

Columbia River Peace Corps Association

Serving our community. Engaging the world.



NEWSLETTER

March 2009

Vol. 29, Issue 3

www.crpga.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER - Rich Ireland (rireland88@yahoo.com)

My term as President of CRPCA ends on April 19th. It has been a delight to serve the community of returned Peace Corps Volunteers. The Board is now a highly functioning group of people and is ready for some new leadership. So far no one has indicated interest in the President's role, which is mostly a coordination function. If no one steps forward, the position will go unfilled. If the position of President seems too intimidating or time consuming, please consider sharing it with someone else as Co-President. Two Co-coordinators fill the Fundraising and Community Service positions. Descriptions of each position are in our by laws at www.crpga.org

Please get in touch with me before April 19th to ask questions about this wonderful opportunity to serve as President. If you have never led a group before and you want to develop leadership skills, this is an excellent low-key non-threatening way to do it.

Karen Cellarius was elected as our new Treasurer on February 8th. She has done this job before and she served as CRPCA President for four years prior to me. I am glad to have her creative spirit back on the Board.

The web site coordinator position is also vacant. Anyone with web skills and interest please let me know. Bill Stein has generously stepped in for as interim to manage our web site but he wants to devote his time to enlivening our speakers' bureau.

On February 8th we had a wonderful potluck with 30 people in attendance. We seem to be having more young people stepping in and our group is becoming even more vital. Jim Maddry spoke eloquently about peak oil and we made several decisions about our March 7th Peace Corps celebration dinner. It ought to be fun and a great time to celebrate Peace Corps Week. We decided to delay the auction in support of a development project until November. Our new event and fundraising co-coordinators, Jenn and Courtney, are exploring other fundraising opportunities. We are lucky to have their energy and expertise.

I see sun in my window and am enjoying thoughts of spring.

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The Columbia River Peace Corps Association Newsletter is published monthly by the CRPCA for the benefit of its members. The CRPCA serves Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and others in Oregon and southwest Washington who share an interest in serving the cause of peace and global development.

To join CRPCA and, or, the National Peace Corps Association, please visit www.crpga.org. 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: crpga_nl@yahoo.com.

CELEBRATE PEACE CORPS WEEK

You are invited to the March 7th dinner from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. to celebrate the founding of Peace Corps in March 1961. The East African dinner will include Chicken curry, black-eyed peas, vegetable, and rice. There will be ample vegetarian options. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, \$5 (kids 5-12), younger than 5 free. Location: First Unitarian Church (12th and Salmon) 1011 SW 12th Ave, Portland, OR 97205

Bring 2 non-perishable items per person to support the Oregon Food Bank. This year CRPCA has chosen to volunteer every other month with the Food Bank, repackaging and sorting bulk non-perishable food. <http://www.crPCA.org/service.html>

There will be a silent auction, slideshow and music from host countries. Please email any photos you would like included to cemartin79@yahoo.com

All of the cost of the dinner ticket will be used to hire Grace Kuto to cater the event. The profits from catering will fund the Chwele Health Clinic in her Western Kenyan community.

Send checks payable to CRPCA to: Courtney Martin, 2199 NW Everett St. #505, Portland Oregon 97210. Please include the names of the people that will be attending the event with your check.

ZEAL FOR TALKING ABOUT PC

Fellow RPCVs: Did you return home with a missionary zeal for talking about your Peace Corps experiences to whomever would listen?

Fellow CRPCA speakers' bureau participants: Have you ever felt that you could make your presentations more engaging?

My goal as CRPCA's new Education Coordinator is a more robust speakers program. To get us there, I'm asking all who would like to be involved in the CRPCA speakers bureau (including current participants) to **return the Speakers Bureau Survey by 3/15/09.**

Since I returned from Niger in 1993, I have presented my photos at schools a couple dozen times. Usually I share vignettes while speeding through my 70+ slides, and I'm happy to field questions during and after the slide presentation.

My experiences of speaking have varied between informal presentations in English or French to small groups, delivering the slides as a classroom lecture, and speaking before a school assembly at an alternative school in North Portland (that was my favorite speaking experience, and theirs too!).

There are two ways I know my presentations could improve: a more modern presentation medium and more effective storytelling.

This first issue only affects those of us who served before the digital camera era. Carousel slide projectors are no longer manufactured, and schools usually need to scrounge to find one that works. All classrooms are now set up for PowerPoint presentations. I recently bought a slide scanner off Craigslist, and I'll be happy to loan it to other members after I've scanned my slides into digital images. I envision working together with interested members to build effective PowerPoint presentations. In my case, I want fewer images (who really needs to see that photo of my motorcycle?) and more maps, perhaps culled from Google Earth. I'll also be free to incorporate images and, or, videos downloaded from the Internet.

More importantly, I know from two years of participating in a workplace Toastmasters group the value of effective storytelling. I know we have other members who are great storytellers, and my hope is that we can learn from each other. You will be amazed at the enhanced connection with audiences when your presentations consist of a series of well-told stories. Audience members are more likely to retain information presented as stories. Schools are hip to this as well: speaker requests have been for "a dynamic speaker--someone who tells good stories and can relate to high school juniors and seniors."

I have two main motivations for the survey. First, I want to know who the current speakers are. Second, I want to gauge members' willingness to participate in speaker enhancement training.

I'd like a reading of which geographic areas, work assignments, and cultural topics our members are available to speak about. This will help us promote our services more accurately, as the Speakers Bureau web page hasn't been updated in about a decade.

I also want to know when or if members are available to meet for a couple of training sessions on delivering effective presentations. Even if we've been doing this a long time, we can pick up a few new tricks. Another benefit of meeting face-to-face is that it could motivate us to find more speaking opportunities!

The survey in this newsletter can be mailed back to me at Bill Stein, 4308 SE Lexington St, Portland OR 97206. This survey will also be available at <http://www.crPCA.org/speakers.html>.

Thank you, and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Bill Stein (Niger 1990-93) cell 503-830-0817

garba@aracnet.com

15% DISCOUNT FOR RPCVs

In honor of Peace Corps' anniversary, Global Sistergoods is giving a 15% off discount to all RPCVs from March 1-31. Enter the code RPCV09 at checkout. RPCV Ms. K.J. Lewis founded Global Sistergoods (www.globalsistergoods.com) a fair trade company that partners with women in developing countries.

INT'L DEVELOPMENT HAPPY HOUR!

There are quite a lot of us international development folks in Portland -- those just entering the profession, "old hands", and even those who are just interested in development issues -- and we should know each other better! Let's take advantage of an opportunity for cross-pollination, lively discourse, and fun.

Please join us on **March 31**, 5:30-7:30 at the Lucky Lab NW (1935 NW Quimby Street). Feel free to pass on to those who might be interested!

No need to RSVP. Just come ready to mingle, enjoy a beer and some great food.

There will be no program. This isn't a sponsored event; just networking and visiting. If you can't find us, ask at the bar. If it goes well, we might consider doing this on a quarterly basis.

Kristi Jo (KJ) Lewis
President, Global Sistergoods
www.globalsistergoods.com

Karen Smith Geon
Grants and Development Operations Manager
Medical Teams International
ksmithgeon@earthlink.net

POTLUCK DINNERS and PRESENTATIONS

Sunday potlucks hosted by RPCVs are one of the Columbia River Peace Corps Association's best-loved traditions. Each potluck is followed by a presentation and discussion on a topical issue. The CRPCA board meeting, open to all, precedes the potluck. Board meeting: 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., potluck: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Discussion: 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The April 19th potluck is: **Ending Homelessness in Portland**, presented by Sally Erickson, Ending Homelessness Program Manager, City of Portland. Hosted by Cate Wilcox, 4609 SE Mitchell St., Portland, Tel 777-3578

June 14th - Health Equity

Everyone is welcome to these children-friendly events! Please share ideas for future topics and presenters at mgmader@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS WELCOME

Please send submission to mgmader@yahoo.com. Articles should be less than 700 words long. Not all submission can be published. Share your photos too!

COMMUNITY SERVICE UPDATE

The time is approaching to volunteer with CRPCA at the Oregon Food Bank again! With the economic recession in full swing, the need for food distribution and packaging is great; OFB is a very worthy and appropriate cause for CRPCA to be involved with.

We will volunteer as a group on a Saturday every other month. We will repackage and sort bulk non-perishable food, fresh produce, frozen foods (meat, vegetables, etc.), or perform other projects. The tasks involve standing, squatting, lifting, and pulling. OFB can accommodate most physical limitations, so please contact Brendan or Jessica if you have any special needs or questions. We participated in our first event at Oregon Food Bank on January 25th and it was a huge success! All who attended felt very productive with what they accomplished and had a really fun time while doing so!

Join us again or for the first time... Mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 28th** from 1pm - 3pm. **Please RSVP by Friday, March 20th** to Jessica Matthews at jrosematthews@gmail.com or 971-678-8510.

JOIN THE BOARD – Develop As a Leader

CRPCA's annual officer election will take place at our April 19 potluck. Elected officers will be asked to perform the duties outlined on our web site and to participate in a half dozen board meetings between May 2009 and April 2010. All positions will be open to election, but our particular needs this year are for President and Webmaster. Please contact Rich at rireland88@yahoo.com if you're interested. <http://www.crPCA.org/bylaws.html#Officers>

PEACE CORPS CONNECT – Sign Up

The National Peace Corps Association launched a new social networking site for RPCVs: <http://community.peacecorpsconnect.org>. The CRPCA group has 18 members as of 2/22/09. It can grow by leaps and bounds - making it a resource for our group's communications - if more members join. Depending on how long it's been since your close of service, a side benefit of this site may be making contact with old Peace Corps friends.

HONOR RPCVs WHO ARE OVER 50

The 2009 Lillian Carter Award will be presented on May 13th by President Jimmy Carter (Miss Lillian's son). Hosted by the Atlanta Regional Recruitment Office, this bi-annual national award honors Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who served at age 50 or more and continue to embrace the third goal of Peace Corps: to promote a better understanding of other cultures on the part of Americans.

The criteria for nominating a worthy candidate include: 1) began Peace Corps service at or beyond the age of 50, 2) after completing service, continues to exemplify dynamic promotion of their host country culture in their current American community through local service projects and other initiatives, 3) nominated by an RPCV or RPCV group.

All submissions by RPCVs in the Northwest region (i.e., AK, ID, MT, OR and WA) must be submitted to Rich Ireland by March 15, 2009.

REGIONAL CAMPOUT: August 21 to 23

Scott Ramos, Brazil, 1973 - 1975

webmaster@seapax.org

The 2009 Regional Campout will be at Bridge Creek, a group site in the Wenatchee National Forest, with SEAPAX as host. The campground is reserved Friday, August 21 until Sunday, August 23; those who arrive earlier or stay longer will have many options in this popular area. Just 8 miles from Leavenworth, the campground is in the spectacular Icicle Creek basin, with many hiking opportunities, from casual strolls along the river to strenuous backcountry possibilities. There is space for tents, hammocks and RVs. Non-campers can find lodging in Leavenworth and join us for the activities.

As host, SEAPAX will be responsible for preparing and serving dinner on Saturday night. This will require the efforts and energy of many people. We have formed a campout organizing committee, which is now recruiting members. Four people have signed on already, but we'll need many more to make the event a success. All SEAPAX members at the campout take on KP duty to put on the dinner and clean up afterwards. If you plan to attend the campout, please add your name to the list by sending me an email, and indicate if you also wish to join the organizing committee.

Details about the campground, driving instructions and regional information will be disseminated later. Stay tuned. This will be a fun outing!

BOARD MEMBERS – Contact Us

President:

Richard Ireland, Haiti 1998-2000
503-246-0479, rireland88@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Karen Cellarius, Hungary 1991-1993
503-998-5572, Karen@cellarius.org

Secretary:

Brenda Michel, Sierra Leone 1986-1988
503-408-6933, Brenda.Michel@kpff.com

Web Master and Education Coordinator:

Bill Stein, Niger 1990-93
503-830-0817, garba@aracnet.com

Membership Coordinator:

Jim Maddry, Sierra Leone 1986-1988
503-288-3046, crpca_memb@earthlink.net

Mentoring Coordinator:

Nicora Gardner, Mongolia 2004-2006
503-548-7674, nicora.gardner@gmail.com

Program Coordinator and Newsletter Editor:

Madeleine Mader, Cameroon 1984-1986
503-333-8462, mgmader@yahoo.com

Service Co-Coordinator:

Jessica Mathews, Thailand 2004-2006
971-678-8510, jrosemathews@gmail.com

Service Co-Coordinator:

Brendan Williams, Kenya 2002-2005
971-678-8509, kenyanwilli@yahoo.com

Social Coordinator:

Dane Pikkola, Swaziland 1992-1994
971-544-1727, dane9@yahoo.com

Fundraising Co-Coordinators:

Jennifer Dederich
Dominican Republic 2000-2003
520-906-0387, jdederich@yahoo.com

Courtney Martin

Dominican Republic 2001-2003
520-906-0436, cemartin79@yahoo.com

CONNECT, BUILD FRIENDSHIPS and CONTINUE TO SERVE

Brenda Michel, Secretary (sweetdreams471974@yahoo.com)

- **Soirées at the Lucky Lab Brew Pub:** Join RPCVs the last Monday of every month from 6:30 p.m. on for a “soirée” among friends. It’s a great way to link up with other RPCVs, hear interesting stories from around the world, and grab a beer and a bite to eat among good company. Located at 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Kids ok until 9 p.m. Find us in the front room.
- **Potluck and Presentation:** Usually the second Sunday every other month. CRPCA business meeting is from 5 to 6 p.m.; potluck dinner 6 to 7 p.m.; and presentation from 7 to 8 p.m.
- **Restaurant Gatherings:** Dine at one of the many international restaurants. Sometimes make an evening of it by picking a film to share afterwards. Contact Dane at dane9@yahoo.com.
- **Nomination Party.** Meet and encourage prospective Peace Corps Volunteers who have been recently nominated to serve.
- **Annual Summer Picnic** in July takes place in a local park.
- **Campouts** in Oregon and the Northwest with local and regional RPCV groups.
- **Annual Fundraising Events** in support of one or more international projects.
- **Community Service Projects.** Continue to serve. Think globally, act locally

March 2009

Sat. March 7th, Peace Corps Celebration Dinner
First Unitarian Church, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Mon. Mar 30 - Lucky Lab Brew Pub Soirée, 6:30
p.m., 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Kids ok until 9 p.m.

April 2009

Sun. April 19 - Potluck and Discussion. Business
meeting 5-6 p.m.; Dinner 6-7 p.m.; Program 7-8 p.m.
Hosted by Cate Wilcox, 4609 SE Mitchell St.,
Portland. Topic: Ending Homelessness in Portland.

Mon. April 27 - Lucky Lab Brew Pub Soirée, 6:30
p.m., 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Kids ok until 9 p.m.

May 2009

Mon. May 4 - Lucky Lab Brew Pub Soirée, 6:30
p.m., 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Kids ok until 9 p.m.

Thu. May 7 - Restaurant Gathering. Location: contact
Dane at dane9@yahoo.com

June 2009

Sun. June 14 - Potluck and Discussion. Business
meeting 5-6 p.m.; Dinner 6-7 p.m.; Hosted by Jessica
Matthews and Brendan Williams. Program 7-8 p.m.
Topic: Health Equity.

June 26 and 27 - Summer Camp-Out at Indian Henry
Campground _Mt Hood National Forest. (Group Site
#D008). Close enough to home so folks can come for
the day, if they don’t want to camp.

Mon. June 29 - Lucky Lab Brew Pub Soirée, 6:30
p.m., 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Kids ok until 9 p.m.

July 2009

Sun. July 12 - Summer Picnic. Location TBD.
Potluck. Fun. KIDS!

Mon. July 27 - Lucky Lab Brew Pub Soirée, 6:30
p.m., 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Kids ok until 9 p.m.

August 2009

Early August - Annual Regional Camp-Out. Location
TBD. More info about where and when forthcoming.

Mon. Aug 31 - Lucky Lab Brew Pub Soirée, 6:30
p.m., 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Kids ok until 9 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE - Welcome to our new and renewing members!

New Members: Erin Carlson, Guinea, 2005 – 2007 * Jason Feldman, Haiti, 2002 – 2004 * Lisa Clausen, El Salvador, 2005 – 2007 * Conrad Sizer, Guinea, 1999 - 2000

Renewals: Jackie Goldrick, Thailand, Kenya, 1962 - 1964 * Kumashro Tadazaku, Namibia, 2001 - 2003 * Anne McLaughlin, Morocco, 1967 - 1970 * Dane Pikkola, Swaziland, 1992 - 1994 * Elizabeth and Rick Samuels, Benin, 1975 - 1977 * Stan Withee, Brazil, 1966 – 1968 * Jeff Strang, Ghana, 1980 - 1982 * John Goldrick, Thailand, 1963

- 1965 * Brian and Kate Fasset, Bulgaria, 2004 - 2006 * Tamara Boyd and Robert Shangle * Blake Schmidt, Mozambique, 2001 - 2003

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.

	Member 1	Member 2
Name		
Address		
City, State, Zip		
Home Phone		
Work Phone		
Cell Phone		
Email		
Country and Years of Service		
PC Job Assignment		
Current Occupation		
Willing to talk about your Peace Corps experience. Check.	<input type="radio"/> Speakers' Bureau	<input type="radio"/> Speakers Bureau
I'm interested in participating in the mentor program. Check	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

CRPCA urges you to support both organizations. Membership is open to all and your contributions are tax-deductible.

Columbia River Peace Corps Association

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 newsletters by e-mail.

Annual CRPCA Dues: \$20 FREE initial year membership Newsletter format paper email

National Peace Corps Association

NPCA Annual Dues: \$35 Member 1 \$35 Member 2

Check FREE box for one free year offered to those who closed their service within the last year.

Please mail this form with a check made out to CRPCA for the total of the circles you checked to:

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

Columbia River Peace Corps Association
P.O. Box 802
Portland, OR 97207

Mail To: