

# The Columbia River Peace Corps Association Newsletter

Volume 15 Issue 6

June 1996

## Meet Mike Tidwell

23rd Avenue Books (Portland), 7:30, June 11  
Jackson's Books (Salem), 5:30, June 12

I have probably spent a hundred hours telling everyone I know connected to the Peace Corps that I think Mike Tidwell's Ponds Of Kalambayi is one of the best books about the Peace Corps volunteer experience.

Mike's writing career really took off after Ponds. He moved to DC and got a job working in a halfway house for residents with drug and alcohol addictions and wrote of some very tough experiences in his last book, In The Shadow Of The White House. This book further introduced him as a person of strong convictions regarding wealth and poverty and the role he chose for himself in participating in the world.

I've been waiting for Amazon Stranger to come out since I first heard Mike read from some preliminary pages over a year ago at Borders Books back in DC. (He also read a passage from Ponds, which was exciting--maybe he'll do that at the 23rd Ave. Books reading). I just got my copy of his new book and am looking forward to cracking it open (tonight, in fact) and immersing myself in another interesting journey hosted by Mike.

While it's enjoyable reading a good book, it's even more gratifying to read one written by someone you actually know! It's hard to visualize myself being as persistent in encouraging people to read Ponds, but from what I know of Amazon Stranger, it could happen. (to all of us!)

I moved to Oregon three months ago and am thrilled that Mike has included Portland and Salem in his book tour. I think you'll really enjoy meeting him at 23rd Avenue Books and at McMenamins afterwards. It'll be exciting to hear what he's going to write about next.

**Sarah Bott**  
Former editor of *Peace Corps Times*



Here's an opportunity to come to a bookreading, get your Tidwell books signed, and chat with a very personable RPCV writer in a relaxed informal atmosphere. Find a babysitter, learn to use that VCR, and make some time on June 11th and 12th. After the booksigning we'll head up 23rd Ave to the Rams Head (McMenamins) for pizza, beer and some quality time with Mike. Just pencil it in.

**Mike Waite**



## CRPCA Survey Results

In March, CRPCA members were mailed a survey asking them about current and proposed CRPCA activities. The responses have all been tallied, and the results are quite interesting. Of the approximately 200 surveys distributed, 37 were returned. Most of the responses were from Portland with a few from outlying areas like Newport and Estacada. Many thanks to those of you who took the time to reply! A brief synopsis of the results follows:

### Newsletter:

Most people liked the newsletter, especially the events calendar. There were many useful suggestions, which we will attempt to incorporate into the expanded newsletter format in the near future. Among the suggestions were: news from current volunteers, stories about current activities of former volunteers, listings of volunteer opportunities, and additional graphics. A directory of CRPCA members was also suggested as a means of connecting people who served in similar locations and who have similar interests.

### Community and Social Activities:

The current activities, (restaurant meetings, pot-lucks, participation in the Starlight Parade, tree planting, answering phones during OPB fund-raisers, and weatherizing homes) were much appreciated. There were also many creative suggestions for projects, both on our own and in partnership with other organizations. A few respondents suggested that activities should be more open to newcomers and geared toward encouraging new people to participate in the organization. Some people felt that volunteer activities were also social events and would, in fact, spawn other impromptu social gatherings. Many good fundraising suggestions were also contributed.

### Portland:

Most people did not feel like we catered too much to the Portland area. (However, most of the respondents were from Portland or Vancouver.) Some felt that we could reach out to other areas, but it is already challenging enough to get local Portlanders involved. Suggestions included: organizing carpools and homestays for out-of-towners, providing assistance for people wanting to start a local branch in their area, and adopting a highway in an outlying district.

### Group Participation:

Many respondents indicated that they had a number of skills and areas of interest to share with the CRPCA activities. (See the *Letter from the President* in this issue to see how you can help!)

### Advocacy:

Many people were interested in increasing our advocacy of Peace Corps-related issues. However, attitudes toward the nature and extent of that advocacy was mixed. The variety of responses indicated that this area could really benefit from a committee and/or a coordinator to develop an advocacy plan/policy.

### Speakers Bureau:

Many people indicated that they would be willing to participate in a Speakers Bureau. Others requested more information about what it was. Some stated that they had signed up to do this, but requests for speaker in their area were rare.

### 1999 National Conference in Portland:

Responses to the possibility of hosting the 1999 NPCA Conference in Portland were mixed. Most people felt that Portland would be a great location, but were concerned that there were not enough RPCVs in the area who would be willing to get involved.

### Other Comments:

This survey provided a forum for us to find out more about CRPCA members. Overall, respondents thought the Association was involved in good activities. We received an ample supply of creative suggestions that we plan to work on in the upcoming months. (See *Letter from the President*) Many people indicated that they were already involved with other worthwhile organizations and professions. Obviously, if RPCVs are not actively working with the CRPCA, it is often because they are participating in their community in other ways.

## From the President

I've had a chance to read the questionnaires that have been returned and was pleased with the quantity and quality of the responses. I have a few comments on some of the issues brought up and then I'll ask for your help in developing an action plan.

**Advocacy** - Let me tell you of the situation that presented itself for this newsletter. I was asked to put in a petition to ban all land mines. Land mines have caused immense suffering especially in the developing world. I personally would sign the petition and believe that many of our members would sign also. However I feel uncomfortable enclosing a petition without guidelines. This presents a number of questions: What do we endorse and who makes the decision? Is it a Peace Corps issue? What do we stand for? Is this an opportunity to make a difference? Do we

gain or lose anything by taking a stand? Should we take a stand on issues that some members might disagree with? We need guidelines for advocacy and I ask those of you interested in issues to help us formulate procedures for tackling issues and work out a strategy to be effective advocates.

[Note: While the landmine petition was not included in this issue, an article on the subject and the name of a contact person does appear.]

**Brochure and Membership Directory** - We need a brochure to explain who we are and what we do. This would go to members and others we work with. There is an interest in a group directory. I'll admit that I've been lukewarm to the idea because of privacy. I think I've been too paranoid and the time has come to do it. We'll work on methods to respect privacy and keep our mailing list out of unwanted hands.

**Logo and Letterhead** - We need both. A logo/letterhead contest has been suggested with a gift certificate to an Ethnic restaurant for the winner. Does that whet your appetite?

**Speakers Bureau** - Our partnership with World Affairs Council is good but it's not enough. We need to notify groups that we have people interested in bringing their experience and knowledge back home. We also need to work with our own membership to insure that interested members have opportunities to speak.

**Membership** - I have over a thousand names of RPCVs in our geographical area as well as sources of more names to add to the list. We need help cleaning up the lists and checking the names against other lists.

**Now for your assistance** - On June 28 and June 29 there will be opportunities to discuss and work on the previously mentioned items. If you're interested in any of the previous topics or have other concerns like the newsletter, projects or social activities, come to one of these meetings. The first will be from 5:00 to 6:30 at the Edgefield before our get together. The other meeting will take place at Charlene Holzworth's home on June 29 from 9:00 to 11:00 am. If you can't make either of these meetings call and tell me your idea or what you would like to assist in.

#### Odds and ends

- Welcome to Pat Greendale who is our new treasurer, and thanks to Marilyn Watts who has fit the treasurers job into her busy life for the past two years.
- This year the Beaverton Literacy Project, and Paraclete will be recipients of our calendar sales. We are also funding a shipment of books to Ghana coordinated by Mariana Bornholdt.

- The tentative date for the NW Regional Celebration in Seattle is September 7. Plans include a dinner, dance, workshops, harbor tour and keynote speaker. More details in August.
- Don't forget the NW Regional campout in McCall Idaho. Call me if you want information.

*Mike Waite*



## June 28 CRPCA Meeting at the Edgefield Pub

June's CRPCA meeting will be held on Friday, June 28th at the Edgefield Pub in Troutdale. We'll meet at 6:30 just inside the pub. Just look for a sign to clue you into our group's identity. This is a great opportunity to come out and meet new people. If you haven't been to a restaurant meeting yet, please make an effort. Several new RPCVs have promised to show up. The initiation ceremony doesn't involve much humiliation...just kidding. If you are interested, please call Anne at 234-4094 so we can have a group size estimate. Otherwise, if that's too much to deal with, please just show up!

**Directions:** Take I-84 east to the Woodvillage Exit. Turn right. Go up hill to Halsey Street and turn left onto Halsey. The Edgefield is 1/2 mile down on the right side.

## Job Opening

The Portland State University Campus Recruiting Coordinator position will soon be vacant! Gary Miller (Sierra Leone 88-90; Guatemala 91-93) is graduating in June with an MA in History and the PSU Career Center will be accepting applications immediately. The applicant must be an RPCV and admitted as a full time student at PSU. The recruiting position is half time, 20 hours per week. According to Gary, it is the best student job on campus! Interested RPCVs should send a letter to the Director of the PSU Career Center, Mary Cumpston, PO Box 751, Portland, OR 97207-0751.

## How to find the perfect Volunteer Opportunity: The Volunteer Center

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity that best fits your abilities and interests as well as your geographic, time and monetary constraints? The Volunteer Center provides centralized information about volunteer programs and opportunities in community service. The Center in Portland (503-222-1355) serves Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties. There is also another office in Vancouver (360-694-6577). If you are interested in volunteering on a weekly, monthly or even a one time basis, the Center can help individuals (and groups) find the placement that best suits them.

How does it work? First, call them. They will send an interest survey for you to complete and return. Next, they will schedule an interview either over the phone or in person to discuss an appropriate placement. The Portland office reports that they have over 1,200 volunteer opportunities at all times.

**Other sources:** One-time volunteer opportunities are also printed in the Oregonian newspaper every Monday. For those of you with Internet access, listings can also be found on the Portland Volunteer Page (World Wide Web) at <http://www.teleport.com/~bizave/portland/volunteer/>

## Petition to Ban Land Mines

by Anne Feldstein (Sierra Leone 86-88)

In November 1995, a former coworker of mine, Marianne Holtz, had both of her lower legs blown off by a landmine in Zaire. She had been working for American Refugee Committee in Rwandan Refugee Camps as a Registered Nurse. She suffered from facial and spinal injuries as well. After months of hospitalization, she's now living in her apartment in Seattle. In spite of the chronic pain that she endures, she is managing remarkably well.

She gave me a petition to circulate which calls for an international ban on land mine manufacturing and use. General Schwartzkopf and other influential politicians, as well as most international relief agencies, are supporters of this campaign. If anyone is interested or willing to sign and/or circulate copies of this petition, I have copies available. As RPCVs, many of us have friends in countries that are riddled with dangerous landmines. Unfortunately, local people, farmers and their children are often victims of mines long after wars are over. Please call me at 234-4094 for more information. Thanks!

The Columbia River Peace Corps Association (CRPCA) Newsletter is published monthly by the CRPCA for the benefit of its members. The CRPCA serves returned Peace Corps volunteers in Oregon and SW Washington. Annual membership rates: \$15 for individuals and \$22.50 for families. Address all correspondence to: CRPCA, PO Box 802, Portland, OR 97207.

**Newsletter submissions** are encouraged. Please send them via e-mail or regular mail to the above address by the 25th of the preceding month. Submissions on 3.5" disk or through e-mail ([mwaite@pacifier.com](mailto:mwaite@pacifier.com)) are appreciated.



**Want to become involved? Have questions/comments about specific issues? You may contact the following people directly:**

### OFFICERS:

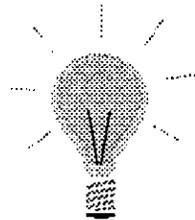
<b>President</b>	
Mike Waite	360-574-7455 email: <a href="mailto:mwaite@pacifier.com">mwaite@pacifier.com</a>
<b>Steering Committee</b>	
Gabriella Maertens	254-5161
Debra Deetz	284-4842
<b>Secretary-Treasurer</b>	
Pat Greendale	
<b>Program Coordinator</b>	
Barbara Pugh	297-0636
<b>Program Host</b>	
Charlene Holzworth	284-3444
<b>Membership</b>	
JoAnn von Rohr	282-3444
<b>Restaurant Coordinator</b>	
Anne Feldstein	234-4094
<b>Speaker's Bureau</b>	
Dick Swee	252-2295
<b>Weatherization Coordinator</b>	
Joanne Wu	234-9359
<b>Newsletter (Acting)</b>	
Karen Cellarius	238-1078

## Calendar of Events

- June 11 Book Reading/Signing: Amazon Stranger by RPCV Mike Tidwell  
23rd Avenue Books, 1015 NW 23rd Avenue, Portland, 7:30 pm
- June 12 Book Reading/Signing: Amazon Stranger by RPCV Mike Tidwell  
Jackson's Books, 320 Liberty Street SE, Salem, 5:30 pm
- June 28 CRPCA Restaurant Meeting at the Edgefield Pub in Troutdale.  
(See accompanying article) 5-6:30pm Meeting. 6:30 Dinner.
- June 29 Meeting to discuss CRPCA Survey results and develop action plan.  
Charlene Holzworth's home, 2524 NE 34th, Portland, 9-11 am.
- Aug 16-18 NW Regional Campout, McCall, Idaho. Call Mike Waite at  
360-574-7455 to reserve a spot and for more details.
- Sept 7 NW Regional Celebration in Seattle (date tentative)
- Nov 2 Eugene RPCV Celebration
- Nov 9 West African Pig-Out

**NOTE:** There will be no newsletter/calendar in July. Look for your next CRPCA newsletter during the first week of August.

### WANTED: New Activity/ Event Ideas



Do you know of a one-time project that could use a hearty group of RPCVs? Would you like to organize a group outing or activity? If you're willing to coordinate it (ride shares, meeting times and locations) and be listed as the contact person, we'll put it in the events calendar. (See newsletter masthead for details on submitting articles/calendar listings.)



### Peace Corps Statistics for Oregon

Gary Miller, out-going Peace Corps Recruiter for the Portland area, reports the following statistics for Oregon. (However, he warns that they are from Fiscal Year 1995 or earlier and are therefore a bit dated.):

- As of 3/20/95, 170 PCV's listed Oregon as their home state.
- Since 1961, 3,243 PCV's from Oregon have served.
- In FY94, Portland State University ranked tied for 49th of ALL colleges and universities in the U.S. for Peace Corps trainee production.
- As of 6/95, 64 alumni of PSU were currently serving in 39 countries.

**MEMBERSHIP \* ADDRESS CHANGE \* RENEWAL FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Peace Corps Country and Years of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Peace Corps Job/Sector: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type (Check one): \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ New address only, effective: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Association(s) you wish to join (Check one):

\_\_\_ CRPCA and NPCA (\$35 individual/\$50 family)

\_\_\_ CRPCA only (\$15 individual/\$22.50 family)

\_\_\_ NPCA only (\$20 individual/\$27.50 family)

Please make checks payable to: Columbia River Peace Corps Association, and mail to:  
CRPCA, PO Box 802, Portland, OR 97207

Columbia River Peace Corps Association  
PO Box 802  
Portland, OR 97207



8/1/96  
Marie Hermanson  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Portland OR \_\_\_\_\_

It's time to renew your membership. Please renew using the form provided.

You have received a complimentary copy of our newsletter. To become a member of the CRPCA and receive future issues, you may join using the membership form in this newsletter.