

# Que

REPUBLICA  
DOMINICANA

## *¡Fondo Update!*

**G**reetings to you from Fondo Q. Although well over a year has passed since our last newsletter, rest assured that Fondo Quisqueya is alive and kicking. In fact, many of you by now will have received our flyer announcing FQ's annual meeting, which takes place in mid-May. To provide supporters and friends with further information and another chance to register, however, we have put together this issue of *Que Pasa*.

In addition to meeting-related information, you will also find news of grants and of FQ in general. For example, see "Investing in People" to learn of FQ's latest grants and "Dollars and Cents" for an accounting of our current finances. Also, please cast an eye at "Chipping In" because we are always grateful for donations of money or time. But if you find you can spare neither the one nor the other, we'd still like to hear from you. Sometimes comments and ideas can be as useful as cash.

Finally, please join us in two salutes: the first is to Fondo Q's hard-working D.R. committee, which evaluates each grant application received. Without the dedication of Mike Benson and John Seibol, FQ's operations would become a mission impossible.

Please tip your collective hats as well to Robert Dirmeyer, who does the design and layout for *Que Pasa*. An electronic publishing specialist for the national headquarters of the American Red Cross, Robert has devoted many late nights and weekends to producing our newsletter. Moreover, he has done so as a volunteer, which has saved the board big bucks for design and production.

So, *compañeros*, let's hear a real big one for the helpful guys of Fondo Quisqueya!

## *FQ Attains Nonprofit Status*

**O**n July 13, 1993, the Internal Revenue Service notified Fondo Quisqueya that the IRS had determined FQ to be exempt from "Federal income tax under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3)" of the IRS Code. Thus, all contributions to Fondo Quisqueya are tax deductible.

The IRS requires Fondo Quisqueya to make available for public inspection a copy of its April 29, 1993 tax-exemption application, supporting documents, and the IRS's July 13, 1993 notification letter. These documents are available for public inspection, with ad-

vance notification to Louis G. Ferrand, Jr., at 414 Rucker Place, Alexandria, Virginia 22301.

Special thanks to Kristin Fiske for helping put together the tax-exemption forms and to Lou Ferrand for donating the necessary legal work.

## *FQ Seeks Board Nominations*

**A**t its February 5, 1994 meeting, Fondo Quisqueya's sitting board\* appointed a committee to present nominations for a new board of directors that will be elected at the annual meeting in May. Minor Anderson, Lou Ferrand, Bill Threlkeld, and B.J. Warren will propose a slate of candidates, which may be augmented by nominations from the floor before the election takes place.

The new board of directors will consist of fifteen (15) directors. Of these, five will be elected for three-year terms, five for two-year terms, and five for terms of one year.

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**Fondo Quisqueya  
Annual Meeting  
May 12-14, 1994**

**Look Inside for Information and Registration**

## INVESTING IN PEOPLE

If you had a chance to read our last issue, you perhaps recall that FQ grants may fund any activity that helps groups or individuals learn new skills. We particularly encourage grant applications for activities that strengthen local institutions—in the broadest sense of the term. For example, we are very receptive to funding part or all of the cost of skills training for teachers, cooperative leaders, community water committees, etc.

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

Please read on to see your dollars at work.

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*The first write-up is from Bill Threlkeld (D.R. 89-92), whom some of you met in a previous issue of Que Pasa. At that time, Bill had requested funding to help two members from the community group "Unidos Venceremos" attend a goat-raising workshop. Here are accounts of that endeavor and another involving Dominican teachers and students.*

When I sought funding from Fondo Quisqueya, I did so because it appealed to me as a development resource. First, it focuses on human development which, for me, is the real goal of any development project (or should be). Second, it's not a free ride. What FQ contributes economically to the training and education of Domini-



MEMBERS OF "UNDOS VENCEREMOS" RAFAEL GUZMÁN (RIGHT) AND BIENVENIDO BUENO HOLDING ONE OF THEIR "MAMA" GOATS SO THAT AN ORPHANED KID CAN FEED.

cans is matched by the Dominicans themselves in the discipline they must maintain to balance the many everyday demands of life with their own personal development objectives.

On my first occasion to use FQ, I had been working with Unidos Venceremos for several months to develop a proposal for a goat-raising project. I was concerned because members appeared to have too little technical knowledge for their enterprise to thrive in the competitive goat market of La Linea. Although the members read whatever we could find on goats and visited nearby projects, they had virtually no hands-on training nor access to experts. So, when Heifer Project International announced it would sponsor a goat workshop in Santo Cerro, La Vega, the group was anxious to take advantage of the opportunity.

Thanks to an FQ grant, two members of the group—Héctor Chávez and Rafael Guzmán—

were able to attend the two-day workshop. They returned with new ideas and renewed energy.

My second request coincided with the annual meetings of the National Council of Geographic Education (NCGE) and the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG), held in Santo Domingo in September 1992.

During my tour of service, one of the most popular PCV activities was the map mural, through which Dominican teachers and students learned how to develop wall murals that could serve as a teaching aid, involve everyone in a fun activity, and beautify the school (or community building, city wall, etc.). The NCGE and CLAG meetings seemed an ideal opportunity for learning: if a group of Dominican students and teachers demonstrated the mapping technique for the geographers and geographic educators at these meetings, they could get input from over 500 professional geogra-

phers, cartographers, and geographic educators viewing the demonstration. (The activity would also provide good exposure for the Peace Corps.)

Again, FQ was able to cover the costs of materials needed, plus registration, travel, and meals for the Dominican participants: two teachers—Berenice Agoman and Maria Aguero—and five students—Junior Figuereo, Armando Leinó, Elizabeth Muñoz, Ruth Reyes, and Kirssis Santo. The presentation was a great success, and in appreciation for their participation, NCGE/CLAG presented all seven with a certificate of completion at the close of the event.

*In the next write-up PCV Megan Shirk introduces Melanio Morales, a resident of Boca de Chavon.*

An active member of the local school board and the accountant for our baseball team, Melanio Morales is very dependable and constantly looking for a way to better the community and himself. Because the community of Boca de Chavon lies near Casa de Campo, Sr. Morales has decided he would like to find work in one of its restaurants. As the competition is very high for such jobs, he is now taking a four-month "camarero de profesional" course offered by Colegio Adelinda Seijas. He is also studying English with me three times a week. Upon completing the camarero class, Mr. Morales would like to take the bartender class, a four-month class offered by the same school.

I honestly believe Mr. Morales will need to complete both of these classes to meet the current competition for jobs in Casa de Campo. I know that given the opportunity to take the bartender class, he will at-



MELANIO MORALES AND SON, AETEN, DURING A VISIT WITH FQ BOARD MEMBER B. J. WARREN.

tend it, and it will give him more job skills and an added advantage over other applicants.

*(FQ made a grant of RD\$500 to Sr. Morales, to cover the costs of his added training.)*

*Other candidates have received grants as well, many of which were matched with funds or in-kind contributions from other donors and/or the recipient:*

- Maria Altagracia Sanchez  
Nursing course, San Juan
- Teofilo Alvarez  
Advanced silk screening,  
Barahona
- Camacho Perez  
Electrical vocational school,  
Barahona
- Miguel Luciano  
Graphic arts courses at Altos  
de Chavon
- Leydi Grullon  
Musical training at Bellas Artes
- A rural group (unnamed)  
Environmental education  
workshop
- Mariluz Castro  
Transportation to nursing  
school
- Martimelda Rodriguez  
Hairdresser training
- Wilson Alexander Cabral  
Art supplies for classes at  
Bellas Artes

## FQ Tee-Shirts for Sale

Always looking for ways to make a buck, the FQ board of directors has hit upon that tried and true money-maker: the tee-shirt. Thanks to the efforts of Karen Clough (whom some of you will remember as Karen Hahn—D.R. 63-65), an FQ tee-shirt will soon be available for sale. Red, with an FQ-related design silk-screened on the front, these all-cotton shirts will be stocked in large and extra-large. And here's the best part: Miguel Luciano, one of FQ's former grantees, is preparing the design.

So, how much for this great-looking shirt? A mere \$15, plus \$2.50 for postage and handling. If you envision such an item glowing in your closet or on your back, please order using the contribution form located in "Chipping In." (You will find a section for that purpose near the bottom of the form.) Better still, buy your tee-shirt at the annual meeting and save the postage and handling costs.

## DOLLARS AND CENTS

According to FQ Treasurer Lou Ferrand, we have \$7,633 in the stateside account. When combined with FQ's Dominican accounts (US \$110, and RD \$3,561), that gives us a total of \$8,039. The exchange rate stands at 12.50 to 1, unchanged since last year.

Given these combined amounts, the grants program faces no immediate danger. However, it must be said that some contributions about now would make our treasurer very happy. Someday, we hope to have an FQ endowment fund large enough that we can stop passing the hat; until that happy day, however, we ask that you give what you can, when you can. !Que Dios te bendiga!

## FQ's Annual Meeting

**A** note from Minor Anderson, president of the board:

We're very pleased and excited to announce FQ's first annual meeting/get-together/reunion. Conceived and organized during the 25th anniversary celebration of the D.R. Peace Corps program, Fondo Quisqueya has been raising money and awarding grants since 1987.

Initially, thanks to the good offices of Tom Gittins, FQ operated under the auspices and legal umbrella of the Sister Cities International program. Last year, however, we formed our own corporation under the laws of the State of Virginia, and were granted 501(c)(3) status by the IRS (as a not-for-profit organization). The incorporation, however, requires that we get a little more formal about how we conduct our affairs; thus, the implementation of annual meetings, election of board members, and so on.

While some "malcontents" might see this as but yet another onerous government regulation, we see it as an opportunity to party and, we hope, reconnect

with old friends. Oh yes, we will have a business meeting, elect a board of directors, discuss Fondo policies, etc., but most of all we hope to renew old friendships and make new ones. There is an incredibly strong bond among ex-volunteers and staff, and we hope that this meeting will only reinforce that.

When Tom Gittins and I met recently with Vic Johnson, Peace Corps' Regional Director for Latin America, he told us that Carol Bellamy, the new Peace Corps Director, feels very strongly about the importance of Peace Corps' third goal: the experience and interest that former volunteers bring back to the United States. During our discussion with him about how nicely Fondo Q activities address this goal, Vic assured us that we could count on his support and participation. A few days later, someone from Ms. Bellamy's office notified us that she had agreed to participate in the annual meeting. And we are particularly pleased to announce that another special person—Andy Hernandez, the first director of the D.R. Peace Corps program—will be joining us as well.

Although we are waiting on a couple of confirmations, we expect our schedule to unfold largely as follows—

### THURSDAY, MAY 12

5-9 p.m. Reception for early arrivals at the Iwo Jima Quality Inn

### FRIDAY, MAY 13

Morning Congressional Forum (update on Peace Corps and Dominican Republic)  
Noon Luncheon on Capital Hill  
Afternoon Free  
Evening Reception at Dominican Embassy

### SATURDAY, MAY 14

Morning Recap of forum topics, followed by business meeting at the Quality Inn  
Noon Luncheon (ditto)  
Afternoon Picnic (optional)

The board of directors joins me in hoping to see as many of you as possible in May. For the convenience of those who may have tossed out our announcement flyer, we have included another registration form below.

## Registration for Annual Meeting

Please note: Your registration fee covers all scheduled events except the meeting session, which is free. It also includes a tax-deductible \$25 donation to Fondo Quisqueya. Companions pay only for those events they will attend.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- Your registration (\$100, if you register by April 15; \$125, after) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I am bringing a companion, who will attend these functions:
  - Congressional briefing and luncheon (\$20)
  - Reception at Dominican embassy (\$20)
  - Luncheon on Saturday (\$15)
  - FQ picnic (\$20)
- Total for companion \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Total enclosed (Checks payable to Fondo Quisqueya) \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# Where to Hang Your Hat While You're Here

For those of you who will need a hotel during the annual meeting, have we got a deal for you! The Quality Inn at Iwo Jima (1501 Arlington Blvd. in Rosslyn, fairly close to the Metro) is offering a special FQ meeting rate of \$69 plus 9.75% tax per room per night, single or double, with no extra charge for kids in the room. The same rate will hold whether you come early or stay longer. However, reservations **must** be received by April 21, 1994. Also, rooms can be held only until 4:00 p.m. on the arrival date unless you make a deposit in advance. You may make

## Hotel Registration Form

Fondo Quisqueya  
Annual Meeting

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ room(s) for \_\_\_\_\_ night(s). # Persons \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival date \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_ Departure date \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Major credit card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **Quality Inn at Iwo Jima**

1501 Arlington Blvd. Tel: 1-800-221-2222

Arlington, VA 22209 Fax: 1-703-522-5484

this deposit (\$69) either by check or reservations made after the cut-off major credit card. Please note that date are subject to availability.

## CHIPPING IN

Although we produce Que Pasa primarily to let you know how your donations are spent and in this issue to provide annual meeting information) there is **NO WAY** the FQ Board is going to pass up an opportunity to do some fundraising. Hence, the form you see here.

Now, maybe some of you are thinking that you will wait until you can send a "significant" sum. To you we say, **no contribution is too small**. But if this is a bad time for you to be giving away any money, period, perhaps you can send us an address or two for our mailing list or suggest ways to make the fund (or the newsletter) better. Whatever the amount or form of your contribution, it will be greatly appreciated. ¡Mil Gracias!

Please mail the form to:

Fondo Quisqueya  
P. O. Box 20653  
Alexandria, VA 22320

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

No, I can't come the Annual Meeting, but I would like to make a contribution to Fondo Quisqueya.

Contribution amount: \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to pledge: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have made a pledge and are able to predict your payment schedule, check one of the following:

Monthly      Quarterly      Biannually      Annually

Please list names and addresses of people you think would like to be on our mailing list: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to support the fund in some other way or have any suggestions, please note here: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

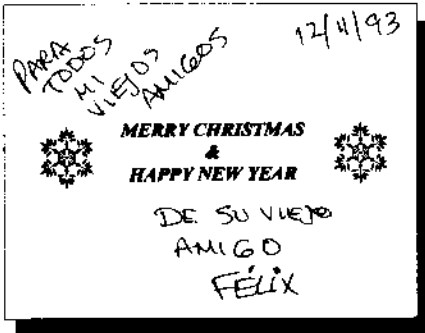
I would like \_\_\_\_\_ tee-shirt(s). Size: Large \_\_\_\_\_ Extra-large \_\_\_\_\_

\* Tee-shirts X \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_ Postage/handling (\$2.50 each): \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Allow 6 to 8 weeks for shipping and handling.) Total: \_\_\_\_\_

## Mail Box

We have no mail to share with you this time, with one very important exception—a Christmas card from Félix!



*Que Pasa*, published now and then by Fondo Quisqueya volunteers, serves as a channel of communication for Fondo Quisqueya (FQ) supporters and friends. Please send your comments and suggestions to: *Que Pasa*, P.O. Box 20653, Alexandria, VA 22320.

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## Nominations Sought

—continued from page 1

Membership on the board of directors is open to any current member of Fondo Quisqueya. For purposes of eligibility, the present board considers a “current member” to be anyone who supports FQ’s aims and has made a donation to Fondo Quisqueya at any time in the past or makes such a donation before April 30, 1994.

According to Article VII,7 of the FQ bylaws, the board of directors is a “working board”—that is, one whose members are expected to attend board meetings and to take an active role in FQ operations. (Prospective candidates may wish to note that the bylaws provide a mechanism—thus far unnecessary—for throwing drones and sluggards off the board!)

If you consider yourself neither drone nor sluggard and are interested in serving on the board, please contact someone on the Nominating Committee before April 5, 1994:

- Minor Anderson  
202/ 784-4229 (work)  
703/960-3395 (home)
- Lou Ferrand  
202/ 458-3416 (work)  
703/ 683-6598 (home)
- Bill Threlkeld  
703/ 841-9771 (work)  
703/ 707-0255 (home)
- B.J. Warren  
202/ 484-7170 (work)  
202/ 483-1537 (home)
- \* Current members of the FQ board include Minor Anderson (president), B.J. Warren (vice president), Kristin Fiske (secretary), Lou Ferrand (treasurer), Randy Adams, Karen Clough, Lynda Edwards, Tom Gittins, John Hopper, Gene Lane, and Dennis Zaenger.

**!!Attention all former Dominican PVs, Staff, and Friends!!  
Look inside for news of Fondo Quisqueya Grants.**

Fondo Quisqueya  
P.O. Box 20653  
Alexandria, VA 22320

**Que Pasa**