



MARCH 1995

# COLUMBIA RIVER PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION

• Volume 14 • Number 3 •

## March Potluck & Presentation

Sean Connolly and Stacy Larsen were participants in major changes made in Lithuania as it moved from a formerly communist society to a free market economy. They were some of the first Peace Corps Volunteers in Lithuania, where they both taught English. Sean and Stacy will discuss their experiences and tell us what it's like as volunteers in a formerly communist country.

If this sounds like a presentation that was to be given at the January potluck, you're right. Sean and Stacy were unable to make it so we're rescheduling. They will be bringing artwork, woven material and their best slides to the presentation.

- Business meeting: 5 p.m. *They're not boring. Really.*
- Potluck: 6 p.m. *Good food and cheap.*
- Presentation: 7 p.m. *Lithuania in transition.*

All this at our favorite host Charlene Holzworth's home, 2524 NE 34th Ave, Portland.

**Directions:** From I-84 eastbound, take the 33rd Ave. exit and go north on 33rd Ave. From I-84 westbound, exit at 43rd Ave., get on Broadway and go to 33rd Ave and turn right. On 33rd Ave., go past Grant Park to Knott Street. Turn right again immediately onto 34th Ave. This is a dead end street. Charlene's house is orange.

## From the President

**PSU Recruitment** — February 21 was a good turnout of Peace Corps nominees and returned volunteers for the Peace Corps PSU recruitment. It was interesting to witness the feelings of excitement and apprehension of new volunteers. I offered free newsletters to nominees if they write us two letters a year telling of their Peace Corps experience. (I guess it's not free, but I didn't want to say cheap newsletters). It's a good way to keep Peace Corps volunteers connected and let them know that we're interested in what they are doing. The offer applies for other active Volunteers you may know of.

**If you don't live in Portland** — It's very apparent that CRPCA's activities are focused around the Portland area. However, we have numerous members that live in areas throughout Oregon and Southern Washington. I'm working with Judy Merrill to generate some RPCV activity in the Goldendale, Washington area. There is also some interest in the Salem area for more localized activities. CRPCA will support as much as possible activities outside of the Portland area. Notify me if you would like to be a contact person for activities in your area.

**New Coordinators** — Teri Kaliher will be taking over the Starlight Parade Coordination. Teri marched last year and has volunteered to help us continue the tradition. If you haven't marched in the Starlight Parade before, then make this the year.....Barbara Pugh is taking over our long vacant job of Program Coordinator. If you have some ideas for future programs, call Barb.....Mike and Jackie Spurlock will be the new Calendar Sales Coordinators. If the names sound familiar, check out this month's calendar photo. They will be taking over after last year's highly successful Calendar Drive that netted over \$2050 in profits. I'd like to extend my thanks to Jerry Porter who has put into place a very effective process for marketing and selling the calendars.

*Mike Waite*

## Austin Conference Workshop Proposals

Workshop planning on a "Bringing the World Back Home" theme has begun for the 1995 National Conference in Austin. Workshops will be held on Saturday and Sunday, August 5 and 6. If you want to organize or participate in a workshop, call Dick Pyle, 512-327-9317 or mail topic proposals to Workshop Proposals, Hill Country RPCVs, P.O. Box 3175, Austin, TX 78784 by April 1.

Topics being discussed include cross-cultural education; financing and implementing new technology in developing countries; herbalism and other effective medicinal remedies from developing countries; religious issues in conflict negotiation; culture shock and other issues that affect families introduced to developing countries; domestic and international volunteering opportunities; micro-enterprise lending; the import business and other changes affecting the world of NAFTA.

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## Low Airfares to Austin!

If you've been thinking of attending the National Conference of the National Peace Corps Association this August, RPCV and travel agent Barbara Pugh has good news for you. Both United and America West airlines have low rates of \$315 - \$322, while space is available. The other airlines are charging \$400 - \$500. Barbara advises to book early, as the airlines offer only a limited number of seats at these low prices. Call Barbara at 297-0636 (or out of the Portland area call 800-291-2843) for more information.

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## Ruppe to Attend NPCA Conference

Loret Ruppe, Director of the Peace Corps from 1981-89, is recovering remarkably well from her surgery for cancer. She plans to attend the 1995 NPCA conference in Austin, TX. Loret wants to thank everyone for their prayers and support.

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## International Women's Day

This year the Portland celebration of International Women's Day will be on Sunday, March 12, 1995 at Montgomery Park. International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated around the world to honor the accomplishments of women.

For more information, please contact Jessica Duke (RPCV Benin/Malawi) at 227-1047 (home).

## New Peace Corps Novel is Free to All RPCVs

Copies of an 849-page philosophical/political romance about a Peace Corps director who makes a tour of Peace Corps countries with two young Returned Volunteers are being offered as a gift from the author, a former sociology professor who worked at Peace Corps headquarters while completing research for this book.

The central theme of the work is the problem of hanging onto values which give life self-transcendent purpose even in a secular culture. The Peace Corps director is suffering from a mid-life crisis, and this burnout becomes a metaphor for his country's fading altruism regarding its role in the world.

To get your copy, please send your name and address to:

Dr. Betty Halliwell  
2950 Van Ness Street, N.W. #820  
Washington, D.C. 20008-1118  
Phone: 202-362-5253  
Fax: 202-364-3966

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## World Neighbors & The Quiet Revolution

An upcoming PBS documentary series *The Quiet Revolution* looks at six humanitarian aid programs where people are successfully breaking out of poverty. Programs in Bangladesh, Honduras, India, Zimbabwe and Nepal are highlighted.

As the U.S. government rethinks its approach to addressing poverty in this country and abroad, the series offers examples of aid that works. World Neighbors, an organization which is featured in two of the six episodes, is encouraging RPCVs to watch this series. Call your local PBS affiliate to learn when the series will air (most will be in March/April). If you find that your local station is not planning to air the series, please encourage the programming director to do so.

The six half-hour episodes of *The Quiet Revolution* take intimate looks into the daily struggles and triumphs of people reached by these programs. No external narration is used; the people tell their own stories. The series takes an emotional and personal view of how effective aid programs can transform lives. Instead of presenting the poor as anonymous victims, it shows them as they really are: intelligent and capable people wanting to solve their own problems.

Many World Neighbors volunteers throughout the U.S. will be hosting watch parties around the country. If RPCVs would like to join or host one of these groups, feel free to contact the World Neighbors office at (800) A HAND UP for information.

• **CALENDAR OF EVENTS** •

March 12	International Women's Day
March 19	Business Meeting & Potluck Presentation Charlene Holzworth's house
April (TBA)	Restaurant Meeting
May	Founder's Day Event
Aug. 3-6	National Conference, Austin, Texas
August (TBA)	NW Regional Campout
Nov. 4	West Cascade Peace Corps Festival, Eugene
Nov. 11	West African Pigout
March 1-3, 1996	Peace Corps 35th anniversary celebration

**OFFICERS**

<b>President</b>	
Mike Waite	360-574-7455 fax 360-576-5857
<b>Steering Committee</b>	
Brenda Michel	236-5838
Gabriella Maertens	254-5161
JoAnn von Rohr	282-1721
Dick Swee	252-2295
<b>Secretary-Treasurer</b>	
Marilyn Watts	777-4650
<b>Program Coordinator</b>	
Barbara Pugh	297-0636
<b>Program Host</b>	
Charlene Holzworth	284-3444
<b>Membership</b>	
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<b>Restaurant Coordinator</b>	
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Submissions for the April 1995  
newsletter should be received by  
March 25. Please mail to:  
Robin Teater  
7126 N. Delaware Ave.  
Portland, OR 97217 (ph. 286-0177)

**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 (\$20 individual/\$27.50 family)

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

## Turkmenistan Journal

*Peace Corps recently initiated programs in Turkmenistan, a former Soviet Republic. The following is excerpted from a letter sent to CRPCA President, Mike Waite:*

In Turkmenistan, to get any kind of work done, you have to consult a "master". So, the lady who cleans our offices, seems to only know how to push a mop. When we discovered a huge amount of sand under the carpeting in our office, we asked her why she wasn't vacuuming. She said that she is not a "master" cleaner, and therefore, shouldn't be expected to know how to do higher level cleaning.

There are huge ups and downs in terms of food availability. Winter time is especially hard for finding food, and some Volunteers are already complaining about bread shortages in their cities. Everyone hustles for food, and everyone carries a bag with them every day, everywhere they go, in case they see something for sale that they need. It won't be there tomorrow, so you better buy when you see it.

When the Peace Corps program was getting started two years ago, it was extremely difficult to find even the most basic of supplies, like mops and plastic buckets. When the Peace Corps country director, in frustration, announced that

he was going to make his own mop — basically a stick and a stick nailed together at the base, with a filthy dirty rag wrapped loosely around it — the local staff gasped in horror. They insisted that he must go to the Mop Master for such items.

When the Peace Corps needed fifteen plastic buckets in preparation for the arrival of the first group of Volunteers, they had to get President Turkmenbashi to sign a decree allowing him to buy the buckets. No one else had the authority to sell fifteen buckets.

The office had to change the 2" x 3" rubber stamp we use to circulate correspondence to each other so that it included my name. Well, that had to go to the Ministry of Stamps for their approval and to register the new stamp. Furthermore, to get the stamp made, we had to go to one stamp master to get the rubber part made, and to another to install the little handle onto the rubber part.

When I recently asked the Minister of Health for assistance in inviting health officials in the outlying cities to a workshop we were conducting, he helped me all right — the invitation read "You are hereby warned that you will attend a workshop sponsored by Corpus Mira (Peace Corps)..."

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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***