

# THE INSIDE JUICE

Newsletter of the Columbia River Peace Corps Association

April, 1996

Volume 15 - Number 4

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### OFFICERS NEEDED

May is our traditional time for changing officers, and all officer positions are open. Most critical is our need for a treasurer. This is a good opportunity to give your skills or time to the organization. Call Mike Waite or Debra Deetz if you're interested or have questions.

### FRIENDS OF LIBERIA

Whenever I discuss Returned Peace Corps Volunteers I try to mention Friends of Liberia. Friends of Liberia (FOL) represents the power of returned Peace Corps Volunteers. FOL has gone well beyond retrieving country news and keeping track of volunteers that served in Liberia. FOL has sent thousands of dollars of assistance, has a terrific network to keep it's membership involved, and is actually participating in the peace process in Liberia. Read about Friends of Liberia President Kevin George on page 3.

### PEACE CORPS ON THE INTERNET

People who lived in mud huts are now surfing the Internet. It's true. For those of you with personal computers and modems there are countless sites with information of interest to RPCVs. You can join "news groups" where RPCVs send messages that can be read and responded to. There are more and more "Web sites" (personal or organization sites with information) all the time that have Peace Corps related material. Peace Corps has several with information, the NPCA has one and a few RPCV groups have web pages. The biggest use is e-mail which provides a way to send mail throughout the world without long-distance charges. I currently keep up with Susan Gallager in Russia and Mike Tidwell in Kyrgyzstan.

Here's a few web sites to get you started:

- <http://upx.net/~perfitt/rpcvdirectory.htm>  
(Peace Corps Lounge)
- <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/jgetchell>  
(Janet Getchell's Home Page)
- <http://biorobotics.ee.washington.edu:80/isdl/jack/nwpcorps.html>  
(The NW Peace Corps Home Page)

Surf's up!

— President Mike Waite

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- APRIL 14 POTLUCK BRUNCH BUSINESS MEETING
- APRIL 20 RESTAURANT MEETING - 6:00 PM  
Campus Ministry/Ptld. State University  
A Kenyan dinner prepared by Grace Kuto.  
\$10 includes gratuity. Her East African  
cookbook, *Harambee* & a short presentation  
will also be featured. Reservations to  
Gabiella by Friday, April 19. 254-5161!
- JUNE 1 STARLIGHT PARADE
- AUG. 16-18 REGIONAL CAMPOUT - IDAHO



## SPECIAL LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I write with a full heart to thank you for the touching tribute in your March 1996 issue to Barbara ("Davy") Crockett on the occasion of her death, and for the generous contribution which the Columbia River Peace Corps Association made to the Trickle Up Program in her memory.

Davy enjoyed the many friendships she developed in your group, and it would please her deeply to know that even in death she was able to be helpful to others, even if indirectly.

Please accept my deepest gratitude, and pass it on to your members.

Warmly,  
Richard Peck

## STARLIGHT PARADE

**Wanted: Starlight Parade Participants!**  
Saturday, June 1st, 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm+  
NW Park Blocks, Portland, OR

This will be our 6th year in the Portland Rose Festival Starlight Parade and we want to be there en masse. The more the merrier.

The Starlight Parade is in the evening! No hot sun to drain you of your energy.

All you need is to don your national costume from your country of service, find your camp lantern to light up and carry with you and join fellow Returned Peace Corps Volunteers for a stroll through the streets of Portland. If your outfit doesn't fit, which was the main excuse for not participating last year, you have time to alter it or lose those pounds that you gradually gained over the years.

Don't miss this opportunity, "To Bring the World Back Home."

For more information, contact: Teri Kaliher  
Venezuela '74-76  
(503) 246-7103



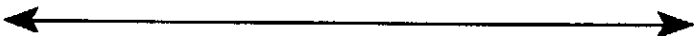
## COMING IN JUNE: AUTHOR MIKE TIDWELL

Author Mike Tidwell will be coming to Portland in June to promote the paperback version of *The Ponds of Kalambayi* and his new book, *Amazon Stranger*.

Columbia River Peace Corps Association will host Mike Tidwell, giving members an opportunity for book signing, and perhaps a social gathering afterwards. More details in future newsletters. Following is a short news release.

RPCV Mike Tidwell's Peace Corps Memoir, THE PONDS OF KALAMBAYI, will be released in paperback in May (Lyons and Burford, \$16.95). The book, which chronicles Tidwell's riveting two years as a fisheries volunteer in isolated Zaire, came out in 1990 in hardcover to considerable critical acclaim, winning several awards including the Paul Cowan Award for best nonfiction book by an RPCV author. It's now widely considered a "classic" account of the Peace Corps experience, a must read. Tidwell's newest book, AMAZON STRANGER (Lyons and Burford, \$22.95), will also be coming out in May. It's a true life tale of an American expatriate who's gone native deep in the South American rain forest, becoming paramount chief of an endangered tribe of Indians while beating back the incursions of oil companies.

—Publishers Weekly Review, February 19, 1996



## REMINDER!

Don't forget to get your reservations for this month's restaurant meeting to be held at PSU's Campus Ministry. See page one for all the details.

## RPCV OF NOTE . . .

Juan Aranda MBA '82 holds his ideal job – one that combines his business skills and his need to help others. Aranda works in Bangladesh for CARE, the world's largest relief and development agency.

The 1977 Forest Grove High School graduate, was in the Portland area this summer visiting family. He stopped by the *PSU Magazine* offices to tell his story.

Since 1993, Aranda has worked in a CARE office in the North Bengal region of Bangladesh. He oversees the financial and administrative needs of rural infrastructure projects. These are long term projects that result in new or restructured roads, bridges, or pipe culverts.

The contractors, engineers, even most of the office staff are Bengalis, a friendly, hard-working people, according to Aranda, and the big reason he continues to work in the country. Bangladesh is the most densely populated country in the world with 120 to 125 million people in an area equivalent to Wisconsin.

Aranda has a history of sharing his skills with those in need. From 1983 to 1986 he was in the Peace Corps in Paraguay, South America. He also recruited for the Peace Corps on the PSU campus. "I wouldn't be doing this kind of work if I didn't love it," says Aranda, who credits his parents, U.S. immigrants from northern Mexico, as instilling in him a work, school, and helping ethic that makes working for CARE an ideal job. *PSU Magazine, Winter '95*

## OFFICERS

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	Alma Cunningham	223-9298
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<b>Published by the:</b>	Columbia River PC Association	
	P.O. Box 802	
	Portland, OR 97207	

Submissions for the May 1996 newsletter should be typed and mailed by April 25th to: 6105 NE Sacramento St., Portland, OR, 97213-4074.

## **Donna Raynalds & The Peace Corps Fellowship Program**

Donna Raynalds, a returned Peace Corps volunteer who served in Swaziland in Southern Africa, is organizing a 35th Anniversary celebration--Peace Corps style--by uniting 100 people, including returned Peace Corps volunteers, Americorps workers and community members in Cairo, Illinois to plant 500 trees and paint the city's downtown area this Saturday morning, March 23.

Raynalds, who is a graduate student in the Peace Corps Fellows program jointly sponsored by Illinois State University and Western Illinois University, says her Peace Corps work in Africa gave her many skills which she uses now in her position as a community economic development specialist in Cairo.

The thing that helped me was having that experience in Peace Corps of moving to a new community. I learned how to get to know people and integrate as quickly as possible. The other thing I learned is that when you come to a new community you listen and learn before you do anything, and that's what I've done here, Raynalds said.

She listened, and then she got to work. Raynalds has been involved in several important downtown revitalization and economic development projects during her stay in Cairo, including: a housing rehabilitation and demolition program; the organizing of a downtown historic district coalition to promote tourism; assisting in writing a long-term strategic economic plan for the area; beginning an effort to create bike trails along the Mississippi, Ohio and Cache rivers; and negotiating with a local theater owner to donate the run-down Gem theater to the town so that it can be renovated

and become the centerpiece for downtown economic revitalization.

I've had a great experience here. I feel like this is my home, said Raynalds, who served as a teacher in Peace Corps.

Raynalds is one of seven Fellows currently working in small Illinois towns throughout the state. Other Fellows are in Toledo, Washburn, Gibson City, Murphysboro, Carthage and Morris and are working in tourism promotion, business retention and expansion, parks development, and dozens of other community initiatives.

The Peace Corps Fellows graduate program combines one year of academic work in Economics, Geography (Regional and Rural Planning), Political Science or Business Administration and a second year of full-time work in economic and community development in rural Illinois communities.

Interested RPCVs should apply for the fall class as soon as possible: Dr. Bob Hunt (309) 438-5945, Peace Corps Fellows Program, Political Science Dept. 306 Schroeder Hall, Box 4600, Illinois State University, Normal, IL 61790. Email: [rwhunt@rs6000.cmp.ilstu.edu](mailto:rwhunt@rs6000.cmp.ilstu.edu).

*Donna is a former CRPCA member who lived in Portland and Hood River. I just talked to Donna who informed me that the city council voted to keep her on for a year after the completion of the program in May. Article was taken from a news bulletin and Group Leaders Digest.*

*Mike Waite*

**Kevin George of Friends of Liberia wins  
Shriver Award**

**National Peace Corps Association  
Press Release  
Friday, March 8, 1996**

Kevin George, the president of a small group of U.S. citizens dedicated to helping war-torn Liberia, received the Sargent Shriver Award for Humanitarian Service on Saturday (March 2) at the 35th anniversary celebration of the Peace Corps in Washington D.C. George was honored by more than 1,000 returned Peace Corps volunteers gathered from 41 states for three days of celebration and for a speech by the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, in the Smith Center gymnasium at George Washington University.

"Tens of thousands of Liberians were dying from a horrendous war that had gone completely out of control," George told the audience. "We realized that Friends of Liberia was that nation's last line of defense, that Liberia was being entirely forgotten by the international community."

George and other Friends of Liberia members in 1990 turned their attention from cultural exchanges to the needs of Liberians whose lives were being affected by the nation's bloody civil war. A 39-year-old lawyer for the American Postal Workers Union, George served as a health administrator in a remote Liberian government clinic from 1978 to 1981, graduated from Antioch Law School in 1985 and has a master's degree in international law from Georgetown University's National Law Center.

As Friends of Liberia's president, George assumed the role of citizen activist in the cause of a small, troubled nation that deserved more help than his own government was willing to give. He has testified twice before Congressional hearings on Liberia, led annual fact-finding missions to Liberia and refugee camps in neighboring countries, produced a video on the history of the conflict, served as a delegate--the only non-Liberian invited--at a Liberian national conference in 1994, worked with the Carter Center on conflict mediation conferences, led a successful campaign for the appointment of a special envoy to Liberia by President Clinton and maintained contact

with divergent political and military factions during six years of civil war in Liberia.

Under George's leadership, Friends of Liberia has provided books, seed rice and farming tools to Liberian refugees and in 1991 a medical doctor in the group volunteered a year's service in Monrovia clinics and hospitals. "Now we have a team of our members in Liberia helping Liberian communities to participate in their own reconstruction and relief. . ." In recent years the Friends of Liberia has expanded to include members throughout the world who have worked in various capacities in Liberia over 40 years. The all-volunteer group, which now has 500 members, is one of more than 40 similar groups whose members served in developing countries as Peace Corps volunteers since 1961.

In presenting this year's award, NPCA awards committee chairman Maury Sterns quoted another member of Friends of Liberia, "I believe that Kevin George alone may have had more impact on peace for Liberia than any other non-Liberian."

The day after receiving the award, George and 60 other Friends of Liberia members were on the National Mall in heavy winds holding a 230 foot-long black drape that symbolized the deaths of 175,000 Liberians during the long civil war. They stood on the route of an estimated 500 returned volunteers who paraded the flags of more than 100 nations to the steps of the Capitol to conclude the 35th anniversary weekend activities with a Peace Ceremony.

Other Peace Corps 35th anniversary weekend events honored Sargent Shriver, Loret Miller Ruppe and 11 others who have served as Peace Corps director. Special guests included Ambassador Albright, Shriver, Ruppe, Peace Corps Director Mark Gearan, Corporation for National Service chief executive officer Harris Wofford, Congressman Jim Leach (R-Iowa) and Ted Sorensen, chief of staff at the White House during the Kennedy administration and the birth of the Peace Corps.

## NATIONAL PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION

News from Washington —

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Fax 202-293-7554

**Membership Director:** Mona Sturges  
E-mail: monamouse@AOL.com

**Benefits:**

- Subscription to WorldView Magazine
- Subscription to 3/1/61, the member's newsletter
- Discounts on travel through WorldTek Travel
- Low cost, long distance service
- Group Health Insurance
- Eligibility for PriceCostco membership
- Discounts on Alamo car rentals
- Eligibility to apply for the NPCA Master card
- Discounts on conferences

... and much more!

**Cost:** \$50.00/yr.

**Editor's note:** Anyone who's a member of the NPCA, and thinks it's a great deal, please write to your intrepid editor and let him know why you think so. We need to know these things firsthand. Thank you.

### MORE NPCA NEWS . . .

Ron Tschetter of Minneapolis is the elected chair of the NPCA Board. He was a PCV in India ('66-68) with his wife, Nancy, in the first Peace Corps family planning project.

When asked about his hopes for the organization, Ron said, "I think that the third goal of the Peace Corps is as important as goals one and two, and the NPCA must be a driving force in sustaining and fulfilling that goal. Bringing the world experiences back home from the perspective of a Peace Corps volunteer cannot be duplicated or replaced with any amount of tax dollars. This is one of my passions about the Peace Corps; I don't believe there is a better bargain for the U.S. tax dollar than effective Peace Corps volunteerism around the world and bringing that perspective home. With the 140,000 RPCVs roaming the halls of education, social service organizations, business, industry and many other areas, there is a world perspective lying dormant in America that needs to be revived.

The NPCA has made great strides in this effort in the last few years. It has thrived under the leadership of Chic Dambach and an active board. It is my desire to continue this effort and strengthen the Association financially as well as with regards to its role and status in American life."

Thank you, Ron, and best wishes for a great experience.

### NEW BUDGET FORCES CUTS

[The following is an excerpt from a memo sent to the Peace Corps Regional Offices by Mark Gearan, Director.]

#### Fiscal Year 1996 Funding for the Peace Corps

This year we expect our appropriations from Congress to be \$219 million: \$205 million as our base, and \$14 million as our transfer from the Newly Independent States account to pay for the cost of our eight programs in the former Soviet Union. This means we must cut \$12 million (or about 5%) from our FY 1995 appropriation of \$231 million. While this is certainly not something I had hoped for, I am sure you share my belief that the Peace Corps has overcome many more serious challenges in its history, and I am confident that we will continue to make a real difference in the lives of the people we serve.

In meeting this budget level I've still tried to be sure that as many PCVs as possible can continue to have a significant impact in as many countries as possible, and to limit reductions in the field.

It was only after making significant reduction in the domestic offices and taking other steps to mitigate the impact of funding reductions that we turned to overseas posts. After discussions with the Regional Directors and the Associate Directors for Int'l. Operations, each of the Regions has been asked to implement the following plans:

In FY 1996, we will close Comoros in the first quarter, the Marshall Islands and Sao Tome and Principe in the third quarter, and Tunisia in the fourth quarter.

I also believe we need a long-term strategic plan for future fiscal years. Therefore, in FY 1997, we will close our posts in Swaziland in the first quarter, Uruguay in the third, and Hungary and the Czech Republic in the fourth. We will also reduce our programming in Thailand and the number of Volunteers from 150 to 30. In FY 1998, we will close our posts in Botswana in the first quarter, Fiji in the second, and Costa Rica and Chile in the fourth. While the closure of any Peace Corps program is unfortunate, we should also keep in mind that by the end of FY 1996 there will still be approximately 7,000 Volunteers & Trainees working in 93 countries (including Haiti & South Africa). Even after implementing these decisions over the next 3 years, PCVs will remain at work in more than one-half of the world's countries. Few other int'l. organizations can match our global presence, and I would venture to say that no other international volunteer agency comes close.

#### A FINAL NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As Mike mentioned previously it is time for new folks to step forward and serve our organization. It is with regret that I must announce my immediate desire to step down as newsletter editor as family matters, grad school, and a full work schedule leave little time for much else.

If you're interested please contact Mike Waite, me, or any of the officers. Thanks. I had a ball. *Richard Hayes*

**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  
PORTLAND, OR 97207**

AA

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

Address correction requested



Aug 1, 1996  
Marie Hermanson  
[Redacted]  
Portland, OR [Redacted]

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