



# The Columbia River Peace Corps Association Newsletter

Volume 15 Issue 10

"Bringing the world back home"

November 1996



## From the President

### New PSU Recruiter

Listed under our officers is Nancy Behrmann the new Portland State University Peace Corps Recruiter. Nancy is an enthusiastic, personable individual that I expect to see at many of our functions. If you would be willing to speak to PSU students interested in the Peace Corps, call her up and let her know when and where you served. I'd also like to mention the good rapport we've had with the last two Portland State Recruiters, Gary Miller, and Scott Urbatsch.

### West African Pigout #6

The West African Pigout has turned out to be our most popular, well attended event. I'm sure there are many reasons why people come but I think that being among others who have had the Peace Corps experience is a prime motivation. I'm often amazed at how this one similarity between people can open up communication as if we were in a family together. And perhaps that is what's going on. Whether we served in Nepal or Paraguay we talk to each other as a family.

We've had a good response for people willing to help cook at the Pigout. **Call Debbie Deetz at 284-4842 if you can help us sell t-shirts, sweatshirts, calendars, help cleanup or provide a rice cooker.** I really think this will be the best Pigout yet. You'll leave with a full stomach, a smile on your face, and a tear in your eye. Come to the West African Pigout. I'll see you there.

Mike Waite

## CRPCA to Sponsor Kurdish Refugees

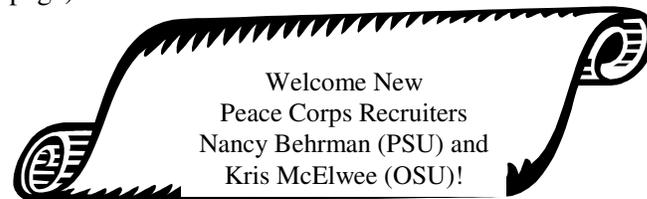
In the next few weeks, a number of Kurdish refugees will be arriving in the Portland area from northern Iraq. They are former employees (and thier families) of American relief agencies who were stranded when the Americans pulled out. Fearing retribution by Saddam Hussein now that the Americans have left, these people are being evacuated to the United States.

The Columbia River Peace Corps Association has agreed to sponsor one of these families and assist them to settle into their new lives in the United States. Because they have not yet arrived, it is not known exactly what their needs will be. However, typical needs are: a place to stay in the first few days, assistance locating more permanent housing, food for the first month, clothing, household items, assistance getting around and learning about the Portland area, assistance with paper work (immigration, opening a bank account, etc.), and assistance with any possible language difficulties.

Each family will receive an initial resettlement grant and a small monthly stipend thereafter. It usually takes from one to six months for families to get settled in their new homes.

**If you are interested in helping with this project, please call Karen Cellarius at 238-1078.**

We need people to help coordinate and to help with specific aspects of the project (continued on next page)



and also with any donations of clothes, household items, and yes even money. Do you have a truck for moving furniture? Let us know. Do you have extra space to house people for a month? Please let us know! This is your chance to return some of the good will you received from people when you were visiting their countries. Lets show them that Americans can be good hosts, too!

The resettlement effort is being coordinated through Lutheran Family Services. They are also planning to hire someone part or full time to manage the Kurdish resettlement project. (Kurdish speakers highly preferred). If you or someone you know might be interested in this position, please call Margo Sobieraj at (503) 233-0042.



On Friday, October 18th, approximately 30 RPCVs gathered at the Abyssinia Restaurant in NE Portland. The evening ended with traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony (see below). Sorry you missed it? Come to the Pigout on November 9th!

A traditional Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony served to CRPCA members at Abyssinia Restaurant

Patricia Garamendi presents PSU President Dr. Judith Ramaley with a plaque honoring PSU's many Peace Corps volunteers

## Portland State University and Grads Honored by Peace Corps

by Nancy Behrman

On Tuesday, October 22, a small ceremony took place at PSU in recognition of the strong recruiting history on campus. RPCVs with current or past affiliations with PSU were invited to attend. Over the years, 433 PSU graduates have gone on to serve in the Peace Corps. Dorothy Culjat, Regional Manager at the Seattle office, presented plaques of recognition to Gary Miller for his two years as PSU Campus Representative and to Mary Cumpston for her continued support as the Director of the Career Center at PSU.

We were then treated to a slide show of volunteers from the area while they were serving abroad. Following the show, Patricia Garamendi, Peace Corps Associate Director for Volunteer Recruitment and Selection (you can bet they call it ADVRS!!!) in Washington DC spoke briefly about what is going on in the Peace Corps today. She was a very powerful speaker and gave the impression the Peace Corps is still alive and well, possibly now more than ever! She then presented Dr. Judith Ramaley, President of PSU, with a plaque in appreciation of her commitment to the Peace Corps.

**Oregon Americorps Members sworn in October 25th**

On October 25th, Oregon's new crew of Americorps members were sworn in for a year of service. The ceremony took place in Salem. 1996-97 Americorps programs in Oregon include:

- The Community Partnership to Stop Violence Against Women (Statewide)
- Americorps Service to Community (Central Oregon)
- Reduce Adolescent Pregnancy Project (Statewide)
- Friends of the Children (Portland)
- Americorps Members for Neighborhood Safety (Multnomah County)
- Salmon Corps (Columbia River Basin - ID, OR, WA)
- I Have a Dream Foundation (Portland)
- Rural Development Teams (Curry, Douglas, Coos Counties, the Rogue River Basin in SW Oregon and Butte Falls)
- Envirocorps (Portland)
- Options Program (Forest Grove High School)
- Parents as Partners (Springfield)
- YMCA Earth Service Corps (Tillamook County)
- Youthbuild Lane County (Lane County)
- Ecumenical Program for Urban Studies (Portland)
- LINKS Program (Portland)
- Family Empowerment Project (Various Counties throughout Oregon)

To receive more information on these programs or on becoming an Americorps member, call (503) 725-5903 or 1 (800) 826-4865. For information on programs in other states, call 1 (800) 94A-CORPS. For an beautiful example of Americorps' work, visit the mural at the corner of 30th and Belmont in SE Portland! Americorps members painted it this September.

In February, we hope to have a speaker at our monthly meeting to tell us more about Americorps.

**CRPCA Members to Answer Phones at OPB Pledge Drive, Saturday, Nov 30th**

Ever wonder how those people managed to get on TV answering phones in the background during fund raisers? Well, here's your chance to be one of those lucky few. Oregon Public Broadcasting will be conducting a pledge drive in late November. CRPCA members are needed to answer phones from 5:15 to 8:15 pm Saturday, November 30th in Portland. Participants in past years have formed a colorful panel, dressed in native costumes from their country of service.

**If you would like to help out this year, call JoAnn von Rohr at 282-1721 for more information.** If you can't be there in person, you can at least tune in to watch the show!

**Calendar Sales Update**

We're still selling!!! In addition to being available at all CRPCA events, you may also purchase them by mail using the form below. Buy a bunch! They make great holiday gifts. Hang one in your office. Co-workers are bound to ask where they can get one, too.

**Call Thrina Parent at 236-1948, Karen McAlister at 591-7077, or Jackie Spurlock at 224-4265 for more information.**

**1997 INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR  
ORDER FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# of calendars ordering, times \$8.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postage@ \$1.50 per calendar\* = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total = \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: **Columbia River Peace Corps Association**, and send to: Jerry Porter, 3404 NE 24th Avenue, Portland, OR 97212; Phone: 281-9576

\*No charge for pick-up, just call beforehand to make arrangements. Calendars ordered with the coupon will be delivered by the middle of November.





## →Calendar of Events←

Nov 2

**Third Annual Eugene Peace Corps Festival,** 6-9 pm. Features music, a curry dinner and an auction. West Cascade's annual fundraising event.

Nov 9

**West African Pig-Out,** World Forestry Center across from the Portland Zoo. All proceeds benefit Friends of Liberia. (See accompanying article)

Nov 20

**World Wise Schools Day.** Part of National Geography Awareness Week. RPCVs are encouraged to speak at area schools. (See article)

Nov 21

**CRPCA Business Meeting** at Debbie Deetz' house. 7-9 pm. Everyone is welcome! Call 284-4842 or email debberd@aol.com for directions. (No dinner or restaurant meeting this month due to the Pigout)

Nov 30

**OPB Pledge Drive.** 5:30 - 8:30 pm. (See article)

## Map to World Forestry Center

Site of the West African Pigout, Nov 9 at 5 pm



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) are appreciated.



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

### OFFICERS:

#### President

Mike Waite 360-574-7455  
email: mwaite@pacifier.com

#### Steering Committee

Gabriella Maertens 254-5161  
Debra Deetz 284-4842  
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#### Program Coordinator

Barbara Pugh 297-0636

#### Program Host

Charlene Holzworth 284-3444

#### Membership

JoAnn von Rohr 282-1721

#### Restaurant Coordinator

Anne Feldstein 234-4094

#### Calendar Sales Committee Chair

Karen McAlister 591-7077

#### Speaker's Bureau

Dick Swee 252-2295

#### Weatherization Coordinator

Joanne Wu 234-9359

#### Portland Area Peace Corps Recruiter

Nancy Behrman 725-3015

#### Newsletter

Karen Cellarius 238-1078



**Speakers Still Needed  
for Peace Corps World  
Wise Schools Day,  
November 20, 1996**

On November 20th, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers will be speaking in classrooms all over the United States as part of Geography Awareness Week (See accompanying flyer). You, too, can participate. Just contact local schools in your area with a postcard or phone call and let them know you are available. If you need help organizing your presentation, World Wise Schools Presentation Guides are available through the Washington DC Office (1-800-424-8580 ext. 2283) or Dick Swee, CRPCA Speaker's Bureau Coordinator (503-252-2295).



**Wanted: Raffle Donations**

As part of the fundraising effort at the West African Pigout on November 9th, we are seeking donations suitable for a raffle or silent auction. If you have something you'd like to donate, please contact Mike Waite at (360) 574-7455 (phone) or mwaite@pacifier.com (email).



**Newsletter Now  
Printed on  
Recycled Paper**



Did you notice the newsletter was on heavier weight paper last month? It was printed on 100% recycled paper. It may cost a bit more, but we think you're worth it! Comments? Call Anne Feldstein at 234-4094 or Karen Cellarius at 238-1078.

**More Photos....**