

Que Pasa

REPÚBLICA
DOMINICANA

Greetings from Fondo Quisqueya

Hola compañeros!! Revved up and revitalized by this spring's annual meeting, **Fondo Quisqueya** sends fond saludos to all of its members and friends. The meeting was great, better than we ever dared hope, which inspired us to schedule the '96 annual meeting in Santo Domingo. YESSS!!! Start packin' those bags and savin' those pesos....

Besides an account of the meeting and an introduction to FQ's new board of directors, you will find in this issue the usual features: for example, see "Investing in People" to learn of FQ's latest grants and "Dollars and Cents" for an update on our current finances (much improved since the annual meeting). In addition, we would like to share with you a very cordial letter FQ received from the current director of the D.R. Peace

Corps program. See also a brief article on that program written by a new board member, Jill DiMauro.

Before moving on, however, please join in a salute to our hard-working D.R. committee—particularly Mike Benson, who evaluates every grant application that **Fondo Quisqueya** receives. Without the time and dedication he brings to that task, FQ could do little of consequence in the Dominican Republic.

Fondo Quisqueya Crowd Celebrates Success at First Annual Meeting

Disporting themselves at Tom and Sue Gittins' picnic, the FQ gang crowds in for a group shot. Details on page 2.



FQ's Annual Meeting: Three Days in May

PRIMER DÍA

Amid abrazos and handshakes, FQ's annual meeting got off to a roaring start Thursday night [May 12, 1994] when early arrivals greeted each other at a kick-off reception. Among the first to arrive was Andy Hernandez, first Peace Corps Director in the Dominican Republic; among the last were Rick Laird (Padre Las Casas/early 60s) and Patty Rambesek Laird.



Randy Adams and Guy Baehr caught in a candid moment amongst FQ revelers. More pictures on pages 6 and 7.

SEGUNDA DÍA

Friday began with a congressional forum at the Capitol featuring several speakers from organizations working in the Dominican Republic. Moderated by Aaron Williams, executive secretary of the U.S. Agency for International Development (Santiago/late 60s), the morning sessions provided an overview of D.R.-based efforts involving the Inter-American Foundation, the World Bank, the Center for International Private Enterprise, the U.S. Department of State, and ACCION International.

During the afternoon, presenters from the Peace Corps [Chuck Baquet, deputy director, and Victor Johnson, director of the Latin American Region] brought the audience up to date on Peace Corps programming and training in the nineties. In his closing remarks, Mr. Baquet expressed a hope that FQ would serve as a model organization for RPCVs from other countries of service (as well as former staff and other friends of those countries). Moderating the afternoon session was

FQ's vice president, B.J. Warren. A special guest at both sessions was Dr. Carolyn Payton, who served not only as director of the Peace Corps during the Carter Administration, but also as country director in Barbados and director of selection for PC/Washington.

Friday evening saw us whooping it up in the ballroom of the Inter-American Defense Board, thanks to Treasurer Lou Ferrand's ties with the Organization of American States. The felicitous combination of comida típica, merengue, and rum turned back the clock for just about everyone. Zealously working the crowd was Karen Clough, who sold FQ tee-shirts to all and sundry. Also racking up brisk sales was Lew and Frances Gottfried's book, *Traveling Uncharted Paths*, several copies of which the Gottfrieds had generously donated to FQ as another fund-raising item.

TERCER DÍA

Rolling dutifully out of bed the next morning, Friday night's fiesta but a memory, 32 hardy FQ

members convened on Saturday for the actual meeting.

After opening remarks by President Minor Anderson, former grant sponsors Bill Threlkeld and George Rowland spoke about two FQ recipients and the ways they had used their grants. Both Bill and George emphasized the developmental nature of FQ grants, noting that the funds serve as but one element of a

partnership in which grantees also make considerable contributions of both time and effort—often costly commodities for lower-income Dominicans.

Of concern to everyone was the need to expand our pool of applicant sponsors. (See "Widening the Net" for a discussion of ways and means.) Given the widespread economic need within the Dominican Republic, our grants—small though they be—are vital. Clearly, eligible candidates exist in most if not all communities; accessing them, however, has been more difficult than anticipated.

Another concern has been our long-term financial health; we want to be sure that when the number of applications does begin to rise we have funds available. Toward that end, FQ members at the meeting voted to earmark 10 percent of all funds raised/donated (including annual meeting revenues) for an endowment, or sustaining, fund. Spurred by a "seed" contribution from Jerry Dupuy, several members made donations on the spot to the fledgling fund. [The board of directors later voted to transfer enough general funds to give the

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Peace Corps/Santo Domingo Update

—BY JILL DiMAURO

Peace Corps is alive and well in the Dominican Republic. As of May 1994, the Peace Corps program encompassed well over 100 volunteers and 37 in-country trainees. Development efforts focus on five primary areas: agriculture, education, health, small-business development, and the environment.

Ag volunteers work with small farmers who are trying to increase productivity; those in education aid community efforts to improve the quality of rural education and make it more accessible. Through its environmental volunteers, the D.R. Peace Corps helps the country address deforestation and the general deterioration of the environment. Health volunteers, although focusing on child survival, also serve as rural health promoters in isolated communities. Finally, volunteers in the small-business development project provide assistance not only to such groups as savings and loan cooperatives but

also to small and micro businesses in both formal and informal sectors.

As of May 1994, the D.R. staff included the following:

Country Director Michael Hirsh
Program/Training Officer Mark O'Donnell
Associate Peace Corps Directors:
Administration Jose Lara
Agriculture Angel Ripol
Community Education Domingo Valero
Environment Alberto Rodriguez
Health Miguel León
Small-Enterprise Development Diane Partl
Acting PC Medical Officer Linda Contreras

Appropriated Funds (\$000)

FY 1992	1,512
FY 1993	1,529
FY 1994	1,311.4

Widening the Net

Ironically, as our funds grow it is becoming somewhat harder to spend them. Although the need clearly exists, we are reaching too few people with FQ grants.

So, consider this a call for assistance: please give us your ideas on ways to identify Dominicans with the greatest need. For example, the board has discussed forging links with a couple of vocational schools within the country. FQ could perhaps furnish a certain number of grants yearly to cover expenses other than tuition (free at the army-run schools) for applicants who otherwise couldn't afford vocational training. If we were to do that, however, we would need a few Dominican volunteers willing and able to visit such candidates to ensure that FQ's funds were going to people in genuine need.

If any of you have friends in the D.R. who might be willing/

able to provide tactful eligibility and follow-up visits to applicants, perhaps you could contact them and check their availability. In February of 1995, two board members will be in the Dominican Republic developing grassroots support for the program, and they could meet with any friends and former colleagues that you suggest.

We also need to develop community sponsors throughout the country because, although PCVs are a good source of applicants, we need Dominican sources as well. Community volunteers, teachers, youth workers, even ministry employees often would have a clear sense of where the greatest need lies.

So, if you retain contact with any such people, perhaps you could share their names with us. We could then send them information about FQ, explain the nominating process, and encour-

age them to nominate suitable candidates that come to their attention. (We will soon have an FQ Fact Sheet in Spanish, thanks to ex-PCV Anne Ternes.)

Please help us out if you can.

DOLLARS AND CENTS

According to FQ Treasurer Lou Ferrand, after a deposit of roughly \$4,850 in revenues and donations stemming from the annual meeting, the FQ stateside account contains \$13,362. Although \$3,500 of that total must remain within our endowment fund, FQ still has nearly \$10,000 available for grants. Our most recent check to the Dominican committee was for \$1,000, some of which has already been paid out in grants. (The exchange rate now stands at 131.)

If you had a chance to read our last issue, you perhaps recall that FQ grants may fund any activity that helps groups or individuals learn new skills. We particularly encourage grant applications for activities that strengthen local institutions—in the broadest sense of the term.

For example, we are very receptive to funding part or all of the cost of skills training for such people/groups as teachers, cooperative leaders, community water committees, etc.

We also like collaborative efforts in which an FQ grant would pay part of the cost of a particular activity, and one or two other donors (and perhaps the participants themselves) would provide the balance. FQ guidelines permit a wide range of funding arrangements, with only two outright bans: we provide no money for training outside the Dominican Republic, and we provide no funds for tuition at traditional universities.

Although all but one of the write-ups appear pretty much as they were written (i.e., in the form of a request) to preserve the sponsors' voice, the applicants described have by now received all or part of their grants. Please read on to see your dollars at work.



The first write-up comes from Teresa Elders and Rebecca Miller, PCVs in San Juan de la Maguana, who sponsored the application of Adeljisa Javier. Her grant will allow Adeljisa to attend night school in San Juan.

Adeljisa, 23 years of age and the mother of a three-year-old son, needs three more years of study to achieve her high school diploma. With financial assistance

from **Fondo Quisqueya** she could enroll in evening classes at a high school in San Juan (tuition at 100 pesos per month), staying with relatives Monday through Friday and returning to her home in Hatico on weekends. She would bring her son, Juan Pierre, to San Juan with her.

Adeljisa has long worked on community programs sponsored by Social Services of Dominican Churches (SSID). She has helped her mother, who is Hatico's community health promoter, served as an officer of the mothers' club, and assisted with preschool teaching in that community. In the spring of 1992, she taught an adult literacy class, again as a volunteer. In addition she has helped the health PCV in Las Charcas with "charlas" and materials development, and has attended two Peace Corps conferences—one on small business start-up and another on the environment.

Since last November she has been working half-time in the SSID offices in San Juan, training to become an education promoter. Her salary of 600 pesos (about US\$45), much less after she pays her transportation costs, is too low for her to afford night school tuition. If she could get some help with her tuition, however, her SSID job would help defray some of her living expenses.

Upon completing her high school work, Adeljisa plans to remain in the province of San Juan de la Maguana to further aid her community.



PCV Susan Lasch, who works with the Sociedad de Padres y Amigos (PTA) of the school in her town, has the following to say about Malenny Decena.

When I began to work with the PTA of a school outside Azua, I met Malenny Decena—the youngest member of the group (at 19) and the only one without a child in the school. At that time, she had been working with the PTA for about a year, ever since finishing high school.

She's been an admirable member, attending all the meetings, arriving on time(!), and often accompanying me on trips to Azua for the school when other members were unable or unwilling to do so. Malenny is a very intelligent and aware young woman, with a maturity rare in someone of her years. Our town, however, is small and cannot provide her with much in the way of intellectual stimulation or economic opportunity. I would be pleased to see her continue her education, as she has a history of volunteering in the community and could become even more useful to her country.

Although she's a substitute teacher at the grade school, she would like to develop a career in marketing rather than one in education. Unfortunately, her father is dead and her mother cannot afford to help her with a university education. Thus, Malenny's plan is to take a secretarial course in Azua so that she can earn money to go to the university, and on her behalf I am requesting scholarship funds for this purpose.



PCV John Keane introduces José Bienvenido Banke Peralta, who would like to get training in computer programming.

In working with the Asociación de Instituciones Rurales de Ahorro y Crédito (AIRC), an

Board Establishes Endowment Committee

While recognizing that it may always need to carry out fund-raising efforts, FQ's board of directors believes it prudent to gradually develop an endowment, or sustaining, fund.

Charged with this task, FQ's new endowment committee will be exploring various funding options over the next few years. Please note that endowment fund raising will remain separate from (and uncompetitive with) the general fund-raising efforts coordinated by FQ Fund-Raising Chair Karen Clough; however, 10 percent of funds raised through those efforts will go to the endowment fund—as decreed by a vote of the FQ membership. Should you wish to direct a contribution entirely to the endowment fund, please make this clear when you send in your donation.

Coordinated by Lynda Edwards of the FQ board, the en-

dowment committee will undertake the groundwork for a capital campaign marking FQ's tenth year of operation. ("Kick-off" to take place at the '96 annual meeting in Santo Domingo.)

The board has recommended a tentative goal in the 100-150K range for the campaign. Volunteering (and/or press-ganged) for the endowment committee were Randy Adams, Jackie Alcorn, Guy Baehr, John Evans, John Hopper, Jill DiMauro, Lou Ferrand (as legal advisor), Patty Rambasek Laird, Bob Satin, and Bennett Stein.

If in all the uproar and hell raising of the annual meeting you volunteered to serve but didn't make this list, please call Lynda Edwards at 703-548-4783 (fax: 703-548-7453) and give her a piece of your mind. Or, if you didn't have a chance to volunteer or couldn't come to the meeting but would like to join this effort, call the same number.

Annual Meeting

—continued from page 2

endowment fund a start-up balance of \$3,500.] Also on Saturday's agenda was the election of FQ's new board of directors. Drafted by popular acclaim to count the election ballots, Andy Hernandez called out the new board, whose members will serve terms of one, two, or three years: Minor Anderson, Karen Hahn Clough, Jill Parker DiMauro, Lynda Wilson Edwards, Lou Ferrand, Kristin Fiske, Tom Gittins, John Hopper, Roger LaBrucherie, Gene Lane, Mecho Luciano Lennartz, George Rowland, Bill Threlkeld, B.J. Warren, and Dennis Zaenger. (See "Meet the Stewards" for a brief history of each.)

In the afternoon, many of us flocked to the home of Tom and Sue Gittins for a farewell picnic. Graced with fine weather, delicious food, and lots of laughs, this gathering brought FQ's first annual meeting to a riotous close.

To all of you who found the time to join us, the board of directors sends hearty thanks; yours was the energy and good humor that turned this meeting into a success. With your help, we'll put on another good one in Santo Domingo in '96. See you there!



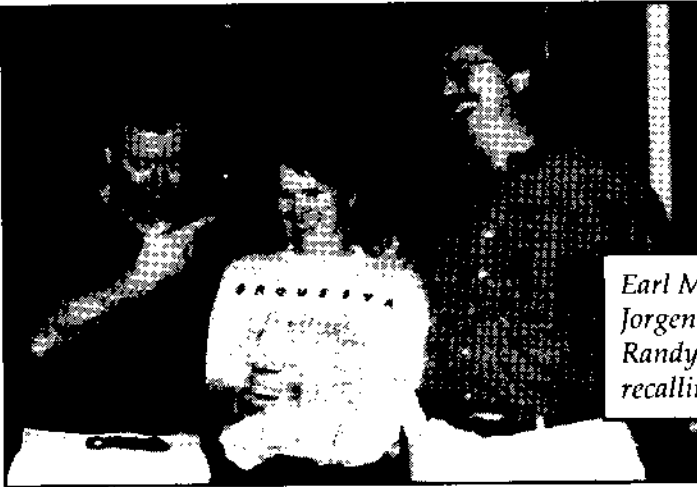
Mariluz Castro, an FQ grantee, completed nursing training in December 1993. In October of that year, she served as a volunteer in a vaccination campaign in the campo

NGO providing technical assistance to rural savings and loan co-ops, I've become acquainted with José. His job consists largely of data entry, and he has a great desire to learn more about programming but cannot afford the tuition for a computer course. I believe José to be a great candidate for an FQ scholarship because he will be able to use the skills learned in such a course to benefit not only the organization for which he works but also (indirectly) its beneficiaries.

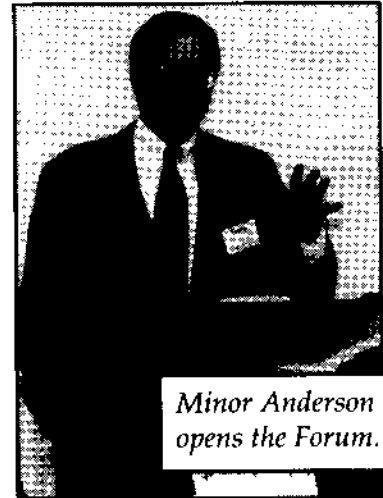


An FQ grant went also to a country-wide art project sponsored by the Ministry of Education. Facilitated by a member of the D.R. Peace Corps staff, the grant will provide art supplies for schools in low-income areas so that these schools may take part in the program.

SHARING THE PAST



Earl McClure, Jan Jorgenson, and Randy Adams recalling old times.



Minor Anderson opens the Forum.

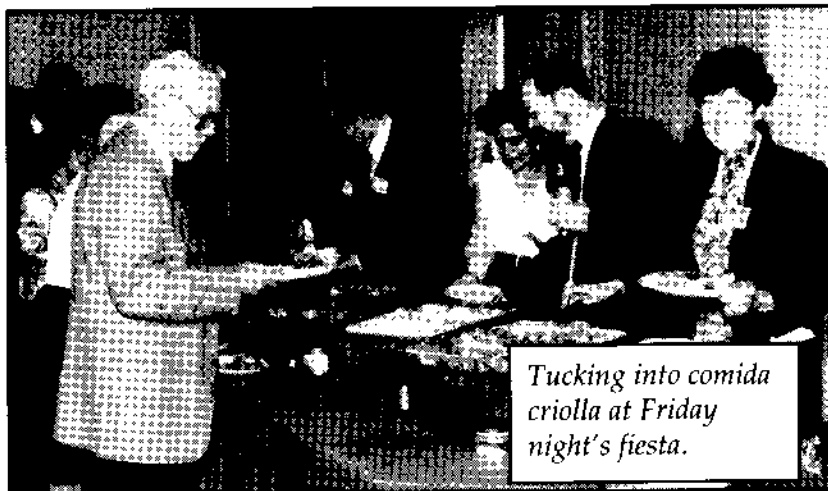
Bill Threlkeld fields a question at Saturday's meeting.



George Rowland describing a Fondo grantee.

SAVORING THE PRESENT

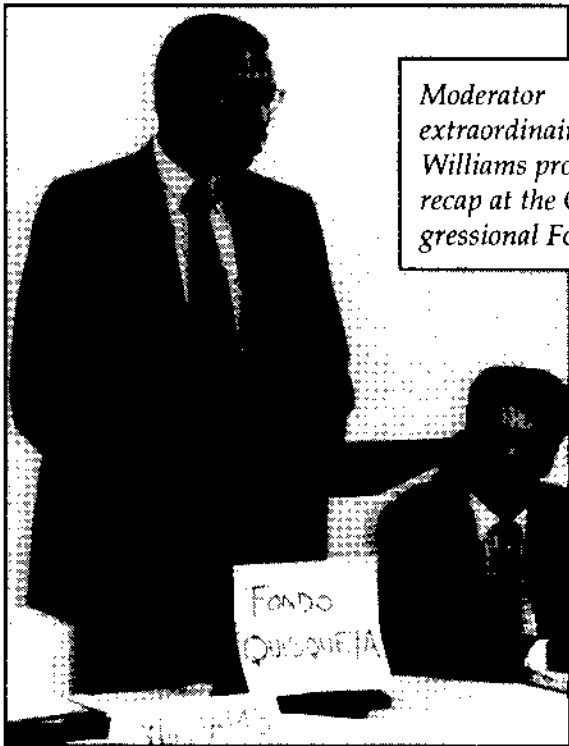
Hit it, Maestro! Live music at FQ's Friday Fiesta.



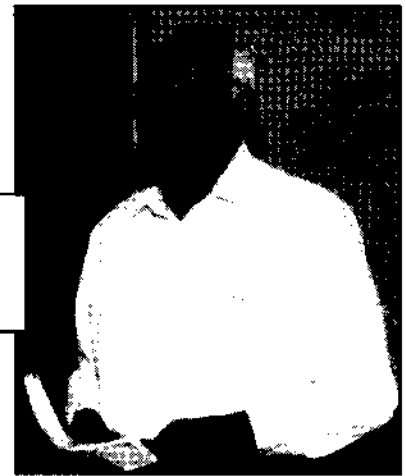
Tucking into comida criolla at Friday night's fiesta.

Howard Wallack of the Center for International Private Enterprise addresses the Forum audience.





Moderator extraordinaire Aaron Williams provides a recap at the Congressional Forum.



Andy Hernandez announces the new board of directors.

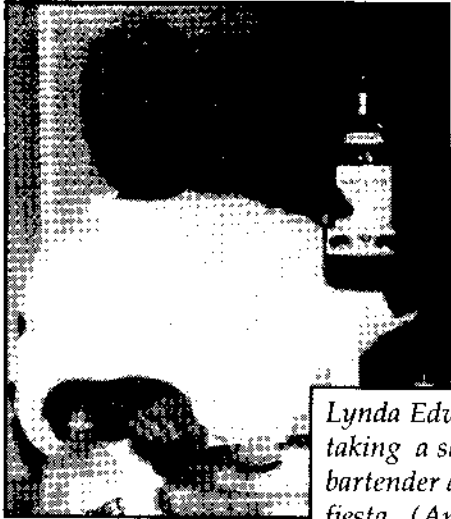
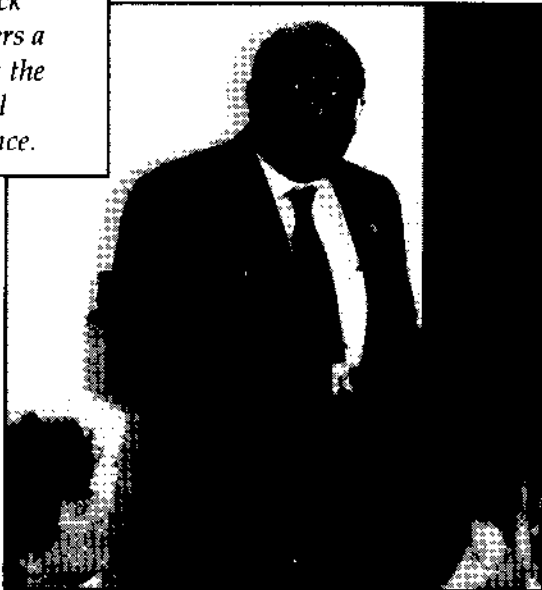
Board Members B.J. Warren and Gene Lane caught for posterity.



FQ sends a special thank-you to Gene Lane, who spent a good part of his time all three days peering through a camera lens. We think you'll agree that it was time well spent!

SEEKING FUTURE SUCCESS AND GOOD TIMES

Peace Corps Deputy Director Chuck Baquet answers a question from the Congressional Forum audience.



Lynda Edwards taking a shift as bartender at the fiesta. (And you thought FQ was all work and no play!)