

Nicanet Regional Meeting Oct. 16 - 18 in Baltimore!

The Nicaragua Network will hold a regional meeting in Baltimore, MD, hosted by the Casa Baltimore/Limay sister city committee. Committees and individuals from the eastern part of the United States are gathering to share victories and challenges concerning their projects in Nicaragua, analyze the political/economic situation, and learn about issues and campaigns to build their local organizing such as immigration/emigration and debt reduction. For a schedule of the meeting, go to

<http://www.nicanet.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/regional-meeting-schedule.pdf> .



Ambassador Magda Enriquez

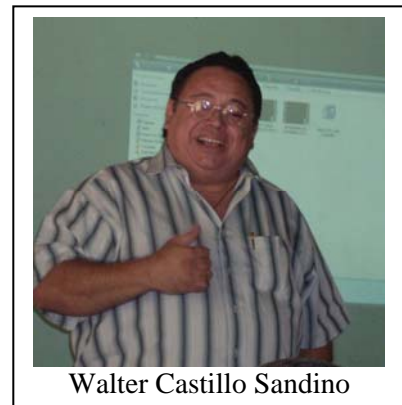
Nicanet is happy to announce that we will have with us Ambassador Magda Enriquez, chief advisor to recent past President of the UN General Assembly Fr. Miguel D'Escoto and a long-time friend of the solidarity movement. She will speak on Saturday morning.

On Sunday morning we will have a talk by a grandson of Augusto Sandino, Walter Castillo Sandino! He is the youngest son of Blanca Segovia Sandino, Sandino's daughter. He spent 18 years in exile with his family in Havana, Cuba. Early in 1979, Walter returned to Nicaragua to take part in the insurrection against the Somoza régime. He became a pilot in the Nicaraguan air force, eventually

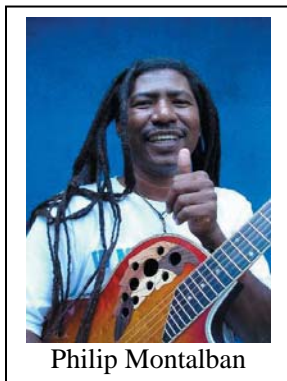
holding an important post in the country's air defense system. He has recently published a book about his grandfather.

Another highlight of the weekend will be the participation of Philip Montalban, Nicaragua's most popular reggae singer/songwriter (complete with a Saturday night concert which is included in the \$45 registration fee - a \$15 value!). A flyer about the concert is at <http://www.nicanet.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/montalban-concert.pdf> .

In addition, a delegation of Nicaraguans from Baltimore's sister city in San Juan de Limay, will participate. Jubilee USA Deputy Director Melinda St. Louis will be with us to talk about new Jubilee campaigns on debt relief and vulture funds. We will also have an interesting discussion of "Immigration, emigration – issues of poverty, prejudice and policy."



Walter Castillo Sandino



Philip Montalban

For the registration form for the meeting, go to www.nicanet.org. Please send the form as soon as possible!

We will also talk about how the tax reforms currently being drafted in Managua could affect our groups which ship humanitarian aid to their projects and other issues of interest to solidarity committees.

Saturday Workshop topics include: Conducting water, sanitation and forestation projects in Nicaragua; Cutting-edge media techniques to build solidarity and to convey the reality of Nicaragua to the US public; and How to deal with pushback from the right, in the US and Latin America: Honduras as one case study, with implications for Nicaragua and the Americas

People who attend Nicaragua Network meetings always come away with a feeling that their time was well spent. Often participants have commented that they have learned things from other committees that help solve problems their own committee is having, and also that they feel empowered, learning that they are not laboring alone but are part of a movement.

Please consider sending one or more people from your committee, or come as an individual, to this important meeting. The host committee is offering free and cheap housing, so you can keep your costs to a minimum. Since time is short, please send a quick email to nicanet@AFGJ.org to let us know that your registration is "in the mail" and to alert us if you need housing. Advance registration is \$45 (\$55 at the door) including materials for the meeting, two breakfasts and two lunches as well as a ticket to the Saturday evening concert. A social gathering and optional tour of Baltimore are planned for Friday evening.