



# The Columbia River Peace Corps Association Newsletter

Volume 25, Issue 6 "Bringing the World back Home" July, 2006

## CRPCA Events Calendar

July, 2006

**Sunday, 7/16**, 12:00-4:00 pm. CRPCA Picnic and Nomination Party, Washington Park Elephant House in SW Portland (details in this issue).

**Monday, 7/31**, 6:30 pm. **Soirée** at *Lucky Labrador Brew Pub*, 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd in Portland. (Look for the CRPCA sign in or near the front room.)

**Aug 3 – 6, CAMPOUT CAMPOUT CAMPOUT**  
**Saturday, 8/19**, 5 pm - ?, Pacific Island BBQ Bash

## CRPCA Picnic & Nom Party Sunday, July 16 (12-4pm)

This year's picnic will be held at the Washington Park Elephant House in SW Portland. Again this year we're inviting local RPCVs, your families and friends, and Peace Corps nominees in coordination with the Seattle recruiting office.

**Food:** It's a potluck; we're asked to bring food according to the first letter of our last names.

- **A-M:** please bring a main dish
- **N-T:** please bring a salad
- **U-Z:** please bring a dessert
- **Beverages:** please bring your own (personal alcohol is permitted)

**Directions:** Find your way to Washington Park's International Rose Test Garden, then take the one-way street heading downhill (Sherwood Blvd) for a short distance. There is ample parking alongside the playground, and the Elephant House is just downhill from the playground. TriMet's Washington Park

Shuttle (from the Washington Park MAX station) provides service every 15 minutes to the playground stop. [Click here](#) for a map of Washington Park.

**Activities:** Socialize with other Peace Corps returnees/nominees/families, eat yummy food, and play outdoor games. For the little ones Portland's finest playground is a short walk away. Questions? Contact [Linda Oh](#), 503-645-8825.

## POTLUCK MEETING UPDATE:

Thanks to everyone who showed up at our June 11 potluck, at Anne Kimberly's home. A big thanks to Anne for hosting, and to the ladies at Domestic Violence Crisis Line for coming to talk with us about their organization. The Crisis Line was started six years ago by a woman who endured a three-year battle to get out of an abusive relationship without any help. Our speakers relayed that American women living overseas are especially vulnerable, because they would be considered kidnappers if they bring their child back to the US to escape violence. Thus, government resources have their hands tied. The Domestic Violence Crisis Line has a facility in Oregon that can hold up to five families who wish to settle here. The crisis line handles about 100 calls per month, which costs about \$1000 a month to maintain. With mostly volunteers and only two and a half paid employees, the organization offers some financial assistance to victims, and help them connect with local and state resources. It is a great organization that helps American women and children living in violent relationships overseas put their life back in order and

escape abusive situations. Thanks again for coming to talk with us!!

We have the summer off for potlucks, but there are plenty other activities going on, so hope to see you at some of them! Our next potluck meeting will be in mid-October, so stay tuned. If you know anyone who may be an interesting speaker, please contact me at 503.674.3584 or [neiroora@hotmail.com](mailto:neiroora@hotmail.com).

Thanks, and Happy Summer!  
Laura Montez RPCV Kiribati '97-'99

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## SECOND ANNUAL PACIFIC ISLAND BBQ POTLUCK

If you missed it last summer, this is your chance to check out one of last year's top attended events! If you were there, well, we are going to try and make it even better! Put it on your calendar, search for your most colorful Pacific Island dress/attire, and bring a favorite dish! Our second annual Pacific Island BBQ Potluck is on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, starting at 5pm, and ending when the last person walks out the door. This venue is Laura and Steve Montez' place, 2840 SW 24th St, in Gresham.

Potluck assignments, to ensure a plentiful variety, are as follows: African and Eastern European RPCV's will bring a main dish, America's and Carribean RPCV's will bring a salad/fruit dish, and Asia/Pacific Island RPCV's will bring a dessert. We will supply hot dogs, hamburgers, and soda. It is open to alcohol, BYOB. Garden burgers will be available for vegetarians, but you must RSVP with that request so we know how many to buy.

Everyone is highly encouraged to wear Pacific Island attire, and please wear slip-on shoes, as this is a shoe-free home. Island music will be heard in the background, and hopefully, we will have some live entertainment from local Kiribati people (my country of service). Kids are welcome, plenty of toys downstairs! This gala is open to all RPCV's, friends who have served in some capacity overseas, or anyone with any connection to those already mentioned.

We look forward to making this party a memorable event for all people, coming from all locations, in

order to educate people about the small islands of Kiribati and its peoples and customs. Please RSVP to Laura, at 503.674.3584 or [neiroora@hotmail.com](mailto:neiroora@hotmail.com). See you all there!

Laura Montez RPCV Kiribati '97-'99  
CRPCA Program Coordinator

## West Region RPCV "Summer of Peace" Campout

### The CRPCA Main Event of the Summer

**When:** Thursday – Sunday, August 3-6  
**Where:** Dworshak State Park near Orofino, Idaho  
**Who:** RPCV's from throughout the West  
**Carpool coordinator:** Dane Pikola,  
[dane9@yahoo.com](mailto:dane9@yahoo.com)  
**More Info:** <http://www.crPCA.org/campout.html>

## THIRD GOAL

My name is Raleigh Seamster and I was a PCV in Ukraine from 2002-2004, serving as a TEFL volunteer in a secondary school. I am now working with American Councils in Washington, D.C. to help place high school exchange students with host families and communities across the U.S. We are currently working to find homes for students from three different State Department-sponsored programs: **FLEX**, **YES**, and **A-SMYLE**.

The **FLEX** program brings students from the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine. The **YES** program brings students from countries with significant Muslim populations. Our organization places the students from Afghanistan. The **A-SMYLE** program brings students from Serbia and Montenegro.

If you are interested in the possibility of hosting an exchange student, or know people or groups in your community that might be interested, please contact me for more information.

Thank you for your commitment to the ideal of cultural exchange.

Raleigh Seamster, RPCV Ukraine '02-'04  
(202) 833-7522, [Seamster@americancouncils.org](mailto:Seamster@americancouncils.org)

## Minutes of Western Regional RPCV Meeting,

20 May 2006, Seattle, WA

Prepared by Joana Ramos

The meeting was held in Seattle with RPCVs from the 1960's- 2005, and service countries of Benin, Kenya, Morocco, Niger, Togo, Uganda, and Zaire, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Peru, and Ukraine.

Idaho RPCVs have some 50 new members. Inland NW Peace Corps Association (Eastern WA, Northern ID) now numbers some 25 members. West Cascade Peace Corps Association (Eugene) reported 35 additional RPCV's on their database.

Columbia River PCA No one was present from this group. Paulette reported that the Portland group will be participating in the new-PCV nom party in July. The group seems to be growing, and there has been an upsurge in attendance at their potlucks and pub nights. Findlay added that some group members are involved in ongoing work to create the Museum of the Peace Corps Experience. At present they have been able to mount temporary displays at sites in Portland and are still seeking a permanent home and funding for the museum.

WA State Peace Corps Association (metro Seattle) has just switched to an integrated electronic newsletter-website format. The decision was made both to facilitate communication, and to simplify distribution of the newsletter, for which printing and mailing had been WSPCA's major expense. Those members unable to read the e-version may still receive a hard copy upon request. Membership recruitment is ongoing. WSPCA's major fundraiser is also sales of the intentional calendar. For the 2005-06 school year, funds were earmarked to support the shipping of books to rebuild a school library in Slidell, LA, that was lost to Hurricane Katrina. Joanne Dufour reported on how the project evolved, via her family and RPCV ties. Over 1000 donated books were sent to a special-education middle school and to a high school, resulting in heartfelt thanks from students, families, and teachers alike.

WSPCA- Olympia (satellite group): Bob Findlay reported on recent activities, noting that they are not yet formally constituted as an official group. Michelle Andrews has been active in organizing bi-monthly

dinner which have had a good turnout. They are hoping to add more of an educational focus to these in the future. One accomplishment was getting Gov. Gregoire and Mayor Mark Fouch to issue proclamations in recognition of the 45th anniversary of the creation of the Peace Corps.

Other group business Topics discussed included building and retaining membership; policies of the NPCA that relate to finances of the local groups. NPCA gives free 1-yr. memberships to recently-separated PCVs, boosting the "head count" per local group, thus increasing the dues assessment that the local owes to the national. But the local ends up with a net financial loss, as most of the "new members" neither pay local dues nor join either group after the year is up. This is particularly an issue for the larger affiliated groups like WSPCA and CRPCA.

The matter of the change in the status/venue of the NW region in the NPCA hierarchy was also discussed. Paulette reported that last year the NPCA voted to redistrict the NW region into a larger Western region that now includes CA, HI, and NV as well as WA, OR, ID and MT. It is a credit to our group that the NW rep—Bob Findlay—was re-elected to represent the entire West. The Pacific NW has a long history as a regional network, dating back at least 25 years, well before the creation of the NPCA (formerly the National Ass'n of RPCVs). Some of the individual NW regional groups have decided to contribute funds to support the attendance of the Western rep at national meetings.

We discussed leaders who have had a positive influence to either Peace Corps or to the greater society, and to think about how their work and values might be incorporated into a vision for the ideal PC director. We discussed the tenure of present director Gaddi Vasquez, who is about to leave PC for an ambassadorial post with the FAO. PC directors are traditionally political appointees, and RPCV voices regarding their selection seem not to be heeded. How much influence we can collectively have is uncertain.

NPCA Report Bob Findlay shared that the NPCA is presently not just going through yet another organizational transition, but is facing a real crisis of relevancy, including some about its governance. Out of some 180,000 RPCVs, only 7500 are members of

the NPCA. The national group is exploring ways to increase membership, including vastly re-structuring the organization. Bob has floated the idea of making membership free to all RPCVs, then seeking funding through donations and grants. His idea has had a mixed reception.

Other proposals to remedy the crisis include turning the NPCA into a virtual community, changing it to a membership organization that serves members like an alumni association. Another proposal was made to create a simplified membership structure. None of the three proposals incited much discussion or feedback at the last NPCA Board meeting. What will happen remains to be seen, and more input is needed. At present, at least 25 local or country-of-service groups have chosen not to continue to affiliate with the NPCA. Most of them, it was noted, have disbanded as groups for various reasons, and only a very few were rejecting NPCA per se.

Those present discussed their experiences and perspectives on the matter, including dismay that one of the most successful and ongoing RPCV efforts, the Global Education program, has not received the attention it deserves. Many felt that the Global Ed program could also have served as a catalyst for building a strong national group as it provides visibility nationwide and internationally, as well as offers a unique and important service to communities across the country. Several folks present shared their belief that the NPCA has been too focused on activities within the DC Beltway, and has been out of touch with the vast majority of us, both geographically and in terms of our lives, work and community involvements. Local groups seem to be able to keep going, although they too have life cycles. The future of the NPCA remains uncertain and complex to resolve.

The next Regional meeting will be held at the Idaho campout on August 5, 2006.

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### **Taking Your Concerns Global**

Would you like to take action and get involved with others in a way that offers a path, structure and powerful leverage to alleviating the worst aspects of poverty and hunger?

RESULTS ([www.results.org](http://www.results.org)) gives your voice a forum for actions in concert with hundreds of others who make strong requests of our government representatives to take the most effective actions possible. And RESULTS helps us form an ongoing

relationship with them that informs them, and assures progress in reducing hunger and poverty.

As Jeffery Sachs, author of "The End of Poverty", said speaking about RESULTS galvanizing our Representatives: "You are really the people out there in your communities who are making the case and changing American understanding" about poverty, hunger and the UN Millennium Goals.

Peter 503-245-7858, [stoel@spiritone.com](mailto:stoel@spiritone.com)  
Portland Chapter of RESULTS  
[www.neighborhoodlink.com/org/results/](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/org/results/)

### **NPCA Advocacy This September!**

All advocates for a strong and independent Peace Corps and global policies that advance human development are encouraged to join the National Peace Corps Association in Washington, DC September 13 – 14 for Capitol Hill Advocacy Day. Wednesday orientation sessions will be followed by a full day of Capitol Hill activity on Thursday.

Pre-registration is mandatory! For more details, please visit [www.peacecorpsconnect.org/advocacy2006](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/advocacy2006)

### **RPCV Job Opportunity**

Research Assistant / Family Interviewer  
Portland State University (PSU), through the Regional Research Institute for Human Services (RRI), is seeking a part to full-time (0.75 - 1 .0 FTE) Research Assistant/Family Interviewer for the Wraparound Oregon: Early Childhood (WO:EC) System of Care evaluation in Multnomah County. WO:EC is a 6-year federally funded effort to improve mental health and related services for children 0-8 with serious emotional and behavioral disturbances. The evaluation will include data collection and submission for several components of a national cross-site study of federally funded systems of care, including a longitudinal study of children and families served. In addition, local evaluation objectives will be developed and addressed through a collaborative and family-driven process with multiple community partners. Under the general direction of the RRI Project Manager, the Research Assistant will participate as an active member of the Evaluation Team.

Details can be found at:

<http://www.ssw.pdx.edu/jobs/pgJobs.php>

## Volunteer Opportunity

### Temporary Housing for visitors from Kazakhstan

This summer the Council is pleased to bring you a fantastic, hands-on opportunity to learn about another culture. **A group of visitors from northern Kazakhstan**, the largest of the Central Asian republics, will spend three weeks in the Portland area, and **we need host families!**

The delegation will be in Oregon from **Friday, July 9 - Friday, July 27**. The visitors will spend two nights (July 7 & 8) in a downtown hotel, and go to their host families on the evening of Sunday, July 9. On the evening of Thursday, July 27, we will throw a fabulous party to thank all of our hosts and to bid farewell to our guests. The visitors will spend that last night in a hotel, so that we can collect them in the morning to go to the airport.

Every weekday they will take public transportation to the World Affairs Council's downtown office and home again. We will provide lunches, cultural events, transportation to meetings and appointments, some weekend activities, etc. Host families will provide breakfast and dinner (most evenings), a spare room, and an American home experience. Whether you are a family with 2.5 kids and a dog, a retired couple or individual suffering from empty nest syndrome, or living on your own in your first house or apartment, don't pass up this opportunity! If you can only host for part of the time, or if you would prefer to host two visitors rather than one, this can also be arranged.

We can assign you a visitor, or you can choose - it's up to you. Please feel free to pass this e-mail on to your friends and neighbors .

These ten visitors are from Kostenai province in northern Kazakhstan, along the border with Russia. There are seven men and three women. They will be in Portland to learn about small and medium business development. Short biographies and more detailed information about hosting are available at [www.worldoregon.org/visitors/community.php](http://www.worldoregon.org/visitors/community.php),

Christine Jacobs, Program Manager  
World Affairs Council of Oregon  
Tel: (503) 274-7488

## RPCV's (Mali 98-00) Need Subletters / Cat Sitters!

We're looking for anywhere from 1 to 4 subletters from early September through early December while we are traveling. Dates are flexible and overlap with us for some time on either end might be possible. Rent is \$350/mth. Electricity, garbage, water, and wireless DSL included..

The house has: 4 bedrooms, 2 fully furnished, and 2 full bathrooms. The house is located 5 blocks from Mississippi, on bus lines 4, 40 and 33.

Must like cats.. Additional dogs and/ or cats might be considered.

Please contact Stephanie at  
stephanietolk@gmail.com or 503.961.5444 if interested.

### 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.crpga.org](http://www.crpga.org). Newsletter submissions are due by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Send by mail to P.O. Box 802, Portland, OR 97207, or email to: [crpga\\_nl@yahoo.com](mailto:crpga_nl@yahoo.com)

### Officers

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**Speakers Bureau:** Vicki Crumppacker (Turkmenistan '00-'01) 503-381-6406, [wcrummy@yahoo.com](mailto:wcrummy@yahoo.com)

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**MEMBERSHIP  ADDRESS CHANGE  RENEWAL FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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?\_\_\_\_\_

Please check one of the following membership options:

Preferred / Encouraged

Membership in the National Peace Corps Association with CRPCA as your free affiliate.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 CRPCA and NPCA (Individual)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$65 CRPCA and NPCA (Family)

\_\_\_\_\_ FREE CRPCA and NPCA (if you closed your Peace Corps service in the last year)

Low Income / Living Lightly

Membership in CRPCA only.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 CRPCA only (Individual)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$22.50 CRPCA only (Family)

Please make checks payable to: Columbia River Peace Corps Association, and mail to:  
CRPCA, PO Box 802, Portland, OR 97207