Message from the President

As I write this, we are celebrating International Inclusion Week at the middle school where I work. A big focus of the week has been on learning about disabilities, but we have also focused on sharing information and stories about different cultures. One of the highlights of the week is the Spirit Day in which students are encouraged to dress up in clothing from other cultures. Personally, I am looking forward to the opportunity to show off my Seshoeshoe dress.

As a classroom teacher, I am constantly able to share tidbits of my Peace Corps experience and my students have become very knowledgeable about Lesotho. I know that as RPCVs we all love to talk about our overseas adventures and will share stories and pictures with anyone who will listen. For the past few months, we have been working on redesigning our RPCVs of Madison Website. One of the features of our new website will be a map highlighting the countries in which Madison RPCVs have served. Ideally, we will have links from that map to stories and pictures from members of our group.

This is your opportunity to share your favorite stories and photographs with a captive audience. Please consider typing up a few of your favorite adventures or a paragraph or two about your life as a PCV. Add in a few photographs that teach us more about your experiences and e-mail these stories and pictures to Kim Malueg at kim@tripstream.tv or me at mafeutz@uwalumni.com. We will include them in the updated website and they will serve as an entertaining and educational way for us to continue to meet the third goal of Peace Corps.

Sala Hantle! (Stay Well!)

Mary Ann Feutz
**RPCVs of WI – Madison Officers & Contacts**

### Elected Officers
- **President**: Mary Ann Feutz  (262) 224.3753  mafeutz@uwalumni.com
- **Vice President**: Kate Schachter  442.0432  kateschachter@yahoo.com
- **Secretary**: Buck Trawicky  241.2392  lewansm@dhs.state.wi.us
- **Treasurer**: Ana Zambie  234.0281  azambie@matcmadison.edu
- **Board Member**: Walt Zeltner  873.5257  zeltner@chorus.net
- **Board Member**: Char Thompson
- **Deadwood/Social Coordinator**: Laura Buchs  llbuchs@hotmail.com

### Event Chairs
- **Family Brunch Chair**: Clare Vogel  cvogel@wisc.edu
- **Freeze for Food Chair**: Rick Lackey  213.8878  meisa@charter.net  peterjoyce@sbcglobal.net
- **Tabling Events Chair**: Troy Rutter  245.9964  tdrutter@usgs.gov
- **International Dinners Chair**: Tom Brodd  251.6193  thomasbrodd@sbcglobal.net

### Other Contacts
- **Calendar Coordinator**: Melissa Kaltenbach  249.3545  sauri_s@hotmail.com
- **Calendar Customer Service**: Ken Coffeen  224.1164  kcoffeen@tds.net
- **Business Manager**: Rose Ann Scott  241.0845  roseannscott@yahoo.com
- **Donation Coordinator**: Walt Zeltner  873.5257  zeltner@chorus.net
- **Global Education**: Marc Brand  255.1339  brand@madison.k12.wi.us
- **At Large**: Don Sauer  242.9573  donsauer@cybermesa.com
- **Membership**: Brad Hinkfuss  242.9573  iambrad@chorus.net
- **Newsletter Editor**: Lee Row  232.9065  rowhome@sbcglobal.net
- **Peace Corps Recruiter**: Greg Pepping  262.1121  peacecorps@cals.wisc.edu
- **Registered Agent**: Terry Stark  233.9140  terry.stark@dot.state.wi.us

### Listserv
- **RPCVs of WI – Madison**: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rpcv_madison/

### Websites
- **RPCVs of WI – Madison**: http://www.rpcvmadison.org
- **NPCA**: http://www.rpcv.org
- **Peace Corps Online**: http://www.peacockonline.org
- **Peace Corps**: http://www.peacecorps.gov

World Roots welcomes your reaction to articles, news about your family or your Peace Corps Country, notification of events of interest, requests for assistance, offers of employment and almost anything else you’d like included and/or publicized. Our address is:

**worldrootsnews@yahoo.com**

We look forward to your input!
Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2007
We had a short meeting at the Holiday Party to make announcements and let everyone know that we have been working on the new website.

The Freeze for Food will be January 19, 2008 and everyone should come around 11 a.m. to help with setup and to get assignments for the race.

Calendar Photo viewing and voting will be January 27th in the space formerly occupied by the Travel Center in the Memorial Union from 1 to 4 p.m. The Calendar Committee will hold a brief meeting there at noon.

Rose Ann reported on the visit of a team from the Peace Corps Office of Private Sector Initiatives, which is in charge of Peace Corps Partnership Projects, to which we send the bulk of money raised with calendar sales. They were in town to film the Calendar Committee and to interview people associated with work on producing, marketing, and selling the calendar. Rose Ann said it had been a successful visit.

Lee Row has been working on getting t-shirts made for the group. As there has not been an overwhelming response, she will ask members for orders once more before requesting a bid for fewer shirts, making them slightly more expensive.

Thank you to Kate for facilitating the meeting and to Sophie for hosting.

Thanks to all for tasty treats and a rather genteel present exchange!

Calendar News

Tuesday, December 4, 7:00 pm
Jo opened the meeting with a suggestion that the 50th Anniversary International Calendar issue honor those who have died in Peace Corps service. The calendar would include birth dates of the deceased and bios.

Review of last meeting:
Melissa reported that she was still looking for a marketing person.
Rose Ann commented that marketing the calendar through the NPCA's website isn't possible because NPCA's product sales page is handled by another party which takes a percentage of sales.

International Calendar Website:
A meeting was held on Nov. 18, 07 to discuss ideas for a future calendar website. Sandra summarized this meeting for the group and distributed a wish list for the RPCV of WI Calendar website. She requested that everyone review these ideas and forward comments and suggestions to Stephanie, Jo or Sandra. The website will be used primarily to market the calendar and for educational purposes. The site will emphasize how much money is donated to projects each year through calendar sales.

The calendar information on the Madison RPCV website needs to be updated immediately. Rose Ann suggested the future website use Droupel to make updating by
ourselves a possibility. It was agreed upon that the calendar would be linked to the RPCVs of WI-Madison website and visa versa.

Lee reported that Kim, the web designer, is starting to work on the current Madison RPCV website again and that Burt Preston, the past-web master has resigned. Paying for calendars on the future calendar website was discussed. Ken noted that currently people will offer their credit card information but requesting that information is not standard procedure.

It was proposed that website development would start in June after '09 calendar production concluded. The calendar web committee will get bids to develop and maintain the calendar website.

Jo suggested a calendar logo change be proposed at the next RPCV general meeting. The current icon is a tree. She suggested the tree branches create the outline of the continents. Calendar back pages suggestions included:

- Emphasizing that by purchasing the calendar people are supporting development projects
- Featuring a project that was funded through calendar sales instead of a recipe

Not having the back pages so full of information in such small type. E-mail Jo with suggestions.

**Procedures for Graphics**

Pat is the contact person to field questions on photos and calendar files instead of Sue Kummer. This information should be put in the newsletter and in a group e-mail. We will ask Sue to prepare CDs with the basic calendar photos and logos on it, so we will not have to go back to her for them.

**Volunteer acknowledgement**

A recognition dinner or recognition in the newsletter.

**Photo selection will take place January 27, 2008 from 1:00-4:00 pm at the Memorial Union Former Travel Center room.** A calendar meeting will be held in the same room at 12:00 p.m. prior to voting.

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**New RPCV Book**

*Black Man’s Grave*, the first book to seriously examine the causes and conduct of Sierra Leone’s horrific decade of civil war, portrays the small, northern village of Fadugu as its way of life collapses. Based on years of correspondence between villagers and the book’s authors, both former Peace Corps volunteers in Fadugu, *Black Man’s Grave* views the Revolutionary United Front through the eyes of those who bore the brunt of its attacks.

Meet the greedy politicians who hijacked a fledgling democracy, the rebels who brought them down, and the villagers who struggled to survive the country’s chaotic descent.

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**Treasurer’s Report**

**As of October 2007**

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*Image credits: [SWC Events](https://www.swc-events.com)*
Our Strategic Planning Process
By Judy Stadler

In late 2006, Laura Buchs and several other members expressed interest in focusing the efforts of the organization. They noted that RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison sponsored many different projects from the International calendar to social events to Freeze for Food. A core group of members were heavily involved, active on committees, regularly attended meetings and were extremely loyal. Nonetheless, there were concerns that not enough newer members were joining, or getting involved in ongoing projects. That concern was the beginning of a process to develop a mission statement and a strategic plan for the next three to five years.

I volunteered to help Laura because I had experience with strategic planning while living and working in Appleton before moving to the Madison area a year earlier. Our first steps were to identify a strategic planning process and to set a date for a planning meeting. The date decided on was to be April 28, 2007 at UW Memorial Union. Several members knew of other RPCVs who did strategic planning as part of their jobs. We invited Don Olson, Troy Rutter, Laura Buchs, Sheila Przesmicki, Ken Coffeen, Tom Kenney, Tom Brodd and me, Judy Stadler. Two members, Sue Chase and Megan Scanlon, were unable to attend but submitted pre-work. During that Saturday meeting, the strategic planning group:

- brainstormed lists of current and potential activities
- compiled lists of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats
- summarized key features of effective mission statements

Then they prioritized all potential opportunities to focus in on a list of priority issues. After six hours, the output of the session included a draft mission statement and a draft list of priority (strategic) issues with related action steps. In early May this output was presented to the larger group on the Listserv and all members were invited to comment and suggest edits. The draft Mission Statement and draft Priority Issues/Action Steps were officially voted on and approved at the general membership meeting on June 13, 2007.

The group has now begun to implement some of the action steps, especially those related to Goal 1, “Improve administration of the organization.”

Thank You!

This being the newsletter of the month of Thanksgiving and of the holiday season in general, as well as the end of the year, it is appropriate to take stock of our blessings and thank those who have contributed to our well-being.

So thank you to the members on the Executive Committee for working on strategic planning and handling all those official duties.

Thanks Again!

Massive gratitude is radiated from the group to Rochelle Goedken for heading the Calendar Committee so well for so long.

Thanks are also due to Melissa Kaltenbach for volunteering to take up the mantle. This is a key position in our group and we thank you both for your service.

Thank you also to all the people on the Calendar Committee. Without them there would be no calendar, no calendar packing and pizza party or Peace Corps Partnership donations. Consider attending a Committee meeting, just to see what a daunting task it is to produce the calendar – and how effortlessly it is accomplished.

Thanks to Sandra Belozerkovsky, Tom Brodd, Beth and Ron Chance, Ken Coffeen, Lisa Goldman, Pat Halpin, Sharon Isensee, Margot Kennard, Jeff Klenk, Stephanie Motz, Julie Olsen, Don Olson, Troy Rutter, Rose Ann Scott, Judy Stadler, Jo Thomson, Buck Trawicky, Alan Weiner, Walt Zeltner. Welcome to Marc Kennedy! And apologies to anyone forgotten. Please contact worldrootsnews@yahoo.com and you will be added to the list of stalwarts.

Thank you to Troy Rutter for steadfastly maintaining our calendar sales equipment, notifying us of opportunities to sell...
calendars, coordinating volunteers, and keeping our calendar year after year. Did you notice how easy he makes it seem? A job well done! Thank you also to all the volunteers who come out to sell the calendar and talk about Peace Corps.

Peter Joyce and Rick Lackey, that well-oiled Freeze for Food gang of two, have been spearheading the race for lo these many years. Thank you both for all your effort. Show your gratitude by coming out to help with the Freeze on Saturday January 19th and then head to Rick’s on Balden St. for the chili warmup and stay on for poker.

Special thanks to Rose Ann Scott for liaising with Washington and bringing good sense and efficiency to our efforts and deliberations. Thank you to Judy Stadler for handling strategic planning and other necessary but generally thankless tasks. Thank you Walt Zeltner for managing the local donation process and to Ana Zambie for taking on the Treasurer job. Thanks to the other officers who have stepped up: Mary Ann Feutz, our Prez; Kate Schacter, our superhero Vice; Buck Trawicky, our once and future Secretary; and Walt Zeltner and Char Thompson, who complete our Board.

Thank you to all who participate and contribute, commune and share this special bond.

The Best Thanks of All
My name is Miss Dahbi Zhor. I am an English teacher in Morocco. Being it was thanks to Allah and an ex-Peace Corps Volunteer whose name is Sophie Zermuehlen. This woman has been of great emotional and material help to me. You also have been helping my students through the valuable books you have been sending to me via Mrs. Zermuehlen. I have been looking for your e-mail for such a long time to thank you and to tell you that you have really succeeded in making a difference in many peoples lives. Once more cheeeeeeereeerers to all the Peace Corps Volunteers and a big hug for you all, you the volunteers of Madison.

All the best and good luck
Miss Dahbi

Resources

Kiva
Named as one of the top ideas in 2006 by the New York Times Magazine, Kiva (www.kiva.org) is enables Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) to raise debt capital directly from social investors via the internet. Kiva provides MFIs 0% interest, no liability, US dollar debt capital in exchange for client impact transparency on the internet. MFIs on-lend this capital at prevailing interest rates and keep all the interest income. Losses arising from client default are borne by Kiva’s social investor.

Since launching in October 2005, over 50 MFIs in 30+ countries have raised 0% interest debt capital from over 80,000 social investors via Kiva.org. Some of the worlds most reputable MFIs have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars within months, including MFIs affiliated with ACCION, Grameen, Unitus and Pro Mujer. Smaller, less established MFIs, also use Kiva’s online platform as a source of growth capital and a way to prove their legitimacy to larger funders over time. All MFIs benefit from significantly reducing their cost of capital and exhibiting their work and impact to an international audience (Kiva is the most trafficked website in microfinance with hundreds of thousands of site visitors each month).

Kiva partners with existing microfinance institutions. In doing so, we gain access to outstanding entrepreneurs from impoverished communities world-wide. Our partners are experts in choosing qualified borrowers. That said, they are usually short on funds. Through Kiva.org, our partners upload their borrower profiles directly to the site so you can lend to them.

RPCVs of WI-Madison International Dinners
Once a month, usually on the first Thursday of the month, we like to gather for an informal dinner at one of Madison’s fabulous ethnic restaurants. Tom Brodd arranges the time and place and all you need do is let him know you’re coming, then show up with an adventurous spirit and a good appetite. Restaurants are moderately priced and to date, the food has been delicious.

If you have suggestions or need special notification – it’s normally done through our listserv – contact Tom at 251.6193.
To Win the Peace, Restore the Corps

By Arthur S. Obermayer & Kevin F. Quigley

November 27, 2007

The United States can win any war on the battlefield, but we have not learned how to win the peace. We are losing the fight to win over the people we are trying to help. But there is a way to right our course for the future - by looking to our past.

Overwhelming military superiority is not the key, because its use wreaks havoc and destroys lives. Moreover, our traditional public diplomacy efforts have not worked, with Karen Hughes the most recent government PR chief to resign after accomplishing very little.

The decline of the U.S. in world opinion demands that we find more effective ways to regain a leadership role. Primarily, we should aim to help people achieve better health, education, housing and jobs in countries that need it the most.

On that front, our nation has achieved some successes: the Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe after World War II, recovery efforts following the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, and aid in the wake of Pakistan’s devastating earthquake two years ago (making Pakistan one of the very few nations where approval of the U.S. has risen in recent years). Now, however, only our military has the means to such ends.

U.S. foreign aid is primarily structured along impersonal, government-to-government lines, and most government agencies have proved ineffective working on a people-to-people level. The one government entity with a positive record in this area is the Peace Corps. But despite the Peace Corps’ success since its inception in 1961, its budget has remained small.

President John F. Kennedy wanted 100,000 volunteers overseas within 10 years. Today - although 20 additional nations are seeking Peace Corps help and three times as many volunteers apply as can be accommodated - budgetary limitations have kept the number of volunteers down to 8,000. However, there are 190,000 alumni, represented by the National Peace Corps Association. They yearn for continuing involvement in a mission that has transformed not only their lives and those of people they have helped but also their perspectives on the world.

Among the alumni is Connecticut Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, who served as a volunteer in the Dominican Republic. Based on that experience, he is sponsoring a bill to double the size of the Peace Corps. In the months after 9/11, Sen. John McCain of Arizona and President Bush both advocated major growth of the Peace Corps. Unfortunately, there was little follow-up.

Like Mr. Dodd, other alumni want to help now, and their expertise is invaluable. Most are mature leaders in business, education, government and the nonprofit world. Many are primed for a new career challenge that a managerial role in the Peace Corps could offer. They have the motivation to resist outside influences and to distinguish an expanded role for the Peace Corps from the political and bureaucratic vagaries of government agencies.

To have a significant impact, the Peace Corps needs to be at least 10 to 20 times larger. But even with renewed alumni participation, it cannot grow quickly enough on its own. Through its separate, distinct operation, it must enlist the vast array of nonprofits doing grass-roots work abroad. They fall into three major categories: nongovernmental organizations, non-proselytizing faith-based groups, and universities. In addition to growing its own operations, the Peace Corps could also help fund these nonprofit efforts. There are thousands of American philanthropic initiatives from which it could select programs for expansion grants.

The time is right politically to broaden the scope and impact of the Peace Corps. The millions who donate to such charities represent a powerful constituency who would back the move. Its objectives are nonpartisan and should be supported by Republicans and Democrats.

In the media every day, everywhere, we are witness to suffering. As we see the conventional, military-based approach to conflict resolution failing, we must seek alternative means to ending wars and winning the peace. The cost of an expanded Peace Corps would be roughly 1 percent of our current military budget. Can we afford not to act promptly?

Arthur S. Obermayer is president of the Obermayer Foundation, which focuses on social justice issues. His e-mail is arthur@obermayer.us. Kevin F. F. Quigley is president of the National Peace Corps Association. His e-mail is president@rpcv.org.

New Clothes?
The Friends of Cameroon have designed a stunning, multilingual “pagne” (the six-meter length of African cloth) that incorporates the Peace Corps logo, the continent of Africa, and the names of all the countries where Peace Corps has ever been active in Africa. Each piece is enough cloth for one woman’s outfit or 2 to 3 men’s jumpers. The cloth also makes a creative table cloth, window curtain, wall decoration, and more.

The pagne project helps to fund development projects in Cameroon, including four HIV/AIDS education projects that FOC funded in 2006.

The price is $38 plus $6 shipping per piece. To order, send a check made out to “Friends of Cameroon to: FOC Pagne 13201 Stravinsky Drive Silver Spring, MD 20904
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.

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
___ Overseas Individual - $24/$16/$8
___ Overseas Joint - $29/$20/$10
___ 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.

$____________ TOTAL ENCLOSED

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

Name: ___________________________________________ Date: ______________________
Address: _______________________________________
Phone #s (H) _____________ (W) _____________ E-mail: ____________________________
Country of Service: ___________________________ Service Dates: ______________________
PC Job: ___________________________ Birth date: (Optional - M/D/Y) _______________

Send completed form & check to: RPCV's of Wisconsin - Madison, P.O.Box 1012, Madison, WI 53701