

Columbia River Peace Corps Association

Serving our community. Engaging the world.



NEWSLETTER

July 2009

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www.crpca.org

WHAT YOU CAN LEARN AT CRPCA EVENTS

by Bill Stein, CRPCA President

Here are things I witnessed at CRPCA's June events:

I marveled at how much there is to consider when telling your Peace Corps stories. Thanks to Ruth Ann Homan, I'm inspired to draft a new outline for my talks about the people I knew in Niger.

I found that putting labels on milk cartons is less taxing on the body than bagging apples. We have more Oregon Food Bank service activities coming up, and you never know what important task they'll ask us to do.

I discovered the joys of a backyard meeting on an early summer day. Thanks to Jessica Matthews and Brendan Williams, we had a productive yet mellow board meeting. Thanks to Jenn Dederich and Courtney Martin, we chose the first grants for our new grant program. Thanks to Madeleine Mader, our guest speakers and our engaged members, we had an enlightening discussion on health equity.

I was mildly shocked by an outrageous statement made to Peace Corps trainees in the Phillippines in 1990. I tried to picture what our events will look like when all our 1-6 year-old friends are teenagers. Our first "local" campout drew RPCVs from as far away as Eugene, Seattle, and Montana. This successful event is sure to become an annual tradition.

I heard recently returned volunteers rave about West Africa volunteers' work promoting the amazing moringa tree. I also got a glimpse of my neighborhood from a century ago. You never know what you'll learn at our soirées.

There are (a possibly unprecedented) eight dates in July when CRPCA and/or Peace Corps have events planned in Portland. Whether your interests run to talking to Peace Corps recruits, bagging and boxing food for hungry Oregonians, or enjoying Indian cuisine, baseball, soccer, or Northwest microbrews with local RPCVs and their families, you are sure to be delighted at the vibrance of today's Columbia River Peace Corps Association.

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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.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: mgmader@yahoo.com.

WE'RE MAKING GRANTS

CRPCA is pleased to announce its grant-making program. Grant applications will be accepted three times a year: in January, May, and September. More information is available on the CRPCA website 'Grants' page. Grant applications will be voted on at the CRPCA general meeting following the application deadline. We strongly encourage all members to attend the meeting in order to weigh in on these important decisions.

PEACE CORPS BUDGET BOOST

House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs, led by Chairwoman Nita Lowey of New York, recommended \$450 Million for the Peace Corps for Fiscal Year 2010. Chairwoman Lowey's leadership was supported by Betty McCollum (D-MN), RPCV Sam Farr (D-CA) and RPCV Mike Honda (D-CA) who along with eight other members. After the House vote the bill moves to the Senate.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, July 12, noon to 4:00 pm - Summer Picnic. Laurelhurst Park, SE 35th Ave & Oak St in Portland, **group picnic site B**. Bring the whole family! Soft drinks and water will be provided; please bring your own picnic fixins. Peace Corps recruiters are inviting nominees and their families to attend. This is an informal opportunity to share what to expect about Peace Corps with folks who are eager to listen.

Monday, July 13, at 7pm Peace Corps recruiting event at the Pearl District REI, 1405 NW Johnson St in Portland, will focus on environmental assignments in the Peace Corps. Note that the CRPCA board will be meeting with the recruiters at 6pm then departing for a special board meeting at 7pm. Our members are welcome to attend any of the night's events.

Tuesday, July 14 at 6pm, there will be an RPCV journal reading at the Multnomah County Central Library, 801 SW 10th Ave in Portland.

Thursday, July 16, 6:00 p.m. Restaurant Gathering at Indish, Northern Indian Cuisine. Home cooking, tapas style. 305 NW 21st between Everett and Flanders. Lots of seating. No highchairs. *Indishrestaurant.com*. Checks, Credit cards, OK RSVP Dane 971-544-1727. dane9@yahoo.com

Saturday, July 18, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Service Activity at the OR Food Bank, [7900 NE 33rd Drive](http://www.orfoodbank.org) in Portland. Directions and further information are available at <http://www.crPCA.org/service.html>. RSVP by Friday, July 10th to Jessica Matthews, jrosematthews@gmail.com or 971-678-8510.

Thursday, July 23, 6:40 pm - Soccer game outing at PGE Park. [1844 SW Morrison St](http://www.pge.com) in Portland. Gather outside the SW 18th & Morrison entrance no later than 6:40; it will help to wear Peace Corps garb so we can find each other. We will purchase general admission tickets (\$11, or half-price with an Entertainment Book coupon) for the Portland Timbers game against the Puerto Rico Islanders, which begins at 7:00. Call 503-830-0817 if you're running late or need help finding us. We'll aim to sit in section 110 or 210.

Monday, July 27, 6:30 pm - Soirée. An informal gathering at the [Lucky Labrador Brew Pub](http://www.luckybrewpub.com), [915 SE Hawthorne Blvd](http://www.luckybrewpub.com) in Portland. This is 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. You can usually find us in the front room. Kids welcome until 9pm.

Thursday, July 30, 6:40 pm - Baseball game outing at PGE Park. [1844 SW Morrison St](http://www.pge.com) in Portland. Gather outside the SW 18th & Morrison entrance no later than 6:40; it will help to wear Peace Corps garb so we can find each other. We will purchase general admission tickets (\$9) for the Portland Beavers game against the Las Vegas 51s, which begins at 7:05. Call 503-830-0817 if you're running late or need help finding us. We'll aim to sit in section 210 or 211.

Tuesday, August 11, 6:30 pm - Restaurant Gathering at [Malay Satay Hut](http://www.malayhut.com), [2850 SE 82nd Ave](http://www.malayhut.com) (Suite 104 at far end of mall) in Portland. Lots of room, inexpensive to moderate, very extensive menu, bring the kids. RSVP not necessary.

MENTOR NEW RPCVs

The unselfish effort to bring cheer to others will be the beginning of a happier life for ourselves.
~ Helen Keller

Newly minted RPCVs come home to, or make a new home in, Portland every month. With that return comes emotions, anxiety, and confusion of re-entry. It's an intense experience for some people. Having a kindred spirit, one who's walked in your shoes, can be essential. Some people forge these helping relationships on their own; others turn to CRPCA.

That's where you come in. CRPCA participates in the National Peace Corps Association RPCV Mentor Program that links RPCVs who have walked that road to newly returning volunteers. Having transitioned back to US life ourselves, we have something to offer our new community members. Mentoring relationships can last from three months to a year, take between two and six hours per month and are mutually beneficial. Beyond the simple pleasure of helping another person, it's an opportunity to revisit memories of your service, strengthen your ties to the local Peace Corps community, and stay connected to the goals of the organization. When the next volunteer returns to Portland and asks to be connected to a mentor, I hope to be able to call on you. Please register to become a mentor today by visiting www.rpcvmentoring.org, we'll take care of the rest!

RPCV MIKE WAITE'S RETURN TO LIBERIA

Read a moving story of Mike's recent return to Liberia to re-connect with a friendship forged during his Peace Corps service in 1974.

<http://tinyurl.com/m5up5n>

WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT?

Your CRPCA board has been hard at work on two big initiatives: updating our bylaws (look for our amended bylaws in the August newsletter) and designing and implementing our new grants program (with big thanks to Courtney Martin and Jenn Dederich!).

We're presently seeking input from you, our members, regarding your interests and resources. Please fill out our survey by July 6 at <http://tinyurl.com/lcqnjd>. Please contact Bill Stein (503-830-0817, garba@aracnet.com) if one of our three open board positions speaks to you...

Networking Coordinator. Coordinate CRPCA's participation in the national Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) Mentoring Program; this involves matching mentors with newly arrived RPCVs who request mentoring. Serve as the primary contact for members seeking jobs and for community members who hire RPCVs. Generate content for a web page of job and volunteer opportunities for local RPCVs. Organize and/or propose ways CRPCA can assist with members' job searches.

Social Coordinator. Plans bimonthly dinner meetings. Organizes other social activities such as movie or game nights depending on group interest. [Our current Social Coordinator, Dane Pikkola, seeks a co-coordinator to assist with our expanding event schedule.]

Webmaster. Maintains the website (<http://www.crPCA.org>) so that the information is current and relevant, responds to information requests submitted to the site, makes sure all dues related to maintaining the site have been paid by the Treasurer. Manages CRPCA group e-mail address(es) and social networking sites.

CRPCA Board Members

President:

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

Secretary:

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Treasurer:

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Program Coordinator and Newsletter Editor:

Madeleine Mader, Cameroon 1984-1986
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Your Name Here

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Membership Coordinator:

Elizabeth Samuels, Benin 1975-1977
503-228-7706, crPCA@samuels.com

Networking Coordinator:

Your name here

Service Co-Coordinators:

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971-678-8510, jrosemathews@gmail.com

Brendan Williams, Kenya 2002-2005

971-678-8509, kenyanwilli@yahoo.com

Social Coordinator:

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

THIRD GOAL WEB SITE

“The logic of Peace Corps is that someday we are going to bring it home to America.” – JFK

Check out this site:

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=resources.former.thirdgoal>

RSVP today for the August 21-23 Regional RPCV Campout!

The **2009 Regional Campout** for RPCVs will be held 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 wishing to arrive earlier or stay longer will have many options in this popular area. Located just 8 miles from Leavenworth, the campground is in the spectacular Icicle Creek basin, with many outdoor recreation opportunities, from casual strolls along the river to strenuous backcountry possibilities, whitewater rafting, and more.

Group camp: Elevation 1900 ft. The site has space for tents, hammocks and pick-up campers (no electrical hook-ups). Those with trailers may want to reserve an individual space in the regular campground. There is parking space for approximately 25 vehicles, so carpooling is strongly encouraged (for environmental reasons too). Expect hot, dry weather and a possible burn ban, including for campfires. The group camp is located in a secluded setting, away from the main campground, and bordering Icicle Creek. Please be aware that this is a class 4-5 whitewater river--beautiful to look at, but not a place for children to play.

Cost: \$10 per adult for campsite fee + Saturday dinner

RSVP SOON to Scott Ramos, webmaster@seapax.org.

Carpooling with other CRPCA members is strongly encouraged. It's a long drive from Portland, and vehicle space at the campground is very limited. Please e-mail garba@aracnet.com if you're willing to coordinate carpools.

What to bring: your own food (except for Saturday dinner), plus camping & cooking gear, including stove, dishes, eating utensils, and personal amenities. Please be sure to bring your own large-size water container(s) as the potable water supply is in the main campground, 1/4 mile from the group camp. Portable shelters and extra tables could also be very useful.

Directions from Portland: Three equally valid routes between Portland and Leavenworth are suggested at <http://tinyurl.com/mdyk7r>. You can avoid Puget Sound traffic by taking the I-84/US97 route, but anyway you cut it, it's a five-hour drive. Here are the directions to the campground provided by SEAPAX.

From the West, take Highway 2 East through Monroe and then over Stevens' Pass. Take a right on Icicle River Road as you enter Leavenworth and follow the road approximately 10 miles. The campground will be on the left.

From the East, take Highway 2 West through Leavenworth. Take a left on Icicle River Road and follow the road approximately 10 miles. The campground will be on the left.

From the South, take Highway 97 North to Highway 2. Take Highway 2 West through Leavenworth. Take a left on Icicle River Road and follow the road approximately 10 miles. The campground will be on the left.

Wenatchee National Forest Recreation Report website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee/recreation/report/>

WNF Ranger station: Leavenworth Ranger District, 600 Sherbourne, Leavenworth, WA 98826 (across from McDonald's), Phone: 509-548-6977

Campground Host: (509)548-6816

Leavenworth info: Non-campers can find lodging in Leavenworth and join us for the activities. Leavenworth is a very popular tourist destination, so make reservations early. The town itself has the typical array amenities & services, a city park with nature trails, a municipal swimming pool, and the Bavarian-themed tourist attractions.

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: