

SISTER ISLANDS

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SOMOS ISLEÑOS

*We tend the relationships....the projects
we do are secondary
to the friendships we build.*

*Cultivamos relaciones...los proyectos
que realizamos son secundarios ante
las amistades que fortalecemos.*

Fall 2010/ Otoño 2010

Four Ometepe English teachers will spend six weeks on Bainbridge, pages 3 & 6

Linda Snyder, a driving force for our student delegations, pages 14-15



Kendall Sanson, Monica Jones, and Zoe Worthington are the tall kids as they pose with students in Tichana, on the southern tip of Cerro Maderas, during the 2010 high school delegation (pages 16-17).

Kendall Sanson, Monica Jones, and Zoe Worthington con alumnos de Tichana, una comunidad en el sur de Cerro Maderas, durante la delegación de estudiantes en 2010 (paginas 16-17).

Letter from Casa Jose Maria at Si a la Vida, Ometepe

By Alexis Bonoff

I had been gone four months but you couldn't tell it by the boys' reactions. Only one day back, I was balancing two picture books on my knee as Lesther recited his multiplication tables. He was stuck on the 8s and grinned shyly, his neck reaching out from his skinny body. Otto had a speech about the history of Nicaragua to memorize, Marvin too: "Davila met a friendly Indian cacique." Ariel Garcia wanted to get his reading done and play soccer, so every time I looked up he gave me a pleading, almost insistent, smile. I was at home.

There are 18 boys now, ranging from 11 to 18, at the Ometepe center for Si a la Vida, a program for Nicaraguan street kids. The atmosphere is cheerful, almost giddy at times when the soccer ball comes out. The boys practice goalkeeping in a circular method, one standing with his back against the grey stone while the others line up to kick a ball at him.

This year has been one of excitement and changes. The new dormitory is nearly finished, the roof is on and the workers have been coming less and less. A baseball league has kept the boys busy most Saturdays, as nearly all of them head out to Urbaite or Tilgue to play rival community teams of the same age. Some are on local soccer teams and others prefer to spend their time on the computers, exploring the vast Web world.

School has been difficult but manageable. Three boys attend the technical school in Altagracia, working towards a profession such as welding, construction and residential electrician. They are all still practicing their highly developed skills of hair gelling and dancing.

As I sit with a 14-year-old perched on my lap, listening to another struggle through the pages of "The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins," I realize how wonderful it is to be here, with sweat dripping down my face and my stomach not quite settled.

Alexis Bonoff, a former office volunteer for the Sister Islands Association, recently returned to Ometepe to continue working with Si A La Vida. The Sister Islands supports this program.



Lester is all smiles as he looks up from reading a book.



Alexis and Jason, one of the boys who live at Si a la Vida's center on Ometepe.



Bainbridge Ometepe Sister Islands Association Newsletter

Editor: Kari Lagerloef

Contributors: Alexis Bonoff, Spencer Hepp,
Dale Spoor

Translators: Kari Lagerloef

Proofreader: Ela Esterberg

Photography: Kim Esterberg, Kari
Lagerloef, Linda Snyder, Alexis Bonoff

P.O. Box 4484

Rollingbay, WA USA 98061-0484

Phone: (206) 842-8148 or (206) 780-1246

E-mail: info@bosia.org

Web: <http://www.bosia.org>

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Kim and Ela Esterberg and friends
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Four teachers will get to practice English on their sister island

A delegation of four Ometepe English teachers will be staying on Bainbridge Island from November 23rd through the end of December. This will be BOSIA's fourth English Teacher delegation. The objective of the six-week trip is to allow the teachers to immerse themselves in the English language while getting to know their sister island community. BOSIA's new office volunteer, Zia Ward, interviewed the four teachers to get a better understanding of their thoughts as they prepare for the trip.

Want to host a teacher?

If you are interested in hosting one of the English teachers from Ometepe or including them in a family or local activity, please contact Linda Shadwell-Hepp at bihepps@msn.com or (206) 842-1721. You don't need to speak or understand Spanish since the teachers are eager for an English-immersion experience.

Practicando su Ingles en la isla hermana

Una delegación de cuatro profesores de inglés de Ometepe pasara 6 semanas en Bainbridge desde el 23 de noviembre hasta el final de diciembre. Sera la cuarta delegación de profesores de inglés.

El objetivo del viaje para los profesores es

mejorar su Ingles y a la vez tener la oportunidad de conocer la comunidad de su Isla Hermana. La nueva voluntaria de Las Islas Hermanas, Zia Ward, se realizó una entrevista con los cuatro profesores.

Seylim de Fatima Barrios

Seylim teaches English at the high school in San Jose del Sur, although she is originally from the town of Altagracia on Ometepe. Since her early childhood she has dreamed of becoming a teacher, and has now been teaching for 3 years.

Seylim is looking forward to coming to Bainbridge Island to learn more about the culture as well as increase her English vocabulary. She says she is nervous about the change in climate, but is excited to be on a plane for the first time.



Seylim es una profesora en la escuela secundaria de San Jose del Sur, aunque es originaria de Altagracia en Ometepe. Desde su niñez ella ha pensado en ser profesora, y ahora tiene 3 años de estar trabajando en la escuela. Seylim le gustaría aprovechar la visita a Bainbridge para aprender un poco más sobre la cultura de allá y mejorar su vocabulario en inglés. Ella dice que está nerviosa sobre el frio, pero esta alegre que puede viajar en avión por la primera vez.

Jamileth Trigueros Paizano

Jamileth is an English teacher at the Jaime Marza School in Sintoiope where she has been teaching for 4 years. Jamileth says she began teaching because she finds understanding English to be incredibly important given it is used in many different kinds of work in Nicaragua.

She is looking forward to coming to Bainbridge Island, and hopes to be able to listen to spoken English and to practice her speaking. She is also excited to visit an American classroom.



Jamileth es una profesora en el colegio de Jaime Marza en Sintoiope donde tiene 4 años de trabajar. Jamileth dice que es profesora porque entiende la importancia de saber inglés para todo tipo de trabajo en Nicaragua. Ella está feliz que va a conocer a Bainbridge y espera la oportunidad de practicar su inglés. Ella también le gustaría visitar una escuela en los Estados Unidos.

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Lost, among friends

By Rich Murphy

When the Seattle Metro #36 bus arrived at 14th Ave. and South Holgate St., I paid the fare for Evaristo Montiel and Isabel Maliaño, and we stepped off into a gray Friday Seattle morning.

"We're lost," Evaristo said with a smile. He was confident enough that I wouldn't mislead or abandon them, but also certain that they didn't know where they were.

He turned around on the sidewalk, took in the strange street, the unfamiliar houses, the cyclone fence enclosing an empty neighborhood park. "Lost," he said again, this time to Isabel.

"No," I said, laughing. "You're not lost. You're here. This is it. This is your sister school." And it was.

The wonder of the first visit is hard to describe.

Delegations from Beacon Hill International School have been traveling to Balgüe for eight years, building a relationship with the primaria there and with its teachers, administrators, students, and families.

This fall the first delegation from Balgüe is visiting Beacon Hill. Evaristo is the school's principal and the director of the district that includes all the elementary schools on Cerro Maderas. Isabel is Balgüe's kindergarten teacher, and the lead kindergarten teacher for the entire district.

When I left them this morning, Isabel was teaching the Spanish immersion kindergarten class a song-and-dance about Los Gallos. Evaristo was



Evaristo and Isabel sit with students at their sister school in Bacon Hill and explain a typical day at school in Balgüe.

Evaristo y Isabel sentados con los alumnos de su escuela hermana en Beacon Hill para explicar un día típico en la escuela en Balgüe.

in the gym, watching a class of eight-year-olds get ready to do PE (and getting ready to join them in running and climbing). They had already spent an

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Isabel and Evaristo meet the superintendent of the schools.

Isabel y Evaristo se conocen a la supervisora de las escuelas.

Perdido, entre amigos

Por Rich Murphy

Cuando el bus de Seattle numero 36 arribo a calle 14 y calle South Holgate, pague la tarifa por Evaristo Montiel y Isabel Maliaño, y nos bajamos del bus esta día nublado.

“Estamos perdidos,” Evaristo dijo con una sonrisa. El tenia la confianza que yo no lo iba abandonar, pero era cierto que no sabia donde estaba en este momento.

El dio una vuelta para asomar la calle extranjera, las casas extranjeras, la cerca encerando un parquet vacación. “Perdido,” se repito, ahora dirigido a Isabel.

“No,” le dije, sonriendo. “No estas perdido. Estas aquí. Esta es tu escuela hermana.” Y era.

Es difícil describir la maravilla de la primera visita.

Delegaciones de Beacon Hill International School han viajado a Balgüe durante los ultimo 8 XXX, promoviendo una relación con la primaria de allá y con sus profesores, administradores, alumnos, y familias.

Este año es la primera vez que una delegación de Balgüe visita Beacon Hill. Evaristo es el director de todas las escuelas en el Cerro Maderas. Isabel es una profesora de preescolar en Balgüe, y la primera profesora de preescolar en todo el Cerro.

Cuando los vi hoy en la mañana, Isabel estaba enseñando la clase de preescolar de inmersión total de español la canción y baile Los Gallos. Evaristo estaba en el gimnasio, viendo unos alumnos de ocho años alistándose para su ejercicio (y el estaba listo para correr y escalar con ellos). Ellos ya había pasado una hora en la programa de alfabetización de preescolar coordinado por Chilo Granizo, ayudando a los padres de familia y a los alumnos aprender a leer.

Obviamente, todo ha sido nuevo para Isabel y Evaristo – el aeropuerto en Managua, los aviones, las escaleras mecánicas, microondas, los ferries que llevan más de 100 carros y 1000 pasajeros y que hacen el viaje en 15 minutos, el proceso de tostar y empacar el café de Ometepe, la vista de la montaña Rainier con el cielo pristino en el fondo, el techo de la pista de beisbol Safeco Field que cierre cuando llueve.

Pero ellos son profesores. Y aquí es la escuela. Y estos son los alumnos. Y de repente – sin saber cómo pasó – nuestros visitantes y la comunidad de Beacon Hill estaban más cerca y más real que nunca.

Por supuesto que ellos habían recibido los delegados de Beacon Hill a Balgüe, pero eso es el

mundo donde venimos nosotros. Por supuesto que alumnos de Beacon Hill, profesores, y padres de familia han visto presentaciones y fotos sobre las delegaciones a Ometepe, y apreciaban las historias (y las noticias periódicas de la revista de Islas Hermanas), y gozaban exhibiciones en las salas de la escuela presentando la comunidad lejana.

Pero aquí están. Lo verdadero. En tiempo real. Con sus voces reales.

Ellos expresan su gratitud al personal en una reunión de la escuela. Ellos contestan preguntas de los alumnos de cuarto grado sobre Ometepe – sobre la pesca, zapatos, y la comida, sobre la construcción de casas, sobre quien están sustituyendo en su trabajan mientras están aquí? Con la ayuda de un imagen del mundo a través de Google Earth, ellos y los alumnos podían ver Balgüe, el techo de la escuela, el callejón que pasa por la casa de Evaristo y llega hasta la casa de Isabel rodeada por los arboles. Ellos cantan Nicaragua Mía en la despedida, y están al punto de llorar cuando cantan “. . . nicaraguense por gracias de Dios.” Ellos leen a los alumnos de preescolar, participan con los juegos de matemáticas con los de quinto grado, conocen al Superintendente de los colegios de Seattle, consuelan a una niña triste en su primer día de clase, llevándole la mano y tranquilizándola que no está perdida. Ella está con amigos.

Entonces ellos son. Y ese es su escuela hermana. Y es un lugar donde ella, y ellos, y nosotros – hermanos y hermanas en Seattle y Balgüe – florecen.



Isabel on her first Seattle Metro bus ride.

Isabel en su primer viaje en el bus de Seattle Metro.

Four teachers from Ometepe to visit Bainbridge Island

Continued from page 3

Dagoberto Hernandez Martinez

Dagoberto is from the community of San Fernando and has been involved with BOSIA for several years through the English teacher association on Ometepe Island. He studied English at the university in Managua and decided to become an English teacher so he could continue to practice as well as help others learn the language. Dagoberto is excited about the upcoming trip to Bainbridge, and hopes to learn more about American culture, especially baseball. His favorite team is the Dodgers because they have a Nicaraguan pitcher.



Dagoberto es de la comunidad de San Fernando y ya es parte de la Asociación de Profesores de Ingles en Ometepe. El estudio inglés en la universidad en Managua y decidió ser profesor para continuar con la práctica de inglés y poder ayudar otros a aprender.

Dagoberto está emocionado sobre el viaje a Bainbridge, y espera aprender más sobre la cultura Norte Americana, especialmente beisbol. Su equipo favorito es los Dodgers porque tiene un lanzador Nicaragüense.

Bethania Guillen Irigoyen

Bethania is from the community of La Flor, on Ometepe. In college she studied English with the aspiration of becoming a teacher, and she now teaches at an elementary school on the island. Bethania is incredibly excited to come to Bainbridge Island and is looking forward to speaking English regularly. She has heard about the ferry ride and says she is nervous about crossing the ocean. Bethania hopes to see some snow for the first time!



Bethania es de la comunidad de La Flor, en Ometepe. En la universidad ella estudio ingles con la meta de ser profesora, y ahora da clase en una escuela primaria. Bethania está muy alegre sobre el viaje a Bainbridge y está esperando la oportunidad para hablar inglés con frecuencia. Ella ha escuchado del viaje en el ferri y está un poco nerviosa sobre el viaje. Bethania espera ver la nieve por la primera vez!

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Bainbridge-Ometepe Sister Islands Association
P.O. Box 4484, Rollingbay, WA USA 98061-0484

Lost, among friends

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hour in the pre-school literacy program coordinated by Chilo Granizo, helping parents and children learn to read.

Of course, everything is new for Isabel and Everisto—the Managua airport, jets, escalators, microwaves, ferries that carry more than 100 cars and 1000 passengers and that make the island crossing in 15 minutes, the way Ometepe coffee is roasted and bagged on Bainbridge, Mount Rainier backed by a pristine sky, the roof of Safeco Field closing soundlessly against the rain.

But they are teachers. This is a school. These are children. And suddenly—in a way that neither our Balgüe visitors nor our Beacon Hill school community was quite prepared for—we are both more real to each other.

Sure, they had met and welcomed Beacon Hill delegates to Balgüe, but here is the world we come from. Sure, Beacon Hill students, teachers, and parents had watched slide shows of delegation visits to Ometepe, and appreciated news stories (as well as periodic updates in the Sister

Islands newsletter), and enjoyed exhibits in the School foyer display cabinets about that community so far away.

But here they are. Real. In real time. In their real voices.

They speak their boundless thanks to the staff in a school-wide meeting. They answer 4th graders' questions about Ometepe—about fishing, shoes, and food, about house construction, about who's doing your work when you're here with us? With the help of an astonishing large screen image from Google Earth, they and their host students all gaze down together into Balgüe, onto the roof of the school, along the callejon that leads up to Evaristo's house and back up among the trees to Isabel's. They sing Nicaragua Mia at the despedida, hardly able to contain their tears at the words, "... nicaraguense por gracias de Dios." They read to kindergartners, play math games with 5th graders, meet the Seattle Superintendent of Schools, console a distraught, weeping little girl on her first day in school, holding her hand and reassuring her that she's not lost. She's among friends.

So are they. This is their sister school. It's a place where she, and they, and we—hermanos y hermanas in Seattle and Balgüe—all thrive.

Don't forget One Call for All

The Bainbridge Ometepe Sister Islands Association is a proud partner and beneficiary of the One Call for All annual fundraising drive. All of the money we receive through this program is designated to help with travel expenses to and from Ometepe. This year, we used some of the money to help Bainbridge high school students who couldn't have participated in the student delegation otherwise. We will also tap into the fund to pay for plane tickets for the four Om-

etepa English teachers who will visit Bainbridge Island in November and December.

The need for travel money will be especially strong in 2011 because we expect to have large delegations from each island as we celebrate our 25th anniversary.



MISSION; *To promote friendship and mutual understanding between the residents of Ometepe and Bainbridge islands through peaceful exchanges of all sorts. We expect the relationship to deepen over time and to involve a steadily increasing number of participants from both islands. Our friendship will be mindful of human dignity and the necessity of expanding cooperation among peoples of the earth, irrespective of political philosophies.*

Mission formulated in June 1987.

MISIÓN: *Para promover amistad y entendimiento mutuo entre los residentes de las Islas de Ometepe y Bainbridge mediante intercambios pacíficos. Esperamos que la relación se profundice con tiempo, e involucre más y más participantes de las dos islas. Nuestra amistad será respetuosa a la dignidad humana y la necesidad de expandir cooperación entre la gente del mundo independientemente de filosofía política.*

Misión formulada en junio de 1987..



School bands march through the streets for Nicaragua's Día de La Patria (Independence Day) in September.

Bandas de la escuela marcha por las calles en septiembre por Día de la Independencia de Nicaragua.

Finding 'autumn' in Nicaragua

By Kari Lagerloef

For us in the Pacific Northwest, autumn evokes images of blustery days and bundled children waiting for the bus at the start of a new school year. The season marks the winding down of summer's abundance at the farmer's market where tomatoes, beans and berries are gradually replaced by heartier winter squashes and apples. And, as the days turn cold, families ready themselves for the celebration and light of the coming holidays to carry them through the months of grey and wet.

In Nicaragua, technically there is no "autumn". The tropical maritime climate is divided annually into two distinct seasons, one wet and one dry. The dry season beginning in December when the last threat of hurricanes has subsided for the year, ends in May with the long awaited first rain. The wet season lasts through the end of November, with only a small respite in July and August when the *Canicula* arrives (a temporary dry spell). Although Nicaragua does not have 4 seasons from a meteorological standpoint, most Nicaraguenses would agree that the "autumn" period leading up to the December holiday season is a special time of celebration, with the end of the school year, local and national holidays, and the agricultural harvest that will carry them through the dry season. It is also a time of worry for many Nicaraguenses, as dark skies on the horizon could always bring the threat of a building tropical storm.

September is the time when corn, a staple in Nicaragua, is in abundance. This can be seen from the ears laid out to dry on everyone's back patio, to

the elote (fresh corn) being sold steaming hot out of large buckets on the bus. Güirilas, a tasty thick tortilla made from young corn served with fresh cuajada cheese, as well as tamales de elote are found at bus stations and at street stands across the country. The corn that is dried will be stored away for making pinol (a toasted corn a cacao drink), and cooked down to make masa for nacatamales during the holidays.

September is also the month of Nicaragua's Día de La Patria (Independence Day). School bands process through the streets in full uniform, baton twirlers in the lead. The beat of drums, having been heard for months before as the schools spent hours in practice, carries across the town as the community comes out to watch their spectacular playing.

In November, Altagracia, one of the major towns on Ometepe, celebrates its patron saint, San Diego. Residents from all over Ometepe come to participate in the weeklong celebration of dancing, processions and bull riding. By the end of November and of the wet season, the coffee beans are ready to be picked. Farmers gather on the hillsides of Volcan Maderas to quickly harvest and dry the beans before they are readied for shipment.

As the last rains subside for the season, the farmers on Ometepe take stock of that year's agricultural harvest. The sacks of dried corn, beans and rice are readied for storage and for the market. Children leave for school vacation and families string lights for the coming December festivities.

Encontrando “Otoño” en Nicaragua

Por Kari Lagerloef

Para nosotros en el noroeste de los Estados Unidos, el otoño nos da el imagen de días ventosos y de niños abrigados esperando el bus al inicio del año escolar. La temporada llega al final del verano cuando se baja la abundancia de productos. Ahora en lugar de los tomates, frijoles verdes y fresas del verano so los ayotes y manzanas. Y, mientras los días so ponen mas helados, las familias se preparan para la celebración y luz de las festividades de diciembre.

En Nicaragua no hay la estación de “otoño”. El clima tropical esta dividida anualmente en dos temporadas, el invierno y el verano. La temporada del verano comienza en diciembre cuando ha pasado la ultima amenaza de un huracán y termina en mayo con la primera lluvia. La temporada del invierno es de mayo hasta noviembre, con periodo sin lluvia durante la canicula en julio y agosto. Aunque no hay 4 estaciones en Nicaragua, la temporada de tres meses antes de las festividades de diciembre es un tiempo de celebración, con la culminación del año escolar, días feriados, y la cosecha que les da los recursos para sobrevivir la temporada del verano. También es un tiempo de preocupación cuando el cielo oscuro amenaza con



In November, when Altagracia celebrates its patron saint, residents from all over the island come to participate in the weeklong celebration of dancing, processions and bull riding.

En noviembre, cuando Altagracia celebra su santo patrón, gente de todas partes de la isla llegan para participar en las fiestas, procesiones y ver a los toros.



Güirilas are tasty thick tortillas made from young corn served with fresh cuajada cheese.

Güirilas son unas tortillas gruesa con un pedazo de cuajada.

una tormenta tropical.

Septiembre es el mes cuando se cosecha el maíz, un producto básico de Nicaragua. Se ven los elotes en los patios para secar, y los elotes vendidos calientes y cocidos en el bus. En los mercados y en las calles se venden Güirilas, una tortilla gruesa con un pedazo de cuajada, y también tamales de elote. El maíz secado se guarda para usar en el pinol y para la masa de los nacatameles.

Septiembre es el mes del Día de la Patria en Nicaragua. Las bandas participan en una procesión por las calles. Se escuchan los tambores durante los meses antes cuando las escuelas están practicando, y la comunidad sale este día para escuchar y ver la banda tocar.

En noviembre, Altagracia, una de las comunidades de Ometepe, se celebra su santo patrón, San Diego. Gente de todas partes de la isla llegan para participar en las fiestas, procesiones y ver a los toros. Al final de noviembre el café esta listo para la cosecha. La gente que trabajan en los cafetales llegan a Volcán Maderas para cosechar, secar y procesar el café para la exportación.

Cuando se terminan las lluvias, los finqueros de Ometepe miran su cosecha final de la temporada. Los sacos de frijoles, maíz y arroz están guardados o llevados al mercado para vender. Los niños salen a vacaciones y las familias se decoran las casas con luces para las festividades de diciembre.

Nicaraguan Sign Language project continues on Ometepe

By Dale Spoor

For several years BOSIA's Special Needs Committee has worked cooperatively with James Kegl and his wife Judy to provide workshops in Nicaraguan Sign Language for deaf children and their families in various communities on Ometepe. Judy is a professor of linguistics at the University of Southern Maine who first came to Nicaragua in 1986 at the request of the Ministry of Education of the Nicaraguan government to assist them with the development of programs for what later came to be known as ISN (Idioma de Señas Nicaragüense).

James and Judy founded an organization centered in Maine, the Nicaraguan Sign Language Project (NSLP), which BOSIA's Special Needs Committee partners with. The NSLP has trained a number of deaf teachers, several of whom have come to the island to teach. The teachers travel to a different community each week, with classes held at the homes of families—sometimes in the yard, weather permitting. We have also been fortunate to have at the workshops a hearing volunteer fluent in ISN to interpret between the deaf teachers and members of the hearing community: our staff, parents, etc.

BOSIA covers all of the teacher costs, plus assistance to the families who provide lunch for everyone. Marcos Cordoncillo, the retired special education teacher on Ometepe, helps to organize the workshops and provides logistical assistance. Our office staff has also been central to making these workshops a success. For these children and their families, the workshops have provided their first introduction to a comprehensive sign language that they can use, not only among themselves, but also with others in the deaf community in Nicaragua. The response from the local deaf community and our staff has been very enthusiastic.

Those of us who have been fortunate enough to observe and participate in these workshops have been very favorably impressed. Kim Esterberg recently wrote: "I want to report to you that I am very proud of all involved in the classes for the deaf, from you, to the teachers and the students. Ela and I attended two days of classes in Balgue



Daphne, a teacher at a school for the deaf in Bluefields, on Nicaragua's Caribbean coast, helped teach sign language in the Sister Islands workshops.

Daphne, una maestra de los sordos en Bluefields en la costa caribe de Nicaragua imparta una clase de señas de manos en los talleres de las Islas Hermanas.

and I took lots of pictures, and we also learned some signs. Then we came in to Altagracia for a day of classes here, and again, it was great. These three dynamic women make it very clear that communication is not only possible, but also important. They are good teachers and make a good team. They approach the question of communication from many different angles during their sessions".

In April of 2009 a BOSIA delegation went to Ometepe to participate in the First Conference for People with Special Needs on the island. The conference was an outgrowth of the previous survey where over 250 people with special needs were interviewed. After the conference, a small group, along with a young deaf girl and her mother, visited the school for the deaf in Ciudad Dario. We were all very favorably impressed with the school, which is operated by a group of nuns from the Catholic Church. The facility is impressive, as were the programs for the children. The atmosphere was warm and inviting, while the children seemed to be happy, well cared for and engaged in the learning process.

As a result of this contact, three young deaf children from Ometepe now attend this school.

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Proyecto del Idioma de Señas Nicaragüense

Por Dale Spoor

Por varios años el Comité para Personas con Necesidades Especiales ha trabajado en conjunto con James Kegl y su esposa Judy para ofrecer talleres en el Idioma de Señas Nicaragüense (ISN) para los niños sordos y miembros de sus familias en las comunidades de Ometepe. Judy, una profesora de la lingüística en la Universidad de Maine del Sur, fue a Nicaragua por la primera vez en 1986 como invitada por el Ministerio de Educación (MINED) del gobierno de Nicaragua para apoyar con el desarrollo de programas en el lenguaje de señas recientemente descubierto.

James y Judy establecieron un organismo en Maine, el Proyecto de Idioma de Señas Nicaragüense (NSLP), la cual trabaja en conjunto con el Comité para Personas con Necesidades Especiales de Las Islas Hermanas. El NSLP ha capacitado varios maestros en ISN, y algunos de ellos han llegado a la isla para dar clases. Los maestros viajan a una comunidad diferente cada semana, donde se realiza clases en la casas de

las familia – a veces en el patio, si permite el tiempo. También tenemos la fortuna de tener un voluntario quien es oyente y es fluente en ISN para la traducción entre los maestros, familias y comunidad.

Las Islas Hermanas cubren los costos de los maestros, y apoya a las familias que proveen almuerzo para todos. Marcos Cordoncillo, el educador jubilado de necesidades especiales en Ometepe, ayuda con la organización de los talleres y coordina los logísticos. Además, nuestra oficina ha sido céntrica en el éxito de los talleres. Para los niños y sus familias, los talleres han sido la primera introducción a un ISN comprensivo que ellos lo pueden usar, no solo entre ellos mismos, pero también con la comunidad de sordos Nicaragüense. La reacción de la comunidad sorda local y de nuestros trabajadores ha sido muy buena.

Los que han tenido la fortuna de observar y participar en los talleres han sido muy impresionados. Recientemente Kim Esterberg escribió: “Quisiera informarle que estoy muy

orgulloso de todos los involucrados en las clases para los sordos, de Ud. hasta las maestras y los alumnos. Ela y yo atendimos clases por dos días en Balgüe, tomamos muchas fotos, y también aprendimos unas señas. Después fuimos a Altagracia por un día de clases allá, y otra vez era estupenda. Esas tres mujeres son dinámicas e imparten que la comunicación no sea solamente posible, pero también importante. Ellas son buenas maestras y hacen un buen equipo. En sus clases, el-



The workshops draw students of many ages, from elementary school into high school.

Los talleres reciben alumnos de todas edades de las escuelas primaria y secundaria.

*Continúa en la
página 13*

Nicaraguan Sign Language project continues on Ometepe

Continued from page 10

In addition to learning ISN, they receive a broad educational program, including the use of computers. They also work at the nursery and the worm farm the school operates to help provide funds for the school. Because we want to help the children and their families remain intact, we provide funds for regular visits back to Ometepe. All funding for this part of the program comes from a gift donation made by the Bainbridge High School student delegates from funds raised from their auction. The donation is enough to maintain these children at the school for two more years.

Over the summer, we had ISN workshops on the island for seven weeks. Tomasa Gonzalez, the deaf teacher who has been the lead teacher several times on Ometepe, returned to the island once again for the workshops. Yuri Kegl, who is the adopted deaf Nicaraguan daughter of James and Judy, joined her. Assisting as a translator for the teachers was a former Peace Corps volunteer who now lives in Condega and works with

Tomasa at the school for the deaf there, Nola Cragerud.

In addition to providing ISN, these current workshops are also providing early training for a young deaf man from Madroñal named Dilmer Menocal, to help him gain the skills toward eventually becoming a teacher himself. Dilmer has demonstrated to the teachers and our staff an unusual aptitude for learning ISN, as well as an eagerness and strong interest in continuing his studies. We are also providing training for the sister of one of the deaf children, Carolina Bucardo. If all goes well, Carolina, who is hearing, will develop the skills to assist in the future in translating between the deaf teachers and the hearing community during the workshops and between the larger hearing and deaf communities on Ometepe.

Future plans include a thirty-six week program on the island for each of the three coming years. Each year there will be three eight-week workshops in the various communities for the children and their families, similar to those in the past. In addition, there will be a twelve-week

intensive training session in Altagracia aimed at young deaf children like Dilmer who are interested in becoming teachers for the deaf. We hope that Carolina Bucardo will also be able to take part in these workshops.

Funding for this expanded program has come partly from a grant that the NSLP received from a Dutch non-governmental organization. Our committee will be searching for additional funding to cover our share of the costs.

*Dale Spoor is
chair of the Special
Needs Committee.*



Some of the workshops in Nicaraguan Sign Language were held in our office in Altagracia. Algunos de los talleres de señas de mano se realizaron en nuestra oficina en Altagracia.

Proyecto del Idioma de Señas Nicaragüense

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las imparten que la tema de comunicación tiene muchos puntos de vistas diferentes.”

En abril de 2009, una delegación de Las Islas Hermanas fue a Ometepe para participar en la Primera Conferencia para Personas con Necesidades Especiales en la isla. La conferencia era una extensión de una encuesta realizado con 250 personas con necesidades especiales. Después de la conferencia, un grupo pequeño, y una niña sorda y su madre, visitaron una escuela para los sordos en Ciudad Dario. Nos impresó la escuela, que esta manejada por unas monjas de la iglesia Católica. El campus es impresionante, igual que los programas que ofrecen. El ambiente era atrayente y seguro, y los niños parecían felices, de buen estado y involucrado en el proceso de aprendizaje.

El resultado del viaje es que ahora hay tres niños sordos de Ometepe que atienden la escuela. Ellos aprenden el ISN en adición a un programa educativa amplia, incluyendo computación. Además, ellos trabajan en el jardín. La escuela recauda fondos con la producción de gusanos para fincas. Nosotros queríamos ayudar a los niños a mantener contacto con sus familias, apoyamos con fondos para visitas de regreso a Ometepe. Todo el financiamiento para este programa viene de una donación de los delegados de estudiantes del instituto de Bainbridge de la subasta que se realizan. La donación era suficiente para mantener a los niños por dos años más.

El taller de ISN de siete semanas más recién en la isla va a concluir en agosto. Tomasa González, la maestra sorda de Condega que ha sido la maestra anteriormente, regresó de nuevo para realizar las clases. Yuri Kegl, quien es sorda y es la hija adoptada Nicaragüense de James Kegl y Judy Shephard, ayudo a Tomasa. Ayudando con interpretación para los maestros era Nola Cragerud, una ex voluntaria del Cuerpo de Paz, y quien ahora vive en Condega y trabaja con Tomasa.



Ela Esterberg, a Sister Islands founder, joins in learning sign language at one workshop.

Ela Esterberg, una fundadora de las Islas Hermanas, participa en el taller de señas de mano.

Además de enseñar NSL, también los talleres proveen la capacitación inicial para un joven sordo de Madroñal quien se llama Dilmer Menocal, para ayudarlo en adquirir las habilidades para ser maestro el mismo. Dilmer ha demostrado a los maestros y a las personas en la oficina su aptitud excepcional para aprender el ISN, y su entusiasmo e interés en continuar sus estudios. También, están capacitando a Carolina Bucardo, la hermana de Cristian Bucardo, uno de los niños sordos. Si todo va bien, Carolina, quien es oyente, desarrollará las habilidades para ayudar en el futuro con la traducción entre los maestros sordos y la comunidad oyente durante los talleres, y con todas las comunidades de oyentes y sordos en Ometepe.

Los planes para el futuro incluyen un programa de triente y seis semanas en la isla que se realizara durante los próximos tres años. Cada año habrá tres talleres de ocho semanas en las comunidades diferentes para los niños y sus familias. Además, habrá un curso intensivo de 12 semanas en Altagracia para los jóvenes como Dilmer quienes están interesados en ser maestros de ISN. Esperamos que Carolina participara en el taller. El financiamiento para la extensión del programa es de una donación de NSLP recibido de un ONG Holandés. Nuestro comité buscara fondos adicionales para cubrir nuestro parte de los costos.

Dale Spoor es jefe de La Comité Para Personas con Necesidades Especiales.

A *lider* for youth on both islands

By Spencer Hepp

If you or a family member has been a student delegate to Ometepe, or you have visited the BOSIA stand at the farmers market, you have probably met Linda Snyder. If not there, you may have crossed her path at soccer games, Bainbridge school functions, or Girl Scouts. Her history of involvement in community activism is too long to tell here. In short, anywhere on Bainbridge where there has been an effort to develop young people, support the underserved, and encourage cultural exchanges, chances are you will find Linda.

As a member of BOSIA for 17 years, Linda has worked both on the front lines and behind the scenes promoting friendship and sharing culture with the Island of Ometepe. Her background and her commitment to empower and broaden the worlds of young people meshed well with the job of leading student delegations to Ometepe. In this capacity, she has been one of the driving forces to prepare both students and chaperones for third world travel; but more importantly, to open their minds and hearts, and be (as Linda says) “ambassadors of friendship and goodwill.”

Linda’s Ometepe experience began in seventeen years ago, when she visited the town of Tilgue. “I wanted to speak Spanish,” she explains, “And I wanted to do something important with my time.” Already a fluent Spanish-speaker, she accompanied her eldest son on his first delegation in 1993, as a co-chaperone.

“I was a Peace Corps volunteer back in Ecuador, several decades ago,” says Linda, when asked about her impressions during that first trip. “And it sort of reminded me of that. There weren’t any paved roads, no telephones, no computers. But I was struck by the host families, by how caring they were and how open and generous they were, not just for me, but for every student.” The close-knit, open-hearted nature of the communities on Ometepe is something that every visitor remembers. “Everybody in the town would know what was happening with every student, no matter whether they hosted the student or not.”

Her first trip to Tilgue began a long story of chaperoning student delegations to the Island. Linda has travelled around both volcanoes, and her feet have touched most of Ometepe. She has stayed with host families in five towns over seven different trips. Despite that, she says, she could never choose a “favorite” community. “Each one



Linda Snyder at a sandia festival in Tichana.

Linda Snyder en un festival de sandia en Tichana.

is unique and different and very special, with a different culture and a different vista. They’re all special, and I would go back in a heartbeat to any one of the towns.

Linda believes that it’s important to remember that the connections forged by BOSIA are a two-way street. “To me, BOSIA is a stream of ideas that goes back and forth. We benefit most if there’s equal and clear communication, and there’s not a leader and a follower but we’re all in this together.” The sharing of cultures, she believes, is at least as important to Bainbridge as it is to Ometepe. “The students go there and it opens their eyes. It opens their eyes to something new, to a way of life we don’t have here on Bainbridge, and that’s very important. It challenges our boundaries.”

When not working with BOSIA, or her myriad other projects, Linda can be found tending her garden or herding her chickens.

Un *leader* para los jóvenes en las dos islas

Por Spencer Hepp

Si tú o alguien de tu familia ha sido con la delegación de estudiantes a Ometepe, o has visto el puesto de Las Islas Hermanas en el mercado de aire libre, es probable que ya conozcas a Linda Snyder. O tal vez la conoces de los partidos de fútbol, o eventos de las escuelas de Bainbridge, o de las Niñas Scouts. Su pasado de participación comunitaria es demasiada larga para contar. En cual quiere evento de Bainbridge que es para el desarrollo de los jóvenes, o para apoyar con los intercambios culturales, es muy probable que encontraras a Linda.

Linda ha sido un miembro de Las Islas Hermanas por 17 años, y ha trabajado en varios cargos para promover la amistad y intercambio cultural con la isla de Ometepe. Su deseo para apoderar a los jóvenes le ha ayudado en su rol de líder de las delegaciones de estudiantes. Como líder, ella ha usado su conocimiento para preparar a los chaperones y estudiantes para el viaje al otro país; pero mas importante, ella ayuda en abrir sus mentes y corazones para ser (como dice Linda) “embajadores de amistad y buena voluntad”.

Linda tuvo su primer contacto con Ometepe hace diez y siete años cuando visitó la comunidad de Tilgue. “Yo quería hablar en español,” ella explicó, “Y quería hacer algo primera delegación en 1993, como co-chaperona.

“Yo era una voluntaria de Cuerpo de Paz en Ecuador hace unas décadas,” dice Linda, cuando yo pregunté sobre sus impresiones de su primer viaje. “Y era parecido. No había adoquinado, ni teléfonos, ni computadores. Yo estaba sorprendida que las familias de la comunidad era tan cariñosas y generosas con todos nosotros.” Cualquier visitante a Ometepe siempre recuerda la unidad y cariño de las comunidades. “Toda la gente de la comunidad sabia lo que pasaba con todos los estudiantes de Bainbridge, no importaba si la familia tenia un alumno de huésped o no.”

Su primer viaje a Tilgue era el inicio de una historia larga de ser líder de las delegaciones de estudiantes. Linda ha viajado alrededor de los dos volcanes, sus pies han tocado casi toda la isla. Ella ha quedado en cinco comunidades durante siete viajes diferentes. Sin embargo, ella dice que nunca podía elegir una comunidad “favorita”. “Cada una es única, diferente y especial, con una cultura y vista diferente. Todos son especiales, regresaré sin pensar a todas.”

Linda cree que es importante a recordar que las relaciones creadas por Las Islas Hermanas son de doble calle. “Para mi, Las Islas Hermanas es un río de ideas que viene y va. Nosotros beneficiamos si la comunicación es igual, y si no hay un líder y un seguidor, pero que todos trabajan iguales.” El intercambio de culturas, dice ella, es igual en importancia para Bainbridge y para Ometepe. “Los estudiantes viajan para allá y se abren los ojos. Se ven algo nuevo, una vida diferente a la vida de Bainbridge, y eso es muy importante. Se abren los limites.”

Cuando ella no esta trabajando con Las Islas Hermanas, o en los otros proyectos, Linda se encuentra en su jardín o guardando a sus gallinas.

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Finding friendship on Ometepe: a student delegate's story

By Sean Willerford

I recently traveled to Ometepe for the third time. I have traveled to many parts of the world, but the sense of friendship and community on Ometepe keeps me coming back. The goodwill of the Ometepinos and the friendship cultivated by BOSIA have created a bond that will last for many years to come.

This year, I traveled to Ometepe as a returning student delegate. I stayed in the town of San Jose del Sur, about half an hour by bus down the road from Moyogalpa. When we arrived, tired and sweaty, we were greeted by a very large, friendly crowd in the auditorium of the local school. There were speeches, none of which we understood, some singing, and then the Nicaraguan national anthem. We then discovered we were expected to sing our own national anthem, which turned out to be a spectacular failure. After some fruit and a small familial mix-up, we returned home with our families.

I spent most of the next few days reading silently, watching the World Cup, and doing my best to communicate with my family, who were kind enough to deal with my broken Spanish. I was relieved to go to the school we were painting and speak English with my fellow Americans. This routine continued

until the fourth day or so, when my Spanish skills were finally brushed up and I decided to bring out the playing cards. They were a huge hit, and we spent hours each night from then on playing a variety of both American and Nicaraguan games. I finally began to talk to my family, and learned a lot about them, their relatives and their way of life. For the rest of my visit I felt like I was at home.

Until our trip I had never been good friends with any of my fellow delegates. I knew them vaguely through various classes, but we never spent any time together before our visit to Ometepe. In the first couple of days when we were still uncomfortable around our families and needed English speakers to talk to, we provided each other with the needed lifeline to relax and be able to have fun. By the end of the trip we had formed friendships (both with delegates and Ometepinos) that I, for one, will never forget.



Student delegates and children from the elementary school in Tichana stand in a circle around the soon-to-be sports court, the project that the Baingbridge high school students helped work on during their trip.

Los delegados con alumnos de la escuela primaria en Tichana se forman un círculo alrededor del sitio futuro de un campo deportivo. Los delegados trabajaron en el proyecto durante su viaje.

Encontrando amistades en Ometepe: una historia de un estudiante delegado

Por Sean Willerford

De recién viajé a Ometepe por la primera vez. Yo he viajado a varios lugares en este mundo, pero el ambiente de amistad y comunidad en Ometepe me hace regresar. La buena voluntad de los Ometepinos y la amistad cultivada por Las Islas Hermanas ha creado una conexión que estará por muchos años.

Este año viajé a Ometepe con la delegación de estudiantes por la segunda vez. Me quedé en la comunidad de San José del Sur, una media hora en bus de Moyogalpa. Cuando llegamos, cansados y sudados, nos recibieron un gentío amistoso en el auditorio del colegio. Dieron palabras de bienvenida, que no pudimos entender bien, y cantaron el himno nacional de Nicaragua. Después nos dimos cuenta que esperaban el himno de los Estados Unidos también, y la cantamos pero horriblemente. Después de un poco de fruta para comer, regresamos a las casas con nuestras familias.

Yo pasé los días que seguían leyendo en silencio, viendo la Copa Mundial, y intentando a comunicarme con mi familia, quienes eran muy paciente con mi español. Yo sentía aliviado para estar en el colegio hablando inglés con los otros americanos. La rutina continuó hasta la cuarta día cuando sentí que mi español estaba mejor y decidí sacar mi naipes de cartas. Era un éxito, y pasamos horas cada noche jugando juegos de los Estados Unidos y de Nicaragua. Finalmente yo podía hablar con mi familia y aprendí sobre sus familiares y su vida. Desde este momento sentí que estaba en casa.

Antes del viaje no era muy amigo con los otros estudiantes. Yo los conocía por las clases en el instituto, pero nunca pasábamos tiempo junto hasta el viaje a Ometepe. En los primeros días cuando todos sentíamos incómodos y necesitábamos otra



Bainbridge students make piñatas with kids from their host town on Ometepe.

Alumnos de la isla de Bainbridge hacen piñatas con niños de su comunidad en Ometepe.



Bainbridge High School student Kendall Sanson with a student at the school in Tichana.

Alumna de la escuela secundaria de Bainbridge, Kendall Sanson, con una alumna de la escuela en Tichana.

gente para hablar en inglés pudimos relajar y divertirnos juntos. Al final del viaje habíamos creado amistades (con los delegados y los Ometepinos) que yo, por uno, nunca voy a olvidar.

Our new office volunteer: Elizabeth 'Zia' Ward

We are happy to welcome Zia Ward as the new Office Volunteer for BOSIA on Ometepe. She arrived on Ometepe early September and will stay through next summer. Below is an interview with our new volunteer:

Where are you from?

What were you doing before signing on as the new BOSIA volunteer? I am from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where my family currently lives, and Bainbridge Island, Washington, where my heart is. I graduated from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, where I studied Human Geography, GIS, and Environmental Studies.

Since I graduated from college I have been working as an informal environmental educator in various settings. I worked on an educational farm for a year in Muir Beach, CA and then came to Bainbridge Island to work at Islandwood. For the last year and a half I have been working as a nanny and yoga instructor while attending school as I prepare to return to graduate school in the next couple of years. I am interested in transitioning into the health field although I am not sure what that will look like. Maybe public health research or occupational therapy.

Why did you decide to be the 2010-2011 office volunteer? I decided to be the Office Volunteer for a year because I believe in the mission of BOSIA and the goal of cultural exchange, community friendship, and education. In addition, this opportunity will give me a chance to strengthen my Spanish as well as offer a change of pace and a chance to gain a little perspective.

Anything interesting in your first few days in the office? I could probably write a novel for this question! I have been lucky that in my first week here I get to witness one of the biggest celebrations of the year Independence Day. In addition BOSIA has had a major part in supporting the marching bands that are an integral part of the celebration. I have also witnessed a special presentation of the Marimba group to BOSIA at the office.



Nuestra nueva voluntaria: Elizabeth 'Zia' Ward

Es un placer dar una bienvenida a Zia Ward, la nueva Voluntaria de Las Islas Hermanas en Ometepe. Elle llegó a Ometepe al inicio de Septiembre del año corriente y estará hasta el próximo año. Lo siguiente es un entrevista con la nueva Voluntaria:

¿De donde eres? ¿Que hacías antes de trabajar con Las Islas Hermanas? Yo soy de Chapel Hill, North Carolina, donde vive mi familia, y de la isla de Bainbridge, donde vive mi corazón. Yo gradué de la Universidad de North Carolina en Chapel Hill, y estudiaba Geografía

Humana, GIS, y Estudios del Medio Ambiente. Desde mi graduación he trabajado de instructora del medio ambiente en varios lugares. Trabajaba en una finca educativa cerca de Muir Beach, California, y después fui a Bainbridge para trabajar en Islandwood. Durante el año pasado trabajé de niñera y de instructora de yoga mientras preparaba para regresar a sacar mi maestría en unos años. Tengo interés en el área de salud, pero no se en que exactamente. Tal vez en estudios de salud pública o terapia de ocupaciones.

¿Por qué decidiste ser la voluntaria para 2010-2011? Yo decidí ser la nueva voluntaria por un año porque creo en la misión de Las Islas Hermanas y la meta de intercambio cultural, amistad entre comunidades y educación. Además, la experiencia me va a dar la oportunidad de mejorar mi español y tener una nueva perspectiva.

¿Algo interesante que te ha pasado en los primeros días en la oficina? Yo podría escribir una novela para contestar la pregunta! Tengo suerte que en la primera semana aquí pude participar en las celebraciones del día de independencia. La Asociación de Islas Hermanas ha apoyado las bandas escolares, las cuales son una parte integral de las celebraciones. También yo estaba presente para escuchar la música de marimba en la oficina. Mientras podía escribir mucho sobre eso, prefiero escribir sobre algo que me asombra – las bicicletas y motos! Por ejemplo, el otro día un hombre pasó en su bicicleta y llevaba 3 niños! Dos estaban sen-

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Continued on page 19

Our new office volunteer: Elizabeth 'Zia' Ward

Continued from page 18

While I could write a lot about this, I will choose to tell you a little about what amazes me here - the bicycles and motorcycles! I am completely amazed at how creative and risky people are when riding a motorcycle or bicycle. For example the other day a man was riding a bicycle carrying three children. Two were sitting on the cross bar between the seat and the handle bars and the third was riding on the rack behind the seat. The first thing that popped into my mind was what was going to happen when the bike hit a rock or something.

People here don't really seem to think about safety, like we do in the states. Rarely do you see anyone wearing a helmet on a bicycle and about half the people on motorcycles are wearing a helmet. The other day I saw a man carrying an infant in one hand while riding a motorcycle and driving

with the other. I was so completely shocked and I think my heart skipped a beat. People also use their bikes and motorcycles to transport everything, even a table. I saw two guys riding a motorcycle one was driving and the other was holding a table above his head. Not but 5 minutes later there were two guys each riding a bicycle parallel to each other carrying a barbeque in between, each having one hand on the barbeque and the other on the bike.

I find myself waiting for the next inventive object to transport while at the same time trying not to worry for the whole Island that someone might get hurt.

Anything you personally would like to achieve while down on Ometepe? My main goal is to strengthen my Spanish, which I know has to happen. I hope to have a great time and make some new friends and really become a part of this community.

Nuestra nueva voluntaria: Elizabeth 'Zia' Ward

Continued from page 18

tados en el área entre el manillar y el asiento y el tercer estaba atrás. Lo primero que pensé era que pasara si choque con una piedra.

Me parece que la gente aquí no están tan preocupados con la seguridad como nosotros de los Estados Unidos. Rara vez se ve alguien con un casco aquí. El otro día vi un hombre que llevaba un infante en su moto – mi corazón casi se paro! La gente usa sus bicicletas y motos para el transporte de todo, incluyendo una mesa. Vi dos hombres en una moto, uno manejaba mientras el otro llevaba

la mesa encima de su cabeza. Unos 5 minutos después vi dos bicicletas con una barbacoa llevada entre las dos.

Me encuentro esperando para ver que será el próximo objeto para pasar encima de una bicicleta, y tratando de no preocuparme por la seguridad de toda la gente aquí.

¿Tienes unas metas para tu tiempo de trabajo en Ometepe? Mi meta principal es mejorar mi español, y sé que lo voy a lograr. Espero pasar bien el tiempo, tener nuevos amistades y involucrarme en la comunidad.

Want to live and work on Ometepe for a year?

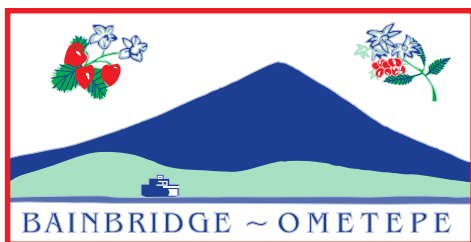
The Bainbridge Ometepe Sister Islands Association is accepting applications for a paid staff position on Ometepe for one year beginning in July. The position, called "office volunteer," is typically held by someone with a connection to Bainbridge Island.

Many office volunteers have been recent college graduates interested in careers in international development, food policy, or other fields that benefit from having a deeper understanding of another culture. There have also

been office volunteers well along in their careers who decided to take a break and do something completely different for a year.

Applicants need to share the association's goals, have decent Spanish, be at least 21, and be able to commit to working on Ometepe for one year. The association provides airfare, housing and a modest stipend. The application deadline is May 15.

To learn more, contact Jeanne Huber at (206) 780-1246 , huber001@aol.com.



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Sister Islands Opportunities

- Drink and gift Café Oro—organic, shade-grown, and fair-traded. All profits go to projects on Ometepe.
- Volunteer to help package Cafe Oro at 4 p.m. every Wednesday at the Pegasus warehouse on Day Road. Call Barb, 206-842-6740.
- Sponsor or co-sponsor an Ometepe student to go to college. Call Kathy, 206-842-9805.
- Donate school supplies for delegations to take to Ometepe. Call Linda, 206-842-0140.
- Donate Spanish books or money for libraries. Call Dallas, 206-780-8475.
- Interested in joining a delegation to Ometepe? Call Susan, 206-842-3984, or Jeanne, 206-780-1246.
- Get involved in BOSIA. Come to monthly board meetings, 7 p.m., second Monday, Bainbridge Senior Center.
- Sponsor a project through your church, school, organization, or family. Call Cestjon, 206-842-4249.
- Join a low-volume e-mail list about Sister Islands activities, events, and volunteer opportunities. Send an e-mail message to: bosia-interest-join@bosia.org
- Join our mailing list and get this newsletter automatically. Call Lee, 206-842-0774.

Design help needed

The BOSIA newsletter team is looking for a new volunteer to assist with the layout of the association's bi-annual newsletter. BOSIA would supply the InDesign software for the volunteer. Basic knowledge of design and page layout, and previous experience with this program or one similar is preferable. If you are interested, please email Kari Lagerloef at karilagerloef@gmail.com.