



THE COCHA-LINA HERALD

Newsletter of the North Carolina Partners of the Americas (Partners with Cochabamba, Bolivia)



Newsbits

- Former interim president [Jeanine Áñez](#) and other [ex-officials](#) have [been arrested](#).
- An article has covered the [history of Afro-Bolivians](#) in Yungos.
- An investigation is underway in the [deaths of 35 endangered Bolivian condors](#).
- The largest solar plant in Bolivia [begins commercial operation](#).



Exploring Bolivian Folklore and Dance

Sallie Abbas and Mauricio Ramirez shared a presentation on Bolivia's various dances and their connection to folklore.

Bolivia has a rich tradition in its various styles of folklore dances and costumes, many of which are based upon cultural traditions or historic events. Mauricio Ramirez (who has participated as a dancer in a Caporales group) and Sallie Abbas gave a richly illustrated presentation via Zoom about many of these folklore groups, especially those who perform in the spectacular parades of Carnaval in Oruro and elsewhere. These include the Diablada (devil dancers), Tinkus, Morenada, Lllamarada, Pujllay, Tobas, Sikuris, Wakas, Negritos, Viewers were treated to slides and videos of these energetic dancers in their richly ornamented costumes.

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Autism Project- Hank Graden
Arts and Culture- Daniel Johnson, Kitty Stalberg
Health and Clinical Practices - Carlos Vargas
Membership – Virginia Freedman

Partners of the Americas

Review of 2020



15
Programs



98
Grassroots Chapters



30
Countries



6,600+
Volunteers and Members
Engaged



19,611
Hours of Service



1,224,158
U.S. Dollars Worth in
Volunteer and Member
Hours

Board of Directors

Virginia Freedman, Jessica Kinard, Lori Unruh
Snyder, Carlos Vargas, Kitty Stalberg, Lindsay
Naumann, Steve Gibson, Fernando Magallenes.
Sallie Abbas

Thank you for 4 Years,
Monica Guzmán!



"Mission Accomplished: four years as director of the Cochabamba partners. We continue working with strength and dedication to remain connected, serving and transforming lives."



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April 24th Zoom Meeting: Learn about Chacaltaya!

Sallie Abbas will present the story of Chacaltaya Mountain in Bolivia, the World's Highest Ski Resort! Sallie had the opportunity to ski there when she lived in Bolivia.

She has some slides to tell the story of this special place, to show what the resort looked like then and now. There will also be a video of the amazing Cholitas Escaladoras.



Updates on Covid -19 in Bolivia . . .

**Reported by the U.S. Embassy of Bolivia*



- There are no national COVID-19 restrictions, but departments and municipalities have the authority to impose COVID-19 restrictions at the local level.
- The wearing of facemasks in public places is mandatory and social distancing measures must be respected.
- Schools partially reopened in February 2021. Departments and municipalities will have the authority to determine education schedules and if students will return to the classroom in-person.
- All borders remain open, however, some of the countries bordering Bolivia have maintained closure of their land borders and thus entering and exiting Bolivia by land may not be possible at this time.

Travel Opportunity: Help Build in Rural Cochabamba with Amizade

Want to travel to Bolivia and help the local community? The nonprofit volunteer organization, Amizade, invited NCPOA volunteers to help them build schools and classrooms in rural Cochabamba. Travel dates are from September 4 - 18. There will be COVID-19 precautions in place. No construction experience necessary! For more information, click [HERE](#).



Contact Amizade's Director of Development and Outreach, Melissa Nix, with any interest and/or questions!

Email: Melissa.nix@amizade.org
Phone: 817 / 988 – 8989



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Member Spotlight: L. George Wilson

President of NCPOA Board



George Wilson, professor emeritus at NC State University, currently serves as president of NC Partners of the Americas. He was introduced to Partners in 1975 by POA staff member, Gregory Vaught ... on a flight to Raleigh from Miami. That week he went to a meeting in a member's home in North Hills ... and soon joined NCPOA. Over the years George has served on the agricultural and several other sub-committees. In 1981 he hosted three POA-sponsored Brazilian soccer professionals in the Triangle to conduct workshops for area youth. In 1998, he conducted postharvest horticulture training in Cochabamba as a member of a Farmer to Farmer team. During this trip he was introduced to a proposed USAID agricultural development project for the Chapare region and ultimately was able to negotiate a \$4.5 million five-year subcontract for NC State University ... which engaged some of our Cochabamba partners.

George was born and raised on a family fruit, vegetable, and dairy farm in Niagara County, NY. He earned his BS in Pomology (fruit culture) at Cornell University, his MS in Horticulture at Washington State University, and his Ph.D. in Postharvest Horticulture at Washington State University. Prior to joining the Horticultural Science faculty at NC State University in 1975, for nine years he was a research postharvest scientist and technology transfer specialist in the Division of Tropical Research of United Fruit Company (Chiquita International) headquartered in La Lima, Honduras ... with primary emphasis on bananas. At NC State George was a statewide sweet potato and potato extension specialist, taught Postharvest Physiology, and served as Assistant Dean for International Agriculture and Vice Provost for university International Affairs. In 1982-83 and 1991-1992, George served as Chief of Party for NC State USAID agricultural development projects in Peru. During most of 1993, he worked in Bulgaria as the NC State representative on the Bulgarian-American Extension Project. During 2006-2008 Wilson served as University Relations Advisor in the Office of Agriculture of USAID/Washington with a focus on drafting the Feed the Future Horticulture Innovation Lab ... and subsequently serving on its International Advisory Board until 2019. During his 40 year career at NC State, he became engaged in research and training programs in over 50 countries in Latin America, Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, and Oceania. As a life-long member of the American Society for Horticultural Science, he is a Fellow of the Society and served in many capacities, including president during its 2003 Centennial year. George and his wife, Claudia, were married for 52 ½ years, have three children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



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