



Columbia River Peace Corps Association Newsletter

Volume 25, Issue 11 "Bringing the World back Home" December, 2006

Our final event of 2006

Sunday, December 10: Potluck at the home of Martin & Frances Kaplan, 19436 Wilderness Dr in West Linn, 503-699-9833. Take Hwy 43 to Hidden Springs Rd, the traffic light to the south of Zupan's (between Marylhurst College and I-205). Turn inland (from the Willamette), then make the first right onto Wilderness Dr and curve around to the top of the hill. The home is up a hill on the right.

The Kaplans report that their home is toddler-proof, so bring the whole family! This also may be your last chance to purchase 2007 International Calendars (\$10), as sales have been brisk.

5:00 CRPCA Board Meeting. The board will consider a motion to simplify CRPCA's dues effective January 2007. We welcome and encourage input from all members.

6:00 Potluck Dinner. Please bring a favorite seasonal dish to share.

7:00 Presentation: Iran Yesterday and Today. CRPCA members Jackie & Mike Spurlock will present a slide show on their time as PCVs in Iran (1974-76) and how they were affected during their most recent trip back there (2006).

Please note:

- The potluck date was mis-specified as December 11 in some versions of the November newsletter.
- There will be no Soirée in December.

Our first big day of 2007

Saturday, January 6: CRPCA will be hosting Returned Peace Corps Volunteers from throughout the West at three events in SW Portland, culminating at our annual White Elephant Party.

12:00 Lunch. Share pirate cookin' with Peace Corps friends old and new at Salvador Mollys West, 1523 SW Sunset Blvd. No-host.

1:30 Regional Meeting. Walk nextdoor to the meeting room at Hillsdale Library, 1525 SW Sunset Blvd. All persons interested in what Returned Peace Corps Volunteers are doing in their communities are welcome to attend. The agenda will soon be available on CRPCA's website.

6:00 White Elephant Party. Gather in the upstairs room at the SW Lucky Labrador Public House, 7675 SW Capitol Hwy. Each participant is asked to bring a wrapped white-elephant gift that might be of use to someone but which wasn't really what you wanted under your tree. This is a family-friendly event, fun for kids of all ages, and this year's party will be a great way to introduce our regional friends to the Portland RPCV community. The pizza/salad buffet will cost \$8 for adults and \$4 for ages 5-12, collected at the door in cash or check.

RSVP! Each of Saturday's events will involve food, so we will appreciate RSVPs no later than Thursday, January 4. Please send an e-mail to Bill Stein at garba@aracnet.com (subject: "RPCV RSVP") or call 503-235-9637. Include the names of all persons in your party, indicating which events you plan to attend (lunch, meeting, and/or dinner).

RPCV Mentoring to Debut in Portland

Through a cooperative agreement with Peace Corps, the National Peace Corps Association will conduct a pilot mentoring program in Chicago, Miami, and **Portland** from January through June 2007. During an initial orientation in January (details TBA), matched pairs will meet and will have an opportunity to learn more about the roles of mentor and mentee. NPCA will provide all mentors with a Mentor Toolkit including guidance and resources from Peace Corps and other sources.

Following orientation, the mentoring program will officially begin. Mentors and mentees will meet face-to-face and communicate regularly for the duration of the program. Mentors will offer support and guidance to mentees as they adjust to life in the U.S. and make the transition to a new job or education program. Mentors will also provide the mentees with connections to the established RPCV community in the region and introduce the mentee to local Third Goal activities. Mentors and mentees will provide NPCA with periodic updates on meetings and feedback regarding their match.

The mentoring program will officially end in June with a final meeting to gather feedback from all participants and provide closure. Although the pilot phase ends in June, pairs will be encouraged to continue the relationship as warranted. NPCA will develop materials based on participant feedback to guide the creation of further mentoring programs. In the future, we hope that the outcomes of this pilot program will be the basis for mentoring programs connecting RPCVs with returning volunteers all over the country.

Who is eligible to be a mentor?

- NPCA prefers that mentors' COS date be no less than 5 years ago. However, exceptions can be made for RPCVs who have returned more recently on a case-by-case basis. Mentors will be chosen through an application process.
- Mentors must be well-established RPCVs who have connected with their communities and secured employment and/or educational experience since returning from Peace Corps service.
- Mentors should also be involved in Third Goal activities and be members of the local affiliate group involved with the mentoring program (CRPCA).

What are the characteristics of a good mentor?

In terms of personality, desirable mentors are considerate, caring, and appropriately humorous. They are cooperative, empathetic, and patient. Good mentors are also naturally energetic, motivated, interpersonally supportive, encouraging, and poised. They appear to exude "emotional intelligence." In addition to demonstrating these qualities, highly rated mentors are ethical, well adjusted, and intentional role models. In essence, excellent mentors are kind, healthy, and competent.

Who is eligible to be a mentee?

Mentees will have COSed no more than one year prior to the beginning of the mentoring program. Mentees will be chosen through an application process.

What is the time commitment?

- All mentors and mentees will attend an orientation in Portland at the beginning of the mentoring program (details TBA).
- Mentors and mentees will meet face-to-face at least once a month.
- Mentors and mentees will communicate by e-mail or phone at least once every two weeks. All participants must have access to online communication and check e-mail regularly.
- Mentors and mentees will attend affiliate group or Peace Corps-related functions at least three times during the mentoring program.

How do I sign up?

Through December 15, applications for mentors and mentees are being accepted at the project's web page: <http://www.rpcv.org/mentoring>

This program holds a lot of promise for recent RPCVs, our group, and the returned volunteer community generally. If you're eligible for either role, please consider applying today. At this writing, we especially seek interested mentees.

Contact the local coordinator, Bill Stein (garba@aracnet.com, 503-235-9637) with any questions.

CRPCA 2007 Calendar of Events

All events take place in Portland unless otherwise specified.

January

Saturday, 1/06. West Region RPCV Meeting and Post-Holiday White Elephant Party. See page 1.

Saturday, 1/20, 6 pm, CRPCA Restaurant Gathering, Kinta Restaurant, 3450 SE Belmont St. Malaysian vegetarian cuisine! (Chicken and shrimp available.) RSVP to Dane Pikkola, dane9@yahoo.com or 971-544-1727 by 1/18.

Monday, 1/29, 6:30 pm, Soirée at Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Meet in front room.

February

Sunday, 2/11, 5 pm, CRPCA Potluck Meeting, at the home of Rosemary Furfey, 7022 SW 33rd Ave, 503-245-0819.

Monday, 2/26, 6:30 pm, Soirée at Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Meet in front room.

March

Saturday, 3/10, CRPCA Restaurant Gathering. Location TBD. Contact: Dane Pikkola 971-544-1727.

Monday, 3/26, 6:30 pm, Soirée at Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Meet in front room.

April

Sunday, 4/15, 5 pm, CRPCA Potluck Meeting and Selection of 2007-08 Officers, at the home of Jenny Tsai, 2944 NW Raleigh St, 503-227-5229.

Monday, 4/30, 6:30 pm, Nom Party and Soirée in the upstairs room at SW Lucky Labrador Public House, 7675 SW Capitol Hwy. Meet newly nominated Peace Corps Volunteers as they prepare for their adventures.

May

Tuesday, 5/01. New CRPCA Officers take office.

Saturday, 5/12, CRPCA Restaurant Gathering. Location TBD. Contact: Dane Pikkola 971-544-1727.

Monday, 5/30, 6:30 pm, Soirée at Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Meet in front room. Yes, we'll be there on Memorial Day.

June

Sunday, 6/10, 5 pm, CRPCA Potluck Meeting, at the home of Linda Centurion, 3940 SE 47th Ave, 503-788-7366.

Monday, 6/25, 6:30 pm, Soirée at Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Meet in front room.

July

Sunday, 7/15: CRPCA Annual Picnic, at Washington Park. Contact: Linda Oh 503-645-8825.

Monday, 7/30, 6:30 pm, Soirée at Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Meet in front room.

August

Thu-Sun, 8/02-8/05. NW Regional Campout near Mt. St. Helens. Hosted by West Cascade Peace Corps Assoc.

Saturday, 8/18, 5 pm, Pacific Island BBQ, at the home of Laura Montez, 2840 SW 24th St in Gresham, 503-674-3584.

Monday, 8/27, 6:30 pm, Soirée at Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Meet in front room.

September

Sunday, 9/09, 2:30-4:30 pm, CRPCA Annual Planning Meeting, Location TBD.

Monday, 9/24, 6:30 pm, Soirée at Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Meet in front room.

Check <http://www.crPCA.org/events.html> for up-to-date information on our events. We are eager to add service and outreach events, and we're also interested in ideas for events in other parts of our service area, which is bounded by the Coast, Vancouver, the Gorge, and Salem. Contact Richard Ireland if you are willing to host and/or plan an event. Our Oct 07 – Sept 08 events will be planned at the 9/09 meeting.

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: <http://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

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Note: This newsletter was assembled by Bill Stein. Brian and Lani will take over the newsletter in 2007.

Columbia River Peace Corps Association
PO Box 802
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MEMBERSHIP ADDRESS CHANGE RENEWAL FORM (for use thru Dec 31, 2006)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

Newsletter form: Check if you require a paper newsletter: _____ (e-mail is preferred)

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

Low Income / Living Lightly

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

Membership in CRPCA only.

_____ \$50 CRPCA and NPCA (Individual)

_____ \$15 CRPCA only (Individual)

_____ \$65 CRPCA and NPCA (Family)

_____ \$22.50 CRPCA only (Family)

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

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