



MAY 1994

RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS OF OREGON/PORTLAND

• Volume 13 • Number 5 •

Annual Founder's Day Picnic

Noon, Sunday, May 22nd
Blue Lake Park

Join us May 22nd at Blue Lake Park, located 20 minutes east of downtown Portland along Marine Drive, near 223rd Ave. We've reserved Covered picnic area "Celilo A" near the weeping willow tree. At \$3 a car load, you can't beat the price of a great Founder's Day Picnic/Potluck! Bring your equipment, plenty of food to share, plates, cups and utensils:

- Softball field #1 is reserved for us from 2-4 p.m.
- sanded volleyball courts
- basketball courts
- 2 miles of walking + biking paths
- swimming, fishing, boating
- archery range
- horseshoe pits
- concession booth
- paddle boats/canoes & tandem bikes for rent

Bring the kids (yours or your neighbor's)! See you there!

Directions to Blue Lake Park: Take Interstate 84 East-bound. Take the Gresham/181st Avenue exit (Exit #13). At the light at the end of the exit ramp, turn left onto 181st Ave., {i.e., go north}. At the light, turn right (east) onto Sandy Blvd. and follow the signs to Blue Lake Park, 1690 SE 190th Ave.

From the President

RPCVs of Oregon/Portland 4th Annual Appearance in the Starlight Parade: Our entry has been accepted by the Rose Festival Committee. Now all we need are people to march! I'm counting on your participation... If you would like to march but are lacking a costume, please call me and let me know what you need. Conversely, if you have an outfit to lend but are unable to march, please call too, so that I can do some facilitating. Our proposal is as follows:

- This year the Portland group is joined by RPCVs from both Seattle and Eugene.
- There will be a representative from each of the four decades of Peace Corps service in this year's group. That is to say: We need RPCVs who've recently returned from overseas. We need others who served during the 1980's, still others who served in the 1970's and some who were among the very first to serve abroad in the early 1960's.
- Furthermore, we need representatives from every world region served by Peace Corps: Northern and Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Central and South America, the Caribbean Islands, eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, and the Pacific Islands.
- In keeping with Peace Corps' international and cross-cultural mission, each of us will have an expatriate friend appear in the parade with us. (We can recruit folks from the community with help from the World Affairs Council International Classroom program, PSU International Student Union, AFS Intercultural Exchange Programs, etc.)

continued on page 2

From the President, continued from page 1

Description of Starlight Parade Entry:

- 2 RPCVs will lead our contingent carrying the Peace Corps banner.
- 8 volunteers will carry the flag from their country-of-service.
- 5-10 RPCVs from Seattle and 5-10 RPCVs from Eugene will join us....
-as will 20 host-country nationals for a total of 50 "out walkers".
- Each RPCV and host-country friend will wear colorful, traditional and authentic clothing native to our country-of-service or homeland, as the case may be.
- Each person will carry a lantern which is typically the only source of light for many volunteers during their two year stint abroad.

Appearing in the Starlight Parade is really an amazing experience. Call me at 236-5838 to join up!

Name Change: We've been voting on whether to change the name of our group. The initial suggestion was the "Columbia River Peace Corps Association". As of this writing [5/2] the vote tally is: **8 RPCVs of Oregon/Portland; 8 Columbia River RPCVs; 3 Columbia River Peace Corps Association. 2 RPCVs of Oregon/Columbia River.** If you have an opinion, please use the ballot on the back of this newsletter or leave word on my answering machine: 236-5838. We'll make the final decision on May 22nd at the annual Founder's Day Potluck at Blue Lake Park.

Next business meeting: Tuesday, May 10th at 7:15 p.m. at Brenda's house. 254 SE 28th Avenue, between Burnside and Stark Streets on Pine. 236-5838. All are welcome.

Tidbits: Susan Anderson from our Regional Peace Corps office in Seattle sent literature about "Schools Offering Financial Assistance or Academic Credit to RPCVs". Interested? Call me and I'll get a copy to you.

Sue Ueberhorst from the National Peace Corps Association has mailed a letter to a number of RPCVs in Wyoming informing them that they're now part of the Pacific NW region and encouraging them to get organized and create a group. She enclosed a copy of our "Northwest Message" regional news page which appears in the Seattle, Eugene, Montana, Alaska newsletters.

HELP WANTED: I am stepping aside as "President" as of May 22nd, the Founders Day Potluck, this group's traditional day for a changing of the guard. Perhaps you've noticed recent, positive trends: When "officers" leave their posts, they remain active by organizing special projects. For example, Jerry Porter was our Pres. in the early '90's. With invaluable assistance from a small committee, he's taken on the calendar sales project. When Mike and Mary Lynn Waite left their positions as newsletter editors, they not only continue to host the Pig-Out, but they've arranged this summer's camp-out and were the organizers of the Community Energy Project Volunteer Day in March.

I'm grateful people continue to involve themselves in our group, whether it be newly or differently. The shift from generalist to specialist seems like an effective way to expand and build on a solid foundation. It also lessens the load on any one individual. As more and more people take on a special project, the President won't have to stretch out in so many different directions. The group will do more, interesting, and unusual things as a natural by-product of a range of people's input and passion.

It's my turn now to focus on one or two projects and let others lead the group and breathe new life into it. We don't have a procedure for this process. Perhaps there will be a leadership gap for a time, but I believe somebody reading this is ready, willing and able to accept the job. Many thanks to everyone who's pitched in so cheerfully and reliably these past two years. I think the basic idea to work as a steering committee and strive to decide by consensus remains a good one. I trust that whatever happens, the RPCVs of Oregon/Portland will continue to embody much of what's right and good about the whole of America: delicious abundant shared food, caring concerned people doing little things to make a difference, and fearless shameless determination to keep our Peace Corps experiences fresh and meaningfully alive. I salute you.

Brenda Michel

The Oregon State Department of Justice sent us a formal letter requesting that we clarify our governing documents: Are we a public benefit non-profit or are we a mutual benefit non-profit? We have an attorney looking into the matter on our behalf, thank god. We'll keep you posted.

The next regional meeting will be on Saturday, May 14th. Four or five of us are going up for it. All are welcome. Call any officer for further information.

Phyllis Shelton and Brenda Michel have reserved a room for four in Atlanta. If you'd like to share the room with us, please let us know. The more the merrier; cheaper, too!

1995 International Calendar Sales

Your dedicated Calendar Committee has mapped out a brilliant strategy for yet another successful calendar sales fundraiser this year. Unfortunately, due to space limitations, we can't share all the details in the May newsletter (call a committee member if you're just dying to know more). What's important to realize for now is that *the biggest part of our sales will be from you taking orders in September and October. We need your help to buy, sell, and phone!*

Our first sales effort will be to sell calendars at \$8 to stores in June. Please call the Calendar Committee to:

- Volunteer to sell to stores in June; we will have clear instructions on what to do and say
- Volunteer someone you know to sell to stores
- Suggest likely stores to approach. The Calendar Committee came up with the following: Oregon Peace Institute, Annie Bloom's, Powells, African Rhythm Traders, Naira & Kobo, College Bookstores, Topaine, La Paloma, Laughing Horse, Nor'wester.

Facts to remember:

- 90% of calendar profits will go to Lutheran Family Services for refugee programs
- Prizes: 5+ sold: Calendar postcards; 20+: RPCVs of Oregon sweatshirt; Grand Prize: Dinner for two.

Calendar Committee: Jerry and Teresa Porter (281-9576); Karen McAlister (646-1298); Robin Teater (286-0177)

1995 International Calendar Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

Ph: _____

_____ Calendars @ \$8 = _____

Postage @ \$1.50 per calendar* = _____

Total due = _____

Make check payable to:

RPCVs of Oregon

Send to: Jerry Porter, 3404 NE 25th Ave.

Portland, OR 97212-2507 Ph: 281-9576

* No charge for pick-up at meetings or elsewhere. Indicate when you'll pick up, or call to arrange.

Call if you need calendars to sell!

RPCV International Volunteer Day/ Community Energy Project

On March 5, a group of 16 RPCVs joined together with the Community Energy Project to weatherize homes in Portland. The work coincided with the RPCV International Volunteer Day, established by the National Peace Corps Association. Volunteer Day was part of a leveraged effort by the RPCV's of Oregon to maximize their contribution to the CEP.

First, RPCV's of Oregon raised \$300 through the sale of international calendars. The money was then donated to the Community Energy Project to use in purchasing weatherization materials for low income recipients. We increased the effectiveness of our monetary contribution by working with the CEP to install insulative devices, since the CEP needs both money *and* volunteers to perform its valuable service.

At 9:00 on March 5 we met, split into groups, and headed to our assigned houses. Our low tech work made noticeable improvements. Windows were caulked and patched, and doors received weatherstripping. The most common weatherization technique used was the installation of indoor vinyl storm windows. Oil heated homes received new filters and had leaky ducts sealed. These techniques are very effective, especially on many of the older homes and apartments.

The homes we worked on were owned or rented by older or disabled residents. These people often need to keep their homes warmer than normal. The older homes they live in have single pane windows, little insulation, and have problems stemming from a lack of maintenance. The simple work we accomplished makes a difference.

by Mike Waite

International Women's Day Big Success

Many thanks to the RPCVs who helped "woman" the Peace Corps information table at International Women's Day in March. Having a table at the event served as a useful recruiting effort in the community. The Peace Corps Washington Women in Development Office sent several posters for display which were very popular with passers-by, many of whom asked if they were for sale. Something to consider for next year...the RPCVs of Portland/Oregon (the Columbia River Peace Corps Association, RPCVs of the Columbia/Willamette, Pigout Pride or whatever we will be called next year) could use the event as a fundraiser. Women in Development posters can be purchased at low rates and could be sold at the event. The enthusiasm for such an endeavor will be determined later. Again, much gratitude to those who helped at the event!

by Jessica Duke
RPCV Benin/Malawi



NEWS FROM ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO, & MONTANA

And part of Wyoming (welcome to our region)

Regional Meeting Agenda

Saturday, May 14
12-5 p.m., Seattle, Washington
University Unitarian Church
6556 35th Ave. N.E.

Noon-1 p.m.: Lunch, hosted by RAVN RPCVs

1. Wrap-up of August 19-21 camp-out logistics.
2. Group updates.
3. National Peace Corps Association update and Board elections.
4. Atlanta National Conference (regional booth, regional panel, regional manual.)
5. Wrap-up/misc.

Dinner at an ethnic restaurant. Housing provided if needed — please call Charlotte at 206-527-7611.

Directions to the meeting site (University Unitarian Church): From I-5 North, take (Eastbound) N.E. 45th St. exit (the first exit after crossing the bridge). Continue eastbound on 45th past the University and down the viaduct. Just past Safeway, be prepared to take a 45 degree left up 35th Ave. N.E. at the 5 way stoplight. Continue on 35th until you reach the church. From church parking lot, enter on lower level and look for the "Frazee Room."

• CALENDAR OF EVENTS •

May 17	Business Meeting at Brends's
May 22	Founder's Day Picnic & Potluck
June 4	Starlight Parade
Aug. 20-21	RPCV Northwest Regional Campout
July 28-31	National RPCV Conference, Atlanta, GA

Foreign Aid Talk at Lewis & Clark College

Senator Mark Hatfield and Representative Elizabeth Furse are invited to speak at an early summer talk on foreign aid in the post Cold War era. The entire structure, purpose and funding of foreign affairs is currently being reassessed and rewritten by Congress and the Clinton administration. We are especially fortunate in Oregon to be represented by Senator Hatfield and Rep. Furse, both of whom have been devoted to international peace organizations and policy. The Portland RPCV group and other co-sponsors invite all members and interested people to join in the discussion of foreign aid in the post Cold War world. For further details about when and where the talk will be held, contact Paul Richey at 244-2187.

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

Margie Hazelton	236-8346
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	286-0177
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Development Education

Gabriella Maertens	254-5161
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Volunteers of Oregon/Portland
P.O. Box 802
Portland, OR 97207

Submissions for the May 1994
 newsletter should be received by
 May 25. Please mail to:
 Robin Teater
 7126 N. Delaware Ave.
 Portland, OR 97217

MEMBERSHIP • ADDRESS CHANGE • RENEWAL FORM

NAME: _____ PHONE:() _____ hm () _____ wk

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

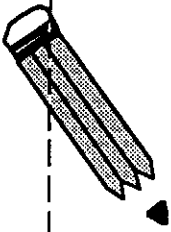
PEACE CORPS COUNTRY: _____ YEARS: _____

PEACE CORPS JOB/SECTOR: _____

CURRENT OCCUPATION: _____

- New Membership
- Membership renewal
- New address, effective: ___/___/___
- Joining RPCVs of Oregon/Portland and NPCA (\$35 individual/\$50 family)
- Joining RPCVs of Oregon/Portland **only** (\$15 individual/\$22.50 family)
- Joining NPCA **only** (\$27.50)

Please make checks payable to : **RPCVs of OREGON/PORTLAND**
 And mail to: **P.O. BOX 802**
 PORTLAND, OR 97207



VOTE HERE

ON PROPOSED NAME CHANGE FOR RPCV'S OF PORTLAND/OREGON

I vote we keep our name the same:
The Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Oregon/Portland.

I vote we change our name to:
The Columbia River Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

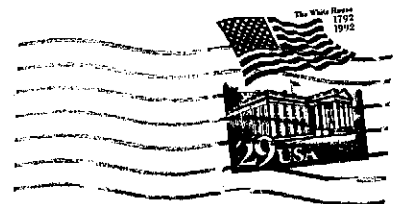
I vote we change our name to:
The Columbia River Peace Corps Association

I suggest this instead: _____

**Please send this ballot to*:
RPCVs of Oregon/Portland
P.O. Box 802
Portland, OR 97207**

**Or, if you prefer, leave a "voice mail" vote on Brenda Michel's answering machine at 236-5838*

**RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS
OF PORTLAND/OREGON
P.O. Box 802
PORTLAND, OR 97207**



**Apr 1, 1994
Marie Hermanson
[Redacted]
Portland, OR [Redacted]**

If this box is checked, your membership has expired. Please renew using the membership form inside!

If this box is checked, you have received a complimentary copy of our newsletter. To become a member of RPCVs of Oregon/Portland and receive future issues, please see the membership form inside!

Bringing the World Back Home