



JUNE 1994

COLUMBIA RIVER PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION

• Volume 13 • Number 6 •

Opportunities with ISA

International Service Agencies Looking for a Few Good Speakers—

The Northwest Regional Office of International Service Agencies (ISA) is looking for volunteer speakers who want to share their knowledge of development and their commitment to alleviating hunger worldwide. ISA is a non-profit federation which raises funds for 55 American relief and development organizations working in lesser developed countries. Many RPCVs worked side-by-side with our member agencies while in the field. You may be familiar with ISA member agencies such as AFRICARE, CARE, Save the Children, Oxfam, Heifer Project International, International Rescue Committee, and UNICEF just to name a few.

One of the jobs of ISA's Northwest Regional office, located in Seattle, is to educate potential donors about its member agencies. During "fundraising season" (every fall), and occasionally at other times during the year, ISA receives requests for speakers who can inform people about the work of the agencies involved in the campaigns. ISA would like to invite interested RPCVs who may have had some involvement or particular interest in one or more of the member agencies to help promote the need for the vital services provided by ISA organizations.

For more information, please contact Julie Meyer in the Seattle office of ISA at (206) 329-4423.



INTERNATIONAL
SERVICE
AGENCIES

From the President

New Prez: The first thing you may notice that's different is the tone and style of the President's comments. After a benevolent reign of three years, Brenda Michel stepped down from the office of President. I will be serving as President for the next year as we institute a means to lessen officer burnout.

Here's the new system: The President will serve a one year term. At the end of the President's term the President will be on the steering committee as an advisor. The Vice President will become the President and we will then fill the Vice President office.

First the pro's: It's tough to find someone that wants to jump in and be President. If you haven't been active, it's kind of intimidating to be doing a job you may not have been paying much attention to. As Vice President, you will have a year to learn about the job of President, work with other officers, and get a good feeling for what this group can accomplish. It's also reassuring knowing that when your year as President is up, you won't be in the position of hunting for your successor.

The downside? We don't have a Vice President. That problem can be solved easily. Volunteer for the job! I know there are a number of you out there that would like to participate more but haven't yet. This is a good opportunity to take one year to learn the ropes, one year to give it hell as President, and then step back as an advisor. Remember too, this is all volunteer work. We do what we can do and if you can't get it done there is generally someone else who can pitch in and help. Unlike paid employment, there are no pink slips, no downsizing.

continued on page 2

From the President, continued from page 1

Help Wanted: Since I'm on the subject, we have several other positions that need filling. Restaurant Coordinator, who is responsible for making arrangements for about five restaurant meetings a year, and a Program Coordinator, who makes arrangements for five programs held during potlucks, are both positions waiting to be filled. Both jobs are bi-monthly and involve some phone calling. The Restaurant Coordinator finds ethnic restaurants, determines a group menu, writes an article announcing the restaurant meeting and counts the number of people that call in wanting to participate. The Program Coordinator calls a person(s) to make a presentation at our potlucks. The potlucks are held at Charlene Hölzworth's home and are normally held on one of the later Sundays in the month. These positions aren't too tough but they're important.

New Sec/Treas.: We have a new Secretary-Treasurer, Marilyn Watts, who volunteered for the position. Marilyn is currently President and the newsletter editor of the Friends of Honduras group and is active in many RPCV activities.

New Name: It wasn't overwhelming, but it was a clear majority. RPCV's of Oregon/Portland is now Columbia River Peace Corps Association. It will take a little while to transition to the new name, so please be patient if you see our old name show up on things.

Regional Campout: Make plans for the 1994 regional campout. This year we have reserved Ogden group camp south of Bend, Oregon. I can't think of an area that has more recreational attractions. Paulina Falls, Pringle Falls, Newberry Crater, the High Desert Museum, and Century Drive are just a few of the numerous attractions in the area. Fee is \$10 per person, with a maximum of \$25 per family. Mark August 19-21 on your calendar, and remember our campout theme: *RPCV's just want to have fun...*

Go Phyllis! How 'bout that Phyllis Shelton? She's running for regional representative to the National Council Board of Directors, the position presently held by Beryl Brinkman from the Eugene/West Cascades group. It would be great to have someone from our group as a representative. You have to be a member of the National Peace Corps Association to vote so those of you that are, keep an eye out for the election material.

And last but not least: I certainly can't finish without extending my gratitude to Brenda Michel for the work she has done as President. She's the one who has organized the Blitz Weinhart host nights, the Starlight Parade, hosted Carol Bellamy, and worked on numerous events in addition to the normal duties of President. As President, she got the work done with a spirit of enthusiasm. Thanks, Brenda.

Mike Waite



Dear Richard Swee,

We want to thank you for your generous contribution to the Kai Dambach Medical Fund. You have no idea how far this will go to help Chic and Kay keep their little boy alive, and their family together!

Kai seems to be doing much better. After a horrendous first month, he seems to be stabilizing and Chic and Kay are hopeful everything will be fine.

Again, thanks for your generosity! It won't be forgotten!

Sincerely,

Sam Farr and Maureen Orth
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Swee and RPCVs:

Mom and Dad have told me about your concern and support for me and my new kidney. You and many other friends have given us the strength to endure these tough times.

I don't mind telling you that the surgery was no fun, and I'm tired of needles and medicines. But, I know they are necessary, and I'll put up with them. It's a lot easier to deal with the problems when we know you and so many other friends care so much. I want you to know we appreciate it.

Finally, things are starting to look good, but we've still got a lot more to go through.

Thanks again for your support.

Love,

Kai

If you would like to share letters with Columbia River Peace Corps Association newsletter readers, please feel free to submit them to the newsletter editor (address on page 5). Letters from current PCVs abroad always welcomed!

The Latest on the 1995 International Calendar Sales

When you buy a 1995 Peace Corps calendar, you will be the owner of not one, but two fine **Spurlock Photos**. Mike Spurlock (Iran 74-76) is the first of our members to have his photos included. Congratulations Mike! (Mike was also one of our biggest calendar sellers last year).

Calendars to be bigger! The '95 calendars will be 9X12 inches, giving you more space to fit your lives in between the international holidays.

Facts to remember:

- 90% of calendar profits will go to Lutheran Family Services for refugee programs
- Prizes: 5+ sold: Calendar postcards; 20+: RPCVs of Oregon sweatshirt; Grand Prize: Dinner for two.

The biggest part of our sales will be from you taking orders in September and October. We need your help to buy, sell, and phone!

Calendar Committee: Jerry and Teresa Porter (281-9576); Karen McAlister (646-1298); Robin Teater (286-0177)

New Book by RPCV Examines Going Back

Green Fires

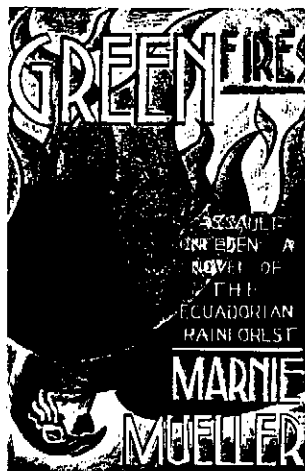
by Marnie Mueller (Ecuador 63-65)

Set in 1969, this novel of adventure and suspense tells a story of an ex-Peace Corps volunteer who, disillusioned and haunted by her experience in coastal Ecuador, returns to that country's exotic rain forest with the hope of making sense of — if not peace with — her past.

Annie Saunders, the daughter of a New York City labor organizer, arrived in Guayaquil in the early 60's fueled by the idealism of the Kennedy era. Though a skilled community organizer and reporter for a small alternative radio station, Saunders, like others with her, was still ill-prepared for the realities of day-to-day life in an oppressed, developing country. When her activism led to the torture of the peasants who followed her protest call, and when she was unable to save a dying infant from the terrible throes of dehydration, she fled, crushed by guilt.

Now she has returned with her German husband on their honeymoon. His desire is to view rare birds; hers is to understand the moral complexities of what she left behind. They fail to anticipate how deeply they will be drawn into the new battlelines forming between the indigenous population and the American oil companies, who seem willing to go to extremes to protect their interests.

Green Fires seeks to capture the complexity and cultural manipulations that occur when an oppressed people must fight for survival and forces of greed vie for the riches of a quickly disappearing paradise. It also captures the lure and difficulty of exotic travel.



Green Fires is published by Curbstone Press, a non-profit literary and cultural organization dedicated to publishing literature that promotes inter-cultural understanding and human rights throughout the Americas and beyond. This and other titles may

be acquired by writing to: Curbstone Press, 321 Jackson Street, Willimantic, CT 06226; phone: (203) 423-5110.

1995 International Calendar Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

Ph: _____

_____ Calendars @ \$8 = _____

Postage @ \$1.50 per calendar* = _____

Total due = _____

Make check payable to:

RPCVs of Oregon

Send to: Jerry Porter, 3404 NE 25th Ave.
Portland, OR 97212-2507 Ph: 281-9576

* No charge for pick-up at meetings or elsewhere. Indicate when you'll pick up, or call to arrange.

Call if you need calendars to sell!



NEWS FROM ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO, & MONTANA

And part of Wyoming (welcome to our region)

Next Regional Meeting

August 19-21 — "RPCVs just wanna have fun" Camp Out. Ogden Group Camp on Paulina Creek in the Newberry Crater of the Deschutes National Forest. Call Mike Waite of the Portland Group for specific information — 206-574-7455. Map and further details in the July and August newsletters.

What's happening around the region

RPCVs of Alaska

Alaska meet once a month at an ethnic restaurant. In July they have planned a picnic potluck barbeque for all members and their families. Lee Gorsuch has been recently chosen as the president of the University of Alaska at Anchorage. President Gorsuch and his wife Ann were Peace Corps Volunteers in Paraguay from 1966-68.

Colombian River Peace Corps Association

In a very close vote, RPCVs of Portland/Oregon changed their name to the above moniker, following a national trend. Their participation in International Women's Day was a big success. The Starlight Parade on June 4 in Portland looks to be well attended by RPCVs in the Northwest Region. On March 5 they worked on weatherizing homes for older or disabled residents.

RAVN, Seattle, Washington area

RAVN is leading the way for the Northwest Region in getting hooked up to the Peace Corps Electronic Internet. RAVN is working out the Immunization Project in conjunction with the King County Public Health Department. The yearly beach cleanup project will take place in June.

West Cascade Peace Corps Association, Eugene, Oregon

West Cascades next event is June 5 at Lost Valley with the Reconnect Project workshop to learn information, resources and skills necessary to better support recently returning RPCVs. West Cascade recently donated funds to Peace Corps Partnership Projects in Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras and Chile.

Corvallis/Salem, Oregon RPCVs

RPCVs met on May 20 and chose a steering committee to solidify the organization. Their three events so far have been very well attended. Look soon for them to be the newest affiliated group with the National Peace Corps Association.

RPCVs of Western Montana

The Annual Goat Chase Retreat will be held at Flat Head Lake near Rollins June 4-6. Two members have entered the Montana political arena. Bill Carey (India, 1968-69) will be running for the house, and Cindy Younker (Fiji, 1984-86) will be running for the State Senate.

Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

Treasure Valley RPCVs of Idaho expanded to include the whole state and have renamed their newsletter *Common Ground*. They will be participating in "Paint the Town" June 18 for a needy family. Sam Greer will be spending the month of July in Ethiopia/Eritrea participating in a site survey in anticipation of reopening the country for the Peace Corps in 1995.

* * * *

• CALENDAR OF EVENTS •

June 4	Starlight Parade
Aug. 20-21	RPCV Northwest Regional Campout
July 1994	National RPCV Conference, Atlanta, GA
Nov. 12	West African Pigout

OFFICERS

President Mike Waite	206-574-7455 (Vancouver)
Vice President volunteer today!	?
Secretary-Treasurer Marilyn Watts	777-4650
Program Coordinator we need you	?
Membership JoAnn von Rohr	282-1721
Restaurant Coordinator your name here	?
Speaker's Bureau Phyllis Shelton	295-1863
Newsletter Robin Teater	286-0177
Development Education Gabiella Maertens	254-5161

Odds 'n Ends

West African Pigout: The West African Pigout has a new home. Charlene Holzworth was able to reserve the Leach Botanical Gardens in SE Portland for the annual event. It will be much roomier and more convenient for many of you to attend. The Pigout will be November 12.

National Conference: Going to the National Conference in Atlanta? Get in touch with Phyllis Shelton (295-1863) or Brenda Michel (236-5838). The more the merrier!

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P.O. Box 802
Portland, OR 97207

Submissions for the July 1994
newsletter should be received by
June 25. Please mail to:
Robin Teater
7126 N. Delaware Ave.
Portland, OR 97217

MEMBERSHIP • ADDRESS CHANGE • RENEWAL FORM

NAME: _____ PHONE:() _____ hm () _____ wk

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ST: ___ ZIP: _____

PEACE CORPS COUNTRY: _____ YEARS: _____

PEACE CORPS JOB/SECTOR: _____

CURRENT OCCUPATION: _____

- New Membership
- Membership renewal
- New address, effective: ___/___/___
- Joining RPCVs of Oregon/Portland and NPCA (\$35 individual/\$50 family)
- Joining RPCVs of Oregon/Portland only (\$15 individual/\$22.50 family)
- Joining NPCA only (\$27.50)

Please make checks payable to : **RPCVs of OREGON/PORTLAND**
And mail to: **P.O. BOX 802**
PORTLAND, OR 97207

Foreign Aid Talk at Lewis & Clark College

Senator Mark Hatfield and Representative Elizabeth Furse are invited to speak at an early summer talk on foreign aid in the post Cold War era. The entire structure, purpose and funding of foreign affairs is currently being reassessed and rewritten by Congress and the Clinton administration. The co-sponsors of the talk are Lewis & Clark College chapter of RESULTS, the Portland chapter of RESULTS, Mercy Corps, Int'l. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, and Foundation for Global Community. The Portland RPCV group and other co-sponsors invite all members and interested people to join in the discussion. For further details about when and where the talk will be held, contact Paul Richey, 244-2187.

RESULTS is a grassroots lobby group that instructs people about political "literacy." Just as in adult illiteracy, the basic skill may appear to be missing. But when people network with like-minded groups they make powerful lobbyists. Our local chapter of RESULTS is often engaged in a Saturday morning telephone conference with other chapters throughout the nation. Frequently we meet on a Wednesday evening to directly express our concerns about foreign aid and global development in letters to our congresspersons. Due to such lobby efforts, American foreign aid for child survival has increased from \$0 in 1984 to \$275,000,000 in 1993.

Paul Richey

Friends of



For a complimentary copy of our quarterly newsletter *Amigos de Honduras*, please fill out the form below and mail to: **Friends of Honduras**
P.O. Box 521, Lake Oswego, OR 97034.

Name: _____

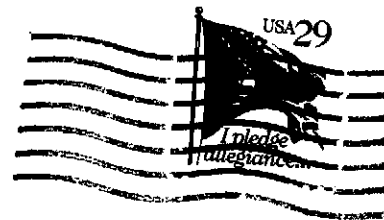
Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Peace Corps Dates: _____

Comments: _____

**RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS
OF PORTLAND/OREGON
P.O. Box 802
PORTLAND, OR 97207**



Apr 1, 1994
Marie Hermanson
[REDACTED]
Portland, OR [REDACTED]

If this box is checked, your membership has expired. Please renew using the membership form inside!

If this box is checked, you have received a complimentary copy of our newsletter. To become a member of RPCVs of Oregon/Portland and receive future issues, please see the membership form inside!

Bringing the World Back Home