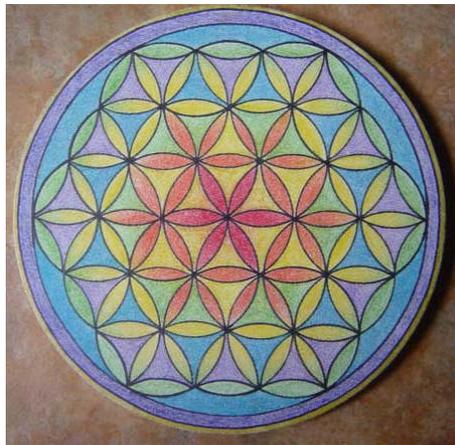




June 12, 2012
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Nanci's got the painting urge! In this work, she is experimenting with the "Flower Of Life" design. This design, based on overlapping circles, has been found in the interior of the Sphinx, and in many other locations around the world going back many thousands of years.

RECENT NEWS

What are days at The Bridge like? We give you a brief ideas here. Bridge Kids and homework – the computer of Nanci's may be feeling poorly, but we've had one to borrow, and a donated one is on its way! A hair-raising story about a young boy. Costa Rica has some good-looking bugs, but watch out! El Puente is visible around the world. Ken Allen, the escape artist from the San Diego, is for sale! The Brains That God Gave A Chicken – Chapter 2! Thank God for Volunteers!

DAYS AT THE BRIDGE

It's that time of year when it gets pretty routine around The Bridge. The fast-paced action of the start of the school year is over. Early mornings, we cook up a quick breakfast for a group of up to five children who don't get fed at home. As the Special Ed Teacher said, "a little something in their bellies will help them to focus on schoolwork rather than hunger pangs". Kids come in needing help with homework or to use the Internet.

One hundred or more people a week are still coming to the Community Kitchen on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

People with no electricity arrive to charge their cell phones or maybe to use our telephone.

We're a trusted drop-off point for packages of food, clothes, or whatever, for others who visit the Bridge. We've had employers leave payments for employees, which we pass on as soon as we see the worker.

We've hosted community meetings – neighbors gathering to talk about a potential sewage plant, for example. Then there's yoga classes. Or, meetings with the leaders of a potential new civic organization. This week, we'll host a meeting between Child Protective Services (PANI) and a family having problems.

Barry and Nanci are fitting in their own projects as they can. People are stopping in to learn about Science of Mind, and borrow books from the extensive library we've built. Nanci has gotten excited about studying the 'flower of life' pattern, a many, many thousands year old design found all over the world. She has begun to make her own personal renderings of this beautiful symbol. Barry is facilitating the start of that new organization. There are the normal cleaning, maintenance, and repair activities. Barry is working on connecting the tribal leader with Rotary International – Rotary provides funding for aqueducts for clean drinking water. Last but not least, there are those kids – mostly the teenage boys – who need a safe place to just "hang out". They read, talk, kick a soccer ball around.

There's always *something* going on.

BRIDGE KIDS GOING TO SCHOOL, DOING HOMEWORK

We mentioned that we were having a problem getting Nanci's computer to work. We've also been blessed with a volunteer couple who have been generous about loaning one of their computers for use at The Bridge.



Here's an old shot of Maria, doing her homework on Nanci's now defunct computer that served well here for many years.



...and here's a snap of Eric, doing homework on Jeff's borrowed computer!

Jeff Murdoch and his wife Sylvia, volunteers at The Bridge, are generous enough to occasionally loan us one of their laptops for use here to fill the gap. Thank you, guys!!!

We have a computer on hold at a used computer store in San Diego, and we're still working on raising the money to get it bought and shipped down here. And, while this was in progress, one of our subscribers donated a laptop that he had around the house, and has just shipped it to a volunteer who will be winging her way down from the US!

Daughter Carolyn has taken Nanci's computer back to the US to see if can be repaired back there.

With luck, we'll end up with both Nanci's repaired computer AND that computer from San Diego, and we'll be able to serve even more Bridge Kids as they work on homework, or have a backup, allowing Bridge Kids to do homework even if a computer fails!

A HAIR RAISING STORY

Meet Jason, one of the Bridge Kids. This photo, taken at the Community Kitchen, shows him with his gorgeous new hair style! These fancy cuts are all the rage here.

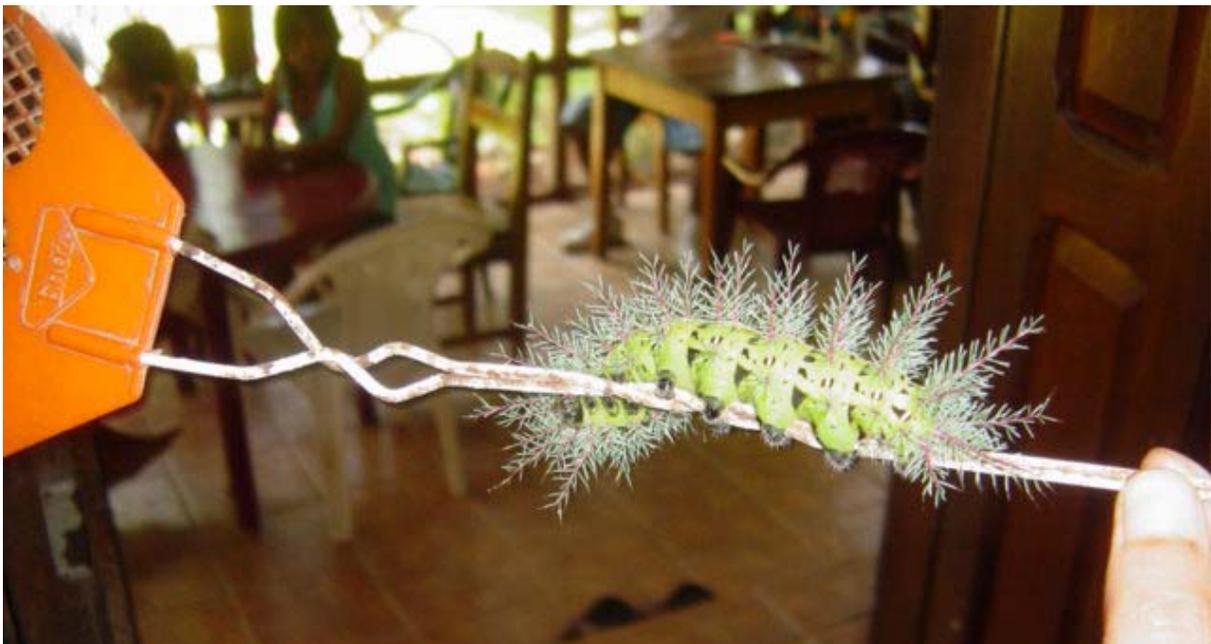


We're particularly happy to have him back. Jason received a donated bicycle at a Christmas party at school, and the very next day he got hit by a car. It was touch and go for a bit. We kept in touch by phone. He was wearing a leg full of very scary metal pins for a while.

Jason's returned to us, and is ready to get back into school this next week. Welcome home, Jason!

SOMETHING BUGGING YOU?

Costa Rica is home to some pretty unusual bugs.



*This little guy is basically green, with branches and leaves all over his body
As an idea of scale, note Nanci's thumb at the lower right of the foto..*

The rule of thumb here is... don't touch the pretty little bugs. Many of them have some pretty powerful chemicals on those pretty appendages... and they can make you pretty sick, possibly including some time in a hospital bed.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS EL PUENTE?

We got curious about where the people were who are looking at the El Puente website, so we dug into some of the data available from the place where it is hosted. We saw some interesting information, including 10,399 total page views/



Here's the activity map for January thru May, 2012, showing the location of people looking at our website. There were the expected locations from all over the USA. But the data showed some surprises.

EL PUENTE WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS JAN - MAY 2012 **The top 99% of all page views originated in cities in these 37 countries**

Country	Cities	Page Views	Country	Cities	Page Views
United States	587	5,770	Saudi Arabia	1	25
China	29	1,513	Australia	6	24
Ukraine	15	452	Mexico	12	22
Costa Rica	11	418	Norway	9	17
France	15	317	Austria	5	16
Germany	46	302	Brazil	11	14
United Kingdom	54	254	Hong Kong	1	14
Netherlands	49	207	Finland	3	12
Canada	64	184	India	9	12
Russian Federation	41	177	Switzerland	5	12
Sweden	12	152	Turkey	5	12
Czech Republic	2	122	Egypt	4	10
Taiwan	5	98	Panama	2	9
Japan	4	97	Denmark	6	8
Spain	13	73	Guatemala	1	8
Italy	19	49	Nicaragua	1	8
Poland	5	40	Argentina	4	7
Romania	7	39	Indonesia	5	7
South Korea	3	27			

The remaining 1% of page views originated in these 49 countries

Ireland, Latvia, Colombia, Greece, Isreal, Lithuania, South Africa, Iran, Moldava, Portugal, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, Singapore, Slovenia, Estonia, Honduras, Hungary, Macedonia, Pakistan, Philippines, Venezuela, , Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Iceland, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Luxemborg, Maylaysia, Malta, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Slovakia, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Vietnam

On the surface, this looks like a LOT of traffic. A technical person involved with website support would probably snort and say "Pshaw – that's PEANUTS", and they'd be right. Millions of page views would be meaningful. What caught MY eye was the global nature of the response. Multiple page views signify someone actually looking through the web site. **The people browsing the El Puente website are from all over the world. Wow! That was the surprise.**

SAYING GOODBYE TO A FRIEND

Many of you know of Nanci's skill as an artist. She works in many media, including one called "Scratchboard", or "British Scaperboard". This is a medium with a thickness of white clay covered with a thin black ink layer. She cuts through the ink with an number 11 Exacto Knife to make the image, then adds an acrylic wash to complete the work.

We have one of her originals here in Puerto Viejo. It's a view of Ken Allen, one of the former star attractions at the San Diego Zoo. Imagine the surprise and delight of visitors to the zoo who, while walking around visiting the various exhibits, would turn around and find a very large, very friendly orangutan following them around! The staff called him "The Escape Artist", and had a hard time keeping him in his cage. While still in San Diego, Nanci was offered a high price for the original work, but she had trouble parting with the piece. She loves this guy. Here's his image.



Say "Hi!" to Ken!

This work is beautifully framed and sealed, and I didn't want to take it out of that frame to photograph it properly – the climate would destroy the work – so the image is a little whoppy-jawed.

She feels it's time to sell Ken Allen. He's enjoyed the jungle for ten years, and it's time for him to move on to a new home. It's an 9 x 12 inch original scratchboard work, double matted and sealed in a professionally done 14x18 inch black frame. This museum quality work was originally priced at \$3,000, she'll accept the highest bid over \$1,000.

Anyone who is interested in this wonderful original work let us know by email, and we can get you in touch with Nanci to work something out directly.

THE BRAINS THAT GOD GAVE A CHICKEN – CHAPTER 2

OK, so once in a while I come up with a tidbit that has little to do with El Puente. This one is a New York Times story about a chicken that plays Tic Tac Toe. We have chickens! Wow! There was a slight flicker of an idea - could we train Corky to play this game? Could we use that to raise money for our operation here?

It didn't take long to dispense with that thought, but I still felt you might get a kick out of seeing the video.



The newspaper didn't make much of a foto available... here's the link to the video: <http://nyti.ms/LLkdCU>

VOLUNTEER CORNER

We continue to be blessed with great volunteers! Two of our most recent angels jumped right in.

Ladies and gentlemen,



... Say Hello! to Volunteers Gift Domenis from Nigeria and Gerda de Jong from Holland.

These angels worked in the Community Kitchen, wrapped birthday presents, and volunteered with anything else that came up. Thank you, ladies! Gerda has returned to Holland, but Gift is a resident here and we hope to be gifted with her fabulous smile for a whole lot longer.

Last Saturday we had nine volunteers suit up. One of them works in investment banking back home, and is interested in the Microloan Program. Another specializes in websites and the Internet, and wants to help with our website.

Onward!

We also had a wonderful volunteer visit from New York.



Deana Diamandopol, upper left, from Manhattan, has the opportunity to talk with members of a family as Community Kitchen winds down.

It's getting more usual to have people attend the Community Kitchen that we do not know. We make an effort to learn their names, and are usually successful. This time, however...

The significance of this picture is... if you want the opportunity to meet and talk with members of the indigenous community, that is possible at El Puente.

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FUN?

How about holding an El Puente **FUN**d Raising Party? You can get together with friends, family, and neighbors, have an absolutely GREAT evening, and put kids in school, feed families, and in general do a really great thing for the people in the community we serve. There are many materials we can provide to help you explain what El Puente is doing down here, even give you some hints as to how these kinds of events were handled in the past.

EVEN MORE WAYS TO HELP THE BRIDGE...

...and have a great time doing it! You've seen **Good Search**, and **GoodShop**. Now, there's **GoodDining!** Eat out with family and friends, and a portion of your food bill for the meal will be donated to El Puente - without you having to do anything except tell them you're in the GoodDining Program – and you're eating to benefit the “El Puente – The Bridge” program!



You can find restaurants near you that are part of this program! **Click on the picture above to see how to get started!**

The GoodDining folks may ask you to sign up with **GoodSearch**, where you can pick **El Puente – The Bridge** as your Cause. Then, search for restaurants near you, and go out with family and friends to enjoy a meal!

We've been using GoodSearch for 9 years now, and at first I was double-checking searches with Google. After many tests, I saw that GoodSearch finds things beautifully, and I stopped cross-checking the searches. And, every time you search using GoodSearch, El Puente gets 1 penny! Believe it or not, that really adds up.

YOU CAN HELP US!

There are several ways you can help.

- **Send this email to people you know** who might also enjoy it.
- **Post a message about us on relevant web sites or discussion boards.**
- **Look at our list of critically needed supplies** – www.elpuente-thebridge.org/page26.html

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

**Thank You for the continuing support we have been getting.
You all are allowing us to continue to serve!**

NOW's a GREAT time to contribute.

Make a **Monthly Pledge** www.elpuente-thebridge.org/pledge

Make an **Immediate Donation** www.elpuente-thebridge.org/page30.html

You can donate online using PayPal, or mail a check.

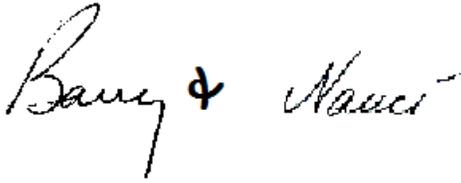
Do it NOW! You'll be glad you did!

Thank you for your support!

Well,

...djmiache

Enjoy!

Handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry & Nanci". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE SEEING THE PICTURES

...go to <http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/weekly> and download the file with the date of this issue.

Go to The **Bridge Website** <http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org>

Download a **Powerpoint presentation** or a **narrated slideshow/video** <http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/present>

Download **brochures in Spanish, English, or French** <http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/brochures>

Go to the **newsletter archive** <http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/weekly>

See some **Video clips** showing activities at The Bridge <http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/video>

See us in action in the **CNN News Report** at <http://bit.ly/yQSVOZ> (Push the "CC" button for English subtitles)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: barrystevens@earthlink.net
nanci.stevens@gmail.com

Our toll-free number from the US is 1-866-462-7585

Phone in Costa Rica +506-2750-0524

SKYPE: barry.stevens2