



Picantico is a short newsletter (a mini-*Picante*) that ...

- *Keeps you up-to-date on PICA's programs and activities*
- *Inspires social action for global economic justice.*

- PICANTICO -
JUST THE
RIGHT SPICE!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>The kNOw US AND THEM Program</i>	1
<i>Funes Elected President of El Salvador</i>	1
<i>Jim Harney, Presente!</i>	2
<i>"All Call Together" Now Open for Urgent Business</i>	3
<i>PICA Income and Expenses</i>	3
<i>Doing Good Costs Money</i>	3
<i>PICA Goes to School</i>	4

THE kNOw US AND THEM PROGRAM

The goal of PICA's kNOw US AND THEM program is to build broader alliances, advocating together to achieve worker and immigrant rights and fair trade. We are doing this by making connections between the issues of immigration and trade. At the heart of kNOw US AND THEM is a "Listening Project," in-depth, non-judgmental interviews of displaced Maine factory workers, immigrants, and small farmers. We have conducted about 20 interviews to date, with more planned.

In keeping with PICA's tradition of working across borders and making the global local and personal, the interviews have taken place in Maine, in our sister city of Carasque, El Salvador (as part of a November 2008 delegation), and in the Washington, DC area, where a number of immigrants from Carasque live. We now have a rich trove of 30+ hours of interview materials that we are beginning to mine. You can see a 7-minute selection of that material for yourself in our first video, now in our Web site at www.pica.ws/programs/KnowUsAndThem.

The interviews are producing eloquent personal testimony and helping to identify experiences and feelings shared by people who live in worlds which seem very far apart. Laura Valencia, a young University of Maine graduate who came here from Mexico in her teens, describes growing up in Mexico with an absent father, who was working in the U.S. to support his family: "I used to think of the United States as a country that steals parents...I hated it." And Gaylene Spooner, a former sawmill worker in Ashland, Maine

(Continued on page 2)

MAURICIO FUNES ELECTED PRESIDENT OF EL SALVADOR

After decades (some would say 500 years) of struggle, Mauricio Funes of the FLMN was elected president of El Salvador on March 15. This is a tremendous victory for freedom and human rights in El Salvador - and for all of us who have stood in solidarity with the Salvadoran people. PICA members Donna Gilbert, Katie Greenman, Jessie Newcomb, and Karen Volckhausen were among the international observers who traveled to EL Salvador to help ensure that the January legislative and March Presidential elections were free and fair.

In an interview with Meredith Defrancesco and Jesse Dyer Stewart of WERU community radio (podcast at archives.weru.org/news/radioactive-31909), CRIPDES President Lorena Martinez eloquently described the meaning of this victory. CRIPDES, a network of over 300 organized communities throughout El Salvador, is partnered with US - El Salvador Sister Cities, of which PICA is a member.

Here is Lorena's statement (translated by Jesse Dyer Stewart):

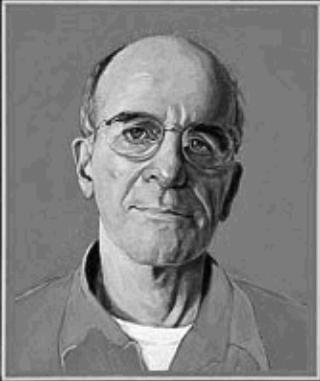


The Directiva of Las Anones, with US - El Salvador co-president Vanessa Cardinale

(Continued on page 2)

Jim Harney, Presente!

1940-2008



Portrait by Robert Shetterly
"Americans Who Tell the Truth"
www.americanswhotellthetruth.com

**He inspired, educated,
and motivated us all.**

Jim was an early PICA activist, whose photographs and vision were at the core of our work for many years. His work and biography can be found at Posibilidad (www.posibilidad.org), where he was artist in residence.

kNOw US AND THEM (continued from page 1)

talks about her fear that there won't be any students for the new school that Ashland is building: "The young people are moving away."

The outreach and education that is accompanying the Listening Project is having the results we had hoped for: building new connections and involving more people and organizations. For instance, PICA has begun a new collaboration with another Maine non-profit, Operation Breaking Stereotypes, to bring kNOw US AND THEM to high schools (see "PICA Goes to School" on p.4). And we are currently hard at work with the Maine Fair Trade Campaign (www.maineairtrade.org) designing a joint, statewide program of education and advocacy.

To find out how you can get involved in kNOw US and THEM, contact PICA.



**Mauricio Funes,
President-elect of El Salvador**

Funes (continued from page 1)

"As the FMLN slogan went, hope overcame fear, and now we have Mauricio as our President. This is a product of the work that we have been doing for many years – working with perseverance to achieve such an important result. We believe that this work has been accompanied all along by international solidarity, by all the people who didn't make it along the way, compañeros, friends, priests, the North American nuns, the Jesuits, the thousands of people who were massacred and sacrificed their lives so that this country could enjoy the happiness that we saw on March 15.

For us, and the social organizations, this is the solidification of a chapter of struggle for social, political, and economic transformation. We believe, as social organizations, that this will be another step, a broad opening to see our actions bear fruit – our work, facilitation, transparency, to work collectively, to search for job creation, to create the right conditions for agriculture so that these lands are cultivated and we can have the food security that is in such need in our country, and so that Salvadorans can remain in this country and don't have to continue migrating in search of opportunities in other countries.

In this sense we believe that the opening will be broad. . . So we believe that we must work to consolidate the social fabric, work that this really is a good government, that there is more democracy and citizen participation, and so that we have a country with equality, with social justice, and with a growing consciousness to generate new perspectives and alliances, and a new focus on youth, where youth have their own spaces as part of critical but constructive thinking for change.

We cannot avoid mentioning that last Sunday there were strong emotions in the entire Salvadoran population, there were parties everywhere – fireworks, lights, and shouts of "We did it." I believe this is a shared victory, with all those peoples of South and North America, all the people of the world who have identified with the goal and perspective that there is growing hope for change. So this week we join the happiness that other countries have experienced, and we accompany the countries that have not yet made it to this moment, but who will make it – with work and struggle we will achieve the changes that Latin America and the world deserve.

So dance, and give a toast to all this happiness, and that these efforts grow. I want to tell you that you should feel very much a part of this effort, because we have been working together and dreaming for many years now, and we are very thankful for this militant accompaniment that we have had."

“ALL CALL TOGETHER” NOW OPEN FOR URGENT BUSINESS

In the beginning of March, 40 Mainers made a series of calls to Rep. Mike Michaud and to the U.S. State Department ahead of an historic Salvadoran presidential election on March 15. Their message: to urge the Obama administration to state clearly and publicly that no matter the outcome of the election, there would be no U.S. reprisals.

Since 2 million of the total of 8 million Salvadorans live in the U.S., threats about deportations and restricting remittances that were made by the Bush administration during El Salvador's previous election were a potent political gift to the right-wing governing party. Four days before this month's election, Republican Representatives took to the Congressional floor to make these same threats, which were promptly widely publicized by the Salvadoran press.

This time, the U.S. State Department was flooded by calls from Maine and from around the nation, urging an immediate clarification of our country's non-interventionist position. And the State Department and Embassy acted, issuing a statement just before the election that our government would welcome ANY democratic outcome. For the first time in twenty years the ARENA government lost power, and El Salvador's FMLN party, born as a political party in 1992, has won the presidency.

PICA's All Call Together (A.C.T.) urgent response network cannot claim credit for turning the tide in a historic election. But, as they say, drops of water turn a wheel, and this kind of coordinated messaging for time-sensitive, critical situations can make a difference.

A.C.T. is a new and growing urgent response network, which we invite you to join. Each member commits to responding to a monthly alert that pertains to the kind of issues PICA addresses. These include human rights, labor rights, or immigration rights situations in which a coordinated message can help. We don't always make history, but we frequently matter, often to individuals at risk. Join this growing family of responders. Call or email PICA at 947-4203, info@pica.ws or via the PICA web site at www.pica.ws. We'll get back

PICA INCOME AND EXPENSES

Where the Money Comes From and Goes To Fiscal Year 2009

(Sept. 1, 2008 - August 30, 2009)

	2009 Budget*	%
Income		
Grants	49,500.00	51%
Individual donors	33,800.00	35%
Events	13,250.00	14%
Other (interest, misc)	300.00	0%
Total Income	96,850.00	

Expenses		
Personnel	49,079.00	51%
Office- rent and utilities	8,445.00	9%
Event Expenses	8,240.00	9%
Americorps Stipend	9,200.00	9%
All other expenses (staff travel, phone, printing, equipment, etc.)	21,900.00	23%
Total Expenses	96,864.00	

*Figures do not include \$10,000 in delegation income and expenses

2009 Budgeted Income



2009 Budgeted Expenses



Doing Good Costs Money

PICA's budget is bare-bones, but we still need funding to carry out our work. (See the financial information to the left).

Many of you are financial supporters – some of you for many years. When you think of helping PICA, please consider making a monthly donation. These donations are easy to make, and can substantially increase the amount of your help.

Instead of giving an annual \$50 donation, why not make a monthly donation of \$6? You can arrange to have your credit card charged each month - just go to PICA's Web site at www.pica.ws, and click on the red "Donate Now" words at the top of any page.

**Peace through Interamerican
Community Action (PICA)/
ROSC**

170 Park Street
Bangor, ME 04401
U.S.A.

Phone: (207) 947-4203
Fax: (801) 217-0885
info@pica.ws
www.pica.ws

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COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

*(meetings at PICA, except
as noted)*

- **Sister City Committee**
- First Wednesday of
each month, 5:45 - 8:00
PM (call PICA for loca-
tion)
- **Sister City Marketing
Committee** - Fourth
Tuesday of each month,
6:00 PM
- **kNOw US AND THEM
Steering Committee** -
First Tuesday of each
month, 3:30 - 5:00 PM
- **Board** - Second Wednes-
day of each month, 6:00
PM

PICA GOES TO SCHOOL

What would it be like if you were forced by economic desperation to leave your home in Mexico or Central America, risking your life to try to make a life in the United States? How would you feel if you were isolated, discriminated against, repeatedly stopped and sent back to your starting point? This spring Spanish and Sociology students at Brewer High School, and students attending Diversity Day at John Bapst High School in Bangor had a chance to find out by playing PICA's "Immigration Game."

PICA is reaching out to area high schools as part of our kNOw US AND THEM program, introducing students to questions about the ways trade and immigration affect all of us. For most Maine students, this is their first exposure to these issues.

We are excited about our new collaboration with Operation Breaking Stereotypes (www.operationbreakingstereotypes.org), an Orono, Maine-based program that partners Maine high schools with schools in Brooklyn and the Bronx, New York. We are working with OBS to integrate our Listening Project approach of careful, non-judgmental listening, and our findings about immigration, trade, and economic pressures into the exchanges between the schools, helping students connect these concerns to their own experiences. The work has already started, with material from PICA's Listening Project interviews being incorporated into a reader's theater presentation by Old Town High School's OBS students in February.



**Carasque youth welcome the Lis-
tening Project Delegation
November 2008**