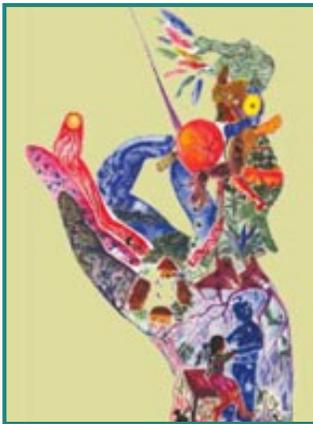




Learners and Healers Sponsorship Programs Launched by GUAMAP in Petén, Guatemala

Sponsors are needed for ten new students entering a two year acupuncture program to start in spring of 2015 in Petén, Guatemala. Contributors may donate on-line to the [Learners' Circle](#) on GUAMAP's website. A Basic Training Schedule can be seen at: [GUAMAP Acupuncture Training](#), www.guamap.net > Program). Student photos, background, and motivations for learning are posted. Sponsors can donate to part or for all of an individual's basic acupuncture training. A match grant is offered.



Sponsors are welcome as well to support the annual recertification of seasoned acupuncturists on the [Healers' Circle](#) web page. Those "specialty" training workshops to date have included: women's conditions, obstetrics, emergency TCM, and emergency



photo: Kathy Brewer

Acupuncture, Public Health, and Sustainable Development

What is sustainable development in health care? As a concept, *environmental sustainability* was defined at the onset of the [United Nations' World Commission on Environment and Development](#) in 1987 as - *Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*. In agricultural and rural areas, creating and then sustaining public health depends on four basic features: meeting primary rural health care needs, controlling communicable diseases, protecting vulnerable groups, and protecting against environmental pollution and contaminants. In Petén, public health clinics are unstable and access is inequitable. Improving community

health status requires education, transportation, communications, and community participation. In Guatemala, rural indigenous communities, and women and infants are vulnerable populations. Petén has the least infrastructure of all Guatemalan departments, though electricity and potable water are more prevalent now than in 1994 when GUAMAP started in Petén. Three municipalities are heavily populated with Q'eqchi' Maya. The economy is 62% agricultural with unregistered lands accounting for 79% of farming operations. Most families live in small communities of 500 or less people. Training local health care workers in appropriate health education, and re-supplying them with medicines is a challenge. Rural livelihoods and the fragile environment of the Petén rain forest are now in a state of unprecedented risk. Plantation style commercial agriculture and climate impacts both threaten rural communities. But as one generation of healers now enter into their mid to late 40's, the issue of sustainability also becomes personal. Sustaining community acupuncture as curative medicine operating in the public health sector . . .

(Continued on p. 2)

Tim and Kathy, a professional volunteer acupuncture team: 2014 in Petén, Guatemala



Tucson acupuncturist Tim Blee and interpreter Kathy Brewer collaborated with GUAMAP to prepare curriculum prior to their departure to Guatemala for the “Emergency Pediatrics in Natural Disasters” training workshop. Their preparation made for a very effective week of training. Tim and Kathy, like many GUAMAP volunteers, excelled at coordination and communication in a new environment; encouraging acupuncturists to have a practitioners’ night time treatment clinic before class commenced the next day. Kathy’s medically knowledgeable interpretation enhanced Tim’s teaching delivery, and Tim’s previous experiences in Nepal and Bolivia enhanced assessment of acupuncturists’ diagnostic skills - taking differentiated diagnosis to a new height. Patiently administering the exams made for a long last day, but the results were fantastic.



Petén countryside. photo: Kathy Brewer

Acupuncture, Public Health cont’d from p. 1

requires that local acupuncturists communicate about their immediate environment in relation to disease prevalence, and to the vulnerabilities to communicable disease that they face. For example, flooding in Petén from the swelling of rivers and swamp land during hash tropical storms have literally carried away entire communities and infected children who become sick in the process of evacuation. In response to local acupuncturists’ request for treating children in natural disasters (such as floods) three professional acupuncturists collaborated internationally with GUAMAP to create training curriculum for Emergency Pediatrics in Natural Disasters. Eighteen local acupuncturists completed the May, 2014 training in that material.

True sustainability requires us to increase community participation by improving gender equity. Training women in TCM acupuncture was an original goal of GUAMAP, but given the familiar burdens rural women face in Petén - that was easier said than done. At ASECSA’s urging, at least five of the ten new trainees in the 2015-2017 basic training will be women.

Years ago, Doc Rosen, a GUAMAP co-founder, brought acupuncture teaching dolls (as seen in the front page photo of this newsletter) to Petén. We hope that the bright eyed girl who clutches those “dolls”, having first seen meridians and points on the dolls

she once clutched in San Francisco, Petén, Guatemala, will one day treat her own people with acupuncture.



Petén gecko. photo: Kathy Brewer

Sustainability for acupuncture in Petén means we all work to first feed, and then to tend to the soil. We all plant the seeds in order to harvest the precious corn.

GUAMAP Issues Migrant Human Rights Report

In April 2014 immigrants crossing into Texas began to overburden US officials at the United States SW border. Rivers of unaccompanied minors were joined by just as many families from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. As subsistence and migrant farm labor, the two pillars in the old agricultural economy back home continue to collapse under the weight of US regional trade policies, NAFTA and the Central American Free trade Agreement (CAFTA), . . .

(Continued on p. 4)



Mayan Ceremony. photo: Kathy Brewer

Tucson Migrant Acupuncture Clinic

Migrant families living in the United States' deportation capital—Tucson—face multiple shocks in their daily lives; from deported parents to negated entry into local schools, to working in an underground economy, language barriers, and until recently, ineligibility for drivers' licenses. All those circumstances place tremendous burdens on them. GUAMAP started in 2013 offering an occasional trauma acupuncture treatment clinic. It completed its 4th clinic on Dec. 28. Women, men, and children receive TCM acupuncture treatments. Volunteer acupuncturists are needed. If you are interested, please write to us at: contact@guamp.net

Please Donate To GUAMAP !

On-line ([linked here in electronic newsletter](#)),
or by check to: **GUAMAP**
c/o POB 85371, Tucson, AZ 85754.

Guatemalan Acupuncturists' 2015 Wish list:

- * Headlamps & Batteries
- * Reading glasses (175-225 range)
- * Plastic covered (waterproof) notebooks
- * Digital Camera w/charger & instructions in Spanish

To contribute, contact GUAMAP:

e-mail: contact@guamap.net . **phone:** (520) 623-6620

Mail: POB 85371, Tucson, AZ 85754

Special Thanks To:

ASECSA–Petén
Golden Flower
Helio Medical Supplies
Lasha OMS
Medicine Wheel Dental
The Gloop Factory
Institute for Traditional Medicine, Portland, OR
Guatemalan Consul Jimena Díaz, Phoenix
La Coalición de los Derechos Humanos, Tucson
Mercado San Augustin
Tubac Presidio Park
Tumacacori Historical Park
Alliance for Global Justice
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Migrant HR Report cont'd from p.2

displaced rural agricultural workers looked to new paths for survival. Many migrated to re-join their immediate family members already working in the United States.

Despite the inter-national coverage and the temporary security fix of some \$261.5 million in US security largesse distributed by the Obama administration to Central American governments to quell the critics of those seeking refuge, migrants kept coming as of late December. The US Border Patrol transferred thousands of families to Arizona from May through August to disperse that refugee population arriving at their doorstep.

When stories of abuse from Guatemalan migrant families became known to us in southern Arizona during May to July, GUAMAP acted—given that health care is an attempt, first and foremost, to control the mal-effects of the environment to improve immigrant health.

The long term economic and social effects of CAFTA are multiplied many times over just as in Mexico under a previous free trade deal the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The agricultural sector in Mexico dwarfs that of Guatemala. Guatemalan agriculture is the largest in Central America. When viewed as a region, the economic hollowing

out of rural Meso-America is the direct result of the large scale commercialization of agriculture for export.

Over six and a half million people from Mexico and Guatemala have undergone this displacement due to the on-going restructuring of agriculture, but as they emerge from their exodus, their own land often becomes the



“It was very, very cold”; Immigrant child’s drawing of a Border Patrol Station cold cell. Drawing: courtesy of GUAMAP.

property of new owners; the true beneficiaries of free trade. GUAMAP explains how CAFTA and NAFTA are catalytic to origins of migration in Part II of the GUAMAP’s report issued in October, 2014, [Deprivation, not Deterrence \(linked here: pp.38-41\)](#).

Despite consistent Obama administration admissions of regional economic duress, the media’s sensational focus on gang violence ignored the origin of poverty and extreme poverty due to displacement by commercial plantation scale agriculture. Drug Cartel operations were reported by GUAMAP in 2009 when an upsurge of violence occurred in Petén. Gangs preyed on rural residents, extortions became common, and a bomb exploded in the

urban area of Santa Elena; apparently a Cartel intimidation campaign. The Guatemalan Army eventually was sent to quiet the public distrust, but they were ill-suited to address the root cause of poverty that leads to social violence. Mayan indigenous from western Guatemalan departments of San Marcos and Huehuetenango were particularly vulnerable to

unscrupulous smugglers who combined threats and smuggling services “payable” in land titles in lieu of direct payment. Migrant families who fled local drought, labor displacement and violence then experienced a lack of legal

due process in Department of Homeland Security border facilities where interpretation for indigenous language speakers did not exist. Other abuses, among them food and sleep deprivation, can be reviewed in the report. During this May’s migrant uptick on the southwest border, Petén acupuncturists were in a training session. When the US border situation was discussed - one reported that a friend of hers who had migrated to Arizona but died horribly in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona early in 2014. GUAMAP has advised families in Petén of the dangerous nature of such attempts. That acupuncturist traveled ten hours to Guatemala City to identify her friends’ remains. Her children survived her death; we prayed for them during our Mayan ceremony.