

*As we embark on our third year of activities, we also reflect on how far the Center has come. In addition to educational programs within the North American community, we now have expanding programs in the Mexican community. Atahualpa Caldera and Yolanda Millán are working with the Center on our Community Dialogue project, visiting outlying communities, discussing problems, solutions and how we can support locally-initiated, productive projects. What follows is a summary of what we have been doing over a very busy summer.*

## SUMMER WORKSHOP

The Center for Global Justice's July 19-26 Workshop attracted 104 participants from the U.S., Canada, Argentina, Cuba, Nicaragua, Lebanon, Austria and South Africa. Mexico was well represented too, with scholars and activists from the states of Guanajuato, Oaxaca, Morelos, Queretaro, and Campeche, as well as Mexico City. The theme of the workshop was "Another World Is Necessary: Justice, Sustainable Development, Sovereignty." A total of 43 papers on a wide range of topics were discussed.

Papers in English are at <http://www.globaljusticecenter.org/papers2006.htm> and in Spanish at <http://www.globaljusticecenter.org/ponencias2006.htm>

You are invited to read the papers and join in the continuing discussion by adding your comments at the end of a paper.

The program was enriched by public talks given by Monseñor Samuel Ruiz, former bishop of Chiapas, Miguel Alvarez, and Gustavo Esteva. Workshop participants also visited two communities in the countryside impacted by water shortages, withdrawal of government support to family farming and the resulting emigration. These field trips made vivid the consequences of neo-liberal globalization.

The Workshop happened amidst the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Participants called for "the immediate cessation of the aggression by Israel against Lebanon and Palestine." Cf. [http://www.globaljusticecenter.org/2006postworkshop/mideast\\_declaration.htm](http://www.globaljusticecenter.org/2006postworkshop/mideast_declaration.htm)

**WORKING GROUPS:** In our business meeting the Center decided to have its next conference in 2008. In order to extend and deepen the discussions at this and previous workshops, the Center is launching Working Groups on several thematic areas: Nation-state, Imperialism, Democracy (NID), Worker Control, Environment, Mexican Migration, and Popular Education. These groups will dialog in cyberspace over the next year with the aim of producing publishable results of value to the social movements of



*Participants in the Center for Global Justice Summer Workshop - July 26 Cuba Independence Day Party*

our time. The members of these groups will gather face-to-face in San Miguel de Allende next August to complete their work. If you want to join one of these Working Groups, contact our Administrator, Beatriz Sucar at [info@globaljusticecenter.org](mailto:info@globaljusticecenter.org)

While the Workshop was a great success on the whole, financially it ended in the hole. Expenses exceeded income by a whopping \$2,924! The deficit would have been greater had it not been for a generous grant of \$7,000 to our travel fund from the Christopher Reynolds Foundation. Altogether \$11,000 in scholarships were given to activists and scholars, mainly from the global South. Fully half of the 58 women and 46 men who participated received financial assistance and free meals. Local volunteers provided free food and housing for nearly 40 guests. But in many ways the greatest gift to the Workshop came from the eight interpreters from Babels, whose free services made it possible to have all proceedings in Spanish and English simultaneously. We would appreciate donations — \$500, \$100 or even \$25 can help! You can make yours through our website at <http://www.globaljusticecenter.org/donate.htm>

## THE CUBAN EIGHT

Eight Cubans spent two weeks at the Center for Global Justice in July. In addition to participating in the Workshop, they offered a symposium on Cuba for the general public. At a time when the Bush administration has made it impossible for Cubans to visit the U.S. and difficult for Americans to visit Cuba, our location in Mexico provides a venue for mutual contact.

## INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Seven college students from the U.S. interned for four weeks at the Center this summer. Under the supervision of Peggy Rivage-Seul, interns participated in classes and discussions related to Mexico under NAFTA and lived for a week with families in the countryside to observe conditions first hand. Interns came from Smith College, Berea College, Clark University, University of Texas, and Arizona State University. Plans are now being made for an expanded internship program in the summer of 2007 when we hope to be able to offer academic credit through Berea College.

## CGJ HIRES AN ORGANIZER

The Center has hired on a part time basis Atahualpa Caldera as an organizer for outreach to local rural communities. Ata is a masters degree candidate in watershed management at the University of Queretero. Fully bi-lingual, he will be a valuable link between the Spanish-speaking and the English-speaking communities. Welcome aboard, Ata.

## DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES

The Center has become well known in San Miguel for the documentary films it screens. Focusing on social issues such as emigration, globalization, war, U.S. politics, corporations, etc., these have been an effective means of popular education. This summer we showed eleven films, always followed by discussions. During the five weeks leading up to this fall's elections, we plan another film series focusing on issues in the campaign.

## DIALOGO COMUNITARIO

Last spring the Center initiated day-long field trips to rural communities where one can see another side of globalization – the impoverishment of the countryside. In addition to being a valuable educational experience, these visits are helping the Center build relationships and trust with rural communities. We are exploring various ways of supporting their local projects to bring in some income and possibly avoid sending family members to the US to work. For example, the Center has been assisting Mujeres Productoras, a cooperative of 104 rural women who make clothes, baskets, tablecloths, nopal and other products. Mujeres Productoras has now opened a retail store next to our offices – San Miguel's exemplary fair trade, exploitation-free store. [http://www.globaljusticecenter.org/articles/betterworld\\_womenscoop.htm](http://www.globaljusticecenter.org/articles/betterworld_womenscoop.htm) and [http://www.globaljusticecenter.org/mujeres\\_productoras/mujeresprod\\_eng.htm](http://www.globaljusticecenter.org/mujeres_productoras/mujeresprod_eng.htm)

*Right: Cruz del Palmar, Guanajuato, one of the communities visited by the Center.*

Join and Support the



Yes! I want to join the Center's network. Please send me the members' questionnaire so I can share my strengths with others to help change the world. I understand annual dues are \$1200 Mexican pesos or \$120 US dollars or a proportionate amount within my means.

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- I'll set up an automatic monthly withdrawal of \_\_\_\_\_. Please tell me how.
- I am making a U.S. tax-deductible donation of \_\_\_\_\_ to advance the Center's work.
- I'll pay dues and donate by credit card at [www.globaljusticecenter.org/donate.htm](http://www.globaljusticecenter.org/donate.htm)
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For membership dues in pesos, please make your check out to "Centro para la Justicia Global;" in dollars, to "Center for Global Justice." Membership dues and/or U.S. tax-deductible donations can be made out to "Research Associates Foundation," Center for Global Justice in the memo line.

**IN MEXICO:** Please leave your check or cash in our Border Crossings box, or mail your check to the Center: c/o Border Crossings, Mesones #57, San Miguel de Allende, Gto. C.P. 37700 Mexico.

**FROM THE U.S./CANADA:** please mail your check to Center for Global Justice BC-2323, 9902 Crystal Ct. #107, Laredo, TX 78045.

