



The Columbia River Peace Corps Association Newsletter

Volume 15 Issue 11

"Bringing the world back home"

December 1996

Mike Waite



From the President Peace

On March 1st of this year, the 35th anniversary of the signing of Peace Corps, and less than 6 months from her death of cancer, Loret Ruppe spoke these words:

"Peace, that beautiful five-letter word we all say we crave for and pray for, is up for grabs in the 90's. Is Peace simply the absence of war? Or is it the absence of the conditions that bring on war, the conditions of hunger, disease, poverty, illiteracy, and despair?"

"When 50 percent of the children in a village die before they are five; when women walk miles for water and then search for wood to cook by; when farmers leave their villages where there are no jobs to flock to cities where there are no jobs; when neighbors ethnically cleanse their neighbors, then lets face it America, the world is not at peace.

"And here at home, where 50 percent of our children live below the poverty level in many of our cities, when the homeless abound on our streets, when our nation's capital is bankrupt and our schools require metal detectors, racial tensions abound, and immigrant-bashing and down-sizing terrorizes loyal workers, then let's face it, America, we are not at peace.

"The Peace Corps family must respond again to 'Ask not what your country can do for you, rather ask what you can do for your country.' And today in our world it is-as President Kennedy said-the towering task. We can do it!"

As the holiday season approaches may you give and receive peace.

1997 Calendars Are Here!

Our order of 1997 International Calendars has arrived. They will be mailed to you, or you may pick them up, according to your request at the time of ordering. You will be called with the address of your pickup location. To date we have sold almost 800 calendars!

Everyone is doing a great job! The shipment is almost sold out, so if you will be needing more, let us know as soon as possible. Use the coupon below, or call a committee member. Karen McAlister, 591-7077; Debbie Deetz, 284-4842; Thrina Parent, 236-1948.

1997 INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR ORDER FORM

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

of calendars (\$8.00/ea.) =
Postage@ \$1.50 per calendar* =
Total =

Make checks payable to: **Columbia River Peace Corps Association**, and send to: Jerry Porter, 3404 NE 25th 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.

Kurdish Refugee Project

by Karen Cellarius

The Kurdish Refugee Project is going well. Many of you met Shakhawan and Botan at the Pig-Out in November. They had just arrived from a refugee camp in Guam the week before, but were still game to try African food with a bunch of American strangers (or should I say "strange Americans"?). Botan and Shakhawan come from the town of Erbil in northern Iraq (ethnic Kurdistan). They worked for four years for USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance in Operation Provide Comfort. All the political refugees from northern Iraq coming to the Portland area in the next few months are former USAID employees or their families. With the end of Operation Provide Comfort, their safety from Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was in question, so they are being brought to the United States as political refugees.

Shakhawan and Botan now have another roommate, who is undergoing the same process of getting his social security card and work papers in order. They are all very appreciative of the food, clothing, furniture and financial assistance provided by our group.

We still items for a family (men, women and children) who will arrive sometime after Christmas. (See wish list) Lutheran Family Services (LFS) will provide the house, and we will help prepare it for the family.

Member donations

- Items received include: a couch, a table, bicycles, toys, a toy chest, clothes, kitchen items, and food.
- CRPCA member Jill Hibbs has been especially helpful accompanying them to appointments and assisting with paperwork!
- Another CRPCA member, Jeanine Holmlund and her family, invited the three new Portlanders for Thanksgiving dinner, where they reportedly had a great time.
- Debbie Deetz donated a much needed Fred Meyer gift certificate.

- At the November CRPCA Board Meeting, members decided to donate \$50 from the Pig-Out Beer Raffle for incidentals.
- Many members have gotten their offices and family members involved, which is much appreciated and a great way to help co-workers and relatives clean out their closets!



Wish List

- Rain jackets, sweaters, and winter coats for men, women and children
- Umbrellas, gloves, hats, boots
- Beds and Bedding (pillows, sheets, blankets)
- Bathroom items (towels, soap, shampoo) and Grooming aids (scissors, combs)
- Furniture
- Kitchen items (pots, dishes, silverware)
- Arabic-English or Kurdish-English Dictionaries
- Non-Pork Food Items, esp. rice, tea and sugar
- Cleaning items (Laundry soap, dish soap, scouring powder, sponges, mops, brooms, vacuums)
- 60 Minute Phone Cards fro calling Iraq when they first arrive (These are good for about five minutes to Iraq.)
- Gift certificates from Fred Meyer, Target, GoodWill, etc

If you would like to donate any of these items, please drop them at the drop off location nearest you (see below). We also need people to help haul things once LFS has a house or apartment arranged. Call Karen at 238-1078 to volunteer.

Fear not! Nothing will go to waste. Even if our family can not use it, we know others who can.

Drop Off Points

- West Portland: Barbara Pugh - 297-0636
- NE Portland: JoAnn von Rohr - 282-1721
- SE Portland: John Risley - 235-9391;
Linda Centerian - 788-7366
- Forest Grove: Angela Colva - 359-2225
- Vancouver: Mike Waite - 360-574-7455
- Call Thrina Parent if you need help with a truck (236-1948)

→Calendar of Events←

[Last month was a busy one! Activities included: the Third Annual Eugene Peace Corps Festival, the West African Pig-Out, World Wise Schools Day, Calendar Sales, the Kurdish Resettlement Project and the OPB Pledge Drive. Many thanks to everyone who participated!]

December

No meeting this month. Happy Holidays!!!

Jan 19

CRPCA Potluck Meeting and Americorps Presentation

Charlene Holzworth's Home, 2524 NE 34th, Portland. 5 pm Business Meeting, 6 pm Potluck, 7 pm Guest Speaker: Marlis Miller, Executive Director, Oregon Commission for National and Community Service (includes Americorps and VISTA) - More info next month....

July 10-13

NPCA National Conference in San Diego



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
email: debberd@aol.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Pat Greendale 255-1011

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 & Kurdish Refugee Project

Karen Cellarius 238-1078