



Columbia River Peace Corps Association Newsletter

Volume 26, Issue 1 "Bringing the World back Home" January, 2007

President's Message

In our final meeting of 2006 a good question was raised. Why should anyone join the CRPCA? What do they get for their annual dues?

Some of you have been involved with us in social ways: potlucks, annual dinners, soirées, game nights, restaurant gatherings, picnics, etc. Our organization provides a way for you to connect to other RPCVs. This social networking leads to other activities, and the presentations continue our connection to the world outside the US.

Our organization provides speakers throughout the year that have continued our commitment to the Third Goal. This fall we spoke at Woodstock Library, and we will continue our connection to the libraries. We have also maintained a working relationship with the Seattle recruiters and help them with presentations.

We give 80% or more of our fund raising to projects that are doing good work. In December we voted to donate \$1,000 through the Peace Corps Partnership program to a current volunteer from Oregon who is working in Mali.

We also keep connections to the national network through meetings with other regional groups and organizing events here in conjunction with the NPCA, the latest being a mentoring program. Last year we hosted over 100 volunteers for a 45th anniversary celebration. Having our organization active makes these events possible.

Through our newsletter, website and e-mail contacts we keep people informed of events and needs as they come up. We also provide a means for organizing service to our community.

I am involved because I believe in the original reasons I joined the Peace Corps. This organization provides a way for me to keep connected to that vision and provide a necessary presence in the community. I have manned booths this past couple years and am delighted to meet former volunteers, interested parties, parents of volunteers and the totally ignorant. But the one that brought tears to my eyes was a former student of a Volunteer who came up to thank me for the Peace Corps.

- Rich Ireland (Haiti 1998-2000)

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Winter 2007 Events (see page 5 for details)

*Jan 6: Regional RPCV Meeting &
Post-Holiday White Elephant Party
Jan 20: Malaysian Restaurant Gathering
Feb 11: RPCV PCT Thru-Hiker to Speak at Potluck
Soirées on Jan 29 & Feb 26*

CRPCA and NPCA Announce Dues Changes

New dues rates will be applied to all CRPCA and NPCA membership applications/renewals initiated in 2007 and later. The new membership form is on the next page, and there is also a copy posted on [our webpage](#). In a nutshell, here are the new dues:

Columbia River Peace Corps Association dues are now **\$20 per household** (one or two adults may be listed on the application). One year free membership (with electronic newsletters) is now extended to all first-time members of CRPCA who are Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) residing in CRPCA's geographic area.

National Peace Corps Association dues are now **\$35 per person** (with no free affiliate). One year free membership in NPCA is available to RPCVs who closed their service within the last year.

Q: Why the changes?

While we've chosen different approaches, both CRPCA and NPCA embarked on these changes with the twin goals of simplifying our dues structures and producing more sustainable finances.

CRPCA last raised its dues to account for inflation in the early 1990s, when printing and postage expenses were significantly lower and we weren't maintaining a website. As family memberships have incurred no additional costs and received no extra benefits, there will no longer be any difference between individual and family dues. The new free membership policy should result in more people paying dues over time.

NPCA expects the à-la-carte approach (no required affiliate membership) to result in more NPCA memberships. The base dues of \$35 are unchanged, though some will pay more than in the past with the elimination of the family membership rate and three-year discounted memberships.

Q: How will I renew my membership next time?

The new membership dues for both organizations will go into effect whenever your current membership expires. Please use the new membership form printed in this newsletter. With the expanded format, we will no longer be printing the form in every newsletter, but it will always be available at <http://www.crPCA.org/join.html>

Due to the mis-match in dues policies between our organizations, we no longer encourage our members to join/renew through NPCA, but we continue to encourage all our members to support both CRPCA and NPCA.

If your spouse/partner (residing at your address) has not previously been listed on your CRPCA membership, go ahead and name them on your renewal application. For no extra charge, they will be full members of CRPCA. As always we welcome participation in our activities by your whole family.

Q: What's the deal with free membership?

We have long wanted to have broader appeal to the many new people we meet at soirées. Often they closed their Peace Corps service over a year ago, are new to town and/or seeking employment, and are not in a position to plunk down cash for a membership. NPCA's policy of limiting free membership to newly returned PCVs works for them (they incur costs sending *WorldView* to free members) but not for us (we incur minimal costs producing electronic newsletters and have a strong interest in building our membership).

So the deal is open to any RPCV residing in our geographic area who was never previously a CRPCA member and who elects to receive electronic newsletters, regardless of COS date.

We're limiting the geographic area of the offer so as not to encroach upon neighboring RPCV groups. Here's our first cut at defining our geographic area. This list may be edited at the January 6 regional meeting.

Oregon counties: Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Hood River, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Wasco, Washington, Yamhill

Washington counties: Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Lewis, Pacific, Skamania, Wahkiakum

Help Wanted

This newsletter was again assembled by interim editor Bill Stein (Niger 1990-1993). Brian Hobbs and Lani Horowitz were previously announced as our new editors, but they will be unable to take over the role at this time. We could really use a volunteer to edit this newsletter over a longer term. Please [e-mail us](#) if you'd like to apply your creativity toward informing the local Peace Corps community on a monthly basis.



Columbia River Peace Corps Association & National Peace Corps Association

MEMBERSHIP - ADDRESS CHANGE - RENEWAL FORM

CRPCA's \$20 dues confer full membership on one or two named adults sharing an address. NPCA's \$35 dues are per individual. CRPCA urges you to support both organizations. Membership is open to all, and your contributions are tax-deductible.

	<u>Member #1</u>	<u>Member #2</u>
Name	_____	_____
Address	_____	_____
City, State, & Zip	_____	_____
Home Phone	_____	_____
Work Phone	_____	_____
Cell Phone	_____	_____
E-mail Address	_____	_____
Peace Corps Country & Years of Service	_____	_____
PC Job/Sector	_____	_____
Current Occupation	_____	_____
Willing to talk about your Peace Corps experience?	<input type="checkbox"/> Speakers Bureau	<input type="checkbox"/> Speakers Bureau

CRPCA Annual Dues: \$20 Please check newsletter form: E-mail Paper
 or check here to request **FREE membership in CRPCA.** One free year is offered to all Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) residing in our geographic area who were never previously members of CRPCA and who agree to receive e-mail newsletters.

NPCA Annual Dues: \$35 for Member #1 \$35 for Member #2
 or check here to request **FREE membership in NPCA.** One free year is offered to all RPCVs who closed their service within the last year.

Please mail this form with a check to CRPCA for the total of the boxes you checked.

**CRPCA
P.O. Box 802
Portland, OR 97207**

Peace Corps Museum Goes to School

The Committee for a Museum of the Peace Corps Experience (CMPCE) has entered into a partnership with the International School of Beaverton (ISB) in Aloha, Oregon. At various locations within the school, CMPCE is mounting exhibits of art and artifacts that local Returned Peace Corps Volunteers have brought back from their countries of service. These exhibits are intended to enhance the learning experience of the students by giving them a real feeling for the life and culture of areas of the world that have been served by Peace Corps Volunteers.



In the above photo CMPCE board members Ron Myers (kneeling) and Bill Saphir (standing) examine the case installed in November at the ISB building entrance. Shortly beforehand, a student's mother walked up and asked to touch the camel bell loaned for the exhibit by CMPCE president Martin Kaplan (Somali Republic 1962-1964). She was curious to learn how we'd obtained an item that looked just like the bell she'd used for her camel back home in Somalia!

CMPCE would like to fill more cases at the school. <http://www.museumofthepeacecorpsexperience.org> contains the exhibit submission form and other information about CMPCE's projects. You can also call Martin Kaplan at 503-699-9833 if you have items to loan for exhibit. CMPCE also welcomes tax-deductible contributions and participation by the local Peace Corps community on its board.

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, please visit <http://www.crPCA.org/join.html>. 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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From our Program Coordinator

Thank you to Martin and Frances Kaplan for being gracious hosts at our December potluck. We had near-record turnout and hope to continue seeing more people at our potlucks. Jackie and Mike Spurlock provided an excellent visual presentation of Iran past and present. Our hosts even invited their Iranian neighbors, which made for enlightening discussions (*and they brought great baklava! – ed.*).

Please contact Laura Montez (contact info above) if you're willing to host a future potluck or have ideas for future programs.

CRPCA Winter Event Schedule

It's not too late to RSVP for the big events coming up this **Saturday, January 6, 2007**. We're expecting Returned Peace Corps Volunteer group leaders from Boise, Corvallis, Eugene, Olympia, Seattle, and perhaps Spokane to join us at each of these events in SW Portland. Please e-mail garba@aracnet.com (subject: "RPCV RSVP") or call Bill Stein (503-235-9637) by Friday if you plan to attend any of the following.

- 12:00-1:30: **Lunch** with visiting RPCVs at Salvador Mollys West, 1523 SW Sunset Blvd.
- 1:30-5:30: **West Regional RPCV Meeting** at Hillsdale Library, 1525 SW Sunset Blvd. The agenda includes listening to reports from the represented RPCV groups, addressing NPCA changes/relations, discussing the national RPCV virtual community initiative, defining each group's geographic boundaries, and announcing plans for the spring regional meeting and summer campout. All are welcome!
- 6:00-8:00: **CRPCA's Annual Post-Holiday White Elephant Party** at Lucky Labrador Public House, 7675 SW Capitol Hwy. Please bring a wrapped gift that might be of use to someone but which wasn't really what you wanted under your tree. Also bring \$8 per adult (\$4 for ages 5-12) for the pizza/salad buffet. This will likely be your last chance to pick up 2007 International Calendars (\$10).

Here are our other upcoming events in early 2007.

Saturday, 1/20, 6:00 pm. CRPCA Restaurant Gathering, Kinta Restaurant, 3450 SE Belmont St in Portland. Malaysian vegetarian cuisine! (Chicken and shrimp available.) RSVP to Dane Pikkola (971-544-1727) by 1/18.

Monday, 1/29, 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.

Sunday, 2/11, 5:00 pm. CRPCA Potluck Meeting at the home of Rosemary Furfey, 7022 SW 33rd Ave in Portland, 503-245-0819. All are welcome at the 5pm CRPCA business meeting. We'll share a meal (please bring a favorite dish and drink) at 6pm. The program (see right) will begin at 7pm.

Monday, 2/26, 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.

PCT Thru-Hiker in our Midst

At CRPCA's February 11 potluck, Renee Patrick (trail name: "She-ra") will share stories and images from her 2006 thru-hike of the Pacific Crest Trail. Renee served in Burkina Faso 1999-2001, then thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail in 2002. After studying museums in London, she moved to Portland and has been instrumental in preparing CMPCE's most recent exhibits. This past year she took a break from Portland to thru-hike the Pacific Crest Trail. She started at the Mexican border April 29 and hiked 2549 miles north, reaching the Canadian border on October 1. She next has designs on thru-hiking the Continental Divide Trail, so come hear a local RPCV's experiences of trail life while you can.



RPCV Mentoring Program Update

The National Peace Corps Association is currently poring over 33 mentor and 18 mentee applications from RPCVs throughout the Northwest for 15 mentor-mentee pairs in the Portland pilot of the RPCV Mentoring Program. If you were among the applicants, you may soon receive an invitation to the Portland orientation session on Sunday, January 28.

Columbia River Peace Corps Association
PO Box 802
Portland, OR 97207

*Image of 2006: RPCVs shared their experiences with
Peace Corps recruits at CRPCA's "Nom Party"*

