



The Columbia River Peace Corps Association Newsletter

Volume 24; Issue 1 "Bringing the world back home" February, 2005

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Events this month

Feb 3-March 5: African Film Festival (our calendar sales partner). Every Thurs, Fri, Sat. For a full schedule, go to: 15.africanfilmfestival.org

Sunday, 2/13, 5 pm, [CRPCA Potluck Meeting](#), 5 pm Meeting, 6 pm Dinner. Location: Elizabeth Samuels, 3739 SW Hillside Dr. Portland OR 97221, 503-228-7706. *Everyone is welcome! Come for the meeting, or just for the dinner.*

Monday, 2/28, 6:30 pm, [Soiree](#) at Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, SE 9th and Hawthorne. Host: Dane Pikkola.

Feb 28-March 4. [Peace Corps Week](#). RPCVs speak in local classrooms. RPCVs and teachers contact Richard Ireland (Haiti 98-00) at rireland88@yahoo.com or 503-246-0479 if interested. Register for a free presentation kit at www.peacecorps.com/rpcv/peacecorpsday

Volunteers Needed - Humanitarian Aid

Life2Orphans.org is a collaborative, secular, non-profit (Tax I.D. # 93-1316547) established by a group of caring individuals primarily to directly help over 2300 orphans, aged 0 to 18 years, in several orphanages in [Ukraine](#). Currently, they have a backlog of humanitarian aid in their warehouse. They need volunteers on weekday afternoons to help sort and prepare aid for shipment to various orphanages in

Ukraine. Contact patiehome@yahoo.com if you are interested in volunteering in Portland.

Patie Wilcox
Life2Orphans Volunteer

Mercy Corps Seeks Volunteers

Mercy Corps is seeking people with skills in the following areas to provide services worldwide: Emergency Program Managers, Finance Officers, Logistic Officers, Procurement Officers, Administration Officers, Water/Sanitation Engineers, Temporary Shelter Specialists, Psychosocial Program Managers, Grants Managers, and Local Non-Governmental Organization Capacity Building Managers. If you are interested please send CV and cover letter to the recruitment team leader:

Ann Marriott us.f514.mail.yahoo.com and Mariah McColl us.f514.mail.yahoo.com and copy Krishna Sob us.f514.mail.yahoo.com. Candidates should be available for immediate deployment with very short notice, and have experience in emergency situations. An information center, to be established on the OIA Web site www.intl.pdx.edu, will provide up-to-date information. Any additional requests for assistance from community partners will be posted there.

Tsunami Disaster

The [NPCA Advocacy Program](#) has posted a page on advocacy opportunities and information pertaining to the tsunami disaster that has struck south Asia and eastern Africa. Please follow the link below for action opportunities including condolence messages to Sri Lanka, an electronic action urging long-range approaches to the relief and re-development effort, and action opportunities for children via NPCA's "Kids Around the World" webpage.

www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=1074

Film Fest

The African Film Festival begins Thursday, Feb. 3. As a sponsor, CRPCA will have a partial table in the lobby. *Bobbie Carrie*, festival organizer, will be there every Thursday. Some extra people to help out on *opening night*, would be helpful, as she may be called away. If you have questions or want to coordinate with Bobbie, please call her at: 503-244-8135

Opening Night: WAATI (TIME)

South Africa/Côte d'Ivoire/Mali/Namibia, 1995, 140 min., directed by *Souleymane Cissé*.

One of Africa's foremost directors, Souleymane Cissé, will be present at each of the evening screenings during the first week. Truly a pan-African film, its story unfolds in South Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, and Namibia, following a young girl who flees apartheid South Africa for years of growth and self-discovery in West Africa. Discovering herself means discovering Africa, and finding the strength to return home. In English, Bambara, Dioula, and French with English subtitles.

Thursday, February 3, 7:00 pm.

Hollywood Theatre, 4122 N.E. Sandy Blvd.

For a full schedule of this year's films, go to their website : 15.africanfilmfestival.org

Update from the NW Regional Meeting in Olympia

by *Karen Cellarius*

On Saturday, January 22, RPCVs from Portland, Seattle, Olympia, Boise, Spokane and Eugene met in Olympia to discuss NW Regional NPCA issues. Many thanks to NW Regional Rep Bob Findley for hosting this event. Karen Cellarius (President/Membership Coordinator) and Dane Pikkola (Newsletter editor) attended from Portland.

Group updates:

- Boise: Sam Greer continues as President with a new crew of more recently returned volunteers in the other officers spots.
- Seattle: Ongoing events include issue discussion forums, hangouts, potlucks and restaurant gatherings.
- Olympia: Olympia is considering forming their own group. They have an email list of 90+ RPCVs from the local area.
- Spokane (Inland NW): The main organizing work is done by only two RPCVs, and they would like to spread this over more members. Events are split between Spokane and the

Sandpoint area. Sending bicycles to Africa continues to be a big activity.

- Eugene: Beryl Brinkman and Wayne Thompson are spearheading efforts to revitalize the group. Successful t-shirt sales have provided them with good start-up funds. They expect to have a good turnout for the NW Regional campout in August.
- Overall: Membership in all groups and NPCA has been down in the past few years, possibly due to the economy. A number of regional groups have donated funds to Friends of Thailand for Tsunami Relief. Friends of Thailand had planned a reunion in Thailand that has now turned into a month long volunteer effort this spring. For more information, visit the website: friendsofthailand.org/friendsofthailand/FoTNews/crisis/schoolproject/main.html

PC Regional Office Updates:

- Wayne Blackwelder (RPCV Liberia), Director of the Peace Corps' NW Regional Office in Seattle joined us in Olympia. The office will be moving to larger space and will include more information about local RPCV groups. We will be sending him brochures and a sign he can post to inform nominees and recent RPCVs about us. He has also offered to put a link on the local calendar of events page to our websites. All regional recruiting events are listed on this site www.peacecorps.gov or, more specifically, www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=meet.re grec.seattle.revents). In addition to our local PSU recruiter, *Julie Congdon* is the recruiter in Seattle assigned to the Portland area.

NPCA Update:

The National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) provides a valuable link for RPCVs around the country and for fulfilling the third goal of Peace Corps. There is an NPCA Board Meeting in Raleigh, NC on February 4-6. NPCA has reduced the size of their board and is enhancing the role of the Group Leaders forum. They are considering reducing the frequency of national conferences to match the 5-year anniversary celebrations. At the Raleigh meeting, Bob Findley will share issues presented by our regional group to the board. Issues discussed included: NPCA's 5 month delay in sending local group membership to groups, NPCA support and responsiveness to local groups, benefits of NPCA membership, and what NPCA individual membership fees and affiliate group dues are used for.

NPCA Regional News:

- The next NW Regional Meetings are planned for May 2005 in Boise, August 2005 at the campout in Oregon (brief), and January 2006 in Eugene.
- Regional groups, including Portland, reaffirmed their commitment to present the NW Regional Rep with their annual travel support of \$1 per member in March (to coincide with our annual reaffiliation with NPCA). This support makes the Regional Rep position more accessible to those who would like to do it, regardless of personal finances (though annual travel to NPCA meetings can still exceed this stipend).

Other NPCA News Items

NPCA's 25th anniversary directory. If any members would like to be included in the 25th anniversary directory, and have not received a notification from Harris Publishing Co., contact directly by email <mailto:inquiry@bcharrispub.com> or 800-877-6554. They will need a mailing and e-mail address, as well as phone number.

• Friends of Guinea was awarded the NPCA 2005 *Continuation of Service Grant* to fully fund the 8th *Annual Regional Gender and Development Conferences* and to meet its goal of expanding the Boys Conference to 3 days. Since 1997, Guinea Peace Corps volunteers have run three Regional Girls' Conferences for 100 young women between 12-22 years of age. For more about this project.

www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=856

• NPCA members - save up to 85% on magazine subscriptions and renewals through NPCA's partnership with Reader's Digest's Magazine Value Partners program. Choose from over 600 magazines and publications, save and support the NPCA. www.peacecorpsMags.com.

IRCO Opens Store.

In partnership with *AARP* and *Priced Right*, IRCO (Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization) has opened a store to sell quality new goods at low prices. The store provides employment and on-the-job training while selling quality goods and generating funds. It is located at *13th and NE Couch*, near Portland Bottling Company. Hours: 10am-7pm, every day.

Renewable Energy Training for Developing Countries

Intensive training on Micro Hydro and Solar Power, at ITDG-Peru Training Center, in Cajamarca, Peru. (May

30 - June 10, 2005) Training covers the technical and implementation skills necessary for micro hydro and solar projects in the developing world. Emphasis on installation sustainability that brings electricity to hundreds. The cost is \$2000, plus airfare and accommodations. To apply, contact *Pam Beaty*, *Green Empowerment*, 140 SW Yamhill St., Portland, OR 97204, 503-284-5774 (voice) 503-460-0450 (fax), pam@greenempowerment.org; www.greenempowerment.org

Renewable Energy Project Management and Engineering Positions

Green Empowerment, a 501(C)(3) organization based in Portland Oregon, is seeking applicants for possible technical positions to support rural community-based renewable energy and water projects on which they have pending proposals. Ideal candidates will have at least 5 years of experience in practical applications of micro hydro systems and/or solar systems, (including the technical design experience required to do feasibility studies, design, procure, and manage the installation of such projects), and experience working with rural communities in developing countries. Experience with nonprofit organizations is a plus. Please send resumes and cover letters to pam@greenempowerment.org or *Human Resources*, *Green Empowerment*. Cover letters should include an explanation of why you are interested in international development and renewable energy in general, *Green Empowerment* in particular.

Encouraging Congressional Support for Peace Corps

The National Peace Corps Association is gearing up for a "National Day of Action" in support of Peace Corps on *Tuesday, March 1st (Peace Corps Day)* The concept is very simple: *one day/ ten minutes/ three phone calls or emails*, to your representatives in Congress. Express *your* support for increased funding for Peace Corps in the next federal budget. Or, consider doing even a little more! Here are several possibilities:

• Find Five Others to Act: Along with taking action yourself, commit now to making sure five other people you know will take similar action. You could involve your spouse or other family members, fellow RPCVs you served with, and/or friends and colleagues who support the Peace Corps.

• Staff a March 1st Table or Event: For a few hours on March 1st, make arrangements to set up an information table at a local coffee shop, bookstore or other public venue. NPCA's Advocacy Program will

work with you by sending materials you can download, allowing you to reach out to others where you live, urging support for adequate Peace Corps funding.

Further Down the Road? District Meetings with your Representative: Seek meetings with your representatives when they are back in your district during the congressional spring recess (currently scheduled for March 21st through April 1st). Please contact us if you are interested in organizing such a meeting. (address following page)

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www.npca-advocacy.net

RPCV's to Help Thailand Rebuild

Chris White, *Friends of Thailand* member, lives and teaches in Phuket. He and FOT have just launched PROJECT RESTORE. Working with the Thai education officials, Chris has identified and visited two rural elementary schools in Phang Nga Province north of Phuket that are in need of assistance as one school begins the task of rebuilding its facility and the other works to restore the lives of 148 children orphaned by the tsunami.

The elementary school in Ban Bang Sak was completely destroyed when the tsunami struck. Though the Thai government will replace many of the buildings of Ban Bang Sak School, the cost of resupplying the school will demand that much more be spent. Additionally, the school lunch program, which is funded by the school, will require extensive assistance. 148 students at Ban Bang Muang Elementary School were orphaned by the tsunami. Many are now living with friends and other family members, as well as in the tent city that has been erected in the town. These students will need \$250 a year each to attend school. That amount will cover the cost of tuition, uniforms, books, supplies and food. They are hoping to provide scholarships for as many of these children as possible. Based upon the information Chris has provided, they will also try to raise \$16,850 to help restore the language lab, the science lab, the infirmary and the lunch program at Ban Bang Sak Elementary School. John Williams, PC Country Director in Thailand, supports this project. In a recent email to FOT, he wrote, "I was excited to hear about the FOT plans for the school. We visited the site where the school once

stood, and it is totally destroyed. You couldn't have picked a better place to put your money."

If you would like to donate money to *PROJECT RESTORE* and view several photos of Ban Bang Sak School, access the *Friends of Thailand* web site at www.friendsofthailand.org. Then, click on the *PROJECT RESTORE* button to access Information about the project along with the Donation Form and the Photos. 100% of what FOT receives will go to the school and specific purpose donors indicate. Absolutely no money will be retained by FOT or by any agency in Thailand. This money will be held distinct from other FOT activities, such as its PCV Project Sponsorship program. Additionally, because FOT now has 501(c)(3) status, any contribution of \$250 or more will be acknowledged with a letter for tax-filing purposes.

Thank you and peace,
 Carolyn Nickels-Cox
 Group Leader, Friends of Thailand (FOT)
 NPCA affiliate

RPCVs—Show your Stuff!

The Committee for a Museum of the Peace Corps Experience (CMPCE) is gearing up for its *Third Biannual Exhibition of Peace Corps memorabilia*. The show, titled, The Peace Corps Experience: Bringing the World Home will be held at the Art Institute of Portland from July 7 - 29, 2005. Your help is needed to make this our best exhibit yet.

Become part of this exhibition and lend to the Committee, for *one month*, one or more of the treasures you collected during your tour as a PCV. We are looking for artistic as well as utilitarian objects to display. Brief text descriptions will be presented with each item. The display will consist of high quality and visually appealing objects that exemplify the broad geographical reach of the Peace Corps. They will be chosen from submissions that may include paintings, leatherwork, carvings, furniture, kitchen items, weavings etc.

Please review the *submission form* (included) for details of our procedures. The sooner you get your form in (especially if you can include a photo of the object), the sooner we can let you know if your item was accepted.

Please consider making a financial contribution to the CMPCE to help us defray the costs of mounting the show (see our web site for information on how to donate). If you have questions about the show you can contact us at: 503-699-9833 or pcomuseum@comcast.net.

Martin Kaplan, President

CRPCA / OPB

It was a fairly slow, but nonetheless fun night when nine or ten CRPCA members and friends showed up to help with the winter Oregon Public Broadcasting membership drive this past December. Our group, among the several others there, brought in \$3,460 with "call-outs" accounting for \$35. Is there anyone out there who *doesn't* watch PBS?

Letters

To Cate and the rest of CRPCA:

Thank you so much for the generous donation of \$300! (*from our calendar sales-ed.*) It was completely unexpected and very much appreciated. 100% of the donation will go towards freight costs associated with shipping books from Portland to Malawian school libraries

Zikomo! (thank you)

Shannon Brown

Friends of Malawi Book Project

About Us

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 (RPCVs) 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. Newsletter submissions are due by the 25th of each month. Send by mail to P.O. Box 802, Portland, OR 97207, or e-mail to crPCA_nl@yahoo.co

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MEMBERSHIP * ADDRESS CHANGE * RENEWAL FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Newsletter form: Electronic (by e-mail)___ Paper (by USPS mail)___ Both___ .

Peace Corps Country and Years of Service: _____ Peace Corps Job/Sector: _____

Current Occupation: _____

Membership Type (Check one): _____ New _____ Renewal

Are you available at times to speak with groups about your Peace Corps experience? _____

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

 CRPCA and NPCA (\$50 individual/\$65 family) **Only one form necessary** CRPCA only (\$15 individual/\$22.50 family) NPCA only (\$35 individual/\$42.50 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

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www.crpca.org

If your membership is expiring, please use the form in this newsletter to renew.