

# *the* ANTI-HUNGER ADVOCATE

Brought to you by the Anti-Hunger Action Committee

May 2005

## Meet the AHAC Board of Directors

In March the Anti-Hunger Action Committee elected a new Board of Directors. On April 13 the new Board Members gathered at the City Library to make plans for the next twelve months. Here is what six of the twelve board members have to say about themselves:

**Darla Ball, AHAC Board Co-Chair:** My birthday is 6/11/55 and I got started with AHAC when they were trying to cut people with SSDI from Medicaid. We won the fight. I did this to help others as well as myself.

**Joe Coult, AHAC Co-Chair:** I like to draw and write and to make others laugh

**Rudy Roca, AHAC Secretary:** Filipino from the Philippines. Loves to do gardening and cooking. Movies-- the old ones. Loves to work with people with different backgrounds and ethnic origins. Devout Catholic. People orientated and service orientated.

**Vince Lobato:** I am a member of AHAC to help in any way I can. I am working on submitting articles and artwork to the newsletter. I enjoy music, fishing, writing & drawing. I am visually impaired. I am glad to be a part of AHAC.

**Laine Gardinier:** I moved from Washington State to Utah in 2004. I wanted to get involved in the community in Salt Lake. I have a large collection of frog things, which is getting larger day by day. I hope my being involved with AHAC will help with this community.

**Faina Raik:** I'm from Russia. I've been in the USA since 1997. I have received degrees as a physicist and psychologist. Since 1999 I've been working for poor people's rights. I'm happy to live here because I can study democracy. I can see the results of democracy in the USA and in our Salt Lake City.



### AHAC Board Members

**Top:** Darla Ball, Tia Thulin, Margo Westley, Laine Gardinier, Don Reifsnider, David Hughes, and Rudy Roca

**Bottom:** Faina Raik, Patricia Harman and Joe Coult

### Crossroads

*by Joey Lee*

So much need be  
done

Much they get  
done

So many they help  
The ones a bad hand  
They were  
dealt

Beautiful people  
are there  
Understanding  
& aware

Caring is your credo

Treating individuals

Is a what to do

All there that is  
there is without  
equal

## Cinco de Mayo History

by Vince Lobato

Why do we celebrate Cinco de Mayo? In the U.S. we celebrate the day with fiestas and music and food. But in the majority of Mexico, the day goes mostly uncelebrated.

The 5th of May is not Mexican Independence Day, but it should be! And Cinco de Mayo is not an American holiday, but it should be. Mexico declared its independence from mother Spain on midnight, the 15th of September, 1810. And it took 11 years before the first Spanish soldiers were told and forced to leave Mexico.

So, why Cinco de Mayo? And why should Americans savor this day as well? Because 4,000 Mexican soldiers smashed the French and traitor Mexican army of 8,000 at Puebla, Mexico, 100 miles east of Mexico City on the morning of May 5, 1862.

Most people do not realize that while the U.S. was engaged in civil war the French were establishing a foothold in Mexico with the intention of establishing an empire on the American continent. After the Mexican-American War (1846-1848), the Mexican government was bankrupt and in debt. The French had landed in Mexico (along with Spanish and English troops) five months earlier on the pretext of collecting Mexican debts from the newly elected government of democratic President (and Indian) Benito Juarez. The English and Spanish quickly made deals and left.

The French, however, had different ideas. In 1861, President Benito Juarez suspended payments to all foreign creditors for two years with a promise that payment would resume after this period. Among the foreign creditors was France. Napoleon III, grandson of Napoleon Bonaparte, used this as an excuse to send troops to conquer Mexico. By April of 1862, a French force numbering 7,000 began its march to Mexico City.

French came to stay. They brought a Hapsburg prince with them to rule the new Mexican Empire. His name was Maximilian; his wife, Carolota. Napoleon's French Army had not been defeated in 50 years, and it invaded Mexico with the finest modern equipment and with a newly reconstituted Foreign Legion. The French were not afraid of anyone, especially since the United States was embroiled in its own Civil War.

The French Army left the port of Vera Cruz to attack Mexico City to the west, as the French assumed that the Mexicans would give up should their capital fall to the enemy -- as European countries traditionally did.

The battle took place in the town of Puebla on May 5, 1862. The Mexicans fought bravely even though they knew the battle would be suicide. Under the command of Texas-born General Zaragoza, (and the cavalry under the command of Colonel Porfirio Diaz, later to be Mexico's president and dictator), the Mexicans waited. Brightly dressed French Dragoons led the enemy columns. The Mexican Army was less stylish.

Regardless of the odds, the Mexican army was victorious. The Battle of Puebla delayed the French conquest of Mexico for one year. The battle demonstrated that the young Mexican nation was ready and willing to defend itself against any foreign invasion.

General Zaragoza ordered Colonel Diaz to take his cavalry, the best in the world, out to the French flanks.

In response, the French did a most stupid thing; they sent their cavalry off to chase Diaz and his men, who proceeded to butcher them. The remaining French infantrymen charged the Mexican defenders through sloppy mud from a



Artwork by Vince Lobato

thunderstorm and through hundreds of head of stampeding cattle stirred up by Indians armed only with machetes.

Many French were killed or wounded after the battle was over and their cavalry was being chased by Diaz' superb horsemen miles away. The Mexicans had won a great victory that kept Napoleon III from supplying the confederate rebels for another year, allowing the United States to build the greatest army the world had ever seen. This grand army smashed the Confederates at Gettysburg just 14 months after the battle of Puebla, essentially ending the Civil War.

Mexico was under French rule for five years before the French appointed Emperor Maximilian was captured on May 15, 1867 and eventually executed by the Mexican army. President Juarez declared May 5 a national holiday in honor of the Battle of Puebla after the French were finally overthrown.

Union forces were then rushed to the Texas/Mexican border under General Phil Sheridan, who made sure that the Mexicans got all the weapons and ammunition they needed to expel the French. American soldiers were discharged with their uniforms and rifles

**Continued on page 3**



On Tuesday, April 19, Bishop George Niederauer of the Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City, Bishop Carolyn Tanner Irish of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah, and Bishop Warner H. Brown of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Methodist Church each spoke at press conference about the need to protect Medicaid and Food Stamps from being cut in the federal budget. This press conference was sponsored by the Utah Poverty Partnership, a network of faith and community groups that includes AHAC.

## Keep Your Head Up!

*advice from Connie Bell*

Get some much needed rest. Conserve your resources. Read only those things that nourish you and yours. Never, never give up. You are too beautiful. Travel if you can-- and get to know America (this land is your land). Learn survival skills, hone them. Love yourself deeply. Find pressure points. Keep current by teaching children( and for Heaven's sake, the middle age worker who is so often exhausted) your beautiful personal histories. Make goals and don't get lazy. We just got over a fight and its draining. Don't stop, because your future work is your reservoir.

**DO YOU LIKE TO PAINT OR DRAW BUT DON'T HAVE SPACE OR SUPPLIES TO FINISH YOUR WORK?**

**THIS MONTH AHAC IS STARTING AN ART PROJECT CALLED "OPEN ARTS" TO PROVIDE PEOPLE SPACE AND SUPPLIES TO MAKE ART.**

**For more information contact Elizabeth at 364-7765 or [elizabeth@crossroads-u-c.org](mailto:elizabeth@crossroads-u-c.org)**

## Joke of the Month by: Douglas Cotant

Know what the Lone Ranger said when he took out the garbage?



To the dump-to the dump  
to the dump-dump-dump

## Cinco de Mayo History *continued*

if they promised to join the Mexican Army to fight the French. The American Legion of Honor marched in the Victory Parade in Mexico, City.

It might be a historical stretch to credit the survival of the United States to those brave 4,000 Mexicans who faced an army twice as large in 1862. But who knows?

In gratitude, thousands of Mexicans crossed the border after Pearl Harbor to join the U.S. Armed Forces. As recently as the Persian Gulf War, Mexicans flooded American consulates with phone calls, trying to

join up and fight another war for America.

Mexicans, you see, never forget who their friends are, and neither do Americans. That's why Cinco de Mayo is such a party -- A party that celebrates freedom and liberty. There are two ideals which Mexicans and Americans have fought shoulder to shoulder to protect, ever since the 5th of May, 1862.

**VIVA! el CINCO DE MAYO!!**



**Artwork by Vince Lobato**

# ONE AHAC MEMBER'S RESPONSE TO THE DEATH OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

by Douglas Cotant

I am a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and was raised as a Methodist in New York State; but I am going to talk the great man named Pope John Paul II. He stood up for what he believed in and stood up for and expressed the teachings of the Catholic Church in a way that offended some people but made others admire him. For example, his stance of Clergy celibacy was conservative and some folks liked it and some did not.

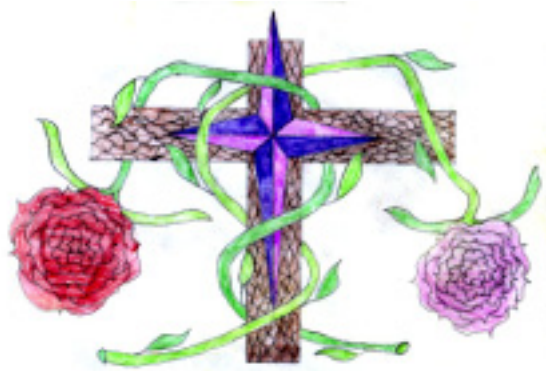
Pope John Paul also talked much about serving the needs of the poor; even to the point of coming to the United States several times and teaching us that we need to serve others and not just ourselves. What I most admire about him is that he talked one on one with the man who nearly took his (John Paul's) life in May of 1981. I admire him for this because he did exactly as Jesus Christ would do.

That same year of 1981 I was an assembler at Abbot Laboratories, Sorenson Research Division, and the Management told us and just about banged it into our heads that if these Hospital Products come back for rework, after they were shipped to various hospitals throughout the world, we, the Management, will not take the blame; but you the assembler will if the patient develops high fever or dies; therefore, I felt personally responsible when the Pope suffered his injuries that year; and I want to say at this time that I like to feel that by

pouching the orders (Placing the product in a small bag) for shipment that went to Italy that I added another 24 years to John Paul's life, and I feel very proud of that. Even though I don't work for Abbot Labs any more, and when he died, I felt so upset that it was like a doctor who had just lost a patient.

Now that he has died, even though his Lord called him home, I feel so bad and feel responsible, because when he came to Denver and to Phoenix, Mary, my wife, who was a devout Catholic, wanted to go see him. I feel bad because I never took her, but now he and Mary are probably visiting each other.

On Friday April 8th I attended a Memorial Mass at the Cathedral of the Madelaine, and I felt good about that, and even though I felt very grievous at his loss, and he probably would say "Please let me go to a happier place."



Artwork by Joe Coult

**The *Anti-Hunger Advocate*** is a monthly newsletter of the Anti-Hunger Action Committee (AHAC).

**Our Mission:** The Anti-Hunger Action Committee is a membership organization composed of and led by food pantry clients and their friends.

- We unite many different kinds of people served by food pantries in order to increase community involvement of low income Utahns.
- We educate Salt Lake County residents about available resources and issues facing food pantry clients.
- We organize food pantry clients and their friends to take action on their own behalf.
- We promote solutions to problems that cause hunger and poverty in the lives of our members.

**Our Supporters:** AHAC receives funding from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the United Methodist Church's Domestic Hunger and Poverty Program, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Hunger Grant Program, the United Church of Christ Hunger Action Fund, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger and the Crossroads Urban Center.

**Submissions:** To submit an item to the newsletter, please contact AHAC at Crossroads Urban Center, 364-7765.

Previous issues of the newsletter are available either at Crossroads, or online at: [www.crossroads-u-c.org](http://www.crossroads-u-c.org)