



# ARLINGTON TEOSINTE SISTER CITY PROJECT

2 Communities, 1 Family

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

2016

## Spotlight on Immigration

“In the past, the push [to leave] was economic, but now it is violence” said Zulma Tobar, staff member of U.S.-El Salvador Sister Cities at its recent national meeting in Cambridge.



Zulma grew up in Cinquera, a community with a history similar to Teosinte's. Teosinte, Cinquera and communities that were repopulated by refugees during the Salvadoran Civil War have been able to keep gangs from taking hold by engaging youth in town government, the arts, and other positive activities. This is in sharp contrast to other parts of El Salvador where gang violence has led to the highest homicide rate in the world.

Zulma also told personal stories, such as that of her cousin who fled his home with his family after a local gang threatened to kill all of them if he did not join the gang. “Families don't want to leave their country,” Zulma said. “They have no choice.”

## Need a Perfect Holiday Gift?

Teosinte craft items are unique and you can feel great about your purchase – all proceeds benefit the women's cooperative and educational scholarships for Teosinte youth. In addition to beautiful handbags, wallets, and placemats, we have new artisan jewelry and freshly roasted coffee! A bag of fresh El Salvadoran coffee beans makes a perfect teacher and/or hostess gift. To purchase, please join us for a wonderful holiday shopping opportunity and refreshments hosted by amigas and amigos of Teosinte.

### Important Dates for Salvadoran Craft and Coffee Sales

December 4, 4:00-6:00pm at the home of Sarah Glover  
139 Franklin Street, Arlington

December 5, 5:00-7:00pm at the home of Stephanie Koontz  
46 Westmoreland Ave., Arlington

December 8, 6:00-9:00pm Bishop School Holiday Craft Fair  
Knights of Columbus, 15 Winslow Street, Arlington

December 10, 3:00-5:00pm Calvary Church  
300 Mass Ave., Arlington

Call 781-643-0769 for information or to place an order

## Our Partnership with APS

The Arlington public school curriculum “Learning from International Friendship” is thriving and growing every year. Through this unique friendship we continue to strengthen the ties between both towns' youth, advance global awareness, and promote social justice in Teosinte and in Arlington.

In partnership with APS leadership and teachers, the Teosinte curriculum expanded district-wide into second grade this September. Together, we also continue to enrich the Spanish language curriculum at OMS and AHS. Last Spring an AP Spanish class skyped in Spanish with students from Teosinte. In October, Salvadoran Sister City organizer Zulma Tobar spoke to over 250 high school students connecting local social justice issues to those in Teosinte. APS students have also participated in fund raising events that benefit Teosinte's scholarship students.

We are also excited to welcome our second AHS intern Eleni Blanas. “I am thrilled to have the opportunity to communicate with Teosinte, and finally interact with a culture that I have studied from afar for so many years,” said Eleni.

## A Family Delegation

A year ago, the Koontz-Radoslovich family left Arlington for six months on a family sabbatical and spent September and October 2015 in Teosinte.

“Because of the long standing connection to Arlington, we were welcomed into the community with love,” said Stephanie Koontz.



Ben and Ella Radoslovich went to Teosinte's grade school in the village center, played soccer every day, and swam often in the river. They lived with a family of three boys. Charlie Radoslovich farmed with their host on Teosinte's steep inclines and exchanged ideas about organic farming. Stephanie volunteered at the medical clinic, hand washed clothes, and learned how to make tortillas.

### Save the Date!

The Koontz-Radoslovich family will share their experience in Teosinte on **January 29th from 4-5:30** at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington.



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San Salvador Office: [sistercities@telesal.net](mailto:sistercities@telesal.net)

## Help Fulfill Their Dream

“My name is Maria Julia Hernández Alas and I am 24 years old. I am a fourth year student at the University of El Salvador, studying International Relations. My social service project is with Sister Cities. In the future I hope to work in an international development cooperation, implement community projects, and make improvements, to give thanks for all your help for me and my family.”



YOUR donations make it possible for bright and dedicated youth, like Maria, to pursue their dream of higher education, a career, stable income, and a better future for themselves and their families. Your generosity helps pay for tuition and school supplies for high school and college students who would otherwise be unable to afford them. Help us make their dreams of education come true. Honor a loved one by making a gift of education in their name. Please make a tax-deductible donation to ATSCP this holiday season. Thank you for your continued support.

## BECOME AN AMIGO!

\_\_\_ \$60 helps pay for a university student’s shared housing for a month.

\_\_\_ \$100 helps pay for a high school student’s transportation, food, and supplies for a month.

\_\_\_ \$200 helps pay for an university student’s tuition, books, and school supplies for a year.

\_\_\_ \$325 helps pay for a university student’s tuition, books, school supplies, and rent for a month.



Please make checks out to: U.S.-El Salvador Sister Cities/Arlington-Teosinte  
Send to: Elizabeth Dray, ATSCP, 130 Jason Street, Arlington, MA 02476

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One: New Membership  Renewal  Gift Membership  (Please list name and address of recipient)