



## PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION

• Volume 13 • Number 7 •

### RPCV Regional Campout

Remember to mark August 19-21 on your calendar for the fourth annual Northwest Regional RPCV campout. The location is at Ogden Group campsite south of Bend on the way to East and Paulina lakes. Next month we'll have a map and directions.

If you like the great outdoors, there are few places that beat this part of Central Oregon. Just outside of Bend there is the acclaimed High Desert Museum. To see the scenery that always makes it on the Oregon calendars, just take a drive down Century Drive, which is a continuation of the road to Bachelor Butte. Sparks Lake, Elk Lake, and Lava Lake are but three of many high use recreational lakes. Tumalo Falls, Pringle Falls, Paulina Falls are all well worth checking out.

Want a view? There's Pilot Butte, Lava Butte, and a chairlift to the top of Bachelor Butte (9065 ft.). There are also ice caves, lava caves, lava flows, lava buttes, hills of obsidian and always the backdrop of the central Cascade peaks.

There will be plenty of room to camp but be prepared. There are no showers or electricity, and the toilets are vault, not flush toilets. But we were all ex-Peace Corps volunteers, not aristocrats, so it won't keep us from having a good time. The area's a little short on tables so bring some if you have them.

### From the President

**Banner, Banner, Who's got the banner?** We can't find our banner and can't remember who we last loaned our parade banner to. In a last minute fit of desperation we purchased a new banner for the Starlight Parade. If you've used the banner in the last six months, please search your closet or garage. If the banner is returned soon, Brenda Michel can take the old banner to the National Conference where she will attempt to sell it. Contact Brenda at 236-5838.

**Money, Money, Who's got the money?** Early summer seems to be a time of year when we have less money flowing in, so I encourage those of you who see that you're behind in membership dues to get back on the rolls of the paid members. It's also a good time to purchase T-shirts (only \$10) and sweatshirts.

**Did I say sweatshirts?** We just made up a number of sweatshirts to sell at the National Conference. They look great, come in forest green, cardinal red, dark plum, and black. The design is white on all colors of sweatshirts and at \$15 are a good price. Our thanks to Mark Morton who assisted us with the shirts. (See order form on page 4)

**So, how 'bout that Phyllis?** Phyllis Shelton ran for National Council Representative from the region and won. Her time in that position is going to be short, though, as she's soon headed for Taiwan. The story I heard was that after her boss had interviewed three uninspiring candidates for a position in Taiwan, a discussion about the interviews ensued and Phyllis chimed in and said, "I could do that job." Her boss agreed. The job will involve managing an office for her employer in Taiwan, a two year assignment. So how 'bout writing us, Phyllis?

*continued on page 2*

**One More Time Around Peace Corps.** I was discouraged. It was after 10 p.m. and we hadn't even started to march in the Starlight Parade. It was a long wait with a 45 minute delay. We were all restless. That restless feeling changed, however, when we began moving past the crowds. Even though the crowd was tired we got a tremendous reception. Believe it or not the Peace Corps is still popular and the cheering was a genuine response. If you haven't marched in the Starlight Parade, plan on marching next year. It's fun and we could all use some cheering.

**Thank the Godfather.** After the Starlight parade, a number of us pulled into Godfathers Pizza across from the Lloyd Center at 11:55 p.m. They normally close at midnight, however they kept the doors open while we enjoyed pizza and beer. The beer was good, the pizza was good, and the service and graciousness of the employees working there was excellent. Compared to last year's choice for post-parade activities, Godfathers get an A+.

*Mike Waite*

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### **Former Peace Corps Director Battles Cancer**

*from Chic Dambach, President, NPCA*

I bring sad news. Our good friend Loret Ruppe has been diagnosed with cancer. She went to the Mayo Clinic for an operation for kidney stones only to learn that the problems were far more serious. She underwent surgery on Tuesday, June 28.

A few of us had lunch with Loret and her husband Phil on Friday, and we found her to be in remarkably good spirits. However, she knows she is facing a tremendous ordeal, and she needs our support. We are gathering letters of support from the Peace Corps community here in our office.

If you will, please send a letter addressed to Loret Miller Ruppe in care of the NPCA at 1900 L Street NW, Suite 205, Washington, DC 20036. She is such a good friend of all of us that the salutation should be in the first person—Dear Loret. We will assemble all letters and deliver them to her. It will make a big difference for a wonderful person who has done so very much for the Peace Corps.

Thank you.

*Ed—Our group has sent a card already and encourage all others that wish to write to Loret to do so. She is the most influential and popular director since Sargent Shriver. Mike Waite*

### **Starlight Parade Another Smashing Success**

**THANK YOU!** We wish to express our gratitude to the people at the Holladay Market Godfather's Pizza Parlour. Luckily, Mary Lynn Waite stopped in a week a head of time and talked with the management about our plans. After the Starlight Parade we converged on them and wolfed down a dozen pizzas and numerous pitchers of beer and soft drinks. They were more than accomodating especially considering the fact that their expressed closing time was midnight and we all arrived in 3 cars, a van and a pickup truck at 11:55 p.m. The pizza pies were simply exquisite, the beer was cold and thirst-quenching, the soda was full of sweet fizz and well, everything and everybody were just great. From the bottom of our marching, flag-waving hearts we are grateful to our friends at Godfather's Pizza in the Holladay Market.

The Starlight Parade was another wonderful thrilling succes. There are so many people to thank. Robin Teater and the people at AFS called numerous exchange students and invited them to appear with us; Gwen Duley at the World Affairs Council telephoned all the ESL teachers around the metro area and they in turn asked their classes to join us. Mike and MaryLynn Waite arranged transportation and made arrangements for eating and drinking afterward; Mike Colombo drove us to and fro; Charolette Uting from the Seattle Peace Corps office rented and delivered to us the United Nations flags and carried one herself in the parade. Nedra Hartsell flew in from Washington DC, watched the entire parade then joined us for the last few blocks walk. Barb Pugh drove our out-of-town guests (Charolette, Dianne Brause from Eugene and Nedra) to their cars parked across town so they could start for home. Without their help, my load would have been heavier.

Thanks, too, to everyone who appeared in our contingent this year. I'm sorry we had to wait so long to get underway but once we did, oh! it was glorious and grand! Thanks again, everyone. See you next year!!!

*—Brenda Michel, Steering Committee*

### **National RPCV Conference Contingent**

Phyllis and Eric Shelton, Brenda Michel and Mary Lynn Parodi are all going to the Peace Corps National Conference in Atlanta at the end of July. We'll be carrying our t-shirts and sweatshirts to sell and will place a big calendar order with the Madison RPCVs while we're there. We're going to share a room to help defray expenses. If you'd like to send any/all of us a donation for the cause, please do so (kidding!). Do wish us a good time and low humidity.

◦ **CALENDAR OF EVENTS** ◦

Aug. 20-21      **RPCV Northwest Regional Campout**  
 July 26      **Bridgeport Brew Pub Event**  
 July 28-31      **National RPCV Conference, Atlanta, GA**  
 Sept. 18      **Potluck/Program Meeting**  
 Oct. 15 (?)      **Restaurant Meeting**  
 Nov. 12      **West African Pigout**

**OFFICERS**

**President**  
 Mike Waite      206-574-7455  
**Steering Committee**  
 Brenda Michel      236-5838  
 Gabriella Maertens      254-5161  
 JoAnn von Rohr      282-1721  
 Dick Swee      252-2295  
**Secretary-Treasurer**  
 Marilyn Watts      777-4650  
**Program Coordinator**  
 (we need you)      ?  
**Membership**  
 JoAnn von Rohr      282-1721  
**Restaurant Coordinator**  
 (your name here)      ?  
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 Phyllis Shelton      295-1863  
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**Development Education**  
 Gabriella Maertens      254-5161

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

**The Refugee Experience Teaching Project**

I have received a copy of The Refugee Experience Teaching Guide and videotape produced by the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. This is an effort to engage students in learning about the experiences of refugees and enhance their education through experiential learning. I hope to interest a few social studies teachers at Madison High School in using these materials. If you are interested in his project or would like to be my contact at a particular school, please call me in August at 254-5161.

*Gabriella Maertens*

**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 CRPCA and NPCA (\$35 individual/\$50 family)
- Joining CRPCA only (\$15 individual/\$22.50 family)
- Joining NPCA only (\$27.50)

Please make checks payable to :      **COLUMBIA RIVER PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION**  
 And mail to:      **P.O. BOX 802**  
    **PORTLAND, OR 97207**

## Letter from Romania



—from Elly Dahlstrom, RPCV Ghana 90-92, now in Romania with WACAP, a Seattle private adoption agency, for two years as a social work director. She writes:

*Cimpulung is approximately two and a half hours northwest of Bucharest, and on the journey in the Russian-made auto, we observed a cement plant, among other industries, and sheep farms. We arrived at Cimpulung just at dusk with another beautiful sunset and snow on the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains; mild weather. This city has approximately 40,000 inhabitants.*

*Peace Corps this ain't. No PCVs to visit, eat my food, use up my water and TP, travel with. No nuns to drink beet with, no German volunteers to take me to Togo, no British volunteers to play cribbage with. In fact, it isn't a ton of fun, but I manage to find lots of things interesting.*

*People here don't speak to me or smile on the street. In Ghana, Sunyani, I was the Queen Bee, or at least Queen Mother, and everyone yelled, hollered, shook my hand, called me Aunti Esi. Here, under Ceausescu's time it was a punishable offense to speak to a stranger, worse if a foreigner. So people are very suspicious. They also can't understand our coming here to work with Gypsy kids. There is much prejudice against Gypsies, Jews, Blacks, even Germans. They hate Roosevelt because he sold them down the river*

*at the Yalta Conference (I guess); hate Bush, Ford, Carter, love Reagan and the jury is still out on Clinton...*

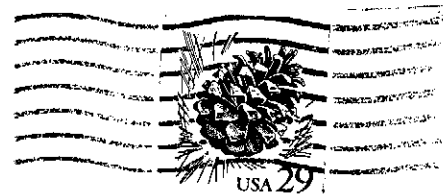
*...The orphanages are better than I thought, but worse than you can imagine. They are warm, almost too warm, the kids are dressed, cloth-diapered, one to a crib, with sheets, but kids and sheets are wet, and kids are never put back in the same crib. They share bottles and spoons. There are not enough caretakers, and they yell, scream, yank, pull, drop. They don't want us here, as they think we're getting kids out of the institutions and they get paid by the head count. They have heard we are stealing babies, selling them for organ parts, or other horror stories. The directors, mostly doctors, are nice to our face, but we hear rumors...*

*Bookkeeping, files, recordkeeping are as bad in this country as in Ghana. There is much skimming, cheating, bribing, under the table stuff here. I want to do social work at the hospital where many babies are abandoned, perhaps get a leg up on getting information, perhaps releases, before they have to go to the orphanage and get lost in the system. I have been here only two weeks, and I am trying to change everything...*

Elly welcomes correspondence. Write her as follows:

Elly Dahlstrom, WACAP  
c/o Oancea Gheorghe Mayor  
Str. Rahovei #2, Block 4, Sc B, Apt 10  
Cimpulung Muscel, Judet Arges  
Romania

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*If this box is checked, you have received a complimentary copy of our newsletter. To become a member of Columbia River Peace Corps Association and receive future issues, please see the membership form inside!*

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

**Bringing the World Back Home**