



# Columbia River Peace Corps Association

*Serving our community. Engaging the world.*

## NEWSLETTER

May 2010

Vol. 30, Issue 5

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

### **Inspiration in the Peace Corps Community** by Bill Stein, CRPCA President

What inspires you?

Of course we can find inspiration almost wherever we look for it. Many people are inspired by religion, nature, science, social and political movements, and/or someone they read, watched, or heard about. Families and friends can also be huge sources of inspiration.

I'll wager that most RPCVs were greatly inspired by the idea of the Peace Corps, or we never would have served. I also suspect that our RPCV members were engaged in if not inspired by their communities during Peace Corps service, or we mightn't have joined CRPCA.

The challenge is keeping that inspiration going--and allowing it to evolve--during our (hopefully) many years as RPCVs. Peace Corps' Third Goal ("strengthen Americans' understanding about the world and its peoples") was the call to engage RPCVs spelled out in legislation 49 years ago, but what motivates us today?

There's no shortage of inspiration in the RPCV community. Many returnees share their inspiration through writing books, establishing NGOs, speaking to schools and community groups, following public service career paths, assisting friends made overseas, etc. I have encountered many awesome people who have followed those paths here in the Northwest.

The really cool thing about inspiration is that it tends to snowball. In our organization, Jenn Dederich and Courtney Martin built a great grant program that inspired Richard Rystrom to be our new Grants Coordinator, Madeleine Mader and Marta Wicke have been so inspired by RPCV potential that they both fill 2+ roles in our group. A whole bunch of people have been so inspired by their interactions with RPCVs that they plan our unprecedentedly large number of service and social events, and dozens of you responded to our recent call to populate the 2011 Peace Corps exhibit with a diverse array of artifacts.

I have found that planting seeds of inspiration is usually sufficient to fill vacant positions on CRPCA's amazing board. Please contact me at [president@crpca.org](mailto:president@crpca.org) if our hugely creative Newsletter Editor role speaks to you. Whoever that editor is, I'm hoping we can get more original content in our newsletters. You, our members, could help start that conversation by submitting short pieces on what inspires you today to [newsletter@crpca.org](mailto:newsletter@crpca.org).

And if you don't feel the inspiration yet, you can find it at many of our events. We have spirited discussions about books and grants, engage the next generation of PCVs, and learn about an incredible variety of hot topics in our community. Finally, I find that there are few things more enlightening--and inspiring--than sharing informal stories with Peace Corps people.



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## Help Decide our 2010-2011 Book Club Selections!

CRPCA's Book Club got off to a great start April 21. Eight people showed up ready to discuss "*Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World Through Islamic Eyes*," including a future PCV and a member participating via Skype from Afghanistan! Our May and June books are set, but we need your help selecting our books for July and beyond.

Please visit <http://www.crpca.org/books.html> for an overview of the 40 books we're choosing among. Please jot down which 15 you'd like to vote for, then click the SurveyMonkey link at the bottom of the page to express your preferences for meeting days and books. Please allow several minutes to browse through all the options. Responses are invited through May 15.

## Welcome to New Members

David Black, Gabon 1967 – 1968 and Senegal 1968 – 1969; Tucker Childs, Liberia 1970 – 1972; Marnie Faust, Mali 1997 – 1999; Andrew Judkins, Bulgaria 2005 – 2007; Julie Staggs, Namibia 2008 - 2009; Nick Wobbrock, Honduras 2007-2009.

## Thank you to our renewing members!

Mitch Auerbach, Guatemala: 1980 – 1982; Linda Centurion, Paraguay: 1998 – 1990; Jackie Goldrick, Thailand: 1962 – 1964; John Goldrick, Kenya 1962 - 1964; Alden Jencks, Ivory Coast 1968 – 1970; Jason Lee, Ghana 2002 – 2004; Mary Lopez, Benin 1993 – 1995; Brian Mahoney, Kenya 1983 – 1985; Judi Mahoney, Belize 1984 – 1986; Chuck and Lee Norris, Moldova 1996 – 1998; Alanna Randall, Belize 2001 – 2003; Pat Russell, Western Samoa 1990 – 1992; Stan Withee, Brazil 1966 – 1968.



## 2nd Annual Local Campout

CRPCA's 2nd Annual Local Campout will take place **June 25-27, 2010** at [Champoeg State Heritage Area](#), birthplace of the State of Oregon.

**Schedule:** Check-in 4pm Friday, checkout 1pm Sunday. The potluck dinner will be at 6pm Saturday 6/25.

**Our Sites:** Our two group sites (Beaver and Heron) will each accommodate 25 people (in tents) and 6 vehicles (no RVs!). Each site has water and electricity. From the group sites, there's a short walk to the parking area or to the pit toilets. Free showers are available in the main campground.

**Reservations:** You may reserve space for you, your friends, and family on our [Local Campout web page](#). The following page will give you the option to pay by credit card or any other PayPal method. You may also RSVP to Brenda Michel ([secretary@crpca.org](mailto:secretary@crpca.org), 503-408-6933), then pay by cash or check upon arrival. These rates apply to the entire weekend, whether you're staying one or both nights.

- \$10 for CRPCA member adults (up to 2 per household membership)
- \$12 for non-member adults
- FREE for children under 18

### Directions:

- 30 miles from central Portland.
- From I-5, take exit 278 and head west. Follow the signs to Champoeg.
- Detailed directions from your location can be generated from the [park's web page](#).
- Once in the park, follow the signs to group tent camping.
- We chose a campground close enough to the Portland metro area so non-campers can come for the big potluck 6pm Saturday evening. Pay the \$5 per vehicle day use fee, park in the Oak Grove day use area, and walk over.

**Potential Daytime Activity:** [Salem World Beat Festival](#) (28 miles south)

### What to Bring:

- Campers: Tents, sleeping pads/bags, stove, lights, and a camp canopy if you have one.
- All: A potluck dish to share (Saturday night), sunscreen, chairs, plates, cups, utensils, and maybe logs for the fire.

**Questions:** Contact Brenda Michel, [secretary@crpca.org](mailto:secretary@crpca.org), 503-408-6933.

## 2010 West Regional RPCV Campout

This summer the Columbia River Peace Corps Association will welcome RPCV families from throughout the western U.S. to the [20th Annual West Regional Regional Peace Corps Campout](#) in the heart of Central Oregon. Be sure to alert your RPCV friends in Central Oregon!

### August 12-16, 2010 at Crane Prairie Campground



**Schedule:** Arrive as early as Thursday afternoon, depart as late as Monday morning. That's right: one to four nights for one low price!

**Saturday Dinner:** Will be at 6pm on August 14, hosted by CRPCA and included in the camp fees. CRPCA members will be expected to help shop for, set up, prepare, serve, or take down the dinner. The menu is TBA, but we promise to have great options for a large number of dietary concerns (many of our members avoid gluten, meat, nuts, etc). CRPCA members: Please let Karen Cellarius ([campout@crpca.org](mailto:campout@crpca.org)) know if you are interested in helping with dinner planning prior to the campout.

**Our Campground:** On Crane Prairie Reservoir, in the Deschutes National Forest, approximately 18 miles from Sunriver. Amenities include: Boat Ramp, Disabled Access, Fishing, Grocery Store, Lake Access, Pets OK, Restrooms, Shower. No RV hookups. We reserved the group site ([Yellow Loop sites 1-15](#)), which holds 150 people (45 vehicles).

**Reservations:** You may reserve space for you, your friends, and family on our [Regional Campout web page](#). The following page will give you the option to pay by credit card or any other PayPal method. You may also RSVP to Karen Cellarius

([campout@crpca.org](mailto:campout@crpca.org), 503-998-5572), then pay by cash or check upon arrival. These rates apply to the entire weekend, whether you're staying one, two, three, or four nights.

- \$10 for CRPCA member adults (up to 2 per household membership, must be willing to help with Saturday dinner)
- \$15 for non-member adults
- FREE for children under 18

### Directions:

- From Bend, travel south on US 97 approximately 17 miles.
- Turn right onto Vandervert Rd approximately 2.5 miles past the first Sunriver exit.
- Travel one mile west, then take the third right onto S Century Dr, which turns right onto County Hwy 42 after one mile.
- Travel 11 miles on S Century Dr before making a right onto National Forest Rd 4250.
- Take Rd 4250 1.5 miles, then make a left onto National Forest Rd 4270.
- The campground is 1.5 miles down on the right.
- More detailed directions can be generated from [Google Maps](#).

### What to Bring:

- Camp equipment: Tents, sleeping pads/bags, stove, lights, chairs, and a camp canopy if you have one.
- Camp supplies: Sunscreen, chairs, plates, cups, utensils, and maybe logs for the fire.

**Area Attractions:** The Bend area is popular for biking, boating, climbing, fishing, hiking, and rock climbing ([Smith Rock](#)). Suggested side trips include the [Newberry National Volcanic Monument](#), the [High Desert Museum](#), and [The Museum at Warm Springs](#) (on Highway 26 between Mt Hood and Bend).

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](http://www.crpca.org).

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:

[newsletter@crpca.org](mailto:newsletter@crpca.org).

## CRPCA Events

8 in May, 8 in June, 5 in July

Please note fast-approaching RSVP deadlines:

- Monday 5/03 for Thursday 5/06 service activity
- Friday 5/07 for Thursday 5/13 nom party
- Sunday 5/09 for Monday 5/10 restaurant gathering
- Monday 5/10 for Saturday 6/05 Starlight Parade
- ASAP for Tuesday 5/18 service activity
- Monday 5/31 for Thursday 6/03 service activity
- Register today for the campouts and ballgames before we fill to capacity!

### May 2010

**Thursday, 5/06, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm** - Service Activity at the Oregon Food Bank, [7900 NE 33rd Dr](#) in Portland. RSVP to [service@crpca.org](mailto:service@crpca.org) or call Tom at 503-267-3943 by Mon 5/03. Please see our [Service page](#) for additional details.

**Monday, 5/10, 6:30 pm** - Restaurant gathering at El Inka Authentic Peruvian Restaurant, [48 NE Division St](#) in Gresham. If you are coming from the eastside, you can take Burnside, Division or Powell and get there in about 20 minutes. RSVP to [Jerry Gabay](#), 541-578-0051. Rotisserie chicken for \$8/half or \$12/whole, but only if you [RSVP by May 9!](#) They'll make it "especial" for us, but normally they stop serving at 5pm on Mondays. Per Jerry, "Anyone who knows the back streets of Cuzco knows that Peruvian rotisserie chicken is the food of the Quechua gods. They also have escabeche and aji de gallina, which ain't bad. One dinner not to be missed."

**Thursday, 5/13, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm** - Nom Party. Location at Multnomah Arts Center, [7688 SW Capitol Hwy](#) in Portland. Come show support for newly nominated Peace Corps applicants from around Portland. Bring your families! RSVP by May 7 to Ally Packer, [peacecorps@pdx.edu](mailto:peacecorps@pdx.edu). This event will be potluck style (please bring enough finger-food-type snacks for you and a couple noms to share) and "BYO drink" (no alcohol please). After the event ends, folks will be free to continue conversations across the street at the Lucky Labrador Public House.

**Sunday, 5/16, 10:30 am to 3:00 pm** - Family Activity: Sunday Parkways is a series of roadways closed to cars and connecting local parks. Food, music, activities (and bathrooms!) are located in the parks and along the route. The first Sunday Parkway of the year will be in NE Portland. The 5.8-mile Northeast Portland Sunday Parkways route will have two loops, connecting Woodlawn, Alberta, Fernhill and Wilshire Parks. This is a family friendly event. Meander with the crowd or use it as a workout and see how many loops you can

finish! If you would like to join other RPCV families, plan to meet up with us at the play structure at Fernill Park at 10:30am. The play structure is located at [NE 37th and Ainsworth](#) along the bike route. It is a nice place to meet with a great play area in a wide open location where people can spot each other. We plan to head north from there, heading to Wilshire Park. Wear a Peace Corps t-shirt, if you have one. If you plan to use that park as your starting point, a good place to park your car is just north of the play structure, on 36th just north or south of Holman. When driving there, plan to go around the loop, not through it; avoid driving north on NE 33rd Ave. [View a map of the loop.](#) For more information, call Karen Cellarius at 503-998-5572.

**Sunday, 5/16, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm** - Business Meeting, Potluck and Program. Location at the home of Martin Kaplan, [19436 Wilderness Dr](#) in West Linn, 503-699-9833. All are welcome! Here is the agenda/schedule:

Time	Agenda Item / Activity
5:00-5:05	Approve 2/6/10, 3/14/10, 4/11/10 business meeting minutes
5:05-5:10	Mid-year budget update
5:10-5:15	<p><b>Elect 2010-2011 board members</b> Most positions were filled on April 11. The following positions will be open for nominations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newsletter Editor</li> <li>• Co-Webmaster</li> <li>• Co-Events Coordinator</li> <li>• Co-Social Coordinator</li> </ul>
5:15-5:25	Consider funding requests for Starlight Parade Supplies
5:25-5:35	Consider changes to our schedule of business meetings and programs
5:35-5:45	<p>Make decisions regarding local commemorations of Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 16 event at Portland State University (appoint committee to plan this event)</li> <li>• 2011 exhibit at Oregon Historical Society (learn what help is needed now that the event is confirmed)</li> <li>• permanent legacy service project (should we plan one?)</li> </ul>

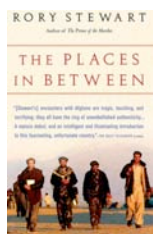
Time	Agenda Item / Activity
5:45-6:00	Updates from recent group capacity building events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11/24/2009 50th Anniversary Planning (Bill Stein)</li> <li>• 12/02/2009 Communications Using Social Media (Bill Stein)</li> <li>• 2/16/2010 Mobilizing Member Action Through Advocacy (Tom DeMeo)</li> <li>• 2/23/2010 Supporting Haiti: Going Beyond Fundraisers (Scott Eckert)</li> <li>• 3/24/2010 Maximizing Return on Event (Amy Evans)</li> <li>• 4/08/2010 50th Anniversary Planning for Geographic Groups (Marta Wicke)</li> <li>• 4/14/2010 Universal Basic Education Advocacy (Tom DeMeo)</li> <li>• 4/27/2010 Implementing the Third Goal (TBA)</li> <li>• 5/05/2010 Fundraising ABCs for 50th Anniversary Activities (TBA)</li> </ul>
6:00-7:00	Potluck dinner (please bring a dish to share)
7:00-8:00	Program on the Immigrant Experience (speaker TBA)

## May 2010

**Tuesday, 5/18, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm** - Service Activity (serving dinner) at Union Gospel Mission, [15 NW 3rd Ave](#) in Portland. RSVP to [service@crpca.org](mailto:service@crpca.org). **This event will fill up quickly, so please sign up now!** If necessary, you can drop out later.

**Monday, 5/24, 6:30 pm** - Book Club. Location at the home of Linda Centurion, [3940 SE 47th Ave](#) in Portland. **Please note the new location!** Feel free to bring snacks to share.

### The Places in Between, by Rory Stewart (2006)



In January 2002 Rory Stewart walked across Afghanistan -- surviving by his wits, his knowledge of Persian dialects and Muslim customs, and the kindness of strangers. By day he passed through mountains covered in nine feet of snow, hamlets burned and emptied by the Taliban, and communities thriving amid the remains of medieval civilizations.

By night he slept on villagers' floors, shared their meals, and listened to their stories of the recent and ancient past. Along the way Stewart met heroes and rogues, tribal elders and teenage soldiers, Taliban commanders and foreign-aid workers. He was also adopted by an unexpected companion -- a retired fighting mastiff he named Babur in honor of Afghanistan's first Mughal emperor, in whose footsteps the pair was following.

Through these encounters -- by turns touching, confounding, surprising, and funny -- Stewart makes tangible the forces of tradition, ideology, and allegiance that shape life in the map's countless places in between.

**Monday, 5/31, 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. Yes, we'll be there on Memorial Day; for some reason we get great attendance at this one!

## June 2010

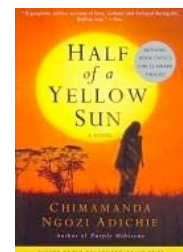
**Thursday, 6/03, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm** - Service Activity at the Oregon Food Bank, [7900 NE 33rd Dr](#) in Portland. **RSVP to [service@crpca.org](mailto:service@crpca.org) or call Tom at 503-267-3943 by Mon 5/31.** Please see our [Service page](#) for additional details.

**Saturday, 6/05, 8:30 pm** - [Starlight Parade](#). This year we return to marching in Portland's premier community parade. **Contact Rich Ireland by May 10** ([parade@crpca.org](mailto:parade@crpca.org) or 503-246-0479) if you'd like to march in country-of-service attire holding the flag of your country-of-service.

**Wednesday, 6/09, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm** - Book Club. Location at the home of Lee Norris, [3748 SE Salmon St](#) in Portland. Feel free to bring snacks to share.

### Half of a Yellow Sun, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (2006)

A masterly, haunting new novel from a writer heralded by The Washington Post Book World as "the 21st-century daughter of Chinua Achebe," *Half of a Yellow Sun* recreates a seminal moment in modern African history: Biafra's impassioned struggle to establish an independent republic in Nigeria, and the chilling violence that followed.



With astonishing empathy and the effortless grace of a natural storyteller, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie weaves together the lives of three characters swept up in the turbulence of the decade. Thirteen-year-old Ugwu is employed as a houseboy for a university professor full of revolutionary zeal. Olanna is the professor's beautiful mistress, who has abandoned her life of privilege in Lagos for a dusty university town and the charisma of her new lover. And Richard is a shy young

Englishman in thrall to Olanna's twin sister, an enigmatic figure who refuses to belong to anyone. As Nigerian troops advance and they must run for their lives, their ideals are severely tested, as are their loyalties to one another.

Epic, ambitious, and triumphantly realized, *Half of a Yellow Sun* is a remarkable novel about moral responsibility, about the end of colonialism, about ethnic allegiances, about class and race--and the ways in which love can complicate them all.

**Saturday, 6/12, 9:00 am to noon** - Service Activity: Spruce up [Tryon Creek State Park](#). RSVP to [service@crpca.org](mailto:service@crpca.org). **This event will fill up quickly, so please sign up now!** If necessary, you can drop out later. If you know of a good place nearby to meet afterwards, please suggest it to [social@crpca.org](mailto:social@crpca.org).

**Sunday, 6/13, 5:00-8:00 pm** - Business Meeting, Potluck and Program. Location at the home of Mary Lopez, [1218 SE 53rd Ave](#) (near Hawthorne) in Portland. All are welcome to the 5pm CRPCA business meeting (where we will determine which grants to award for the summer grant cycle), 6pm dinner (please bring a dish to share), and 7pm program (TBA).

**Sunday, 6/20, 2:05 pm** - Portland Beavers baseball game outing, at [PGE Park](#) in Portland. Spend Fathers Day watching the PCL Beavers (AAA affiliate of the San Diego Padres), in possibly the last year of professional baseball in Portland, take on the Tacoma Rainiers (AAA affiliate of the Seattle Mariners), in the company of CRPCA friends. We've reserved 20 tickets in [section 115](#). Tickets are \$12 each; reserve them by clicking the live link on our website's [Events page](#). On the following page you can choose how many tickets to order, then you can pay by credit card or any other PayPal method. When you're done, e-mail Tom DeMeo at [service@crpca.org](mailto:service@crpca.org) to arrange how to pick up your ticket(s). You can also call Tom at 503-267-3943 if you prefer to pay by cash or check.

**Fri-Sun, 6/25-6/27** - CRPCA's 2nd Annual Local Campout. [Champoeg State Heritage Area](#) (birthplace of the State of Oregon), 30 miles from central Portland. The potluck dinner, open to non-campers, will be at 6pm Sat 6/26. Click over to our [Local Campout web page](#) for info on our group tent sites, how to register, directions, etc.

**Monday, 6/28, 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.

## July 2010

**Monday, 7/05, 8:30 am** - Hike to Mirror Lake and Tom Dick and Harry Mountain. Let's cap the 4th of July holiday with a hike the next day. This 6.5 mile hike (round-trip), with an elevation gain of 1,500 feet has everything: an excellent trail, a lake and stunning views. From the summit of Tom Dick and Harry Mountain, you can view the glaciers on Mount Hood, the adjacent Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness and Mirror Lake just below. Meet no later than 8:30 am at Gateway Transit Center, [1250 NE 99th Ave](#), accessible via the Blue, Green, and Red MAX lines (note TriMet will be on its Sunday/holiday schedule). We'll arrange carpools in the SE corner of the TriMet parking garage. Note that a Northwest Forest parking pass (\$5/day, \$30/year) is required at the trailhead. Please bring at least two liters of water and lunch, wear synthetic layers (no cotton nor jeans) and carry rain gear, just in case. Also, wear sturdy hiking boots which provide ankle support. Leader: Mitch Auerbach, [social@crpca.org](mailto:social@crpca.org), 503-505-2160.

**Saturday, 7/10, 7:00 pm** - Portland Timbers soccer game outing, at [PGE Park](#) in Portland. Watch the USL Timbers, in the last year before Major League Soccer comes to town, take on the Miami FC Blues, in the company of CRPCA friends. Wear green! We've reserved 15 tickets in [section 121](#). Tickets are \$15 each; reserve them by clicking the live link on our website's [Events page](#). On the following page you can choose how many tickets to order, then you can pay by credit card or any other PayPal method. When you're done, e-mail Jerry Gabay at [social@crpca.org](mailto:social@crpca.org) to arrange how to pick up your ticket(s). You can also call Jerry at 541-578-0051 if you prefer to pay by cash or check.

**Saturday, 7/17, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm** - Annual Picnic, a gathering of RPCVs, Peace Corps nominees, and our families and friends. Washington Park Elephant House, picnic site D on the [park map](#)). Take one-way Sherwood Blvd downhill from SW Portland's International Rose Test Garden and find parking near or just downhill from the playground along either side of the street. You can also take TriMet's [Washington Park Shuttle](#) from the Washington Park MAX station; just get off at the Children's Play Park (runs every 15 minutes). Main dishes and salads encouraged for the potluck. We'll provide paper supplies, plastic cutlery, water, and cookies.

**Monday, 7/26, 6:30 pm** - Soirée. An informal gathering of RPCVs and like-minded individuals. **Note the change in venue for July!** We're joining Global Sistergoods and the Portland Area Global AIDS Coalition's quarterly happy hour on the mezzanine (upstairs) at Hopworks Urban Brewery, [2944 SE](#)

[Powell Blvd](#) in Portland. Kids welcome until 9pm; there's a nearby play area.

**Thursday, 7/29, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm** - Service Activity at the Oregon Food Bank, [7900 NE 33rd Dr](#) in Portland. **RSVP to [service@crpca.org](mailto:service@crpca.org) or call Tom at 503-267-3943 by Mon 7/26.** Please see our [Service page](#) for additional details.

## Starlight Parade

June is nearly upon us and the STARLIGHT PARADE is June 5th. We will be carrying flags from our countries of service. We need to make the flags, so please let us know by May 10th if you want your flag in the parade! Kids over 10 are welcome to join us.

Illumination is a challenge as we need the flags to be visible. We can attach a light to our poles; bicycle lights may be too small. Please send suggestions. We will also be carrying a few camp lanterns.

We also need to make country signs, maybe 2 feet x 8 inches, to attach to the poles so people will know what country the flag represents. Is anyone able and willing to design and make some signs?

Contact Rich Ireland, [parade@crpca.org](mailto:parade@crpca.org), 503-246-0479.

## Update on CAR Refugee Family

On April 11th, CRPCA voted to officially sponsor the refugee family from Central African Republic. Adrienne Karecki will take the lead on identifying and sharing needs and coordinating efforts between resettlement agencies, CRPCA and the family. There are many RPCVs and others in the community who have been extremely generous with the donation of food, clothing, books and school supplies. The family extends many, many thanks and very warm smiles to each of you. The generosity has been amazing.

Adrienne is in the process of gathering a list of critical needs from the family and other community partners. Housing (reminder there are 13 in the family), food (staples, fruit, etc.) and any Sango, Hausa or Fulfuldé speakers are urgently needed. Contact Adrienne for the drop-off of goods. The father, Idy, is also interested in working with cattle but requires eye surgery to regain eye site in one eye. The other is permanently blind. IRCO is working on potential funding for his surgery. You can reach Adrienne at [refugee@crpca.org](mailto:refugee@crpca.org).

## MEJOR Communities Benefit Dinner

MEJOR Communities 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction at Andina Restaurant will be raising funds to support our group of trained Youth Health Advocates as they take on their first community health project; a trash management system. Enjoy a tapas-style menu, some wine and an amazing atmosphere as you learn about the education-based work MEJOR Communities does in rural Peru. Please make a reservation for this event at [www.mejorc.org/events.html](http://www.mejorc.org/events.html). Reservations are \$60/plate or \$550/table of ten.

## 2011 Peace Corps Exhibit is On!

THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU

I can't say it enough, many thanks to the 74 RPCVs (and one current, not returned, PCV!) who responded to my pleas for loaned objects for the Peace Corps 50th Anniversary exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society. You've saved the day and the exhibit. The abundance of material means that we can go ahead with the exhibit planning, heading towards a March 1, 2011 opening. Save the Date!

The loaned objects will represent, as described by JFK in 1961, an "army" of civilian volunteers, who over the past 50 years have been sent to countries in Africa, Asia, South Pacific, Middle East, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. The objects will provide a cultural cross-section of the countries with RPCVs first-hand accounts of their experiences. There's no way I could have imagined these pieces -- it will truly be an extraordinary chronicle of the Peace Corps.

Look for updates in CRPCA newsletters in the months to come. There will be other pleas for assistance I can assure you, and I hope that the response and enthusiasm for the exhibit grows as it develops.

And for a first assignment, how about a title for the exhibit that embodies your idea of being a Peace Corps volunteer on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary? Short, pithy, rolls off the tongue title -- as an example, our Pendleton exhibit is called "Tall in the Saddle: 100 Years of the Pendleton Round-Up."

Send your ideas to me at [marsha.matthews@ohs.org](mailto:marsha.matthews@ohs.org).

Marsha Matthews  
Director of Public Services  
Oregon Historical Society

## Volunteer Host Families Needed

The Center for Cultural Interchange (CCI) is looking for volunteer host families that would love to have the opportunity to open their home to a bright well rounded, English speaking high school student from abroad as well the chance to enrich their own lives in so many ways. Host families can include single parent families, retired couples, couples without children and families with children of any age. Students arrive with their own medical insurance and spending money; as a host, you would provide room, board, and a welcoming heart!

For more information about our students arriving this fall, please contact me via email or phone - please also feel free to forward this message to anyone you think might be interested in hosting. Thank you!

### About CCI:

CCI is a non-profit international education exchange organization established in 1985 and dedicated to the promotion of academic development, cultural understanding, environmental consciousness and world peace. For more details about CCI, please visit <http://www.cci-exchange.com/usprograms/host.aspx>. (Note: when filling out the online "Become a Host Family" inquiry form, please be sure to include my name (Shannon Lee) under "How did you hear about CCI?" as your Area Representative).

## NPCA and PC News

\* FY 2011 Peace Corps Budget. \$465M is the amount of the president's proposed FY 2011 budget. Please contact your Congressional representatives and urge them to support the continued improvement/expansion of the Peace Corps.

\* Peace Corps Expansion: PC has very recently sent volunteers to Indonesia, after a 45 year hiatus. And it hopes to announce soon another new (re-entry?) program in a large South American country. (If I knew which, I would tell you...)

\* Among the newest RPCV groups to form is the "RPCVs at the State Department" group, which now is an official member group of the NPCA.

\* Speaking of groups; if your group has not completed the NPCA renewal process, please do so quickly. The deadline is March 31.

\* Membership change: At the Board of Directors meeting in Washington, DC on March 7, the board

approved an NPCA staff proposal to redefine its membership structure. The new membership structure is three tiered: Associate Members, Members, and Director's Circle Members. Associate members would be those individuals who support PC's values, but do not pay annual dues (ex: like many of the RPCVs with profiles on Peace Corps Connect). Members would be those individuals who support PC's values and pay the annual dues. Director's Circle members would be those individuals that make an exceptional commitment to donating \$1000 or more to the NPCA.

\* Financially, the NPCA continues to operate with a projected annual budget surplus for 2010.

\* Peace Corps Connect and Africa Rural Connect continue to attract more users.

\* RPCV Pol Power: There are presently five RPCVs serving in the US Congress; four in the House of Representatives, and one, Chris Dodd, in the Senate.

\* Upcoming Elections for NPCA board positions; One for the Midwest USA region and 3 for country of service representatives (The Americas; West/Central/Southern Africa; Asia and the Pacific (one-year term). The deadline for filing is April 1st. For more information, go to <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/2010BoardElections>

\* The next NPCA board meeting, Group Leaders Forum, and Annual General Meeting will be held in Washington, DC on June 24.



*Those who found their way to our Vancouver potluck April 11 were treated to an interesting discussion on local microfinance initiatives.*

## CONTACT US - CRPCA Board Members

*President:*

Bill Stein, Niger 1990-1993  
503-830-0817, [president@crpca.org](mailto:president@crpca.org)

*Secretary:*

Brenda Michel, Sierra Leone 1986-1988  
503-408-6933, [secretary@crpca.org](mailto:secretary@crpca.org)

*Treasurer:*

Phyllis Shelton, Honduras 1986-1988  
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*Networking Coordinator & Program Coordinator:*

Madeleine Mader, Cameroon 1984-1986  
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*Newsletter Editor:*

Your Name Here!

*Interim Newsletter Editor:*

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*Webmaster:*

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*Education Coordinator & Membership Coordinator:*

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Courtney Martin

Dominican Republic 2001-2003  
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*Social Coordinator:*

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*Grants Coordinator:*

Richard Rystrom, Ukraine, 2007-2009  
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