



Columbia River Peace Corps Association Newsletter

Volume 26, Issue 3 "Bringing the World back Home" March, 2007

Happy 46th Birthday to Peace Corps!



This photo was taken during the 45th anniversary celebration in 2006 that was jointly planned by CRPCA and the National Peace Corps Association.

Update on CRPCA Initiatives

Service Events: We are pleased to welcome Sharlot Hart (Madagascar 2004-06) as CRPCA's Service Coordinator. Sharlot has already lined up our first service events in some time for March and April. Please ensure the success of "RPCVs volunteering again" by confirming your participation today. Our first event was scheduled through a group (Hands on Portland) that needs names early. See page 2.

New List-Serv: CRPCA's board has chosen not to initiate "official" outdoor activities after careful consideration. Arguments raised included our lack of liability insurance and the weak link to our mission. Instead we encourage all interested members to join the CRPCA_AdHoc_Events list-serv, a new member benefit. This will allow our members to invite each other to all types of non-CRPCA events. And if you still want to ski/snowshoe/hike, there are members organizing trips very soon, so signup today. See page 2.

Help Wanted: CRPCA's annual officer elections are coming up April 15. We encourage all members to consider placing your name in nomination for any position. Our board positions are described in [CRPCA's bylaws](#). We especially need people to [step forward now](#) if you are drawn toward one of our soon-to-be-vacated positions.

Newsletter Editor: Compiles this newsletter on a timely basis from items submitted by members and manages its distribution. (*Note from the Interim Editor: I cannot continue past this month, so an April newsletter is not guaranteed; I'm happy to share the template and tips.*)

Webmaster: Manages content at www.crpca.org. Previous webmasters have made this very easy for anyone with basic computer skills.

Education Coordinator: Manages the CRPCA speakers bureau and ensures quality outreach in the community.

Our president Rich Ireland says, "Six years ago I attended a potluck and found a way to integrate and continue my Peace Corps commitment. Consider helping out."

CRPCA March-April Events

Saturday, 3/10, 6:00 pm. Restaurant Gathering at The Horn of Africa, [3939 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd](#) in Portland. "Authentic coastal East African cuisine." Extensive menu, moderately priced. RSVP to [Dane Pikkola](#), 971-554-1727, by Fri 3/09.

Saturday, 3/17, 9:30 am to noon. Service Activity for Books for Kids program. Help ensure that books get into the hands of children. We'll be sorting through donated books and preparing them for [Schoolhouse Supplies'](#) free store for public school teachers. **RSVP by Fri 3/02** to Sharlot Hart (sharlohart@gmail.com, 602-653-5492) if you're willing to participate. Schoolhouse Supplies is located at [2735 NE 82nd Ave](#) in Portland.

Monday, 3/26, 6:30 pm. Soirée at Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, [915 SE Hawthorne Blvd](#) in Portland.

Saturday, 4/14, 9:00 am. Service Activity pulling English Ivy from [Tryon Creek State Park](#). Help remove this invasive species from the trees in the park. Wear good shoes and clothes you don't mind getting dirty. RSVP to [Sharlot Hart](#), 602-653-5492.

Sunday, 4/15, 5:00 pm. Potluck Meeting at the home of Linda Centurion, [3940 SE 47th Ave](#) in Portland, 503-788-7366 (note new location). CRPCA's 2007-08 officers will be selected at the 5pm business meeting. Send post-dinner program ideas to [Laura Montez](#), 503-674-3584.

Monday, 4/30, 6:30 pm. Nom Party at Lucky Labrador Public House, [7675 SW Capitol Hwy](#) in Portland. Note the Multnomah Village location; we've reserved the upstairs room in partnership with the Seattle Peace Corps recruiting office. (Replaces April Soirée.)

Other International Events in March

Thursday, 3/01 – Saturday, 3/03. Closing weekend of the [Cascade Festival of African Films](#), with screenings from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mozambique, Niger, and Tunisia. PCC-Cascade Moriarty auditorium, [705 N Killingsworth St](#) in Portland.

Monday, 3/05, 6:00 pm. [Committee for a Museum of the Peace Corps Experience](#) meeting. CMPCE is seeking new members to help plan a 2008 Peace Corps exhibit in Portland. Hillsdale Library, [1525 SW Sunset Blvd](#) in Portland.

Friday, 3/09, noon. [Central Asia](#), a Great Decisions lecture by Edward Walker, director of the UC-Berkeley program in Soviet and post-Soviet studies. Organized by the World Affairs Council of Oregon. PSU School of Business Administration ([SW 6th & Harrison](#)) auditorium.

Wednesday, 3/21, noon. Iranian New Year celebration, to make a case for peace by highlighting positive aspects of Iranian culture. Organized by [Gretchen Kafoury](#) (Iran 1964-66) and the [American Iranian Friendship Council](#). Portland City Hall, [1221 SW 4th Ave](#).

Introducing CRPCA AdHoc Events List-Serv

Why? Over the last couple months, demand has developed for a way for our members to connect for non-CRPCA activities on a more spontaneous basis.

How does this differ from the CRPCA e-mail update? The occasional e-mails generated by CRPCA (currently sent by Jim Maddry—usually reminders of events or time-sensitive announcements between newsletters) are sent to all members who supply an e-mail address. We have always endeavored not to fill up members' in-boxes. This list-serv will be controlled by its members; there will be no limit on the number of messages sent.

What is the list-serv's intended use? Send an e-mail to the group if you wish to invite and/or organize local RPCVs for any non-CRPCA event. (Where possible, we prefer that users minimize conflicts with scheduled CRPCA events.) Possible events could include outdoor activities (hike, ski, camping, etc.) that you are organizing, plus group attendance at concerts, talks, movies, sports and even political events. RSVPs should be sent to the originator of the e-mail rather than to all subscribers.

What uses are discouraged? At least initially, the list-serv is not to be used for classified ads (no résumés or housing-wanted announcements) nor for discussions of any sort (including commentary on the events). If it turns out that there is demand for a more general list-serv, we will poll subscribed members on their preferences.

Who is eligible to participate? Current members of CRPCA. Your membership will be verified upon requesting participation in the list-serv. You will remain subscribed until/unless you repeatedly violate the terms of use, request an end to your participation, or fail to renew your CRPCA membership.

How do I sign up? Signup is not automatic. E-mail CRPCA_AdHoc_Events-subscribe@yahoo.com, then check your e-mail for a message inviting you to fill out a form to subscribe. You will have to create a yahoo account if you don't already have one, but you can choose to have messages sent to your non-yahoo account once it's been verified (follow the instructions). Once the form is submitted, your CRPCA membership will be verified, and you'll receive more information on how to post announcements to other subscribers.

What will change if I choose not to participate? You will not learn of these additional events, but CRPCA events will continue to be promoted to all members in the newsletter and to non-members on the website. There may even be more frequent CRPCA activities than in the past; stay tuned. Items of potential interest to all members should be submitted to crpca_nl@yahoo.com; the officers will decide how to communicate the information.

Any small print? CRPCA assumes no responsibility for events scheduled through this list-serv. Contact Jim Maddry (crpca_memb@earthlink.net, 503-288-3046) if you have additional questions.

Obituary: Beryl A. Brinkman, 1939-2007

Beryl Brinkman, known for decades to all who have attended Northwest regional RPCV events (including the January regional meeting in Portland), passed away suddenly on Feb 1, 2007. The following obituary is reprinted with permission from the [Eugene Register-Guard](#) 2/08/07, on whose website appear heartfelt appreciations of Beryl from dozens of RPCVs.



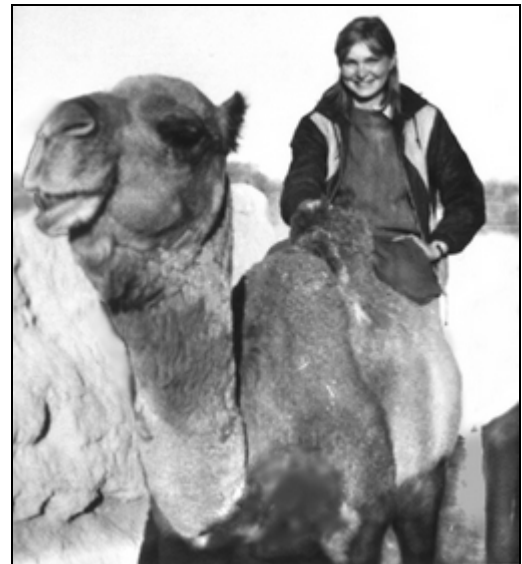
Beryl A. Brinkman, inveterate traveler, vertebrate wordsmith, scrabblor extraordinaire, warrior for peace, student of cultures and languages, supporter of causes just and all around best friend to hundreds, has made her last journey.

Beryl started her life on a small farm in Wisconsin and ended her days in Eugene some 67 years later. She had been fatally bitten by the travel bug after her college years at North Central College in Illinois. In the early sixties, she hopped a freighter to Spain and never looked back on the simple farm life. After Spain she journeyed to Afghanistan as a Peace Corps volunteer and her family says this was a turning point in her life. Afghanistan was a wild and undiscovered country in 1967 and Beryl made many lifetime friends there. Beryl served with 20 other women as a vaccinator for smallpox, traveling by horse, donkey and even camels to remote villages to vaccinate women and children. That work contributed to the eventual eradication of that devastating disease. Concerned for the poverty and the kids she had worked with in Afghanistan, she was an activist against poverty and war from that day onward. She had also become an avid traveler and would be ready for a trip at the drop of a hat. One friend remembers remarking in the 80's, "I think I will go to Russia" and Beryl's response was, "I'm in."

She set a pattern of meeting new friends in the oddest of places and absorbing them into her growing family. She was never judgmental instead accepting people for what was in their hearts. To keep tabs with all her new buddies, she established the "esteemed correspondents" list whereby she would issue well-crafted travelogues laced with the wonderful characters and odd situations which she encountered. Her writing was so vivid that readers could smell the curry and taste the sweets. Many of Beryl's friends traveled the world with her through her emails. Since the early 70's she made Oregon her home and had made her conversion to a loyal duck fan with panache. In Eugene, Beryl worked for the State of Oregon for over 20 years, most recently at the Oregon State Scholarship Commission. Beryl loved the independent spirit of the Oregonians and admired the state staff she worked with. She was a

founding member of the West Cascade Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Group and ever active in international movements/ affairs, she served as president and co-chair of the National Council of RPCV's. She put Eugene on the Peace Corps map. Largely as a result of her efforts (and some chocolate bribes) the National Council held its 24th annual meeting in Eugene. For years she has mentored foreign students and transcended cultural and language differences. Her beloved Tanzanian housemate assisted her in her final moments. She honed her own writing skill, edited two Peace Corps books and was working on another of her early letters. Recently she was asked to write a book review for a national publication and she was awed that her talents had been recognized.

She is survived by her brothers Lynn of Wisconsin, and Nathan of California, and sister Natalie of Ohio, 10 nieces and nephews scattered throughout the States. Donations in Beryl's memory can be sent to Patricia Tate, 4704 Larkwood Ave., Eugene OR 97405 designated for the Beryl Brinkman Memorial Fund. Money will go to projects she was working on for building schools and clinics in Afghanistan and to a fund for students in Tanzania.



In other regional news: *Our counterpart to the north, the former Washington State Peace Corps Association, has primarily served Puget Sound communities, from Bellingham to Olympia. (SW Washington is served by CRPCA, and Eastern Washington is served by the Inland Northwest PCA.) So WSPCA has chosen a new name, SEAPAX (Seattle Area Peace Corps Association), and their new website is at <http://www.seapax.org>*

CRPCA Membership Report (Jan-Feb 2007)

Welcome to our newest members!

Anna Campbell (Burkina Faso 2003-05)
Arianne Cease (Senegal 2005-05)
Carla Crane (Costa Rica 1995-97)
Daniel Dietz (Peru 2003-05)
Christel Eichner (Panama 2003-05)
Brian Fassett (Bulgaria 2004-06)
Laura Feldman (Ghana 2004-06)
Liz Feldman (Paraguay 1999-02)
Jessa Harger (Jamaica 2003-05)
Sharlot Hart (Madagascar 2004-06)
Kara Helme (Kenya 2001-03, Ghana 2004)
Jerry Gabay (Malawi 1984-86)
Josh Gardner (Mongolia 2004-06)
Nicora Gardner (Mongolia 2004-06)
Kenneth Gates
Donna Godwin
Marta Hansen (Mozambique 2001-03)
Kristin Rosling (Peru 2004-06)
Bill Saphir (Thailand 1967-70)
Heidi Scofield (Paraguay 2004-06)
Adam Stein (Mongolia 2004-06)

Thank you to our renewing members!

Tamara Boyd (Ghana 1980-82)
Charles Brasher (India 1970-72)
Deborah Brink (Philippines 1988-90, Malawi 1993-94)
Shannon Brown (Botswana 1976-78)
Theresa Burks (Namibia 1994-96)
Sally Carter (Malawi 1991-93)
Karen Cellarius (Hungary 1991-93)
Linda Centurion (Paraguay 1988-90)
Victoria Crumacker (Turkmenistan 2000-01)
Ann Easterly (Liberia 1966-67)
Scott Eckert (Saint Vincent and Grenadines 1987-89)
Jackie Goldrick (Thailand 1962-64, Kenya)
John Goldrick (Thailand 1963-65)
Minda Hedges (Solomon Islands 1994-96)
Thomas Hutchinson (Uganda 1970-72)
Gretchen Kafoury (Iran 1964-66)
Martin Kaplan (Somalia 1962-64)
John Keane (Philippines 1964-66)
Leigh Knox (Kenya 1984-86)
Josie Kpobe-Tee
Mary Lopez (Benin 1993-95, Congo 1998)
Gregory MacCrone (Liberia 1989-90, Thailand 1990-92)
Brian Mahoney (Kenya 1983-85)
Judi Mahoney (Belize 1984-86)
Laura Miller (Côte d'Ivoire 2001-02)
Ted Norton (Honduras 1969-72)
Alan Rozendaal (Ukraine 1996-98)
Eloika Rozendaal (Ukraine 1996-98)
Anne Savage (Mongolia 2001-03)
Shakhawan Shekhani
Jeff Strang (Ghana 1980-82)
Mike Street (Tunisia 1970-72)
Stan Withee (Brazil 1966-68)
Sara Wu (Kazakhstan 1996-98)

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 20th 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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Maps Wanted: *Chris Delcher (RPCV El Salvador, 1998-2000), an epidemiologist in Virginia, is trying to find the maps and mapmakers of the Peace Corps. Many Volunteers are trained to make community maps while in service. These maps range from the hand-drawn variety that live in tattered journals to very sophisticated maps created with digital Geographic Information Systems. Chris' own hand-drawn maps focused on public health by displaying the problem of minimal latrine coverage in his town but Volunteers from all Peace Corps programs are using maps for many reasons. No matter the size or sophistication, if you have a map (or even a picture of you next to a map that you have created) from your service or know an RPCV that does, please contact Chris at cdelcher@comcast.net*



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.

Member #1

Member #2

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**

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PO Box 802
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CRPCA welcomed RPCVs from Seattle, Eugene and many points in-between to the Portland RPCV mentoring orientation at the end of January. In this photo facilitator Scott Ruplin (Nepal 1993-95) confers with mentors Laura Montez (Kiribati 1997-99, left) and Susan Fofana-Dura (Liberia 1976-80).

