



The Columbia River Peace Corps Association Newsletter

Volume 25, Issue 8 "Bringing the World back Home" September, 2006

CRPCA Events Calendar

September, 2006

Saturday, 9/9, 6:30 pm - ?, Restaurant Mtg,
Montego Bay, 1239 SW Jefferson St (near PSU)

Sunday, 9/24, 2:30 pm, Annual Planning Meeting
Woodstock Library, 6008 SE 49th Ave. All Invited.

Monday, 9/25, 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.)

Committee for a Museum of the Peace Corps Experience

The Committee for a Museum of the Peace Corps Experience (CMPCE) has entered into collaboration with the International School of Beaverton. This is a new school (K6 - K12) that attracts students with special interests in international issues and cultural understanding. CMPCE will provide an ongoing exhibit at the school and have RPCVs occasionally come in and give presentations and demonstrations related to their countries of service. In order to have a successful exhibit with attendant programs the CMPCE has applied for a small grant from the Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC) to help defray costs.

The committee requires matching funds in order to qualify for this grant. Please help us get this grant by donating whatever you can afford to:

CMPCE
P. O. Box 14861
Portland, OR 97293

We are a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, so your donations are tax deductible.

The committee is also seeking donations, or long-term loans, of indigenous art and artifacts from your countries of service. If you would like to be part of this show please contact us for more information:

Phone: 503-699-9833
E-mail: pcmuseum@comcast.net
Website:

www.museumofthepeacecorpsexperience.org

Martin L. Kaplan, President

Dining Out

Sept. 9th, 6:30 pm, 1239 SW Jefferson St. (near PSU)

Montego Bay is authentic Jamaican cuisine in a colorful, friendly environment.

Moderately priced at 12\$ to 15\$ for full entree.

Vegetarian dishes and bar service available.

All major credit cards are accepted. Kids O.K.

Please RSVP Dane at dane9@yahoo.com, or 971-544-1727 by September 7th. *See yuh der Mon!*

CRPCA Annual Planning Meeting

It will be at the Woodstock Library, 6008 SE 49th Ave in Portland on September 24 at 2:30 pm. We welcome all members to participate and help us decide how 2006-2007 year will unfold. Come meet your officers and vote on who our Calendar Sales partner is this year. **Note the new location.**

Two RPCV's seek employment

My name is Franny White and I completed my Peace Corps service in Panama this May. I am now back in my native Washington State and seeking employment in the Northwest. I have three years' experience as a newspaper reporter and am interested in returning reporting for either newspapers or magazines. Outside of journalism, I'm also very interested in continuing the environmental conservation work I started in Panama with a career in environmental advocacy or public outreach. I'd greatly appreciate it if you would please pass on my name and contact information to all those you can think of who could be looking for an applicant like me.

Sincerely,

Franny White
Peace Corps/Panama, 2004-2006
(509) 586-9785, frannywhite@gmail.com

My name is Wendy Schumacher. My project with the National Park Service is changing so I'd like to consider relocating closer to family. I have almost 20 years with the federal government and will soon complete a PhD in addition to being a certified Project Management Professional.

I would like to contact an RPCV working with the federal government about job opportunities in the Columbia River region

Sincerely,

Wendy Schumacher, RPCV Morocco (1999-2001)
wsmaroc@yahoo.com, Fort Collins, CO

JOB OPPORTUNITY in Seattle

Senior Program Officer, Emergency Relief Program
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, Washington

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation seeks a senior program officer, emergency relief (EMR) to be responsible for the management of strategies, plans, and the portfolio of grants in humanitarian assistance and emergency relief. The senior program officer, EMR will bring leadership to the identification, selection, implementation, and management of new and existing programs and partnerships and will collaborate closely with the Emergency Relief Committee (EMRC) to expedite and advance all efforts related to the foundation's EMR program. The senior program officer, EMR will have experience and knowledge in humanitarian assistance and emergency relief fieldwork.

www.gatesfoundation.org/AboutUs/WorkingWithUs/Jobs/

WEST REGIONAL NPCA-AFFILIATED GROUP LEADERS MEETING

The most recent meeting of group leaders in our area took place on Saturday, August 5 at the West regional 'Summer of Peace' camp site in Dworshak State Park near Orofino, ID. Attending were: Sam Greer, Idaho RPCVs; Beryl Brinkman, West Cascade PCA; Brenda Michel, Columbia River PCA; Jenn Nicholas, WSPCA; and Bob Findlay, regional representative on the NPCA board. Introductions included recent reading by attendees that ranged from Ellen Hildebrant's fictionalized pc experience in Guatemala to events leading up to the invasion of Iraq and Jared Diamond's book on cultural choices that doomed societies. We noted that among the forty campers were RPCVs from San Jose and Phoenix, thereby expanding our event to the Western states.

Group leader reports focused again on membership. Two strategies were presented that resulted in significant increases in NPCA and local group membership. Sam Greer shared a membership pamphlet that was sent to an expanded mailing list derived from local sources and the new Harris directory. Area RPCVs were invited to participate in Idaho RPCV events and were eventually asked to fiscally join the groups. As Idaho RPCVs is a joint membership group, new members joined both the local and the national organizations. Beryl Brinkman

described an offer they made last year to a similarly derived mailing list in the West Cascade area around Eugene, OR. Their offer was for one-year free local group membership if RPCVs joined the NPCA. Both campaigns resulted in remarkable increases in membership.

The major discussion item was the NPCA staff recommendations for individual and group membership. Their recommendations follow extensive discussions with the board, an outside consultant, a membership task force (in which several West regional group leaders were active) and the Group Leaders Forum chairperson. The recommendations to change to individual and lifetime memberships only, to reduce the standard annual fee to \$25, and to eliminate the joint dues category for groups drew modest discussion and the prediction that the last change would probably result in reduced NPCA membership. The fourth change, actually a promise, is "to attempt to create a mechanism whereby combined membership payments for group and NPCA will be paid directly to respective organizations". The group felt that the lack of a specific proposal for payment distribution only perpetuates the dissatisfaction with NPCA that has maligned its relationship with many groups in recent years. They cited examples: regional groups typically maintain parallel mailing lists for group members that are more user friendly and current than those provided by NPCA, and they continue to be frustrated by sorting out membership and rebate payments with NPCA.

The West Cascade PCA will host the 2007 West Regional Campout in the vicinity of Mt. St. Helens in Southwestern Washington. Mark the first weekend in August, 2007, for the opportunity to commune with regional RPCVs.

Message from Your Program Coordinator

Thank you to the near-30 people who attended our Pacific Island BBQ Bash at our place August 19. We had plenty of good food, and lots of lively conversation from both new and familiar faces. Unfortunately, we weren't able to get local entertainment, but we will work on that for next year's event.

After our board meeting's planning for the year, I will announce our upcoming Potluck Meeting. I already have a speaker lined up for October, the owner/operator of 10,000 Villages store. Also upcoming is a couple who were RPCVs in Iran and recently visited with a private organization. They would like to provide a slide show and discussion about the state of the country and how poorly it is portrayed by the media. Stay tuned for those dates and speakers. We hope you will be able to attend these upcoming meetings/potluck presentations.

As always, if you or anyone you know would like to speak to our group, please contact me at 503.674.3584, or neiroora@hotmail.com. Happy Fall to everyone!

Laura Montez, RPCV Kiribati '97-'99

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