



The Columbia River Peace Corps Association Newsletter

Volume 25, Issue 7 "Bringing the World back Home" August, 2006

CRPCA Events Calendar

August, 2006

Aug 3 – 6, **CAMPOUT CAMPOUT CAMPOUT**

Saturday, 8/19, 5 pm - ?, Pacific Island BBQ Bash

Monday, 8/28, 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.)

Calendar Partner for 2007

On September 24th we will be deciding who will be our partner for the 2007 calendars. We are seeking applications as soon as possible. For those who are unfamiliar with this process, each year we partner with an 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 received 500 calendars, so it is important that our partner be willing to put in significant effort toward selling the calendars. If you know of any worthwhile organization, have them email a description of their program and work to Pat Russell at patr88@renaissancemedia.com. If questions, you can also phone her at (503) 284-2874. Pat is coordinating the sales this year. Please consider helping by buying or selling our calendars. Do your holiday shopping early!

Restaurant Search

Do you have a favorite restaurant from a present or former Peace Corps country? Is there a Polish, Mozambican, Iranian, El Salvadorian or other venue we have yet to experience for our bimonthly repasts? Here's your big chance to help select a new location for us all to enjoy. Moderate price or inexpensive, well known or obscure, let's set up a dinning schedule for a whole year. All suggestions considered. Contact the Restaurant Coordinator at dane9@yahoo.com. The next gathering will be in September.

Positions Available

Portland State University is currently hiring up to four research assistants in social work. Positions details and application information can be found at: www.rri.pdx.edu

New Peace Corps Director

On July 25 President Bush nominated Ron Tschetter to be the 17th Director of Peace Corps. Ron and his wife Nancy were volunteers in India from 1966 to 1968. Ron's appointment will mark just the third time a returned Peace Corps volunteer serves in that position, a criterion NPCA advocated for with the White House Personnel Office. Ron also knows NPCA well: he is a past Board Chair and current Director's Circle member. We look forward to working with him to strengthen the partnership between Peace Corps and NPCA, especially around Third Goal activities.

Peace Corps Offers a Journey for Two South Salem Residents

BY RACHEL HELLESTO
Statesman Journal, July 11, 2006

Joyce Elder has worn many hats as a daughter, sister, wife, mother, friend, teacher and nurse. Now, as the South Salem resident nears her 60th birthday, she will fulfill a dream and put on a new hat as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador.

"I always wanted to do some volunteer outreach in another country," she said, but because she married and had children soon after college, she was not afforded the opportunity.

Elder will become part of the 6 percent of Peace Corps volunteers who are older than 50. "It's just a perfect time in my life to do this," Elder said.

After graduating from Trinity University in San Antonio with degrees in Spanish and Spanish literature, she taught Spanish classes in a San Antonio junior high school. Elder became involved in Lamaze childbirth after the birth of her two daughters, and she went back to school to become a registered nurse. She became a nurse practitioner, working in both a public clinic and her own private practice.

That was more than 21 years ago. She has lived and worked in Salem for almost 20 of those years, and now she is ready to leave Salem to use the skills that she has learned as a nurse -- and do whatever else might be asked of her -- in a rural area of Ecuador.

Typically, volunteers don't get to pick the nation they go to, but because Elder was older and had Spanish and health-care experience, she fit the bill for a health-promotion position open in Ecuador and was able to go to the country she requested.

Elder will be working on health issues with mothers, children and babies, teaching "natural family planning" and some natural health. "I did six years at the health department," Elder said, "so it's up my alley."

She said that although she has been given an idea of what her job will be, a lot of what volunteers do is self-driven and can depend on what a volunteer's skills and interests are, as well as the specific needs in the community at the time. Elder said that although her family will miss her, they are happy for her. Her daughters are grown, she said, and her 88-year-old mother is happy that she will be following in the footsteps of her brother, Gary Gardner, who was in Ethiopia with the Peace Corps in the mid-1960s.

"Everyone I have talked to who has been in the Peace Corps has given me glowing reports," Elder said.

Bob Arias, 65, of South Salem gives the experience positive marks. He served in Colombia when he was 25 and returned to the Peace Corps in 1995 as a country director in Argentina and Uruguay at age 54. He coordinated a Peace Corps security and safety report in 2002.

Although most Peace Corps volunteers do not return to the organization after their two-year commitments, Arias said that the Peace Corps experience stays with a person.

"The ability to care [that is learned through volunteering] never leaves you," he said.

The mix between benefits for the volunteer and benefits for the community in which they work is one of the features that makes volunteering appealing to so many. Arias emphasized the impact that volunteering can have on a person.

"You have that fire in your belly because you can make a difference," he said.

Besides making a difference, Elder is excited about the places she can go during her vacation time.

"I'm going to go to the Galapagos (off the coast of Ecuador) and Machu Picchu (in Peru)," places that have been on her "life to-do list," she said.

Although volunteers get a minimal amount of money in return for their services, the benefits seem to be beyond any financial gain.

"Not only are you giving something back, but you know that you've done something and you know it's something right," Arias said about his experience with the Peace Corps.

NPCA Membership Structure Recommendations of NPCA Staff

The intent of this message is to share recommendations made by the NPCA staff regarding changes to the NPCA membership structure and systems.

Your comments are welcome. Please provide them to the Director representing your group or to the President of NPCA.

Over the past two years, NPCA has conducted an extensive and systematic examination of its membership structure in an effort to develop a business model to more effectively meet the needs of members, affiliated groups and the national organization.

The goal of this review has been to increase membership in NPCA and affiliated groups by reducing barriers for joining and making the value equation for membership more competitive. Specific efforts have focused on simplifying systems, reducing associated costs, improving service and the cost/value to members and groups.

NPCA's current membership structure is a product of years of evolution reflecting past needs. In September, NPCA Directors must make critical decisions to create a membership structure to meet the needs of the future.

The Board now has the requisite information upon which to base its decisions, including;

- ideas and recommendations from the NPCA Advisory Council;
- an intensive review by the Membership Work Group composed of Directors and Group Leaders and resulting in numerous recommendations;
- a thorough analysis of NPCA's membership systems, processes and needs by a professional consultant;
- recommendations of the President and staff.

Staff Recommendations:

1. ***Membership in NPCA should be available to individuals on annual or lifetime basis only.***
 - Three of the current five types of membership (Family, Teachnet,

WorldView) would be eliminated to simplify the system, reduce costs and enhance service.

2. ***The standard annual membership fee should be \$25. One free annual membership should be available to RPCVs for the first year after their COS.***
 - Charging \$25 versus \$35 for NPCA membership - a reduction of 30% - will enhance the value proposition making it more competitive and resulting in increased membership for both NPCA and affiliate groups. The average total for NPCA plus one affiliate membership will become \$40, a reduction of 20% over the current average combined price of \$50.
3. ***Members should be encouraged but not REQUIRED to join both the NPCA and an affiliated group.***
 - This would eliminate the "joint dues" category of relationship between NPCA and affiliated groups. Cooperative recruiting by NPCA and affiliate groups will be the norm, recognizing market realities. The change will simplify the system for both NPCA and affiliate groups, provide more flexibility and cost savings and lower barriers of entry for potential members.
4. ***As soon as feasible and, in cooperation with the affiliated Groups, NPCA will attempt to create a mechanism whereby combined membership payments for a Group(s) and NPCA will be paid directly to each respective organization.***
 - The "rebate" system should be eliminated, money will flow directly to the intended recipient creating efficiencies and eliminating a significant contention between NPCA and affiliate groups. Cost savings will be realized and service to members improved.

The development of such a system may be contingent upon some funding from Groups and processing fees paid by the entity receiving the payment.

**SECOND ANNUAL
PACIFIC ISLAND BBQ POTLUCK**

Our second annual Pacific Island BBQ Potluck is on Saturday, August 19th, 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 Caribbean 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.

Please RSVP to Laura, at 503.674.3584 or neiroora@hotmail.com.

The Village Bicycle Project

I am a volunteer with the Village Bicycle Project (VBP). A non profit which works to build the capacity of bicycles to meet basic transport needs in Ghana, providing bicycles, tools and maintenance education. I just returned to Portland, OR after five months of work in Ghana and plan to return this coming fall to continue work with the VBP on our women's programs and workshops. Often we work in coordination with Peace Corps volunteers and I had an opportunity to meet several while in Ghana. A PCV from the Portland area mentioned CRPCA to me as a good reference to tap into a community of like-minded folks who may be helpful in supporting this project and helping me to contextualize this work within the realm of international development. If you are interested in this project, please contact me at meyajj@yahoo.com, or visit our website at www.pcei.org/vbp

Jaye Marolla
Women's Program Coordinator
Village Bicycle Project

PCV Needs to Lease House in Sellwood

I recently accepted an invitation to serve as a Peace Corps volunteer in Malawi, Africa. This commitment will keep me away from Portland for at least two years and three months. I would like to rent my house while I am gone. The house is located in the Sellwood neighborhood, three blocks away from Sellwood Park and within walking distance of numerous shops and restaurants. The address is 1024 SE Rex. It has three bedrooms and two bathrooms (both of which have been fully renovated within the last two years). It has about 1600 square feet of living space above ground and a dry 900 square foot basement with high ceilings and laundry facilities. Appliances in the kitchen include a gas range, refrigerator and dishwasher. If you or someone you know is interested, I can be reached outside of work at 971-404-8835.

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 email to: crPCA_nl@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