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Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Oregon Newsletter

MARCH 1990

P.O. BOX 802
PORTLAND, OR, 97207

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NO. 11

MARCH MEETING

WHEN: Sunday, Mar 14th at 6 PM for Potluck and 7 PM for meeting followed by a program.

WHERE: BRENDA MICHEL'S at 921 NE 178TH, see directions below. Questions? Lost? Call 666-6292.

WHAT: Potluck, meeting and program. Our guest presenter is Brenda Michel. She was a community development worker in Sierra Leone, '86 - 88. Her slides will show us what a typical day for a P.C. Volunteer in a Sierra Leone village was like. Hope to see you at our potluck and/or program on March 18th.

Directions to Brenda Michel's house,
(RPCV Sierra Leone, West Africa)
Sunday, March 18th potluck/meeting/program

921 NE 178th Ave. which is off of Pacific between Glisan and Halsey Streets. 666-6292

If traveling from the downtown area, drive east on Glisan toward Gresham. Turn left onto 181st Ave: Travel 2 blks. north, watch for the white "Lutz Snyder" and blue "Laser Surgery" sign on your left. Turn left onto Pacific and right onto 178th. 921 has a steep, hedge-lined driveway.

If traveling east on I84 toward The Dalles, take the Gateway/Halsey St. exit. (#7 ??) Continue east on Halsey. Turn right onto 181st Ave. at the light. Travel south a few blocks and at the top of the incline, turn right onto Pacific and right again onto 178th Ave. 921 is on the left w/ a steep, hedge-lined driveway.

CALENDAR

MARCH 18-Potluck & Meeting
Brenda Michel will share her slides on Sierra Leone. See write-up for more details.

APRIL 22-Earth Day
Plant a tree, recycle, walk or bike rather than drive or do something else good for the earth.

APRIL 29-Annual International Potluck-Note change of date!!! It will be held at Fulton Park Community Center.

JULY 20 - 22, 1990
NRPCV'S National Conference in Eugene, OR.



FROM JERRY

Hi Everybody!

Still looking for officers.
Programs Coordinator, Newsletter
Editor, Secretary/Treasurer and
Chairperson.

I would like to work closely with the new chair and other officers, especially at first. But if it will help get candidates, I'll retract the offer.

Plans for the Annual Pot Luck are coming along (see Gabriella's article). Start thinking about dusting off your recipes and funny clothes and vocal chords?

It was great to see so many people at the dinner meeting last Sunday. The confusion about the price was unfortunate, but the food was delicious, and we'll be more careful in the future.

Anybody interested in being our "Welcome Wagon" - inviting new members to participate in activities, planning socials for new/old members? Call me.

Fund Spending The steering committee will get together March 1st to decide how to spend some of our money. Possibilities are Partnership Programs, Habitat for Humanity, More Books to Akosombo. We should have something to announce at the March 18th meeting at Brenda's.

Speaking of Habitat, best wishes and encouragement and thanks to the Warmoths, who will be working until June on housing projects in San Diego and Tijuana.

See you on the 18th!

Jerry

APRIL POTLUCK

APRIL POTLUCK
MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Mark your calendar for our annual potluck which will be held on Sunday, April 29, 1990 from 3:30 to 6:30 at the Fulton Park Community Center. Because the food is not being prepared in a certified kitchen, we are not allowed to invite the general public, but please invite your friends. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find an invitation that you may copy to give to friends. Bring any items from your Peace Corps experience that would be suitable to decorate the walls. If you are willing to help with set up or clean up, call Brenda at 666-6292. Ira Frankel is looking for some RPCVs to provide entertainment. Call him at 644-4902 if you have a talent to share. A map to the Fulton Park Community Center will be provided in the April Newsletter. Bring potluck for six to share (preferably from your country of service) and your own place settings. We hope to see you there.

Your potluck co-chairs,
Gabriella & Brenda

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

The Annual RPCV Potluck, being one of Portland's foremost gastronomic and social events, wants you to sing for your supper. To volunteer to provide musical entertainment from your adopted country at this event, call Ira Frankel at 644-4902 evenings. Native instruments are especially invited.

RECIPE CORNER

THAI BO NGO'S SOOCHOW SOUP

- 6 cups basic chicken broth
- 1 large onion, peeled, studded with 4 whole cloves
- 1 2-inch piece fresh ginger root
- 4 star anise
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 4 parsnips, peeled and cut into 2-inch chunks
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 pound sirloin
- 2 tablespoons Vietnamese hot chili sauce (tuong), or any other hot chili sauce (such as Tabasco)
- 3 tablespoons Vietnamese fish sauce (nuoc mam)
- 1 pound wide rice noodles

The garnish:

- 2 cups fresh mung bean sprouts
- 2 fresh red chili peppers, minced
- ½ cup fresh coriander leaves
- 2 scallions, minced
- ½ cup fresh mint leaves
- ½ cup basil leaves
- 1 lime, sliced thin.

1. Place the soup in a large pot over low heat. Over a gas burner or under the broiler, char the clove-studded onion and the ginger root and then wrap them in cheesecloth along with the star anise and cinnamon. Place the cheesecloth bag in the soup, along with the parsnips and salt, and simmer for one hour. Remove the spice bag and stir in the hot chili sauce and the fish sauce.

2. Meanwhile, use a very sharp knife to slice the sirloin against the grain into paper-thin slices and set aside. Cook the noodles, drain and set aside.

3. Divide the mung bean sprouts and minced chili peppers evenly between six very large bowls. Divide the cooked noodles over the sprouts and top each with an equal portion of sliced raw beef. Bring the soup to a rapid boil and ladle it over the noodles and meat, which will cook immediately. Garnish each bowl with coriander, scallions, mint, basil and a slice of lime, and serve immediately.

Yield: Six servings.

LA METINEE FRANCAISE

7 formal French Conversation
Saturdays 10:30 AM
Riverplace Cafe & Deli
Call Jerry Porter at 230-8059 for details.

COMING EVENTS

March 13-27 - ETHNIC AWARENESS WEEKS. Ethnic artists, musicians, singers, dancers may "plant the seeds" in their local arts agencies, educational institutions and businesses. Sponsored by M.U.S.I.C., 638-6933, Theonie Gilmore, Director.

March 26-27 (Mon & Tues) - OREGON INSTITUTE OF ADDICTIONS STUDIES WORKSHOPS: The Treatment of Stimulant Addicts, by Richard Rawson and Cultural Factors in Counseling Chemical Abusers, by Peter Bell. Holiday Inn-Portland Airport. For more information about either workshop call OIAS, 749-2151.

March 31 - PEACING IT - TOGETHER CONFERENCE: A gathering for persons concerned with peace issues within the Catholic tradition. University of Portland, Columbia Hall. Contact 232-4393 for details.

April 6 & 7 - PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE 1990's CONFERENCE. Held at Menucha Retreat and conference Center. Call 274-2720.

In June 1990, twenty Soviets will arrive in Oregon to write, rehearse and perform a brand new version of Peace Child with 15 children from the U.S. The tour will be based in Newport and will travel to two or three other Oregon communities to work with local children's choruses. Contact the Newport Performing Arts Center in Newport, Oregon, 265-9231.

July 1-28 - SUMMER SEMINAR IN MEXICO FOR EDUCATORS sponsored by the Oregon International Council. Planned for educators at all levels, but is open to any holder or a BA or BS degree. Knowledge of Spanish is not required. Cost to OIC members \$1,998 (subject to air fare change). Contact: Oregon Intl Council, 999 Locust St NE, Salem, OR, 378-4960.

FEB DINNER

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A NEW AND DIFFERENT RESTURANT MAKES!!!!
Our Feb gathering at B.J.'s Brazilian Resturant was the largest we've had in years. We had at least 25 RPCV's there, at least three of which had served in Brasil and it was our second visit to B.J.'s. I'm sorry that the meal was not as it had been written up in the newsletter and the prices where a little more than we had expected, but the food was good and the company even better. Try it again on your own!

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P.O. BOX 457 -- 203 EAST MAIN
ENTERPRISE, OREGON 97828
503-426-3623

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

COMING OF AGE WITHOUT WAR: A PEACE CORPS ANTHOLOGY

COMING OF AGE WITHOUT WAR is the working title and the binding theme of a proposed anthology of Peace Corps writing. The anthology will include fiction, non-fiction, and poetry; previously published work and new work.

"Coming of Age" refers to the rites of passage into adulthood, the turning points that chasten, deflate, teach, build, and leave the individual with a recognition of place and meaning. The poems, articles, and stories in this anthology should lead the reader to appreciate something about these points of recognition and turning, and about the human condition.

Because the writers will be Peace Corps Volunteers and former Volunteers, the book will look at rites of passage in other cultures as well as the coming of age of young Americans.

All active and returned Peace Corps Volunteers are invited to submit work. Prose submissions should not exceed 5000 words (they may, however, be selections from longer work). There is no line limit on poetry submissions.

Please present in manuscript form, include previous publication information (when applicable) and a stamped self-addressed return envelope.

Submission deadline is April 30, 1990.

Payment on publication. Minimum .05/word.

CONTACT RICH WANDSCHNEIDER AT PIKA PRESS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

NEWS FROM AFRICA

"WE CANNOT LET THIS HAPPEN . . . : " "As a young social worker and married to a doctor serving in a remote village of Algeria, I held in my arms a 32-year-old mother of six malnourished children. She had no access [to] family planning and she was married to an unemployed 'uncooperative' husband. She herself was malnourished and in ill-health. In the desperate attempt to avoid a seventh pregnancy -- and to provide for her children -- she had taken the ultimate risk [self-administered abortion]. Miles from a hospital, without plasma or blood to give her, I watched her die in my arms, victim of her wish to be a good mother -- ultimately of six orphans.



"We cannot let this happen to women. If we are to prevent these tragedies, then we must join in the efforts to improve women's health, children's health through family planning services . . . and foreign policy services. We don't have much time left to shape our future. Unless the world community adopts a decisive program to slow population growth, sustainable development will not be possible and ecological and social collapse is likely." From an address by Perdita Huston, director of public affairs of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, before the InterAction Sixth Annual Forum.

SONG AND FAMILY PLANNING: The songs are at the top of the charts in Nigeria and their unlikely subject is family planning. They are the product of two Nigerian musicians who were honored recently by the U.S. Agency for International Development for their contribution to an AID project. Its objective: to use the mass media to help developing countries promote population planning. The winners were King Sunny Ade, well known in West Africa for his music, and his singing partner, Onyeka Onwenu, a Wellesley-educated journalist turned entertainer. "Choices" (sung in English) warns that "making love is beautiful, but don't forget, you can make children sometimes, when you don't want to." "Wait for Me" (sung in pidgin English) advises couples to avoid precipitous parenthood and "wait for me, baby plan with me." The US\$30 million family planning project is managed by the Office of Population Communication Services at Johns Hopkins University's School of Public Health.

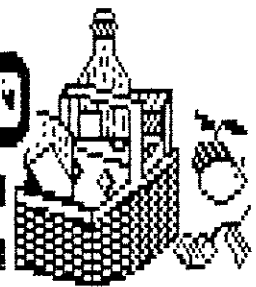


The social impact of the songs is yet to be measured, but some population experts are hopeful, their optimism springing from a similar experiment in the Philippines in 1988. A recent study there indicated that 92 percent of listeners remembered the songs of a local singer, and 70 percent of them understood the messages of abstinence and sexual responsibility. In Nigeria, Ade and Onwenu have reinforced these messages, reports AID, "through promotional visits and interviews. In a special 'follow on' campaign they will tell Nigerians who to contact for information about family planning."

"THE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY IS SUFFERING," said the executive director of the U.S.-based NGO Africare recently. "It's easy to raise money for famine relief," said C. Payne Lucas, "for starving babies with bloated bellies and haunted eyes. But development money designed for those programs that seek to bring about long-term improvement in the lives of the people -- it's like pulling teeth to raise that kind of money. And for Africa it's particularly difficult. Why? Because most people have little knowledge of the continent and because they have little or no cultural affinity with Africans. I believe that humanity is best served when we determine that the worth of an African life is fully as much as that of a Latin American, an Asian, a Russian or an American."



**YOU ARE INVITED
TO ATTEND THE**



**RPCVS OF OREGON
ANNUAL POTLUCK
TO BE HELD AGAIN
AT THE FULTON
PARK COMMUNITY
CENTER LOCATED AT
68 SW MILES ST.
ON SUNDAY 4-29
FROM 3:30-6:30PM
BRING FRIENDS,**



**POTLUCK, AND
OWN PLACE SETTING**

