



• Volume 13 • Number 11 •

Dine - A - Mate

We are offering the Dine-A-Mate Restaurant Coupon book again this year. We use it as a fundraiser. There are hundreds of two for one meal restaurant coupons from Arby's to Yen Ha, including the famed Green Onion. There are also coupons for hotel chains, car rentals, museums, etc. The books are sold for \$30 with \$10 going to CRPCA. One free book is given for every five books sold. If you enjoy dining out this may be the ticket, especially since these coupons pay for themselves within approximately three to five meals. If you want to see the list of restaurants and services, call Marilyn Watts and you'll be faxed a listing. To purchase, contact Marilyn at 777-4650.

Speakers Wanted!

Catherine Kimball (RPCV Dominican Republic), Spanish teacher at Oregon Episcopal School in Portland is seeking RPCVs who served in Spanish-speaking countries to give presentations about these countries. Talks can be geared to either mid or upper level Spanish classes.

In addition, Donna Roy (RPCV Lesotho) teaches a "Voices in Culture" class to 6th graders at OES and would also welcome speakers who have lived abroad to talk about their host countries.

You can reach both Catherine and Donna at OES at 246-7771. Catherine is at extension 223 and Donna is at extension 220.

From the President

At the Green Onion — We always have enjoyable restaurant meetings, but the October restaurant was surely one of the best. A group of 29 descended on a delicious buffet of Iranian food. We then got front row seats for live music and belly dancing. Kudos to Alma Cunningham for setting up a fine evening.

Info Packs — We plan to begin sending an information pack to newly returned volunteers in the area. The packet would have information on the National Council, CRPCA's activities, a flyer on Lost Valley's volunteer readjustment program, and a newsletter. We're looking for other ideas for the infopack. What would you have liked to have known about when you were new to the area? Contact Brenda Michel at 236-5838 and let her know.

Regional Conference in Portland — On January 28 & 29 we will be hosting a Northwest Regional conference sponsored by the National Peace Corps Association. We have just barely begun preparations and have many details to work out. A draft agenda emphasizes education, advocacy, and strengthening local groups. A keynote speaker of national renown is promised. The Portland conference is one of 10 regional meetings across the United States. We are presently scoping out several conference sites, and as the host city we will be looking for people willing to board out-of-towners. More details as we get closer to January.

Mike Waite

RPCV Potpourri

Participate in the National Postal Museum's Celebration of Peace Corps' 35th Anniversary — Send a copy of your favorite letter from your Peace Corps days to the NPCA by February 1, 1995. They will select the best for the exhibition which will open November, 1995 and run for six months. It will be seen by approximately 1,200 visitors each day. If you have a letter that you would be proud to have included in this exhibit, send a photocopy to:

Postal Museum Exhibit
NPCA
1900 L Street NW, Suite 205
Washington DC 20036-5002

Those selected will be asked to loan the museum original letters.

•••••

Sargent Shriver Awarded — Our country's highest civilian honor was recently awarded by President Clinton to Robert Sargent Shriver. The first Peace Corps director received the Presidential Medal of Freedom honoring him for his work in Peace Corps, Head Start, Foster Grandparents, and Job Corps.

•••••

Kennedy Library Seeks Peace Corps Memorabilia — William Johnson, Chief Archivist of the JFK Library is looking to build on the collection of Peace Corps memorabilia currently located at the museum. Items being sought are letters, diaries, manuscripts, books, photographs, audio tapes, films, drawings, and other items created during or after service. Contact: Stephen Plotkin, Curator of the Peace Corps Collection, JFK Library & Museum, Columbia Point, Boston, MA 02125, phone 617-929-4524.

World Wise Schools — The Peace Corps World Wise Schools Program provides to interested teachers video tapes, accompanying study guides and lesson plans that will enhance students' knowledge and awareness of the world. World Wise Schools also has a pen pal system to match classes with Peace Corps Volunteers in the field. For more information, contact Peace Corps World Wise Schools Program Director Margaret Legowski or Brain Leonardo in Washington DC, phone 800-424-8580.

Inside the Peace Corps

*excerpted from 3/1/61, a publication of
the National Peace Corps Association*

Talks in Pretoria — In September senior staff returned from their first discussions with members of President Nelson Mandela's cabinet regarding sending Peace Corps volunteers to the Republic of South Africa.

While no agreement was made, U.S. officials are optimistic that the new government will invite Peace Corps to help extend public services to the newly democratic nation of more than 40 million.

•••••

Generations of Volunteers — From Director Carol Bellamy's speech at the Atlanta conference:

"To those of you who taught and farmed and dug and built in the 60s: in my travels since becoming director I have received countless thanks and warm regards for your efforts in every part of Latin America, Africa, and Asia I've visited. You taught an entire generation of students and instilled hope and dreams and a larger view of the world to many whose lives before - and in some cases since - had been touched by Americans in only a most superficial or negative way...

To the Volunteers of the 70s: you'll recall that, here at home, the value and cost of sending you overseas were questioned. The novelty had worn off the bold experiment and cynicism seeped into much of what the government touched. Despite that setting, your service and efforts continued to keep burnishing the symbol of what remained, and remains, a good idea. I've basked in thanks for your efforts, too...

To the Volunteers for the 80s: your service will always stand out as a reminder that the decade of greed didn't reflect all of us. You were lucky to have had Lorete Ruppe at the helm, and she made sure that the quality of your efforts did not go unnoticed in Congress and that you were able to apply your talents and direct your energies in many new programs in response to many new problems...

Finally, to those of you who served in the 90s: I know firsthand what you've been doing, and it is great. The new programs that were launched in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Republics, and the Baltics fueled a healthy reexamination of Peace Corps' role, its programming, and its future. Much of this debate was carried out in Washington and, true to form, you ignored it. In my mind, any question as to the value and purpose of the new programs has been settled by the quality of your efforts and the fantastic reception we've received."

Sustainable Development Update

From Cheryl Bartz, director of the Constituency for Sustainable Development

Thinking ahead to 1996? You should be, if you care about how much money the U.S. will spend to alleviate poverty and hunger and how much we will spend on spying...

Priorities are being established now as administration leaders work behind the scenes. President Clinton will make the final decision in December on the relative priority of programs to be included in the Budget for 1996. Does \$232 million spent on the Peace Corps make more sense than \$6 billion spent on spy satellites? Find out how you can make a difference by contacting Cheryl Bartz at 202-293-7728, extension 3.

Harmattan

Geraldine Kennedy,
introduction by Sargent Shriver

They had no vehicle, tents, sleeping bags and not much money, but they did have what that first wave of Peace Corps workers in the early sixties had in big quantities: guts, idealism and luck. It was enough to get five American women teaching in Liberia across the Sahara desert without so much as an expedition plan between them.


Geraldine Kennedy took off into the world's largest desert with four friends in 1964, bearing the grief of JFK's death into a world in transition. The French influence in Upper Volta, Niger and Algeria was fading and Kennedy skillfully captures the lonely, desperate lives of those stranded French colonials who help sustain the young Americans along the way across the desert.

The group runs into a host of obstacles, but perhaps the most brutal was the *harmattan*, the incessant wind that blows across the Sahara, lashing the group at it slogged north on trucks, sheep transports, army convoys, oil rigs and taxis.

Questions to ask your members of congress:

- U.S. aid aimed at the alleviation of poverty and hunger in environmentally sustainable ways can help prevent costly humanitarian and military disasters like the one we saw in Rwanda. U.S. budget priorities need to be reconsidered: aid for sustainable development should be increased and should be transferred from other national security accounts like defense and intelligence. What will you do the help raise the priority of sustainable development programs in the budget process?
- Surveys show that the American public believes the Peace Corps is the most successful foreign aid program. Currently, there are over 6000 volunteers serving in nearly 100 countries, but this falls far short of the potential of the Peace Corps, and short of its peak of 16,000 volunteers per year during the Sixties. How can we make sure the Peace Corps gets the support it needs?

Kennedy judges the adventure well worth the hazards because those the group encountered largely responded generously to their "curiosity...respect...and terrible vulnerability."



An Epic Journey of Wit and Courage

Five young Peace Corps teachers set off from Liberia to cross the great Sahara Desert

"...Kennedy records her adventure lovingly...in this book full of wisdom and heart." *World View*

"...an utterly riveting narrative and in the stunning, seductive world of travel literature, an instant classic, an unforgettable contribution."
Bob Shacochis

"Get it. Read it. You will laugh. You will learn. You will be inspired."
Sargent Shriver

Special Offer until 12/31/94:
Clover Park Press will contribute 20% of all orders with this coupon to RPCVs of Oregon, Portland

289 pages, map, hardcover

Send check to:
Clover Park Press
PO Box 5067
Santa Monica, CA 90409-5067

Number of copies <input type="checkbox"/> X \$22.00 \$ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California recipients add 8.25% sales tax Shipping \$ 2.00 TOTAL \$ <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	SHIP TO: NAME _____ STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
--	--

No additional shipping charge for multiple copies sent to one USA address VIA Book Post. Phone or FAX 310-452-7657 for UPS rates to your zone.

West African Pigout

Admit it. You're tired of the political advertising, the Major League baseball season was canceled, and you can't get a hot cup of coffee at McDonalds. Compare that to the West African pigout where there is no negative campaigning, eating season is just beginning, and the Potato Greens are hot. The Pigout is also a great warmup for the holidays. Practice that holiday spirit and work on a pre holiday stomach stretch.

This year we are expanding and taking the Pigout to Leach Botanical Gardens in SE Portland. Leach Gardens is more spacious and includes a dining area, kitchen, serving area, three bathrooms, and handicap access and parking. They also allow beer. It's our kind of spot.

Doors will open at 5:00 for socializing, the food will be served at 6:15 and we'll see what happens after that.

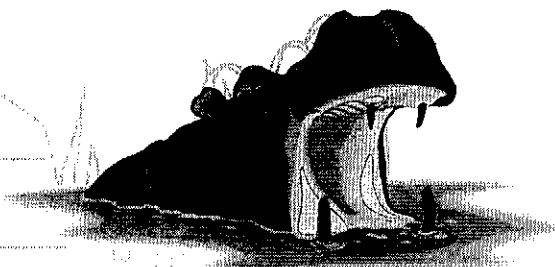
The menu is Peanut Soup, (soups are actually sauces that go over rice), Pumpkin Soup, Potato Greens, Palm Butter, and plenty of rice. As before it's all you can eat. A couple of varieties of homebrewed beer including the new Freetown Pale Ale, will be available. It's all goes for the non inflationary price of \$9.00. Profits from the Pigout will be going to the Friends of Liberia.

Please call Mike and Mary Lynn Waite at 206-574-7455 to let us know how many are coming.

So come on out, bring a friend and meet a great group of people. You may even find out why Liberian volunteers often comment "Everything I needed to know I learned in Monrovia." *Mike Waite*

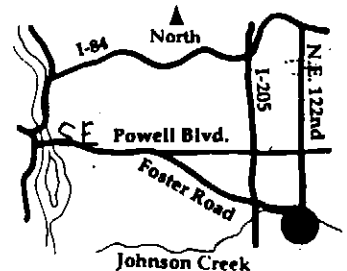
Date: Saturday November 12
Time: Social hour 5:00
Dinner 6:15
Price: \$9.00
Cuisine: Traditional Liberian & Sierra Leonian food
Location: Leach Botanical Gardens, 6704 S.E. 122nd Ave. Portland.

*All You
Can Eat*



Location

Leach Botanical Garden is located 20 minutes southeast of downtown Portland. Follow Powell Blvd., or I-205 to Foster Rd. Turn south on 122nd Ave., and continue south for about one-eighth of a mile to the Garden entrance at Johnson Creek.



Parking is just across the bridge.

Modern Times Can't Take Tribe Out of Africa

reprinted from *The Oregonian*

by Jonathan Power of The International Herald Tribune

There was a time not very long ago when African leaders insisted that it was politically incorrect to dare to discuss tribalism. Tribalism was the old face of Africa that the modernizers, inheriting their domains from the departing colonialists, refused to accept.

Thirty years later, the independence movement has come of age and African leaders have been forced to come to terms with reality. Rwanda is only the final turn of a screw that started with Katanga and Biafra.

Up to 100 years of colonialism and the creation later of four dozen new sovereign states, each insisting on the colonial boundaries as sacrosanct, could not blot out 800 natural tribal groupings.

Rwanda is African tribalism in its extreme form, but everywhere on the continent it lives and breathes in everyday life. If it is the glue that holds ordinary society together, it is also the gunpowder that can tear it apart when politics, economics, or the increasing pressures of a degraded, overcrowded environment combine to ignite the charge.

In ordinary village and much urban life, tribalism operates like Freemasonry or the old-school tie — helping each other along with jobs and introductions, sharing the burdens of harvest, resolving disputes whether marital or

material in the traditional fashion and, not least, fashioning art and music of a distinctive form.

It is only when conflict erupts that these virtues mutate into a virulent, spare-no-quarter contagion and the wrong tribal scar becomes a death warrant.

For all that, "tribe" should never have taken on its pejorative connotations. Its virtues outweigh its disabilities. The only thing seriously wrong was the colonial attempt, aided by the early generation of African nationalists, to ignore it, or at least downplay it in the creation of the nation-state.

Thus in Uganda, the British fashioned a country out of the curdling mixture of Nilotic and Bantu peoples, despite the fact that they'd been hostile for centuries. Once the British left, it was not long before the country started to fall apart. Idi Amin's terrible regime was the product of tribal enmity, not the cause.

This is not to argue that Africa should be preferably broken up into 200 parts, each boundary neatly drawn around the individual tribe, however inconsequential. This might work in Nigeria, where the tribal groupings are large enough to rival many European nations, but elsewhere it would often be ludicrous.

Neither would war miraculously disappear from Africa if tribal rule were reintroduced. In Somalia, the scene of one of Africa's worst modern disasters, there are no ethnic divisions. Nor religious divisions, come to that. But armed with the feast of weapons left over from the country's Cold War patrons, clan leader has fought clan leader in an unmitigated personal quest for power.

*For all that,
'tribe' should
never have taken
on its pejorative
connotations. The
only thing seriously
wrong was
the colonial attempt
to ignore it,
or a least
downplay it in
the creation of
the nation-state.*

Still, some redrawing of the map of Africa is inevitable. Is it possible for the Hutus and Tutsis ever to live cheek by jowl again, even though they speak the same language? This is their fourth pogrom since independence, each one more murderous than the last.

Hutus also people parts of Zaire, and tribes closely re-

lated to the Tutsis inhabit Uganda. Maybe Rwanda as such, a totally artificial creation of the Belgians, should be negotiated away.

Ethiopia shows that it is possible to have an amicable divorce of peoples. After the overthrow of dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam, the Eritreans of the north went their own way, with the most civilized of transitions. There was a referendum, there was a pause for reflection, and then both sides agreed on a timetable for separation.

On the other hand, Julius Nyerere's relatively benign one-man rule in Tanzania shows that it is possible to bind various tribes together into one nation if the leadership is both impartial and inspired, as his was. Tanzania, to my knowledge, has never even experienced a Saturday night tribal punchup, much less a pogrom.

To tribe or not to tribe. It is a most difficult question. After Rwanda, Africa has to start answering it.

RPCV Group News

Geographic

Southern Arizona RPCVs are volunteering to serve as language interpreters at the University of Arizona's Medical Center language Bank.

North Carolina Peace Corps Association challenged 1994 national conference participants to match their \$1000 gift to CARE's Rwanda refugee program. The result: CARE emergency assistance director Tom Alcedo (Kenya 75-78) accepted a check for \$7,298.44.

San Antonio, Texas RPCVs will appear as guests on "The World Around Us," an educational television production for kindergarten and first grade students. RPCVs will show photographs and artifacts, tell folk stories and describe the performing arts of their country of service.

Idaho RPCVs made Boise greener by participating in "Re-Leaf Boise," a day of planting trees throughout the city. Speaking of trees, the IRPCV group also plans to have an international Christmas tree at the annual Festival of Trees in Boise.

RPCVs of Washington DC will help the National Postal Museum and local school children draw and paint a giant map of the world during Geography Awareness Week November 13 - 19. In addition, they continue to participate in their Peace Corps Partnership Project that supports the Community Library and Cultural Arts Center in Nahuala, Guatemala.

West Cascade (OR) Peace Corps Association invited Congressman Peter DeFazio to be the special guest at their annual meeting in October. He was asked to speak to the group about his vision for American foreign policy, its goals and funding.

Returned Action Volunteers in the Northwest (RAVN) members walked with some 15,000 other Seattle area residents to raise money for the Northwest AIDS Foundation. The 27 participating RAVN members and friends raised \$2,7093 for the Foundation's ongoing delivery of AIDS education and care services.

Peace Corps/Vista Alumni of Colorado worked with Habitat for Humanity, building foundations for five homes. An ensuing work day had them applying primer coat and paint to the entire interior of a five-room house. PCVAC also continues to participate in the Adopt-a-Highway clean-up program.

Philadelphia Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers will participate in the third annual PARPCVs pasta sorting activity at the Philadelphia Food Bank next month. The food bank collects bulk food products and distributes them to a variety of local organizations. Pasta is donated in 2000 pound crates which must be broken down into two to five pound packages for distribution.

Country of Service

Friends of Botswana are planning a trip to Botswana for the 30th anniversary of the nation's independence. Many celebrations are being planned around the nation's annual trade fair.

Friends of Burundi and **Friends of Rwanda** have voted to merge their memberships and operations, representing the interests of the neighboring African countries having similar histories.

Friends of Lesotho president Don Spicer has expanded his list of subscribers by mailing the groups' quarterly newsletter, *Metsoalle ea Lesotho*, to Lesotho Prime Minister Mokhehle in Maseru.

Some **Friends of Zaire** members are taking a leave from careers to respond to short-term emergency requests for those with technical and language skills to work for the United Nations USAID and other organizations in Goma, in Zaire refugee camps and in Rwanda's repatriation centers.

Attention Nigeria RPCVs: Peace Corps has returned to Nigeria after a 20 years absence. The program has reestablished health and agricultural PCVs. George Spellman, the country director, is looking for a support base in the U.S. and wants to develop a "Friends of Nigeria" connection. If you served in Nigeria and wish to share your thoughts and suggestions, write to: George F. Spellman, Peace Corps Nigeria, PO Box 8614, 39 Jabbi Road, Kaduna, Nigeria.

• CALENDAR OF EVENTS •

Nov. 12	West African Pigout
Dec. 11	Moroccan Holiday Feast, 4:30 p.m.
December (TBA)	OPB Pledge Drive Assistance

Nike has a television commercial for hiking shoes that was shot in Kenya using Samburu tribesmen. The camera closes in on one tribesman who speaks in native Maa. As he speaks, the Nike slogan "Just Do It" appears on the screen. Lee Cronk, an anthropologist at the University of Cincinnati, says the Kenyan is really saying, "I don't want these. Give me big shoes." Says Nike's Elizabeth Dolan, "We thought nobody in America would know what he said."

—reprinted from *Western Montana RPCV newsletter*

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

Alma Cunningham 223-9298

Speaker's Bureau

Dick Swee 252-2295

Newsletter

Robin Teater 286-0177

Development Education

Gabriella Maertens 254-5161

Published by the
Columbia River
Peace Corps Association
P.O. Box 802
Portland, OR 97207

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

Frog and His Two Wives

— an African Folk tale

I will tell of Frog Kumboto, who married two wives. This wife, he built for her on the East; the other, he built for her on the West. He, his favorite place was in the middle.

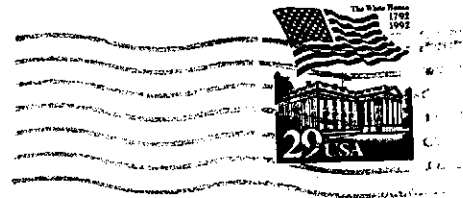
The wives cooked mush, both of them; it was done at the same time. The head wife took a messenger, saying, "Go and fetch your father!" The inferior wife also took up a messenger, saying, "Go and fetch your father!"

The messengers started; they arrived at the same time. One said, "They sent for thee." The other said, "They sent for thee." Frog said, "How shall I do? Both wives sent for me. If I begin by going to the superior, the inferior will say, 'thou wentest first to the head wife'; but if I begin by going to the inferior, the superior will say, 'thou wentest first to thy sweetheart.'" Frog began to sing, saying:

"I am in trouble! I am in trouble!
I am in trouble! I am in trouble!"

Frog had married two wives; they cooked mush at the same time. They sent for him at the same time. Frog said, "How shall I do?" He whenever he is croaking: Kuo-kuo! Kuo-kuo! people say, "The frog is croaking." But no, he is speaking, saying: "I am in trouble!"

**COLUMBIA RIVER
PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 802
PORTLAND, OR 97207**



**Aug 1, 1995
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 Columbia River Peace Corps Association and receive future issues, please see the membership form inside!*

Bringing the World Back Home