



Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Oregon/Portland

December 1990
Volume 9
Number 8



Korean Night Restaurant Gathering



WHEN: Sunday, December 9th
WHEN: 6:00 p.m.
WHERE: Han Kuk Kwan
KOREAN RESTAURANT
5021 SE Powell Blvd.*
COST: \$10 per person (gratuity not included)

* If traveling east on Powell, turn left at the light on 49th and take an immediate right to turn into the car wash. Parking for the Korean Restaurant is BEHIND the restaurant building and in back of the car wash.

Phone me, Brenda, at 236-5838 by Friday December 7th to reserve your place at the table. I have a message machine so feel free to phone anytime of the day or evening (not after 10 p.m. though, please).

The menu consists of four courses: barbequed rib eye steak, panfried squid in a spicy sauce w/ veggies, Korean dumplings in broth, and potato noodles w/ mixed veggies and beef. Traditional Korean cuisine also includes 8-10 small side dishes with names I cannot spell or pronounce... but I was excited by the samples offered to me. Looking forward to seeing you there.

MORE LOVE, LESS ATTITUDE

VALENTINES DAY MINGLE
FRIDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 15TH, 1991

BLITZ WEINHART BREWERY'S HOSPITALITY ROOM
1133 WEST BURNSIDE

ALL THE BEER OR SODAS
YOU CAN DRINK - FREE
PLAN TO BRING MUNCHIES AND TREATS
MARK YOUR CALENDAR
ADDITIONAL DETAILS FORTHCOMING

LOTS MORE LOVE
MUCH LESS ATTITUDE

Calendar

Dec 9, Restaurant Meeting, 6 pm, Han Kuk Kwan,
5021 SE Powell Blvd., RSVP.

Jan 17, Business Meeting, 7 pm.

Jan 20, Program and Potluck, 7 pm, "An evening
in China."

Feb 2, Regional Meeting, in Portland, for RPCVs
from throughout the Northwest.

Feb 15, Valentine's Day Mingle.

March, Swahili Dinner.

April, International Day at Madison High School.

May 19, Founder's Day Annual Potluck.

THANK YOU, YEN HA!

Those of us who attended the October 21st dinner at Yen Ha's Vietnames Restaurant on SE 68th and Sandy Blvd. were NOT disappointed. We had a fabulous seven course feast, each authentic dish deliciously different. As we left, I was presented with the center-piece from our table -- a large pot of yellow mums in a lovely wicker basket.

Ask any one of us! (We were 25 in number.) We wholeheartedly encourage you to try Yen Ha's if you've never been there before or to return again if you have. They certainly put themselves out for us. We extend our deepest gratitude to each of the five waiters and to the chefs who took such good care of us. Our sincerest "Thank You" to the staff of YEN HA's and our best wishes for continued success in the business.

Officers

Steering Committee

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

Secretary-Treasurer

JoAnn von Rohr	282-1721
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Program Coordinator

Gabriella Kotubety	254-5161
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Restaurant Coordinator

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Speaker's Bureau

Gabriella Kotubety	245-5161
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Douglas King	235-7178
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Ed Warmoth	628-3227
Donna Raynalds	239-0329

This newsletter is published by the
Returned Peace Corps
Volunteers of Oregon
P.O. Box 802
Portland, OR 97207

Submissions for the January
1991 newsletter should be
received by December 28th.

UPDATE ON MULTI-COUNTRY PRESENTATION PROPOSAL

There appears to be considerable interest in hosting a multi-country presentation of the kind that was presented by the Development Education Committee in the October 90 RPCV Newsletter. The question of the moment is the availability of presenters and coordinators.

When the project proposal was first discussed at the September meeting, Gabriella Kotubetey volunteered to present it to the staff at Madison High where she teaches. She stated it would be a good addition to the multicultural studies now underway.

In late October Gabriella reported that she had talked with Principal Luke Fiorante. He was enthusiastic about the proposal and agreed on an April schedule, with the date to be announced. She also noted that her project with world food needs is moving along and reached the curriculum stage with a lot of good resource material. (See her article on the next page.)

We proposed a Saturday scheduling when it is hoped presenters can be available. RPCV Heidi Celler called to explore a week day presentation at Kelso school near Boring, and teacher aide Bonnie Kiser would like to do something similar during actual school time at Sabin. January and February are multicultural months in some class planning guides. Several persons who attended the September program meeting expressed an interest in being coordinators or presenters. They are: Marilyn Watts, Barry Boring, Donna Reynolds, Ron Capitan, Jerry Porter, and Gabriella Kotubetey. Marta Colburn, who worked for OXFAM UK in Yemen and whose husband, Bruce Paluck, was also a PCV in Yemen, has recently expressed interest in a Yemen "room" at the multi-country

presentation. Get your name to the committee if you are willing to be one of the coordinators or presenters in April 1991 at Madison High or at other times.

Watch for further news and action at the regular RPCV meetings and at our next development education meeting in January.

Ed Warmoth & Gabriella Kotubetey

UPDATE ON SPEAKERS BUREAU ACTIVITY

The Schools Program Coordinator for the World Affairs Council of Oregon is helping to coordinate our Speakers Bureau this year. The following RPCVs have or are scheduled to visit schools: Debi Bauder, Honduras/Guatemala and Jim Shaw, Peru (West Linn High School); Richard and Joan Swee, Liberia (Grant High School); and Anne Feldstein, Sierra Leone (Tree of Learning High School). Rosalie Schmitz spoke at a woman's church group on August 30th. I would like to document all your speaking engagements, so please contact me with the details if you have made your own arrangements to speak for various groups.

Gabriella Kotubetey

Speakers Bureau Coordinator

JANUARY PROGRAM MEETING

Mark your calendar for January 20, 1991 for "China Night". Slides of the von Rohr's experience in China last year, great (bring-your-own) Chinese food, and the company of convivial RPCVS await you. At Charlene Holzworth's near Grant Park.

REPORT ON NOVEMBER PROGRAM MEETING

About twenty people attended our November Program Meeting held at the home of Charlene Holzworth (RPCV Sierra Leone), who lives near Grant Park. Our guest speaker was Julie Meyer from the Seattle Office of International Service Agencies. We saw a video of the organization and were told of her current campaign to convince state and local governments, public schools, universities, hospitals, and private organizations to allow their employees to make payroll deduction contributions to needy people overseas, through the International Service Agencies (ISA). Please see the information sheet about ISA also in this newsletter. Julie Meyer will give us an update of her efforts and how we can be involved in our next newsletter. Two persons interested in becoming Peace Corps Volunteers attended, so our sharing took the form of describing our experiences and answering their questions. I found it very interesting. Thanks, Charlene, for your hospitality, and, Julie, for the informative program, and, everyone, for the great food!

Gabriella Kotubetey
Program Coordinator

HUNGER AWARENESS CURRICULUM PROJECT

Five Social Studies teachers and about 330 students participated in the hunger awareness curriculum project at Madison High School. The Hunger Project's video, "Famine and Chronic Persistent Hunger: A Life and Death Distinction" served as the introduction to the two-week project, and the accompanying curriculum guide was the basis of the project. Jean Campbell, the Schools Program Coordinator for the World Affairs Council of Oregon, and I had compiled other resource materials, mainly from OXFAM and The Hunger Project, which we made available to the teachers. Of particular interest is a simulation entitled "Starvation or Survival". Potential speakers were contacted, and Marta Colburn, who worked for OXFAM UK in Yemen, spoke to all the classes on November 15th, OXFAM's Fast for a World Hunger Day. It is our intention to evaluate the project, and compile more resources to make this project available for replication in other schools in the area. Interested? Ideas? Suggestions?

Call Gabriella Kotubetey at 254-5161 (hm) or 280-5220 (wk).

1991 National Conference

The 30th anniversary conference is already shaping up. Set for August 1-4, 1991, in Washington, DC, the agenda will probably focus on environmental issues, according to the National Council of RPCVs, who are organizing the event with the help of RPCVs of Washington, DC. The NCRPCV would like to send a message to Congress and the President about what the U.S.'s position should be at the 1992 World Conference of the Environment in Brazil.

Other activities might include a half day to visit congressional

leaders, a half day to do volunteer work in DC, university credit courses, and the sort of lectures and seminars we experienced in Eugene.

Discussion has begun about the role of RPCVs of Oregon/Portland. One suggestion is that we help conduct a seminar on an aspect of forestry, such as "Old Growth" or "Reforestation."

Discussion has also begun about organizing a Peace Train from the Northwest, probably out of Portland, full of RPCVs heading to DC. Any RPCV working as a travel agent who would like to help should call Douglas King at 235-7178.



INTERNATIONAL
SERVICE
AGENCIES

Northwest Regional Office
3433 E. Florence Court
Seattle, WA 98112
(206) 329-4423

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AGENCIES (ISA) INVITES YOU...
TO HELP SAVE LIVES AND RESTORE HOPE WORLDWIDE!

WHO...

Those most in need throughout Africa, Latin America, Asia and European nations such as Ireland and Poland...

The hungry and the thirsty... the sick, the blind and the dying... the jobless and the homeless...

Infants and the elderly... men and women... entire neighborhoods and villages...

The handicapped and the illiterate... the abandoned... victims of war, hatred and discrimination... and of natural disasters such as Hurricane Hugo, the African famine and the Armenian earthquake...

HOW...

By convincing state and local governments, public schools, universities, hospitals and private corporations to grant employees the right to make payroll deduction contributions to needy people overseas, through the International Service Agencies (ISA).

ISA raises charitable funds for 22 of America's most respected and effective charities which, last year, assisted nearly 130 million poor and disaster-stricken people worldwide. ISA agencies participate in nearly 600 payroll deduction campaigns conducted among 6 million public and private sector employees nationwide.

WHAT ISA NEEDS ARE ...

- * contacts to high-level public and corporate officials
- * letters and telephone calls to decision-makers in state and local governments, public institutions and corporations, supporting employees' right to make workplace gifts overseas
- * volunteers to help inform employees about ISA's life-saving work worldwide

WHY ...

Because your help now can make a world of difference forever in the lives of thousands.

CALENDAR SALES REPORT

With just a couple of loose ends left to tie, we've made a profit of \$268 on sales of 1991 calendars. That's a healthy increase over last years profit of \$63. Here's a breakdown of the sales figures:

	Sold	Profit
Bookstores (\$6 each)	28	\$28
Teachers	25	\$75
Member sales	45	\$352
OPI Peace Fair	13	\$39
TOTAL	111	\$268

Thanks to Douglas King, Donna Raynalds, Elizabeth Batchelder and Barry Boring, Marianna Bornholdt, Ira and Linda Frankel, JoAnn von Rohr and Gabriella Kotubetey for their help making this drive a success!

Jerry



HELLO TO NEW MEMBERS:

* REBECCA EASTON,
HONDURAS, 1987-89

* GRACE BATTJES,
FIJI, 1987-89

BUSINESS MEETINGS

ON NOVEMBER 15, RPCVS OF OREGON/ PORTLAND MET, AND DISCUSSED OUR PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM WITH AKOSOMBO SCHOOL IN GHANA. WE ARE LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SEND THEM A DITTO MACHINE WHICH WE HAVE BOUGHT FOR \$5. SO FAR, OUR GROUP HAS MADE \$260 FROM THE SALE OF PEACE CORPS CALENDARS. INCREASING MEMBERSHIP WAS ALSO DISCUSSED. THE NEXT BUSINESS MEETING, OPEN TO EVERYONE WILL BE ON JANUARY 17, 1991; THE PLACE WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER. AMONG TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WILL BE OUR FINANCES, AND OUR POSSIBLE NEED TO RAISE OUR FEES.

ON NOVEMBER 17, 16 RPCVS FROM EUGENE, PORTLAND, AND SEATTLE MET AT THE EUGENE HILTON TO DISCUSS A VARIETY OF ISSUES. THE NEXT REGIONAL CONFERENCE IS SET FOR PORTLAND ON FEBRUARY 2, 1991.

MODERN ART'S DEBT TO AFRICAN ART: "In borrowing from African art, interpreting it aesthetically, and translating it into their own visual statements, 20th century artists have played one of the most vital roles in fostering Western understanding of the values and traditions of other cultures," writes Warren M. Roberts in WETA, the National Public Broadcasting membership publication in Washington, D.C. Artists such as Picasso, Brancusi, Vlaminck and Matisse "gave us the first irrefutable basis for recognizing the particular kinds of creative genius inherent in non-Western cultures hitherto considered as unworthy of serious attention."

PROFILE (in a nutshell): "Africa's most populous country is its brightest hope. Nigeria is an odd place to find a silver lining. It is infamous, even among Nigerians, for being loud, dirty, violent, and corrupt. Its reputation is not unlike that of the United States at the end of the last century -- and that is my point. In spite of its all-too-visible failings, I believe that Nigeria's mix of talent, resources, and gall will one day pull the country up out of Africa's own bleak social and economic category: the Nth World." Most of what is written about Nigeria by Westerners, says Blaine Harden in World Monitor, "is anachronistic claptrap. Many Westerners have fixated on a self-glorifying illusion, a tranquilizing chimera that justifies ignorance of modern Africa while sanctifying the purchase of khaki pants at Banana Republic stores."

Peace Corps Volunteer Leaves Her Mark

by Dean Bliss

Watana Akanan was 12 years old when she saw her first Americans. They were U.S. soldiers on an exercise near her village of Roi-et in northeast Thailand. She was 14 in 1966 when she again saw an American, but the experience was very different. Instead of the fear she felt at her first American encounter, Watana's lasting impression from this meeting is of a "beautiful woman with kind and generous eyes." The beautiful woman was Jean Holloway, a Peace Corps Volunteer who had arrived to teach at Watana's middle school, a four-kilometer walk away in Roi-et.

Watana was a good student, always near the top in Jean's English classes. When Watana's grades began to falter, Jean was concerned and decided to visit Watana at home.

Watana can only imagine what Jean's reaction must have been when she rode her bicycle to Roi-et for the first time. The home Watana shared with her parents, six sisters and two brothers was a one-room structure with woven bamboo walls. Her father was in the process of replacing their straw roof with corrugated metal that had been discarded by a neighbor. During this and many successive visits to Roi-et Jean learned of Watana's family and the circumstances causing her difficulty at school.

Watana's father worked as a janitor at the boy's school in Roi-et and had developed an appreciation for the importance of education. He was sending Watana, his eldest child, to middle school against the wishes of his wife. Watana's mother felt that, as typical for children in their village, four years of school were enough and it was time for Watana to either stay at home to help her with the younger children or to work in the rice fields for wages to ameliorate the family's poverty.

Watana's father agreed with his wife about how Watana could help with the family's present needs. He was convinced, however, that further education would enable Watana to earn higher wages that would be more beneficial to the family in the future.

Watana remembers vividly the conflict in her home that surrounded her schooling. She remembers running away from the house each morning and away from her mother's voice demanding that she stay home to help with the children.

Jean recognized the ability and potential that could be realized if Watana were to stay in school. She made a promise that, if Watana stayed in school and passed the entrance examination, she would pay for Watana's expenses to attend Teachers College at Mahasarakham.

The promise gave Watana the strength to persevere in school, but the examination was a formidable obstacle. All candidates from a district comprised of five provinces were to take the exam with only the top fifty from each province to be accepted into college. Watana remembers her trepidation on exam day, but Jean's confidence proved to be well-placed. Watana ranked 23rd out of 650 students who were tested that day.

By this time Jean had married fellow volunteer, Tom Kawling. Their Peace Corps service completed, they were living in California. Jean's promise was not forgotten. She and Tom and other friends with whom they had shared Watana's story sent the money needed for her college expenses through volunteers then serving in Thailand.

Watana graduated and began teaching English and Geography at the school in Roi-et. She also began the long project of assisting with the education expenses for her eight younger siblings.

Over the years Watana married a forester and had three children. Her daughters are now 16 and 12 and her son is 15. She took every opportunity to be helpful to new Peace Corps volunteers and also became involved with American Field Service (AFS). In addition to having AFS students in her classes, she helped Thai children with the process of becoming exchange students in the U.S. She maintained a correspondence with Jean and dreamed of some day seeing her again.

In 1982, AFS instituted a teacher exchange program. Watana was immediately interested, not only for the opportunity to participate in the program, but for the chance of seeing Jean again. However, she resisted the temptation to apply because her salary was still needed to keep the last of her younger siblings in school.

In 1989, Watana's self-imposed obligation to support the education of her brothers and sisters was finally at an end. Of the many teachers competing for the twenty slots available, Watana placed ninth. She borrowed the \$2800 required for the program and arrived in Eugene in August to work and observe in several local schools.

While her own ability and hard work have been the major factors in Watana's successes, she feels she has been blessed with many instances of good luck along the way. One of the most recent strokes of luck was the family with whom she was placed for her year in Eugene. Allan, a lawyer, and Nancy Coons, an office manager at a substance-abuse treatment program, have made Watana feel very much at home with their warm hospitality.

Watana had not heard from Jean for five years. When Nancy heard the story, she located Jean and called her. When the phone was handed to Watana, she found herself so caught up with emotion that she

was unable to talk. Jean called back a few days later and, with the ice now broken, they were able to have a long and happy conversation.

Watana has come to the United States and has spoken with Jean on the phone. But her dream of seeing Jean again is still short of fulfillment. She does not have the money to travel to southern California. But another instance of Watana's good luck may solve the problem. She has met Patty Shaner, a member of the West Cascades Returned Peace Corps Volunteer group.

In addition to her Peace Corps work in Belize, Patty was the AFS country director for Thailand in the early 70's. Through contacts made by Patty, Watana has already received some offers to help with transportation and expenses for her reunion with Jean.

Every person who completes their service as a Peace Corps volunteer leaves a mark, but few get the opportunity to see the long-term results of their impact. With Watana's visit, Jean will have this opportunity. She will hear about Watana's brothers and sisters, now working as a policeman, a teacher, a nurse, an accountant and an import/export clerk. She will hear about other families in Watana's childhood village who sent their children for higher education because of her family's example. And she will get to meet the woman that the schoolgirl Watana was able to become because of her influence, a woman who is still acquiring skills she will use to improve the lot of children in Thailand.

Dean Bliss, a past president of West Cascade RPCVs, was in Libya 1968-70, Afghanistan 1970-73

