

PPCA NEWSLETTER

The Portland Peace Corps Association Publication



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This will be the final edition of the PPCA Newsletter... April Fools!

Feedback about the new design is still welcome and very much appreciated, as there is room to grow! The only way to move forward successfully is to listen to all opinions with an open mind.

There are so many ways that we can engage with each other and support the shared values of Peace Corps service. Please send your feedback on the logo and the newsletter at the end.

PPCA April to June Events

April 2019

Monday 4/01, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm - Salon Francophone - Hosted by Peter Galbreath, [2005 NE 38th Ave](#) in Portland. Salon Francophone is a gathering of French speakers. *Tous les niveaux sont bienvenus. Pour ce salon, nous partagerons boissons et dessert pendant que nous regarderons un film: [Black and White in Color](#) (in French) won the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar for 1976, and it received [a great review by Roger Ebert](#). RSVP requested to [français AT crpca.org](mailto:français@crpca.org).*

Tuesday 4/09, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm - Book Club - Hosted by Jane and Mike Waite, [7008 Kansas St](#) in Vancouver WA, 360-314-4117. The book to read is ***I Didn't Do It For You: How the World Betrayed a Small African Nation*** (2005) by Michela Wrong. Feel free to bring snacks to share. See our [Book Club page](#) for more details.

Wednesday 4/10, 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm - Sí, se puede – Aztec Willie's Taqueria, [1501 NE Broadway](#) in Portland. Practice your Spanish with other RPCVs. *Se aceptan todos los niveles*. Then stay for Bachata dancing, which begins at 9:30 pm.

Saturday 4/13, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Restaurant Gathering – DarSalam Lazurdi, [320 SW Alder St](#) in Portland. Middle Eastern cuisine centered on Iraq. RSVP required to restaurant AT [crpca.org](#).

Sunday 4/14, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Potluck Gathering – Hosted by Adrienne Wolf-Lockett and Bob Lockett, [6230 SE 44th Ave](#) in Portland (503-953-6010). Please bring a dish to share to the 6:00 potluck dinner. At 7:00, we will have a business meeting where we will award up to \$3,000 in grants, elect our 2019-2020 board members, and review and revise our FY 2019 budget.

Wednesday 4/17, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm - Writers Workshop – Hosted by Jenny Tsai, [2646 NW Overton St](#) in Portland. Please confirm your attendance by calling 503-970-3387 or e-mailing restaurant AT [crpca.org](#). Both beginners and experienced writers welcome. Please bring both something to read (memoir, fiction, non-fiction, poetry) and a snack/drink to share.

Saturday 4/20, 7:30 am to 10:30 am - Service Activity: Clay Street Table – St Stephen's Church, [1432 SW 13th Ave](#) in Portland. Serve breakfast to the homeless. Volunteers RSVP to service AT [crpca.org](#).

Saturday 4/27, 8:30 am to 11:30 am - 82nd Avenue of Roses Parade – Today, tell Gordon Young, parade AT [crpca.org](#), which Peace Corps country flag you wish to carry; provide a first, second, and third choice. Then on parade morning, gather in the Walmart parking lot, [4200 SE 82nd Ave](#) in Portland. There we will register, pick up flags, and enjoy hot coffee, tea, and snacks. We'll then walk as a group to the parade starting area in Eastport Plaza; the parade begins at 9:30 am. Bus rides will be provided back to our starting area after the parade. PPCA friends and family are welcome to join the march and carry a flag!

Monday 4/29, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm - Peace Corps Send-Off - PSU Native American Student Community Center, [710 SW Jackson St](#) in Portland. This annual Peace Corps recruiting event is a great opportunity to support Peace Corps' 3rd Goal and share your experiences and insights with invitees, as well as friends, family members and others just wanting to learn more. There will be light snacks as well as some brief words of recognition, but most of the time is spent in small table groups sharing your stories and advice.

Monday 4/29, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm - Pub Night - Rogue Hall, [1717 SW Park Ave](#) in Portland. After the Send-Off, walk a short distance to a nearby pub to continue conversations between all who are interested in Peace Corps. Regular Pub Night attendees, note the different venue and time from usual.

May 2019

Thursday 5/09, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Book Club - Location at the home of Lee Norris, [3748 SE Salmon St](#) in Portland, 503-236-0998. The book to read is *The Fox Was Ever the Hunter* (1992/2016) by Herta Müller (2009 Nobel Literature Prize). Feel free to bring snacks to share. See our [Book Club page](#) for more details.

Wednesday 5/15, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Sí, se puede – Conquistador Lounge, [2045 SE Belmont St](#) in Portland. Practice your Spanish with other RPCVs. *Se aceptan todos los niveles.*

Thursday 5/16, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm - Writers Workshop – Hosted by Bill Stein, [4308 SE Lexington St](#) in Portland. Please confirm your attendance by calling 503-830-0817 or e-mailing membership AT crpca.org. Both beginners and experienced writers welcome. Please bring both something to read (memoir, fiction, non-fiction, poetry) and a snack/drink to share.

Saturday 5/18, 7:30 am to 10:30 am - Service Activity: Clay Street Table – St Stephen's Church, [1432 SW 13th Ave](#) in Portland. Serve breakfast to the homeless. Volunteers RSVP to service AT crpca.org.

Monday 5/20, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm - Pub Night - Migration Brewing, [2828 NE Glisan St](#) 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.

June 2019

Wednesday 6/12, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Book Club - Location at the home of Ann and Roger Crockett, [1922 NE 12th Ave](#) in Portland, 801-388-8235. The book to read is *Mating* (1991) by Norman Rush. Feel free to bring snacks to share. See our [Book Club page](#) for more details.

Saturday 6/15, 7:30 am to 10:30 am - Service Activity: Clay Street Table – St Stephen's Church, [1432 SW 13th Ave](#) in Portland. Serve breakfast to the homeless. Volunteers RSVP to service AT crpca.org.

Wednesday 6/19, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Sí, se puede – Cha! Cha! Cha! Mexican Taqueria, 4727 NE Fremont St in Portland. Practice your Spanish with other RPCVs. *Se aceptan todos los niveles.*

Thursday 6/27 to Sunday 6/30 - Family Campout 2019 - [Champoeg State Heritage Area's](#) Group Tent Area on the south bank of the Willamette River. This is the first repeat venue in the eleven year history of our family campouts; we chose to return to the birthplace of Oregon as it's just 30 miles southwest of Portland. See our [Family Campout 2019](#) page for information on how to register. The price this year is \$12 per adult for up to three nights of tent camping.

PORTLAND PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION is marching AGAIN in The 13th Annual 82nd Avenue of Roses Parade on April 27th 2019

Join us on Saturday, April 27th as we march in Portland's most multicultural parade, proudly carrying our country-of-service flags! The parade route will begin at Eastport Plaza (82nd Avenue and Boise) and go to Yamhill St. and SE 78th Avenue. The parade begins at 9:30 a.m. We'll meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Walmart parking lot in Eastport at the corner of SE Holgate and 82nd Avenue to register, pick up your flag, and enjoy hot coffee, tea, and snacks – together tailgate style! We'll walk as a group to the nearby parade starting area in Eastport Plaza. Bus rides will be provided back to our starting area after the parade. PPCA friends and family are welcome to join the march and carry a flag!

Please email Gordon Young, parade AT crpca.org, to let him know that you want to march and which country flag you want to carry (give a first, second, and third choice).

We look forward to seeing you on April 27th and this is a great event to support cultural diversity in Portland. More details to follow in E-Updates as we get closer to the parade date. We only have a little more than four weeks! And what better way to celebrate a job well done than with an after party? Any volunteers willing to organize the after party for marchers on the west side, please contact Gordon Young at parade AT crpca.org.

Northwest Regional Campout

2019 Northwest Regional Peace Corps Campout

hosted by Southern Oregon RPCVs

Thursday, August 1 to Sunday, August 4

[Aspen Point Campground](#) @ Lake of the Woods in beautiful Fremont-Winema National Forest

Register today at <http://tinyurl.com/RegionalCampout2019reg>

Then pay \$15 per adult at <http://www.crPCA.org/checkout/>

Southern Oregon RPCVs prepared this terrific FAQ about the first regional campout they're hosting.

How do I reserve a campsite in the group site?

When you register, please make sure you indicate you are staying in the group site (and pay via paypal or by check). Individual spots within the group site will be available on a first come, first serve basis when you arrive.

If I'm not camping in the group site, do I need to register?

Yes! Registering will help us keep track of how many of us will be attending and will make sure you get emails with updated information.

If I'm not camping in the group site, what do I need to pay?

If you are not camping in the group site, there are no fees. There will be a donation can on the table in the mornings to help us offset the costs of coffee, tea, wood for the campfire, etc.

What happens if there are forest fires?

We are hoping that this will not be an issue. However, there are several sites to check the smoke/fire levels.

For smoke, try this DEQ site:

<https://oraqi.deq.state.or.us/home/map>

The official website of Southwest Oregon District, Oregon Department of Forestry:

<https://swofire.com>

Oregon Department of Forestry

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Fire/Pages/FireStats.aspx>

How do I check the weather?

Accuweather: <https://www.accuweather.com/en/us/lake-of-the-woods-or/97601/weather-forecast/2187894>.

Or use your favorite weather link – type in Lake of the Woods, Oregon, or
Use the latitude/longitude: Lat: 42.38N, Lon: 122.21W

How do I get information about the group camp site?

Go here: <https://lakeofthewoodsresort.com/camping/>

Are there other campsites nearby for RV's or with other amenities?

Yes. They tend to fill up quickly, so do it sooner rather than later.

There is some information on additional campgrounds here:

<https://lakeofthewoodsresort.com/camping/>

and here:

www.recreation.gov

How do I check travel conditions?

Weather cam at Tripcam.us

<http://tripcam.us/webcam/oregon/roads/southern-oregon/hwy-140-at-lake-of-the-woods>

ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) also has lots of information at:

<https://www.tripcheck.com/>

Accuweather: <https://www.accuweather.com/en/us/lake-of-the-woods-or/97601/weather-forecast/2187894>.

What should I bring?

- Something to share for the **potluck Friday night**
- You will be on your own for all meals except the potluck, so you'll need whatever you normally bring when camping for kitchen and camping comfort. Remember a personal first aid kit, some sunscreen and insect repellent, etc.
- Tables are limited in the group site – if you want one for your personal space, please bring it.
- **You will need your own plates, cups, and utensils for communal coffee, tea and potluck**
- **Please bring your own camp chairs for the regional meeting and for sitting around the campfire.**
- Water safety gear for kids

- Boats and other water toys (there are boats for rent from the marina, too)
- Musical instruments are most welcome!
- Stories to tell

What about campfires in the group site?

We will have one fire ring for the group site, and organizers will provide wood. Please don't bring wood from home – it potentially also brings insects and diseases to the forest. The organizers will provide wood for group campfires. Individual fires within the group site will not be allowed due to fire and safety concerns.

Are pets allowed?

Yes, as long as they are kept on a leash.

What about activities?

There will be information coming via emails about places to hike and other activities.

Is the group site near the lake?

Yes! We are right on the lake.

Is there a life guard there?

No. We are responsible for our own swimming safety.

I want to fish – what do I need?

A fishing license and gear. Fishing licenses may be purchased at the marina.

Are the amenities nearby?

Yes. Check here: <https://lakeofthewoodsresort.com/camping/>

If I have more questions, who do I contact?

Email us at: southernoregonrpcvs@gmail.com

Other summer opportunities

by Bill Stein, PPCA Membership Coordinator

Storytelling

At PPCA's March 17 Potluck Gathering, Chuck McConnell shared the plans for PPCA

storytelling workshops, and he also shared a compelling story. Those wishing to participate in the workshops (several hours on three days this summer) will need to have recently attended a public performance of [The Moth](#), [Portland Storytellers Guild](#), or [Urban Tellers](#). Storytelling is a skill in which the emphasis is more on performance than on writing, and it takes lots of honing to make a story engaging. The culminating event will be a public performance of our PPCA storytellers in late summer or early fall. Anyone wishing to participate in our storytelling workshops should get in touch soon with Chuck via [storytelling AT crpca.org](mailto:storytelling@crpca.org).

Soccer

PPCA still needs to pre-sell 4 more tickets to the following two Timbers games in September before we can purchase group tickets. They're \$36 per ticket at <http://www.crpca.org/checkout/>. Please help us get over the proverbial finish line, and RCTID!

- Wed 9/18/2019, 7:30 pm vs. New York Red Bulls
- Wed 9/25/2019, 7:30 pm vs. New England Revolution

Hikes and climbs

On a more personal note, most of you know me through my membership reports and my leadership of PPCA's Book Club. But PPCA isn't the only organization for which I volunteer. I arrived in Portland, not knowing anyone, in June 1996, and before that month was over I'd connected with two organizations that have made a world of difference in my life ever since. One was PPCA (then CRPCA), and the other was Mazamas.

If you're not familiar with Mazamas, Portland's mountaineering organization was founded on the summit of Mt Hood 125 years ago. The organization's mission is "inspiring everyone to love and protect the mountains." I've been leading hikes for Mazamas for the last five years, and this summer I'll also be leading climbs, after four years in the climb leader development program.

At <https://tinyurl.com/BillSteinMaz>, you'll find eight favorite hikes I'm (so far) offering the community between April and November, and you'll also find four climbs (between June and September) and one epic outing ([Climbing High Peaks in the Willows](#)). If you're interested in the August 16-25 outing, I will be giving a presentation at Mazamas, [527 SE 43rd Ave](#) in Portland, **Tuesday, April 2**, at 7:00 pm.

All of the climbs I'm leading are scrambles for which the only required gear is climbing helmets and trekking poles. I'll be particularly inviting RPCVs to sign up for the August 1 climb of Mt McLoughlin that I'm leading on the first day of the NW Regional Peace Corps Campout. You can always reach me via bookclub AT crpca.org if you have questions.

AFS-USA exchange student opportunity

by Shaun Sullens, Senior Team Development Specialist; AFS-USA



Intercultural awareness and promoting peace seem to be vital parts of the Peace Corps mission. AFS-USA also works toward a more just and peaceful world by providing international and intercultural learning experiences to individuals, families, schools, and communities through a global volunteer partnership.

We believe your organization's members would be interested in, and benefit from, hosting an AFS exchange student or learning about other AFS programs. Hosting an AFS student provides a way to make a global impact and is an incredible opportunity for communities and schools.

In today's world, it is more important than ever to bring students from countries such as Egypt, Jordan, Israel, West Bank, Pakistan, Turkey and Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Gaza Strip and other Muslim populated countries. We also have students from the Baltic states. These students breakdown stereotypes and build bridges of cultural understanding better than anything we can do for peace.

Our local volunteers selected the best and brightest out of the Scholarship students to be in our NW team.

Please go to <https://www.afsusa.org/host-family/get-started> to sign up today!

You can go to <https://www.afsusa.org/host-family/our-students/> link to meet our outstanding students waiting to hear who their host family will be this coming year.

Students arrive in August and depart in June.

You can host for a school year or a semester. Help AFS build a more just and peaceful world. To enrich your family's life, go to: <http://www.afsusa.org/host-family> to get started today!

For more information locally, please contact Shaun Sullens at ssullens@afsusa.org.

Middlebury + Peace Corps: Scholarships for Master's Programs

by Jill Stofers, Senior Director of Partnerships; Middlebury Institute of International Studies



If you know any RPCVs who are looking to advance their career with a master's degree, [please refer them](#) to the Middlebury Institute and encourage them to apply. RPCVs get an annual [guaranteed \\$18,000 tuition scholarship](#).

If you know anyone interested in integrating Peace Corps service with a master's degree, [please refer them](#) to our [Options for Peace Corps service program](#)—one of only two programs of its kind. Students spend the first year of their degree program at the Middlebury Institute campus to complete core classes. Then they fulfill their Peace Corps service and return to the Institute with a guaranteed 50 percent scholarship.

The Institute and Peace Corps have been partnering together for over 20 years. Our students come from more than 40 countries, so RPCVs often meet classmates from their country of service. The late Institute professor Peter Grothe created the name “Peace Corps,” and many Institute students, staff, and faculty are RPCVs—including Dr. Beryl Levinger, founder of the Paul D. Coverdell Fellows program and program chair of our MPA and Master of Arts in International Policy and Development programs.

Salem Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Annual March Dinner

by Pam Ferrara

Salem Returned Peace Corps volunteers met for their annual March dinner on Sunday evening March 10, 2019. Fifty plus people attended, making this a record turnout. According to several RPCVs in attendance, the dinner began approximately ten years ago with a small handful of RPCVs. The group has grown considerably! So far, the only group activity is the annual dinner, and it is always full of the energy and enthusiasm of the many attendees whose Peace Corps service extends back from just last year, to the early 1960s.

Phyllis Shelton, President of the Portland Peace Corps Association, Tom DeMeo, Community Services Coordinator from Portland, and Bill Stein, Portland Membership Coordinator, attended the Salem dinner in March and spoke about how Salem might become more formal, and possibly affiliate with the Portland group. The Salem group will be conversing, via email, over the next few months about how we might like to do that. We'll also be looking for a bigger place to meet, as our numbers this year filled up the La Margarita Express's back room.

For more information please email Pam Ferrara (in Salem) at pamferrara@comcast.net

New Romanian weekly meet-up

by James Huddleston

Greetings,

Portland now has a weekly Romanian meet-up. We get together Sundays, 1:30 to 3:00. We alternate between language practice and Romanian culture. Our objective is to promote Romania native speakers attend.

The venue varies

Please find us at Portland Meet up or call me:

503 234 6599

Best wishes,

James Huddleston

Advocacy Corner

bu Tabatha Rood. NPCA Advocacu Coordinator

It has been just over one year since joining the state volunteer advocacy coordinators of the National Peace Corps Association, working with the membership of the Portland Peace Corps Association and other regional RPCV groups to address the issues in the state of Oregon pertinent to Peace Corps today, at any point of service. My experience so far began with the Dear Colleague congressional appeal for equal funding support for the Peace Corps, and just recently completed this process once again. This year, NPCA and the state coordinators set the record for signatures on the Dear Colleague funding letter, a record number of 181 members of the House of Representatives signed a letter calling for a \$40 million increase for the Peace Corps!

Since taking on this role, and creating it a new position on the board of PPCA, I have held one community event specifically for advocacy, made hundreds of phone calls to our representatives in Oregon, and have been trying to integrate advocacy and third goal activities into various programs in Portland.

The advocacy event was held at a pizza place, and had about 15 people in attendance. I presented the major issues that NPA is fighting on a national scale (including: support for current volunteers, sexual assault awareness, and RPCV healthcare), as well as a home made bookmarks and memory game that highlights statistics about the Peace Corps, especially in economic scale versus impact. This event had a personal focus to showcase the impacts of Peace Corps Volunteers as a mechanism for improving the global image of the United States. The event was successful in the education and exposure of local RPCVs to current advocacy efforts and the importance of sharing their stories, as well as in my ability to survey a group of people on their major concerns, in order to focus my own efforts.

Among my interactions over the phone and email with Oregon representatives over the past year, I have also attended three town halls and had the opportunity to speak with Senator Merkeley in person about sitting down with RPCVs from the region to listen to our concerns and interests for the future of the Peace Corps. I have yet to get confirmation from Senator Merkeley, however I have invited him to the regional campout in Southern Oregon this summer (Aug 1-4) and am hoping he will take the opportunity to meet so many people who have

experienced being an ambassador to the country in such a unique way.

Going forward, regardless of whether any representatives are able to join us at the regional campout, I am planning to create an advocacy focused trivia for the regional campout, as well as a brief presentation on the ways other RPCVs can increase awareness of the three goals of Peace Corps, and encourage their communities to support peaceful international development. I am also working with a program in development with the PPCA, a storytelling series and outreach. Telling a story is a skill and an art and we have program in development to teach RPCVs to tell short stories with impact, while integrating positive take-aways from their Peace Corps service, both external and internal. We are planning to have our first storytelling event in combination with our annual fundraiser, and invite the public of Portland and elsewhere to an event to listen to storytelling from around the world.

I am always looking for input on what you care about most, and how you think that the Peace Corps could be improved or augmented to be more effective in the implementation of the three goals. Please consider attending the regional campout, not only to meet other amazing RPCVs, but to learn about advocacy and how you can help promote our cause. Shoot me an email at advocacy@crpca.org or catch me at the campout!

I have high hopes for the Peace Corps, and getting more Americans privy to the impact we have around the world, and within our communities when we return. Thank you for reading my report.

Peace,

Tabatha Rood

NPCA & PPCA Advocacy Coordinator

RPCV Ghana 2014-2016

advocacy AT crpca.org

Membership Report

by Bill Stein, Membership Coordinator

On March 31, 2019, PPCA has 217 active members in 181 households, of which 4 members are currently serving PCVs and 35 members are in their free first year.

On March 31, 2018, we had 254 active members in 209 households, of which 5 members were currently serving PCVs and 63 members were in their free first year.

In February and March 2019 we gained 7 new members: Jackson Boyd (Dominican Republic 2016-2018), Haley Ehlers (Timor-Leste 2016-2018), Joan Galles (Dominican Republic 1967-1969), Kristin Miller (Dominica 2004-2006), Marin Palmer (Paraguay 2007-2009), Nancy Sander (Senegal 1976-1978), and Jay Udelhoven (Burundi 1991-1993). Welcome!

In February and March 2019 the following 20 members renewed: Laura Alexander (Mongolia 2010-2013), Tamara Boyd, Brian Fassett (Bulgaria 2004-2006), Kate Fassett (Bulgaria 2004-2006), Jerry Healy (Dominican Republic 1974-1976), Anne Kimberly (Sierra Leone 1986-1988), Amanda Marcus (Tanzania 1985-1988), Roger Marcus (Tanzania 1985-1988), Chuck McConnell (Ukraine 2008-2011), Anne McLaughlin (Morocco 1967-1970), Allison Mobley (Malawi 1995-1997), Lee Norris (Moldova 1996-1998), Gerri Pynch (Philippines 1973-1975), John Pynch (Philippines 1973-1975), Elizabeth Samuels (Benin 1975-1977), Rick Samuels, Crystal Smith (Thailand 1967-1969), George Smith (Thailand 1967-1969), Jeff Strang (Ghana 1980-1982 and Malaysia 2003-2005), and Elizabeth Wartluft (Morocco 1988-1990). Thank you!

In February and March 2019 dues amnesty was extended to 17 lapsed members, of which 5 had been in their free first year. We received 3 unsubscribe requests in February and March 2019.