

ROCLA UPDATE ON THE AMERICAS

A PUBLICATION OF THE ROCHESTER COMMITTEE ON LATIN AMERICA

ROCLA

MISSION STATEMENT

Founded in 1973, the Rochester Committee on Latin America (ROCLA) seeks to build bridges between the Rochester, NY, community and the people of Latin America. Through its monthly presentations, speakers, films, and quarterly newsletters, ROCLA educates local residents about the culture, economics and politics of the countries of Central and South America, Mexico and the Caribbean and the ways globalization, US trade and drug-war policies impact the lives of their people. ROCLA also supports the work of frontline organizations involved in working for justice and democracy in the global south, including the Latin America Solidarity Committee (LASC), Nicanet, Committee in Solidarity with the people of El Salvador (CISPES), Network In Solidarity with the people of Guatemala (NISGUA), Rights Action and the Pastors for Peace Cuba Friendshipment. We also encourage our members and others to advocate for US policies that support human rights and reverse the often oppressive history of US involvement in Latin America. Annually, ROCLA presents its international and local White Dove Awards for outstanding leadership and service in the cause of human rights in Latin America.

Steering Committee

Marilyn Anderson, Peg Gefell, Bob and Marilyn Kaiser, Grania Marcus, Arnie Matlin, Lew Montemaggi, Sandy Morales, Peter and Gail Mott, Gloria Osborne, Callie Rabe, Vic Vinkey, Tom Ward

Publishing Team

Editors: Gail and Peter Mott
Designer: Jim Anderson

JUNE'S PROGRAM A COLLEGE STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE ON HONDURAS FEATURING ARIANNE WALKER WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 7PM, DUPC



Garifuna woman walking by police. Photo by Tim Russo, COMPPA via Upside Down World

Arienne Walker, a student at Canisius College and a resident of Rochester, went to Honduras in March with a delegation from Grahame Russell's Rights Action organization. Grahame, a former White Dove winner, is deeply concerned about political and environmental issues in Latin America. Thus, Arienne's time in Honduras was spent learning more about issues facing the people there. In her own words, Arienne wrote, "The trip all around

was very eye-opening because I did not know all the injustices such as the forced movement of the Garifuna people and the effect the mining industries were having on native people in Honduras. The time we spent with the Garifuna people was my favorite part of the trip. The people there were so welcoming and kindhearted. One would ask why is someone taking over their land? The answer to that question is: for planting African palm trees and for the expansion of tourism. Displacing and killing people for money is just plain

unethical. Their stories moved me to the point that the focus for my thesis for grad school may be shaped around their struggles."

You are invited to come and hear a response to what is going on in Honduras that you won't find in the mainstream media.

The Downtown Presbyterian Church is at 121 N. Fitzhugh St, Rochester, is wheelchair-accessible and looped for those with hearing difficulties. ■

URGENT ACTION

"US AIDS HONDURAN POLICE DESPITE DEATH SQUAD FEARS"

[Ed. note: This is an Urgent Action from Witness for Peace. Rights Action (www.rightsaction.org/) and the Center for Constitutional Rights (<http://ccrjustice.org/Honduraspolicefunding>) also are urging calls to Congress about this issue.]

On March 23, 2013, the Associated Press reported that the U.S. continues to fund units of the Honduran National Police that are under the command of Police Chief Col. Juan Carlos "The Tiger" ("El Tigre") Bonilla. Bonilla has been credibly accused of three extrajudicial killings that occurred in 2002 and has been linked to 11 more deaths and disappearances. The State Department claims it only funds police who are not under Bonilla's supervision. But the AP reports that

(Continued page 2)

URGENT ACTION

(Continued from page 1)
all Honduran police are, in fact, under the command of the police chief. The Center for Economic and Policy Research has asked: *Did the AP Catch State Dept. Officials Lying to Congress About Honduran Death Squads?* If so, the State Department is breaking U.S. and international law.

The problem goes beyond the current police chief. Serious human rights abuses by the Honduran National Police predate Col. Bonilla, and have surged with U.S.- supported militarization of the police force. According to the AP article, Honduran prosecutors have documented some 200 death squad-style attacks in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula in the last three years. And the Violence Observatory of the Honduran National Autonomous University confirmed 149 violent killings by Honduran police in 2011 and 2012. In one tragic example of such killings, agents of the National Police, using State Department-supplied helicopters and under the supervision of U.S. DEA agents, killed four civilians in the town of Ahuas last May, just 10 days before Bonilla was appointed police chief. Extrajudicial killings and other human rights crimes, often related to death squad activity, escalate when there is little distinction between the duties of the military and police.

On March 18, 2013, Assistant Secretary of State William Brownfield announced more U.S. funding for units of the Honduran National Police. The Leahy Law prohibits assistance to any foreign unit if its members have committed gross human rights violations,



Honduran police attacking civilians

unless effective steps have been taken to bring those responsible to justice. Therefore, by law, the State Department must suspend assistance to all Honduran National Police units immediately. Anti-gang and anti-kidnapping programs are under the direction of officers who deal with gang members by kidnapping and killing them. Honduran state security forces engage in extensive and persistent corruption. Members

of the Honduran police and military are widely accused of human rights violations, including "social cleansing," and attacks on the Afro-Indigenous, LGBTQ, and small-scale farming (campesino) communities.

Units of the Honduran police also receive funds and training from the U.S. in order to fight the "War on Drugs." Rather than reduce the devastating impacts of drug trafficking, this militarization increases violence in the region. ■

FREDY AMILCAR BOLAÑOS

Fredy Amilcar Bolaños, one of Randall Shea's middle-school students, recently graduated as a Forestry Engineer from the National School of Forestry Sciences in Honduras. Randall reported, "Fredy was part of our second middle-school graduating class in 1998, finishing first in his class. Due to his ability and to a shortage of teachers, I recruited him to teach Natural Sciences to 7th and 8th grade students while he himself was a 9th grade student." Randall raised scholarship funds for Fredy to study forestry at the high school level at the National Central Agricultural School in Guatemala. In October of 2001 he graduated from high school, again first in his class. In 2004, after being awarded a scholarship to study Forestry at the National School in Honduras, he graduated with a three-year university degree. After that, he worked for six years in the regional office of the National Forestry Institute.

When Fredy completed his five-year Forestry Degree, with a focus on Watershed Management he wrote to Randall (excerpted):

...I want to express my gratitude to you and your network of education program donors. You motivated me and opened up for me, and for other young students, the pathway to academic success. Your motivation left its mark on me, and on so many more, imprinting in us the belief in our own abilities to aspire for more and to know that one day we would achieve our goals... I am infinitely grateful to you, because it was you who awoke in us the spirit of yearning to attain more and the confidence in ourselves to achieve our goals. ■

SAY SOMETHING**Call your Congressperson with this message:**

The disastrous policy of militarization in Honduras must end now.

The State Department and other US agencies should eliminate all police and military assistance and cooperation and fundamentally re-cast US policy in Honduras.

We urge you to support reforms that de-militarize the Honduran National Police and restore the separation of police and military forces.

District 23

Thomas W. Reed

315-759-5229 or
202-225-3161

District 24

Dan Maffei

315-423-5657 or
202-225-3701

District 25

Louise Slaughter

585-232-4850
202-225-3615

District 27

Chris Collins

716-634-2324 or
202-225-5265



**Newly elected Venezuelan President
Nicolas Maduro**

VENEZUELA HAPPENINGS

by Peter Mott

Now that President Hugo Chavez has died it is interesting to note that our corporate media have stopped – or slowed – the ugly disinformation about him. He is now not being called a “dictator” as often. The truth is that Hugo Chavez was reelected three times by overwhelming majorities in elections found by former President Carter to be free and fair. In fact, we have learned more about the undemocratic policies of the US State Department and the CIA during the years we tried to undermine the Chavez government.

The dirty tricks by the US State Department and the CIA continue. Eg, Wikileaks has released a secret US cable from William Brownfield, former US Ambassador to Venezuela, “outlining a comprehensive plan to infiltrate and destabilize former President Hugo Chavez’ government. Brownfield – now an Assistant Secretary of State – prepared the cable for the US Southern Command. He states that the US Embassy in Venezuela, together with the US Agency for International Development and the Office of Transition Initiatives, had five core objectives, including : “infiltrating and subverting Chavez’ political party, donating \$15 million to 300 rightist organizations in Venezuela.”

Three cheers for Wikileaks! The American people must learn the truth if we are to have a foreign policy we can be proud of. ■

AN IMMIGRATION BILL AT LAST!

by Grania Marcus

Immigration is again in the news. On April 17, 2013, the “Gang of Eight” Senators, four Democrats and four Republicans, released their 844-page long-awaited immigration reform bill, the “Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013.”

What does it mean for the thousands of mostly-immigrant often-invisible farmworkers who grow, tend and harvest the fruits, vegetables and dairy products that grace our tables? There are some hopeful provisions, but as in all legislation, the devil is in the details. In this case, there does not seem to be much cause for rejoicing that we will have the just and humane immigration reform that immigrants need and want. In fact, this enforcement-heavy bill already contains significant negatives and will probably be made worse as it goes through Congressional committees, is reconciled with a yet-to-be-introduced House bill and faces the amendment process.

The following are some of its current provisions:

Positives:

- The bill creates an expedited path to citizenship for undocumented farmworkers who arrived before December 31, 2012, and who meet the work and other requirements; farmworkers can apply under the general legalization requirements if they arrived before December 31, 2011.

- Undocumented youth (“Dreamers”) who were brought to the US as minors by their parents are also eligible to apply for an expedited path to citizenship.

- Immediate family members, defined as spouses and children under age 18, will also be eligible to apply for citizenship.

- It provides an expedited process to

clear up the enormous backlogs of those family members who have already applied for permanent residence and citizenship.

- It eliminates some of the permanent bars in our current immigration law, including those for unlawful presence, for having received a prior deportation order, having made a false claim to citizenship or misrepresented one’s immigration status, and for failing to attend a removal (deportation) proceeding.

- The bill restores limited judicial discretion in deportation proceedings, which had been eliminated under the 1996 immigration law.

Negatives:

- The Registered Provisional Immigrant Program under which most immigrants will apply for citizenship is an overly long process of a minimum of 13 years. It prevents RPIs from even applying for a path to citizenship for ten years after registration and requires the achievement of enforcement triggers and clearing up all family and employment backlogs first.

- The bill ramps up both border and interior enforcement and makes achieving its “90% effectiveness” rate a “trigger” for its legalization provisions.

- Provides \$5 billion in funding for further militarizing the border, adding border personnel and hardware such as additional drones; it also extends the current border fence and continues mass border-crosser prosecutions under Operation Streamline and the practice of repatriating migrants in dangerous areas controlled by drug gangs. (The bill seems unaware of recent studies finding that immigration to the US is now at net zero.)

- Increases interior enforcement and perpetuates programs such as the odious Secure Communities (this program operates in nearly all states, including New

(Continued page 4)

“FEAR IN THE FIELDS” BY JOSEPH SORRENTINO

Documentary photographer and journalist, Joseph Sorrentino, who recently moved to New Mexico, has an article in the February 28 issue of **In These Times**. Called *Fear in the Fields*, it concerns sexual harassment of farmworker women, an issue that’s too often ignored. To read the article, go to:
http://inthesetimes.com/archives/covers_ind/37/03/

(Continued from page 3)
York) that have been found responsible in various studies for racial profiling, human rights violations and the detention of US citizens and legal permanent residents. One study found that in the Buffalo Sector, Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers were given incentives such as gift cards for shopping in Wal-Mart and Home Depot to reach their "quotas" of detained immigrants. In Rochester, officers continue to target passengers on trains and buses and in the stations to reach their quotas.

- Excludes LGBT couples from its family visa provisions.

Provides for using E-Verify, a database that has been found to be extremely flawed, to determine eligibility to work in the US.

- Provides an insufficient, though expandable, number of visas for lower-skilled workers called W visas, which will be for farmworkers, dairy workers, landscapers, domestic workers and others.

- Most of these provisions ignore the 600% increase in Border Patrol personnel in the last decade, their increasing use

of excessive force (20 immigrants have died on the border in the past three years) and continuing violations of human rights by Border Patrol agents, especially by agents on the Southern border (although the bill does provide limited additional oversight of Customs and Border Protection and a complaint and hearing process). The reality of the continuing human rights catastrophe on our Southern border seems lost on those who have written this bill. Over 6,000 migrants have died in US deserts since 1994, and an estimated 30,000 migrants have died in Mexico on their way to the US. Untold numbers of other immigrants, including our local farmworkers, live in constant fear of losing family members or being separated from their families by detention and deportation, being deported to countries where their lives are in danger, losing their livelihoods and ability to support their families, or being detained and suffering abuse in detention.

It's hard not to conclude that the millions of immigrants who have been contributing to the US economy and enriching our society for years deserve better. ■



Luis Barrios, who accompanied the Caravan to Rochester and talked with us in July 2012, and Gail Walker, daughter of Rev. Lucius Walker, the founder of Pastors for Peace.

NEW FORMAT FOR THE CUBA FRIENDSHIPMENTS

by Vic Vinkey

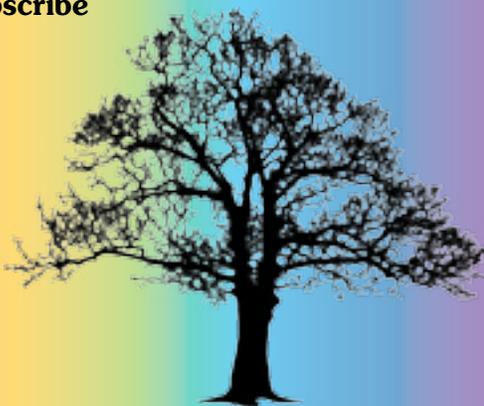
For 20 years ROCLA has participated in the Cuba Friendshipment organized by Pastors for Peace. This year Pastors is going to change the format. They have two major objectives. They want to have a much lighter environmental and economic footprint by eliminating the massive trucking of goods across the U.S. And, they want to encourage local groups like us to reach out beyond our usual contacts to take the Cuba message further.

The new "lean and green" format will focus on the formation of 10 to 12 regional hubs and organizing informational activities in local areas in "spokes" around each hub. These hubs are encouraged to reach out to new groups around various local issues (affinities) - such as health care and education, where Cuba's progress can be highlighted. Celebrations will last for a week (July 8-15th), after which Caravanistas will carry "high priority" aid, such as medicine, on to Mexico City where there will be meetings and group transportation to Santiago, Cuba. There participants will help with reconstruction of hurricane Sandy damage and participate in the 60th anniversary celebration of the attack on Moncada Barracks.

All activities will be highlighted through aggressive use of social media. The message, as always, will be freedom of travel for all and an end to the blockade.

Pastors for Peace recognizes this new format is a work in progress and encourages comments and suggestions at www.ifconews.org/CubaCaravan. ■

**Read Update on the Americas
in living color! Save a tree!
Sign up for the e-version
Go to: www.rocla.us
Click on Subscribe
to Update.**



**Pastors for Peace Rochester needs you!
To be part of the 2013 Celebration
call Vic Vinkey at 271-8723 or
e-mail: vinkey@frontiernet.net**

US SEEKS TO GET RID OF LEFT GOVERNMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA



Mark Weisbrot is co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, in Washington, D.C. He is also president of Just Foreign Policy

by Mark Weisbrot *Folha de São Paulo (Brazil), April 20, 2013*

[Ed. note: Mark Weisbrot's analyses are spot on. You'll find his opinion pieces in the New York Times, Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, and other major U.S. newspapers. He also writes a weekly column for the Guardian Unlimited (UK).]

Recent events indicate that the Obama administration has stepped up its strategy of "regime change" against the left-of-center governments in Latin America, promoting conflict in ways not seen since the military coup that Washington supported in Venezuela in 2002. The most high-profile example is in Venezuela itself, during the past week. As this goes to press, Washington has grown increasingly isolated in its efforts

to destabilize the newly elected government of Nicolas Maduro.

But Venezuela is not the only country to fall prey to Washington's efforts to reverse the electoral results of the past 15 years in Latin America. It is now clear that last year's ouster of President Fernando Lugo of Paraguay was also aided and abetted by the United States government. In a brilliant investigative work for Agência Pública, journalist Natalia Viana shows that the Obama administration funded the principal actors involved in the "parliamentary coup" against Lugo. Washington then helped organize international support for coup.

The U.S. role in Paraguay is similar to its role in the military overthrow of democratically elected President Manuel Zelaya of Honduras in 2009, where Washington hijacked the Organization of American States (OAS) and used it to fight the efforts of South American governments who wanted to restore democracy. Zelaya later testified that Washington was also involved in the coup itself.

In Venezuela this past week, Washington could not hijack the OAS but only its Secretary General, José Miguel Insulza, who supported the White House (and Venezuela opposition) demand for a "100 percent recount." But Insulza had to back down, as did Spain, the United States' only other significant ally in this nefarious enterprise – because they had no support.

The demand for a "recount" in Venezuela is absurd, since there has already been a recount of the paper ballots for a random sample of 54 percent of the voting machines. The machine totals were compared with a hand count of the paper ballots in front of witnesses from all sides. Statistically, there is no practical difference between this enormous audit that has already happened, and the 100 percent audit that the opposition is demanding. Jimmy Carter called Venezuela's electoral system "the best in the world," and there is no doubt about the accuracy of the vote count, even among many in the Venezuelan opposition. ■

It is good to see Lula denouncing the U.S. for its interference and Dilma joining the rest of South America to defend Venezuela's right to a free elections. But it is not just Venezuela and the weaker democracies that are threatened by the United States. As reported in the pages of this newspaper, in 2005, the U.S. government funded and organized efforts to change the laws in Brazil in order to weaken the Workers' Party. This information was discovered in U.S. government documents obtained under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act. Most likely Washington has done much more in Brazil that remains secret.

It is clear that Washington did not see the mildly reformist Fernando Lugo as threatening or even radical. It's just that he was too friendly with the other left governments. The Obama administration, like that of President Bush, does not accept that the region has changed. Their goal is to get rid of all of the left-of-center governments, partly because they tend to be more independent from Washington. Brazil, too, must be vigilant in the face of this threat to the region. ■

THANK YOU LETTER

Your Membership Helped Support the "Kids for College" program: a Thank You letter from Lory Ghertner for ROCLA's \$150 contribution.

It is frequently questioned what effect relatively small donations can make to the lives of the receiver. But to all of those who made a donation, big or small, through ROCLA to any of my students, you must realize that it changes lives in many ways. The reward for these donations is measured in successes in life, whether it is to help a student get through another semester in college or to help him/her to support family. It is measured in the affirmation that by reaching out a hand of support, someone is lifted up emotionally and psychologically.

Yessica has been a full time student at MCC, working afternoons and weekends to help her mother support her two younger children. A tight budget is not even a concept, survival is. ROCLA's donation to Yessica will make a large

difference in her ability to continue college, as she is not eligible for government grants or loans. Every dollar she receives means one step closer to her goals.

Yessica has been overwhelmed by the gifts she has received in her life despite the extreme difficulties imposed by racial antagonism and of losing her father to aggressive immigration policies. The high school education supported by the Sisters of Mercy. The donations that have helped her to get this far. The affirmation of her importance in our society by so many people who have given her their hand in support.

So it is I who would like to thank ROCLA for the donations to Yessica, for your understanding that, in your fight for better conditions in Latin American, you recognize that the issues south of our border are reflected in the lives of many living in our communities.

John L. Ghertner, MD
Kids for College
6055 Robinson Rd.
Sodus, NY 14551

Opening doors for disadvantaged youth ■

RIGHTS ACTION COMMENTARY

by Grahame Russell

[Ed. note: Grahame comments on reports from the Associated Press (4/9/13): "Guatemala War Trial Puts Past Closer to Present" and from Reuters (4/5/13 by Mike McDonald): "Witness at Ex-Dictator's Trial Links Guatemalan President to War Crimes."]

Genocide Denier:

Guatemalan president, and former General, Otto Perez Molina, is the equivalent of a "holocaust denier", stating that there was no genocide in Guatemala, let alone a US-backed "scorched-earth" military campaign of burning villages to the ground and killing everyone found in sight - babies to the elderly, boys and girls, women and men.

North American Complicity and Silence: Not only did successive US governments fund, train, arm and operate directly with the genocidal regimes, through the worst years of State repression and genocide - 1970s to early 1990s -, but, most recently, on September 24, 2012, former US President Clinton gave General Otto Perez a special recognition award at a United Nations ceremony in New York City.

Gold and the Genocidal Generals:

Since the 1990s, North American mining companies - Goldcorp Inc, Tahoe Resources, Hudbay Minerals, Radius Gold, KCA Associates - have maintained direct business and political dealings, first with Efraim Rios Montt (the general now on trial for genocide who was, for years, president of the Guatemala Congress and leader of the former ruling FRG

party) and now with Otto Perez (the general who is also an intellectual and material author of the State repression and genocide in the 1980s, but who - as president - has immunity from prosecution). ■

TAKE CARE OF THE RIVERBED WHERE YOU ARE

Padre Alejandro Solalinde, founder of Hermanos en el Camino migrant shelter in Ixtepec, Oaxaca, says people often ask him, "What can I do to help migrants?" He replies, "It's often too easy for people to give from their pocketbooks and not from their hearts. I challenge people to get involved with a cause for human rights where they live."

"Migration is like a mighty river flowing south to north," Solalinde says. "The authorities can try to divert the current, but they'll never stop the river. We're all responsible for the section of the 'riverbed' where we are. I'm doing my job in Ixtepec, and it's your job to take care of the 'riverbed' wherever you are." ■

QUINOA

by Gail Mott

Everyone who remembers the 1940's probably can hum the Tom Mix Hot Ralston radio commercial: "It's delicious and nutritious filled with golden energy..." Over 3000 years ago Ecuadorans, Bolivians and Colombians might have been humming a similar jingle about quinoa (*keen-wa*) when it was first domesticated. This grain-like seed is nutritious - it has more protein content than any grain. And it's also delicious - by itself or in myriad recipes.



Recently there has been a spate of controversy about this member of the goosefoot family (as are swiss chard and spinach). *Time* magazine and the *London Guardian* have weighed in on the effect of its popularity on local consumption (more of it goes for export) and on sustainability (llamas - providers of great fertilizer - are being sold to make room for more crops). But *Mother Jones* provides a balanced view of quinoa in a fascinating and informative article by Tom Philpott (<http://www.motherjones.com/tom-philpott/2013/01/quinoa-good-evil-or-just-really-complicated>).

If you're tempted to try it, the Abundance Co-op on Marshall Street sells organic yellow quinoa from Bolivia in bulk for \$3.69 a pound. You won't need even that much to make this delicious quinoa salad. Sorry I can't give an attribution.

Quinoa Salad

Dressing:

1/4 cup fresh orange juice
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 1/2 tablespoons low-fat buttermilk
2 teaspoons honey
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Combine and stir until well blended.



Quinoa

Salad:

1 1/3 cups uncooked quinoa
2 3/4 cups water
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup thinly sliced green onions
1 cup sweetened dried cranberries
1/3 cup chopped fresh parsley
3 tablespoons sliced almonds, toasted

To prepare the quinoa put it in a large nonstick skillet; cook 4 minutes over medium heat, stirring frequently. Now put the quinoa in a large bowl, cover with water, and rub grains together for 30 seconds. Rinse and drain. Do this twice.

Combine quinoa, 2 3/4 cups water, and 1/2 teaspoon salt in a large saucepan; bring to a boil. Cover and reduce heat; simmer 20 minutes or until liquid is absorbed. Remove from heat, and cool to room temperature. Stir in dressing, onions, and the remaining ingredients. Cover and chill.

10 servings (serving size: about 1/2 cup) ■



CELEBRATE ROCLA'S FOUNDING

Information coming soon about a festive **ROCLA Anniversary Picnic** in late August. Details on time and place will be announced on ROCLA's e-mail. If you are a print reader and want to be informed please go to www.rocla.us and click on "Subscribe to Update" at the left.

IN THE BEGINNING:

Recollections about the origins of ROCLA from Alison Clarke, Irene Galvin and Henrietta Levine

After the 1973 coup in Chile, when the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende was overthrown by a military junta, Alison Clarke, Irene Galvin, Henrietta Levine, Bob Malone, and Sylvia Salaff (all members of the Rochester Peace and Justice Center), created what we know today as the Rochester Committee on Latin America. Their immediate goal was to raise consciousness about the plight of the Chilean people, and also, because of the dire conditions in Chile (threats of death and torture), they joined a national effort initiated by the United Presbyterian Church and Church World Service to help Chileans leave their country. They needed commitments from sponsors to help with housing, job search, English lessons, and children's education. There are people living in our community today who were helped by that effort.

Among the many fund-raisers was a concert in April of 1977 by the then internationally famous Cleveland Quartet (Peter Salaff, violinist) who contributed concert receipts to the Vicariate of Solidarity, a Roman Catholic group working to help the people of Chile.

ROCLA's first meeting was

held in 1980 at Henrietta and Max Levine's house. Attending were Alison, Sylvia Salaff, Henrietta and Max Levine, Bob Malone, Irene Galvin, and Mary Jo Dudley. Shortly afterwards Santiago Masferrer joined them. Irene was the first coordinator followed by Mary Jo Dudley, Marilyn Anderson and Jon Garlock. [Ed. note: Much more material about ROCLA's early days is available for anyone who would like to compile a history. Please e-mail Bob Kaiser at rkaiser3@rochester.rr.com.]

Notes about the Founders:

Alison Clarke, community organizer; president and co-founder of the Small-Scale Food Processors Association of NY; co-founder of PJEC, started the Rochester Sanctuary Movement.

Mary Jo Dudley is Director of the Cornell Farmworker Program and 2012 recipient of the White House Champions of Change Cesar Chavez Legacy award.

Irene Galvin was the first Convener of ROCLA. She now teaches Spanish at the Harley School.

Henrietta and Max Levine. Lifetime social activists and vital forces in the Pastors for Peace Cuba Friendshipents, they led the first delegation to El Sauce, Nicaragua, in 1988. That in turn led to the establishment of the Ciudad Hermana Task Force of Metro Justice.

Bob Malone was employed as a paralegal with Farmworker Legal Services of NY in 1980. Now he is a lawyer with a general civil practice focused on civil rights and immigration. For the past ten years his primary work has been with the Navajo Nation..

Santiago Masferrer is coordinator of the Latin American Cultural Association in Buffalo and founder of El Buen Amigo, the fair trade storefront there. In 1972 he was imprisoned in Carreta 24, a cellblock he shared for two years with 11 other political prisoners, in what he calls a "concentration camp," in Santiago, Chile).

Sylvia Salaff left Chile to study at the Sorbonne on the first plane out of the country three weeks after the coup. She is married to Peter Salaff. ■

SPIRIT OF THE CHILEAN RESISTANCE: VICTOR JARA**

On the morning of September 12, 1973, Victor Jara was taken, along with thousands of others, as a prisoner to Estadio Chile, the Chilean stadium. In the hours and days that followed, many of those detained in the stadium were tortured and killed there by the military forces. Jara was repeatedly beaten and tortured; the bones in his hands were broken as

were his ribs. Fellow political prisoners have testified that his captors mockingly suggested that he play guitar for them as he lay on the ground with broken hands. Defiantly, he sang part of "Venceremos" (We Will Win), a song supporting the Popular Unity coalition. After further beatings, he was machine-gunned on September 16, his body dumped on a road on the outskirts of Santiago and then taken to a city morgue where 44 bullets were found in his body. The contrast between the themes of his songs, on love, peace, and social justice, and the brutal way in which he was murdered transformed Jara into a symbol of struggle for human rights and justice worldwide. Here is the final unfinished verse of his last poem:

*How hard it is to sing
when I must sing of horror.
Horror which I am living,
horror which I am dying.
To see myself among so
much
and so many moments of
infinity
in which silence and
screams
are the end of my song.
What I see, I have never
seen
What I have felt and what I feel
Will give birth to the moment...*

*Estadio Chile
September 1973*

** Information from various websites. ■



METRO JUSTICE EDUCATION FUND

ROCHESTER COMMITTEE ON LATIN AMERICA

167 FLANDERS STREET, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14619

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
**U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #1812**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ROCLA UPDATE ON THE **AMERICAS**

DO YOU USE THE PEACEWORKS ROCHESTER CALENDAR?

Ted Wilcox has created and maintains a highly useful tool for all of us in the activist community - the PeaceWorks Rochester Calendar. At the click of a mouse (<http://www.peaceworks-rochester.org/calendar.html>), you can see what is happening of interest in the progressive community week by week. Ted says, "The calendar itself gives the bare essentials, but when you place the cursor on an event a box appears with all the important information about that

event; and if you click on the event, that text will appear on a new page for ease in reading - and for printing if desired." He goes on to explain that to add items to the calendar you don't have to login. You can send them directly to him (twwsma@rit.edu) or, more formally, at the bottom of the calendar there is a finger pointing to "submit a calendar post" and if you do that it will come to him. The calendar posts must be text messages - jpg entries don't work.

Here is the list of the free services PeaceWorks Rochester provides:

Peace Directory has descriptions and contact information for local groups. (Submit Request for Directory Listing)

Connections provides a way to learn more about groups in your interest areas.

Progressive Calendar to promote your event and avoid conflicts. (Submit Request for Calendar Posting)

Announce List is an e-mail listserve to promote progressive events.

Another benefit of this service is being able to find out in advance whether another group has scheduled an event at a time you were thinking of doing something. So take advantage of the PeaceWorks site. The more we use it the more useful it will be - to all of us. ■