

With our expanded staff, our planning horizons have broadened. Please join in this process. Atahualpa Caldera and Yolanda Millan are now part-timers joining webmaster Holly Yasui and administrator Beatriz Sucar. Ata is a biologist with an advanced degree in watershed management. Yolanda organized Mujeres Productoras coop and its retail shop in the Center's garage. They are together our new outreach coordinators working on our community dialogue and cooperative loan programs. These and other programs are supported in splendid independence by our ever-increasing membership. Thanks to you, therefore, we can now really think at a new more embracing level of practice.

Where, then, are we headed? We have started a dialogue on these questions in San Miguel and we would like all members around the world to join in, and new members too! This is *your* Center. The fall of 2006 was spent planning for this year's snowbird symposium, next summer's internship program, and the follow-up workshop to last summer's conference. Bob Leonard facilitated a Strategic Planning Retreat which helped us enormously in starting to articulate our goals – not just a hodge-podge of films, lectures and conferences, but a two-track educational and research institution. Education through our films, lectures, discussions, internships, conferences; research through our community dialogue project visiting outlying areas and bringing these two together by supporting local projects with our revolving loan fund.

Here is the draft **MISSION STATEMENT** we arrived at:

The Center for Global Justice is a multi-cultural, democratically-run educational, research, and service organization of practitioners and educators from the global South and global North. The Center engages in local community support and outreach to promote and advance initiatives and movements toward social justice, grassroots empowerment and democracy, and environmental sustainability. It is also devoted to critical analysis of the processes and impacts of globalization, both local and international. The Center works to develop alternative socio-economic systems that conserve and share the world's cultural, economic, and environmental resources for the benefit of humankind.

Please send us your comments and edits by March 31. We cannot presume they'll all get in; we can promise the Steering Committee will indeed take all of them seriously.

SNOWBIRD SYMPOSIUM The winter high season in SMA has started with a bang! Each week, we offer lectures, movies and trips to the countryside, all sponsored by the Center for Global Justice. In addition to helping the Center meet its bills, these educational programs have been enormously appreciated by the Sanmiguelenses and foreign residents alike. You can find a full schedule of events on our website at <http://www.globaljusticecenter.org/projects/snowbird2007.htm>.

OUR REVOLVING LOAN FUND, having had its first loan repaid, has made its second loan to a network of agricultural cooperatives in the state of Hidalgo. Our model is endogenous development – supporting local projects that are locally initiated. We first visited these cooperatives in the fall of 2003 where we were greeted by different groups of indigenous peoples standing under a tree in a field of their *ejido*. They expressed their hope of building hothouses to grow tomatoes to market. They now have a network of twelve tomato hothouses and two hothouses for growing *nopal*, a nutritious cactus much appreciated in Mexico. Join us on our next visit to Hidalgo's coops March 31, 2007.



members of the Hidalgo cooperative in their greenhouse

COMMUNITY DIALOG PROJECT With Yolanda and Ata as intermediaries, we get to know local communities and learn about their needs and projects first-hand. We all know that emigration from the countryside to the big cities of Mexico and to the US is an enormous problem. The subsistence farming economy of Mexico's rural areas has been undermined by cheap NAFTA corn from the US and by privatization of collectively-owned farms by agribusiness and real estate developers. Peasants are thus squeezed off their land. The long, devastating process of a healthy peasant farming community degenerating into an impoverished area is being creatively resisted, as Ata and Yolanda are teaching us by taking us to the communities they know so well.

Over the winter, we will visit six communities twice. Yolanda, Ata and others from the Center have visited many communities in the area (there are 500 small communities in the *municipio* or township of San Miguel de Allende). We have chosen these communities to visit because they are already to some degree organized and have an interest in and a capacity for collective work on a productive project. We're just starting, but stay tuned to further news on our Community Dialogue project.

PUBLICATION IN Z-NET The big hit at last summer's conference was a talk on the Zapatista's "Other Campaign" by Gustavo Esteva. Now he has expanded and updated this thought-provoking analysis of power and politics in Mexico today. It is available online at ZNET at <http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=59&ItemID=11652>. You can also access it from our website by clicking 'Resistance' under the index of papers. A shorter version is appearing in the March issue of *Z Magazine*.

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PROJECTS Our summer internship program has received an enormous boost: we will be offering college credit through Berea College. We've experienced a steady stream of visitors of all ages and capacities that we expect to continue until our Working Group Colloquium August 2-6. Prof. Dawn McCarthy did intensive research on effects of migration on Mexico's women and families left behind; psychologist Dr. Elizabeth Palmer shared her fascinating research into indigenous world views; Prof. Karsten Struhl came from New York City to give five lectures on Marxism; and this spring we are expecting a series of "working interns" to materially advance our programs by inventorying Mexico's worker cooperatives and helping the loan fund find credit-worthy projects. Please consider a visit! We'll put you up and ask of you a lecture or whatever you feel you can contribute to the life of the Center.

WORKING GROUPS Our next "conference" will bring together "working groups" ready to edit and publish research on: nation/state, imperialism and democracy; worker control; and migration. Formed at last year's conference "Another World is Necessary" the working groups are between four and eight members and might be persuaded to accept more if you have recent, unpublished work to share in those areas. We will meet August 2 - 6.

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.

- Here is a check for annual dues of _____, including a U.S. tax deductible donation of _____.
- 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
- I cannot donate now, but please keep me informed.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY & mail/deliver this card with your membership dues/donation:

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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.



Researcher Dawn McCarthy with women from Hidalgo