Friends,

This is a new type of newsletter in that it highlights through photos some of the many activities we’ve worked on this past year. In fact, it is born in part out of our lack of success recently to get articles from our participants (too much Facebook!??)... But it is a fun visual chronology looking back at another very active year.

It’s also a call to get ready for the approaching 30th Anniversary Celebration which will recognize and lift up thirty years of creativity and solidarity, and build more support for new efforts in the future.

Adelante!

Chris

Upcoming

**Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 am - 3 pm**
FIESTA, Fair-Trade Gift Bazaar to benefit the New Haven / Leon Sister City Project. 608 Whitney Avenue (the First Unitarian Universalist Society building). For more info (203) 562-1607 or www.newhavenleon.org

**Wednesday, Dec. 11, 6 pm**
Nicaraguan and US experts present current perspectives on the Chronic Kidney Disease epidemic in Central America. Potluck and discussion. Remarks at 7:15 pm  608 Whitney Avenue. RSVP to mfountain@newhavenleon.org

**New Years Eve; December 31st.** Great time to donate to Nicaragua Carbon Offset Fund for 2013 carbon emissions for car or flights... Or to commit to New Haven Healthy City/Healthy Climate Challenge to cut 20% of your greenhouse gases in 2014.
School starts in Nicaragua in February. Preschoolers line up patiently to wash their hands (above) for lunch in Goyena. Two wonderful examples of the improving Goyena education effort (below) get ready to start college in Leon.
February • Human Rights?

Members of a human rights delegation (above) investigating behavior of the sugar cane company discuss options after being stopped by company security; Fire set by sugar cane company (below) to prepare cane for harvesting just outside Goyena; Donald Cortez (right), a leader of worker co-op ASOCHIVIDA passed away this past summer from kidney disease.

Outside Goyena
Haydee (left) cleans mill owned by the coop for grinding corn in Goyena; main community “super market” (below) which has a bit of everything and offers credit to those short on funds (with
March • Swarmings Hit Streets

Our WalkBikeTransit campaign took the ‘take action on climate change’ appeal to the streets of New Haven with Metamorphosis swarmings calling for transition to more sustainable transportation.
A group of Yale students spent part of their spring break learning, exploring, playing and teaching. Olga Karnas, from Poland, (left) teaches geography; students explore wilds (middle); Goyenistas and Yalies (bottom) pose after kick ball game... the Goyena women have yet to lose to North Americans.
As part of a capstone class in Latin American studies at Fairfield University, seven students and two faculty members traveled to León to conduct interviews and do work on specific research projects.
In 2012 NH/LSCP organized a year long series of workshops on gender, women’s rights, and confronting sexism in Goyena. Since then the women there have been active in organizing and participating in marches in León (like this one in March) calling for better laws to protect women and girls from violence.
April • Growing Health

Environmental Youth Brigade members helped install family gardens this year in homes in Goyena. Yuniett poses (left) by crop of chiltoma (peppers), and Brigadistas hang out (below) by raised - to be chicken and pig proof - bed of yerba buena (mint).
April • Rock to Rock

Goyena residents (left) help pitch Rock to Rock Earth Day Bike Ride from their bike cart they use for selling sweets at school; 1100 riders prepare to leave (below); NHLSCP riders and walkers at the closing event at East Rock Park (bottom).
Parents are playing a bigger role in supporting school programs including meeting with school officials (left) and cooking (bottom). Melania Campos (below) has been one of the key leaders in this effort.
Three community leaders and two NHLSCP staff attended a four day workshop in Managua on gender and identity. The Goyena women got up at 4am each day to get to Leon and then travel to Managua... and got home each night at 10pm... They also taught the whole group a few theater games they had learned at Forum theater workshops in Goyena.
June • Hopkins Plays Goyena
Hopkins School, led by Susan Bennitt (in bottom right photo, with camera), again brought skills and energy to Goyena. Susan also regularly brings back great photos like those here.
After spending seven productive months interning in the New Haven office Yalie Eleanor Marshall headed to Leon in June to help with environmental education and Youth Brigade work.
Volunteers with Architects for Humanity began working on developing a site plan for the school in Goyena and how best to develop the space in the future. It was fun in one meeting to show off to Leon staff the type of buildings the architects work on in their day jobs (top) and dream about similar architecture in rural Goyena ... or not.
Student self-propels into new worlds as he has his first encounter with computer use in the new library. The library was formed by taking some space from the 1st grade classroom, and is staffed by Isabel (below) who is paid by the Ministry of Education. It will serve as a resource space for students and teachers. More books in Spanish welcome!
Fair Haven School music teacher Dan Kinsman took time this summer to bring music, new learning games, and classroom management skills to the school in Goyena. Dan (left) plays a version of the card game “war” which involves addition, subtraction, division, which the students loved. Two students (below) work in small groups getting a break from the formal teaching approach typical of Nicaragua.
As part of the WalkBikeTransit campaign we’ve been putting out pro-biking calendars to get more people to try out this greenhouse gas-free transportation option.
In September the Theater Committee organized another Forum theater training, this time led by previous trainees. The photos here are from the closing presentation of the skits developed that weekend and the warm-up games essential for participatory theater.
In November we launched the Nicaragua Carbon Offset Fund which collects offsets for air and car travel. Offset funds donated will be used to support the installation of more efficient cook stoves in rural Nicaragua, or invested in other certified carbon offset projects like the reforestation. Both reduce greenhouse gases.
Working with a number of other local non-profits concerned about climate change, we launched the New Haven Healthy City/Healthy Climate Challenge to invite members to take five steps to cut 20% of their greenhouse gases and create a healthier New Haven. The launch event was held at Artpace where the exhibit “Futurecast” shone artistic light on extreme weather events.
In progress!!  • Cows, Cars, Coal and Planes

Starting this summer small groups have been working on creating paper mache art of four big greenhouse gas producers we could all try to cut back on. Watch for these creations (below) on street corners and in the public spaces soon....

New Haven
And....

Coming in 2014!

New Haven/Leon
Sister City Project
30TH
Anniversary
1984-2014

A Celebration of Hope and Solidarity