



The Columbia River Peace Corps Association Newsletter

Volume 16 Issue 3

"Bringing the world back home"

March 1997

Anne Feldstein to speak at next CRPCA Potluck, Sunday, March 16

RPCV Anne Feldstein, Sierra Leone '86-'88, will be our speaker at the potluck meeting on March 16th, Sunday, at 6 pm. She'll share her slides and photos and talk about the differences between working for non-governmental agencies vs. Peace Corps.

From April 1993 until July '94 she worked in three East African countries doing medical relief. During her 6 months in Somalia, she assisted with feeding centers, immunization campaigns and health education. Her work in South Sudan took her to Nasir, a village accessible only by air. She trained and monitored local health care workers and traveled around in a boat to do so. When the first rumblings of trouble were heard from Rwanda, she went to it's border in Tanzania and worked in Benaco refugee camp, the largest refugee camp in the world at that time. After taking some time to travel, she returned to her hospital job in Portland.

Please try to come ... share a meal and some interesting discussion!

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New CRPCA Logo



RPCV Les Hopkins designed this nifty logo for the Columbia River Peace Corps Association. Look for it as we integrate it into our various documents and publications. The color version can be seen on the World Wide Web at www.pacifier.com/~mwaite

Calendar Sales Fund-Raiser a Great Success, Again

Thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of many people, we have had another record year of calendar sales. As was true last year, a significant portion of the sales profits were raised by the fund-raising recipients themselves. This arrangement gives the recipient a stake in the fund-raising project, and allows us, with only moderately imaginative figure manipulation, to claim new sales records. RPCV's of Wisconsin, who produces the calendars, says that we are by far the most successful group in calendar sales.

We have broadened our beneficence this year from one recipient to three: the Beaverton Literacy Council, the Paraclete Society, and Mariana Bornholdts's project to send books to Ghana. As always, we are deeply indebted to all who have helped, and encourage all who wish to assist next year to contact the calendar committee.

The Calendar Committee

Karen McAlister, Jackie and Mike Spurlock,
Thrina Parent, Jerry Porter, Debbie Deetz
[Steering Committee Liaison]

A. 1997 Calendar Sales Summary

CRPCA Sales

Sold	790
Gifts	2

Profit from CRPCA sales	\$2,060.86
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Profit usage

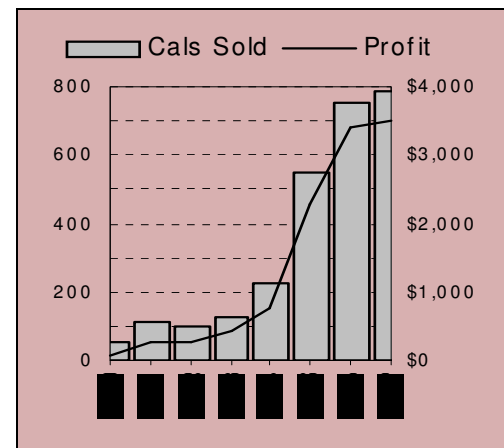
20% retained by CRPCA	\$412
Postage for books to Ghana	\$200
Remaining for Recipients	\$1,449
Total	\$2,061

Fund-Raising Summary

Source/Recipient	Raised	Received
CRPCA Sales	\$2,061	\$412
Paraclete Society Sales	\$288	\$1,012
Bvtn. Literacy Council Sales	\$1,162	\$1,886
Books to Ghana		\$200
Total	\$3,510	\$3,510

B. Historical Summary

Cal Year	Cals Sold	Profit	Donation	Recipients
1990	50	\$65	\$51	Books to Akosombo
1991	111	\$268	\$250	NARA, P.C. Partnership
1992	100	\$250	\$150	Int'l Refugee Center of OR (IRCO)
1993	125	\$421	\$500	Sponsors Org. to Assist Refugees (SOAR)
1994	225	\$767	\$300	Community Energy Project
1995	549	\$2,292	\$2,100	Lutheran Family Service (LFS)
1996	757	\$3,391	\$2,472	PCC Literacy Foundation
1997	790	\$3,510	\$2,898	Bvtn Lit. Council, Paraclete Soc., Ghana Books





From the President

RPCV Writers and Readers

An RPCV publication I enjoy is RPCV Writers and Readers. Many Peace Corps Volunteers thought about writing a novel while in service and it turns out that a very high percentage of people have. RPCV Writers and Readers keeps track of the various authors. Each issue carries an interview with a RPCV writer, reviews and news about what the various authors are doing.

It's a publication well worth receiving. Six issues a year cost \$12.00. RPCV Writers and Readers, 4 Lodge Pole Road, Pittsford NY 14534-4550.

Towering task

In early 1961, the Peace Corps had been conceived as a pilot program of only several hundred volunteers who would live on college campuses in host countries. A carefully supervised experiment. A paper with the title of "A Towering Task" changed all that. It envisioned thousands of volunteers living in villages, living the life of the villagers. This model became the Peace Corps. The early Peace Corps was bold, anti-bureaucratic and full of visionaries. I have free copies of the "Towering Task" issue of RPCV Writers and Readers to go to the first ten people who contact me. Read it and learn about how the Peace Corps started.

Officers

Once again it's time to recruit new officers. All positions will be open and any with two or more candidates will be elected. Details about the positions are explained in another article. We need your skills, assistance and enthusiasm. And guess what? It's your turn to serve. Don't put it off another year.

Web Page

Web surfers get ready to cruise right in. CRPCA now has a web page complete with e-mail addresses to officers, links to other RPCV groups and information. This is just the start. If you have a web page that you would like us to link to or have some ideas for the CRPCA page let us know. The URL is: www.pacifier.com/~mwaite

Surf on in

Michael Waite

Excerpts from Towering Task by Warren Wiggins

“So, being anti-establishment, amateurish, anti-professional was a big thing in the success of the Peace Corps, and in the building, if you will, of an institution.

“We were also value driven. We put values very high in every decision and anybody who couldn't shape up left.

“We wanted the volunteers to live the life of the villager, wear the same kind of clothes, eat the same kind of food, live in the same kind of house, or shack, or whatever. In a religious sense, we were taking a vow of poverty. We didn't put it that way; we said we would live the life of the people. But that, to an American, is a vow of poverty. We raised that to an ideal, as a vow of poverty is raised to the ideal. And that turned out to be an enormous strength for the Peace Corps.

“We stripped away all of the cultural and environmental support that a Volunteer had grown up with: family, school, peer group, etc. All of that was stripped away, and the person was then transplanted overseas with poverty as a value.

Kurdish Refugee Project Wrap-Up

Hunar, Vian and their two daughters moved into their new apartment in SW Portland last weekend. (They had been staying with CRPCA member John Risley since arriving on January 24th). Thanks to the assistance of Lutheran Family Services, employees of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, CRPCA members, their friends, families and co-workers, they have a fully furnished home.

There were plenty of extra items that went to other individuals and families as well. Lutheran Family Services will pick up the few remaining things from the last drop-off site and distribute them as new refugees arrive.

While the CRPCA refugee project is finished, many of us will most probably continue to have contact with Hunar and Vian, if only to see what new English phrase three-year-old Ranjin learns next.

New Officers Wanted

Have you been watching from the sidelines? Do you have a few extra hours each month to spare for a good cause? Here's your chance! We are looking for a few hearty souls to serve on the CRPCA board of directors and as officers. Upcoming openings include: President (or Chairperson), Vice-President (or Vice-Chairperson), Program Coordinator, Speakers Bureau Coordinator and others. **If you are interested in any of these positions (or just helping out in general!), contact Mike Waite at 360-574-7455, or come to the next monthly meeting.**

If you have questions about the actual tasks involved in a specific officer position, see below. You may also contact the current officer directly.

Regarding new officers, the **CRPCA By-Laws**, as amended in May 1994, state:

Article IV. Directors.

The organization shall have a Board of Directors composed of three individuals. For the purposes of ORS 65.301 through 65.369, the Chairperson, the Secretary-Treasurer, and a third person whom they designate, shall serve as the Board of Directors.

Article V. Officers

1. Officer positions. The officers of this organization shall consist of a chairperson, secretary-treasurer and other officers as designated by the Board of Directors.
2. Officer Selection. Officers shall be selected each year in April, or when a vacancy occurs. Should more than one person be interested in any office, an election shall be held. An invitation to volunteer for office positions shall be published in the February and March newsletters. No one person may serve more than three consecutive years in the same position.
3. Duties of Potential Officers.
 - a) Chairperson. Arranges and conducts officer meetings; acts as liaison between the organization, the community, National Peace Corps Association, Peace Corps Washington and other National Peace Corps Association groups; recruits officers if a position is vacated between elections; ensures that the bylaws are upheld.
 - b) Vice-chairperson. Acts as a resource to the chairperson the first year; assumes position of chairperson the second year.
 - c) Secretary-Treasurer. Has charge of all funds belonging to the organization; keeps on deposit the same; receives and disburses funds as required; keeps required financial

records; keeps an up-to-date membership list; keeps other records required by ORS 65.771, such as minutes from business meetings, up-to-date bylaws and the annual reports to the Secretary of State.

- d) Program Coordinator. Plans programs for the bimonthly meetings and arranges time and place of the programs, notifies newsletter editor and coordinates publicity with the chairperson; writes or assigns the writing of a report for the newsletter following each meeting.
- e) Speakers Bureau Coordinator. Maintains information on members who are available to speak; contacts appropriate agencies within the community to arrange speaking engagements.
- f) Restaurant Coordinator. Plans bimonthly dinner meetings including a potluck in April or May and may include picnics or potlucks at other times of the year; makes arrangements for menu, price, time and place of dinner meetings; takes reservations.
- g) Newsletter Editor. Receives from officers, other members, National Peace Corps Association, Peace Corps Washington, other Peace Corps Association groups and members of the community information relevant for the newsletter; publishes newsletter monthly; mails newsletter to membership.

Volunteer Opportunities

- **IRCO: The International Refugee Center of Oregon (IRCO)** needs volunteers during the day to tutor refugees in English and job skills, preferably two hours/week. Contact Marty Schmith at 234-1541.
- **Lutheran Family Services: LFS** always has a number of opportunities ranging from assisting with transportation to sponsoring a refugee family in your home for a month. Contact Margo Sobieraj at 731-9528.
- **Oregon Day of Service, April 19:** Pitch in with other RPCVs on a one-day activity. Projects are being organizing all over Oregon in conjunction with the Oregon Commission for National and Community Service. Information on our specific project will be included in the April newsletter. Questions? Call Debbie Deetz at 284-4842.

New and Returning Members

New Members

- Kim Webb (Nepal 93-95)
- Angel Nawrot (Micronesia 85-89)
- Michelle Bressler (Philippines 85-87)
- Ivan McLeon (Philippines 84-86)
- Jeremy Larson (Ghana 94-96)
- Andrea Matzke (Kenya 89-91)
- Robert Rawson (Sierra Leone 62-64)
- Dale Carr (Fiji 82-85)
- Michelle Myers (Cameroon 90-92)

Returning Members

- Shannon Mehan (Senegal 89-91)
- Larry Petterson (Sierra Leone 69-71)
- Catherine Gibson (Micronesia 66-68)
- Mary Peters (Zaire 89-91)
- Margit Neff (Kenya 82-84)

African Film Festival

Don't forget the last film at the 7th Annual Cascade Film Festival of African Films. It is free and will be shown at Room 122 Terrell Hall, PCC Cascade Campus (705 N. Killingsworth):

The Silences of the Palace (In conjunction with Woman's History Month)	Tunisia, Arabic, 1994	Fri & Sat, 3/7&8, 7:30pm. Thurs, 3/13, Noon.
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"The next best thing to solving a problem is finding some humor in it."

-Frank A.Clark

Photos from the Lucky Lab

The February 13th Soiree for Recently Returned RPCV's (and friends) had the biggest turnout yet. Join us again on Thursday, March 20th, as we celebrate the Equinox! Lucky Labrador Brew Pub. From 6 pm on.

→ Calendar of Events ←

(All events are in Portland, unless otherwise indicated)

Now - March 13

The 7th Annual Cascade Festival of African Films. PCC Cascade Campus (705 N. Killingsworth). (See article)

March 16 (Sunday)

CRPCA Potluck Meeting and Presentation
Charlene Holzworth's Home, 2524 NE 34th, Portland. 5 pm Business Meeting, 6 pm Potluck, 7 pm Guest Speaker: Anne Feldstein (see article)

March 20 (Thursday)

CRPCA Soiree for recently returned RPCVs (and friends). Lucky Labrador Brewpub at 915 SE Hawthorne. 6pm. In celebration of the Equinox!

April 19 (Saturday)

Oregon Day of Service. Mark your calendars! We're planning an RPCV project. (Article next month.)

July 10-13

NPCA National Conference in San Diego

Web Sites of Interest

CRPCA	www.pacifier.com/~mwaite
Peace Corps	www.peacecorps.gov
NPCA	www.rpcv.org/

Name these countries:



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:

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