

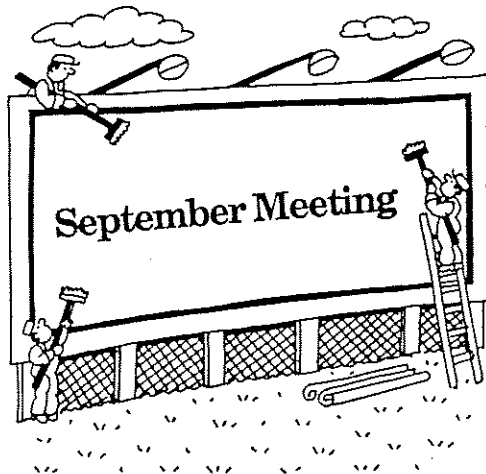


PORTLAND NEWSLETTER

September 1990
Number 5
Volume 9

FOR

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Oregon



When: Sunday, September 16th, at 6 pm, for potluck and 7 pm for meeting followed by program.

What: Potluck, meeting and program. Missed the NCRPCV Conference in Eugene? Excited about the conference and would like to share with those who are interested? Then come to our September meeting. We will also begin a regular feature called "Show & Tell" so that you can share something of your Peace Corps experience with others in our group.

Where: At my home, 254-5161. I hope to see you there!

Your Program coordinator,
Gabriella Kotubetey

Calendar

- September 12, Development Education Committee Meeting, at 7:00 p.m. at Ed Warmoth's, (see map), 628-3227. September 16, Potluck and Program, 6:00 pm, at Gabriella Kotubetey's.
- September 19, Officer's Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at Brenda Michel's, 236-5838.
- September 26, Speaker's Bureau Training, 7:00, at Two World Trade Center, Mezzanine Level.
- October 6, Oregon Peace Festival, all day, at the Galleria, SW 10th & Morrison.
- October 21, Restaurant Meeting, at Yen Ha's Vietnamese Restaurant, NE 68th & Sandy.

Officers

Steering Committee

Jerry Porter 230-8059
Davy Crockett 232-6180
Barbara Pugh 244-9081

Secretary-Treasurer

Joann Von Rohr 282-1721

Program Coordinator

Gabriella Kotubetey 254-5161

Restaurant Coordinator

Brenda Michel 236-5838

Speakers Bureau

Gabriella Kotubetey 254-5161

Membership

Doug Cameron 326-2261

Newsletter Editor

Douglas King 235-7178

Development Ed

Ed Warmoth 628-3227
Molly Leuschei 274-1842

Development Education Meeting

The Development Education Committee will have its first meeting of the year on September 12, at 7:00 pm, at the home of Ed Warmoth (see map). All RPCVs are welcome to come discuss, choose, and plan this year's project. Many ideas are on the table, so please come give your input. For more information, call 628-3227.

Officer's Meeting

Four RPCV officers met on August 22nd, and discussed the following: 1) Dates of upcoming events; 2) Postage rates for bulk mailings with Douglas King agreeing to do more follow up; 3) The pros and cons of being a corporation and/or a non-profit organization, with Douglas and Joann Von Rohr meeting later to discuss our finances and status; 4) Publicity, with Brenda Michel doing further investigation on the media; 5) More ideas for the Development Education Committee and its meeting, September 12, at Ed Warmoth's.

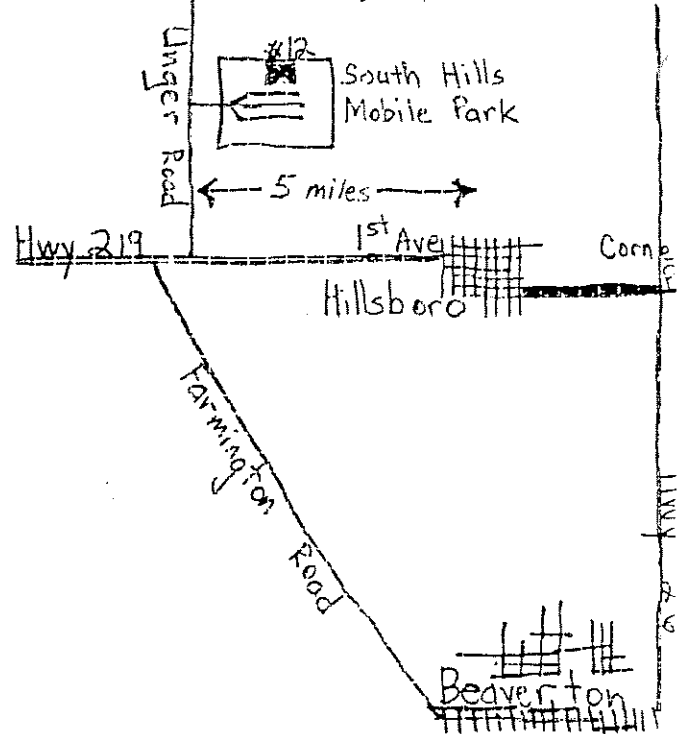
Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 19, 1990, 7:00 p.m. at Brenda Michel's residence, 254 SE 28th Avenue, 236-5838. Everyone is invited.

Speakers' Bureau Training

A training session will be at Two World Trade Center, on SW 1st & Salmon, on the Mezzanine level, on September 26, to help make us more effective in sharing our Peace Corps experience with others. If you have ideas or experience to share, please plan to attend. If you have hesitated to become a member of our Speakers' Bureau, come learn some techniques to give you confidence and help you give a good presentation. The training session is being sponsored and coordinated by World Affairs Council and our local RPCV group. I would appreciate your ideas and suggestions.

Your Speakers' Bureau Coordinator,
Gabriella Kotubetey

Ed Warmoth
9219 SW Line Drive
Cornelius, OR 97113
628-3227



Picnic a Success!

Over 20 people attended the August picnic at Washington Park, despite confused dates, nearby drug dealers, and various vacations. The weather was joyously sunny, the food diverse, and the frisbee exhilarating. About five of those in attendance were new to Portland, and eager to get acquainted with other RPCVs. Many agreed this was the most successful August Picnic in recent memory, and next year's should be even better.

Oregon Peace Festival

The Oregon Peace Initiative's annual Peace Festival will take place on October 6, 1990, during the day, at the Galleria, on SW 10th & Morrison. Fifty organizations, including RPCVs of Oregon, will be on hand to tell you about what they do, and why. Tickets for the evening musical benefit are \$20. The many RPCVs who have expressed interest in helping staff our booth, will be contacted this month, and will receive information on where to go and what to do. If you would like to help, call 235-7178.

WELCOME to the following new members:
Andrew and Kelly Kittel (Jamaica, 87-88)
Gretchen Kafoury (Iran 64-66)
Julie Meyers (International Service Agency, Seattle).

Akosombo Update

For the first time in over two years, RPCVs of Oregon has once again sent a shipload of priceless discard books to the VRA Junior Secondary School in Akosombo, Ghana. This, taken with the recycling of a number of valueless discard books means that I can move around in my basement storage area for the first time since I've been living here! The mailing of the books was made possible by the funds from sale of International Calendars last year (see the accompanying article).

Besides books, the Headmaster of the school, Francis K. Darkey, and the student council have written to me requesting a donation of a duplicating machine, either Gestetner or Cyclostyling. If you have information leading to the acquisition of one of these, it would be a great boost to the classes at VRA JSSII. Let me know. Thanks,

Jerry

CALENDAR ORDER FORM

Please send me _____ calendars at \$9 each (\$8 + \$1 for postage).

Name _____

Address _____

Please send check to RPCVs of Oregon
c/o Jerry Porter, 219 NE 22nd Ave,
Portland, OR 97232

INTERNATIONAL CALENDARS

The 1991 International Calendars from RPCVs of Wisconsin are here! Each month displays a **poignant photo** taken by a Peace Corps volunteer, an accompanying **text**, and a **design** from the same country as the photo. All are **exquisite!**

Here's what we'd like you to do:

- 1) **BUY** lots of calendars at \$8.00 apiece. They make great gifts.
- 2) **SELL** them to family, friends, and others. Sell them to stores for \$6 apiece.
- 3) **DISPLAY** them in a school and take orders. A companion Global Education Teacher's manual is available for \$2.00. (I sold calendars to seven teachers in a class I took this summer).

Last year 50 calendars were sold for a profit of \$65. The proceeds were used to send books to a school in Akosombo, Ghana. So far this year, we've sold 35, and we're just getting started!

PLEASE CALL ME if you can help sell calendars. Use the form in this newsletter to order personal copies. We'll have samples of the calendar for viewing at future meetings.

Jerry 230-8059

ADULT TUTORING

by Marie Hermanson

Since Douglas suggested that we submit information about what we are doing now, I decided to write about my job. I returned from Cameroon in late 1981 and started working at Portland Community College in a special program for refugees. In addition to teaching English as a Second Language (ESL), I started working with volunteers to provide tutoring for students in class and outside of class. I have been with the volunteer tutor program at PCC since then - I can't imagine a more rewarding job!

Volunteers help adult students in a variety of ways. ESL students, both refugees and immigrants, are learning the English language and American culture. Adult Basic Education students are native English speakers or are fluent English speakers who want to improve their basic reading, writing, and math skills. Volunteers provide instruction and friendship on a one-to-one basis or in the classroom. They make a commitment to one school term, 2 to 4 hours per week.

I coordinate the training of the volunteers and our next training will be two Saturdays in September, the 15th and 22nd. If you would like to help someone and make new friends too, call me at 244-6111 ext. 6280 for more information.

TIKKI TIKKI, THE PEACE CORPS MONGOOSE

By Virginia Spray, Liberia, (1982-84)

Most people know of Rikki Tikki Tavi - Rudyard Kipling's brave and clever mongoose. Well, we lived with him in Liberia, West Africa. We discovered he was also charming, friendly, thieving, and marked his territory by peeing on shoes. In case you haven't seen a mongoose recently, it is a small, sleek animal, like a large ground squirrel.

Carol and I shared a mud block Peace Corps house (meaning it already had screens and a P.C. privvy) in Gbarnga. Snakes were said to be plentiful and poisonous, and local lore had it that a mongoose was the best protection. Snakes stayed away from a mongoose, or if a stupid one stumbled near, a mongoose could whip it easily. Carol was terrified of crawling things (cockroaches put her in a frenzy) and insisted we get a mongoose. Well, we never saw a snake near us, but there were times she very nearly decided she could learn to love a snake instead of putting up with Tikki and his mischief.

A mongoose is an explorer. He had to examine and take apart everything in the the house. He got in the refrigerator (not a cold one - we had one hour of electricity now and then, like 2:00 A.M. or 3:30 P.M.), and he examined the trash down to the bottom, every dish of food put on the table, all the spice cans, tubes or jars of make-up and every sack or package we brought home. He

almost over-did it when he not only opened a precious package of cigarettes, he tore open each and every one to be sure nothing edible was rolled up there. If anything was moveable, he dragged it to his nest under my bed.

Did I say he was a smart ass? Oh, he was! He followed me two or three times to our privvy and watched me closely. The third morning as I was about to leave, I was amazed to see him climb swiftly up the cement john, sniff around a bit, then reverse ends and neatly deposit his excrement into the proper place. After that, we had only to open doors, no more cleaning up after him.

He became somewhat of a celebrity and friends came by to see "the beast". As he went loping toward them ticking happily, we would yell "Pull up your feet!" Otherwise he mounted a shoe and promptly marked his territory.

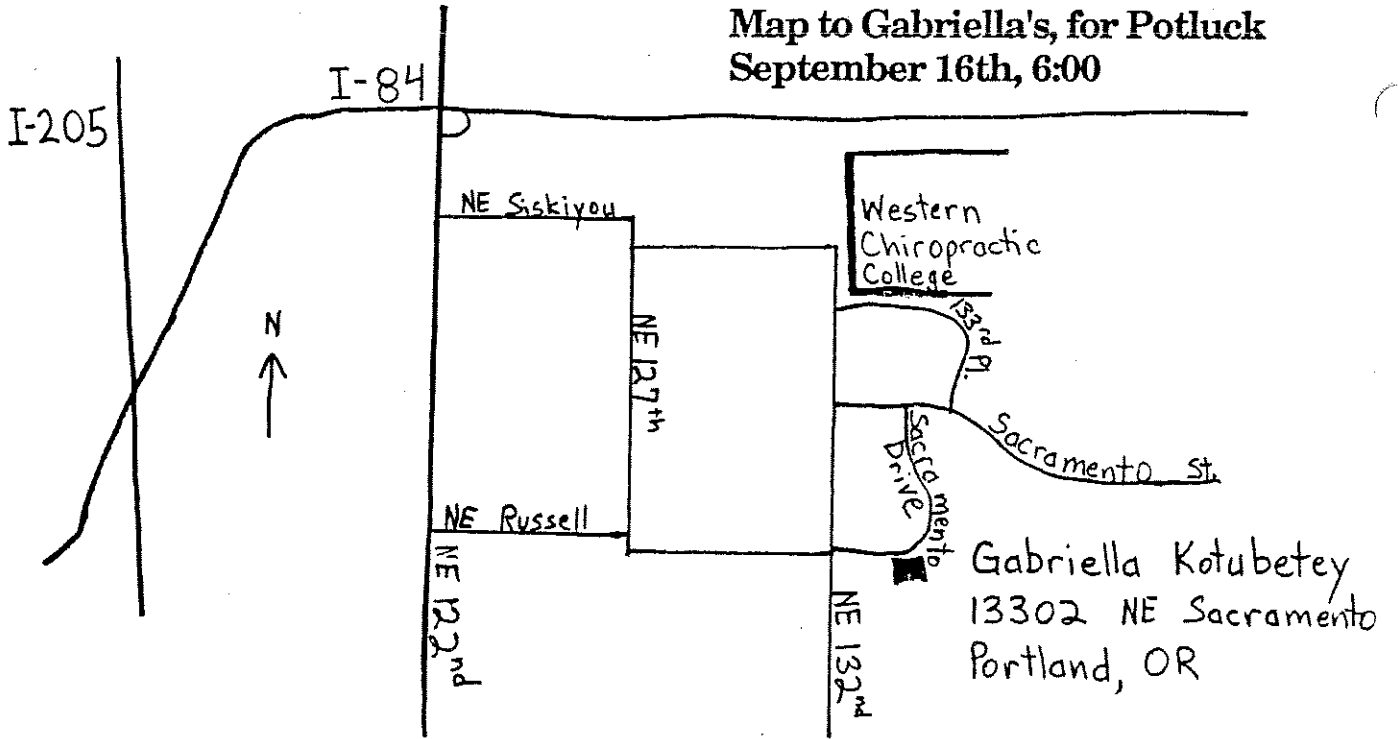
We already had a small, loving yellow cat and we weren't sure how mongooses (I still like mongeese better) felt about felines. So for two or three days we alternated in-doors and out-doors with them.. They stood on opposite sides of the screen door, snarling, clicking and with much stamping by Tikki. The stamping, we decided, was a mongoose's battle cry. Finally we decided to try putting them together. Cautiously I opened the door, and the cat leaped over Tikki and streaked for the living room, with the little beast in hot pursuit. In a few seconds back they came, Tikki in front this time. From then on they were riotous playmates. One day I motioned Carol to come see them. They were curled up on the couch, the cat licking the small brown head of the mongoose, whose eyes were closed in ecstasy.

Liberia, being only 7 degrees above the Equator, has a siesta culture. So every day I stretched out on my bed after lunch. I patted the edge of the bed and called Tikki to come up from his lair and take a nap with me. He would curl up between my arm and body or stretch out flat on my chest. Now a mongoose has for a nose a small trunk-like feature. When hunting he pokes this proboscis into all cracks and holes to search for possible ants. We were snoring away, when all at once Tikki's head came up. Right in front of him was a hole! Suddenly, Tikki thrust his tiny trunk up my nostril. I let out an outraged yell and he scurried in panic down to his nest. I don't know who was more startled, but he couldn't be coaxed out for several hours.

When we had to move on, we sadly said goodbye and bequeathed him to the next team coming to Gbarnga. I don't know his later history, but I'm sure he entertained them completely as he had us. A decided plus in Peace Corps service.

Virginia Spray is a teacher in Mt. Vernon, Washington

Map to Gabriella's, for Potluck
September 16th, 6:00



RPCVs of Oregon
PO Box 802
Portland, OR 97207

