Arlington Central America Committee
Teosinte Sister City Newsletter

Winter 1994

Holiday Craft Sales to Benefit Teosinte

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Arlington Center for the Arts
Sat., Dec. 3, 12 to 5 p.m.

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Judi Paradis' house
143 Forest St. 646-3976
Tue., Dec. 6, 7-9 p.m.

POTLUCK DINNER

Our end-of-the year potluck dinner will be held on Wed. Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. at Sally Rogers' house, 47 Bartlett Ave. Come say goodbye to Sally and Jim Roettger, and congratulate our newlyweds Paul and Theresa Lessin and Genie Hainsworth. Also help us to send Lynn Sweezy to El Salvador in style.

Land Transfers Stalled

To address inequality of land ownership in El Salvador, a root cause of war there, we are joining efforts to encourage the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to simplify procedures for the transfers mandated by the 1992 Peace Accords. The money is already in the country, but bureaucratic and technical delays have slowed the process such that it would take until the year 2008 to complete purchases that must be negotiated by the April 1995 deadline! **Please participate in this campaign by sending the enclosed pre-addressed postcard.** If you would like more postcards, call the American Friends Service Committee at 661-6130

DED EMERGENCY

2,000 Salvadorans are in danger of losing deferred enforced departure (DED) status, forcing them to return to El Salvador. Call President Clinton at 202/456-1111 to ask for an extension of the DED until El Salvador is truly stable, with human rights and economic opportunity.

Report From Teosinte

A dozen women of Teosinte now sew gorgeous, sturdy bags, backpacks and fanny packs from cloth woven in Pujujil Guatemala. This is true South to South cooperation and sustainable development. From vivid colors to quilted bottoms and inside zippers, the strength and quality of the products are extraordinary, and the striped colors are a feast for the eyes! To purchase a bag, call Judi Paradis at 646-3976.

Teosinte also would like to obtain a school bus to provide transportation for themselves and income through serving other towns. A bakery and a women's center are also in the works. Dean Stevens visited Teosinte this fall, and reports an impressive new bridge has been built over the Rio Padre by the workers of Teosinte. Finally, new pictures from Teosinte's children arrived, and for once, none show helicopters shooting at anyone.