



New Haven/León Sister City Project

Fall 2013 E-Newsletter

Friends,

This is a new type of newsletter in that it highlights through photos some of the many activities we've worked on this past year. In fact, it is born in part out of our lack of success recently to get articles from our participants (too much Facebook!??)... But it is a fun visual chronology looking back at another very active year.

It's also a call to get ready for the approaching 30th Anniversary Celebration which will recognize and lift up thirty years of creativity and solidarity, and build more support for new efforts in the future.

Adelante!

Chris



Upcoming

Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 am - 3 pm FIESTA, Fair-Trade Gift Bazaar to benefit the New Haven / Leon Sister City Project. 608 Whitney Avenue (the First Unitarian Universalist Society building). For more info (203) 562-1607 or www.newhavenleon.org

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 6 pm Nicaraguan and US experts present current perspectives on the Chronic Kidney Disease epidemic in Central America. Potluck and discussion. Remarks at 7:15 pm 608 Whitney Avenue. RSVP to mfountain@newhavenleon.org

New Years Eve; December 31st. Great time to donate to Nicaragua Carbon Offset Fund for 2013 carbon emissions for car or flights... Or to commit to New Haven Healthy City/ Healthy Climate Challenge to cut 20% of your greenhouse gases in 2014.

February • School Starts



School starts in Nicaragua in February. Preschoolers line up patiently to wash their hands (above) for lunch in Goyena. Two wonderful examples of the improving Goyena education effort (below) get ready to start college in Leon.



Goyena and Leon

February • Human Rights?



Members of a human rights delegation (above) investigating behavior of the sugar cane company discuss options after being stopped by company security; Fire set by sugar cane company (below) to prepare cane for harvesting just outside Goyena; Donald Cortez (right), a leader of worker co-op ASOCHIVIDA passed away this past summer from kidney disease.



Outside Goyena

February • Scenes from Goyena



Haydee (left) cleans mill owned by the coop for grinding corn in Goyena; main community “super market” (below) which has a bit of everything and offers credit to those short on funds (with



Goyena

March • Swarmings Hit Streets



Our WalkBikeTransit campaign took the 'take action on climate change' appeal to the streets of New Haven with Metamorphosis swarmings calling for transition to more sustainable transportation.



New Haven

March • Yale Delegation



A group of Yale students spent part of their spring break learning, exploring, playing and teaching. Olga Karnas, from Poland, (left) teaches geography; students explore wilds (middle); Goyenistas and Yalies (bottom) pose after kick ball game... the Goyena women have yet to lose to North Americans.



Goyena

March • Global Studies



As part of a capstone class in Latin American studies at Fairfield University, seven students and two faculty members traveled to León to conduct interviews and do work on specific research projects.



Around Leon

March • Women's Rights



In 2012 NH/LSCP organized a year long series of workshops on gender, women's rights, and confronting sexism in Goyena. Since then the women there have been active in organizing and participating in marches in León (like this one in March) calling for better laws to protect women and girls from violence.



León



**April •
Growing
Health**

Environmental Youth Brigade members helped install family gardens this year in homes in Goyena. Yunielt poses (left) by crop of chiltoma (peppers), and Brigadistas hang out (below) by raised - to be chicken and pig proof - bed of yerba buena (mint).



Goyena

April • Rock to Rock



Goyena residents (left) help pitch Rock to Rock Earth Day Bike Ride from their bike cart they use for selling sweets at school; 1100 riders prepare to leave (below); NHLSCP riders and walkers at the closing event at East Rock Park (bottom).



New Haven

May • Parents Step Up



Parents are playing a bigger role in supporting school programs including meeting with school officials (left) and cooking (bottom). Melania Campos (below) has been one of the key leaders in this effort.



Goyena

April • Gender and Power



Managua

Three community leaders and two NHLSCP staff attended a four day workshop in Managua on gender and identity. The Goyena women got up at 4am each day to get to Leon and then travel to Managua... and got home each night at 10pm... They also taught the whole group a few theater games they had learned at Forum theater workshops in Goyena.

June • Hopkins Plays Goyena

Hopkins School, led by Susan Bennitt (in bottom right photo, with camera), again brought skills and energy to Goyena. Susan also regularly brings back great photos like those here.



Goyena / Leon / Poneloya

June • Volunteer Energy!



After spending seven productive months interning in the New Haven office Yalie Eleanor Marshall headed to Leon in June to help with environmental education and Youth Brigade work.



Goyena

July • New Vision for School



New Haven



Volunteers with Architects for Humanity began working on developing a site plan for the school in Goyena and how best to develop the space in the future. It was fun in one meeting to show off to Leon staff the type of buildings the architects work on in their day jobs (top) and dream about similar architecture in rural Goyena or not.



July • Power of Learning



Student self-propels into new worlds as he has his first encounter with computer use in the new library. The library was formed by taking some space from the 1st grade classroom, and is staffed by Isabel (below) who is paid by the Ministry of Education. It will serve as a resource space for students and teachers. More books in Spanish welcome!



Goyena

August • New Skills for Teaching



Fair Haven School music teacher Dan Kinsman took time this summer to bring music, new learning games, and classroom management skills to the school in Goyena. Dan (left) plays a version of the card game "war" which involves addition, subtraction, division, which the students loved. Two students (below) work in small groups getting a break from the formal teaching approach typical of Nicaragua.



Goyena

BIKE MONTH

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONAL BIKE MONTH

Monday 6 **Bike to Wentworth** ... Home made Ice Cream via car-free Canal Trail, 3597 Whitney Ave!

Tuesday 7 **Hug a Car Driver Day** ... Let them know you sympathize with their suffering... traffic, road rage, gas prices, parking expense... etc.

Wednesday 8 **The National Center for Safe Routes to School** and League of American Bicyclists' **National Bike to School Day**. More info [here](#)

Thursday 9 **Bike to Shop**... via Farmington Canal Trail... Info [here](#). Many stores on Dixwell right off trail, hardware, grocery, thrift, etc.

Friday 10 **Bike to Hike**, Farmington Canal Trail info [here](#). ... no cars! to Sleeping Giant State Park (info) in Hamden.

Saturday 11 **Ride to Artspace** opening! Toonskin, by artist Kenya (Robinson) May 11, 2013 from 5:00-8:00 PM. More info [here](#).

Sunday 12 **Mother's Day**

Monday 13 **Elm City Cycling regular meetings** the second Monday of month, City Hall, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. ... Get involved... events, and advocacy efforts. [Info](#).

Tuesday 14 **Did you know... in 1974, 66 percent of all children walked or biked to school.** By 2000, that number had dropped to 13 percent. Source: NYT

Wednesday 15 **Bike to Green Drinks** - 6-8 pm - monthly environmental social event to get to know what and who is going "Green" in New Haven County. More info [here](#).

Thursday 16 **Bike to Poetry** THE POETRY INSTITUTE - NEW HAVEN. Third Thursday Open Mic. Info [here](#).

Friday 17 **Bike to Work Day** Join other cyclists in front of the **Devil's Gear** for our monthly free breakfast 7:30 to 9:30. More info [here](#).

Saturday 18 **Lulu's Ride** Corner of Orange and Cottage... A social ride at 10:00 am each Sunday. Pace and distance vary, standard about 60 miles. More info [here](#).

Sunday 19 **Bike to Common Ground's Farm Festival and Seedling Sale** (info), 10 AM-3 PM. At base of West Rock Ridge Park and its great trails (map).

Monday 20 **Bike to expanded Yale Univ. Art Gallery**. It's Free, Big and Amazing! More info [here](#).

Tuesday 21 **Bike, Downtown Day** ... Avoid Yale graduation gridlock. Free Parking too!

Wednesday 22 **Did you know...? Because of traffic in urban areas, cycling generally takes less time than driving for trips of 3 miles or less, and about the same time for 3 to 5 mile trips.**

Thursday 23 **Ride to MOMA, Central Park, SoHo** (with help from Metro North - info [here](#)) ... Great bike routes in NYC - see [here](#).

Friday 24 **Bike to CitySeed Farmer's Market** - Wooster Square, 9am-1pm - Great veggies!! More info [here](#).

Saturday 25 **Bike to Church** - Jesus didn't drive... Nor did Buddha, Muhammad, Moses, etc.

Sunday 26 **Bike to Shop**... via Farmington Canal Trail... Info [here](#). Many stores on Dixwell right off trail, hardware, grocery, thrift, etc.

Monday 27 **Manorial Day**

Tuesday 28 **Report Public Transit Riders Continue to Save** (R 02/13) [Info](#) [here](#). **Gas Prices Remain High**. See [here](#). **Imagine Cycler Savings!**

Wednesday 29 **Get ready for Festival of Arts and Ideas Bike Tours** June 15 to 29. There are 13 of them! Info [here](#).

Friday 31 **R.A.B. Yale Phelps Gate Cottage Street** between Chapel and Elm) from 7:30-9:30 **Critical Mass Bike Ride**. All welcome... last Friday of the month, 5:30. New Haven Green Flag Pole. More info [here](#).

NEW HAVEN The NH/LSCP WalkBikeTransit Campaign is an effort to help people see the links between their transportation choices, global warming, and food security.

Links, Maps Online at www.newhavenleon.org/walkbiketranst

August • Biking As Social Justice... or Just More Fun.

As part of the WalkBikeTransit campaign we've been putting out pro-biking calendars to get more people to try out this greenhouse gas-free transportation option.

BIKE TO COLLEGE August 2013 Calendar

Monday **Bike to Shop**... via Farmington Canal Trail... Info [here](#). Many stores on Dixwell right off trail, hardware, grocery, thrift, etc.

Tuesday **Bike to Branford Point**, 45 minutes. Park Bath house. Beach [Map](#) & at Elm City Cycling Ride Maps

Wednesday **Links, online calendar at** www.newhavenleon.org / walkbiketranst

Thursday **Bike to Wharton Brook State Park**. Map [here](#) and at Elm City Cycling Ride Maps

Friday **Cruise looking for open (hopefully) hydrants**

Saturday **Bike to Splash Pad**, Edgewood Park. [Park map](#).

Sunday **OutSpoken Rides** Pace is 10-12 MPH. Every Sunday, 10 a.m. corner of Orange and Cottage Sts. More info [here](#).

Monday **Bike to Elm City Cycling monthly meetings** the 2nd Monday of month, City Hall, 6 p.m., events, news, and advocacy. [Info](#), [elmcitycycling.org](#)

Tuesday **Bike to Beach**... Lighthouse Point. Map [here](#).

Wednesday **Get ready for Festival of Arts and Ideas Bike Tours** June 15 to 29. There are 13 of them! Info [here](#).

Thursday **Bike to Julius Caesar**, Edgerton Park, New Haven August 11 to Sept 1. [Info](#).

Friday **Bike to Work Day** All welcome... last Friday of the month, 5:30. New Haven Green Flag Pole. Info [here](#).

Saturday **Bike to Milford Oyster Festival**... Free. Map [here](#) and at Elm City Cycling Ride Maps.

Sunday **Bike to New Haven Open at Yale** August 16-24. [Info](#).

Monday **Bike to Hammonasset State Park**, or part way by bus. Bus [Info](#), Map [here](#) and at Elm City Cycling Ride Maps.

Tuesday **Did you know...? 1 gallon of gas will produce 20 lbs of greenhouse**

Wednesday **Bike to Save Money on Gas!** (Parking so You Can Eat Out Fre (so to Speak) Day...)

Thursday **Train to New London to Ferry to Bike Block Island**. Shoreline East to Ferry to Surf and

Friday **Bike to Beaches** in West Haven/ Milford. Map [here](#) and at Elm City Cycling Ride Maps. 5 to 12 miles

Saturday **Bike to Yoga on the Beach** in East Haven. 9-10 am. Cossey Beach (at end of Coe Ave) ... Donation

Sunday **Bike to the Beach**... Lighthouse Point. Map [here](#) and at Elm City Cycling Ride Maps.

Monday **Bike to Quonipaug Lake** in Guilford. Map [here](#).

Tuesday **Train w/Bike to NYC** - Metro North bike info [here](#). Check out NYC Summer Streets too [here](#).

Wednesday **Bike to Swim After Work Day** - 35 minute ride. Map [here](#) and at ECC Ride Maps.

Thursday **Did you know...? Because of traffic in urban areas, cycling generally takes less time than driving for trips of 3 miles or less, and about the same time for 3 to 5 mile trips.**

Friday **Critical Mass Bike Ride**. All welcome... last Friday of the month, 5:30. New Haven Green Flag Pole. Info [here](#).

Saturday **Bike to Get ECC's Bike Map at Devil's Gear** Bike Shop, College Street. Street Cycles, and D'Anello's Amity Bike.

Sunday **Please ride safely, follow traffic laws, wear a helmet.**

WALK BIKE TRANSIT

Biking ...Is Good for Your Health ...Clears the Air ... Fights Climate Change ...Builds Community ...Is Fun!

Calendar sponsored by Elm City Cycling. www.elmcitycycling.org

The NH/LSCP WalkBikeTransit Campaign educates about links between transportation choices, global warming and food security. www.newhavenleon.org

New Haven

September • Conflict in Action



In September the Theater Committee organized another Forum theater training, this time led by previous trainees.



The photos here are from the closing presentation of the skits developed that weekend and the warm-up games essential for participatory theater.



New Haven

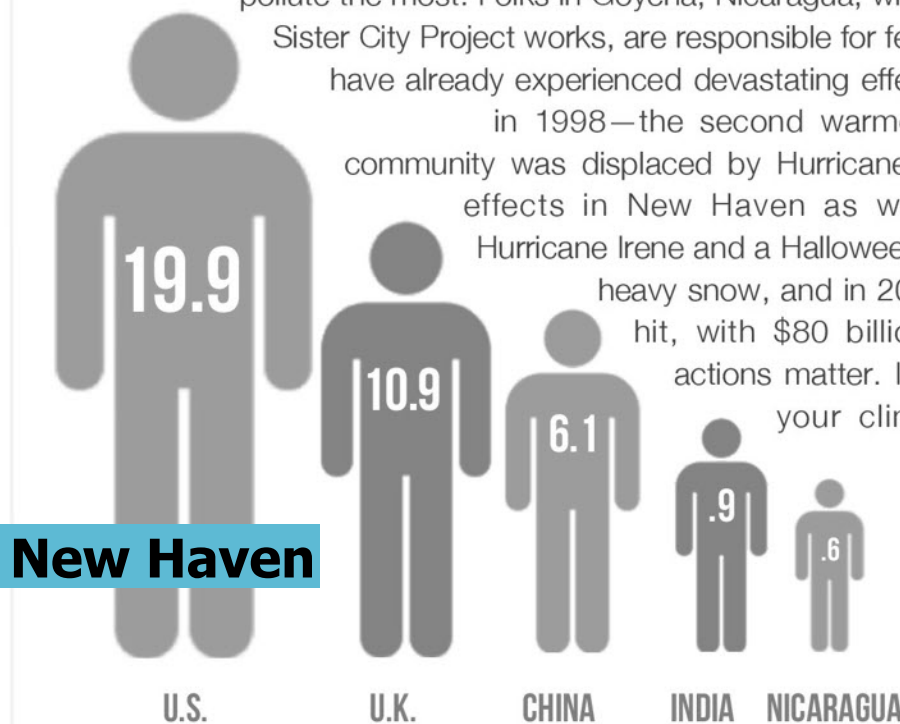
November • Environmental Justice



In November we launched the Nicaragua Carbon Offset Fund which collects offsets for air and car travel. Offset funds donated will be used to support the installation of more efficient cook stoves in rural Nicaragua, or invested in other certified carbon offset projects like the reforestation. Both reduce greenhouse gases.

YOUR ACTIONS HAVE IMPACT.

Not everyone affects climate change equally. Folks in “developed” countries tend to pollute the most. Folks in Goyena, Nicaragua, where the New Haven/Leon Sister City Project works, are responsible for few greenhouse gases, but have already experienced devastating effects from climate change: in 1998—the second warmest year on record—the community was displaced by Hurricane Mitch. And we’ve seen effects in New Haven as well: in 2011 there was Hurricane Irene and a Halloween nor’easter that dumped heavy snow, and in 2012 “Super Storm” Sandy hit, with \$80 billion in damage. So your actions matter. It’s up to you to balance your climate change equation.



New Haven

AVERAGE ANNUAL
CO₂ EMISSIONS PER
PERSON (TONS)

November • Healthy Climate



Working with a number of other local non-profits concerned about climate change, we launched the New Haven Healthy City/Healthy Climate Challenge to invite members to take five steps to cut 20% of their greenhouse gases and create a healthier New Haven. The launch event was held at Artpace where the exhibit "Futurecast" shone artistic light on extreme weather events.



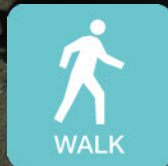
New Haven

In progress!! •Cows, Cars,Coal and Planes



Starting this summer small groups have been working on creating paper mache art of four big greenhouse gas producers we could all try to cut back on. Watch for these creations (below) on street corners and in the public spaces soon....

New Haven



NEW HAVEN/LEON

SISTER CITY PROJECT

30TH
ANNIVERSARY
1984-2014

A CELEBRATION OF HOPE
AND SOLIDARITY

And....
Coming
in
2014!