



SEPTEMBER 1993

RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS OF OREGON/PORTLAND

• Volume 12 • Number 9 •

Mike's Meanderings

The Friends of Liberia (FOL) received the Loret Ruppe Award at the National Conference of RPCVs in Berkeley on July 4. Friends of Liberia is a non-profit association of 600 former Peace Corps volunteers, foreign service officers and others who have worked in the United States and in Liberia to further the cause of peace and development for the citizens of war-torn Liberia.

FOL have mounted a series of nationwide fundraising activities for refugees, orphans, and other victims of the four-year civil war. In three years FOL has raised more than \$30,000 for medical supplies, seed rice, medical services, and orphan and refugee relief. The group sent a Philadelphia doctor and RPCV to Liberia for 11 months.

FOL sent a delegation of members to meet with the heads of warring factions to discuss the issues in the conflict, and were invited by all sides to monitor proposed national elections. Fifty of its members will comprise almost half of the observer team for Liberia's national elections.

Friends of Liberia is now recognized as a private voluntary organization by AID. They recently met with Clinton's new State Department assistant secretary of state for Africa, George Moose, and presented him with a position paper that requests forgiveness of Liberia's \$211 million debt, a recommitment of the resources of both AID and the Peace Corps in the nation's reconstruction and that the U.S. request an UN peacekeeping mission to enter Liberia.

Mary Lynn and I have volunteered to help FOL with some coordinating activities in the Northwest. If you have information for FOL or the FOL newsletter, you can contact us as 206-574-7455. We will be sponsoring the third annual West African Pigout, a November highlight that never seems to make it into the society pages. Proceeds will go to the Friends of Liberia. The Pigout will be held on Saturday, November 13. More Pigout news in the coming months.

Mike Waite

From the President

There's a jazz jam at Produce Row on SE 2nd and Oak every Monday night from 8-11 p.m.; I'm just sitting down at my computer after having been there. The task of writing you seems less daunting now. I had a pint of Weidmer ale, with a twist of lemon on the lip of the glass. It was wonderfully mellow and refreshing, as was the chaser of ice water. My head and heart are filled with notes..... (pun intended) Gee, there's a lot to say this month. Are you ready? Or not?

In no particular order, and from my business meeting notes of August 17th: **Why don't we take advantage of bulk mail rates?** We have in the past but chose to let the permit lapse because: (1) the amount we'd save in postage is diminished by the \$75/year fee we pay for the permit (2) bulk mail can sit in each postal station for up to 3 days before it's handled; that meant some in our group got their newsletter days after our monthly potluck or restaurant meetings took place and (3) we have to have a mailing of 200 or more; our membership isn't that big yet even if we "pad" the list with politicians, other RPCV groups near and far, or with other like-minded agencies/groups/associations.

Why do we not have 501(c)(3) status? We applied for 501(c)(3) status one year (or two?) ago. We received a determination from the state that we did not qualify because we hadn't really engaged in any philanthropic activities. I don't remember all the details, nor do I have the semantics correct, but basically it boiled down to the fact that while we had gone out to eat together, and we potlucked and paraded maybe and beer-bashed, we hadn't really done anything for anyone other than ourselves, i.e., we didn't really meet one of the important tests for a 501(c)(3). So we decided not to pursue it any further *at that time*. Does someone wish to take it up now? Step forward; I/we welcome your involvement.

continued on page 2

• BRENDA'S CORNER •

continued from page 1

BEACH CLEAN-UP: Join us from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday, October 9th for SOLV's (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism) annual Autumn Beach Clean-up. The very first coastal clean-up ever held in the USA was in Oregon in 1984; since then, annual beach clean-ups have spread to 33 other states and 11 foreign countries. Last year, from Astoria to Brookings, more than 6200 volunteers picked up more than 33 tons of garbage. We need a coordinator for this event which will entail making logistical arrangements for our group such as acting as the contact person, deciding which beach to clean, and organizing carpooling. All you guys who checked the "I'll help on an ad hoc basis" box on your membership form take note: here's a great opportunity to get involved on an easy, **NOT-a-big-investment-of-time-and-energy** kind of project.

TREE PLANTING: We offered our helping hands to Friends of Trees last winter and got snowed out! Let's try it again this fall. By the way, the holes were pre-dug, all you had to do was tip the thing in there (green ends up) and shovel some dirt on it. It's a good cause. Consider it. Fun, too. Friends of Trees was SO happy to have us last time, let's really show them what we can do (when more than 3 of us show-up)!

OREGON PUBLIC BROADCASTING: Every December we sit in the studio and take pledges during Oregon Public Broadcasting's winter fund-raising campaign. The sign-up sheet for the OPB event circulates at Mike and Mary Lynn Waite's West African Pigout which takes place in November. There may be other ways to sign up for OPB but no one knows for sure what they are, so plan to be at the Pigout on Saturday the 13th of November, for the Pigout of course, and to get yourself on TV in December. JoAnne von Rohr has coordinated this activity for us in the past and will do so again this year.

RPCVs of OR MEMBERSHIP: Speaking of JoAnne, she and Dick Swee corrected our membership database; they added about 30 or so names and deleted 15 others. They believe it much more accurately reflects who's paid and who hasn't. Look at the label on your newsletter. Your membership expiration/renewal date appears above your name. Is your address correct? Call JoAnne with any changes at 282-1721. She has a machine, just leave a message if she's not home to take your call. Furthermore, be advised, we are:

RAISING DUES: As of January 1st, 1994, our annual dues will be \$15 per year. You can renew for a year at the old rate of \$10 by paying before January 1st. An explanation of the increase appeared in last month's newsletter, check out the "Financial Report" section in the August issue if you wonder why it's necessary.

REMEMBERING HIROSHIMA: Marianna Bornholdt suggested we lend our official sponsorship to this event which takes place every August at the Japanese-American Historical Plaza in Waterfront Park. Officers at the last business meeting unanimously thought it sounded like a great idea. We also agreed we need more information about what "sponsorship" entails, especially financially, before we commit to anything. I'll ask Marianna to investigate and report her findings. Any thoughts or feelings on the matter from anyone else?

T-SHIRTS: Thanks to Mike Waite and the Swees for selling nine T-shirts at Wallowa Lake. We still need to sell six or seven more to break even. Buy one now. I'm serious about this because:

CALENDARS: Calendar have made money for us in the past. You know the ones — from the Madison, Wisconsin group. We need four or five hundred dollars up-front to buy them, (they're \$4.50 a piece) and right now, we have maybe \$100 in our checking account, with a newsletter printing bill or two to pay soon. In other words, we don't have the capital to buy the calendars that have generated \$400-500 for us in the past. Jerry Porter previously coordinated this activity for us and will again this year, with help. Who of you can assist him? Here's another great chance to get involved on an easy, **NOT-a-big-investment-of-time-and-energy** project.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Remember that absolutely wonderful Moroccan dinner we had at that bed and breakfast out Sandy way a few years ago? We were thinking we'd like to go back there again, perhaps in December, say Sunday the 12th, and combine it with some sort of Christmas party. What'd'ya think? Watch this space for more details or call Joan Swee or Gabriella Meartens with your suggestions.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Sunday, September 19th, before the program/potluck at Charlene's house. Business meeting at 5 pm, potluck at 6, program at 7 with Nancy Cicerello (details on next page).

TOWN HALL: On Sunday, Sept. 19th, come prepared to voice your opinions about the RPCVs of Oregon/Ptld. We'll be asking you to share your ideas and feelings about our past endeavors and future plans. While we beg and plead for your input on one topic or another in almost every newsletter, we haven't asked for it outright at a meeting. The time's come to do so. You talk, we listen on the 19th.

SPEAKERS BUREAU COORDINATOR: Phyllis Shelton, RPCV Honduras has offered to take over as Speakers Bureau Coordinator starting immediately. Phyllis and her husband recently moved to Portland from Seattle. More from/about her and our Speakers Bureau in future newsletters. Welcome, Phyllis and thanks, in advance, for the work.

President Clinton Names RPVC to Direct Peace Corps

On July 2, President Clinton appointed RPCV Carol Bellamy to direct the Peace Corps. Bellamy attended the National Conference in Berkeley, and was introduced to more than 1,100 RPCVs at opening ceremonies as Clinton's appointee by acting peace Corps director Jack Hogan. She has already begun working at the agency under a temporary contract. Upon her confirmation by the U.S. Senate, she will have the distinction of being the first returned volunteer to permanently fill the post.

Bellamy was among the first Americans to respond to President Kennedy's call for Peace Corps volunteers, and she served in Guatemala from 1963 to 1965. Until the President's long-awaited announcement, Bellamy was a managing director in the Public Finance Department at Bear Stearns and Co. She also served as chair of Sloate, Weisman, Bear Stearns Capital Management, Inc. providing money management services to insitutional clients.

Before working in the private sector, Bellamy was active in New York politics. She was a New York senator from 1973 to 1977 and president of the New York City Council from 1978 to 1985.

As State Senator, she served as a member of the Finance Committee and as ranking Democrat on the Cities Committee. During her term as City Council President, she helped increase services to children and the elderly, restrict tax giveaway programs, strengthen the City's police force, and improve the quality of education. She also served as a trustee for the New York City Pension System and was a member of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Name Change Approved

National balloting among more than 10,000 members was heavily in favor of a proposal to change the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers to the National Peace Corps Association. By a margin of nine to one, members cast ballots in favor of the new name and several other Bylaws revisions. The new name was displayed on banners and podium signs throughout the National Conference held in July.

The change allows inclusion of former staff, families of volunteers and others who want to support the organization. All voting control will remain exclusively within the community of former volunteers and staff. Others will be considered as non-voting "associate members."

Bellamy joined the Peace corps in 1963, after graduating from Gettysburg College. In Guatemala she ran a school lunch program and broadcast a daily Spanish-language radio program on health and diet. She later graduated from New York University School of Law and then practiced law as an associate at Cravath, Swaine, and Moore, where she concentrated in corporate finance matters. She is also a former fellow at the Institute of Politics of the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Bellamy's appointment came after an exhaustive campaign by the National Council and its members. National Peace Corps association president Chic Dambach and an extensive network of RPCVs prepared a list of RPCV candidates, and presented it to the Clinton transition team.

"We did not endorse or oppose any of the candidates, but we did provide the White House with information to help them in the process," said Dambach. "The qualities we considered most important were their experience as Peace Corps volunteers and their dedication to the mission and values of the agency."

"We are enthusiastic about the President's selection, and we look forward to working with Carol Bellamy," Dambach said.

New NPCA Chair Elected

Susan Neyer has been named chair of the 1994 board of directors of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). Neyer, a teacher, has served as a board member for seven years, and has been active in the Northern California RPCV group for many years. She has also served as editor of the Group Leader's Digest and the NorCal newsletter.

Neyer replaces Doug Siglin who completed a two-year term as board chair. Siglin will retain membership on the board.

Following national elections, six new members of the board of directors have been chosen, and eight more appointed. These new members will join approximately 12 board members who continue their terms of office as representatives at large or of geographic groups.

At their annual Presidents' Forum meeting during the National Conference of RPCVs, the presidents of the country of service and geographic groups elected Tuey Murdoch as president. Murdoch is president of RPCVs of Orange County, but will soon move to New Orleans.

The next semi-annual board meeting will take place in late January in New Orleans.

• NOTES FROM GABRIELLA •

Sabin Multicultural Celebration & Community Resource Fair


The third annual Multicultural Celebration & Community Resource Fair was held on Sunday, August 29 in the Sabin schoolyard at 4013 NE 18th. This event is sponsored by the Sabin Community Association which has been named by Neighborhoods, USA as the nation's best overall neighborhood in terms of community activism. It also won an award for addressing social needs in a single neighborhood, based on the Multicultural Fair in 1991.

Thirty-five community and ethnic organizations and businesses plus 50 entertainers participated, while 2,000 people attended. Our RPCV group was proud to be part of this year's celebration. Our involvement had four parts. For the video presentations we used the Peace Corps WorldWide Schools videos on Nepal, Poland, Marshall Islands, Cameroon, Honduras, and The Gambia. We had a table nearby with related art activities, staffed by Lois Swanson and Joan Galles. The Resource Booth was staffed by Pat Greendale and Margaret Hazelton. The Children's Activity booth dressed children in clothes from other countries and gave them a polaroid picture. Ann Pfingsten, Thrina Parent, Gabriella Maertens, Debra Deetz, and Rod Boling staffed this booth. Joan Galles organized non-competitive games. Many thanks to all who participated. Our activities were well-received.

1994 International Calendar

The Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin, Madison Chapter began the International Calendar Project in 1988 to share experiences from our Peace Corps services years and to promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans while helping people in countries in which Peace Corps volunteers served by helping to fund grassroots projects from calendar proceeds. We began selling the calendars in 1990 and last year we donated our profits to SOAR. Jerry Porter has coordinated our calendar sales in the past, but he needs an assistant this year. If you can help him, please call him at 244-7283.

This year we are lacking the capital to fund this project. Could you consider paying the \$8.00 in advance? If you usually sell calendars for the group, could you pay for them in advance? You could send a check to Dick Swee or bring the money to our next program meeting on September 19th. Any ideas will be appreciated. Call me at 254-5161.



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National Geography Awareness Week

The 1993 National Geography Awareness Week is November 14-20. This year's theme is "Water Matters." I will need seven RPCVs for presentations related to this theme at Madison High School. Call me at 254-5161 if you would like to participate. You do not need to be a member of the Speakers Bureau to participate!

Oregon United Nations Folkfest

The Oregon United Nations Association will hold its annual Fokfest at the Chiles Center on the Campus of the University of Portland on Sunday, October 17 from 12-6 p.m. This is always a fun activity with great food and entertainment. They have a passport system which encourages people to visit all the booths. This is the third year our RPCV group has participated, and I will again coordinate our efforts. Phyllis Shelton and Marjan Wazeka have already agreed to staff our booth and several other people are tentative, including Dana and Stephen Shibley, Mike Colombo, Lois Swanson and JoAnn von Rohr. Mark your calendar!

• Calendar of Events •

Sept. 19	Potluck & Program Meeting at Charlene's (featuring Nancy Cicerello)
Oct. 15	Restuarant Meeting: Doris' Cafe
Nov. 13	West African Pigout (at the Waite's)
Dec. 12	Holiday meeting & Morrocan dinner at the Amrani's
July 1994	National RPCV Conference, Atlanta, GA

• Odds 'N Ends •

Don't miss the meeting on September 19th featuring guest speaker Nancy Cicerello. Nancy is an instructor at Pacific University and was in Romania in 1991 for three months as part of a physical therapy team serving children in orphanages. She will show slides and give a talk on her experiences there. Call Pat Greendale at 255-1101 for more info.

Those hospitable folks down south with the Western Cascade RPCVs have invited us to join them in a parade as part of the Eugene Celebration festivities. The parade will take place on Saturday, September 18 at 10 a.m. You, too, can be part of the legendary "bush taxi." These obliging people have also offered to put us up on Friday night before the parade. Call Gabriella Maertens at 254-5161 for more information or to car pool.

Next Restuarant Meeting: Sunday, October 15 at 5 p.m. at Doris' Cafe, 325 NE Russell St. It's sole food! Doris' Cafe slogan is "Beef it up, pork it down, but don't chicken out if you want the greatest Bar-B-Q in town." Meals are \$8.75 plus beverage and tip. Vegetarian meals are less. For more information or to call in your reservation, , contact Joan Swee, Restaurant Coordinator at 252-2295.

It currently costs RPCVs of Oregon/Portland about 45 cents to produce each newsletter (about 200 newsletters for \$90 each month). Add to that almost 30 cents per piece in postage, and, well, you see our dilemma. Could it be possible that we might have an RPCV out there somewhere that might be able to provide low-cost or free printing for this magnificent piece of literature? As you can tell, his is a very low-tech operation, nothing fancy. Please call Robin (the editor) at 627-0618 or Brenda (our Fearless Leader) at 236-5838 if you can help reduce our printing costs.

OFFICERS

Steering Committee

Brenda Michel	236-5838
Margie Hazelton	236-8346
Joan Swee	252-2295
Mike Waite	206-574-7455

Secretary-Treasurer

Dick Swee	252-2295
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Program Coordinators

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Pat Greendale	255-1101
Charlene Holzworth	284-3444

Membership

JoAnn von Rohr	282-1721
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Restaurant Coordinator

Joan Swee	252-2295
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Speaker's Bureau

Phyllis Shelton	295-1863
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Newsletter

Robin Teater	627-0618
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Development Education

Gabriella Maertens	254-5161
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Submissions for the Oct. 1993
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September 25. Please mail to:

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Country of Service/Group News

Connecticut RPCVs won a legislative victory when the state legislature passed a bill allowing teachers to apply and purchase their Peace Corps teaching time as creditable service toward retirement. This culminates an effort which began in 1987. Persistence pays off!

San Diego Peace Corps Association recently participated in the third annual symposium on volunteerism in the Mexican border area. This multi-agency, cross-border production sought to improve the quality of volunteer efforts through workshops, exhibits, entertainment, diplomatic perspectives and plenty of networking opportunities. The group recently funded five Peace Corps Partnership projects from their International Support Fund. Contact Frank Yates 619-276-7871 for more information.

Ethiopia and Enritrea RPCVs has donated \$300 to "Books for Enritrea," a program organized by Wayne and Laurie Kessler and co-sponsored by NorCal RPCVs. They sent some 18,000 textbooks in May, but still need money to pay the shipping bill. Contact Wayne Kessler 916-223-4292.

Friends of Burkina Faso are working hard to improve relations between the U.S. and Burkina Faso, as well as have Peace Corps return to the country. Three members of the group traveled to Burkina Faso in February at the invitation of the government of Burkina Faso. They hope that this will lead to a renewal of the group, and encourage other RPCVs to return and reconnect with their host country in more concrete ways. Contact John Sneed 301-531-3780.

Friends of Cameroon has issued an 18-page detailed report on the current status of Cameroon's human rights developments, abuses and progress. The group reports that their newsletter is sent to the Cameroon Embassy, the Cameroon desk at Department of State, the National Peace Corps Association and to Peace Corps for distribution to the current Cameroon PCVs. In addition to providing news of the country, they have a section on RPCVs entitled "Where Are They Now?" Contact Christopher Majeske 203-265-5657.

**RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS
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Apr 1, 1994
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