



# The Columbia River Peace Corps Association Newsletter

Volume 23; Issue 2

April / May 2004

## Calendar

### April

- 18** Sunday, 5pm, CRPCA Meeting/Potluck. Let's get together, socialize, and decide who'll be doing what for the coming "CRPCA year" (May-April). Many positions are open: President, Vice-President, Membership, Webmaster, Restaurant Coordinator. Let's eat first! Linda Centurion's house, 3940 SE 47<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland.
- 26** Monday, 6:30pm, Peace Corps Nominating Party and CRPCA Soiree at the Lucky Labrador Brew Pub at 7675 SW Capitol Hwy. in Multnomah Village. Come have fun, give advice and perspective to new PCVs and their families! CRPCA Annual Awards will also be presented.

### May

- 1** New CRPCA Officers take office!
- 12** Wednesday, 6:30pm, CRPCA Restaurant Gathering, location to be determined. Contact Gabriella Maertens at 503-254-5161.
- 31** Monday, 6:30 pm, Soiree at Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, SE 9<sup>th</sup> and Hawthorne. If it's warm enough, we'll sit outside in the back.

## Stay Connected

COMMUNITY LANGUAGE AND CULTURE BANK  
[www.clcbank.org](http://www.clcbank.org)

COMMUNITY NON-PROFIT RESOURCE GROUP  
[www.cnrg-portland.org](http://www.cnrg-portland.org)

CRAIG'S LIST  
[www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org)

## NEWS & NOTES

### CRPCA Annual Dinner A Hit!

Our Annual Dinner at the nice new IRCO facility featured melt-in-your-mouth Cuban pork adobo (tempeh adobo for the vegetarians), black beans, rice, salad, and guava jelly with white cheese, topped off by homemade mead. World music by Ira Frankel, Linda Huddle, Jeff Strang and the Roberto Gonzalez Group (the RGG is next playing at the Mississippi Pizza Pub April 24, 7-9pm). And a much-appreciated \$2000 donation from us to the Pangaea Project (proceeds from our 2004 International Calendar sales). What else can I say? A big THANK YOU for all who helped!

### CRPCA Members Dispense Worldly Advice at PCC Campuses Mar. 1-5

CRPCA members were on hand at three Portland Community College campuses during Peace Corps Week (Mar. 1-7) to share their perspectives with students and the public. The Peace Corps is starting to recruit more in community colleges. Many thanks to all the speakers and to Richard Ireland for coordinating!

### The Liberian Education Assistance Project (LEAP) trains teachers and supports basic education in Liberia. They've put together a DVD featuring photos from Liberia as a benefit for this project. Price: \$15-20, available soon at [www.fol.org](http://www.fol.org) (the Friends of Liberia website). Local RPCV Stephanie Vickers is one of the main organizers ([svickers@teleport.com](mailto:svickers@teleport.com)).

### Watoto wa Dunia Party

You are invited to attend our dance party, next Saturday, April 3, at the Jasmine Tree Restaurant and Bar, located at 401 SW Harrison, downtown Portland. Doors will open around 9pm. Suggested donation is \$10, but nobody will be turned away;

the more the merrier! So just chip in what you can and put your dancing shoes on!

We will be playing selections of Reggae, Lingala, and Ndumbolo music, to name a few. If you have any lively dancing music (of any sort), bring it along and we'll throw that into the mix as well!

We encourage you to contact us if this is the case, or if you have questions or comments. We can always use an extra pairs of hands! Send a note to Stephen Marx at oomarx@yahoo.com.

Come and help us celebrate what we have accomplished in the last five years with your help: sponsoring 24 children in Kenya; educating over 200 children in Northeast Portland schools about life in Kenya; working with 135 women on micro-finance projects in Nairobi; expected immanent development of our Women and Children's Empowerment Village in Kenya.

So bring your friends, neighbors, or dates to the Jasmine Tree next Saturday to celebrate positive social change!

*Julia Swanson*

Sponsorship Coordinator

Watoto wa Dunia

watotowadunia@yahoo.com

(503) 595-1786

### **Urgent Action Needed to Fully Fund Peace Corps**

by Martin Kaplan, CRPCA Advocacy Coordinator

On March 11th, the United States Senate passed a Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2005 (which begins this October 1st) which includes a Foreign Affairs funding level that is slightly higher than President Bush's proposal.

President Bush's budget requests \$401 million for the Peace Corps. Currently, Peace Corps has a \$323 million operating budget. The Peace Corps funding measure is presently being considered by the Senate. The Advocacy Network of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) has brought to our attention the need to contact our Senators and ask them to support new legislation that fully funds the Peace Corps.

Full funding for the Peace Corps is far from

certain. As former Peace Corps volunteers and staff, we know the good that Peace Corps can do. Who better to speak to those in power than those of us who have personal experience, such as we had in the Peace Corps?

The next step in the funding process is consideration of the Foreign Appropriations Bill by the Senate. Neither Senator from Oregon is on the Appropriations Committee. Our best approach is to let our Senators know our feelings about the Peace Corps and to ask them to contact the Chair of the Appropriations Committee to ask for their support. NPCA has suggested the following message to our Senators:

"I am pleased the Senate passed a Budget Resolution that fully funds the President's Foreign Affairs request, which includes a request of \$401 million for the Peace Corps. I urge you to support the President's request for Peace Corps in order to advance the goal of doubling the number of Peace Corps Volunteers by 2007."

Please call, email or write to Senators Smith and Wyden to ask for their help. This has to be done now, while appropriations are under review. Contact information for Senator Wyden can be found at <http://wyden.senate.gov/> and for Senator Smith at <http://gsmith.senate.gov/>

### **RPCVs Annette Clothier and Michael Lee to be Civilly United (Married)**

CRPCA webmaster Annette Clothier invites her CRPCA friends to join them in Las Vegas on Friday, November 12th, 2004. Once they know how many people are coming, they will choose a location. In the mean time, Annette found a good deal on the internet ([www.vegas.com](http://www.vegas.com): 4 nights at the Fitzgerald Hotel, including air from Seattle – not sure of the Portland fare -- for 2 people, on Nov. 10-14, for about \$260 per person including taxes). The Fitz is a AAA 3-red-diamond hotel, so should be decent! She asked me to share the information with any CRPCA friends who may be interested, since this is a good deal that you may not want to miss. The Fitzgerald is on Fremont

Street in the historic part of the Las Vegas Strip. If you end up making reservations, please let her know so she can include you in any subsequent planning and mailings (annclo@attbi.com). Shakhawan and I are planning on going to the wedding, and may expand it to include a camping trip to Zion National Park, just 3 hours away.

--Karen Cellarius

### **Membership Status Question Cleared Up**

If you are a member of both the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) and CRPCA, sending a combined renewal can result in some confusing communication. If you send in a combined renewal to NPCA, we get the word that you've renewed 3 months later. If you renew both memberships through us, the NPCA membership date gets pushed out as much as 2 months, since they record the starting date when they process the membership, not when we tell them the renewal date is. Both organizations start sending out renewal notices 3 months in advance of your membership expiration. If you don't renew early with NPCA, then you are 3 months "late" for us, and may get frustrated about seeing 5 months of reminders from me (3 months in advance of the membership expiration and 2 months after). I remove members after they've been expired for 3 months, which is sometimes just in time to get the renewal from NPCA and put you back into the active database again.

When you renew both with one check, it is convenient, and one would expect the membership dates to match, but they don't.

--Dian Odell, Membership Coordinator

### **Kyrgyzstanis Need Homestay Hosts**

The World Affairs Council of Oregon is preparing for our next Community Connections delegation, which will be in Portland from April 16 - May 5. This group comes to us from southern Kyrgyzstan, from the regions of Osh, Jalalabad, and Batken. They will be here on a State Department-sponsored program to study library administration.

We are again looking for friendly homestay hosts. All ten participants this time around happen to be women; they range in age from 26 to 53 years old. All are Russian speakers, and two have some experience speaking English. As usual, we would prefer to place each English-speaker together with a non-English-speaker in a host family, though this is not an absolute requirement. The visitors will take public transportation to and from our downtown office each day, unless it is convenient for their hosts to drop them off or pick them up. We will provide lunch during the week; we ask that our hosts provide breakfast and dinner. One day each weekend we will take the group on an all-day excursion. The visitors will have a small per diem to cover Tri-met fares, phone cards, and other incidental expenses. If you are interested in hosting or would like more information about what is (and is not) required of our homestay hosts, please send me an e-mail, or call me at (503) 274-7488. Short biographies of the participants are available. Thank you, and I hope to hear from you soon.

*Christine Jacobs*, Program Coordinator, Business for Russia/Community Connections, WACO  
christine@worldoregon.org

### **Prospective Portlanders Preparing**

Annette Lombardi is an RPCV (Dominican Republic '00-'03) coming to Portland, and she needs a helping hand or two. She will be moving to Portland in the fall with a fellow RPCV. They are getting started looking for jobs and places to live, and need thoughts.

What's your advice to a Portland prospector? Contact Annette: [alombardi@do.peacecorps.gov](mailto:alombardi@do.peacecorps.gov)

### **Retiring into Service**

A few of us may have noticed an article in a local paper last month about volunteering after retirement. Indeed, an increasing number of men and women have found retirement to be the perfect time to join the Peace Corps.

Since Peace Corps' inception in 1961, the percentage of volunteers over 50 has risen from 1% to 9%. The oldest volunteer ever to serve actually served twice, first in the Philippines during the 1970s and again in Hungary from 1991-1994; he was 86 years old by the end of his second tour of service.

Part of the reason why an increasing number of older adults are volunteering is that Americans are living longer, healthier lives. Retirees often find they have decades of good health ahead of them and plenty of time for a two-year term of service in the Peace Corps.

Do you know any older adults who are looking for ways to make their retirement years meaningful and exciting? Please encourage them to contact the Seattle Regional Office at 800.424.8580, option 1, to talk about what opportunities await them. Peace Corps currently has programs in business, agriculture, education, health, and the environment.

### **Columbia River Peace Corps Association 2003 Annual Report**

In **January**, we had our annual Post-Holiday Party at the Lucky Labrador Brewpub on Hawthorne Blvd. As usual, there was much fun and frivolity along with the important socializing function.

In **late February and early March**, CRPCA members spoke in local classrooms as part of Peace Corps Week. Richard Ireland organized. Also in February, we gave over \$1000 each to African Sports Outreach and the Committee for a Museum of the Peace Corps Experience as a result of International Calendar sales.

In **March**, we volunteered during Pledge Week at Oregon Public Broadcasting, many dressing in host country clothes for the broadcast. Anne Kimberly organized. We also contributed \$100 to the Harambee Society at their fundraising dinner. In April, we had the Peace Corps Nomination Party at the Lucky Labrador Brewpub in Multnomah Village, a larger and more appropriate space than last year. Much good socializing

between RPCVs, prospective PCVs and their families. We also held our Spring Volunteer Day, helping Loaves and Fishes deliver Meals on Wheels. Melody Finnemore organized.

**In May**, new officers began their terms.

**In June**, Annette Clothier coordinated our booth at the Salem World Beat Festival. Approx. 20 of our members participated.

**In July**, the Committee for a Museum of the Peace Corps Experience mounted a wonderful exhibit on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Multnomah County Central Library. A number of our members also volunteer with CMPCE.

**In August**, we hosted the **NPCA** Annual Meeting and Group Leaders Conference, which was a lot of work, but worth it because of the many connections and reconnections made between local RPCVs and those living elsewhere around the U.S.

**Also in August**, a number of our members attended the NW Regional **Campout** at Silver Falls State Park, hosted by the West Cascade Peace Corps Association. The Homowo Festival of African Arts and Culture was unfortunately the same weekend; some of our members stayed in town to volunteer for it.

**In September**, 5 of our members helped deliver Meals on Wheels as part of our Fall Volunteer Day. Melody Finnemore organized.

**In December**, we again volunteered as pledgetakers during OPB's Pledge Drive, many of us dressing in clothes of our host countries.

**Our regular events continued throughout the year:** soirees on the last Monday of each month at the Lucky Labrador Brewpub on S.E. Hawthorne, bi-monthly potluck meetings and restaurant gatherings. Our newsletter was published 10 times in 2003, and our website ([www.crPCA.org](http://www.crPCA.org)) was maintained.

As of the end of the year, we had **210 members**.

--Jeff Strang, President

## NEWS &amp; NOTES

**Somali Bantu Refugees Need Help**

Sponsors are needed for families who are destined for Portland. These folks should not be too difficult to settle as they are averaging 6 - 7 people; this means their re-settlement grant will help. Sponsors need to find adequate housing (we have some good contacts), transport them to and from some appointments, provide food for the first two weeks (funds can come from the grant). Once they attend IRCO, they receive bus passes and learn to use the MAX and public transportation. Teach them about American culture and our laws. IRCO has volunteers who could also help. Our first family (of ten) arrived very recently and moved into their apartment in Beaverton this morning with the help of other Somalis. The Somali community is very eager to help!  
 --*Hilary Clarke*, Sponsorship Asst, Lutheran Family Services, hclarke@lfsnorthwest.org.

**Archival Project of Kennedy Library seeks RPCV Interviews**

CRPCA member Susan Murray is taping interviews of RPCVs regarding their experiences while serving in their host countries. The tapes will be sent to the RPCV Collection of the Kennedy Library and will become part of the permanent collection. The collection is part of the National Archives and Records Administration. The Archival Project is endorsed by the National Peace Corps Association.

If you are interested in being interviewed, contact her at 503.570.3356 or bunstg@hotmail.com.

**Really Interesting Fact**

Myanmar, the country formerly known as Burma, is a region rich in languages. About a third of the 45 million inhabitants speak Burmese, while six other major languages play a part as well. Two and half million people speak Karen in the south, and the same number of Shan speakers live east of Mandalay. Approximately one million speakers of Mon live in the panhandle region. Other

languages include Chin (500,000 speakers), Kachin (500,000), Palaung (350,000), and Wa (50,000).

**ABOUT US**

The **Columbia River Peace Corps Association** newsletter is published bi-monthly by the CRPCA and delivered to members. The CRPCA serves returned Peace Corps volunteers and others in Oregon and Southwest Washington who share an interest in global development issues. To join CRPCA (and/or the National Peace Corps Association) and have the newsletter delivered, please see the back page or visit [www.crPCA.org](http://www.crPCA.org).

**Newsletter submissions** are due by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each odd-numbered month. Send by mail to P.O. Box 802, Portland, OR 97207, or by e-mail to [crpcasn@hotmail.com](mailto:crpcasn@hotmail.com).

## OFFICERS

**President:** Jeff Strang (Ghana '80-'82), 503-282-3647, [RPCVjeffstrang@comcast.net](mailto:RPCVjeffstrang@comcast.net)

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