For Your Consideration...

At the May Membership Meeting, there was a discussion about subsidizing the expenses of the President’s trips to NPCA conferences on behalf of the larger organization. Dean Mahon and Dean Jefferson proposed that the expenses for such trips be covered up to a maximum of $500. The group benefits from calendar sales, and the forums and meetings to go to would also be of some benefit.

For the sake of a vote at the June meeting, please consider the following motion:

_The RPCVs of Wisconsin will subsidize travel and other expenses of the President, or the group’s designee, to conferences or meetings which are directly related to the mission of the RPCVs of WI-Madison. There is a limit of $500 per trip. Only one (1) person can receive this subsidy per conference, with a maximum of two (2) conferences or meetings in a calendar year eligible for these appropriations._

(Note: I wrote this using the Minutes and an email message from Deb. I don’t expect that I captured the exact intent, and I added some clarifying language, at least to me... I offer it as something to work with - prepare your amendments!)

Don Sauer, At Large, Returns!

May 17, 1997 -- Peshawar

It’s been almost two months since I last updated you on my current doings. The more involved I become, the more complex everything seems. First a bit of news and then a request.

In early April I took a 12-day trip to Afghanistan to view some of the projects DHSA has there and to try to get a more visceral understanding of the situation as it stands now. I traveled to Ghazni, Charikar, Logar and Kabul. I viewed the hydraulic work we do which mostly consists of small projects to rehabilitate the irrigation system on which Afghan agriculture is dependent. I saw wheat seed multiplication plots and wheat experimental plots. I saw the fruit tree nurseries that we have established and was there when some local farmers received a number of saplings for planting on their own land in the hope of re-establishing apple, pear, almond and apricot orchards. I saw subsidized bakeries in Kabul operating and the lines of hungry people waiting to receive bread that is critical to their survival. I saw schools which had been built but very few students. I saw our tractors opening new land to cultivation. And I saw the legacy of two decades of vicious war.

As we drove from the Afghan border toward Jalalabad there were burnt out tanks, devastated hulks of villages and children alongside the road throwing shovels full of sand and gravel into potholes. When a vehicle would approach they would go into exaggerated little routines hoping to wheedle a few Afghans out of passing drivers. This is the Taliban approach to road repair. These children are along most of the roads in Afghanistan

(continued on page 6)
Officers and Contacts

Executive Committee, 1996-1997

President
Deb Stapleton, 244-8609 (home)
e-mail: staplda@dhfs.state.wi.us

Vice President
Melanie Brooks, 255-8131 (home)

Secretary
Buck Trawicky, 241-2392 (home)

Treasurer
Rose Ann Scott, 241-0845 (home)
e-mail: scott<r@gencas.com

Members-at-Large:
Don Sauer -- in Pakistan (only at-large)
e-mail: sauern@dhsa.psw.erum.com.pk
Rochelle Goodken, 243-0298 (home)

Registered Agent
Gordon Malaise, 255-3261 (home)

Project Contacts

Community Projects
(your name here?)

International Calendar Project
Coordinator
Rochelle Goodken, 243-0298 (home)
Calendar Order Hotline, 608-820-2677

Events
Freeze for Food
Dave & Deb Hamilton, 873-5437 (home)
Family Brunch
Sheila Przesmicki, 244-6454 (home)
Cardinal Benefit
Kathleen Quinlan, 249-6437 (home)

Finance
Rose Ann Scott, 241-0845 (home)

Global Education
(your name here?)

Membership
Coordinator
Melanie Brooks, 257-8630 (home)
Membership Directory / Mailing Labels
Susan Mendrysa, 255-7053 (home)
e-mail: mendrysa@students.wisc.edu
Pre-Connect / Re-Connect
Sharon Lewandowski, 241-2392 (home)

Speakers' Bureau
(your name here?)

Visibility
Newsletter
Isabel Molina-Jefferson, 846-1736 (home)
e-mail: imolina@inexpress.net; wircpcv@execpc.com
WebSite
Dean Jefferson, 224-4787 (office)
e-mail: wircpcv@execpc.com

Campus Peace Corps Recruiter
Erik Jensen, 262-1121 (office)

Treasurer's Report

04/01/97 to 03/30/97

Calendar Bal Fwd
71,425.32
Calendar Sales +6,986.25
Calendar Refund -30.50
Interest +346.93
Newsletter Postage +108.68
Supplies -72.27
Phone -172.22
Advertising -580.80
Bank Charges -22.50
P.O. Box Rental -40.00
Postage -500.00
To Giftway -10,000.00
To Large Projects -13,000.00
To Annual Projects -2,000.00

Calendar Balance 52,448.89

Group Bal Fwd
1,114.73
Dues +289.25
NPCA Rebate +150.00
Donation* +100.00
Parents' Brunch +901.50
Jingles -850.00
NPCA Dues -307.50
Newsletter Postage -108.68

Group Balance 1,289.30

Global Education 2,096.20
Large Projects 20,414.00
Giftway 10,000.00

Annual Projects Bal Fwd
3,339.00
Freeze For Food 43.92
Annual Projects Balance 3,295.12

Freeze for Food 3,000.50

Projects Total 92,544.01

Account Balances
Checking 6,386.67
Market @4.83% 86,157.34

Accounts Balance 92,544.01

* Thanks to John Hermanson!

CALENDAR INVENTORY, May 1997

Print Run 20,350
Orders Shipped 17,088
Vendor Sales 433
Sales to Members 594
TOTAL Sales 18,115

Production 489
Informants 148
Marketing 120
Lost by P.O. 100
TOTAL Production 857

Donated Calendars 1,266
On Hand 112

GRAND TOTAL 20,350

Hankerin' to get involved? Have questions or comments on specific issues? Any great ideas for events or projects? Check out the list of officers/contacts above and call any of them directly -- this is your organization, and it's what you make it!
Happy Spring! And indeed, there are plenty of reasons to be happy, no? As you see, Isabel Molina-Jefferson has graciously offered to be our new editor after Earl Bricker goes to Milwaukee. Many thanks to her! CONGRATULATIONS to Earl, who is completing his master’s in public administration and health management. And heartfelt thanks again for his very conscientious and energetic coordination of our excellent newsletter. Hopefully we’ll continue to benefit from his presence in the group!

Felicidades to our newest family, Sharon Lewandowski and her daughter, Hannah. Hannah arrived in Madison this month, and has an instant family of “aunts and uncles” anxious to meet her and start doting!

Anyone up for going to the RPCV conference in San Diego (July 10 - 13)? I’m trying, but home responsibilities are going to be high that very week. Plus, I used my travel budget last month in D.C. I opened my mailbox one Saturday and found this lovely, engraved invitation from Hillary C. to the reception for our new program in Jordan, scheduled for the following Wednesday! After checking my neighbors’ mailbox to see if everyone on the block got one, I decided it was official, and rather impulsively made my reservations. Nice reception (actually more of a press conference): Hillary spoke, as did Mark Gearan and Donna Shalala and one of the “Jordan 1” group. I met some interesting folks that I may see again in San Diego if I go. A good trip, all in all.

I met recently with Rafe Montello of the Bayview Community Center. There are many opportunities for us to volunteer with the very multi-cultural population of the Bayview community, ranging from one day of working on the ethnic festival to ongoing programming with the youth. Check out the Community Center sometime -- it’s really impressive! I haven’t heard from any others in the group about starting an ongoing commitment to community work (yet). Give me a call! Enjoy the season! Deb Stapleton

The Peace Corps office in Minneapolis and the University of Wisconsin-Madison are looking for a full-time graduate student - also an RPCV - to serve as the campus representative for the Peace Corps on the Madison campus. The position requires about twenty hours of work per week, which includes holding office hours, conducting class talks and club talks, attending job fairs on campus, and generally promoting Peace Corps among UW students. In addition, the campus representative serves as a liaison between the Minneapolis office and the UW administration, and between the Minneapolis office and the Madison RPCV group. Applicants should have had a positive Peace Corps experience (or a willingness to reconstruct one in retrospect) and a desire to share that experience with interested individuals. Applicants should also have a lot of energy, good interpersonal skills, and a reasonably flexible schedule. The representative does most of his/her work during weekday business hours, but also has engagements during weekday evenings and some weekends.

This position is designated as a Project Assistant, which means the campus representative receives tuition remission (i.e. an in-state tuition rate), medical and dental coverage, and a salary of about $1100/month. The campus representative only works during the academic year (September 1 - June 1). Again, the person holding this position must be a full-time graduate student.

Applicants must submit a resume, a letter of interest, and a one-page description of how they would approach campus recruiting here at the UW to Lynn Nelson at 240 Agriculture Hall, 1450 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706-1562. The deadline for applying is June 30th.

If you have any questions at all or would like to talk more about this opening, please contact Erik Jensen, the current campus representative, at 262-1121 (work) or 259-9687 (home).
Extending Draft Animal Power to Women and their Gardens in Tanzania

Tillers International, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, shares expertise in ox-driving, blacksmithing, and traditional woodworking with those who cannot afford expensive equipment. To meet the goals of long term sustainability, Tillers encourages an attitude of local experimentation by offering a range of accessible technical options. The proposed project focuses on a common African problem of men leaving rural areas for work, leaving women with stewardship of fields and gardens without the energy resources to build the fertility and water management needed for increased productivity. It offers optional approaches to extend the use of draft animal power to women and to establish more reliable water supplies and fertility for their gardens.

Men argue that draft animals are dangerous for women to work. Indeed, the accelerated practices for training oxen that have been introduced by most agencies in Africa over the last few decades have resulted in skittish and untrustworthy animals that are frequently a risk to work. Tillers has adapted animal training methods which start the human-animal relationship with oxen as young as two months. Early training is not only safer and easier, it clearly results in more responsive animals at maturity. However, for early training to be viable, the young animals need to be useful to their families while they mature. Their energy applied to these domestic tasks can be invested in farm and garden improvements while freeing women of traditional burdens. For example, in 1995, Tillers built a small cart to carry 200 liter water drums while training yearling calves in Uganda. (RPCVs of WI spent $500 to fund the design and extension bulletin for this cart.)

Young oxen and women can also team up to increase production in intensive garden cropping by better managing scarce or untimely rainfall, mulching, and manuring. Tillers has been collecting, adapting, and testing designs of excavating implements. This grant would give them an opportunity to test the usefulness of these options in the eyes of people in their home environments. Combined with the added utility calf-trained oxen, this should give opportunities to improve the productivity of small farms and gardens. A cluster of people and organizations at the Chanjale Appropriate Technology Center, attached to a vocational training school in the foothills of northeast Tanzania, has the capacity and interest to test these possibilities. In addition to the center and the school, an environmental NGO, ENIMASHA, headed by Grace Mngara, a biology teacher, is very active in promoting options in gardening and water issues to local women. The director of the appropriate technology center, Leone Mvungu, has worked with animal-powered technologies at Tillers for several months and has a good appreciation of the potential.

This project will focus on two weeks of instruction for a broader group of participants including farmers, gardeners, artisans, and extensionists. During two weeks of on-site preparation, project artisans will help build tools and implements for use. Involving them in the preparation for a training session builds flexible and critical attitudes toward change that will remain on site. Since these students are competent in mechanics and gardening, they will learn the new opportunities quickly. Costs will be modest given the project’s on-site resources. A Chanjale training session will require $14,000. A challenge grant of $5000 from the RPCV's of WI will draw the commitments of others.

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| Fees            | 0    | 1,600 | 1,600    |
| Donors          | 0    | 7,400 | 7,400    |
| Grants          | 5,000| 0     | 5,000    |
| **Total Revenues** | **5,000** | **9,000** | **14,000** |

Tillers/Chanjale Budget
**Out With The Old, In With The New**

**Kids, let this be a lesson to you!** Whine and cry long and loud enough, and someone will pick you up! I’m pleased to inform you that the monthly newsletter will continue under new management: Isabel Molina-Jefferson, and her trusty sidekick, Dean Jefferson. I’ll let her introduce herself in the following paragraphs. I’ve enjoyed doing this job for the past few months, and I appreciate the feedback people have given me. I will be living in the Milwaukee area after June 1, but I’ll return sometimes for meetings and special events, although I do look forward to meeting the Milwaukee folks and getting involved with them. And now, heeere’s Isabel! **Thanks -- Earl Bricker**

******************************

Earl suggested I write an introduction in this issue of the newsletter, so here it is! My name is Isabel Molina-Jefferson. Many of you probably never heard my name before, but for at least 15 years I’ve been a "shadow" member. I’ve seen the different formats & styles of a few editors; even Dean was the editor for a short while.

Two reasons prompted me to volunteer for the editor’s job: 1) I felt Earl has done a tremendous job with the newsletter; it would be sad to see all his good work disappear, so I’ll try to continue it. 2) I knew Dean would help me! I know it’s not an easy job, and it is time-consuming, so it’s good to have help.

I am no stranger to newsletter writing and editing; for a couple years I did the newsletter for the UW Housing Division, and I enjoyed the work. In my current job with the UW I don’t have any newsletter duties, so this will be a good way to release some of my creative energy.

I have no big changes in mind. Dean and I have discussed the possibility of incorporating parts of the newsletter into the website. I welcome any suggestions and any help people can give me. So far I have recruited Dean and Terry Stark. Lori Merriam and Deb Stapleton have also offered to help. You can reach me via email at either imolina@inxpress.net or wirpcv@execpc.com or via telephone at (608) 846-1736. I’m looking forward to this! **Isabel Molina-Jefferson**

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**Special Events**

Saturday, June 21 -- **Hojō** (Zen sword art) and **shakuhachi** (flute) **demonstrations**. Part of the **Zen, Ken, Sho Exhibition**. Paige Court, Elvehjem Museum, Madison; 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 22 -- Demonstration of **kyudo** (Zen archery), followed by **hitosyendo** (calligraphy) demonstration with simultaneous **shakuhachi** (flute) background. Part of the **Zen, Ken, Sho Exhibition**. Paige Court, Elvehjem Museum, Madison; 1:30 p.m.

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**Let’s Go to the Movies!**

The College Year in India/Nepal Programs is sponsoring a South Asia Summer Film Series. Admission is free, and all are welcome. Tuesdays (starting June 10 and going through August 5; no film on June 17) at 7:30 p.m. in Room 5206 of the Social Science Building on the UW campus. Call 265-3062 for a schedule of topics and movies, or for more information.

The African Studies Department also sponsors a Summer Film Series, also free and open to the public. Their series takes place in Grainger Hall on three Thursdays in July (10, 17, 24), all at 7 p.m. Call 262-2380 for film titles and more information.

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**Large Donation Proposal #2**

This will be brief: I propose to donate $2,400 to “The Asian Club.” This is an activity group for Southeast Asian boys and girls living on the north side of Madison. They are children of traumatized refugees who must contribute a great deal of their time and energy to their families. This group provides an opportunity for supervised play after school on Fridays. It is intended to socialize, promote cross-ethnic friendships, allow ego development in social interaction and be a chance for fun in a setting where these children are the majority. This request for funding would support the 4th year at Lakeview School.

At the March meeting those attending heard Roger Garris and Sarith Ou speak about the needs of the Southeast Asian kids. This proposal is for that play group they described; the notion of our RPCV group sponsoring a second play group is a separate effort.

(continued on Page 9)
engaged in this desperate attempt to gather a little cash to keep body and soul together. While I sympa-
thized with the kids engaged in this activity, it is not a very efficient way to attack the problem of road
repair. I also saw fields of wheat which looked strong and healthy scattered among olive groves in the
area east of Jalalabad. The olive trees looked strong and healthy as well. So all has not been lost.

Every few miles there is a checkpoint manned by Taliban militiamen. Usually these consist of a few men
standing around with automatic weapons with a cable stretched across the road. Each vehicle has to gain
permission to proceed. For vehicles like ours which was clearly marked as belonging to an NGO, the
permission generally consisted of a casual wave to proceed. For people traveling in commercial vehicles
like vans and buses, the people had to get out, submit to a body search and wait while the militiamen
checked under and inside the vehicle to make sure no weapons, explosives or other contraband was on
board. Other “Contraband” includes music tapes, and every one of the cables strung across the road was
festooned with cassette tape which had been confiscated from earlier vehicles and then wound around the
cable. Our drivers would take the precaution of removing the tape from the tape deck and sliding it under
the seat as we approached a checkpoint and then pulling it out and reinserting it once we were past. Some-
how I don’t think the Taliban’s drive to suppress music on tapes will ever be totally successful. Of course,
as we drove through the countryside we saw some other evidence of Taliban’s ineffectiveness. These
righteous people are deadset against the cultivation of opium, yet plainly visible from the one main road in
the area were numerous fields of opium poppy in full flower in what looked like a good crop. Junkies,
relax. Your supply is safe.

Twenty years ago Afghanistan was self-sufficient in wheat production and even exported a bit to India and
Pakistan. Today the price of wheat is extremely high, and Afghanistan is dependent on the goodwill of
neighboring countries to see that the wheat supply coming into Afghanistan is not interrupted. However,
while I was in Afghanistan there were food riots in Peshawar because a major shipment of wheat from
abroad did not arrive in the port of Karachi at the time expected and the ripples that sent through the whole
wheat and flour supply system were felt very strongly in Kabul. In Pakistan, the middlemen who move
the wheat about saw an opportunity to make a killing. Make a killing they did. The price of flour in
Pakistan went through the roof, and in Peshawar there wasn’t even flour available through the usual out-
lets. Pakistan stopped all export of wheat to Afghanistan as a response to the crisis. Of course this caused
the price of wheat and flour to ratchet up in Afghanistan also. There was resulting hardship among the
poor in both Pakistan and Afghanistan. The hope for any kind of economic recovery in Afghanistan
seems to me to stand on at least two very important legs. Bread and Security. If Afghanistan were self-
sufficient in wheat production, many other problems would be alleviated, although clearly not solved. If
there is not a “reasonable expectation of physical security” among the people who plant and harvest the
wheat then the goal of self-sufficient wheat production cannot be approached.

As an NGO trying to improve the overall situation in Afghanistan, DHSA cannot have much impact on the
security situation except by example and moral weight. Not very persuasive for immediate gains in this
area. So we concentrate on trying to improve the wheat production to the greatest extent possible. We do
this in two main ways. We work in cooperation with other NGOs and with International Agencies like
FAO to isolate the strains of wheat which are best suited to the individual regions and then try to multiply
these seeds and get them into the hands of the farmers who must do the actual work of rebuilding Afghan-
istan’s wheat production capacity. We survey the irrigation systems to locate points where these systems
need improvements or rehabilitation in order to function properly and efficiently. And then we provide
the engineering expertise and the capital investment to construct concrete gates, protection walls, aque-
ducts, siphons and culverts to protect and expand the irrigation systems. Our wheat experimentation and
multiplication efforts are not thrilling to say the least. I was disheartened to see that in three sets of 216
experimental plots in three different areas, not one of the 648 plots seemed to approach the level of vigor

(continued on the next page)
(At Large, continued from the previous page)

and health that farmers fields had all around in the area. When I explored this situation with our agricultural people I learned that the experimental plots were planted almost two months late. This is not a good thing. For one thing, it makes any results useless because it introduces an unplanned variable. For another, how can we hold field days and invite the local farmers to review the plots and urge them to use new seeds and varieties when their own wheat clearly outshines ours. If I were a farmer in that situation my reaction would be, “Huh, not even one of these plots is as good as mine. These people clearly don’t know what they are doing.” This is a credibility issue that is very critical in this context. So I am saying at every opportunity: If the experiments cannot be properly conducted it is better not to conduct them at all. It is desirable to do wheat experimentation in a variety of areas because of varying soil conditions, altitudes, growing seasons, pests endemic to the area, etc. But there is information available from FAO and others about improvements that can be made. So we should be very careful to conserve our credibility in this area.

On the other hand the nurseries established to provide fruit and nut tree saplings seem to have been functioning successfully. I am no horticulturist but the nurseries I saw had been well tended, the grafting which took place last fall, seems to be clean and healthy. And most important of all, this program is popular with the area farmers. At one nursery a man was taking the 70 saplings that the program allows him at the agreed upon price which is subsidized slightly. He was arguing with the director of the nursery project and trying to wheedle more saplings out of us. He said he would plant them on his own land and other farmers in the area could come and view them as a demonstration. When we have farmers eager to get saplings and trying to get more than the agreement calls for, it is a good sign that the program has credibility and that its products are worthwhile. The sapling distribution and vegetable seed distribution which are done in conjunction with it are important projects in their own right. However, it appears to me that they should be secondary to wheat production. Although they improve the diet of those with access to their fruits and also make it possible for farmers to bring locally grown produce to market, thus allowing them some income, they do not have the same level of importance to the overall economy as does bread.

(The remainder of Don’s latest missive will have to be continued in the July issue, Isabel willing. He had two months worth of words, but as interesting as it is, I couldn’t justify the additional postage that comes with an excess of 5 sheets of paper in an issue. Thanks for your understanding.)

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International Calendar Steering Committee

Minutes, Meeting of May 12, 1997

Present were Rose Ann Scott, Rochelle Goedken, Walt Zeltner, Prudence Barber, and Buck Trawicky.

Production of the 1998 Calendar: the Printer will get all material at the very end of May. Calendars will be delivered by late June or very early in July, in time for the Conference. Print Run will be 23,000, perhaps somewhat more if the NPCA commits itself to substantially more than they ordered last year.

We discussed formalizing our relationship with the NPCA, regarding the Calendar. For years we have sent them a check reflecting our sales. This was originally intended as a payment for their active participation in marketing, but reality and intention have long been somewhat different. What started as a "royalty" evolved into a "donation." Rochelle, Barbara, and Rose Ann will be in touch with NPCA people to work out our relationship.

We also discussed inventory totals, a still-to-be done end of cycle financial report, and the budget for the 98 Calendar. Prudence has sought to interest large chain bookstores in carrying the Calendar, but with no success so far.

-- Buck Trawicky
Minutes, etc

General Meeting Minutes of 6 May 1997

We met at Union South. 17 were present.

Speakers Bureau: (Erik Jensen) (1) Speaker wanted, on campus, June 18 Wednesday, afternoon. Call Eric (262-1121). We'll get paid $99 if we do it. (2) Eric is leaving (sighs of sadness), and he's to be replaced, as of September. His is an open position (see page 3 for details).

Party!: Sheila Przesmicki announced the 3rd Annual Wisconsin Party, on June 28, at 541 Oak Street, Madison (244-6454). The theme is Wisconsin: bring a hot dish, jello with marshmallows, etc.

Dane County Immunization Coalition: (Helene Pesche) They seek volunteers, especially as Spanish translators in Marshall. Call Helene.

Newsletter Editor: Earl Bricker is leaving for the Milwaukee area. Isabel Molina-Jefferson will take over. (Cheers of relief. And applause for Earl's superb job.)

Washington Trip: Deb Stapleton, our President, went to the White House, to celebrate Peace Corps' entering Jordan. She reported. Didn't have much face time with the President, though.

Working with Hmong kids: (Dave Wakeley): We spoke about this last meeting, and Dave looked into it further. We had discussed our group taking on a group commitment of helping Hmong refugee kids, many of whom have trouble adjusting to life here. (1) What we can do: any kind of programs, sports, art, games, homework help... (2) Numbers needed: ideally, several adults (4 or 5) for each Friday, 3-5 p.m., during school weeks, starting in September. [Another day could be chosen; Friday works well for the kids in the current program we learned about.] (3) Where we could do it: Bayview Community Center would serve as host. (4) Who'd participate?: Dave will help get things set up, but remember that he's moving to Rhode Island. (5) This could be an activity for parents in our group to bring their own kids to. Ideally most of the volunteers would come from within our group, but not necessarily all of them.

Next meeting: Mike Boehm will talk to us about projects in Vietnam.

NPCA Conference: San Diego, July 10-13. No one but Deb was thinking of going (and she strained her budget going to the White House). We wanted her to go and represent us at the Conference, and agreed that at the next meeting we'd vote on the MOTION, proposed by Dean Mahon and Dean Jefferson, that our group pay for her registration, and a reasonable price for lodging. Total not to exceed $500.

Giftway: We voted AYE to make the donations proposed in the Special Mailing, with these changes: The Youth Hostel donation was tabled until additional information is presented. Regarding Spanish Speaking Mothers, we approved $350, and urged the sponsor to resubmit a proposal for the $900. The Pets proposal was not approved.

Calendar Proceeds: We also voted AYE to present the National Peace Corps Association with $3500 as budgeted from Calendar proceeds, following past practice.

Camping Trip: (Terry Stark): Remember, it's on June 13-15. Call Terry at 233-9140 to sign up.

Habitat For Humanity: (Dave Wakeley): No days are free until at least mid-July.

And that was it. -- Buck Trawicky, Secretary

Peter Joyce wrote to report that the Guatemala Fund Raiser at the Wil-Mar Center raised $497.14 for the Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo. With his $500 match, they've received $997.14 so far for the case of Moises Perez Amador, who was murdered in November 1996 for his community development work. Thanks to all of the RPCVs who contributed financially to this fund and all those who attended the event. A special thanks to Helene Pesche and Rose Ann Scott who cooked the rice and beans, Guatemalan style. Peter will keep contributors updated.
Where Does the $ Go.....?

Your Money Works for So Many.....
by Sheila Przesmicki

Last fall, amidst a bit of controversy, we awarded (correct me if I’m wrong) $500 toward room and board to Melissa Cowell, daughter of one of our members, for her research while spending time in Siberia. In March 1997, we received a letter (edited for space) from “Li” herself.

Dear RPCVs,

“...while in Siberia, I lived and worked with a family of soil scientists who were the primary recipients of the RPCV grant that helped cover my room & board expenses while in their home. As their salaries had not been paid for months, they needed the money. The Semenov family live in a modest 3-room flat in Irkutsk, a city of 700,000 people located on the Angara River about 30 miles from Lake Baikal in southeastern Siberia. Both my host parents, Yuri and Ludmilla, work for the East Siberian Geography Institute and specialize in identifying and mapping different soils in the Lake Baikal watershed. Their oldest son is also studying soil science, although his focus is on humic soils in agricultural areas. I accompanied and helped the Semenovs on numerous data gathering trips and participated in a seminar at a local university.

“...I arrived in Russia around election time when people in the various institutes anticipated a possible return of communist control and, therefore, subsidized support from a centralized government. They believed that, under Zynganov, scientists would again receive State support denied them under Yeltsin.... unfortunately (for the scientists in particular), Yeltsin retained his presidency. Scientists in each institute have been forced to compete for resources in order to continue their research and to help support a depressed economy in isolated Irkutsk, nearly 4,000 miles from Moscow. Their solution is tourism.

“...The Semenovs have studied the effects of agriculture and this increasing tourism on the more popular areas of Lake Baikal for the past 15 years. During our data gathering trips, we measured soil fertility, chemical composition, water percolation and runoff, depth of the various soil layers, and the changes that have occurred in the soil during various settlement eras since man first came to the lake. Excavations of a prehistoric settlement are underway on Olkhon Island to determine what the soil looked like before industry came to the area during World War II.

“Today, the primary concern over Lake Baikal is responsible and sustainable use of the resources it has to offer, while protecting its unique and fragile ecosystem and its obvious importance in terms of water supply and biodiversity. The Semenovs’ research will no doubt contribute to the education development of the Baikal area and influence further research and development. It was a privilege to be allowed to participate.

“I wish to thank the RPCVs for their grant. I know it was awkward awarding the grant to a group member’s daughter, but rest assured that the money went to REAP International, the sponsoring 501(c)(3) organization, and from them directly to my host family. With my parents’ contribution, your money helped a worthwhile project and should make all of you as proud of your involvement in helping to protect Lake Baikal as I am of mine. I hope in the future that the RPCV group will find acceptable ways to sponsor and support similar projects of members and their families. Bringing the world back home should not exclude members of my generation. Again, thank you.”

Sincerely,

Li (Melissa Cowell)

(Large Donation Proposal #2, continued)
The $2,400 breaks down as follows:
Summer activities $230.00
(This would be the first time summer activities are offered; the money would go toward swimming lessons.)
Food 1,520.00
($1 per kid, at an average of 40 kids a week for 38 weeks)
Movie Passes $400.00
(40 $10 coupon books from Budget Cinemas, for those rainy/snowy days - also a first for this group.)
Van Maintenance $250.00
(They already have donated use of a van, but repairs are their responsibility.)
I’ll be at the June meeting to answer any questions. Thanks for your consideration - Earl Bricker.
Many will be shocked to find,
When the day of judgment nears,
That there’s a special place in heaven
Set aside for volunteers.
Furnished with big recliners,
Satin couches and footstools,
Where there are no committee chairs,
No yard sales or coffee to serve,
No library duty or bulletin assembly.
There will be nothing to print or staple,
Not one thing to fold and mail,
Telephone lists will be outlawed.
But a finger snap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners
And rare treats fit for a king or queen.
You ask, Who’ll serve these privileged few
And work for all they’re worth?
Why, all those who reaped the benefits,
And not once volunteered on Earth.

- from an Ann Landers column, by way of the WNPJ Network News

The next
General Membership Meeting
will be on
Wednesday, June 4 @ 7 p.m.
Union South, 227 N. Randall Avenue, Madison
Check Today in the Union (TTTU) for the specific room.

Mike Boehm
will update us on the status of the
My Lai Peace Park
(hopefully with pictures...)
This is a project to which our group has contributed in the past, and conceivably again in the future, so come and find out more.

In addition, there is a teensy little bit of business to conduct. (details inside)
Pat Crowley Smolenski, one of our group’s ‘founding’ members, is coming from Michigan -- come to the meeting and say Hi!

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
of Wisconsin - Madison
Isabel Molina-Jefferson, Editor
P.O. Box 1012
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-1012

Organizational member of
the Wisconsin Network for
Peace & Justice (WNPJ)

Rose Ann Scott
2714 Oakridge
Madison, WI 53704

July will see a resumption of the Canoe Trip. Henry Nehls-Lowe is coordinating it this time around, and he’d like to see you and your family join this family-friendly event on the weekend of July 26 & 27. Call him at 835-5976 to reserve your paddles or for more information.