

Since Newsletter #9 in July the Center has seen key staff and other changes. Ever resilient, commitments by new folks have fortified us. Now: will deepening economic crisis vindicate our analyses and favor our solutions? Theory to the fore? We are ready. If in 2007 a rural dimension was permanently added to our work, 2008 is shaping up as the year when members' print and internet publishing adds yet another dimension.

Reflections by a founder of the Center on its 3rd birthday.

Since we started in August 2004 we have been forced by degrees to get out into the campo where globalization's effects are most visible. So is resistance to them. Migration north actually presumes widespread reluctance to sell land. Much participatory research on how to live from the land has been done. We recently introduced an inventor of low-cost solar stoves and water heaters to CEDESA, a group that has long taught rainwater harvesting, gray water filtration, dry toilets, composting, and vermiculture. But CEDESA lacked these low-cost, high-efficiency solar stoves and water heaters. These situation-specific solutions complement each other. Both are tools of resistance for many of the 3 billion rural folks by-passed by the capitalist system. We haven't met a single Mexican farmer who spontaneously chose U.S. jobs for the money to buy commodities. They would rather deepen their own community's collective autonomy. So we now report how we learn, and pass on, new ways basic needs are being met by sustainable, democratic economies. – *Betsy Bowman*



ENVIRO-SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY. Part of living off the land. Benigno Coltonzin of CEDESA by a water tank for rooftop rainwater in this parched region.



Anita Blue Graham with friends at Peñon de los Baños

2007 Student Internship Program: a tri-cultural success!

From July 2 to August 3, 2007, eleven students, with faculty from Mexico, Cuba and the U.S., joined in a unique educational experience possible perhaps only in Mexico. For the first time since the internship started in 2005, the Center offered college credits through Kentucky's Berea College. Three students each came from Cuba and Mexico and five from the U.S. Grant support came from the Christopher Reynolds Foundation. Twin themes of the intensive real-world study were effects of NAFTA as model for corporate globalization, and alternatives being invented in resisting communities. Faculty included: Miguel Limia, President of Cuba's Council of Social Sciences, Peggy and Mike Rivage-Seul of Berea, and Gustavo Esteva, noted Mexican intellectual. Thanks to Center friends in nearby Peñon de los Baños and Cieneguilla, interns were welcomed. See student Anita Blue Graham's report: www.globaljusticecenter.org/articles/report_anita.html.

Summer 2008 Internship Program The session will go from July 1 to August 1. Some program associates and faculty are hoping to prepare by studying at Cuba's Institute for Local Development - headed by Research Associate, Miguel Limia. For info see "Reaching the Center" at the end of the newsletter.

Print publishing of members' work

The kick-off will be four collections on corporate globalization as a stage of capitalism and alternatives to it. Most articles began as papers at our 2006 "Another World is Necessary" conference, then group-edited last July-August in Buenos Aires and San Miguel. Announcements coming!

Featured will be recent work by: Mexican Javier Villanueva; Cubans Olga Fernández Ríos, Orlando Cruz Capote, Raul Rodríguez Rodríguez, Luis Guerra; Brazilian Henrique T. Novaes; and Argentines Graciela Monteagudo, Marcelo Vieta, Andrés Ruggeri; USians (from the U.S.) Margaret McLaren, Milton Fisk, Cliff DuRand, Steve Martinot, Karsten Struhl, Betsy Bowman and Bob Stone. Titles, editors and major themes will be:

Corporate Globalization & the Nation-State, editor Cliff DuRand, assistant editor Steve Martinot. Themes: neo-liberal globalization, global imperialism, national identity, nation vs state, and Cuba's alternative state.

Corporate Globalization & Imperialism, editor Steve Martinot, assistant editor Arturo Yarish. Themes: the new imperialism, coloniality, political economy of empire, dependency, Iraq war, autonomy/sovereignty, alternatives to neo-liberalism.

Corporate Globalization & Democracy, editor Arturo Yarish, assistant editor Cliff DuRand. Themes: democracy/social justice, citizenship & globalization, global public goods, types of democracy, social justice movements, socialism as collective autonomy.

El Nuevo Control Obrero en America Latina, edited by Graciela Monteagudo & Andres Ruggeri. Themes: the upsurge of cooperativism in Latin America, government roles, women and subjective transformations in recuperated enterprises.

Great new on-line essays ready for immediate download.

The impressive list of recent writings by members follows. If author and source are clearly cited all fair uses are allowed. More coming. Recent posts include:

THE POLITICS AND ETHICS OF FEAR

by *Cliff DuRand*

American fearfulness often obliterates its object, thus "accept[ing] extreme measures to make us feel more secure." See:

globaljusticecenter.org/articles/report_politicsfear.html

PEÑÓN DE LOS BAÑOS

by *Anita Blue Graham*, 2007 intern -

This dairy community near San Miguel holds on to its communal ejido land by developing a co-op, with Center help. http://www.globaljusticecenter.org/articles/report_anita.html



COOLING OUT AT A COOPERATIVE RESORT.
Grutas Tolantongo in Hidalgo state was built collectively by workers for workers. Is it a model?

GRUTAS TOLANTONGO: MODEL RESORT CO-OP?

by *Betsy Bowman & Bob Stone*

Gender relations aside - a big "if" - this *ejido* community by a thermal river has democratically run a co-op resort for 30 years, even drawing migrants home from the U.S. http://www.globaljusticecenter.org/articles/report_tolantongo.html



ALTERNATIVE TO GLOBALIZATION?
Betsy Bowman, with "socio" Pablo Rebolledo and his wife Francisca at Tolantongo. It is drawing migrants back home.

HUMANITARIANISM & SOLIDARITY CUBAN-STYLE

by *Cliff DuRand* - Michael Moore's "Sicko," has spread the word on Cuba's health care system. But how can a poor country under blockade have health indicators

comparable to its wealthy neighbor? Just published in [Z Magazine](http://www.globaljusticecenter.org/articles/report_cubahumanitarian.htm), this piece addresses the issue. http://www.globaljusticecenter.org/articles/report_cubahumanitarian.htm

COOPERATIVES: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THEIR TYPES, HISTORY & SOCIAL CHANGE PROSPECTS by Elizabeth Bowman & Bob Stone - What is a cooperative? How can co-ops change the world? This readable new introduction includes a report on the upsurge of cooperativism in Latin America. http://www.globaljusticecenter.org/articles/coop_intro.htm

BAUEN HOTEL, ARGENTINE "RECUPERATED BUSINESS" CO-OP, WINS REPRIEVE by Bob Stone - This modern hotel near Buenos Aires's Times Square equivalent was abandoned in 2001. It has been a worker co-op since 2003. In August it celebrated a temporary reprieve from appropriation by former owners who now covet its worker-made profitability. (see photo to the right). http://www.globaljusticecenter.org/articles/report_bauen.htm



BAUEN HOTEL - An August legal break for this central Buenos Aires hotel lets the movement pursue a national law for co-ops.

How to publish YOUR writings on our website! Our website is now open to submissions by members. Send your work - old, new, or experimental. Each piece gets its own URL and benefits from our popular web presence. Submitters are responsible for permissions. Send submissions to info@globaljusticecenter.org for consideration by the Editorial Committee: Steve Martinot, Cliff DuRand, Silvia Elguea, and Bob Stone.

New journal/magazine articles by Center members or friends.

"Women and Globalization," the January 2007 special issue of the **Journal of Developing Societies**, contains several articles from our 2005 "Women and Globalization" conference edited by Ligaya Lindio-McGovern and Erica Polakoff. Congratulations! See it at <http://jds.sagepub.com/content/vol23/issue1-2/>

Gustavo Esteva "The Other Campaign, APPO and the Left," translated by Holly Yasui, is an expanded version of his talk at our 2006 conference. It appeared in **Z Magazine** March 2007 and, still further expanded, on **ZNet**. Access on our website:

Cliff DuRand's article "Humanitarianism and Solidarity Cuban-Style" was published in the November **Z Magazine**. Read it on our website: http://www.globaljusticecenter.org/articles/report_cubahumanitarian.htm

Staff and other changes at the Center

Holly Yasui, a professional graphic designer and wordsmith, has from our start in 2004 provided us with all kinds of handsome publicity and splendid articles. She has put at our disposal local contacts and more than a decade of experience living and working in San Miguel as a foreigner. Most important: she took effective responsibility for various projects, often working after hours, nights and weekends. It was during such a period this summer that Holly's mom died in Colorado. While there is no direct link, Holly has resigned from Center committee work. Luckily for the Center, she has a major role in the 2008 Internship program. She continues to help with the website, graphic design and wordsmithing. We wish Holly well in all things. She has inscribed herself positively and unforgettably in our short history. We hope she'll rejoin us.

Beatriz Súcar, Administrator of the Center, has saved us on many occasions! We have relied on her masterful management of phone and email traffic, her business administration training, her engagement for the Center's benefit of her friendships among San Miguel's leaders, and much more. When her father, Foued Súcar, an excellent and published amateur philosopher, died this summer, he left unfinished the renovation of the family's hacienda. The family placed its completion – a full time job – in Beatriz's capable hands. Thank you, Beatriz, for your long and effective service! We all wish you well as your life unfolds.

Ata Caldera, a Center Field Representative, leaves us January 1. He transformed our Dialogo Comunitario program by taking us to nearby communities whose hydrology he had studied. This helped open us to the world most pertinent to our mission. Then one day the UNAM at Queretaro gave Ata an MA in watershed management. The very next day handsome job offers arrived. We hope the Center can compete some day. Ata will meanwhile help film a documentary on Venezuela's Bolivarian Revolution. Good luck Ata! Please visit, consult, and re-join us in the future!

Sandra Rosado Soto takes Beatriz's place as the Center's new Administrator. Returning to Mexico after 30 years in the U.S., Sandra is fully bi-lingual. She comes from a political family in Mexico City – her dad was a senator. The Center will draw strength from her deep commitment and her cosmopolitan ease with all people. Sandra has a BA in hotel management and long experience in business administration, merchandising, international sales, and professional translating. We need it all. She will help with membership, grants, and renewing our fair trade store. Welcome Sandra!

Ilian Barrera Perez, experienced in other NGOs in San Miguel, has joined the Center staff as co-director with Betsy Bowman of the Center's "reality tour" visits to nearby communities. Ilian will help the communities and will organize buses, guests, comida and especially: dialog on the two experiences of NAFTA.



NEW STAFF AND FRIENDS VISIT CEDESA. left to right: Sandra Rosado (new Administrator), Yolanda Millan, Ilian Barrera (new Field Rep), Angelina Soto, Betsy Bowman, Sallie Latch

Icinda Siqueira-Darwin, a PhD clinical psychologist and grandmother who has lived in California and been active in South America, has pioneered what we hope will become wider practice for left academics and activists: she settled in San Miguel in order to work with the Center. She consented to start as the Center's representative in helping a group of home care workers to form a co-op – a self-limiting project. Elected by these *cuidadoras* (caregivers) to coordinate client relations, Icinda receives their calls and helps the group decide on assignments. Welcome, Icinda, here's to a lifetime of solidarity!

Gregory Diamant has resigned as at-large member of our Asociación Civil. Continuing are Betsy Bowman, President; Yolanda Millán, Vice-President; Cliff DuRand, Treasurer; and Bob Stone, Secretary. Silvia Elguea will replace Gregory, who remains very active.

Ongoing tasks crying for volunteers:

GRANT-SEEKER.

Is there a Center enthusiast who can search the Foundation Directory? Match us with appropriate criteria? Try multiple funders? We need you! Urgently.

NETWORKING.

For example, at the U.S. Social Forum, we helped found a network of "movement-building centers." Keeping us connected is not necessarily a San Miguel job.

MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT.

Good news: we've outgrown amateurism. Bad news: we need membership software and a re-launch by an experienced person – anywhere.

OUTREACH PUBLICIST(S).

To hand out cards at San Miguel's various tours, especially during "season," and generally promote Center events and draw folks into activism.

CUIDADORAS (Caregivers) CO-OP SUPPORT.

They could use advise on opening an account, interviewing lawyers, and keeping records – with Icinda's help and guidance.

DIALOGO COMUNITARIO SUPPORT.

Ilian, Yolanda and Betsy can't do everything here, such as creating and maintaining an historical record of Dialogo undertakings.

CO-COORDINATOR OF RESEARCH ASSISTANTS.

To maintain, with Bob, contact with all such volunteers, past, present and future, and help match them with specific tasks.

To volunteer, see "Reaching the Center" at the end of this newsletter – and ask for Betsy.

Peñon de los Baños co-op receives loan for organic tomato greenhouse.

Its a case of syncretism among our programs. In this large farming community 9 km from San Miguel, 6 families have cooperated on dairy operations. To eliminate middlemen the co-op recently took on "legal personality" using Center contacts. And after being introduced by the Center to a co-op in Hidalgo state that is experienced in tomato cultivation, the Peñon co-op decided to add tomato production.

Luckily, five USian families (from the U.S.) who visited Peñon last winter in our Dialogo Comunitario, gave \$9000 USD to the Center's revolving loan fund for this project. The resulting 97,200 peso loan – mediated by Ata - is short of the 120,000 pesos needed to build a greenhouse and get advice from Hidalgo experts Patricio Bravo and tomato agronomist Irma Saines. The fund asks only 2% interest: 1% to administer, 1% to grow it. Payments start December 2008.

Donors will see construction when the Dialogo resumes in January. Visitors (and readers of this) can help gather the \$3,000 USD needed to finish the greenhouse. We foster such "inter-cooperation" between co-ops. We hope co-ops receiving loans will administer the fund themselves. To discuss a tax deductible donation, see "Reaching the Center" – ask for Cliff. Background: http://www.globaljusticecenter.org/articles/report_penon.htm



PATRICIO BRAVO, organizer of the "Integradora" cooperatives in Hidalgo. Photo: Norma Suárez

Model co-op network in Hidalgo state gives back.

Our revolving loan fund commitment to these twelve agricultural cooperatives in the state of Hidalgo endures. The 12 presidents make up the "Integradora" - a "cooperative of the second degree" for mutual aid. Patricio Bravo, its main staffer and an amazing cooperative organizer, drives many hours to aid Peñon and other cooperatives that we work with in Guanajuato state. Patricio is an advocate of the loan fund.

below: PEÑÓN CO-OP PLANS ORGANIC TOMATO GREENHOUSE. Juan Gutiérrez, Bob Stone, Betsy Bowman, Augustine Moreno, Valentin Medina, Atahualpa Caldera, Patricio Bravo, Irma Saines. Photo: Jack Klee





ECO-VILLAGE BUILDER and inventor of low-cost solar stoves, Enrique Caldera, shows environmentally sound materials for houses going up near San Miguel.

An all-female sewing co-op, fair trade of its products, and its local network.

In El Moral, a hard-to-reach village near San Miguel, a sewing cooperative of 6 female “socios” formed a few years ago, having gotten training, machines and a building. Skeptical husbands came round when money came in. But without a vehicle to market product, the co-op is virtually confined to piecework – albeit of high quality. Starting January 1 we hope Dialogo Comunitario visitors will contribute \$3000 USD to the Center’s fund targetted for buying a van for El Moral. We want to sell its exploitation-free products in our fair trade co-op store in the Center’s garage.

It turns out that El Moral’s co-op is in a local 6-co-op network, also started by El Moral’s animator, Angelina Soto. Another sewing co-op, a tomato grower, and some small groceries help each other find funding. We are connecting El Moral with CEDESA, Peñon and Hidago: an inter-cooperative anticipation of the solidarity economy. For information or to help, see “Reaching the Center” below – ask for Betsy, Ilian or Yolanda (Spanish only).



Angelina Soto of the El Moral sewing cooperative, with her son Alejandro. Photo: Norma Suárez

CEDESA meets eco-village advocate, or, how to live off the land.

We have drawn closer to the Centro de Desarrollo Agropecuaria in nearby Dolores Hidalgo. Started in the 1960s by Padre “Memo” Dávalos, a priest steeped in liberation theology, CEDESA is now run by dedicated religious women who worked with him. Their social ministry started by helping farmers acquire the basic knowledge needed to direct their own development and keep their lands, soon displeasing local opponents of the 1930s land reform.

CEDESA has since built communities meant to be sustainable both socially and environmentally. With CEDESA help farmers launched UCCAN – Union de Comunidades Campesinos del Norte de Guanajuato. Planned Dialogo Comunitario visits will hopefully lead to collaboration.

One thing the Center is about is connecting folks who have viable and just alternatives to corporate globalization. We recently connected CEDESA with Enrique Caldera, a former federal official in charge of alternative energy. Father of Center staffer Ata Caldera and a brilliant inventor, Enrique is building a model eco-village near San Miguel. It features cistern rainwater harvesting, dry toilets, vermiculture compost, organic water filtering, low-water gardening, and his specialty: low-cost solar stoves made of aluminum foil and hot water heaters made of cut up beer cans. CEDESA’s leaders are eager to work with this new comrade. For more information, see “Reaching the Center” and ask for Yolanda (Spanish only).



ENVIRONMENTAL HOMEOWNERS. Emma Arellano family are members of UCCAN, a mutual-aid organization of rural communities started by CEDESA. From left: Benigno Coltzonzin & Esmeralda Rosas of CEDESA, Emma Arellano and daughter Izamar Isadora Hernández, Yolanda Millán, Ilian Barrera, Bibiana Leslie Hernández, Angelina Soto, Betsy Bowman.

Home-care cooperative “Angeles” to incorporate.

Angeles para la Vida (“Angels for Life”) is a group of home care workers (cuidadoras) experienced in working with expats. Their idea of forming a cooperative got impetus from an April visit by Tom Pierson, new executive director of North American Students of Cooperation.

The Center has since provided meeting space, publicity, connections to expert technical advisors, splendid volunteer helpers, and instruction in English, but no cash. The co-op has named itself, elected officers, agreed on by-laws, and brought in 5 jobs for members in the last 2 months. Medical advisor Alma Gaitan, MD, teaches “socios” anatomy and first aid. Those who pass will get Public Health certificates. Regretably, active members were 15 and are now 7.

The Angeles are listed among resources for expats and they have business cards, a brochure, and a phone. The co-op voted their bi-lingual Center liaison, Icinda Siqueira-Darwin, coordinator of client relations. The Angeles want a legal co-op but now need a grant for the job. For how you can help in cash or kind see “Reaching the Center” below – and ask for Icinda.

Global Justice Volunteers

Two young cooperativistas from U. of Florida at Gainesville, Ian Richard and Laura Gutane, arrived in San Miguel in May having asked to be put to work. We found a worthy task for them: supporting the fledgling caregivers cooperative.

In August University of Connecticut students Katie Gregory and Tara Kurland – also committed to building the solidarity economy – arrived in San Miguel to volunteer. Ian and Laura had done a market study for the home care co-op; Katie and Tara continued with help on by-laws, brochure, and links to U.S. home care co-ops. This spring we expect three more volunteers to arrive in San Miguel to help advance Center programs.

We consider applications carefully since finding jobs that are a net savings of Center time is not easy. The aim has so far been to impart some of the knowledge and skills needed to build a new world, by helping to directly empower those who resist corporate globalization daily.

Study tour to Venezuela?

The widely-known interchange between Northamerican and Cuban philosophers and social scientists is mounted annually in Havana by Cliff DuRand. How about a Venezuelan tour? Cliff and others at the Center are studying feasibility of dialogues with leaders of the Bolivarian revolution and academics, and visits to cooperatives and the important new “communal councils” in Venezuela. Interested? Let us know. See “Reaching the Center” and ask for Cliff.



*ANGELS FOR LIFE home care cooperative.
Left to right: Icinda Siqueira-Darwin, Juana Ramírez, Magdalena Guzmán, Reyna Castillo, Eva Guerrero, Clementina Chávez, Maria del Refugio (Cuqui) Aguilar.*

Snowbird Symposium

Now in its fourth year, the Snowbird Symposium is one of our few money-makers. This winter’s series promises to be our best yet. Each week from January 1 - April 1 we offer Anglophone residents and visitors provocative films, public discussions, lectures, and excursions for luncheon dialogues with residents of rural communities. The Center gets high visibility by offering a space for dialog on global issues, even drawing many into social-change activism.

Unexpected upshots of our Dialogo Comunitario program

This is our main education outreach. Guanajuato sends more of its citizens North, proportionally, than any other state, mostly to Texas (Puebla’s absolute numbers are higher). So a year ago, in Fall 2006, Yolanda Millán and Betsy Bowman started this program with community discussions of migration. Schools were scouted for interest in monthly workshops on migration vs local opportunities.

Three new elements sprang from the Dialogo: Ata connected us with some new communities to which we bus folks for dialog over lunch; loans for collective projects went to some of these; and Yolanda’s workshop is virtually in the curriculum at nearby Universidad Tecnologica del Norte de Guanajuato (UTNG) in Dolores Hidalgo, 18 miles from San Miguel. Asked if they have relatives in the North, at least two-thirds of students’ hands go up. She first screened and discussed the powerful documentary “Cartas del Otro Lado” (Letters from the Other Side). The University wants to send us to its Victoria campus.

For more information, see “Reaching the Center” and ask for Yolanda (Spanish only).

Members enjoy new benefits. So join!

Keep the Center independent by joining or renewing today (application RIGHT). For \$120 USD a year, or what you can afford, you get: a vote at meetings; dialog via Member Directory; guaranteed committee decision on your submission for our website; 30% cardholder discounts at events; use of book/DVD library; lodging discounts; access to our health insurance. Communication with members is improving. So please fill in the application now, make out a check and mail it. See "Reaching the Center" below.

The Center's Mission and Structure.

Mission: "The Center for Global Justice is a multi-cultural, democratically-run educational, research, and service organization of practitioners and educators from the global South and global North. The Center engages in local community support and outreach to promote and advance initiatives and movements toward social justice, grassroots empowerment and democracy, and environmental sustainability. It is also devoted to critical analysis of the processes and impacts of globalization, both local and international. The Center works to develop alternative socio-economic systems that conserve and share the world's cultural, economic, and environmental resources for the benefit of humankind." - From the Dec. 7-8, 2006 Steering Committee meeting.

Structure: The Center is a non-profit run by its members. The Steering Committee, which operates like a co-op's general assembly, is composed of whatever members and staff choose to attend monthly meetings. Committees reporting to it include: Education & Research; Editorial; Finance; Dialogo Comunitario, and, with its own directors and account: revolving loan fund. The Center is a non-profit AC or *asociación civil*. Its officers are listed above. A few active Sanmiguelenses and the founders serve as an executive committee reporting to the Steering Committee. We hope to become a more wieldy and responsive tool for members.

Talk to us. You see we are busy. Are our heads down so we don't see where we're going? Give us your thoughts and guidance. It is also renewal time for December-cycle members (and for friends to become members). If you did NOT pay dues in July please send dues now? See box at right.



Stop by and support the Mujeres Productoras artisans' cooperate store at the Center for Global Justice, Calzada de la Luz #42, San Miguel de Allende. Photo: Norma Suárez

Join and Support the



Yes! I want to join the Center's network. Please send me the members' questionnaire so I can share my strengths with others to help change the world. I understand annual dues are \$1200 Mexican pesos or \$120 US dollars or a proportionate amount within my means.

- Here is a check for annual dues of _____, including a U.S. tax deductible donation of _____.
- I'll set up an automatic monthly withdrawal of _____. Please tell me how.
- I am making a U.S. tax-deductible donation of _____ to advance the Center's work.
- I'll pay dues and donate by credit card at www.globaljusticecenter.org/donate.htm
- I cannot donate now, but please keep me informed.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY & mail/deliver this card with your membership dues/donation:

NAME _____

AFFILIATION _____

ADDRESS 1 _____

ADDRESS 2 _____

CITY, STATE _____

POSTAL CODE, COUNTRY _____

TELEPHONE / FAX _____

EMAIL _____

For membership dues in pesos, please make your check out to "Centro para la Justicia Global;" in dollars, to "Center for Global Justice." Membership dues and/or U.S. tax-deductible donations can be made out to "Research Associates Foundation," Center for Global Justice in the memo line.

IN MEXICO: Please leave your check or cash in our Border Crossings box, or mail your check to the Center: c/o Border Crossings, Mesones #57, San Miguel de Allende, Gto. C.P. 37700 Mexico.

FROM THE U.S./CANADA: please mail your check to Center for Global Justice BC-2323, 9902 Crystal Ct. #107, Laredo, TX 78045.

HOW TO REACH THE CENTER.

Sandra Rosado, new Administrator, will direct you to the appropriate person. She can be reached by email - info@globaljusticecenter.org - and by phone 10am-3pm workdays. From the U.S. please call the Center's VOIP number 1-347-983-5084 registered in New York City. From Mexico call 01-415-150-0025 and pay Telmex's outrageous in-country long distance fees.