



ASSOCIATION OF FORMER  
PAHO/WHO STAFF MEMBERS

N E W S L E T T E R

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VOLUME I NUMBER 3

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E D I T O R I A L

This is the most wonderful time of the year: time for caring, time to be thankful for all the things we have and share with our families and friends; time for peace, for love and joy in a more spiritual way during the season's festivities. It also is a time for hope, for reas-sessing our lives, for setting new goals and for new year's resolutions, even in the midst of celebrations with music, songs, or perhaps champagne and dance.

This is also the first anniversary of our Association. It was officially founded on 8 November 1990 with bylaws, a program of activities, a budget and an elected Board of Directors. The evaluation of our first year is definitely positive: considering the favorable response we had from our colleagues - letters, phone calls, personal contacts - we feel that the Association fills a real need by providing members with a link to PAHO/WHO and to fellow members.

One of our accomplishments is this Newsletter. During 1991 we

published three issues - including the present one - and judging from the comments received it is a success. We also had some social activities, greatly enjoyed by the participants, which helped to bring colleagues together and renew old acquaintances and friendships.

We still have a lot more to do. We are in the process of preparing a new program of activities, based on the experience of the past year, which we hope will be more realistic and better interpret the needs of Association Members. To that end we need the participation of all you - be it via letters, telephone calls or personal meetings - in order to improve the activities program, issue a more informative and useful Newsletter, and undertake social, cultural and educational activities that will be more tailored to your needs.

How about making it one of your New Year's resolutions to become more active in the Association? You will enjoy it and all members will benefit. We look forward to hearing from you!

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### SECOND GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

The second General Meeting of AFSM was held on 21 November 1991.

Since one of the objectives of the Association is to link former members of PAHO WHO to the Organization, we invited Dr. Robert Knouss, Deputy Director of PAHO, to inform the participants re-garding the Organization's activities and direction. Dr. Knouss gave a very informative talk, and also answered ques-tions from the participants.

The President of the Board of Directors informed the members on the activities of the Association in its first year: not all the activities programmed for 1991 were accomplished, but considering that this is our first year, the balance is positive. In order to plan a more realistic program, a working group met on 16 December to propose a plan of activities for 1992.

The Treasurer, Mr. Federico G. Varela, reported on the financial status of the Association. Dues of \$ 730.00 was collected from 72 members. PAHO contributed with \$800.00 and proceedings from a luncheon gave a superavirt of \$ 35.00, which adds \$ 1,575.00. Credit Union dividends of \$30.25 increased our account to a total of \$1,595.22. There were no expenditures during the year.

The social activities were self-supporting and even contributed to the fund of the Association.

The terms of two Board Directors expired (H.E. Irwin and H.A. Bruch). The participants reelected both members and one substitute: Mrs. Maria Mercedes Segarra-Hines.

After the meeting the Board and few other participants had a "Dutch treat" lunch.

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### CREATIVE LIVING IN RETIREMENT

Learning in retirement is a new concept which is catching on throughout the country. Begun by the Elderhostel movement, course offerings are especially designed to be intellectually stimulating and appealing to retirees who wish to continue learning a variety of disciplines. The programs are university-related, conducted mostly at urban and suburban campuses. The faculty consists of experienced teachers.

For a modest annual fee, members are enabled to take courses, regardless of their previous educational level. They may also engage in the numerous social events, field trips and special forums offered at reduced prices and have access to the university library.

Under the aegis of George Mason University in Fairfax, VA, a new program, at the

Learning in Retirement Institute, has recently successfully completed its initial semester. Beginning with an open house on 14 September 1991, the new term started on September 23. Most classes consist of an 8-week cycle, meeting once each week for a one-and-a-half hour session. Among the score of courses being offered this semester, a student member may select from a variety of subjects, such as "Reinventing the USSR," "American Education Reform," "Art Appreciation and Art Gallery Tours," "World Religions," "U.S. Foreign Relations". A course in "Creative Living in Retirement" may be of particular interest to many since it covers various issues of concern to retirees, including finances, planning ahead, relationships, keeping the mind active, recreation, travel, cultural expansion, health, consulting opportunities and part time-employment for fun and funds, serving the community -- volunteerism, and much else.

The course will be taught by Dr. Howard Binkley -- "retired four times to date" -- (as a business executive, professor, international economic consultant, global social program leader) -- who has numerous publications to his credit, and continues active in community as well as world affairs. Among the many other experienced teachers is Charles Creameans -- teaching a course on the Middle East -- who has many decades of experience in Middle East issues, as writer, teacher, diplomat and author.

To learn more about the Institute, phone (703) 385-1593 or write to LRI/G. Mason University, Room 215, 4085 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030

Maria M. Segarra-Hines

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#### WHO IS DOING WHAT AND WHERE

Mrs. Hertha Aldama has a music studio at her home in Washington, D.C. where she teaches piano and musicianship to children and adults. For information call (202) 537-1062

Mrs. Maria Mercedes Segarra-Hines prepared and coordinated, through the Spanish Textbook and Instructional Material Program (PALTEX) of PAHO the publication of the following documents: 1. El Departamento de Registros Médicos: Guía para su Organización; 2. Registros de Salud e Historias Clínicas; 3. Identificación de las Historias Clínicas; 4. El Archivo de Historias Clínicas; 5. Organización de Registros de Cáncer en el Hospital; 6. Manual del Instructor. The first stage of work was completed three years ago. After her retirement, Mrs. Segarra-Hines has contributed, ad-honorem, to several revisions and adaptations to put this work into its final form.

Mr. Luis J. Gonzalez and his wife, who were traveling the U.S.A in a Motorhome - and loving it - have settled in Texas. Their new address is Route 5, Box 310, # 1557, Livingston, Texas 77351.

- Iva R. Latortue wrote us from Haiti congratulating us on the Newsletter. "This is such a great idea"... "for me the Newsletter was a message from old friends you have not heard from in a long time". Her retirement days are never "empty and boring". She says Hi to all her friends.

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#### OBITUARIES

\* Since our last Newsletter, we learned of the death of the following colleagues:

\* Terence J. Woods on 8 October 1991, in Vienna, VA.

\* John Overtone, President of the Association of Former International Civil Servants (AFICS), on 1 December 1991.

\* Jeanne Lamotte in May 1991, in California.

Our sincerest condolences to their families.

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#### AFSM SERVICES

##### HUMANITAIAN SERVICES

If you need assistance or know any colleague who needs assistance because he/she is sick, alone or needs a friend, please call Helena M. Irwin (703) 506-8077

##### COUNSELING SERVICES:

If you need assistance on legal or administrative issues affecting retirees, please call Dr. Alfred Gerald (301) 770-3845.

##### INFORMATION:

If you have any information for the Newsletter or the Association (e.g. activities that retirees might profit from) or need information regarding the Association, please call Hans A. Bruch (301) 530-5450.

## Lewes Shopkeeper Unveils Hand Painted Furniture

By BETTY FLEMING

There's something new and exciting at the Saxon Swan in Lewes and Zach's in Rehoboth Beach . . . owner-artist Bill Childress is showing off his hand-painted, decorated furniture. It's been quietly slipping into the two shops and providing, in some cases, display space for other crafts. You had to look carefully at all the furnishings of the shop to see it. Now, it's coming front and center! "I figure it will be really out for display the first week of November," says Mr. Childress.

"I've been seeing decorated or painted furniture at gift shows," says Mr. Childress, who attends 12 or more national and local shows a year in the pursuit of handmade crafts for his shop in Lewes and Zach's, in which he is a co-owner. "I felt much of what I saw had a punched-out, mass-produced look about it," says Mr. Childress. "At first, I'd give my design ideas to other artists and I'd sell things that they did, sometimes on a commission basis." Later, he said, the artists who were doing this work for him "folded up" so he pursued his interest on his own. He says he's been working on this project the last couple of years and has done 20 or 30 pieces. Some of it has been shown at Rehoboth Art League craft shows. He uses "yard sale furniture" with good lines and construction." He adds, "I wouldn't think of painting real antiques."

One caution . . . don't go into Saxon Swan and say, "I'd like the wardrobe over in the corner, but I'd like it in shades of purple and pink." Artist that he is, Mr. Childress says he likes to do "one of a kind designs." No variations on a theme. "After I do something, I'm through with it," says Mr. Childress.

Although admittedly "color blind," Mr. Childress took up painting in his 50s after, as he says, "doing a lot of looking at museums in this country and South America." When he retired from his job as head of budget for the Americas for the World Health Organization in Washington, D.C., Mr. Childress went to the University of Maryland, where he received a degree in studio arts. Then, he says, in his typical casual, understated way, "I met a couple of fellows who were interested in producing miniature pewter figures. I did that for a while until they decided they wanted to go on to jewelry. That's when I quit."

After his first wife died, Mr. Childress decided to invest in a dream he'd had of opening a craft shop. "I always thought it would be fun to have a craft shop and bust your tail in the summer; then rest in the winter," he says, with a laugh. "Now, I know you never rest. That's the story on that."

Mr. Childress bought his 100-year-old, Victorian house in Lewes in 1984 as the first step in this project. At first, he thought he'd operate his craft shop from the front of that building but later decided not to "mess it up." Instead, in 1985, he ambitiously bought the 1,600-square-foot shop that used to house a medical supply place on the corner of Second Street and Savannah Road in Lewes, just a few short steps from his home. "My family and I had spent summers at Bethany Beach and at first, I thought of looking there, but when I found my house and that corner shop was available, I knew Lewes was the best choice for me," he says.

At Zach's shop in Rehoboth Beach, Mr. Childress is in his third season as co-owner with John and Darlene Zacharias. Mrs. Zacharias runs that shop. Karen Lucks runs the Lewes

shop. "What I enjoy is taking people on a tour of the shops," says Mr. Childress, "showing them my favorite pieces, and telling them a little of the background on each piece."

Currently, besides the new decorated furniture show, Mr. Childress and his partners are considering a possible mail order business, to operate from Zach's. "It would take a lot of buying," says Mr. Childress. "I usually only find a few things at each show. It really isn't worth opening a new account with an artist unless they have several things to offer that you think might sell." What's especially interesting to him is the number of regular customers, both local and vacationers, who come to him with recommendations for artists they know. "They say, this artist's work would go great in your shop," he says.

Many customers comment on the good taste of those who make the buying decisions for Saxon Swan and Zach's . . . namely Bill Childress. "They say the shops have personality," says Mr. Childress. "It keeps my ego intact."

Some of the 15 to 20 artists represented in the shops are members of the Cooperative Art Gallery in Montgomery County, Md. where Mr. Childress was director while he was still working at the World Health Organization. "I brought along some of the best ones," he says.

Evelyn, Bill Childress' wife of three years, enjoys going to the many craft shows with her husband. "Bill knows how to go by things that don't interest him. At those big shows with hundreds of crafts to look at, you don't waste time. After four hours there, you don't see anything anymore!"

"Lewes was a lucky move for me," says Mr. Childress.



Betty Fleming photo

Bill Childress, artist and owner of the Saxon Swan in Lewes, stands with a current sample of his decorated furniture, a new display for the store.