

Columbia River Peace Corps Association

Serving our community. Engaging the world.



NEWSLETTER

September 2009

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[Hwww.crpca.or](http://www.crpca.org)

TELL YOUR FRIENDS

by Bill Stein, CRPCA President

The 2009 Western Regional Peace Corps Campout (hosted by SEAPAX near Leavenworth, Wash. August 21-23) was a huge success. On Saturday evening, lots of Peace Corps stories were shared over Mexican food while Icicle Creek roared past huge granite boulders. As darkness took hold, representatives of the RPCV groups in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington met with NPCA regional rep Joe Hindman. Regional information-sharing sessions have been very helpful over the years, and this meeting was no exception.

We were inspired by the huge turnouts Idaho RPCVs get for their Boise events, encouraged to hear of a cooperative relationship between the Seattle Peace Corps recruiters and SEAPAX, and intrigued by the results of West Cascade PCA's membership drive in Eugene. Inland Northwest PCA of Spokane had a great idea for each group to seek a club historian or archivist; I invite any CRPCA member interested in this fun role to contact me at garba@aracnet.com.

Those gathered were impressed at CRPCA's activity level. They were particularly interested to hear our experiences with the RPCV Mentoring program. (We need more mentors and could use more mentees; sign up at rpcvmentoring.org.) Some wondered how we keep so many families with children involved in CRPCA. Others marveled at how we get people to fill key roles in our organization.

One way to ensure that we don't take any of this for granted is to tell your friends about CRPCA! Our strengths are our inclusiveness (welcoming Peace Corps families at every stage of life) and our continuing volunteer spirit. I'm hopeful that this will continue as we seek a new Networking Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Service Coordinator, Social Coordinator, and Webmaster at our Sept 20 annual planning meeting.

We're also (at this writing) still recruiting leaders for book discussions, film viewings, game nights, outdoor activities, team sports, and participation in community events. Thanks to Anne Kimberly for

offering to coordinate CRPCA's family activities. Members expressed strong interest in each of the above in our recent surveys. Please contact me at garba@aracnet.com as soon as possible if you'd like to help plan these new social events. We aim to set our calendar of 2009-2010 activities at our Sept 20 annual planning meeting.

One other thing I really like about CRPCA is the passion that our past and current officers have for doing the right things for our community and our members. All members are welcome to the Sept 20 meeting where we will plan our direction for the next year. You may be inspired to take on a leadership role, large or small. As for future regional events, CRPCA will be hosting the next regional meeting in March 2010 and the next regional campout in August 2010.

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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 [Hwww.crpca.org/join.html](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: Hmgmader@yahoo.com.

FREE STUFF IN SEPTEMBER

Whether you're new to town or not, the local economy isn't so hot. Here are some FREE things going on in September.

Every night in September: [Return of the Vaux's Swifts](#) (tens of thousands of small birds) to their roost in the Chapman School chimney. This is one of the most incredible natural phenomena you can witness in a North American city, and it's developed a cool cultural vibe as well. Hundreds to thousands gather nightly throughout September at NW 27th and Pettygrove. Pettygrove is a dead-end street, so your best bet is to park several blocks away. Bring a chair or blanket, set up your picnic by 7pm, then take in the atmosphere as you watch for the swirls to begin.

Friday, Sept 25: Free evening at the [Portland Art Museum](#). PAM now offers free entry (5-8 pm) on the fourth Friday of every month. Expect a crowd.

Saturday, Sept 26: [National Museum Day](#). Eight participating museums are within an hour's drive of Portland. For each museum, you must print a coupon from the Museum Day website to gain free entrance for you and a guest. If you show up without it, you'll have to pay regular entrance fees. This is what keeps the event not too frenetic. This event is nationwide, so do tell your family and friends in other states.

END OF SUMMER CAMPOUT

Friday night Sept 18 thru Sunday noon Sept 20, Lockaby Campground, Mt Hood National Forest. From Estacada, go about 15 miles east on OR 224. Lockaby is on the left side of the road as you are driving to Indian Henry. After leaving Estacada on Hwy 224, you'd reach Lockaby before you'd reach Indian Henry. There is no cell phone service at Lockaby.

Description: 900-foot elevation. 30 campsites on the wild and scenic Clackamas River. From just below Indian Henry campground to the North Fork Reservoir, the river contains 12.5 miles of Class III-IV whitewater. The Annual CRPCA Planning Meeting takes place Sunday afternoon at 3 pm so we'll all be packing up and leaving Lockaby around noon or before on Sunday. Make your own reservations thru: www.reserveamerica.com. Clackamas River Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest, 595 NW Industrial Way, Estacada, OR 97023, (503) 630-8700

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2009

Tuesday, 9/15, 6:30 pm - Restaurant Gathering at [Salvador Molly's, 1523 SW Sunset Blvd](#) in Portland. Pirate cookin' international cuisine. Moderate prices. Kids welcome. RSVP to Dane Pikkola, dane9@yahoo.com.

Thursday, 9/17, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm - Service Activity at the Oregon Food Bank in NE Portland. Please see our [Service page](#) for location and details.

Sunday, 9/20, 3:00-7:00 pm - Annual Planning Meeting and Potluck. Location at the home of Linda Centurion, [3940 SE 47th Ave](#) in Portland. All are welcome to the 3-6pm CRPCA business meeting, where we will decide on a budget for 2009-2010 and plan our fundraising, service, and social activities for 2009-2010. The meeting will be followed by a 6pm potluck; there will be no after-dinner program.

Monday, 9/28, 6:30 pm - Soirée. An informal gathering at the [Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd](#) 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, 10/08, 6:00 pm - Restaurant Gathering at [Afrique Bistro, 102 NE Russell St](#) in Portland. Pan-African cuisine. Moderate prices. Credit cards OK. Children welcome. RSVP to Dane Pikkola, dane9@yahoo.com, 971-544-1727.

WANT TO HOST A POTLUCK in 2009-2010

If you want to put dibs on hosting the 10/11, 12/13, 2/07, 3/14, 4/11, 5/16, or 6/13 potlucks, per <http://www.crPCA.org/events.html> Please e-mail Madeleine at mgmader@yahoo.com.

NEW PC DIRECTOR [VIDEO](#) GREETINGS

This morning I was sworn in as the 18th Director of the Peace Corps. While preparing for this day, I decided that the first thing I wanted to do was to take a moment to introduce myself to the Peace Corps community and thank you for everything you have done and continue to do.

As a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, this is quite an emotional moment. When I was in that small town in the Dominican Republic, I was consumed by the same daily thoughts: How was I going to master another language? What did it mean to be a 20 year old, training rural school teachers, many twice my age? How would I make a life in a community so far from my home? In 1967, I couldn't have imagined all of the people who had worked so tirelessly to allow a Volunteer like me to help in this small community – a community that most staff would never get the chance to see or experience.

Today, the rolls are slightly reversed. I have spent most of my career working in developing countries – but now I will have the extraordinary opportunity to work with the staff in the U.S. and abroad to ensure that the next generation of Volunteers will have the same quality experience that I had in the Peace Corps. Everybody's service is unique, but I know that no matter where or when someone served – being a Peace Corps Volunteer is a life changing experience. We all tried to make a difference every day. We accomplished a lot with very little. And most importantly, we had the opportunity to recognize what we can achieve when given the tools to succeed. As President Kennedy envisioned, we learned to understand, respect and admire our host communities and countries.

This is my first day at Peace Corps headquarters since my nomination in early July. I am truly excited and honored to be here. In these first few weeks, I will be spending time getting to know many of you, listening to your ideas, and getting reacquainted with this agency that has meant so much to all of us. We'll immediately move forward addressing the challenges -- both old and new – the agency faces.

At this historic moment, America is now led by a President committed to renewing the call to service and the Peace Corps is on the cusp of our 50th anniversary -- I believe there could be no better time for us to work together to capture the imagination of those Americans interested in serving. I can't do this alone. I look forward to working with you to maintain the high standard that has been set by all of those who have come before us. Together, in the 21st century we will build on this legacy and grow a stronger Peace Corps that continues to champion world peace and friendship.

HOST DINNER FOR INT'L VISITORS

In September and October the World Affairs Council of Oregon will have 62 international visitors from 37 countries eager to have dinner with community members while in Portland. We are excited to open up the opportunity to host professionals from around the world to you, fellow internationalists.

For 59 years, the Council's International Visitor Program has brought foreign leaders and specialists to the United States for firsthand exposure to their professional counterparts and U.S. society. The emphasis of the program is to increase mutual understanding through communication at the personal and professional levels. It is described by U.S. Ambassadors as one of the most effective foreign policy tools of American diplomacy.

It is these home hospitality dinners that often make the biggest impact on the international visitors as they allow for one-on-one conversations and a deeper appreciation for the commonalities of life. These visits can lead to long-term friendships.

During September and October you may like to consider adding an element of the fall season' to the dinner hosting experience: you can check in with staff ahead of time to see if there is time to take them to Sauvie Island before heading home for dinner, or on a drive to look at fall leaves.

If you are interested in hosting the group, a portion of the group, or an individual for dinner, please contact the staff member listed under each group (Amy Barss or Milica Markovic). If you have any questions please email or call us at (503) 274-7488.

China, September 17 - 22, Social Welfare, 8 visitors
For dinner hosting, please contact: Milica Markovic, milica@worldoregon.org

European Regional, September 23 - 27, International Crime, 6 visitors (Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Sweden, Italy, Iceland) For dinner hosting, please contact: Amy Barss, amy@worldoregon.org

European Regional, September 26 - October 1, Young European Leaders, 10 visitors (Countries TBA) For dinner hosting, please contact: Milica Markovic, milica@worldoregon.org

Latin American Regional, September 26 - 30, Administration of Justice and the Rule of Law, 16 visitors Argentina (2), Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia (4), Dom. Republic, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Venezuela (2) For dinner hosting, please contact: Amy Barss, amy@worldoregon.org

Russia, October 8 - 13, Migrants and Refugees:
Mitigating the Toll of Poverty and Conflict, 8 visitors
For more information, contact: Milica Markovic,
milica@worldoregon.org

Eastern Europe (Russian Speaking), October 7 - 13,
Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists, 13
visitors (Armenia, Bulgaria, Estonia, Georgia,
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Tajikistan,
Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan) For more information,
contact: Milica Markovic, milica@worldoregon.org

Multiregional group members all speak English; for
other groups, translators are available for those with
limited English.

The World Affairs Council of Oregon is a non-profit,
non-partisan organization whose various programs
seek to enhance public understanding of international
affairs and Oregonians' connections to the rest of the
world. Please visit www.worldoregon.org



Crosswalk in the Rain

LINKED IN

Are you a person with Peace Corps experience who
uses the professional online networking community
LinkedIn? We have created a National Peace Corps
Association (NPCA) group on LinkedIn. You're
invited! Joining will allow you to: Reach out,
accelerate career and business through referrals and
view professional profiles in the PC community.
To join NPCA's LinkedIn group go to:
<http://www.linkedin.com/e/gis/39717/70C0D3594F04>

IDEALIST GRAD SCHOOL FAIR

October 22 meet representatives from 50-200
graduate programs in fields such as Nonprofit
Management, Education, Social Work, Global
Health, International Affairs, Law, Public Policy,
Urban Planning, and many more. Free grad school
fair at Portland State University
<http://www.idealists.org/if/idealists/en/CareerFair/View/default?career-fair-id=235>
Information on the Idealist Grad School fairs is
available at <http://www.idealists.org/gradfairs>

ALBERTA ARTS TASTER TOUR

Taste eleven restaurants, enter fourteen raffles, and
view two artists' shows at the 2nd Annual Taster
Tour on NE Alberta Street, September 27th, 3:00 to
7:00 p.m. □ □ Registration is \$30. All funds support
MEJOR Communities' Youth Health Project in Peru.
Register soon, as we sold out last year! □ □ Visit the
website <http://mejorc.org/alberta.html>
for more details and to register.

CRPCA BOARD MEMBERS

President:

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Social Coordinator:

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

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

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: