



June 30, 2013  
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*Another big day – Royner and Irene, two of the "Bridge Kids", graduated from 6<sup>th</sup> Grade at the Escuela de Puerto Viejo*

## **RECENT NEWS**

Ever hear the expression "crazy busy"? That's what things have been like around here in these past few weeks. First, we had graduation day for two of the Bridge Kids! Then, two completely amazing fourth grade classes, their teachers, and some parents got down to business and held a bake sale – and the teachers brought the results down here! Nanci says "Thank You". Old friends visit from the USA – and you may recognize them. Barry's no longer an illegal immigrant! There some more information on "A Word To The Why's", about the problems we had with the website. And finally, we have a great volunteer helping us "Go With The Flow"

***Enjoy this month's issue!***

## TWO MORE GREAT "BRIDGE KIDS" GRADUATE

With your support, great things continue! Two of the young folks in the School Program graduated from 6th grade at the Escuela Puerto Viejo this week! Irene Vargas Vargas, 16 years old, and Royner Mediana Perez, 17 years old, walked proudly into the ceremony together and accepted their certificates of completion.



*Royner holds his certificate for the foto*



*Irene holds her certificate her mom and sisters said "Yay!"*



*Royner and his mom Anna after the ceremony.*

The day had some surprises. For all the time we were seeing and working with Irene we thought her name was, well, "Irene". Surprise, surprise - on her graduation certificate, her name was spelled "Irenis". Since the letter "i" is pronounced "eee" around here, we just thought... Anyway, Irenis is the very first person in her family **ever** to complete elementary school. And, she's already been to her first high school indoctrination. Way to go girl!

This must also have been a special day for Anna, too. As the story goes, when she was still pregnant with her own son, she took Royner into her home also as her own when he was abandoned as a baby. On this day, he graduated from school, ready to get on with his life. Congratulations to both Royner AND Anna!

I tried to get a graduation group picture with Mayra and her daughters including Irenis, but they had already slipped out. Mayra, Irenis' mom, actually got a little choked up and teary as the audience burst into applause when her daughter held up her certificate of completion.

**You made this graduation - and many others that we can't personally attend or photograph - possible.**

**Thank you!**

## TWO FOURTH GRADE CLASSES GO ALL OUT FOR EL PUENTE

Two amazing Fourth Grade classes at Omro Elementary School in Omro, Wisconsin recently held a bake sale there. Two teachers, a couple of parents, and over a dozen students raised \$600 for El Puente! As if that weren't enough, they also collected 120 pounds of school supplies and then hauled all that stuff down here— wonderful support for the School and Food Programs here! Brains, brawn, beauty and bodacious beneficence!



Mrs. Marks' Class



Mrs. Makurats' Class

*Here are the teachers and students from both classes - so we can say "Thank You!" to all of them at once.*



Mrs. Makurat's Table



Mrs. Marks' Table



Mrs. Wirth's Table



Mrs. Geracie's Table

**As you can see, the Moms and Kids got really involved!**



Teacher Jennifer Marks with her students Chandler B. and Austin J.



Parent helpers and students Kaden B., Seth P., and Mackenzie M.

## **A NOTE FROM NANJI**

As we go merrily along our daily course, you loyal Bridge supporters are out peddling your own brand of talent and expertise, bringing to us here at the Bridge the wherewithal to make this program a growing concern. This is one type of giving that gives exponentially through the teachings that go hand in hand with the gift. As founders of this program we have named The Bridge, we are so very proud to have supporters whose passions infect so many so young and in such wondrous ways.

There is indeed hope for this world when children become aware of their own special privileges and learn to share from their own place of abundance.

From our overflowing hearts to yours,

**Thank You All!**

## OLD FRIENDS VISIT FROM THE USA

We recently had a visit from some old friends from the USA – many of you have seen these folks before. Michele Kohan, and her daughter Alex and son Douglas, returned to El Puente. Some years ago, they had a yard sale, and donated the proceeds to El Puente.



*Here's eight year-old Alex, and*



*six year-old Douglas*

Now, eight years later, here are those same two "kids" ...



*Here is 16 year-old Alex, working on food at the Community Kitchen*



*...and 14 year-old Douglas is smiling for the camera, along with Connie Foss, another Volunteer*

Alex and Douglas came down with their Mom, Michele Kohan. We've known her for some time. Among other things, Michele wrote a book "**Chronicles of the Jungle Mom: Notes from the Jungle**", which describes her first experience living here in Costa Rica. She also talks about meeting El Puente in those earlier days. Also a percentage of the royalties she has generously donated to The Bridge. So say Hello! And thank you to...



*Michele Kohan visiting with us*

During their visit here, Alex mentioned she had some things with her body that might benefit from visiting Don Candido, the Bribri Curandero we've been bringing people to visit with really good results. Didn't take too long to convince her to go and see the man. We went, and Alex and Michele got to meet the man. After the initial discussions, Candido started his usual diagnostic procedure, and...



*Bingo! – he found something!*

This was a special day for Michele. She was the one who learned of Candido through Kenny Herft, who made the documentary "The Hidden People", which talked about Don Candido and his knowledge of medicinal plants. It was Michele who told me about that video and about Candido – thus introducing me to him. But, she had never met him in person, so this was a special day for her as well. And yes, Alex got some spot on information from him in her visit there.

### **I'M LEGAL AGAIN!**

By the time Nancy Vieto, our great attorney, was able to get an appointment for me to renew my cedula with her at the Attorney Window, my cedula had expired – which meant that, technically I was an illegal immigrant. She sent me an appointment memo from Migracion, which said could be useful if anyone questioned my cedula on the way there. After a great night at Casa Alfi in San Jose, I met Nancy Vieto at Migracion and, with her help, was in and out of there – with a new cedula – in an hour and a half. Yay!

**And Thank You Nancy! And Alfie!**

### **A WORD TO THE WHY'S - AN UPDATE**

Even though the website is a total green light from Norton, McAfee, and the Google website analysis tool, there seem to be some holdovers.

The warning messages, that the website may be a problem site, seem to be stuck on a few electronic "bulletin boards", even though the problem has been taken care of. Words like "Malware" come up in those messages. And in one case, a viewer was in fact redirected to a site that was associated with the Malware – the service provider had not yet flushed out the old page, delivering that instead of the actual website page.

Yet, in an informal test, I had a number of people access the site and tell me if they had any problems. Many said "It's OK"

If you have a problem accessing the website, please let me know. I'll send you things to forward to your Internet service provider, which might be where those old pages are sitting.

## A DAY-TO-DAY MEANING OF "GO WITH THE FLOW"

Jeff Murdoch helps us "go with the flow", as this great volunteer fixes the kitchen sink and drain connection.



*Thank You, Jeff!*

There are many small projects that volunteers can help with around here... Jeff jumped in with this one, and did really good job! Jeff is constructing an eco friendly dirtbag house here in the jungle. It's looking good. More on that later.

## BUTT - IT TURNED OUT TO ONLY BE A FROG!

*Be careful – it's a jungle in here!*

Very early in one particular morning – too early – 1 AM – I sat down on the toilet, half-asleep, and was immediately – and literally – kicked in the butt! Quite a surprise!

As it says in those infamous infomercials "But wait – there's MORE!"

Rubbing my eyes in disbelief, I discovered – **there's a frog in the toilet!**

After I pulled up my britches, I reached for the little bugger, so I could grab it and put it outside. It jumped and landed on my chest. I reached again – it jumped again. I grabbed again – the slimy thing squirted out of my hand like toothpaste ejected from a tube. My shrieks awakened Nanci, whose luck was no better than my own. The grab-and-jump routine went on for many cycles until, finally, I believed I had a firm grip on the situation. As I moved toward the cat flap in the spare bedroom window, he made a break for it – again. The jump-and-grab routine began yet again, this time finally resulting in my forming a cup with both hands, with Froggie-Go-Sprightly inside.

Once again, I moved toward the cat flap. This time, I poked BOTH hands, still cupped, through the flap and outside the house. I opened my cupped hands – and – froggie jumped – **again!** – right through the window, back into the house! At which point I just gave up and went back to bed. "See you in the morning, froggie." He had the run of the house.

The following morning, Nanci went to the sink to wash her hands – and there sat Freddy-the-Super-Frog – back in the bathroom, right next to the soap dish. Now it was HER turn! She also went through the grab routine until, finally, she was able to get him outside the cat door. Having been wised up to his antics, she also pushed him off the surface of the storage box we have out there, sending him out into the world to find his OWN darned place to live. Vaya Bien, froggie!

Later, Nanci looked up our visitor in the Field Guide, and identified the interloper as *Smilisca Sordida*, 6.5 cm long, and all frog!

Be careful – it's a *JUNGLE* in here!

## YOU CAN HELP!

There are several ways you can help.

- **Send this email to people you know** who might also enjoy it - forward the newsletter to friends.
- **Visit our Facebook Page – “Like” it – post something on it - Show it to your Facebook Friends**  
Search for El Puente – The Bridge in the “Places or things” box
- **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** – <http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/page26.html>
- **Look at our Wish List and see if there's anything you can help with** – <http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/page13.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** <http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/pledge>

Make an **Immediate Donation** <http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/page30.html>

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

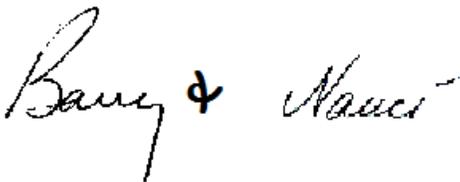
**Do it NOW!** You'll be glad you did!

***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 DOC or PDF file with the date of this issue.

## INFORMATION ON THE BRIDGE

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

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

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

## THE BRIDGE VIDEO LIBRARY

See us in action in the **CNN News Report** at <http://bit.ly/yQSV0Z> (Push the “CC” button for English subtitles)

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

More video including El Puente in a **Surf For Life video** at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ywkO7OziY>

There is a video with Barry & Nanci by Actuality Media available at <http://vimeo.com/46201540>

See more action in a recent graduation ceremony, and more:

Two Indigenous Students Graduate 6th grade in Puerto Viejo, Costa Rica  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLSohyM2WI4>

Bribri Tribal Elder Talks At The El Puente Christmas Party  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3iJ8b6iiU4>

A Visit To The El Puente Christmas Party  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGeGXSFuQco>

Children Choosing Toys At The El Puente Christmas Party  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Sq5-kvofB4>

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Go to a Facebook Page to read and leave comments about El Puente – The Bridge  
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