

WORLD ROOTS



Volume 30 Issue 4
April 2009

Newsletter of the RPCVs of Wisconsin - Madison

Message from the President

Workers (and Volunteers) of the World, Unite!

Happy May Day to everyone. There are many ways to celebrate May Day. As a child, I celebrated it by weaving crowns of spring flowers to honor Mary's Day. As an independent adult, I moved to celebrating in the streets. As an aging adult working on her undergraduate degree, I celebrate only one more week to finals. What could I do with all the free time that will be opened up to me?! I could go for a bike ride, like the Tour de Timor on May 17. I could read a book for pleasure, like the "Leap of Faith: Memoirs of an Unexpected Life" by Queen Noor, the May Book Club selection for May 24. I could enjoy an ethnic dinner with like-minded spirits on May 7. Why, I could even stay up really late and join my RPCV friends at a late-night phone bank for the Wisconsin Public Television Auction on May 28!

There are many social events that this group engages in, but due to the wide diversity of individuals, schedules, and interests, I think it is never a bad idea to have *MORE*. Marisa Trapp (China, 2004-06, <http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/kellerlab/trapp.php>) has offered to be part of a social committee team... "team" implies at least two people. We're still looking for someone to join her in the outreach. If she can spare some time from her work as Lab Manager at the UW Keller Lab, some one of you out there can surely spare some time to join her in identifying more social venues for this group. And spring-going-into-summer is the perfect time to initiate new activities.

Speaking of help, Lee Row, our peerless Newsletter Editor, has volunteered to add Website Coordinator to her many contributions to the group (also including Vice President and Mentoring Program Chair). She is most willing to 'give up' the Newsletter Editor – or share the wealth with a co-Editor. Look further in the minutes from our last meeting for more ideas on additional ways to get directly involved in the group.

And if you would like to spend some time exploring the social side of the Internet, do take a moment to check out the new social networking site that the NPCA has put together for RPCVs. Go to <http://community.peacecorpsconnect.org/> and join our group page. As we develop it, it should become a more interactive way to keep each other informed about events. And it's also a great way to stay in touch with RPCVs from your group, or with current activities in your country of service. And I can definitively say (having had a bad experience with spam increase after joining Facebook), that this social networking site is *not* going to increase your spam.

Kate Schaeffer



Dates in Brief*

April

- 8 - GIM, Red Gym
- 9 - International Dinner*
- 15 - Gen Mtng, Red Gym
- 19 - Family Brunch Col. Bar
- 26 - Book Club*
- 28 - Cal Com Mtng RAS home

May

- 7 - International Dinner*
- 12 - Poster Com Mtng Char
- 13 - GIM
- 20 - Gen Mtng, Red Gym
- 24 - Book Club*
- 26 - Cal Com Mtng RAS home

June

- 4 - International Dinner*
- 9 - Poster Com Mtng Char*
- 17 - Gen Mtng, Red Gym
- 20 - Summer Camping
- 23 - Cal Com Mtng RAS home
- 28 - Book Club*

* More info inside

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RPCVs of WI – Madison Officers & Contacts

Elected Officers

President	Kate Schachter	234.1795	kateschachter@yahoo.com
Vice President	Lee Row	232.9065	leerow@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Meghan Meeker	630.7707	meghanmeeker@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Ana Zambie	234.0281	azambie@matcmadison.edu
Board Member	Walt Zeltner	873.5257	zeltner@chorus.net
Board Member	Char Thompson		charkt@charter.net
Deadwood/Book Club	Mary Ann Feutz	(262) 224.3753	mafeutz@uwalumni.com

Event Chairs

Family Brunch	Clare Vogel Friedrich		vogelclare@gmail.com
Freeze for Food	Rick Lackey	213.8878	meisa@charter.net
	Peter Joyce	245.0626	peterjoyce@sbcglobal.net
Tabling Events	Troy Rutter	245.9964	txrutter@att.net
International Dinners	Tom Brodd	251.6193	twbrodd@aol.com
50 th Anniversary	Judy Figi		salonesix@aol.com

Other Contacts

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Calendar Customer Service	Ken Coffeen	224.1164	kencoffeen@gmail.net
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Registered Agent	Terry Stark	233.9140	terry.stark@yahoo.com

Listserv

RPCVs of WI – Madison http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rpcv_madison/

Websites

RPCVs of WI – Madison	http://www.rpcvmadison.org
International Calendar	http://www.rpcvcalendar.org
NPCA	http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/
Peace Corps Online	http://www.peacecorpsonline.org
Peace Corps	http://www.peacecorps.gov
Our address	

PO Box 1012, Madison, WI 53701

FIND ARCHIVED GROUP INFORMATION

Are you looking for old meeting minutes, copies of newsletters, group photos, copies of the Constitution and Bylaws? Newsletters are posted on our website, but most of these other items are posted only on our Yahoo! Group pages.

Meeting minutes are added to this area, for ready access by anyone. If you want to know how to access these files, or how to use the listserv to its fullest advantage, contact Kate Schachter, 608.234.1795 or kateschachter@yahoo.com for a mini-training at a local coffee shop with Wi-Fi access.

Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2009

Tom Brodd, Ken Coffeen, Heather Hempel Gomez, Bob Klein, Meghan Meeker, Judy Miner, Phyllis Noble, Judy Reed, Lee Row, Kate Schachter, Rose Ann Scott, John Sheffy, Judy Stadler, Char Thompson, Ana Zambie, and Walt Zeltner attended. Also present were Jim Moser, Lisa Benitez, Donna Page, Jane Scharer, Tom Klobe, and Connie Vanderhyden.



President Kate Schachter called the meeting to order. We proposed no changes to the meeting agenda. Char Thompson motioned to approve the agenda, Ken Coffeen seconded, and all approved. We reviewed the minutes from our 3/18/09 meeting. Char motioned to approve the minutes without any changes, Ken seconded, and all approved.

Calendar Committee

Tom Brodd reported that 2010 calendar production is on schedule. They have received the soft copy, and the calendar will go to the printer in several weeks. The committee has decided to print the same number of calendars (about 35,000) for 2010 as in 2009. Ken is looking to retire from his data entry position, as soon as a replacement can be found. The position requires 2 days of computer work per week from September to December. Ken will publish a job description in an upcoming newsletter.

International Poster Project

Char reported 174 new sales of the poster sets, and presented a \$1,734.84 check.

Archiving Project

Judy Stadler reported that Amy O'Shea has reviewed our group

records and prepared a \$255 budget for archival supplies. Kate signaled the group's support to move forward with the purchase of these supplies. Judy asked if we wish to keep all financial records, including cancelled checks, back to the group's inception. After discussion, we decided that they should be preserved in their entirety.

PC Campus Representative

John Sheffy reported that Carrie Teiken, Peace Corps Regional Recruiter, wants to plan several recruiting events in Madison over the summer. She is requesting our ideas and support to coordinate social activities, aimed especially at recruiting PCVs over age 50.

50th Peace Corps Anniversary

Kate announced that we are still looking for a volunteer to chair the 50th Peace Corps Anniversary Committee, which is planning commemorative activities.

RPCV Art Exhibit

Donna Page, of Art Restoration in Madison, is working with Rose Ann Scott to coordinate an RPCV art exhibit featuring pieces from the countries where we served. They welcome suggestions for naming this event linked to the Peace Corps 50th anniversary. Donna is developing a list of potential pieces for inclusion in the show, as a step toward securing museum space and assembling the exhibit catalog. She emphasizes that this is not a sale; all pieces will be protected during the exhibit and then returned to their owners. Contributors must be RPCVs, and their pieces—whether old or new—should be connected to their country of service. If you want to submit pieces for consideration, please send Donna digital photos of your pieces or schedule a time for her to come and photograph them. She can be reached at 608-251-6466 (studio), 608-215-2187 (cell), or donnapage@att.net.

2009 Gift-Away

After thanking Lee Row for her support, Walt Zeltner initiated the 2009 Gift-Away by asking presenters to summarize their proposals and respond to questions from the group.



School Sanitation Improvements (Guatemala)

Connie Vanderhyden, of the Kickapoo/Guatemala Accompaniment Project, requested \$1,600 to improve community school buildings and construct lavatories in Nueva Esperanza-Chaculá, Guatemala. This proposal is sponsored by RPCV Sue Hundt Bergan.

Nyegina Secondary School (Tanzania)

Jim Moser, on behalf of Prof. Kurt Thurmaier, requested a "fair share" donation to construct a dormitory for female students at the Nyegina Secondary School in Tanzania. This proposal is sponsored by RPCV Helene Pesche.

Salasaca Library & Clinic (Ecuador)

Lisa Benitez requested \$1,800 to build a clinic extension onto the Salasaca Library in Ecuador. This proposal is sponsored by RPCV Ken Coffeen.

Furnishings for Cow Field School (Liberia)

RPCV Judy Reed requested \$1,025 to build desks, chairs, and tables for three school classrooms in the Cow Field, Liberia.

Roma Leadership Camp (Bulgaria)

RPCV Heather Hempel Gomez requested \$2,000 to support a leadership camp for Roma (gypsy) youth in Bulgaria.



Mujer a Mujer Domestic Violence Shelter (Mexico)

Walt suggested tabling discussion of this project, until Mike and Marcy Read are available to present their proposal. Since they live in New Mexico, we discussed arranging a teleconference or Skype session during a future meeting.

Citizens Movement of Tiquisio (Colombia)

RPCV Judy Miner, on behalf of Cecelia Zarate-Laun of the Colombia Support Network, requested \$2,000 to support community organizing activities in Tiquisio, Colombia. Tom requested tabling this proposal until Cecelia Zarate-Luan, who is currently in Colombia, can attend a meeting and provide more details on the proposal.

Wisconsin Public Radio and WORT Community Radio (US)

RPCV Lee Row requested \$500 donations for both Wisconsin Public Radio (WPR) and WORT Community Radio. Tom opposed directing Gift-Away funds to local projects, because he feels that the money is needed more overseas. Ken and Lee countered that these radio stations play an important role in raising international awareness among Americans. As a compromise, Judy Miner suggested making these donations from the Global Education Fund.

Group Discussion & Voting

We reviewed all of the requested donation amounts and made several changes: 1) we designated \$1,500 as the "fair share" donation for the Tanzanian proposal, 2) we decreased the Guatemalan proposal's amount to \$1,600 based on a reduced cost estimate from Connie Vanderhyden, 3) we increased the Liberian proposal's donation amount to \$2,000 in recognition of group member Judy Reed's hard work in improving education at Cow Field School. We then approved the earlier suggestions to table the Mexican and Colombian proposals until their primary contacts can provide more detailed information to the group. Finally, Rose Ann moved to approve the remaining proposals (Guatemala, Tanzania, Ecuador,

Liberia, Bulgaria, WPR, and WORT), Char seconded, we approved unanimously, except for the WPR proposal which received two opposing votes and the WORT proposal which received one. Judy Stadler suggested designating the WORT money as a restricted donation to one of the radio station's international programs, like "Third World View."

NPCA Group-Building Grant

Kate requested that we vote on the National Peace Corps Association's Group-Building Grant proposal. Tom moved to approve the grant, Lee seconded, and all approved.

Adjournment

Kate motioned to adjourn the meeting, Walt seconded, and all approved.



Poster Committee

April 14, 2009

Kate Schachter, Mary Dunn, Phyllis Noble, and Char Thompson met at Char's home.

Char read some of the comments received from teachers and photographers. The one concern was the boy child without clothing on the Housing poster.

Kate suggested that we could use (with permission) some of these quoted in promotional materials. We will pursue this in near future

Phyllis met with the mailing requirements clerk at the main post office. We now have in writing the regulations as to media mail. Yes, our "posters" are educational reference charts. The rate will go up from \$2.93 to \$3.16 on May 11th. The current mailing requirements are written in a post office document entitled, "Commercial Parcels: Media Mail Prices and Eligibility," which is a section of the Domestic Mail Manual, Updated 4-6-09. The relevant paragraphs are items 473.2.2g, 473.2.3, and 473.2.4.2.

Regarding other RPCV groups – it was suggested we pull together some selling tips for them based on our experience with conferences, school districts etc. Kate

will follow-up on the Connected PC potential listing.

Char drafted, Phyllis edited, and Kate will post a paragraph that can go up on the 3rd Goal News.

Kate will arrange a meeting soon with Kim, Mary, Kate, Phyllis and Stephanie to get the stories onto the web site. First thing up on the website should be overview of posters and order form. Phyllis has Stephanie's sample photo pages so can give more direction to the section on teaching resources. Phyllis has proofed all the stories and found the data for all the countries in the 2008 World Factbook. The order form will be e-mailed directly to Kim; Phyllis has written the overview and will send that to Kim. Mary is working on the globes, using vector graphics, to decrease the file size.

Kate spent many hours last Friday refining the accounting system. We handed out several reports, complete with each buyer's name, the invoices due, detail of the petty cash expenses, instructions as to how to enter future information, etc.

We turned in \$878 to Anna, our treasurer, in March. We have \$1,734.84 in checks to turn in on April 15th. The balance in petty cash is \$99.72 Char will transfer the \$110 in cash from recent sales to use in the petty cash.

We have sold 172 tubes; donated 61 and 5 are outstanding for a balance of 762.

We are in touch with Amy Clark of World Wise Schools about what they can do to help promote the posters. An insert into the mailings of donated calendars is a possibility; she will check with legal at Peace Corps. We will hold off until after the website is up and running to deal with that.

Phyllis will contact Anna McKenna about marketing approaches. Phyllis will take samples to the Madison Teachers' Store.

Char suggested she and Phyllis could get together and focus on sales to the top 25 largest buyer groups of RPCV calendars.

Char will be at the Family Brunch and take posters for sale. The

Committee agreed on a discount price of \$25 for parents.

Other ideas: Teach for America -- Phyllis will contact; Libraries -- Char will take one to her local library and talk with them.

It was agreed to send a set of posters to the WI Early Childcare Assoc. and to the Goodman Community Center.

Char still needs to get two dates to Phyllis for Morocco spice photo and Ethiopian water photo.

Finances

Our Treasurer, Ana Zambie reports that at the end of March we had the following amounts in our accounts:

Calendar Account	\$107,468
Group Account	2,589
Poster Account	5,878
Global Education	1,200
Annual Projects	18,170
PC Partnership	0
NPCA Grant	2,400
Freeze for Food	150
Total	\$137,855

We will be allocating money to the Peace Corps Partnership from the Calendar Account as well as paying for the design and printing of the 2010 International Calendar and International Poster in April.

Announcements

Archive Project Update

As part of the strategic planning process in 2007, members voted to create an archive of organizational records of the group, dating back to its incorporation in the early 1980s. Over these two years members have been gathering records and moving them to a single location, the home of Char Thompson. Last year we approached Dr. Ciaran Trace of the University of Wisconsin School of Library and Information Studies to help identify a trained archivist. Amy O'Shea came forward and volunteered for this project. Amy completed her graduate work last year and now works as Research Librarian at Wisconsin Veterans Museum. Fortunately for us, she

Book Club

The Book Club meets on the 4th Sunday of the month at 2 PM. Contact Mary Ann (mafeutz@uwalumni.com) if you would like to be included in the Book Club e-mails. Feel free to join any or all of the book discussions!

May	Leap of Faith: Memoirs of An Unexpected Life	Queen Noor
June	The House of the Spirits	Isabelle Allende
July	The Janissary Tree: A Novel	Jason Goodwin
August	Lightning Bird: The Story of One Man's Journey into Africa's Past	Lyllal Watson
Sept	Our Lady of the Assassins	Fernando Vallejo & Paul Hammond

also has an interest in Peace Corps.

Amy has completed her initial assessment of the records of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin-Madison. Based on her assessment, she has proposed the purchase of metal-edge, acid free archive boxes, acid free folders, flat storage boxes and archival quality video cassette boxes to house the collection. The cost for storage materials will be approximately \$250. Amy will begin cataloging records when archival materials arrive.

If anyone has anything to add to the collection, please contact Judy Stadler at 276.0109 or Char Thompson at 231.2445. When archiving is complete, records will be stored in the Peace Corps office on the UW campus.

Many thanks to Judy Stadler and Char Thompson for assistance.

Tour de Timor Sister-City Bike Ride Sunday May 17

The Tenth Annual Bike Ride Ten Years after the East Timor Independence Vote

What: Tenth annual "Tour de Timor" bike ride fundraiser for Madison's sister-city of Ainaro, East Timor, with special guests State Representative Spencer Black and radio personality Mel, from WORT's popular Friday afternoon show "Mel & Floyd."

When: Sunday, May 17, starting at 1:00 pm (rain date May 24)

Where: Start at the WORT Block Party (at the corner of Bedford and Doty Streets), and ride around Lake Monona (approx. 13 miles).

Cost: \$25 registration fee (includes special tenth anniversary T-shirt); riders are encouraged to collect pledges, with the highest pledge-raisers winning prizes.

For more information:

See www.aideasttimor.org, call 608.241.2473 or e-mail madison@etan.org. The tenth annual "Tour de Timor" bike ride will be on Sunday, May 17, starting at 1:00 pm at the WORT Block Party, near the corner of Bedford and Doty Streets in Madison. Participants will ride around Lake Monona to raise funds for community projects in Ainaro, Madison's official sister-city in the Southeast Asian island nation of East Timor. The tenth anniversary ride will feature two special guests, State Representative Spencer Black and Mel from WORT's popular Friday afternoon show "Mel & Floyd."

For a \$25 registration fee, participants will receive a special anniversary "TdT-X" organic, union-made T-shirt. Participants are also encouraged to collect pledges. The highest pledge-raisers will receive prizes from Tour de Timor co-sponsors, including Yellow Jersey, Revolution Cycles,

Machinery Row Bicycles, Just Coffee, Rainbow Bookstore, B-Side Records, People's Bakery, Planet Zebulon and the Progressive magazine. Madison's community radio station, WORT 89.9 fm, is also supporting the event, which will start and end at the station's annual Block Party. More information and pledge sheets can be found at

www.aideasttimor.org.

The Tour de Timor has become a tradition within Madison's international solidarity community. The first ride was held in August 1999, as the people of East Timor prepared to vote in a United Nations-organized referendum on their future. They overwhelmingly voted for independence, bringing an end to the brutal, quarter-century-long Indonesian military occupation of their country. Unfortunately, as the Indonesian military left East Timor, they destroyed an estimated 70 percent of its infrastructure. In 2000, the Madison chapter of the East Timor Action Network (ETAN-Madison) established a sister-city relationship with Ainaro, to help the rural community rebuild. That work continues today.

Madison has a long history of solidarity with East Timor. In 1992, during the U.S.-supported Indonesian military occupation of East Timor, local residents (including Indonesian students) formed ETAN-Madison. In 2001, Madison and Ainaro formed the first official sister-city relationship between U.S. and East Timorese communities. The Madison-Ainaro Sister-City Alliance, a project of ETAN-Madison, has organized several delegations to Ainaro.

Previous Tour de Timor bike rides have raised thousands of dollars for the Madison visit last summer of two Ainaro community leaders; helped fund a joint international/Timorese election observer project in 2007; and provided grants to women's income-generation projects, sustainable agriculture groups, a local radio station, and other vital community-led projects in Ainaro, East Timor.

20th Marquette Waterfront Festival

Waterfront Warm-up Concerts

Thursday, May 21st

9pm- Crystal Corner Bar - France's Christophe Godin and his jazz/metal band Mörglbl

Thursday, June 11th

9pm - High Noon Saloon- The Reptile Palace Orchestra and Hungarian Folk/Funksters Kerekes Band

Saturday, June 13th

Noon - Roots Collective

1:30 - KoJo

3:00 - Hungary's Kerekes Band

4:45 - Taj Weekes and Adowa

6:30 - Rupa and the April Fishes

Waterfront after Dark set, **High Noon Saloon**

Sunday, June 14th

11:45 - The Ritt Deitz Quintet

1:15 - Pale Young Gentlemen

2:45 - Marques Bovre & SoDangYang w/J. Schwall

4:15 - Bonsoir, Catin

6:15 - Vieux Farka Touré

The Family Brunch

The annual Family Brunch was held Sunday, April 19 at Coliseum Bar. Fifty people came to the newly remodeled banquet hall for a delicious brunch buffet and bottomless cups of coffee, appropriate for a gray, drizzly morning. The tables were arranged by world regions this year so families of currently-serving PCVs, as well as



applicants and their families, could talk to RPCVs about their experiences and ask questions about specific host countries.

Kate Schachter (Ghana '04-'07) and Char Thompson (Chile, '69-'71) introduced some of the big projects going on for the RPCVs of Madison, including the calendar and poster projects. Several pa-

Each month we dine together at a Madison Restaurant with a particular ethnic focus. Tom Brodd coordinates dinners and sends out notices on our listserv. If you are not online, call Tom @ 251.6193 to get alternative notices.

rents in the audience expressed gratitude on behalf of their sons or daughters whose Peace Corps projects had recently received some of the Madison group's calendar proceeds grants.

Next, Char took center-stage to present a quick slideshow of photos and sage advice from her Peace Corps experience, warning parents and applicants that their lives would never be the same after Peace Corps. Jonathan Khoury (Mongolia '04-'06) and Teresa Cousins (Morocco '05-'07) then each gave a quick presentation about their recent two-year stints and how it's affected their lives. Finally, Judy Figi (Sierra Leone, '64-'66) concluded the presentations with anecdotes about her experience, meeting her RPCV husband while in country, and the great surprise of watching their daughter board the plane in 2000 when she joined Peace Corps Micronesia.

If you're interested in speaking at next year's brunch, please contact Clare Friedrich (414.861.2989 or vogelclare@gmail.com)!



Speakers at the Family Brunch; Char Thompson, Judy Figi, Teresa Cousins, and Jonathan Khoury.

Thank You

Richland Center - Santa Teresa Sister City Project Update on Projects in El Terrero, Nicaragua

Last year the Sister City Project (SCP) presented three grant proposals to the RPCVs of WI-Madison, all involving the rural community of El Terrero, Nicaragua. We requested the RPCVs' help in funding materials for:

- a new roof, floor, and sidewalk for the village schoolhouse
- five wells and twenty-six well covers
- barbed wire to enclose yards and plantings.

The \$1,000 grant we received from the RPCV did not specify which project, so I'll report on all three. I was in Santa Teresa in January and visited El Terrero. It is located on the edge of Chacocente Wildlife Refuge in a beautiful part of the dry tropical forest near the Escalante River.

We met with El Terrero villagers in the schoolhouse, which had its new roof and floor completed. The community did an excellent job installing the new corrugated metal roof and pouring the concrete floor. The sidewalk, which hadn't been constructed at the time of my visit, was completed in March.



Well construction was set back a little by a long, intense rainy season. In January the materials had been delivered to the five families, who were at various stages in the process of digging the wells and making the brick-and-cement reinforcements and well enclosures. SCP Nicaraguan facilitator Alma Susana Chavéz tells us the wells are now finished.

Every family made its concrete well cover, but the covers haven't yet been installed, because buckets are still being used for drawing water. The heavy lids are designed to be used with a rope pump. This year, the SCP plans to supply rope pumps to all the families in El Terrero.

The price of barbed wire went up steeply between the time of our request last April and the time the wire was purchased. As a result, each family only got one roll of barbed wire rather than the two they requested, and they have not yet built their fences. The villagers told us that the farmers will use their agricultural program bonus to buy another roll this year and then fence their yards. The purpose of the fences is to keep animals out of the yard so that fruit trees or gardens can be grown near the wells.

Although some of the 2008 projects are still in progress, because El Terrero seems to be a hard-working cooperative community, we have confidence that all the projects will be finished as soon as possible.

Thank you to the RPCVs for your continuing support of the SCP's programs in Nicaragua.

Jane Furchgott



Dear RPCVs of Madison,
The villagers of Goura and I would like to thank you for your contribution to our fish farm project. The funding has arrived and we are beginning the next phase of the project. Thank you for helping make their dream of a fish farm a reality.

Sincerely,
Rachel Belida
Gao, Mali



I would like to thank the members of RPCVs of Wisconsin – Madison for your generous donation to the Peace Corps Mauritania Fund.

Best Regards,
Obie Shaw
Director, Peace Corps Mauritania



Dear RPCVs of Madison, WI:
Thank you so much for your contribution to my latrine project in Songorriya, Ghana. Now 18 families in three different communities are benefiting from improved sanitation! Here is a picture of one of them.



I've recently joined an RPCV group in Atlanta, and am excited to be part of such a large, unique family. Thanks again,
Sterling Lee
Ghana 06-08



Dear RPCVs,
What a great city, Madison. I've been through a couple of times in the summer and have nothing but good memories. A little too pricey, but I have particularly good memories of the Great Dane.

I want to thank you for your contribution to my book project here in Gaya. Since this project started, it has evolved into something more, so that now I can tell you that we not only raised money to provide books for the two schools in my town, but also to the other fourteen middle schools in the Gaya commune. So really, your contribution helped upwards of two thousand students gain access to English textbooks. Furthermore, I hope that these textbooks will last for years within the schools and thus benefit many more students than that.

Gaya is still treating me real well. Hot season is beginning, but at



least that means we do have some mangoes starting to show up.

It's nice to see RPCVs giving back to the PCV community overseas. I look forward to being in that position myself one day. Thanks again for your help with my project; it means a lot to me and to the students and teachers of Gaya.

Yours,
Jeremy Kelley
Gaya, Niger



My dear fellow volunteers,

This is to thank you so much for your donation to my plasma reactor project here in Mexico. I received it last week. Your kind donation is well received and appreciated by all the CIQA.

You should be proud and honored to know that your contribution will go a long way to help many students gain in-depth hands-on valuable experience for their future industrial professional careers after they finish their studies. They are currently handicapped by not having scientific equipment commonly used in industry. The reactor is one normally found in industry and in higher institutions elsewhere.

As an update, we have proceeded to order parts (from the US) to build the plasma reactor this week. I expect the reactor to be completed and fully functional before June. When it is completed, I will send you a photo of the reactor and a final report.

Again, thank you very much for your kind generosity and support.

Very sincerely,

Siong Ng
PCV Mexico

MorePeaceCorps News

Rebuild the Peace Corps

More than ever, the world needs 'underutilized' organization

By Bob Shacochis

Last month in central Mozambique, one of the planet's poorest countries, I stood among the thatched mud-and-wattle huts of the village of Vinho. I was admiring the subsistence farming community's handsome new school with Greg Carr, an American philanthropist who had built that school. Since 2004, Carr, who made his fortune in the information technology boom of the '90s, has devoted his wealth, time and considerable energy to the rehabilitation of Mozambique's Gorongosa National Park. Once considered Africa's premier game preserve, Gorongosa had been destroyed by decades of war and lawlessness.

The school is a small part of the comprehensive vision of Carr and Mozambique to use the restoration of the park as a development engine for the hundreds of thousands of desperately impoverished peasants who live in the forests and hills surrounding Gorongosa. The 20-year-long hand-back agreement between the government and the Carr Foundation is an exemplary model for the marriage of private altruism and public policy in the Third World.

Even so, the day Carr and I toured the school, marveling at its solar-powered electricity and computer lab, his voice grew somber as he responded to my questions.

How many students?

Two hundred.

How many teachers?

Five.

Carr explained that the government had an uphill battle trying to staff its schools with qualified teachers. Even when a teacher was hired, his or her tenure was a daily concern because of the high rate of attrition caused by AIDS, malaria or other diseases. Vinho's five teachers had dwindled to three. Carr thought the best hope for fully staffing the school had only one apparent solution: the Peace Corps. But he wasn't optimistic. There were only two Peace Corps volunteers — much-loved teachers — in the entire district, based in a town an hour's drive away.

Does Mozambique want more Peace Corps volunteers assigned to the country? Absolutely. The Peace Corps has been in Mozambique since 1998, after its civil war ended and its once Marxist-Leninist leaders changed ideological direction. The nation held free multiparty elections and did everything possible to make itself one of the most progressive countries in the region. There are 163 volunteers in Mozambique, where Portuguese is the official language. Carr and his Portuguese communications director, Vasco Galante, guessed the country could absorb 10,000 volunteers.

So here we find ourselves, celebrating the inauguration of President Obama, a farsighted leader who has inspired millions of young Americans with his call to service. We also find ourselves on the threshold of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's new diplomatic initiative, the exercise of "smart power" in a multifaceted effort to reclaim our moral and political integrity in the eyes of the world. The obvious equation seems written in neon: "Call to service" plus "smart power" equals Peace Corps.

Dollar for dollar, you cannot get a more reliable, cost-effective answer than the Peace Corps when the challenge is to win hearts and minds around the globe. For all of Africa's wars since President Kennedy launched the Peace Corps in 1961, one of the continent's most liberating achievements in the intervening decades has been the education of millions of African children by Peace Corps volunteers. Those once illiterate students are now Africa's middle class, civil servants and leaders, struggling to meet their nations' basic needs.

Today, the U.S. sends fewer than 4,000 Peace Corps volunteers overseas annually — half the number we sent four decades ago. The agency, which is underfunded, underappreciated and underutilized, turns away too many prospective volunteers for lack of resources. More than 20 countries that do not

have Peace Corps programs are waiting for Congress to keep its bipartisan promise to double the Peace Corps' size. But that promise is likely to wither on the vine of our shrinking economy without Obama's support, which would be the equivalent, in budgetary terms, of upgrading a shoestring to a bootstrap.

Throughout Africa's villages and cities, portraits of Obama have already been tacked on walls next to images of the Kennedy brothers, Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela. It's impossible to go anywhere in Mozambique without hearing someone repeat what has become the world's marching order for a better future: *Sim, podemos*. Yes, we can.

Obama, our No. 44, who has a passion for saluting the creative legacies of his predecessors by assimilating their sensibilities into his own actions, should continue that fine habit by adapting a slogan of No. 43 to No. 35's powerful enduring vision of international service: No Volunteer Left Behind.

And in the eyes of the world, Mr. President, if you want the biggest symbolic bang for your ever dwindling buck, rebuild the Peace Corps.

Author Bob Shacochis is a member of the advisory board of MorePeaceCorps, a group of former volunteers. He also teaches in the graduate writing program at Florida State University.

From USA TODAY, February 25, 2009

NPCA News

50th Anniversary Campaign

NPCA and the 50th

At the National Peace Corps Association, we believe that Peace Corps' 50th anniversary is a milestone event warranting national attention on par with recent major commemorations, such as the Brown v. Board of Education decision and the dedication of the World War II Memorial. In a Summer 2007 [WorldView magazine article on country celebrations](#), NPCA President Kevin Quigley writes,

Peace Corps does not simply belong to RPCVs, but rather it touches the lives of the American and host-country staff, colleagues, family and friends. It is important for us now to find adequate and sufficient ways to honor this anniversary, so that anyone who is interested can play a role in celebrating Peace Corps' many accomplishments, and rebuilding these life-long connections among so many of us around the world.

NPCA Events and 50th Anniversary Updates

On September 6, 2008, More Peace Corps launched its 100 House Parties effort to propel the campaign forward and draw widespread attention to our mission: doubling the budget and number of volunteers in the Peace Corps by 2011. The House Parties took place

in cities, towns, and rural communities across the U.S., and even some overseas.

We exceeded our initial goal of 100 parties and hosted an overwhelming 110 gatherings in over 40 states and 14 countries. Altogether, 2,000 people gathered together and raised over \$15,000! Thank you for your continued support of NPCA and the future of the Peace Corps.

NPCA has Started the Conversation

In preparation for the National Peace Corps Association's Annual General Meeting, Board Meeting and Advisory Council meeting which took place June 28-30, 2007, NPCA President Kevin Quigley crafted a discussion paper on planning for the 50th anniversary of Peace Corps.

Read the full document by going to:

[Peace Corps at 50: Looking Back/Looking Forward](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/content/peace-corps-50-looking-backlooking-forward)
www.peacecorpsconnect.org/content/peace-corps-50-looking-backlooking-forward

We've also been steadily nudging relevant institutions to think about the 50th, and urging our community to reflect on how to mark this important occasion. NPCA discussions with Peace Corps have resulted in the designation of a committee within Peace Corps to

initiate planning for the 50th. They have also begun to secure high profile event venues.

A key date to pencil in: **September 22-25, 2011**. That is the date currently chosen for festivities on the National Mall in Washington, DC to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of Peace Corps.

Stay tuned! Go to the address below for 50th anniversary updates. Bookmark it or type www.peacecorpsconnect.org/content/50th-anniversary-campaign.

Peace Corps at 50: Looking Back/Looking Forward

In 2011, the Peace Corps community will be marking 50 years from when President Kennedy asked us to give two years of our lives to travel abroad, help others help themselves, and bring our experiences home in ways that serve the country. With hundreds of events at home and abroad, we will celebrate Peace Corps' many accomplishments and recognize the nearly 200,000 who served and the tens of millions of lives influenced. This milestone anniversary provides the chance to consider in what ways Peace Corps might be modified to realize more of its potential, be part of a constructive U.S. role in the world and respond to the heartfelt desire of so many to serve. To prepare for these anniversary events, we have some guiding principles:

Ownership
Participation
Purpose
Aspiration
Policy
Events
Project
Legacy

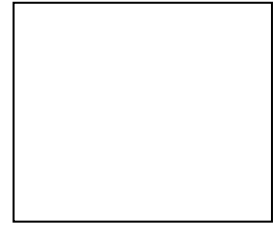
Theme

The theme of the 50th anniversary activities will be Peace Corps' global impact; one person and one community at a time that is felt everywhere through service, leadership, and stories.

To stay up-to-date and to find out more, go to

www.peacecorpsconnect.org/content/50th-anniversary-campaign

**PO BOX 1012
Madison WI 53701**



All RPCV of Wisconsin-Madison members receive a monthly Newsletter, World Roots, on payment of annual dues shown below. To avoid record-keeping hassles, we prefer members pay through September of the year joining, then pay for a full year membership in September. Members who join between September and December should pay \$15; members who join between January and April should pay \$10; members who join between May and August should pay \$5. Reduced rates are available for those in extreme financial circumstances. You can also join the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) through us by paying an additional \$35. We encourage you to join the NPCA, which provides us a way to affect national issues. ****New RPCVs receive a complimentary year's membership.****

Please note that overseas rates do not include NPCA membership. See above for calculations

- Individual - \$15/\$10/\$5
- Joint - \$20/\$14/\$7 (Two people receiving one newsletter)
- I am also enclosing \$35 for each NPCA membership
- I do not want to join, but would like to receive World Roots and am enclosing \$7 (\$15 for overseas) to cover costs.
- I'm Moving! Please change my mailing address.
- Overseas Individual - \$24/\$16/\$8
- Overseas Joint - \$29/\$20/\$10

\$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

I would like to receive my Newsletter on paper, by mail electronically, by e-mail

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PC Job: _____

Birth date : (Optional - M/D/Y) _____