

OBRIGADU BARAK!

The Newsletter of the Seattle East Timor Relief Association
Issue #3 Winter 2006



Nova and Kay Rala Students visiting the village of Laleia

Central Cinema to Air Documentary on East Timor Sister School Project and Trip Sunday, March 5th, 2 pm

Nova High School's sister school project with Kay Rala High School in Manatuto East Timor has finally made it to the big screen! A documentary about the sister school project and Nova student's trip last spring to East Timor is chronicled in a new documentary video entitled Tears for the Crocodile. (The title refers to the symbol of East Timor which is the crocodile, a motif prominently featured in the country's folk art). **The documentary will be shown on Sunday March 5th at 2 pm at the Central Cinema, located at 1411 21st Avenue East.** The event will also feature the sale of fair trade East Timorese coffee, as well as an auction of local products and services to benefit Nova's sister school. **Mary Anne Mercer and Andrew J. Bryant of Health Alliance International** will also speak about their experiences in East Timor and HAI's projects promoting health in the world's newest nation. They will also show footage of their public health dramas, filmed in the summer of 2005 in Manatuto.

The video, which features footage of the sister school trip as well as student interviews, music and photos of East Timor, was produced by local Seattle filmmaker, **Angelica Macklin from Open Hand Productions**. According to Angelica, "This project has been a great example of how film can be used as a lever to expand opportunities for social justice. The passion, energy, and conviction of these Nova students towards public service and social justice is clear through the lens of the camera. This short film tells a fraction of how they are using

their lives to create better futures for real people in East Timor, but it also provides hope for our own future as Americans. It is through actions and human relationships like these that we will build America into a truly caring and humanitarian nation whose character it is to extend aid to those in need as a regular and routine aspect of our social fabric. After watching this film, people will be moved to action (especially the action of purchasing a bag of coffee to help Kay Rala)."

Ashley Barnard the former Nova student who initiated the sister school project four years ago as a tenth grader is featured prominently in the video. According to Ashley, "I am thrilled that there is a video telling the story of our project and our trip. We need to keep the energy and support towards our sister school project going and I hope the video can convey something of the indomitable spirit of our East Timorese friends." The video also features an interview with Ciron Wade, currently a twelfth grader at Nova, who has done a great deal of work to raise funds for the project and educate people about the plight of East Timor and the Kay Rala sister school. Ciron, who was an eager participant in last spring's trip, has taken on the considerable task of filling the shoes of Ashley as co-teacher of Nova's class concerning East Timor and the sister school project.

Our sister school project is very grateful to **Kevin Spitzer, co-owner of the Central Cinema**. The theater has hosted many events that have benefited our community, including a large number of non-profit groups. Central Cinema offers food and drink as well as an affordable venue for community groups to tell their story.

We invite all our supporters to this cinematic debut of our students and their sister school compatriots. Don't miss this opportunity to check out a great community-minded cinema and learn more about a worthy project aiming to repair some of the damage done in our name. **BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!**



Items for Needed for Auction!

We are in need of donations for the auction to be held at the showing of Tears for the Crocodile on March 5th (*see article above*). We have already received donations for acupuncture services, yard work, and other helpful services and products.

For more information on how to donate an item, please call Joe Szwaja at 523-3278



Trinity United Methodist Pastor Rich Lang

Trinity United Methodist Congregation Provides Support to Nova – Kay Rala Sister School Project

The Nova Kay Rala Sister School Project recently gained a big boost when it received the support of the Trinity United Methodist Church located in the Ballard neighborhood of Seattle. The church asks members to donate to a worthy humanitarian cause each year during Lent and chose this year to offer financial support to our sister school project. The offering garnered over \$300 and the church will generously ask members to donate again during the service on March 5th. During the service on that day Nova teacher Joe Szwaja and several students will show slides of their trip and say a few words about the Sister School Project.

The church connection was fostered by Manu Saxena a member of Trinity and a long activist on behalf of East Timor. Manu began assisting East Timor as a member of ETAN (The East Timor Action Network) in the late 1990s and his research, writing and overall energy helped the group work effectively during some of East Timor's most difficult days prior to the departure of the Indonesian invaders in 1999.

It took very little to convince Trinity Pastor, Rich Lang, that this was a cause he wanted to support. Lang is well known in the Seattle activist community for his outspoken support of Tent City, as well as his outspoken denunciation of the war in Iraq. He has courageously championed human rights and dignity from his pulpit as well as in the broader church community, and he immediately agreed to have the Sister School Project highlighted during this year's Lent observances.

Trinity United Methodist church is located at 6512 23rd Ave NW. For information on services, call 206-784-2227.



Greeting Cards Help SETRA Projects

Made from photos taken on the April 2005 student trip to East Timor, these cards are printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper. Selling for \$3 per card, \$10 for 4 cards, and \$20 for 10 cards (envelopes included), these blank cards can be used for any occasion.

These five images are available in the 4.5 x 5.5" cards.



Red Bushes



Girl with Warriors



Children in Dili



Altar in Laleia



Children in Manatuto

See order form in this newsletter for ordering information!!

Fair Trade Organic *Kafe Timor Lorosae*

Coffee is impoverished East Timor's biggest export. **One in eight Timorese are supported by the coffee industry;** the Fair Trade certification ensures that **living wages** are paid to workers; and **all of our profits** continue to go to humanitarian relief aid in East Timor. **Use the enclosed order form to order coffee or to make a donation,** and support the projects of the Seattle East Timor Relief Association. **In 2005 we sent over \$8000 in direct aid** to support Kay Rala Secundaria High School in Manatuto and the HIAM Health Clinic in Dili, East Timor. With your continued support we help the people of East Timor have a more hopeful future.

Now MORE CONVENIENT pick up!

Thanks to our great volunteers, there are more places for you to pick up orders of **less than 5 lbs.** Here's how to do it:

Send in your order form and check in the enclosed envelope (please include your phone number so we can reach you also)

Wait a few days for us to get your order.

Call the following numbers for pick up in your area:

Roosevelt/Lake City area	Debra	206-523-3656
Greenwood/Ballard area	Neil	206-782-8773
West Seattle	Linda	206-932-5639
Central or South Seattle	Joe	206-252-3509

Remember, orders of 5 lbs or more are shipped for **FREE** directly from roaster. See the order form for more details!

Thank you SETRA Supporters!

Many thanks to all of you who responded during our Holiday solicitations and bought coffee, cards, calendars, or just gave a generous donation! Thanks to your contributions we were able to send \$1500 to Kay Rala Secundaria to continue to purchase new desks for the students from local carpenters who make the desks from local wood products. The money was delivered directly to Victor Soares, Director of Public Relations for Kay Rala by our friends at Health Alliance International here at the University of Washington. Thanks Tom!!

These students receive tuition scholarships at Kay Rala Secundaria thanks to YOU!

