



Sep 30, 2012
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Welcome to Puerto Viejo! This shot was taken nearly overhead of the location of the new high school. El Puente is directly behind the observer in this photo, about a half-kilometer away. I couldn't find the name of the person taking the foto, so Thank You to the "Unknown Fotog"

RECENT NEWS

It's a very busy time. Nanci's been getting ready for Arte Viva, a local program where local artisans exhibit their work as part of an overall celebration of the cultural life here. The festival is "on" as we write, and she's now spending time there each day – and you'll see some of the work she's exhibiting below.

We continue to be blessed with visits of people who are interested in what's going on here at El Puente, and they each come with ideas about helping out. I've been spending some time supporting people working on local political issues affecting the town and many of the people we know. The issues are beyond the scope of this newsletter, so I won't write them up in detail. In summary, there are new laws passed protecting the environment, and they may cause the demolition of homes and businesses that have been in place for a long time. They're highly emotional issues, so I'm doing my best to provide support.

El Puente is rolling right along. We're serving between 100 – 150 people a week at the Community Kitchen. When asked, we help with homework projects. Some of the folks who come here treat this as a gathering place, a safe place to come and "hang out". They come get the books and the encyclopedia out on the porch and sit down and read through them. If they are illiterate, they look at the pictures. The Bridge Kids do homework, using the Internet and ask questions as they need to. The babies play with toys on the new floor outside. On many days you can see a soccer ball being kicked around the yard. We still see the Bridge Kids from one family here on some mornings when we provide a small breakfast on their way to school. Life goes on, and it feels really good.

GROWING UP AT THE BRIDGE

One of the joys here is watching the Bridge Kids grow up. First, we saw quite a bit of Catie, who is now 8 years old and in second grade. She's the subject of a story four years ago, in which she clearly stepped into the role of "The Littlest Entrepreneur". Catie now knows what needs to be done at the Community Kitchen, and she dives in with abandon, getting things done and having a good time doing it.

Lately, we're been blessed with Yvonne, who is 5 years old and in kindergarten. Just today she showed up at the door, handed me a bag of chiles she said she picked herself, and said "I want to work today!"

Say "Hi!" to...



Catie, and... Yvonne.

Yvonne and Catie are getting to be buds, and we get to watch as they burst into bloom!

SHAKE IT BABY, SHAKE IT

Some of you wrote us and asked if everything was OK after hearing of the magnitude 7.6 earthquake down here in Costa Rica. Thank you so much for your concern. We are OK!

A few asked what it was like, and we answered with a description of the rockin' and a rollin' that went on down here. Just recently, I ran across the following video taken from a security camera in a garage somewhere in the central valley.

So in answer to the question "What is a magnitude 7.6 terramoto like?" – sit down, get a good grip on the table in front of you, or whatever else you're holding on to, and have a look. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M48OC62ULk> Set YouTube at Full Screen!

OK... done?

...you can let go of what you're holding on to now...

...Really!

NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS!

Nanci has had a long-time aversion to computers. As she tells it, the first time she sat down at a computer back in La Mesa, her reaction was so strong she swore that “Never in a million years would she get involved with a computer!” So it came as quite a surprise when she started using a computer recently at El Puente.

The occasion was the implementation of her latest series of paintings focusing on the theme of the Flower Of Life. More on this work later, but with respect to her sitting down and using computers, she’s really gotten into it.



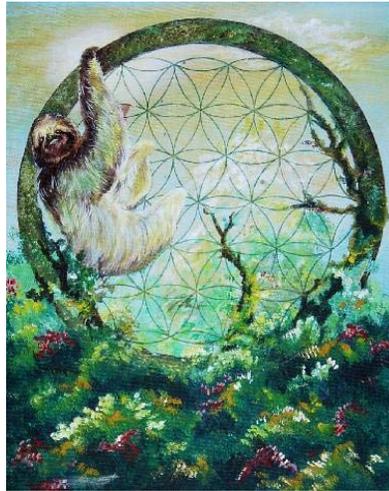
There are those who say, “I never would have believed it!”

She’s getting pretty comfortable with combining fotos of her art with text using Microsoft Publisher. She got some help from Janet Montoya, a great volunteer who has been patiently doing what she does best – teaching – with Nanci as a willing, if perplexed, student.

Thank you Janet!

NANCI'S NEW ART SERIES

The Flower Of Life is an ancient symbol, found in many places separated by thousands of miles and thousands of years. Her goal is to make new art work that she can sell to help with the operation of El Puente. You can see the symbol in one of Nanci's new art pieces.



The work is named "Crossing Over", and was done in memoriam of Luis Arroyo, one of the founders of Aviaros Sloth Sanctuary in nearby Penhurst. Nanci was grateful to be able to drop off a sloth that showed up here needing care after being electrocuted on the power lines some years ago. And actually, we're not quite sure of the name of the town they're in. Maps, road signs, government agencies, and tour guides have given us various names, including Peshurt, Penhursts, Peshurts... locals get a kick out of the name. Tourists have a great time finding out just exactly where they are. But I digress.

The design consists of many overlapping circles, all of the same diameter. It has been around for thousands of years, found in many locations. Archeologists have identified some of those places as:

- A site in Caral, Peru, that some say dates back to 6,000 BC;
- The temple of Osirus in Egypt, dating to 4,000 BC;
- The ancient city of Preslav, in what is now Bulgaria, 893 BC;
- The Palace of Ashurbanipal in Assyria, dated to 645 BC;
- Sites from the Roman Empire in Turkey, 395 AD;
- Westminster Abbey in Great Britain dated at 1,200 AD;
- In China's Forbidden City, where it is held under the claw of a stone dragon completed in 1406 AD;
- India – the Golden temple, started in the 1570's, finished in 1604.

What does it mean? Where did it come from? How did it get all over the world? Many scholars are working that mystery out. In the meantime, there are 10 images that Nanci has on display at the Arte Viva Festival, combining her love of nature and wildlife with that ancient symbol. Should be an interesting weekend!

We expect to have the images available for browsing on a web page soon.

Stay TUNED!

YET ANOTHER VIDEO... INCLUDING EL PUENTE

In May, 2010, when the idea of a high school was still just that - an idea - the Surf-For-Life folks showed up in Puerto Viejo. They took the high school idea to heart, and went back home and now they have raised the money for the construction of that school. Last-minute details are being worked out right now. There's a YouTube video to watch on the beginnings of this...

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_4ywkO7OziY

I'm in the clip as well, and I get a chance to explain more of what we are doing down here. I didn't tell you about it sooner because I forgot it exists.

Tune in – c'mon down for yet *another* virtual visit!

DONOR CORNER

Children's Hunger Relief Fund, of Santa Rosa, California is a foundation that has been supporting programs to reduce hunger around the world. They have been very supportive to El Puente, most recently with a donation covering these requests:

\$ 1,093 To pay off the unpaid balance on the account at Old Harbor Supermarket

\$ 1,280 for chairs and tables

\$ 120 to buy pots and pans

\$ 900 for a new Washer and Dryer

\$ 2,892 for Facility Repair and maintenance

The total of their donation was \$6,285. Old Harbor Supermarket has been paid. Many chairs and just one table have been purchased – that's another story for a different time. New pots and pans are now in use to cook soup. A new washer and dryer are in use. And much needed facility repair and maintenance projects, such as repair of the roof and screening on the house are under way.

Thank you CHRF!

You can see more about them at <http://www.chrf.org>

EL PUENTE FANS

Some time ago, I told you about Roy Myrie, a neighbor who visited here. He was the ex-alcalde (governor), and he had a wealth of experience in this area. We had coffee, and among other things, we discussed security issues in the neighborhood. He emphasized taking care of business, and summarized by saying, in the colorful Caribbean dialect, "If they steal me, it MY fault!"

I was, unfortunately, reminded of his sage advice the other day. We had purchased two fans for use on the outdoor structure, to cool off the eating area. There was a hook for hanging up the fan on a nail, and also a place where one could insert a very long screw to tightly secure each fan. In a hurry one day, I drove two nails and hung up the fans. "I'll put in those screws soon", I said to myself. Several days went by, and I woke up one morning to learn that the fans had walked off during the night. Since they didn't have legs or wheels, I assumed they had help in making their exit.

COMMENTARY: THE CHAT CHECK GIRL

In some of the better restaurants in areas where people wear coats and hats, there is a place called "The Cloak Room". The attendant, usually a woman, became known as "The Hat Check Girl". That, like many things in society, is beginning to change.

Through KPCC radio, an FM station in Los Angeles comes the news that a restaurant is offering to give a discount to customers who look at their fellow diners instead of their phone screens. Eva Restaurant, in Beverly Hills, is giving a 5% discount to customers who leave their cell phones with staff when they are seated.

Owner Mark Gold told KPCC radio that the policy isn't about other diners who might be annoyed by cell phone chatter or the glow of smart phone screens, but an attempt to create an environment where diners connect to each other instead of technology.

Personally, I'm on both sides of the techno-fence. I'm very often seen in a great coffee shop named Bread & Chocolate, talking with people who come there. If they are interested in El Puente, I take their email address and add them to our monthly newsletter subscriber list. That list has grown to more than 2,000 people, and has become an important link to the Volunteers

and Donors who enable us to do what we do, as well as to those Subscribers who read it and pass along information on El Puente to people they know. I can see the advantages to both sides.

Consider this argument - Costa Rica, like many other countries, depends heavily on tourist dollars. What could happen to revenue from tourism when travelers begin to discover that the environment "here" - where they would spend thousands of dollars for a visit - is essentially the same as the one they experience at home? Immersed in technology at home, at the office, at the airport, in the bus or taxi, in the hotel, on the beach, volunteering at El Puente, in the restaurant - even in the rest rooms. Little or no actual face-to-face or face-to-place connection.

What do you think? Would this work in Costa Rican restaurants, or the restaurants in your home town?
"Check your chat with your coat and hat". Should there be a "Chat Check Girl?"

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.**
- **Go to GoodSearch and look into searching the Internet, shopping online in 1,500 brand name stores, and even dining out at participating restaurants – all of which will provide a donation to El Puente, and it won't cost you one penny extra.** <http://www.goodsearch.com>
- **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.

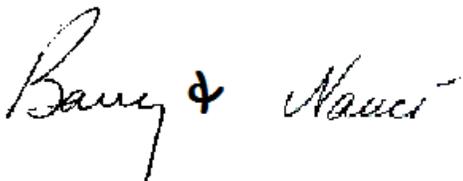
Do it NOW! You'll be glad you did!

Thank you for your support!

Well,

...djmiache

Enjoy!



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(PPT)** or a **narrated slideshow/video(AVI)** <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)

amvideosites

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