

# A Jungle Bridge

**Comments, Thoughts, and Pictures  
From Costa Rica**



Monday, May 21, 2007

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*Nanci is an inveterate wildlife rehabber. When one of the neighbors pedaled up with a gavilan – a hawk – that had been hit with a rock thrown by a neighborhood kid – she took it in for “repair”. It couldn’t stand up, or control its head or its eyes. This is a small one. Bigger versions of this guy are circling over the house, looking at our baby chickens. Nanci had one of them on the porch. Yike!  
Watch out for those feeties!*

## **RECENT NEWS**

Oh my God, there’s a bird of prey on our porch! How oneness shows up in the jungle. Starting the school year – again. Ashley and Ali volunteer – as part of a college course in Canada on global stewardship. We say “Good-by” to Thumbprints. Weather forecasts can be fun around here.

## **THE HAWK IN THE (HEN)HOUSE**

The first thing I noticed was the powerful grip this guy had. It took both of us to pry his claws loose as he clung to the cage bars, so Nanci could get him out to be fed. I’d hate to be one of the animals in this guy’s food chain.

After consulting with Nancy Connie, a friend in the San Diego area who is licensed to rehab raptors all the way up to bald eagles, (thank you Nancy) Nanci made a critical decision. After more than 24 hours with the hawk at home, she conceded she was out of her league. We needed something bigger than a cat carrier, and the chickens were not at all amused at the suggestion of sharing their cage with a bird of prey. She brought the hawk to a veterinarian in Bribri.

He took on the challenge. About a week later, Nanci went back, and he said "Good news!" and showed Nanci a happy, hopping, hawk in a cage. "I expect to release him on my farm in a day or so", he said with a smile.

I wonder if he has chickens on his farm? At least it's far away from ours!

## **ONENESS – JUNGLE STYLE**

*Oneness - at ground level in the jungle*



*Irene, right, with her sister Griselda  
Photo by Maisie Crow*

When my computer goes to "sleep", the screensaver displays an animated phrase, twisting forward and backward, swaying from side to side.

Irene, a 10-year-old Bribri Indian girl who is a big help at The Bridge, looks over my shoulder, following the phrase, twisting her head, showing that puzzled look you've all seen a thousand times on the face of any kid anywhere in the world.

"Que?" she said, pointing at the screen. "What's that?"

"En Ingles," I said, "We are all one" I waited, allowing the look of puzzlement to sit on her face for a few seconds. Then, "En Espanol, Somos todo uno."

I waited as the meaning of the phrase sunk in.

Her expression changed to a question. "TODOS?" she said emphatically. I nodded my head. Her face broke into a smile - SHE patted ME on the back and walked off toward the kitchen with a big smile on her face.

Irene is the first girl in her family that, in generations, has ever been allowed to go to school. She has an opportunity to figure out what she wants to be when she grows up.

"What can I do?" she says after a while. We told her that Carmelita, a 13-year-old girl from another family and clan has decided that she wants to learn about animals, come back to the jungle, and protect them. "It's the most important thing I can do", Carmelita told us.

Irene says "what can I do?" I answered her "you'll find out." I waited a second or two, and said "the important thing is," as I put my index finger on her head, "to believe that you can do whatever you want to do. whatever you think about."

I added "Carmelita BELIEVES she can get an education and BELIEVES she can come back and protect animals. Because she BELIEVES, she *can* do that."

"You creo tambien", she answered. "I believe, too."

Irene and Carmelita are both going with us to San Jose this week as we attend the wedding of Jacqueline & Joseph – but more on that in the *next* issue.

## **STARTING THE SCHOOL YEAR**

*The Second Time Around*

Nanci thought she'd finished setting up the schoolkids for this year. "Not So," came the cry. Some of the kids who just arrived from the interior needed special books. A teacher of one subject for a few of the kids initially said "we'll not need textbooks this year." She changed her mind – the books are needed after all.

So Nanci went to Limón Friday, with Ashley and Ali, two volunteers that have been really helping out here for the last several weeks. They got to see Limón, a rough-and-tumble Central American city city that has

remained just as it is. without McDonalds, or Pizza huts... and the only concession to Norte Americano culture is a Maxi Bodega department store, in which Walmart now has a 51% interest.

We're told they really enjoyed the trip.

Nanci started handing out the books as soon as she got back.

### **VOLUNTEER NOTES**

Ashley Cawthra and Ali – Alikahn Lalji – have been serving here as volunteers for several weeks. Visiting from British Columbia, they are really getting into the swing of things, serving at the Community Kitchen, and working with Don Candido in his medicinal plant garden and assisting with the cultural center he and his son Enrique are building.



Ashley is taking a college course in Global Stewardship, at Capilano College, Vancouver. The program can be seen by [CLICKING HERE](#). She found El Puente on the internet, and chose to volunteer here as part of that course. Thank you, Ashley!

This pair has made themselves a part of The Bridge, and they'll be missed after they leave.

### **DRAGON FLOWER**

***Now you see it, now you don't***



*About 4 inches tall, this guy just popped out of a plant in the front yard.  
Next day, it was gone. Now you see it, now you don't.  
And, not content with one appearance,  
another one popped in – and out – after a day or so.*

There's quite a variety of flowers that grow around here. This is another one whose name we don't know. And so far, we haven't found someone who does.

### **GOOD-BY TO THUMBPRINTSART.COM**

Those of you who know Nanci's art know it has been proudly displayed on her website. The breadth of her work – pencil, ink, acrylic, oil, scratchboard, portraits, wildlife, murals, etching, sculpture – has always amazed those who take it all in.

You also know that she has focused all her work now on the El Puente project, including a line of greeting cards and prints now available through El Puente. These include portraits, wildlife, and metaphysical themes. See her work on the El Puente Store by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Her limited edition of scratchboard prints is now being sold through the Art-Exchange.com. These prints were the only business being sold through the website, now that we've moved to Costa Rica. See these images by [CLICKING HERE](#) and entering "Wright" in the Keyword Search box.

Proceeds from all sales of course go to support the operation of The Bridge here in Costa Rica.

The Thumbprintsart.com domain name recently came up for renewal. After some discussion, we decided to let the domain name lapse, and to take the website off the web.

Some of Nanci's art which is relevant to The Bridge we can put back on the web as part of the El Puente website – when that happens, we'll let you know.

Thumbprint's last day of internet "life" was May 18, 2007.

### **WEATHER OR NOT**

We thought you might get a kick out of Sunday's weather forecast (from Weather.com) for Puerto Limón, Costa Rica. That's about 45 minutes up the coast from us here in Puerto Viejo. We've been having a bit of a dry spell – having gone without water for 5 or 10 days at different times. For the past few days, the streets have been filled with mud, and the wells filled with water. Getting the water supply back is a good thing. The wording of the weather forecast is fun.



## Sunday

Tons of rain. Mostly cloudy. Warm, Muggy. Temperature of 82°F. Winds 7mph WNW. Humidity will be 79% with a dewpoint of 72° and comfort level of 90°F. There is a 100% chance of precipitation.

High: 82°F Low: 77°F

### YOU CAN HELP US!

*Send this email to as many people you know who might also enjoy it.*

### VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Things continue to roll along here. We are blessed with a large group of supporters, who are providing school supplies, materials and cash, as well as many other kinds of support.

We were recently given a benefit performance by Billy Nirshi, formerly with String Cheese Incident, now forming a new group – Honkytonk Homeslice – during a three-day event in Puerto Viejo held on Friday, May 11. Thank you Billy, and also John Wheatley, who created the event and managed it through to completion. John, by the way, can book adventures for you all over Costa Rica – if you have any adventurous questions, you can contact him at [JungleJamJohn@gmail.com](mailto:JungleJamJohn@gmail.com)

A brief summary of our current cash position for April 1 – May 31 is provided here.

#### SUMMARY April 1 - May 31

##### Cash needs

Repairs, maintenance (1)	\$2,464 Done
Operating costs	\$2,315 In process
Cash Needed	\$4,779

##### Cash Received

Donations	\$2,231
Product sales	\$185
Cash Received	\$2,416

Cash needed \$2,363

- (1) Repairs done includes \$1,200 in credit extended for the outside bathrooms, and \$350 in credit extended for the repairs on Espy Too. Of the \$2,363 cash needed, there's \$1,550 we'd really like to repay.

#### **NOW's a GREAT time to contribute.**

Go to the website donation page by [clicking here](#), where you can use a credit card.

Or, mail a check made out to "El Puente" to

Barry or Nanci Stevens, c/o Roberts, 1437 Sierra Circle, El Cajon, CA 92020

Remember – deductions are tax-deductible

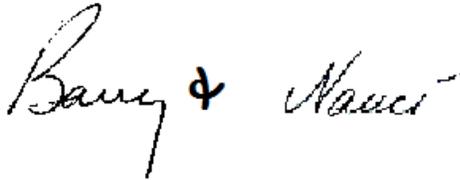
**Do it NOW! You'll be glad you did!**

***Thank you for your support!***

Well,

...djmiache

Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry & Nanci". The word "Barry" is written in a cursive style, followed by an ampersand "&" and the word "Nanci" also in a cursive style.

**IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE SEEING THE PICTURES**

...go to [www.elpuente-thebridge.org/weekly](http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/weekly) and download the file with the date of this issue.

Go to The Bridge Website by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Go to The Bridge Online Store by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Download a Powerpoint presentation and a brochure by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Go to the newsletter archive by [CLICKING HERE](#)

**Here's some Video clips** showing activities at The Bridge:

[Nanci and Alejandro working together to serve lunch on the porch](#)

[Daniel, Barry, and Alejandro setting up for the movie](#)

[Watching the movie: this day, "Winnie The Pooh" in Spanish](#)

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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