

THE INSIDE JUICE

Newsletter of the Columbia River Peace Corps Association

October, 1995

Volume 14 - Number 9

WAITE NO LONGER! THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS TO THE LEGIONS!

NATIONAL CONFERENCES - Many RPCV's think that yearly National Conferences are too frequent. The NPCA has responded by making National Conferences bi-yearly with regional conferences on the off years. Seattle will host the 1996 Regional Conference and the theme will be to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Peace Corps. The Peace Corps office there will be in charge.

(See later in this issue for fellow member Wayne Marshall's account of his experience at this year's National Conference, along with Mike's. - ed.)

ABOUT 1999 - I discussed hosting the 1999 National Conference in Portland with a number of people at this year's conference in Austin, Texas. The best aspects of having a conference here include: a large number of RPCV's could attend, this is a strong region to tap for assistance, and we offer a desirable location. The biggest fear that could cause nightmares is the possibility that we might not get enough local participation. I used to say, "How can we do a National Conference when we have trouble getting a Restaurant Coordinator?" I feel differently now. We've done a mini conference, and we get a lot of people coming out for our projects and events. I think with good planning and specific tasks for dedicated individuals to do, we could pull it off.

We have to compete to host a National Conference, however. Since the 1997 conference will be in San Diego we'll need a strong proposal (or no competition) to have the next conference on the West Coast.

WELCOME MERCEDES! - Mercedes Amelia Michel was born on Sunday, September 24 to former CRPCA President and RPCV extraordinaire, Brenda Michel. Mercedes and mother are doing well. Give a call and congratulate Brenda at 735-1135.

Mike Waite

1996 INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR SALES UPDATE

Our 15 volunteer callers have been doing a fantastic job! They are working their way through calling the entire membership, and those who have reported in have sold over 100 calendars. We have calendars in at least six stores, including Powell's, Earth Mercantile, La Paloma, Trade Roots, Silk Roads, and Nostalgic Nomad. Many of you are volunteering to sell calendars to your friends and coworkers. Thank you to everybody involved in this worthy effort! 80% of our profits will go to benefit Portland Community College's Volunteer Literacy Tutoring Program.

We still need a few more callers. If you can make a few phone calls, or can help in any other way, please call one of the Committee members: Jackie or Mike Spurlock, 224-4265; Jerry Porter, 281-9576; or Karen McAlister, 591-7950.

Jackie Spurlock

RESTAURANT MEETING FOR OCTOBER

The restaurant this month will provide us with a flamenco group. Those of you who have never seen flamenco in a small setting have a real treat in store! We are indeed fortunate to have this group which includes five dancers and three musicians; unfortunately, it is a little more spendy than we're used to, but we had dinner at this lovely spot last year and I believe everyone had a great time. Dinner will be a Persian buffet.

Alma Cunningham

- DATE: Saturday, October 21st
- PLACE: The Green Onion
- ADDRESS: 15 SW Second Avenue
- TIME: 7:00 p.m.
- COST: \$20.00 each - includes the gratuity

Please let Alma Cunningham know by Oct. 16 if you can come. Call 223-9298 and leave your name, how many in your party, your phone #, and if you have any particular dietary restrictions.



COME AND HEAR THE CASTANETS!

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

OCT. 10-14

GLOBESCOPE '95: MAKING AMERICA SUSTAINABLE – Washington, D.C.

Save these dates to attend this landmark event highlighting U.S. progress towards sustainable development, linking economic progress, environmental quality, and social equity. Learn how you and your organization, agency, institution, or business can profit from practical, innovative approaches already under way. Share your experiences in interactive sessions and benefit from superior networking opportunities. Contribute to a Sustainable America by helping set benchmarks for the 21st Century. For information, write the Global Tomorrow Coalition at 1325 G St., N.W., Suite 1010, Washington, D.C. 20005-3104

OCT. 15-21

YWCA "WEEK WITHOUT VIOLENCE"

A world without violence begins with imagining a place. A place where loved ones, friends, and co-workers are free to live their lives without violence. A place where differences are cause for celebration, not focal points of hate. A place where your race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age and religion would invoke appreciation, curiosity and respect – not fear and spite.

Sunday, 15th:	A Day of Remembrance
Monday, 16th:	Protecting Our Children
Tuesday, 17th:	Making Our Schools Safe
Wednesday, 18th:	Confronting Violence Against Women
Thursday, 19th:	Facing Violence Among Men
Friday, 20th:	Eliminating Racism & Hate Crime
Saturday, 21st:	Replacing Violence with Sports & Fitness

The YWCA of the U.S.A. invites you to imagine a world without violence, then live in it for a week during the YWCA Week Without Violence. Seven days of living in a new kind of world. A world where there is talking, instead of yelling. Negotiating, instead of hitting. Open minds and hands, instead of loaded guns. A country of peace, not violence.

For more information contact the YWCA nearest you. To find out how to order YWCA Week Without Violence organizer's kits, t-shirts, buttons, and additional stickers, call (212) 614-2747 or write to the YWCA Week Without Violence at 726 Broadway, New York, NY 10003. Please include your name, address, phone and/or fax number.

OCT. 21

RESTAURANT MEETING (See front page)

OCT. 26

BUSINESS MEETING – 7:00 p.m. at the home of Debbie Deetz (284-4842)

NOV. 4

WEST CASCADE PEACE CORPS FESTIVAL, EUGENE (Dance & Auction)

NOV. 11

WEST AFRICAN PIGOUT

NOV. 18

WEATHERIZATION PROJECT

Who: The CRPCA and the Community Energy Project (CEP)
What: A weatherization session!
Where: Right here in Portland! The CEP usually covers homes in North, Northeast, and Southeast Portland.
When: Saturday, November 18. We may request an afternoon session if a morning session (9 – 1-ish) is too early for us.
Why: Cold season is approaching and the Columbia River RPCVs are once again planning to turn out and help the Community Energy Project. The CEP uses simple technology to weatherize homes of low-income residents w/ disabilities
How: Leave a message with your name and phone number for Joanne Wu at 234-9359. She will also be calling those of you who had signed up to help with previous weatherizing projects. Watch this space for more details next month!

West African Pigout

Think Globally
Eat Locally

November 11, 1995
Vancouver, WA
Liberian & Other
West African Cuisine
All you can eat
Free beer
\$10.00



Next month:
Details
Directions
Legend of the Pigout

Mary Lynn and I are rounding up food, checking the beer supply, and scoping out this years site. This year profits from the Pigout will be going to Columbia River Peace Corps Association.

I've begun work on a short presentation and would like to get slides of members when you were Peace Corp Volunteers. If you can part with your slide (or preferably a copy of one of your slides) for a couple of weeks please send it to Mike Waite, 4711 NE 112th ST. Vancouver, WA. 98686. Please no more then 2 slides per person. I don't guarantee that I'll use it but I would like a good selection to choose from.

We're also looking for someone to cook a new dish to the Pigout, African Pineapple Peanut Stew. No exotic ingredients but a very large pot is needed.

I think you'll enjoy the food, drink, presentation and great company at this years Pigout. Circle November 11 on your calendar. *Mike Waite*

REPORTS FROM THE NATIONAL PEACE CORPS CONFERENCE

Austin, Texas

Mike Waite

I left on the redeye out of Portland at 12:30 AM. A small sacrifice for cheap airline tickets. I arrived in Austin to a thunder storm and hot, humid weather. I had hoped this trip would be an energizing experience as other conferences had been. My first venture out of the hotel was to scout out the town. **Within 15 minutes I had found a micro brewery and a Starbucks. I now had my bearings** and was ready for whatever the long weekend would bring. Much of the time it was fun because all we did was socialize. **President Nixon once said Peace Corps was a junket for draft dodgers. He should have been in Austin for the rubber rafting, and the Sixth Street Crawl then, because I didn't see anyone dodge anything draft.**

Most speakers were articulate and engaging. Chic Dambach was eloquent as always. When I listen to Chic it's a foregone conclusion that returned volunteers have an obligation to continue to make a difference. I was impressed with Steve Smith who took action after listening to a talk radio caller ask, "Why should we care about these people killing each other in Rwanda?" Steve began a process that got returned volunteers to Rwanda to train the relief workers. Between Steve and the NPCA's efforts literally thousands of lives were saved.

The major topic was the effects of budget cuts on Peace Corps and other aid agencies. **Later in the conference I noticed a subtle shift from budget topics to a grave concern about the violence and anger displayed in this country.** The best workshop I attended discussed what we RPCV's had to offer to bring the level of violence down.

I missed the awards ceremony. Cheap ticket sacrifice again. I made my final sacrifice at the St. Louis airport as my plane filled up and I had to wait another six hours before take off. I arrived back home around midnight, then back to work the next morning.

Invigorated? Yes, and even though the engine felt a little worn, the battery came away charged completely.

Wayne Marshall

The Austin conference was fantastic! The Texas RPCV groups did an outstanding job in organizing all the events and creating an inspirational experience. Darrell Jones, conference chair and UT economics professor, deserves special mention for his eloquence and articulate guidance of the event.

The visiting national representatives and Washington political platforming were pale in comparison to the local color, and just not in synch with the Peace Corps experience. (So what else is new?) Michael Gearan (New Director): Where did they come up with this wimp? One of the "kids" of the current administration, **Gearan evidences neither inspiration, heart, experience nor managerial talent for the job. I for one am appalled that the Director position has become nothing more than a revolving door and political stepping stone for those without committment and sensitivity to the Peace Corps mission.** Evidently Chic Dambach and the NPCA are politically pressured to waffle on their RPCV advocacy and accept Gearan's appointment, but it is a most unfortunate and disappointing necessity.

The political trumpeting for the Americorp program was also discordant with the otherwise harmonious and international tenor of the conference. Donna Shalala's address was particularly disturbing on this theme. **The message of the administration was not even subtle: Buy into this administration's Americorp, or risk the continued support of Peace Corps. In my own view, linking the two ultimately poses the greater risk to Peace Corps.**

Otherwise, all the events were handled exceptionally well, so well in fact that it was hard to believe this was something that had to do with Peace Corps! And thank goodness for the Northwest region contingent, with Mike Waite as captain and Jeany Lee as navigator, our aggressively red raft demonstrated to scores of unsuspecting and calmly floating Texans the true meaning of the term "whitewater."

Every aspect of the conference, from the raucous and politically-incorrect ballads of Kinky Friedman, to the clouds of Town Lake bats, to the infamous Sixth Street crawl, created an integrated and inspirational "bringing it home" experience, and capped off by a very lovely awards luncheon finale. I was stirred and moved, got both hot and chilled, and look forward to going to any conference the Texas RPCVs ever decide to do again!

EDITOR'S CHOICE DEPARTMENT

(The following excerpts seem appropriate to this newsletter since our calendar this month lists the YWCA's "Week Without Violence," and Mike Waite's mention of the National Conference's concern with violence also.)

Michiko Iwaki Christian is a naturalized American citizen now living in Salem, Oregon. She was 10 years old in 1945 when Yokohama was fire bombed. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, she sent this letter to her many friends and pupils, including Mariana Bornholdt, RPCV.

TO ALL MY AMERICAN FRIENDS:

Monday, 14 August 1995

I've been thinking about the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII since March when the Statesman Journal put out an article about the pros and cons of changing the name of V-J Day. Many Americans, especially the veterans, expressed strong opposition. I am one of the Japanese Americans who expressed an opinion on the topic. I was glad to be asked because I wanted to say many things about the war, American soldiers, and the life after the war in the defeated and ruined Japan.

I felt I had to tell all Americans how lucky I was at the end of the war when it ended. There were countless Japanese and Americans who would have lost their lives and their families including my brother who was a "volunteer" kamikaze pilot had we prolonged the war a month longer. If the Americans had landed in Japan, we might have fought fiercely till the end - so we believed. We would have been ashamed to be alive after being defeated and captured by the enemy. Thank goodness, that did not happen.

Yokohama was one of the first places which was bombed. We were visited by thousands of B-29s day & night. On May 29, 1945 Yokohama was sprayed with incendiary bombs, and most of the city was burned down. Our store and our house were destroyed. I was afraid the end was coming soon; but I was hanging on to a hope that some devine power might rescue us because Japan was a God's nation as I was taught to believe since the first grade.

When the Emperor announced the end of the war over the radio, the whole family bowed down to the floor and thanked him. I could not forget the moment of happiness and relief for our lives were spared.

When the first American soldiers landed, we were afraid they might harm us civilians; but it didn't happen. The soldiers looked afraid while pointing guns at us from their trucks as they drove through the city. Somehow, I could not believe those young soldiers were dangerous. Pretty soon they began throwing candies to children. That broke the ice. The soldiers were invited into our home and my father treated them with sake, and they gave us chocolates, cigarettes, and canned foods. The GIs were decent, friendly, generous, and humorous young people. They were fantastic with children, and they treated them like their own brothers and sisters.

There have been negative opinions about the war, V-J Day, and the atomic bombs. I think that what happened fifty years ago was a miracle to me and to many others who survived the war. A change of name or accusation of what happened in the war does not justify or change it. What I want to say to my American friends is "Thank you for showing us the examples of the civilized people." Bless you.

Michiko Iwaki Christian

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"The Inside Juice" is published by the Columbia River Peace Corps Association, P.O. Box 802, Portland, OR 97207. Submissions for the November 1995 newsletter should be received by October 25. Please type them if you can for maximum clarity and mail to: Richard Hayes, 6105 NE Sacramento St., Portland, OR, 97213-4074.

Please note: All submissions are subject to editing by your intrepid editor and their inclusion depends on available space. Remember, if you don't send me anything then I get to reminisce about my PC experience or make up stuff that could be really boring. You have been warned!

4711 NE 112th St
Van couwer 98686

MEMBERSHIP - ADDRESS CHANGE - RENEWAL FORM

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE: (home) (work)

COUNTRY OF SERVICE AND YEARS THERE:

PEACE CORPS ASSIGNMENT/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
 CLIP, AND MAIL TO: P.O. BOX 802
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Address correction requested



Aug 1, 1995
 Marie Hermanson
 Portland, OR

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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!