



Safe Passage  
Camino Seguro

## Board of Directors Profiles

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**Susanna Badgley Place, President** - Milton, Massachusetts

Susanna is a graduate of Princeton University (BA History) and Yale University School of Management (MBA in Finance and Marketing). Her career includes US Peace Corps Service in Africa, Project Analysts for the World Bank, owner/manager of import business, and consultant for non-profit service organizations. Her focus is management information systems and building institutional management capacity. She divides her time between Massachusetts, Maine and Guatemala, and is author of *Guatemala Journey Among the Ixil Maya* (2013) and an updated Spanish translation, *Los Mayas Ixiles de Guatemala* (2017).

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**Tania de Zedan, Vice-President** - Guatemala

Tania has worked in education for more than 25 years, both in private business and with the Guatemalan Ministry of Education, delivering reading and writing workshops for elementary teachers in the public sector. Currently she serves on several boards in the nonprofit world that focus on educational and health issues.

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**Rebecca Martin Evarts, Secretary** – Falmouth, Maine

Rebecca has an undergraduate degree from Harvard and an MFA degree from Bennington College. She's worked as an editor and as a freelance writer. Since 2012, she and her husband have worked as interpreters for Shared Beat, a medical partner organization with Safe Passage. She first became involved in Safe Passage when she spent a day in 2006 with Hanley Denning at the project. She and her family divide their time between Maine and Barcelona.

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**Maureen Pennington de Riojas, Treasurer** - Guatemala

Maureen Pennington de Riojas graduated from the Wharton School with a BS in Economics and earned her MBA from Harvard Business School in 1996. Maureen has held positions in New York with Merrill Lynch and in Guatemala City at Vestcor Partners Limited and Citibank where she coordinated the Corporate Finance Unit in Guatemala. Maureen has extensive experience as a management consultant and founded MPR Strategies in 2012. Prior to that, Maureen worked as the Chief Investment Officer of Grupo Delta's Family Office.



**Sandra Aguilar de Gonzalez** - Guatemala

Sandra is a Guatemalan businesswoman who became friends with Hanley Denning and got involved in supporting Safe Passage early in the organization's history. She studied in New York at the Fashion Institute of Technology prior to earning her degree in Governance for Nonprofits at the Harvard Business School. Sandra has served in leadership roles for various organizations and strives to make Guatemala safer, healthier, and with more opportunities for education.

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**Xavier Andrade** - Guatemala

Xavier Andrade has been a real estate developer in Guatemala for 35 years. He specializes in home building for low and middle income Guatemalans. Xavier served as the President of the National Housing Association (ANACOV) from 2011-2013. Xavier is a founding member of the Las Americas rotary club and was club president 2012-2013. "As a Guatemalan, I had a rare opportunity to be able to get a good education and have the means to provide for my family. I believe it's my duty as a human being to provide others a chance in life - it doesn't take much."

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**Jessica Britt** - Boston, Massachusetts

Jessica started her career at Safe Passage as a long-term volunteer nearly a decade ago after graduating from Bowdoin College. While at Safe Passage she managed the Guatemala-based development team stewarding Support Teams, sponsors, international visitors, and local donors. For three subsequent years Jess worked as project manager for USAID-funded democracy and governance programs throughout Latin America. She holds a graduate degree in Program Monitoring and Evaluation from American University. Since 2015 Jess has been on the National Research & Evaluation team at Year Up ([www.yearup.org](http://www.yearup.org)) a workforce development organization in 17 US states.

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**Jordan Denning** - Yarmouth, Maine

Jordan is a "partner and serves as General Counsel to B4 Alliance, a world class conglomerate of technology partners and resources". He is the brother of Safe Passage founder Hanley Denning, an attorney, and entrepreneur with 15 years experience in private and in-house legal practice, education, sports, retail, and marketing. He holds a BA from Hobart College and a joint JD/Master of Intellectual Property from the University of New Hampshire School of Law.



**Carolyn Johnson** – Yarmouth, Maine

Carolyn has more than 30 years of experience in education, including teaching and serving as a principal at the elementary school level. Carolyn is the founder of the Culture of Reading Program (CORP), providing training and support in effective literacy instruction for rural schools in Guatemala. Carolyn is a member of the Rotary Club of Yarmouth and is active as a facilitator with Rotary International. Carolyn was awarded the Service Above Self Award, Rotary's highest award recognizing Rotarians who demonstrate their commitment to others through volunteering their time and talents. Carolyn has been involved with a number of community organizations, including Yarmouth Senior Housing, which provides safe, affordable housing options for older citizens. She is on the board of Learning

Works, which offers education opportunities for at-risk youth, immigrants, and low-income families.

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**Douglas McAdams** - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Douglas is one of the original founders of Transport Investments, Inc. and American Transport, Inc. He has over 40 years of experience in the transportation industry, as well as a decade long career in banking and finance. Douglas holds a B.S from the University of Pittsburgh, advanced studies in Accounting and Finance at the University of Wisconsin, Duquesne

University and the University of Pennsylvania.

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**Ellen Meyer Shorb** - Lincoln, MA

Ellen has over 25 years of experience in the nonprofit sector as a senior manager, consultant, trainer, and coach. She is the Principal of Blue Sage Partners, a strategy consulting firm that works with nonprofit and higher education senior teams and boards. She helped start a consulting company with Heifetz and Linsky, who developed the Adaptive Leadership model at Harvard; taught leadership at Northeastern University; and worked in several senior management positions in

nonprofits ranging from start-ups to established, nationwide organizations. She holds a Master in Public Policy from Harvard University, an MBA from Stanford University, and a BA from Dartmouth College. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras, traveled around the world for a year, and is fluent in Spanish and conversational in French.



**Guillermo Montano** - Guatemala

Guillermo Montano holds an MBA from Babson College in Massachusetts and a Business degree in Agribusiness and Marketing from California Polytechnic State University. Guillermo began his professional career as Brand Manager for Procter & Gamble in Central America. He co-founded Transactel, Inc where he was CEO until selling the company in 2013. He remained as president of TELUS International Central America until 2016. Guillermo served as Chair of the Board of Directors of United Way in 2012 and has been on Guatemala Export Association Board since

2009 and in Empresarios por la Educación for a number of years.

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**Kolia O'Connor** - Sewickley, Pennsylvania

Kolia has been involved in the educational sector since 1987, and has served as Head of School at Sewickley Academy since 2003. Kolia holds a B.A. in English from Boston University, an M.A. in English from the University of Avignon (France), and an M.A. in Educational Leadership from Columbia University. Kolia currently serves on the Boards of Trustees of the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools; the Headmistresses Association of the East, where is the treasurer, and Robert Morris University, for which he chairs the Academic Affairs & Enrollment Management Committee.

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**Rodrigo Toledo** – Guatemala

Recently Elected to Board – Term started June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 (Biography Information to come).

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## Ines Torrebiate de Bolaños - Guatemala



Ines Torrebiate de Bolaños majored in International Relations and Italian at Franklin & Marshall College in the US and lives in Guatemala. She has served as the Executive Secretary for Grupo Coban's Board of Shareholders since 2010, a conglomerate of manufacturing, agro and commercial developers, and she focuses on Family Governance. Ines is also an advocate for quality public education and serves on the Board of Empresarios por la Educación, a group whose mission is to improve the public education system of Guatemala. She represents the Comité Coordinador de Asociaciones Agrícolas, Comerciales, Industriales y Financieras (CACIF) on the National Council for Education. She has recently joined the Board of Directors of FUNDEGUA, a group of

Guatemalans that believe that the best way to effect change is through sustainable and culturally appropriate development projects supported by a base of extensive research.

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## Ernesto Jose Viteri Arriola - Guatemala

Ernesto Viteri is an attorney practicing in Guatemala. He is a partner at VITERI & VITERI and was admitted to the bar in New York state. He is a graduate of Liceo Javier school in Guatemala and Millbrook School in New York State, and holds degrees in law from Universidad Rafael Landivar in Guatemala and New York University in New York. Mr. Arriola is a former faculty member at University

Rafael Landivar (Guatemala) and member of the Departmental Electoral Board of Guatemala's Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) to Guatemala General Elections.

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