary, John Morford-Treasurer and Paula Laschober-Executive Director. In May, Bill Zachmann asked the Board to elect another President, which it did at the Board meeting held June 7. Susan Sola is the President for the remainder of 2007. Given the travel commitments of Vice President Steve Murphy for the remainder of the year, the Board also elected Barb Klein 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President in order to provide for administrative continuity and assistance. Barb will attend new leader training at Partners headquarters in Washington, D.C., in August.

## Record Volunteer Hours

**Partners Counts:** Please log your meeting, travel, planning and other volunteer hours that you give to Partners, either online at [www.partners.net](http://www.partners.net) (click on Partners Counts), or on a paper timesheet (download from same Web site). It can be done by quarters and estimates if you don't want to keep a more frequent log. These hours count like money toward matching requirements for Partner grants.

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#### Washington State/Chile Partners of the Americas

##### Officers & Chairs - Washington

<u>Officers</u>		<u>Phone</u>
Susan Sola	President	(206) 860-7594
Steve Murphy	V.P.	(206) 525-5511
Barbara Klein	2 <sup>nd</sup> V.P.	(206) 527-4727
Paul Mocha	Secretary	(206) 762-3773
John Morford	Treasurer	(206) 930-6005
Paula Laschober	Exec. Director	(206) 363-7474

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Arts & Culture	Mariela Darnell	(425) 996-58
Economic Dev.	Rodrigo Yáñez	(206) 575-1650
Educ/SocDev	Paula Laschober	(206) 363-7474
Emergency Prep.	Bill Zachmann	(360) 664-1926
Environment	Tim Hilliard	(360) 556-6842
Health	Vacant	

##### Officers & Chairs - Chile

<u>Officers</u>		<u>Phone</u>
Jorge Valenzuela	President	(56-2) 223-5917
Elena Torres	V.P.	(56-2) 697-2334
Reynaldo Ruiz	Secretary	
Eduardo Conca	Treasurer	(56-2) 274-6068

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Arts & Culture	M.T. Herrero	(56-2) 326-6243
Economic Dev.	Jorge Valenzuela	(56-2) 223-5917
	Eduardo Conca	(56-2) 274-6068
Educ/SocDev	M. Abramovich	mauabra48@terra.cl
Emergency Prep.	Augusta Crino	augustacrino@terra.cl
Environment	Mario Peña	(56-2) 223-2205
Health	Dr. A. Blanco	(56-2) 677-2076

Newsletter Editor: Paula Laschober

## International Convention

The 2006 Annual International Partners Convention was held Nov. 16-18. Barb Klein and Paula Laschober attended, and Paula was elected to a 3-year term on the Interamerican Board. Under the guidance of the Belize/Michigan Partners, all attendees were invited to help rehabilitate a local park near the convention hotel. This park will be kept up by the Belize Partners in the future. Moringa trees were also planted at a nearby school, a project that was funded by the Madelyn L. Laschober endowment fund within the Partners Foundation. The Belize Partners also were awarded a Pixote Literacy Fund grant, which is likewise an endowment fund within the Partners Foundation and

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which was established by Washington Partner Steve Murphy.

The 2007 Convention will be held Nov. 15-17 in Ouro Preto, Brazil. Information can be obtained at [www.partners.net](http://www.partners.net). All members are invited.



Ouro Preto, Brazil

## Visit by Chilean Partner from Education Committee

Monica Alcalde, member of the Chilean Partners Education and Social Development Committee and Cultural Affairs Specialist with the U.S. Embassy in Santiago, visited Washington November 19-December 1, 2006, after attending the Partners International Convention in Belize. Her trip was funded by a Partners grant from the US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Citizen Exchanges.

The purpose of Monica's visit was mainly to see civic education programs and share views on non-profit organization governance. Her itinerary included University Prep Academy and Eastside Catholic High School, the Center for Non-Profit and Social Enterprise Management at Seattle University, the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington, Residence XII (an addiction dependency treatment center for women), the International Visitors Program of the World Affairs Council, and the League of Women Voters. The Washington Partners had also arranged some other visits (the Court Appointed Special Advocates-CASA-program for children, the "We the People" civic education program at Mt. Rainier High School, and visits with legislators and State officials in Olympia), but snow and ice intervened to make the travel to these locations very difficult at the end of November.

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Home hosting for Monica was provided by Paula Laschober. Jeff and Aki Stevenson helped with transportation and Aki arranged the visit to University Prep. Jeff provided the contact at the Evans School and Susan Hagist provided the transportation. John Morford arranged the visit to Seattle University and also provided transportation. Susan Sola helped with transportation and a visit with two Chilean legislators who happened to be visiting Seattle through the World Affairs Council program. Barb Garcia provided the contact and transportation to Eastside Catholic H.S.

Larry and Omie Kerr provided home hosting for Monica over the Thanksgiving weekend, thereby renewing their acquaintance from the time Larry and Omie had served in the U.S. Embassy in Santiago. Joe McGovern and Jane Soder met with Monica at Paula Laschober's house to provide information about the CASA program. Kathy Hand arranged for the visit to the "We the People" program and Olympia. Kris and Catherine Passey were all set to provide transportation to some of the sites on Monica's agenda, but snow prevented taking advantage of their assistance. Many thanks to all for their collaboration in making Monica's visit a success.



Aki Stevenson with Monica Alcalde (right) at University Prep Academy

## WA ESL Teacher in Chile

by Christine Knorr

The invitation to go to Chile in December of 2006 for two weeks by the Washington Chapter of Partners of the Americas was an opportunity like no other. On December 3, I arrived and was greeted by Monica Alcalde. As a teacher trainer for aspiring teachers of English as a Second Language at the School for Teaching ESL in Seattle, I was excited and very curious to learn about the current educational trends in Chile.

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My main focus of interest lay in the Chilean government's decision that Chile would become a bilingual nation and better understand its strategic plan in reaching this goal. In regards to this, through Partners, I had the opportunity to meet with Eliana Chamizo, coordinator of the national English language and culture program "English Opens Doors," who was able to fill me in on Chile's serious plans on implementing English language instruction in all the public schools starting at the elementary grades.

I also wanted to learn more about the Chilean academic higher education system, the requirements for future English teachers, and what resources are currently available for these teachers. Thanks to Jacqueline Nunez, I was put in contact with the Binational Institute of Temuco, University Mayor, and the Colegio Almenar. These visits really helped me understand how sincere and hardworking this nation is in regards to improving its education system. That said, Chile is still faced with a great challenge. Lack of qualified English teachers, low pay, and crowded classes were the main concerns expressed by teachers, administrators, and students.

On a more personal level, I am forever grateful for having had this wonderful opportunity. I cannot express how pleased and overwhelmed I am from this experience. My hosts, Elena Torres, Margarita Atton, and Mauricio and Myriam Abramovich, were all very welcoming and most generous. A special thanks to Margarita for showing me Temuco, her institute, and her lovely family. With limited language, we managed to laugh a lot. I spent most of my time with the Abramovich family, whose generosity was exceptional. Although my Spanish was minimal, they were patient and taught me so much about Chilean history, geography, art, and cooking—not to mention Pisco Sour! I will never forget their kindness and I hope to offer the same in return. On December 16, they accompanied me to the airport and we said our sad goodbyes.

Overall, the teachers and individuals I met through the Partners all showed exceptional dedication and enthusiasm regarding their professions and volunteerism. Chile is indeed serious in its endeavor to promote English and put in place solid programs throughout its education system and I returned with even more enthusiasm than when I left. The question lies in how can Washington Partners be of assistance and serve as a resource to its Chilean partner in helping it reach its goal?

[Editor's note: Christine's trip was funded through a Partners grant provided by the US Department of State,

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Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Citizen Exchanges.]

# Washington State Chapter President Visits Chile

by Bill Zachmann

In November 2006, Chapter President Bill Zachmann traveled to Santiago for 7 days of meetings and visits with Chilean chapter board members, officers, committee members and other local supporters and collaborators.

The trip was funded by an award from PoA, Inc. given to the Washington State chapter for having raised the most money of any U.S. chapter during a 2005 fundraising campaign. The award was a result of generous local chapter members' donations plus a sizeable donation from the Laschober family.

The purpose of the visit was to renew connections within the partnership and review communications protocols between both chapters' boards and committees. The visit was timely since a new round of partnership project and work plan development was on the horizon for 2007.

The Chilean board met with Bill to review existing work plans and consider which projects were still viable to carry out and which projects should be removed if they were no longer needed or feasible. This activity set the stage when the Washington State chapter board met in early 2007 to prepare Susan Hagist for her work plan development project as described in this newsletter (p. 6).



Chilean Partners Neri and Jorge Valenzuela, Bob and Lynn McMeekin, and María Teresa Herrero (l to r)

In addition to attending two Chilean chapter board meetings, Bill met with the Environmental/Emergency Management and the Education Committees and with

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others in the non-governmental organization (NGO) sector.

Outside of formal chapter meetings, Bill's itinerary was active and well organized by Chilean chapter president Jorge Valenzuela and other board members. For example, he met with US Embassy staff about the pending Youth Ambassadors project, attended an assembly of ASONG (Assembly of NGOs based in Chile), toured a Santiago facility that supports disabled children nationwide, visited the Office of Emergency Management's headquarters and regional facilities, and toured Santiago fire stations and the National Fire Training Academy site.



Chilean Partners Eduardo Conca, Mari and Raúl Becerra--Bill Zachmann--and Mario Peña (l to r)

Bill's home stay in Santiago was graciously provided by Jorge and Neri Valenzuela, and also included a weekend visit to their coastal cottage near San Antonio. Chilean board members Augusta Crino, Eduardo Conca, Juan Faundez, Ana Maria Urrutia, Maria Teresa Herrero and Jackie Nuñez, and Emergency Management Committee member Jose Echiburru also provided their time and resources to keep the agenda active and interesting.



Chilean Partners Juan Faúndez and Augusta Crino with Bill Zachmann (l to r) in Juan's restaurant in Viña del Mar.

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### Partners Planning Meetings in Paraguay and Chile

by Susan Hagist

This winter our partnership had the opportunity to send one person from Washington and one person from Chile to a two day planning meeting in Asuncion, Paraguay. Susan Hagist (WA) and Jorge Valenzuela (Chile) were chosen to represent their chapters. Their job was to move forward the 2007-2008 work plan. As well as our Partnership there were six other Partnerships from the southern part of South America including Peru, Paraguay, Argentina, three parts of Bolivia and the states they are linked with. With input from Partners Chile, Partners Washington compiled a list of possible projects, listed resources and did a feasibility study of the projects. Susan and Jorge worked on which projects to include in the 2007-2008 work plan, the objectives and timetable of the projects and resources. Matt Clausen and Dennis Shaw from Partners of the Americas in Washington, D.C. presented helpful information for the functioning of partnerships as well as guidelines for work plans. At the end of the two days Susan and Jorge flew together to Santiago.

In Chile Susan did an eight day project continuing with the work plan. Many Partners Chile members worked hard to make appointments for her to visit potential project sites and to meet with the staff. Partners members accompanied her to these appointments and often helped her with the Spanish. Some of these sites were the Campamento Villa Hermosa, the Hogar Koinomadelfia, the Corporacion La Esperanza, the Corporacion Cultural Camara Chilena de la Construccion, the Corporacion Cultural de lo Barnechea and the Asociacion Nacional de Mujeres Rurales e Indigenas. Susan also met twice with the Partners Chile board of directors and spent individual time with several of them including Jorge Valenzuela, Elena Torres and Maria Teresa Herrero. She also traveled to Vina del Mar and discussed possible Partners' projects with Juan Faundez. Partners Chile provided home stays for Susan with the families of Jorge Valenzuela, Monica Alcalde and Juan Faundez. Upon returning, Susan provided information from this trip to the Partners Washington board of directors both verbally and in a written trip report.

[Editor's note: Susan's trip was funded through a Partners grant provided by the US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Citizen Exchanges.]

### Amigos Americanos Chilean ESL Teacher Visits Washington

by Carmen Carmona

My name is Carmen Carmona Robles. I am a teacher of English and was fortunate to spend four weeks in the US through the "Teacher in Residence Program" sponsored by Partners of the Americas, between April 21 and May 21, 2007. This experience was greatly enriching, both as a person and as a professional. I visited ESL (English as a Second language) classes at Shoreline Community College for two weeks and then an ESL teacher training course at S-TESOL for two more weeks, where I could observe and learn from other teachers who work in this field. Being able to share my teaching experience with colleagues and administrators gave me a better idea of our area.



Carmen Carmona (standing, center) with girls at Lake Washington Girls Middle School, Seattle

I had never been to an English speaking country before, so I could also test myself on my language skills and I can proudly say that I was able to understand and make myself understood without major problems. Living the cultural experience of staying in the US, eating American food, going to the grocery store, taking the bus, visiting museums, going sightseeing, going to a baseball game and even just walking down Seattle's streets were unforgettable life events I will always treasure, as well as all the wonderful people I met there, and all the teachers who agreed to have me in their classes. I do want to thank my host, Paula, who, through her warmth, honesty and intelligence taught me I can still have faith in the human race.

Thank you all!

[Editor's note: Thanks to all who helped make Carmen's visit a success with their invitations, including Partners Aura Erickson, Christine Knorr, Paul Mocha, and Edmundo and Anita Hoffens; Center for Women and Democracy members Debra Ricci, Karen Kallandar, and Sarah Weaver; and all those who attended welcome and goodbye potlucks. Carmen's trip was funded through a Partners grant provided by the US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Citizen Exchanges.]

## PROGRAMA JOVENES EMBAJADORES

by Jackie Núñez (Chilean Partner)

Durante el mes de febrero se efectuó el Programa "Jóvenes Embajadores", auspiciado por el Departamento de Estado de los Estados Unidos y Partners of the Americas. Este programa fue coordinado por las Embajadas Norteamericanas de los países invitados y los capítulos locales tales como: Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brasil y Chile.



YAs at Pike Place Market, Seattle: (l to r) Alfredo, Stephanie, Pablo, Ayleen, Emiliano, Andrea, Camilo

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En el caso del Capítulo Chile-Washington State, los alumnos seleccionados para viajar a Estados Unidos fueron: Ayleen Vásquez (Arica); Andrea Cifuentes (Iquique); Pablo Valenzuela (Santiago); Camilo Muñoz (Curicó) y Stephanie Donicke (Punta Arenas), quienes tuvieron la oportunidad de permanecer una semana en Washington D.C. y una semana en el Estado de Washington (Seattle y Olympia).

Durante su primera semana realizaron importantes visitas guiadas como lo son: Capitolio, Museos, Corte Suprema, y tour por la ciudad que concluyó con una visita a la Casa Blanca donde tuvieron la oportunidad de fotografiarse con la primera Dama, Mrs. Laura Bush.

Posteriormente, viajaron a Seattle, donde estuvieron alojados en casas de familias y asistieron a colegios del estado para integrarse de esta forma a actividades diarias de los jóvenes americanos, quienes además, pudieron intercambiar experiencias y conocimientos de ambos países en un ameno y entretenido programa organizado por el capítulo de Partners of the Americas en Seattle.

La experiencia de estos jóvenes fue una valiosa y significativa oportunidad, dado que a su regreso tuvieron la oportunidad de ser entrevistados por diversos medios de comunicación, que además de dar a conocer sus experiencias, fueron testigos del interesante intercambio cultural producido con la cultura norteamericana y la de los otros países invitados.



Youth Ambassadors Camilo Muñoz (l) and Pablo Valenzuela (r) with Christina Bruning in Santiago

Agradecemos una vez más, este valioso aporte del Gobierno Norteamericano y en forma especial a Partners of the Americas, por organizar este programa para futuros líderes de la comunidad latina que les permite no sólo desarrollar sus habilidades lingüísticas y de conocimiento general, sino que integrarse en una mejor

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forma al mundo globalizado y de mayor competitividad en cada región.

*Translation of above article, provided by Washington Partners intern Piya Banerjee*

This February, the “Youth Ambassadors” (YA) program, sponsored by the United States State Department and Partners of the Americas, was carried out. The program was coordinated by the North American ambassadors of the invited countries and local Partners chapters including: Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil, and Chile.

In the case of the Chile-Washington state chapter, the students selected to travel to the United States were: Ayleen Vásquez (Arica); Andrea Cifuentes (Iquique); Pablo Valenzuela (Santiago); Camilo Muñoz (Curicó) and Stephanie Donicke (Punta Arenas), who had the opportunity to spend a week in Washington D.C. and one week in the state of Washington (Seattle and Olympia).

During the first week, they were taken on guided visits to such locations as the Capitol, museums, the Supreme Court, and a general tour around Washington, D.C. They concluded with an exciting visit to the White House where they had an opportunity to take a photo with the First Lady, Mrs. Laura Bush.

Next, they traveled to Seattle where they were hosted by local families and attended public and private schools to integrate themselves with daily activities of American youth. Furthermore, they were able to exchange experiences and knowledge of both countries in an entertaining program organized by the chapter of Partners of the Americas in Seattle.

The experience of these youth was a valuable and significant opportunity, given that upon return, they had the opportunity to be interviewed by various media and, in addition to sharing their experiences, they served as witnesses of the interesting cultural exchanges with the North American culture and those of the invited countries.

We are grateful again to the U.S government and especially Partners of the Americas for organizing this program for the future leaders of the Latin American community. This allowed them not only to develop their language skills and general knowledge, but also to integrate themselves into the globalized world and the increasingly competitive environments in each region.

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[Editor’s note: Two Argentine YAs also joined the Chileans: Alfredo Carlos Vaudagna of Santa Fe and Emiliano Daniel Nahuele of Cordoba. Many, many



YAs with Secretary of State Sam Reed in Olympia

thanks are due to new Partners member Christina Bruning, who took on the challenge of organizing an incredible and fun program for the Youth Ambassadors, who were accompanied by long-time Chilean Partner Jackie Núñez as their adult escort. That included finding host schools and host families for all. Host schools included Tahoma High School, Evergreen Jr. High School, University Prep and Lakeside School.

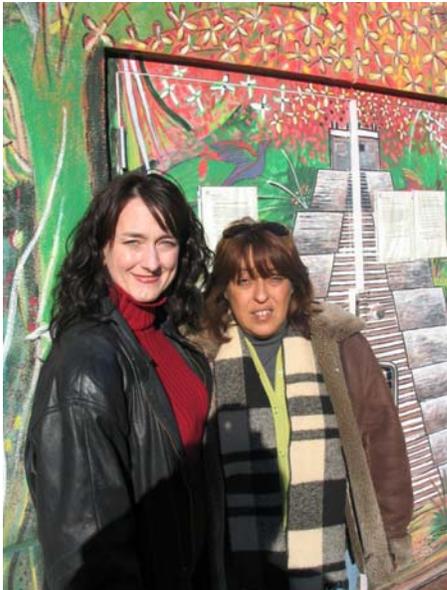
Activities included visits to local schools, Microsoft, the State Capitol in Olympia—including a meeting with Secretary of State Sam Reed—and visit to a recycling center (Partners President Bill Zachmann helped make these arrangements), a University of Washington career exploration day (arranged with assistance of WA Partners member Andrea Bloomquist), and tours of REI, Pike Place Market, the Space Needle, and the Experience Music Project—where the youth made a video of their own “rock” group.

Special thanks to the host families for both the youth and Jackie: Steve and Carla Dean, Edmundo and Anita Hoffens, Karen Jones and Erik Rasmussen, Nancy and James Williams, Frank Woodruff and Jan Agosti, Jabe Blumenthal and Julie Edsforth, and Paula Laschober. And even more thanks to Jeff and Aki Stevenson who took on hosting of two “surprise” additions to the youth group—two students from Argentina that were sent to us at the last minute because their California invitation fell through.

And thanks also to those who made sure Jackie got to her non-YA professional visits, including Susan Sola (to Residence XII addiction treatment center, Richard Hugo House, and Consejo Counseling and Referral Services),

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and Christine Knorr (to Wildland Adventures); Carla Dean, who also arranged Jackie's visit to Kent Youth and Family Services; and Julie Edsforth who helped with transportation.]



Jackie Núñez (right) with Chelle Hunziger, Domestic Violence Program Manager at Consejo Counseling and Referral Services for the Latin Community

## Chilean Social Worker Visits Washington

by Paul Mocha

In January, 2007, Washington-Chile Partners of the Americas hosted Sergio Almonacid, a social worker from Chile, who is the director of services for the elderly and disabled in the municipality of San Bernardo (on the outskirts of Santiago).

Mr. Almonacid had a special interest during this visit in programs for the disabled, especially the developmentally disabled. The day after his arrival in Seattle, he visited Bancharo, a home and program for the developmentally disabled.

In the following two weeks, he visited the entire spectrum of programs for the elderly and disabled, from housing, to employment training, to special education, to advocacy; and he visited programs and agencies at all levels, from private and non-profit to municipal, county, state and federal levels.

He also traveled to the state capital, Olympia, where he visited Washington State programs for the disabled; to

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the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' Puget Sound Health Care System in Tacoma, where the coordinator for this visit and Partners Board member, Paul Mocha, is employed and where he toured services for disabled and elderly veterans; and to the University of Washington, Tacoma.

At the University, he was the guest speaker at a class on aging at the Social Work program, held in his honor at Carwein Auditorium.



Sergio Almonacid (l) with Paul Mocha

Among his many observations of our programs for the elderly and disabled, Mr. Almonacid made special note of the employment opportunities for the developmentally disabled, and the integration of the developmentally disabled in our society as employees.

Partners members who played an active role in this visit were: Paul Mocha, who developed and coordinated Sergio's itinerary; Susan Sola, who provided a homestay, translation of the itinerary, sightseeing and transportation; Bill Zachmann, who provided a homestay, sightseeing and transportation in Olympia; Tim Hilliard, who helped with sightseeing in Olympia; Barb Klein, who provided transportation; Susan Hagist, who accompanied Mr. Almonacid for a day, for a site visit and to purchase various personal items; Maria Galvez, who provided transportation and interpreting at a site visit; and Carmen Kaler, who provided a homestay, translated for a class at the University of Washington, Tacoma, and hosted a farewell reception.

[Editor's note: Sergio's trip was funded through a Partners grant provided by the US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Citizen Exchanges.]

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# Chilean Partners Host WA Women's Delegation

by Paula Laschober

During the week of April 15-21, 2007, Washington Partners Executive Director Paula Laschober went to Chile as a member of a delegation of 24 women who traveled under the auspices of the Washington NGO, Center for Women and Democracy (CWD, see [www.womenanddemocracy.org](http://www.womenanddemocracy.org)). Established in 2000, the CWD works to advance women's leadership locally, nationally and globally. Like Partners, it is a non-partisan, non-governmental organization of volunteers with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. The delegation went to Chile as an official governor's delegation, having been awarded that honor by Governor Christine Gregoire, who is a CWD member.

Paula had been contacted in Fall 2006 by Christina Bruning, Global Networking Chair of the CWD, about Partners of the Americas, our contacts in Chile, and the possibility of helping the CWD organize a trip dedicated to fostering long-lasting relationships between women in Washington State and women in Chile, as well as promoting women's leadership. When Chilean Partners member Monica Alcalde visited Washington in November 2006, she participated in preliminary planning for the trip.

In early January 2007, Paula, Monica, Jackie Núñez, Jorge Valenzuela, and Maria Teresa Herrero assisted Christina and another CWD Global Networking committee member, Debra Ricci, with making contacts in Chile, meeting with potential collaborators and visiting possible symposium sites. One of the primary contacts made, with the assistance of Monica and Sandra Perroni of the U.S. Embassy, was with the Chilean women's organization Comunidad Mujer, which agreed to collaborate with Partners and the CWD on the highlight of the trip—a symposium on women's leadership and mentoring. Jorge Valenzuela, Chilean Partners President, named a Partners mini-committee, which included Monica, Jackie, Maria Teresa, Myriam Castro, Augusta Crino and Elena Torres, to provide planning assistance on the part of Partners.

The half-day symposium featured presentations on leadership and mentoring by three members of the CWD delegation and three members of Comunidad Mujer, and was attended by approximately 200 women and a couple

of men. One of the men was Jorge Valenzuela, who gave a closing speech about Partners as co-sponsor of the event, noting at the same time that he felt quite comfortable being one of very few men in the company of so many women, having started his education as the only male member of a kindergarten class at an all-girls school! The other co-sponsors of the event, besides Comunidad Mujer, were the U.S. Embassy and Chile's Ministry for Women (SERNAM). All these organizations, including Partners, had large banners in the symposium room, and Partners Chile had produced a brochure for our organization in both Spanish and English. Partners was further represented by the Arts and Culture Committee, as its Chair Maria Teresa Herrero and member Myriam Castro arranged an exhibit of Myriam's sculpture, the paintings of a well-known Chilean woman artist, and Mapuche crafts. This exhibit was at the entry area of the symposium, which was held in Providencia at the Hotel Torremayor to make it accessible by public transportation.



CWD delegation with the men receiving addiction treatment at the Corporación La Esperanza in Santiago

Besides participating in the leadership symposium, the CWD delegation enjoyed a country briefing at the U.S. Embassy and a reception at the U.S. Ambassador's residence (which included many Chilean leaders), participated in panel discussions on women in education and juvenile justice at the Universidad Central, and toured the Chilean Congress. The Congress tour included lunch with Chilean Congresswomen, two of whom had visited Seattle in November 2006 under the auspices of the International Visitor Program of the World Affairs Council.

They also visited and learned about the work of several Chilean non-profit and volunteer organizations,

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including the Children’s Rehabilitation Institute (which has a long history with Partners), the Corporación La Esperanza (an addiction rehabilitation center), the “Campamento Villa Hermosa” (a low income area on the outskirts of Santiago where the women are learning to cook commercially), Fundación Solidaridad (an organization that trains low-income women in business skills and helps them market and sell toys and handicrafts), Fundación Origen (a high school for about 400 low-income youth from the town of Pirque that teaches them organic farming and sells their products locally), and Hogar Refugio de la Misericordia (which provides a safe home and educational assistance for low-income teenage mothers from abusive domestic situations, and which our Board member, Sr. Yvette Mallow, has assisted over many years).



CWD visit to Teleton (Children’s Rehabilitation Institute) in Santiago. Three Teleton staff, Chilean Partners Augusta Crino and Ana Mari Urrutia,, with Paula Laschober.(l to r).

The delegation also learned about the Chilean wine industry headquartered in the Casablanca area, visiting a winery owned by a woman and another whose winemaker was a woman.

The participation of the Chilean Partners was invaluable to the success of the CWD program. They were intimately involved in all details in Chile and judged the results for Partners to be a huge success. Jackie Núñez mentioned to that people were calling her from as far away as Chiloé to find out how they could join Partners! The CWD group invited both Partners members and Comunidad Mujer members to accompany us on all visits and excursions, and several took up the offer, providing an unusual opportunity for Chilean and Washington women to get to know each other more in depth. Past Chilean Partners President and current Board member Augusta Crino accompanied the group on several days and won the hearts of the delegation members.



Augusta Crino demonstrates Chilean traditional dancing with partner in the wine country.

CWD financed all activities—with one exception-- including a welcome reception to which Partners and Comunidad Mujer representatives were invited the first night in country.

The exception was the home hospitality arranged and hosted by the Chilean Partners for the second evening, a unique opportunity where discussions were focused on major themes like education, the arts, social responsibility, health, etc., and to which not only CWD delegates, but also community leaders, were invited. And a personal thank-you is due from me, to Monica Alcalde and Maria Teresa Herrero and their families, who so kindly hosted me in their homes during the week of the CWD visit.

The Center for Women and Democracy delegation did not go to Chile purely to experience a foreign country, but rather to contribute to global interconnections among women, to foster sustainability of those relationships, and to provide concrete assistance where a need had been identified in the January pre-trip visit by two of its members. Pre-planned assistance from the CWD included a contribution of children’s crutches to the Children’s Rehabilitation Institute and a check for \$1,000 to the Villa Hermosa community to be used for matching grants to move families to better housing.

Delegation members also assisted Sr. Yvette Mallow in providing donations of baby clothing and other necessities to the girls at Refugio de la Misericordia by carrying the items to Chile and taking them to the Refugio in person. A spontaneous contribution made during the trip was the donation of several hundred

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dollars from the personal pocketbooks of many delegation members to the cooking training needs of the women of Villa Hermosa. And the post-presentation shopping spree at Fundación Solidaridad ended up being hailed by the director as the most money that organization had ever made in one day!

The CWD plans to invite Chilean women to Washington in October or November for a reciprocal visit, and the Washington Partners will most likely be invited to provide home hosting for at least some of them and participate in some events/visits. Another outcome of the visit, still in the planning stage, is the establishment of a Women's Issues committee, or perhaps a working group as a subcommittee of an already established committee, on both sides of the Washington/Chile partnership. This committee was proposed by the Chilean Partners as part of the recent planning process described in another article in this newsletter. Preliminary discussions indicate that such a group might focus on women's microenterprise assistance and support for the Partners Health and Education Committees with their plans to bring the director of Corporación La Esperanza, Ana Luisa Jouanne, to the Seattle area to learn about addiction rehabilitation programs for women and adolescents in August.



Ana Luisa Jouanne, Chilean Partner and Director of Corporación La Esperanza

Finally, one of the CWD participants in the Chilean trip, Elizabeth Rudolf, is planning to provide more assistance to the Villa Hermosa women through her family's foundation, the Seattle Foundation.

The Chilean Partners, on their side, have not been letting any grass grow beneath their feet. On Saturday, May 12, a Partners delegation composed of Jorge Valenzuela,



Campamento Villa Hermosa

Eduardo Conca, Elena Torres, Monica Alcalde and Monica's husband, Ricardo Faúndes, visited the Villa Hermosa encampment to present and discuss use of the CWD donation of \$1,000, and at the same time brought gifts of kitchen tools and appliances purchased for the women's cooking training program with the additional money CWD members had donated for the purpose. The goal of the the culinary program is to commercialize the service, thereby providing the women a way to earn money to support their families.

More recently, the Washington Partners Board began looking into ways to provide additional funding to the Villa Hermosa families, specifically through Rotary contacts. Board member Buck Frymier called Monica Alcalde to discuss possibilities. Their most important need at this time is to raise 360,000 Chilean pesos (\$700) each toward new permanent homes to be built by the local municipal government—but they must raise it by the end of this year. They have already paid half the required amount, through their own fundraising efforts, and construction will begin as soon as they have the full amount. All Partners members and friends are invited to help support the 52 families of the group in Villa Hermosa “adopted” by the Chilean Partners, by contributing funds to this endeavor. If you would like to donate, please send a (tax-deductible) check made out to Washington-Chile Partners of the Americas, to our mailing address at P.O. Box 1017, Seattle, WA 98111-1017. Make sure you note the purpose of the donation on the check.

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The women of Villa Hermosa who demonstrated the cooking skills they are trying to market for the CWD delegation. Chilean Partners members Monica Alcalde at far right, Augusta Crino at far left.

CWD Global Networking Chair Christina Bruning plans to return to Chile in late August to present additional funds contributed by CWD members to the Villa Hermosa families, and to plan for the reciprocal trip of Chilean women to Washington this Fall.

## Partners Poets-Background

**Carolyn Wright's** eight books and chapbooks of poetry include *Seasons of Mangoes and Brainfire* (EWUP/Lynx House Books, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2005), which won the Blue Lynx Prize and American Book Award. Her new book is *A Change of Maps* (Lost Horse Press, 2006), finalist for the Idaho Prize and the Alice Fay di Castagnola Award from the Poetry Society of America. *A Change of Maps* was nominated for a Los Angeles *Times* Book Award and has just won the 2007 Independent Publishers Book Award in Poetry (Bronze Award). Also published are a collection of essays and three volumes of poetry translated from Spanish and Bengali. A Seattle native who studied with Elizabeth Bishop, Richard Hugo, and Madeline DeFrees, Wright spent a year in Chile on a Fulbright-Hayes Study Grant during the presidency of Salvador Allende. She is completing a memoir about this experience, and serving on the faculty of the Whidbey Writers Workshop MFA Program.

**Eugenia Toledo-Keyser** was born in Temuco, Chile. She came to the U. S. in 1975 to pursue a Ph. D. in Latin American Literature at the University of Washington, married and remained in Seattle with her husband and son. She has published eight texts and two manuals for Adult Education (Ministry of Education, OEA, Chile, 1986); a book about the Spanish writer Fray Luis de León

(Editorial Cíclope, Santiago, 1986); two books of poetry: *Architecture of Absences* (Editorial Torremozas, España, 2006); *Time of Metals and Volcanoes* (Editorial 400 Elefantes, Nicaragua, 2007); and a chapbook, "Leaf of Glass," which won an Artella contest in 2005. Eugenia teaches, writes literary articles, and creates "book-objects," combining words and graphic materials. She is a member of Mujeres Entre Letras, a Seattle women writer's group, and of the International Association of Hispanic Feminine Literature.

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Membership for Year:

Date of Application:

Please mail application to: Partners of the Americas, P.O. Box 1017, Seattle, WA 98111-1017.

Partners Web site: [www.partners.net](http://www.partners.net)

WA/Chile Partners Web site: [www.washington-chile.org](http://www.washington-chile.org)

*The mission of our partnership is to build and sustain community between the people and institutions of Washington State and Chile, through the sharing of skills, knowledge, culture and friendship. All of our people-to-people programs are carried out jointly and are dedicated to providing mutual benefits to our two regions. Through projects in education, social development, health, environment, emergency management, economic development and the arts, we provide opportunities for our volunteers and supporters to promote international cooperation and understanding, as they enrich their own lives and the lives of others in our hemisphere.*