Children carry bricks to help the headman of Kelly McCrary's village in Zambia build a new house; from her Peace Corps blog.

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Letter from the Editor

We were saddened to learn of the passing of CRPCA member Carl J. Homan. He will be sorely missed; a celebration of life service will be held in February - for further details, see the obituary below.

This month in the newsletter, we have an interview with Mollie and Shaun Willis, CRPCA grant recipients currently serving in Cameroon. We also have some hair-raising memories from John Gain, who served in Zambia from 2011-2013. Don't forget to keep an eye out for soccer tickets (on sale in January!), and all the great upcoming CRPCA events in the calendar below.

Next month we'll be continuing our series of PCV service experiences/reminiscences, so if you served in Asia, we want to hear from you. We hope you resolve to send stories, pictures, recipes, songs, or anything at all you'd like to share about your service, anything that really brings home why serving in the Peace Corps was a valuable and life-changing experience: we want to hear about it (before January 25, 2014. If we don't hear from you, you might be hearing from us! I'll be sending out reminders in the weekly update. If you have any other announcements or information that you'd like shared in the newsletter, be sure to get that to me before the 25th as well. Questions and comments are greatly appreciated.

Here's hoping you've spent the holiday season with good cheer - and happiest of new years to you!

— Meaghan Corwin, Armenia 2008-2011 & Mongolia 2011-2013

Carl J. Homan
Carl J. Homan, 70, a resident of Beaverton died Nov. 27, 2013, at the Providence St. Vincent Medical Center in Portland. A celebration of life service will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9, 2014, at the First Unitarian Church, 1011 S.W. 12th Ave., Portland, (alley entrance 12th). Carl was born Aug. 8, 1943, in Toledo, Ohio. He served in the Peace Corps from 1966 to 1968 (training in late 1965) with the 11th group of volunteers to serve in Malaysia. He served in a remote village, and was well-respected in town, being careful of his reputation.
“He was the kind of person who would always build relationships,” recalls his widow, Ruth Ann, whether with his students at school, his fellow “bachelor” Malay teachers he roomed with, or playing badminton or going boar hunting with local notables. He went on to serve in the U.S. Army. He would later say that Peace Corps gave him his career. When serving, he taught and, experiencing teaching and seeing how teachers were respected, he went on to teach himself with his wife of nearly 42 years, Ruth Ann. They taught school in American Samoa, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Arizona. His last teaching post was at Forest Grove High School in Industrial Arts. He enjoyed doing plastic scale model aircraft and he loved Mopar cars. Survivors include his wife, Ruth Homan; sisters, Lynn Uscilowski and Jacque Homan; and brother, James Homan. He will be missed by his family and a wide circle of friends. Donations may be sent to Columbia River Keeper, 111 3rd St., Hood River, OR 97031-2009 or their online site, cumbiariverkeeper.org. Tualatin Valley Funeral Alternatives were helpful in making arrangements.
PCV Interview: Shaun & Mollie Willis

You might remember Shaun and Mollie Willis from their CRPCA-funded water catchment project. We've published excerpts from their blog, *27 Months in Cameroon*, detailing the progress of that project, but they have also kindly agreed to answer a few questions for the newsletter and share a bit about their
service. Shaun Willis is Youth Empowerment volunteer teaching ICT in the Anglophone section of Fultang Bilingual High School, the same school which the water project was done with. Mollie is a community economic development volunteer. They have been serving in country since June 2012 and expect to return to Portland in July 2014. Shaun has a bachelors from Portland State University in community health and has previously worked with the Portland based non-profit Project Helping Hands which send medicines and medical professionals to communities in need. Mollie graduated from Arizona State University with a BS in Economics; she worked at Oregon Food Bank before they joined the Peace Corps. They are both applying to graduate schools for their return to the states.

Tell us a little bit about where you are living. Is it urban, or rural, what's the weather like, what do you eat?

S: We are currently reside in the city of Nkongsamba which is located in the Littoral Region about 2 hours from Douala, the economic capital of the country. Cameroon is a very diverse country with many different landscapes and climates within its relatively small boarders. In the south we have a very tropical climate including lush jungles in the southeast. In the north the weather is much more arid and dryer as you get into the Sahel region. We also have some beautiful mountains, including the second largest peak on the continent, Mt. Cameroon, which is located not far from us towards the northwest part of the country. Being located at a higher elevation is advantageous as you remain cooler even when you are close to the equator.

M: Nkongsamba is a city that used to be a major thoroughfare from the coffee trade when the prices were high in the 1970s. After the crash of the coffee prices, the town has not really developed much. Population estimates are around 150,000, and there are 15 or so quarters of Nkongsamba. It is a quite large town, and definitely not the mud-hut-village in the desert that people expect when we say we are living in Africa. To be honest, I am not a huge fan of traditional Cameroonian food. While I love the grilled chicken and fish and plantains, I can’t say I feel the same way about couscous, gombo (okra), or cow skin. We are lucky in that we have a wide range of fruits and veggies available in our market and we cook most nights. We do, however, love the national food of spaghetti omelets!

How’s your social life? (Do you spend time with your neighbors, visiting co-workers, do other volunteers come through town, do you have sitemates, how did you spend Christmas)

M: There are 5 volunteers in Nkongsamba proper, with about 10 or so in the surrounding villages within 2 hours away. Nkongsamba is the banking city, and given our sitemates, we see volunteers often. We live in a quadplex, of sorts, and are good friends with our neighbors and all of their children. Other volunteers come visit Nkongsamba, as we have waterfalls nearby. In fact, the waterfalls were the site where Tarzan was filmed in the 80s I believe. We spent Christmas day hanging out at our house with our neighbors. Everyone brought us plates of their Christmas dinners (we will always welcome chicken!) and we spent the afternoon hanging out on our deck. We made a Mexican dinner that we shared with one of our Cameroonian friends.

S: While we maintained a low profile this Christmas choosing to spend it with our closest Cameroonian friends rather than attending one of the many volunteer hosted parties, we do see other volunteers on a regular basis. Being located just off of the national road which connects Douala to the rest of the country we have PCVs traveling through almost daily. Cameroon boasts 214 volunteers in a country which due to regional security concerns is having to constantly reshuffle volunteers into a smaller geographical area. This ensures that most volunteers are grouped into clusters with at least one or two PCVs within an hour of you often even more.

Describe a typical day.

S: As most RPCVs already know, the typical day of a PCV is far from stimulating, yet altogether rather
unpredictable. Most mornings we wake up and go buy eggs or bread from down the street before doing some yoga or going for a run. After some exercise and breakfast we'll head out into town to participate in a meeting or teach my class. These meetings often start very late when they start at all. In the idle time you humbly go through the motions of greetings various proprietors in the market and making small talk. The day often ends as predictably as it begins with us having a beer at one of our favorite bars before heading home to begin cooking dinner. Through it all you try to get some work done and enjoy the little things, you never know who might show up unannounced or what type of shenanigans you may become mixed up in. It seems as though a typical day is almost never as typical as you expect.

M: Typically, in the mornings we run and then make some sort of eggs for breakfast (we can’t wait to eat cereal again!) and get ready for the day. The activities of the day always vary, sometimes we have meetings to plan projects or meet with the staff at the school, some days Shaun teaches, some days we have the clubs we lead at Fultang Bilingual High School, some days Mollie meets with the youth for the pig project…no two weeks or two days are the same! Most days, we go to the market to get groceries and greet all of our friends and vendors in town. Occasionally, we will meet other PCVs in town for lunch or a beer in the afternoon to catch up. Inevitably, we end up back at the house, where the kids are all out playing soccer in our lawn after school. We will spend time with them and the neighbors, before it gets dark and we make dinner. One thing that doesn’t seem like it has ever changed in the existence of the Peace Corps is the amount of free time, for reading in the hammock, writing letters, or, reflecting on life, Cameroon, and what's next after Peace Corps.

What is your work like / what are you most proud of having accomplished?

S: Accomplishments were sparse in our first year, but we have developed some very solid work partners since then and our work has begun to take off. I have completed a conference promoting the benefits of PSAs with several local radio stations. Have taught computer classes to both students and teachers alike at my school and helped to facilitate the water project done there with the funds from CRPCA.

M: We found, once we had been in Nkongsamba and learned our way around, a private boarding school on the other side of town that teaches both the Anglophone and francophone sections of the national curriculum, with incredibly motivated and dedicated staff. The school is Fultang Bilingual High School (FBHS), and this is where the water project was completed with the grant funds from CRPCA. I lead an extracurricular club at FBHS that focuses on decision making, leadership and HIV prevention for the high school students. (Shaun leads the Health Club and teaches computer technology to the Anglophone students). Additionally, we have just begun a holistic pig raising project for unemployed youth (20-25 yrs) in one area of Nkongsamba. The project will provide the startup costs for pig raising, while providing business management classes and health classes to the youth engaged in the project. The goal is that, at the end of the 6 month program, the youth will now have a trade that will provide them with income, while having the business and health basics to manage and run the trade successfully. Their first round of profits will be shared with the partnering organization, allowing the project to train 5 youth every 6 months.

How do you see your role in your community?

S: As PCVs here we are given so many titles that it can become hard to define yourself. If pressed I would say I see my role in the community as half educator and have facilitator. I don’t like to be simply thought of as a teacher, although I am one. I feel that limits my experience and implies that I am solely here for the benefit of the school I teach at. I believe the value I can offer extends beyond the schools compound and into every facet of the community. I wish to offer opportunity to anyone willing to stand up and strive for it. While my personal skillset may be limited, I like to think I can offer access to tools and information far beyond my own. That is where the role of facilitator comes in I am lucky to have vast amounts of resources and connection at my disposal so that if someone wishes to learn something which
I know nothing about I can connect them with a professional in that particular subject.

What do you see as the benefits you bring / are bringing?

M: One major benefit that we, as Americans, bring to our community is connections. With a lot of the projects that we have conducted, we have brought together groups of Cameroonians that may have never worked together before, to achieve the goal. We are natural networkers, and this skill/personality trait is lacking among our host country nationals. We are easily able to connect Cameroonians with supporters back home (like partnering with CRPCA for the water project!), which leads to greater success for the community.

Many volunteers say they feel they have received more than they have given in their service. Is this true for you? In what way?

S: It is hard to see in the moment everything which we have gained in this experience, but I have no doubt that this statement will resonate with us more and more as we begin to look back on our service.

What do you miss from home? What are you looking forward to?

M: Beer! We cannot wait for a good Portland microbrew! I miss a lot. Mostly, I miss ordinary-life in Portland. I miss hanging out on my parent’s deck, going for a run around Portland, grabbing an IPA or cup of coffee with friends, everything about the fall season, football! I find mostly that it isn’t one major thing that makes me long for home, but rather, all of the little things that make weekends in Portland so fun, calm, and relaxing. Cameroon, particularly in the grand south regions is pretty aggressive…it is common that people communicate through yelling, bars compete for customers by blaring music, no one is shy to call you whiteman and demand that we must be rich so we can by them a beer, etc. While we all imagine the hustle and bustle of the US to lead to a stressful life, I have found the opposite. I am very much looking forward to returning to normal days of running errands, spending time with family and friends, going for a run, and enjoying the city.

S: In a word, everything! Portland is amazing and regardless of where we end up in the world it will always be home. We will be arriving back in the summer so camping will no doubt be one of the first activities on our list. The thing I have probably missed most about Portland during my service is the great beers we have in the NW. I can’t wait to get back and brew up a batch again, or to go out and attend some of the fantastic summer beer festivals. Lastly, I am looking forward to the running culture of Portland. Participating in the many races around the city again will be fantastic. We have already been offered our old spots back on our Hood 2 Coast team next year.

It might be a bit early for this question, but do you feel your service has changed you in any way? How?

S: Again, I do not feel as though I have had ample time to reflect on the experience yet as to give clear and distinct answers as to how it has changed me, yet I do not doubt for a moment that is has done so.

M: It’s not that I wasn’t self-confident before, but I have gained the trait of being more self-assertive through my service. I have learned that accepting myself for who I truly am…the good, the bad and the ugly… I can be the most effective. By not only better understanding my limits or accepting that certain skill-sets are not something I offer, I have learned to focus my time and energy at what I am good at and what I can do successfully. There is definitely freedom in embracing who I am and offering that fully to those around me.

Interview questions by Patrick Findler
Ingredients (for 2 people):
1 cup spaghetti, cooked and drained
¼ small onion, diced
1 tomato, diced
½ green bell pepper, diced
Salt and Pepper
4 eggs, scrambled

Bonus Recipe: Spaghetti Omelets, the National Dish of Cameroon
Oil
1 baguette-style loaf of bread
margarine of mayonnaise, to put on bread adding the omelet

Directions:
Heat a decent amount of oil in the skillet. The ingredients above are for 2 servings, you can either do it all together to make one large omelet, and then split it, or divide the ingredients and do it in two different batches. The end result will be the same either way.

Add the spaghetti, onion, tomato, green bell pepper and salt and pepper to the heating oil. When the vegetables have become soft and the spaghetti is slightly crispy and hot, pour the egg over the top. Once the egg has set a little, flip (carefully!) to cook the other side. When egg is fully cooked, serve immediately. It sounds weird, we thought it was super bizarre the first time we heard of it, but, try it – it is delicious!

Things That Go Bump in the Night! Memories of Zambia

After a long day of speaking Chilunda, teaching HIV/AIDS awareness, and chasing small children up trees to fetch me fresh mangoes, all that my wife, Kelly, and I ever wanted was a good night sleep. Once we were accustomed to the tree-splitting and ground-shaking thunder and lightning, our cozy thatch hut near the West Lunga river in the forests of north western Zambia, usually, provided an extremely comforting and serene environment to recover from the day’s activity. On occasion, however, the forest would decide it was time to test the ‘chindeli’ or white person.

The Kabonzu

When we first arrived at our new home just outside of Mwinilunga, the Lunda people of our village gave us many gifts including more chickens than we could eat. The natural decision was to start raising chickens of our own. With the help of our new Lunda friends, we built a traditional conical chicken coop and began to enjoy the entertainment and food our chickens provided.

We ‘employed’ a boy named Kelly Katilunga to help with our daily chores including rounding up of the chickens and putting them into the coop at night. As this became routine, I began to wonder why we
bothered locking up the chickens at all. I was not worried about thieves since my neighbors were blacksmiths and no one would dare raise their ire nor had I seen any signs of wild predators big enough to kill a chicken. However, whenever I asked Kelly why we had to lock up the chickens he always replied "At night, during the rainy season, the 'kabonzu' will come!"

I became very curious about the kabonzu. Kabonzu was not a word I had learned during Peace Corps language training and I desperately wanted to discover what if was. Unfortunately, every time I tried to leave the coop door open, little Kelly would say "Mr. John, at night, during the rainy season, the 'kabonzu' will come!"

One evening, Kelly was busy in the field and I sensed my opportunity. We went through our nightly routine and when it came time to lock up the chickens I 'forgot' to close the door to the coop. I went to bed not really expecting any excitement. At about midnight, my wife and I awoke to the sound of our chickens clucking and squawking louder than I had ever heard. I jumped up thinking "Could it be the mysterious kabonzu?" and hearing my wife's annoyed voice saying "Did you not close up the chickens?" I ran outside to find several people had been rousted from their sleep were all murmuring "Was it a kabonzu?". I found all but one of my chickens had flown the coop and taken refuge in the mango tree. The missing one was presumably taken by the mysterious kabonzu!

Nsalafu

Nsalafu is the Lunda word for the African driver or army ant. Most of us have seen them on television marching through the jungle killing everything in site or even heard stories of huge colonies attacking small children in their sleep. I found them to be one of the most fascinating creatures in the Zambian wilderness. I often encountered them in the forest or near the swamp and almost always took the time to provoke a few with a stick. The bites hurt, especially when they would climb far up your pant leg before sinking their three millimeter mandibles into your soft flesh, but I always had the option to get away before the numbers were too much in their favor, until one night near the end of our service.

At this time, my wife and I were 'experienced' volunteers fully enjoying the comforts of Lunda village life. The days were warm and slow, we were no longer the best show in town, and the pineapples, mangos, and avacados were in full season. We spent the evening visiting with the neighbors under the chota, playing with children, and enjoying excellent village food before slumbering off to our beloved hut for another night under the mosquito net.

After some light reading by flashlight, we both crept off to a good night sleep. Sometime later I felt the first one crawling on my head. I did not even open my eyes. I simply reached up and crushed the unidentified intruder and went back to sleep. Shortly, thereafter, it happened again. I was now awake enough to realize, "Hey, that was pretty big?!". I flicked on the flashlight to find a few nsalafu in my bed. Fortunately, they were only the smaller worker ants. The mosquito net was keeping the large soldier ants with the massive mandibles out of the bed. I woke my wife to help assess the situation. I carefully lifted the mosquito net to survey the room. The nsalafu were streaming along the edges of our walls and adventuring across the middle of the floor. It seemed they had been passing through our hut for a few hours and were taking over everything. The only option was to get out!

We were able to slip on our shoes and head to the only escape route, our front door. We quickly burst out into the Zambian night only to immediately stop in our tracks. The bright moonlight was illuminating the ground just enough to allow us to see the moving, breathing, mass of insects covering the forest floor surrounding our hut. The sheet of living death stretched for over three meters in every direction. After a short glance to each other, we made the fateful plunge into the biting ants and ran with giant steps across the living floor into free territory.
Unlike the kabonzu incident, none of our neighbors had come out of their homes to investigate the disturbance. Out of the darkness, suddenly came the voice of the head blacksmith instructing us to go into Mr. Fanwell Chakilika’s, our host father, house for the rest of the night. That was the only reaction the distressed ‘yindele’ (white people) received from the local people. I took it as a compliment. If the ants had invaded our home a year earlier the whole village would have come to our rescue. Now, all we had was the typical Lunda practice of yelling to each other from across the courtyard. I truly felt accepted!

By John Gain, check out his wife Kelly McCrary's blog post about transport in Zambia. John and Kelly served in Zambia from 2011-2013; they currently live in Vancouver, WA.

CRPCA Soccer Game Outings

All of the below-listed games will take place at Jeld-Wen Field in Portland. CRPCA will offer reserved group seating at two Portland Timbers (Major League Soccer regular season) games in 2014. Stay tuned; we will begin selling tickets to all sometime in January.

- Saturday, May 3 @ 7:30 pm vs. D.C. United
- Sunday, September 7 @ 2:00 pm vs. San Jose Earthquakes

CRPCA will offer reserved group seating at the MLS All-Star Game vs. Bayern Munich, Wednesday, August 6 @ 6:30 pm. Stay tuned; we will begin selling tickets to current CRPCA members sometime in January.

CRPCA is preselling an infinite number of Portland Thorns general admission tickets (unreserved seats in sections 101-110). Sold for the low price of $5.50 each, they’ll be valid at any 2014 regular season home game featuring the National Women’s Soccer League’s inaugural champions. Per Wikipedia, those games will take place on twelve TBA dates between mid-April and mid-August. These tickets are available through Wednesday, January 22 on our Checkout page.

CRPCA January to March events

January 2014

Sunday, 1/04, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm - Post-Holiday White Elephant Party. Held at Lucky Labrador Public House, 7675 SW Capitol Hwy in Portland. This is among CRPCA’s most family-friendly events each year, and again this year we’ll be projecting photos from past CRPCA events as we eat, drink, and open gifts. Please bring a wrapped, non-holiday-themed gift for the gift exchange. Plan to enjoy pizza, salad, and conversation!

Prices include an all-you-can-eat pizza and salad buffet:

- $12 for adults, $8 for children 16 and under (when pre-paid on crpca.org before January 3rd)
- $14 for adults, $9 for children (at the door on January 4th)


Saturday, 1/11, 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm – Portland Trail Blazers Basketball Game Outing, at the Moda Center, né Rose Garden. We’ve purchased a block of tickets in section 303 for the Trail Blazers’ game against the Boston Celtics. Purchase your $25 ticket(s) on our Checkout page today--7 are left as of Dec 31--and Tom (service AT crpca.org, 503-267-3943) will get in touch with you regarding ticket delivery. See the hottest team in the NBA!
Sunday, 1/12, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Potluck Gathering. Hosted by Liz Samuels, 3739 SW Hillside Dr in Portland (503-228-7706). Please bring a dish to share to the 6pm potluck dinner. After dinner, starting at 7pm, there will be storytelling with Miriam Feder. Miriam has done some great environmental work and travelogue in Cambodia, Vietnam and Malaysian Borneo. In addition, she is a playwright and blogger. Please call if you need help finding a ride. No Sunday buses.

Tuesday, 1/14, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Book Club. Hosted by Liz Samuels, 3739 SW Hillside Dr in Portland (503-228-7706). The book to read is V.S. Naipaul's *A House for Mr. Biswas*. See http://crpca.org/?page_id=205 for more information. Feel free to bring snacks to share.

Thursday, 1/16, 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm - Service Activity Oregon Food Bank, 7900 NE 33rd Dr in Portland. We will be packing food at the Volunteer Action Center. Children over age 6 with adult chaperone are welcome to volunteer with us! Wear work clothing and closed-toed shoes. RSVP to service AT crpca.org. Last minute additions welcome.

Thursday, 1/23, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm - Writers' Workshop. Hosted by Gabriella Maertens (503-254-5161). Please bring a writing sample and perhaps a snack to share. See our Writers' Workshop page, http://crpca.org/?page_id=392, for more information.

Monday, 1/27, 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm - International Development Happy Hour, Lucky Labrador Tap Room, 1700 N Killingsworth St in Portland. Co-hosted by CRPCA, Jubilee Oregon, North West Fair Trade Coalition, Portland Area Global AIDS Coalition and RESULTS-Portland. An informal gathering to share information, resources and network and just plain chat over food and drink. Note the location and time change from our usual Soirées.

February 2014

Sunday, 2/09, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Potluck Gathering. Hosted by Rosemary Furfey, 7022 SW 33rd Ave in Portland (503-245-0819). Please bring a dish to share to the 6pm potluck dinner. After dinner, starting at 7pm, there will be a CRPCA grant review business meeting. Note our January 24 grant application deadline!

Tuesday, 2/11, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Book Club. Hosted by Debbie Durham, 10500 SE 26th Ave (Crystal Lakes Apartment B-24) in Milwaukie, 503-305-6522. The book to read is *Running the Rift* by Naomi Benaron (2012). See our Upcoming Book Discussions page for more information. Feel free to bring snacks to share.

Monday, 2/24, 6:30 pm to 9:00 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 drink and a bite to eat among good company. You can usually find us in the front room.

March 2014

Sunday, 3/09, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Potluck Gathering. Hosted by Anne Kimberly, 4261 SE Alder St., Portland, OR (503-234-4094). Please bring a dish to share to the 6pm potluck dinner. After dinner, starting at 7pm, there will be a panel on monitoring elections around the world. The featured speakers will be CRPCA members Phyllis Shelton, Jackie Van Anda, and Mike Waite. Stay tuned for more information.

Tuesday, 3/11, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Book Club. Hosted by Linda Centurion, 3940 SE 47th Ave in Portland. The book to read is "Nine Hills to Nambonkaha: Two Years in the Heart of an African Village " by Ivory Coast RPCV Sarah Erdman (2003). See http://crpca.org/?page_id=205 for more information.
Feel free to bring snacks to share. Location is across from where eastbound SE Center St ends at SE 47th Ave. Access Center by traveling south on SE 42nd Ave from Powell, then turning east onto Center. Or access 47th by traveling west on SE Gladstone St from 52nd, then turning north onto 47th.

**Monday, 3/31, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm - Soirée.** Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, [915 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland OR](https://maps.google.com/maps/place/915+SE+Hawthorne+Blvd,+Portland+OR+97214). This is a great way to link up with other RPCVs, hear interesting stories from around the world, and grab a drink and a bite to eat among good company. You can usually find us in the front room.

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**Highlights of CRPCA November & December Events**

At our fall fundraiser, our members, family and friends enjoyed tunes spun by a DJ while supporting our grant program. (Prospective grantees: note the [January 24 application deadline](https://www.crpcan.org/grants) for our next grant round.)

Our Book Club welcomed Nepal RPCV author Barbara J Scot to our discussion of her Peace Corps memoir, *The Violet Shyness of Their Eyes.*
At our November Potluck Gathering, dozens of attendees received great information on the Obamacare rollout in Oregon and Washington.

Our November Soirée, seasoned RPCVs mingled with those just off the plane from Peace Corps and those who have yet to depart for Peace Corps.
At our December Potluck Gathering, we met (and danced with) students from the Philippines, Thailand, and Ukraine.
View over 1,000 images like these (from the last three years of CRPCA events) at the Saturday, January 4 White Elephant Party! Tickets to this event are available for a reduced price through this Friday on our Checkout page.