



Columbia River Peace Corps Association Newsletter

Volume 24; Issue 7

“Bringing the world back home”

July, 2005

In This Issue:

- . Calendar of Events for summer 2005.
- . Mercy Corps recruiting
- . 2006 PC Calendars
- . Speakers Bureau call

Events Calendar

July 2005

Thursday, 7/07, 6:00-8:00 pm. *First Thursday* opening of "The Peace Corps Experience: Bringing the World Home," an exhibit organized by the *Committee for a Museum of the Peace Corps Experience*. Art Institute of Portland gallery, 1122 NW Davis Street in Portland's Pearl District. (See accompanying article for more information.)

Sunday, 7/17, 12:00-4:00 pm. *CRPCA Annual Picnic* in Portland's Washington Park. (See accompanying article for more information.)

Monday, 7/25, 6:30 pm. *Soirée* at Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd in Portland.

August 2005

Saturday, 8/13, 6:00 pm. *BBQ Pacific Style*, 2840 SW 24th Street in Gresham. (See accompanying article for more information.)

Thu-Sun, 8/25-8/28. *Northwest Regional Peace Corps Campout*, Honeyman State Park on the Oregon coast,

near Florence. (See accompanying article for more information.)

Monday, 8/29, 6:30 pm. *Soirée* at Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd in Portland.

Peace Corps Exhibit (July 7-29)

"The Peace Corps Experience: Bringing the World Home" is a curated exhibit organized by the Portland-based Committee for a Museum of the Peace Corps Experience. It will feature art and artifacts brought back by local RPCVs who served in 24 Peace Corps countries.

- **Location:** Art Institute of Portland gallery, 1122 NW Davis Street in Portland's Pearl District.
- **Dates:** July 7-29, 2005
- **Opening reception:** *First Thursday*, July 7, 6:00-8:00 pm. Food and music will be provided.

- **Open for viewing:** 9:00-6:00 Mon-Thu, 9:00-4:00 Fri, 9:00-2:00 Sat
- **Free admission!** Please tell your friends.
- **For more information:**
<http://www.PeaceCorpsMuseum.org>

CRPCA's Annual Picnic to Host Peace Corps Recruits (July 17)

CRPCA's annual picnic will be held in one of Portland's signature locations, *Washington Park*, on Sunday, July 17 from noon to 4:00 pm. We have reserved the *Elephant House*, a covered picnic area adjacent to the popular Play Park. Make a day of it! Restrooms, hiking trails, and Portland's Rose Garden and Japanese Garden are a short walk away.

Food/Activities: Please bring an entrée, salad, or dessert to share, plus drinks of your choice (*no alcohol*). The Seattle Peace Corps office is inviting recruits from throughout the Portland area to this event, so it will be an informal opportunity to share stories with those about to embark on the great adventure. And with the Play Park next door, there will be something for the whole family!

Directions: Take the frequent Washington Park Shuttle from the Washington Park MAX station to the *Children's Play Park*. If driving, find your way up to the Rose Garden then take the one-way street (SW Sherwood Blvd) that goes downhill from the Zoo Train depot. Park anywhere along the street, then walk past the Play Park to the Elephant House. We'll be sure to have signs posted.

BBQ Pacific Style (August 13)

This *new event* in our calendar is the fun idea of CRPCA members *Laura & Steve Montez* (Kiribati 1997-99). They want to welcome the entire CRPCA

community (kids included) to a celebration of Pacific culture.

- **Location:** Laura & Steve's house, 2840 SW 24th Street in Gresham. Consult CRPCA's webpage for directions, or call 503-674-3584.
- **Date:** Saturday, August 13, starting at 6:00 pm.
- **Food/Drink:** Laura & Steve will provide grilled hot dogs, burgers, and (if requested) veggie burgers and/or chicken, but it's also a potluck. They've requested that Africa RPCVs bring a side dish, Pacific/Asia RPCVs bring a dessert, and Europe/Latin America RPCVs bring salads/fruit. Bring your own drinks; alcohol is welcome.
- **Dress Code:** To encourage a festive atmosphere, Laura & Steve encourage us to "dress/go overboard in any obnoxious Pacific style: Hawaiian shirts, muu muus, wrap-arounds, etc." The event will take place both inside and outside, so please wear slip-off shoes for inside and bring a light sweater or jacket if it looks like a cool evening.
- **RSVP:** Please e-mail neiroora@hotmail.com or call (503-313-9421 cell, 503-674-3584 home). Laura & Steve want to know how many people to expect and their meat/veggie preference. But last-minute folks are also welcome.

Still Accepting Reservations for Northwest Peace Corps Campout (August 25-28)

For the past month, CRPCA has been accepting reservations for the *Northwest Peace Corps Campout* from RPCVs throughout the Pacific Northwest. With two months to go, it's already 44% booked. We will continue accepting reservations until we reach capacity.

- **Website:** <http://www.crPCA.org/campout.html>
- **Dates:** August 25-28, 2005.
- **Location:** Honeyman State Park on the Oregon coast near Florence. The largest of Oregon's coastal campgrounds features two natural freshwater lakes and the northern end of the Oregon Dunes. Canoeing, swimming, and a playground are available in the park. Other attractions in the Florence area include excellent

beaches and hiking trails, the Heceta Head Lighthouse, and the Sea Lion Caves.

- **Camping:** \$15 per vehicle (Fri-Sat). There are extra charges for larger vehicles. (Full details are available on the campout web page.)
- **Meals:** The group meals (Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast) are *free* for CRPCA members, but we'll need all members to help with the Saturday dinner.
- **RSVP:** Please e-mail crpca@crpca.org or call 503-235-9637 as soon as your plans are set. Please provide all of the following information:

- Your name, country and years of Peace Corps service
- Names of all passengers in your vehicle
- Type of vehicle:
- \$15 rate = car, pickup, SUV, or van
- \$18 rate = RV or any vehicle with trailer
- Which nights you wish to camp (Thu, Fri, and/or Sat)

Mercy Corps is Recruiting RPCVs

Portland-based *Mercy Corps* has alerted CRPCA that they are interested in hiring local RPCVs. CRPCA members receive periodic e-mails regarding job openings, but you can search their job postings at any time. <http://www.mercycorps.org>

2006 Peace Corps Calendars

Sept 18th we will be deciding who will be our calendar partner for this year. We are looking for applications. For those who are unfamiliar with this process, each year we partner with a *local* organization we think is doing good work, either in our community or overseas. They help us sell the calendars and we share the profits. Usually 80% goes to them. This year we have expanded to 600 calendars, so it is important that they be willing to put in effort toward selling the them. If you

know of any worthwhile organization, have them send a description of their work to Cate Wilcox cwilcox@teleport.com who is coordinating the sales this year. And, consider helping by buying or selling. They make great Christmas presents!

Share Your Peace Corps Experience with Others!

The *Speakers Bureau* is off to a great start, but we need *more* returned volunteers to talk about their unique experiences. Speakers Bureau has great ideas to help you develop some fun talks, and we will keep you informed about upcoming requests. Speaking is really fun, especially when your audience looks at you with that "WOW, I could do that someday!" look. The Bureau's job is to make your speaking experience a good one, and for you to come away feeling great that you took the time to educate and entertain. Contact Victoria at wcrummy@yahoo.com to learn more!

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.com

OFFICERS

President: Richard Ireland (Haiti '98-'00) 503-246-0479, rireland88@yahoo.com

Secretary: Cate Wilcox (Micronesia '87-'89) 503-777-3578, cwilcox@teleport.com

Treasurer: Anne Kimberly (Sierra Leone '86-'88) 503-234-4094, anne.kimberly@reed.edu

Newsletter Editor: Dane Pikkola (Swaziland '92-'94)
971-544-1727, crpca_nl@yahoo.com

Speakers Bureau: Victoria Crumpacker
(Turkmenistan '00-'01) wcrummy@yahoo.com

Membership: Karen Cellarius (Hungary '91-'93)
503-289-3964, karen@cellarius.org

Webmaster: Bill Stein (Niger '90-'93) 503-235-9637,
garba@aracnet.com

Restaurant Coordinator: Jenny Tsai (Fiji '90-'92)
503-806-6275, jenn_tsai@hotmail.com.

Advocacy Coordinator: Martin Kaplan (Somalia '62-'64)
503-699-9833, martinlkaplan@comcast.net

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

PO Box 802

Portland, OR 97207

www.crPCA.org

Please review your expiration date on your mailing label. If your membership is expiring, please use the form in this newsletter to renew

2005 International Calendars

Once again it is time to order your 2005 International Calendars developed by the RPCV's of Madison. We are carrying on a 14-year tradition of selling the calendars. Calendars are \$10 each plus \$4 postage. This postage rate applies to 1-5 calendars, with additional postage for more than 5 calendars. We would like to encourage people to pick up their calendars at our various pick-up points or to purchase them at CRPCA events. You may also complete the order form below and have calendars mailed to you.

This year our partner and proceeds recipient is **The Cascade Festival of African Films**. CFAF is committed to the following mission and values: Developing knowledge and understanding and appreciation of the richness, complexity and diversity of African peoples and their cultures; Building community by bringing people together to view African films, meet African filmmakers, participate in after-film discussions, and debate issues of personal and global significance, in a forum where open and honest dialogue can flourish; encouraging inclusiveness and accessibility by offering the festival free of charge; Creating an audience for African film in Portland, Oregon, and its environs; Serving as a resource of information about African cinema; Working with Portland Community College to build a library of African cinema for use by students, faculty and staff, and the public; and Sharing our passion for knowledge of Africa and African cultures through film. Look for their upcoming film series February 2005 at PPC/Cascade Campus. For more information, call 503.224.6111 ext. 3630 or visit www.cfaf.net

You may get calendars from the following people: *Richard Ireland* (503-246-0479, SW Portland), *Thrina Parent* (503-288-7231 NE Portland), and *Cate Wilcox* (503-777-3578, SE Portland). If you would like to call in an order you may call *Cate* at 503-777-3578 or e-mail cwilcox@teleport.com. Thanks for your continued support.

~Cate Wilcox (Micronesia '87-'89)

2005 International Calendar

Sold by Columbia River Peace Corps Association

www.crPCA.org

Order form

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, and Zip _____

Number of calendars _____ X \$10 = \$ _____

Postage and handling \$ 4 _____ (1-5 calendars)

Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to **CRPCA**. Please send your order and payment to: Cate Wilcox, 4609 SE Mitchell St.,
Portland, Oregon 97206
503-777-3578

Niamey to Zinder - Niger III Transafricaine Adventure

By Gabriella Maertens (*Niger III 1964-66*)

We had been bumping along the National Route of Niger for the past five hours, ever since we had transferred ourselves and all our belongings from one Transafricaine bus by ferry (actually a raft) across the rainy season river that bisected the national road. It was long past our expected 6:00 PM arrival in Tessaoua. Night had fallen rapidly as it does in the tropics, and we fitfully slept or strained to see what the full moon offered beyond the windows--flat land and scrub trees and millet growing tall in the fields.

Weariness overwhelmed all of us, but for the Peace Corps volunteers assigned to Tessaoua their weariness was mitigated by the fact that the end of their journey was close and that they would be sleeping in their new homes that night. Finally we were awakened by the changing rhythm as the bus pulled to a stop. We were hungry but cautious because of a certain queasiness from yesterday's meal. There didn't seem to be a restaurant or bar open anywhere. Maybe they had given up on the arrival of the Transafricaine bus.

After stretching our tired limbs, we spied a roadside vendor selling brochettes. They would be spicy hot and probably tough, that I had learned in one week, but it would be sustenance. There were also some green oranges, sour but thirst-quenching. So dinner would be brochettes and oranges and stale bread left over from Maradi.

We negotiated in Hausa with the vendor for two brochettes each and I dug in. Hot as expected but so tough I couldn't even chew it. We asked the vendor in Hausa what kind of meat it was but couldn't understand his response. If only Peter Easton hadn't gotten off the bus at Maradi. He was a walking Hausa dictionary, learning and using ten new words a day. Our puzzlement turned to horror as the vendor pointed to the sky to the birds that had mostly settled down again after our arrival --- vultures, those hated, dirty birds that fed on rotten, dead meat! I choked and thought I would become sick. I had eaten the roasted crickets, but it did not seem possible that any people could eat a brochette of vulture meat. My revulsion soon turned to amusement, and it made for a great story. Only later did I wonder if the vendor was playing a trick on us.