Message from the President

Holiday Greetings, Madison RPCVs!

This fall began with another fresh, fast start of our membership year, kicking off with our annual picnic in September. We had a beautiful, warm day with a great turnout, a delicious dinner, and an amazing display of international flags. The potluck is always a great way to reconnect with many members, and meet some eager new RPCVs, too! We have a lot of ways to get connected and stay involved with your local Peace Corps community, so please try to find some time to join one or more of our social and philanthropic events, and consider taking on one of our open membership committee roles. ‘Tis the season for giving!

I started out as your new president taking that excitement as motivation for a roadtrip to Washington DC for the Peace Corps 50th Anniversary celebration. I picked up an RPCV-Thailand friend to share the driving and join the adventure. Thanks to our former membership coordinator Bekah and her Senegal RPCV pals, we had some comfortable couches for crashing. Our formal activities started with an escape from the rain to see the “Out of Archives” at the Smithsonian. Sadly, the exhibit was only a few dozen items on a couple tables in the lobby, with many expressions of disappointment from visitors stating they have more PC memorabilia in their own attics! However, it was fun to chat with other RPCVs and when they learned I was from our Madison group, they shared their admiration of our wonderful calendar.

The Peace Corps Reunion formal event was well-attended at the Architecture Museum, and I chatted again with current Director Aaron Williams, ’93-95 Director Carol Bellamy, and also had a surprise rendezvous with one of my Bulgarian language trainers from when I was a PC trainee. We also made a stop at the Peace Corps office, had a small nighttime reunion with some of my fellow B-9s (Bulgaria 1999-2001), and visited Kennedy’s eternal flame before the Parade of Flags.

Back here in Madison, I worked a fun PC recruiting event at the new Union South offering ideas for students post-graduation, and our Peace Corps table was visited by dozens. Recently WI Public Radio featured Peace Corp stories for listeners and several of our members shared their tales. Coming up for our group is our Holiday Party, a festive tradition scheduled for Sat. Dec. 10th at 6pm, hosted again by the gracious Sophie Zermuehlen. Family and friends are welcome; bring a dish to pass and a white elephant gift to exchange. Also, mark your calendars for the annual Freeze for Food 5K/10K event on Sat. Jan. 20th which raises money for Columbia Support Network. We gather at Vilas Park Shelter, and the more the merrier!

As a friendly reminder, please renew your membership dues if you haven’t already, as it is an amazing return on your $15 to be able to contribute $1000 each year to a PC Partnership project of your choosing. We sincerely hope to see you soon.

Best,

Heather

Heather with Director Aaron Williams

Dates in Brief

December
6 - Calendar Com Mtng
10 - Holiday Party
11 - Book Club

January
5 - Ethnic Dinner
TBA Living WO Borders*
TBA Poster Com Mtng – Char’s
10 - Calendar Committee
18 - General Meeting
21 - Freeze for Food
22 - Photo Picks
28 - Book Club

February
2 - Ethnic Dinner
TBA Living WO Borders*
5 - Poster Com Mtng – Char’s
14 - Calendar Committee
15 - General Meeting
25 - Book Club
* Details inside

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Membership! Back Page
**RPCVs of WI – Madison Officers & Contacts**

**Elected Officers**
- President: Heather Hempel Gomez  
  - rpcvmsnprez@gmail.com  
  - msholden@aol.com  
- Vice President: Mark Holden  
  - 843.3973  
  - msholden@aol.com  
- Secretary: Meghan Meeker  
  - 630.7707  
  - meghanmeeker@yahoo.com  
- Treasurer: Lee Row  
  - 232.9065  
  - leerow@sbcglobal.net  
- Board Member: Walt Zeltner  
  - 873.5257  
  - zdogg47@gmail.com  
  - ljmoscoe@gmail.com  
  - annzam2001@yahoo.com  
- Board Member: Lauren Moscoe  
  - 252.5707  
  - ljmoscoe@gmail.com

**Event Chairs**
- Family Brunch: Mark Holden  
  - msholden@aol.com
- Freeze for Food: Rick Lackey  
  - 213.8878  
  - meisa@charter.net  
  - peterjoyce@sbcglobal.net  
  - txrutter@att.net  
- Tabling Events: Troy Rutter  
  - 245.9964
- International Dinners: Melissa Ganshert  
- MorePeaceCorps: Judy Figi

**Other Contacts**
- Calendar Coordinator: Ron Chance  
  - 335-7662  
  - uwcommunitysocialwork@hotmail.com  
  - rpcvcalendars@gmail.com  
- Cal. Customer Service: Holly Banaszak Tuncsoy  
  - 705.305.6107  
  - rpcvcalendar@gmail.com  
- Poster Coordinator: Char Thompson  
- Donation Coordinator: Walt Zeltner  
  - 873.5257  
- Speakers Bureau: Craig & Chris Gjerde  
- Book Club: Mary Ann Feutz  
- Membership: Crystal Plion  
- Newsletter Editor: Help Wanted!
- Peace Corps Recruiter: Kim Johnson  
  - 262.1121  
  - peacecorps@international.wisc.edu  
  - terry.stark@yahoo.com
- Registered Agent: Terry Stark  
  - 233.9140

**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

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**Buy Calendars for $5**

One of the nicest perks of membership.  
You can buy the lovely RPCV International Calendar for a mere $5 – so it’s easy to supply everyone on your gift list.  
**Calendars available from:**

**East Side**
- Troy Rutter  
  - 608.245.9964
- Holly Banaszak-Tuncsoy  
  - 715.305.6107

**West Side**
- Sophia Zermuehlin  
  - 608.233.7886
Meeting Minutes

September Meeting
September 11, 2011

Glenn Bechler, Can Bora, Mary Chan, Beth and Ron Chance, Mary Crave, Melissa Ganshert, Craig & Cristel Gjerde, Rochelle Goedken, Heather Hempel & Issac Gomez, Matt Hadlock, Mark Holden & Cindy Johnson, Dean Jefferson, Kim Johnson, Margot Kennard, Chris Kirchgasler, Rebecca Martin, Meghan Meeker, Mark Miller, Lauren Moscoe, Helene Pesche, Crystal Pilon, Amy Porter, Marcy and Mike Reed, Hope, Isabelle, Ryan, & Nathan Reed, Lee & Rick Row, Troy Rutter, Kate Schachter, Judy Stadler, Karl Stark, Char Thompson, Ana Zambie & Jacob & Pablo Olivares attended

President Ana Zambie called the meeting to order in the McGaw Park Shelter in Fitchburg.

2010-11 Group Accomplishments
Ana began with a quote from Theodore Roosevelt, “Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.” She then highlighted some of our group’s many accomplishments during the 2010-11 fiscal year:

Our group collaborated with Aleia McCord and the UW-Madison African Studies Program to coordinate the Peace Corps and Africa: Honoring 50 Years conference in Madison on March 24-26, 2011. Keynote speakers included Aaron Williams, Director of the Peace Corps, and Johnny Carson, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. Our group received a framed Peace Corps certificate of appreciation from Aaron Williams for this event.

With Donna Page of Lakeside Art Restoration Studio, we organized the Bringing the World Back Home art showcase, which opened at Promega in Fitchburg on March 24, 2011. Our group members exhibited art objects - including paintings, statuary, textiles, pottery, masks, and furniture - from their countries of service.

With leadership from Kate Schachter and the 50th Anniversary Committee, our group participated in an NPCA House Party, as part of the International Festival at the Overture Center in Madison on March 5, 2011.

With leadership from Lauren Moscoe, we participated in the NPCA Around the World Expo at the Monona Terrace in Madison on March 27, 2011. Group members attended the group-building workshop, set up display tables about their countries of service, and talked with people interested in joining the Peace Corps.

With leadership from Mark Holden, our group hosted a Family Brunch for Peace Corps nominees and their families at The Coliseum Bar in Madison on May 1, 2011.

With leadership from Rebecca Martin, we shared our Peace Corps experiences during a variety of speaking events at the Madison Children’s Museum, public libraries, and other venues.

With leadership from Troy Rutter and Kate Schachter, we set up tables and talked with the public at community events, including the Atwood Summerfest and Willy Street Fair.

We collaborated with Kim Johnson, the Peace Corps recruiter at UW-Madison, on the Send Off Party and Peace Corps Ambassadors program.

Ana thanked the many volunteers from our group, who - through their hard work - made these accomplishments possible.

Treasury
Treasurer Lee Row reported that our group’s accounts are in order. She is happy to provide a copy of the financial statements to any interested group members. Contact Lee at leerow@sbcglobal.net. Lee invited group members to donate $1,000 to a Peace Corps Partnership project of their choice during this meeting. She passed around a list of current projects in need of funding.

No More Deaths
Judy Stadler, Ana, and Kate spoke in favor of a report that will be issued by the advocacy organization No More Deaths on September 21, documenting abuse of illegal immigrants in short-term detention on the U.S.-Mexican border. They encouraged us to endorse the report as individuals and to consider putting our group name behind it as well. We had the opportunity to sign petitions of support for No More Deaths and its report.

Election of 2011-12 Officers
Ana and Lee led the election of group officers for the 2011-12 fiscal year. By acclamation, we elected these officers: Heather Hempel Gomez as president; Mark Holden as vice president; Meghan Meeker as secretary, and Lauren Moscoe as Board member. Lee will begin the second half of her two-year term as Treasurer, and Walt Zeltner will continue as a Board member. We thanked Helene Pesche for her previous service on Board. Ana passed the president’s gavel to Heather, who made opening remarks and invited us to contact her at a new e-mail address: rpcvmsnpres@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities
We are seeking volunteers to coordinate the following: calendar marking and sales, speakers bureau, art exhibit posters, World
Roots newsletter. We thanked Melissa Ganssler for offering to coordinate the monthly International Dinners at ethnic restaurants in the Madison area.

Adjournment
Lee motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 PM, Mark Miller seconded, and all approved.

October Meeting
October 19, 2011
Ron Chance, Sue Chase, Heather Hempel Gomez, Jim Hitchman, Mark Holden, Meghan Meeker, Lauren Moscoe, Kate Schachter, Judy Stadler, and Walt Zeltner attended.

Call to Order
President Heather Hempel Gomez called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM in the Beefeaters Room of the UW Memorial Union.

Approval of Prior Meeting’s Minutes
Kate moved to approve the September 11th meeting minutes with several modifications to the attendance list. Mark seconded, and all approved. Meghan will post the updated minutes to the file library on our Yahoo Groups site.

Treasury
Heather read a report from Treasurer Lee Row, who was unable to attend due to illness. Our account balances at the end of the fiscal year (September 30, 2011) were $37,953 for the calendar, $4,537 for the group, $2,730 for the posters, $341 for the 50th anniversary, $600 for global education, $0 for annual projects, $0 for Peace Corps Partnerships, and $0 for the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) grant, and $1,200 for the Freeze for Food event. Lee has sent a $50,000 check to the Office of Private Sector Initiatives for the Peace Corps Partnerships program, but they have not yet confirmed receipt. Heather shared an invoice from Donna Page for her services as curator of the Bringing Back the World art exhibit. We have paid $1,000 toward a total due of $3,000. As decided at the August 2011 meeting, we will continue paying Donna in $500 installments, as revenue is generated by the 50th Anniversary Committee.

Membership
Heather reported that Crystal Pilon, who was unable to attend tonight’s meeting, has posted the updated group membership roster on Google Docs. The roster is shared with Board members and, upon request, with others who have a legitimate need.

Calendar Committee
Ron Chance reported that the Calendar Committee continues to sell and ship 2012 calendars.

Poster Committee
Kate Schachter reported that the Poster Committee has paid all of its bills/obligations, except the $5,000 loan to our group. The committee will exhibit and sell posters at two upcoming events: the International Children and Young Adult Book Festival in November and the Wisconsin Council for Social Studies in March. Kate would like to transfer several pallets of posters from her garage to the storage shed and/or Suttle-Straus, in order to better protect them from weather damage during winter.

50th Anniversary Committee
Kate gave highlights from the 50th anniversary activities in Washington, D.C. last month, including legislative advocacy and sales of our calendar. She shared the Summer 2011 edition of Worldview, the NPCA magazine, which features photos from NPCA Around the World Expos, including the one that our group helped to coordinate on March 27.

Insurance and Financial Audits
Ron recommended that we seek insurance to protect our group from liability and property loss. Ron offered to request estimates from three insurance agencies and bring them to the next meeting for our review. Ron asked if our group’s finances are being audited by a CPA; Mark offered to follow up with Ana and/or Lee to ascertain this. We discussed the possibility of recruiting a volunteer intern—perhaps a MATC or UW student—to integrate the calendar, poster, and group accounting into a single system.

Refugee Subcommittee
Judy Stadler proposed, “Be it resolved that the RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison form a Subcommittee on Immigrant and Refugee Concerns that has the power and ability to speak and act for RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison on matters related to immigrants and refugees.” The subcommittee’s responsibilities would be (1) report monthly on issues, opportunities, and actions; (2) communicate with members via the listserv, newsletter, and other social media; (3) communicate with partner organizations; and (4) obtain approval on all expenses from the members and Board. Lauren Moscoe and Sue Chase described several prospective activities that the subcommittee might undertake, like tutoring refugees and/or advocating against anti-immigrant legislation in Wisconsin. Mark expressed concern about our group becoming involved in such a controversial, politically charged topic—especially if the subcommittee is given authority to “speak” for the group as a whole. In response to discussion, Kate suggested modifying the resolution to read, “Be it resolved that the RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison form a Subcommittee on Immigrant and Refugee Concerns that will interface with social justice groups to identify areas of mutual collaboration on matters related to immigrants and refugees.” We decided to circulate the modified resolution within our Board for feedback and then post it to the listserv for further comment, in preparation for voting at the next meeting.

Holiday Party
We will hold our annual holiday party in early December at the home of Sophie Zermuehlin (317 Bordner Drive, Madison). The date has not yet been finalized. We invite participants to bring a dish and “white elephant” gift to share.

World Roots Newsletter
If anyone wishes to submit material (i.e. articles, announcements, photos, or ads) for the next World Roots newsletter, please send it to Lee at leerow@sbcglobal.net by October 24. We are seeking a
volunteer to edit the newsletter in 2012; any interested individuals should contact Lee.

November Meeting

November 16, 2011
Heather Hempel Gomez, Mark Holden, Meghan Meeker, Lauren Moscoe, Crystal Pilon, Lee Row, Kate Schachter, Judy Stadler, and Walt Zeltner attended.

President Heather Hempel Gomez called the meeting to order in the Agriculture Room of the UW Union South.

Approval of Prior Meeting’s Minutes
After discussion, we adjusted the meeting minutes from October 19, 2011. Lee motioned to approve the revised minutes, Crystal seconded, and all approved.

Treasury
Treasurer Lee Row reported that calendars can now be purchased via our website. The Peace Corps Partnership program has acknowledged receipt of our $50,000 donation from the 2011 Calendar proceeds. Lee and Mark are collecting price estimates for an audit of our financial accounts. Lee plans to talk with contacts at other nonprofit organizations to learn whether they undertake audits.

Membership
Membership Coordinator Crystal Pilon reported that our group currently has 60 members, including 9 first-year (free) members. Crystal has updated the membership roster’s format and content. We considered whether to send a reminder to the approximately 180 individuals on the roster who have not yet renewed their membership. After discussion, we decided to e-mail a reminder and, if that is not effective in increasing the renewal rate, we will mail postcards. Kate has created a MailChimp account our group can use to send email campaigns. Crystal announced that she will take a job in Saudi Arabia in January 2012.

Calendar Committee
Ron Chance provided the following report via e-mail, since he was unable to attend the meeting: “The next calendar committee will take place on Tuesday, December 6th, 7 p.m. at Ron Chance’s house located at 205 Dixon, Madison (tel. 335-7662).

“Holly reports that calendar sales are going well somewhat ahead of last year. Marketing brochures were sent earlier this year so this could account for increased orders. As of 11/01/11, 26,266 calendars have been sold generating revenue of $81,283. Current inventory at Park Street facility as of November 18th is 34 boxes or 1800 calendars. Committee members have limited inventory at their homes. Inventory is also available at Alan Weiner’s warehouse. Lee observes that December has historically been very busy month for calendar sales.

“Matt reports that calendars sent by UPS may bend in transit. Members also report that shipping calendars via the United States Postal Service (USPS) is significantly cheaper than UPS using flat rate envelopes and boxes, so a shift to USPS is in process. USPS now has a flat rate envelope (15”x9½”) that ships anywhere in the U.S. for $4.95 which will work nicely for 2 calendar orders. This shift should result in substantial savings in shipping costs. For convenience, Ron will try to establish an account with USPS, so members who are shipping calendars will not have an out of pocket expense requiring reimbursement. Online ordering is now functioning properly; over half of new orders are now online. International orders cannot be processed using the online option. We don’t take American Express.

“There was some discussion of the need for volunteers to fill the following roles: 1)Shipping international orders (very low volume); 2)Shipping two calendar orders (now done by Holly); 3) Marketing to groups interested in the calendar (e.g. RPCV, other); and 4) Membership Recruitment.

“The Poster Committee requested some storage space at our Park Street calendar storage facility. Whether adequate space would be available for this and if a fee should be charged was discussed. We pay approximately $106 dollars per month for this space. Update: Ron determined there is space for poster storage at least in the short term. A pallet of posters has been moved into the storage space. The fee issue will be discussed at the next calendar meeting.

“Typically, from 34-36,000 are produced each year for approximately $50,000. Revenues range up to $135,000. Of that, $50,000 is donated to the Peace Corps partnership program each year. 4,500 calendars are also donated to Worldwide Schools; Worldwide Schools pays for shipping. Buck receives 25 calendars for calendar research; Troy delivered these to him recently.

“The next photo committee meeting will be Tuesday, December 6, at 5 pm. It will be at Sue Kummer’s office, located at 116 N Few St. The photo committee is now considering photos for the cover from several countries (Botswana, Congo, Ghana, Gabon, Lesotho and Nepal). The Czech Republic will be featured for the first time. By December, the photo commit-tee believes it will have the photos from 13 Peace Corps countries selected. This is the last year Sue Kummer will help design and produce the calendar; a new person, Dana Magdalina, is being transitioned into this role. Sue has 3 to 4 shelves of old Peace Corps materials (e.g. old photos, slides, etc.) that will have to put elsewhere when she moves out of her office on Few Street.”

Poster Committee
Heather read a report from Char Thompson, who was unable to attend this meeting. The Poster Committee will sell posters, calendars, and note cards at the International Children’s Literature Conference in Madison and at the Milwaukee International Holiday Folk Fair this weekend. They have also left some posters in Washington, D.C. to be sold at the National Conference for Social Studies on December 3. Stephanie Motz will write a position description for a marketing and sales (volunteer) intern to support the Poster Committee.
50th Anniversary Committee
Kate Schachter shared the 50th Anniversary Committee’s account balances: $-431 in art exhibit catalog sales, $132 in tea sales, and $859 in miscellaneous items for a grand total of $560. Kate continues to sell SerendipTea, note cards, and art catalogs.

Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice
Char received a request to renew our membership with the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice for $50. Lee clarified that there is a line item in the budget to cover this membership. Char moved to pay the dues, Kate seconded, and all approved.

Insurance
We considered but did not reach a decision on whether to seek insurance to protect our group from liability and property loss. Ron is in the process of getting cost estimates on insurance policies for board liability coverage and our calendar inventory. He hopes to get quotes from 3 different insurance agencies. He has engaged American Family Insurance and State Farm. AFI can provide a standard package of 1 million dollar umbrella coverage for the entire board at a cost $648 per year. Enhanced coverage, providing each board member up to $1 million in coverage and our organization protection against identity and data theft will cost approximately $744 annually. Their quote regarding insurance for our inventory will be coming shortly.

Special Committee on Immigrants and Refugees
Judy Stadler shared a second draft of the resolution to form a Subcommittee on Immigrant and Refugee Concerns. “Be it resolved that the RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison shall form a Subcommittee organizational in its capacity, and shall interface with social justice groups and the community to identify areas of mutual collaboration on humanitarian matters related to immigrants and refugees. Any activities organized by the Subcommittee that represent the RPCV group at-large shall remain apolitical and non-controversial in nature.” Judy outlined examples of humanitarian vs. political activities. We changed the Subcommittee name to “Special Committee on Immigrants and Refugees,” so that it conforms to the committee naming designations in our bylaws. Lee motioned to adopt the resolution with the new name, Crystal seconded, and all approved.

Holiday Party
We will hold our annual holiday party on Saturday, December 10 at 6:00 PM in the home of Sophie Zermuehlin (317 Bordner Drive, Madison). We invite participants to bring a dish and “white elephant” gift to share.

World Roots Newsletter
We are seeking a volunteer to edit the newsletter in 2012. Interested individuals should contact Lee at leerow@sbcglobal.net.

Adjournment
Kate motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 PM, Mark seconded, and all approved.

50th Anniversary Events

Citizen Advocacy Works
by Kate Schachter

There were many, many activities to participate in during the 50th Anniversary events in Washington DC. One of the most productive was the Advocacy Day on September 22, when hundreds of RPCVs descended upon their various state legislatures offices to advocate for Peace Corps. Jonathan Pearson at NPCA did an excellent job planning the training, communicating, and setting up appointments for each state team. We lobbied for the past, the present, and the future of Peace Corps.

Past: We requested support for designating a place in Washington for a commemorative to the ideals of Peace Corps. Since 9/22, 13 more Representatives and three more Senators have signed on to co-sponsor the bill. In the House, it has been referred to the Natural Resources Subcommittee for review. In the Senate, it was unanimously approved in Committee, and will be sent to the floor for vote.

Present: We requested support for the Kate Puzy Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act, which modifies the Peace Corps Act to require sexual assault risk-reduction and response training, the development of sexual assault protocol and guidelines, the establishment of victim advocates, and the establishment of a Sexual Assault Advisory Council. This bill has now passed both chambers on unanimous consent, and should be signed by President Obama around Thanksgiving.

Future: We asked that 2012 funding levels for Peace Corps be kept at the $375 million level that was recommended by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, which is barely 1% of the overall foreign operations budget. This is a reduction from the $440 million requested by President Obama, but it should be noted that the agency is not being cut as much as many social programs. The 2012 budget is still under discussion and review by the Super Committee.
Applying Advocacy Skills
by Kate Schachter

Our group has a new Special Committee!

At the 10/16 general meeting, there was final discussion on the proposal to form a Special Committee on Immigrants and Refugees. The following resolution was passed:

**Be it resolved** that the RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison shall form a Special Committee on Immigrants and Refugees. The Special Committee shall be organizational in its capacity, and shall interface with social justice groups and the community to identify areas of mutual collaboration on humanitarian matters related to immigrants and refugees. Any activities organized by the Special Committee that represent the RPCV group at-large shall remain apolitical and non-controversial in nature.

The responsibilities of the Special Committee will be to:
1. Report monthly on issues, opportunities, and actions;
2. Communicate with members via the list-serve, newsletter, Facebook, and other media;
3. Communicate with partner organizations;
4. Coordinate activities with the Board and members; and
5. Obtain approval for funds prior to incurring expenses for activities.

What does “apolitical and non-controversial” look like? Judy put together an example of activities. We would like more member input into what types of activities the Committee should get involved in, but for now, it will focus on Humanitarian issues.

### Examples of Acceptable/Unacceptable Activities for Special Committee on Immigrants and Refugees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Humanitarian/Educational Activities (acceptable)</th>
<th>Political Activities (unacceptable)</th>
<th>Questionable Activities (probably not acceptable as described)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language tutoring: Bhutanese refugees, Hispanic immigrants, others</td>
<td>Advocacy on legislation affecting immigrants, refugees (Arizona copycat law, for example)</td>
<td>Support for scheduled deportees who have not had due process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome or holiday events for refugees, immigrants</td>
<td></td>
<td>Letter writing campaigns to Homeland Security regarding detention facility abuses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation for refugees, immigrants to visit doctor, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Campaigns to improve worker safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education of RPCV group about immigrant and refugee issues: Bhutanese refugees Madison</td>
<td></td>
<td>Boycotting a workplace that is suspected of abusing immigrant workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education of RPCV group about immigrant and refugee issues: Hispanic immigrant workers Wis.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Harboring undocumented immigrants, refugees (Samaritan law)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you want to get involved, or would like to be kept informed, please contact Judy Stadler [ja_stadler@att.net](mailto:ja_stadler@att.net) or Lauren Moscoe [lmoscoe@gmail.com](mailto:lmoscoe@gmail.com).

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**Refugee Committee News**

The newly-formed Committee on Immigrants and Refugees held its first meeting in December. They voted to rename the committee **Living Without Borders**. Their first activity is something we can all participate in.

The committee has identified Refugee Welcome Boxes that RPCVs can help put together. New Bhutanese refugees have come to Madison and there are rumors of more Hmong refugees arriving.

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Lutheran Social Services coordinates refugee services for Wisconsin's DHS and has provided lists of items that cannot be bought with food stamps. If you can, please bring some items to the Holiday Party at Sophie’s on Saturday, Dec. 10.

**Kitchen Box**
- Under-counter wastebasket
- Garbage bags
- Paper towels/holder
- aluminum foil/waxed paper
- zip-lock bags, various sizes
- refrigerator magnet

**Bathroom Box**
- laundry basket
- 4 bath towels
- 4 hand towels
- 4 washcloths
- toilet paper
- bar of soap or liquid soap
- shampoo
- laundry detergent

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salt/pepper shakers or grinders
cooking timer
dish soap
other small, inexpensive kitchen items
Our Annual Holiday Party

Saturday, December 10th
at Sophia Zermuehlen’s home
317 Bordner Dr.
5:30 PM

Bring a dish to pass and a wrapped White Elephant “gift”

More Events Soon

Freeze for Food
On Saturday, January 21, 2012 our group will host the 31st annual Freeze for Food - a 5K/10K walk and run to raise money for the Colombia Support Network (CSN), a non-profit organization that works on peace and justice issues for the people of San Jose de Apartado, Colombia.
Apartado is a sister-city to Dane County, and houses many internally-displaced people in a peace community. Read more about it at [http://www.colombiasupport.net/](http://www.colombiasupport.net/).
We cover the expenses of the race, so that all proceeds can go to Apartado for food-related activities.
We will need people power on the day of the race and help distributing posters and brochures before. If you have any questions or want to volunteer, contact Peter Joyce, peterjoyce@sbcglobal.net or 608-554-0384.

Book Club
The November/December Book Club will discuss Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese at Mary Ann Feutz’ home on Sunday,

December 11 at 2 PM. The Book Club meets monthly on Sundays to discuss books with international connections. To attend this month’s meeting or find out more, contact Mary Ann at mafeutz@uwalumni.com.

International Dinners
We gather on the first Thursday of the month to enjoy Madison’s wealth of ethnic restaurants. Watch the listserv for announcements or contact Melissa Ganshert at mganshert@gmail.com for information and to suggest your favorite restaurant.

Views From A Brodd

Greetings
Attached are a few pictures, one is of Mt. Kenya which you can see from my village but only rarely when it is not covered in clouds in the three months I have been here you could only see it one day. The next one is of the waterfall that is nearby the school and the last one is a panoramic view of the school, the pool in the picture is the fish pond and if all goes well I will be eating fresh fish by Christmas.

Safe Journeys
Tom
RPCVs NEEDED FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

The Memory Project (www.memoryproject.org) is looking for RPCVs to make all-expenses-paid trips to the countries in which they served (or nearby countries) in exchange for doing some work for the Memory Project while they're there.

WHAT IS THE MEMORY PROJECT?
The Memory Project is a unique initiative in which high school art students throughout the USA create portraits (drawings, paintings, etc) for children and teens around the world who have been orphaned, neglected, or disadvantaged. To do this, the art students receive photos of kids waiting for portraits and then work from those photos to create the portraits. Next, the Memory Project coordinates the delivery of the portraits to the kids, and the kids get to keep them as special gifts honoring their personal heritage. The goal of the project is to inspire caring, global friendship, and a positive sense of self. See more at: www.memoryproject.org

WHY DOES THE MEMORY PROJECT WANT RPCVs?
Each year the Memory Project needs to deliver more than 7,000 portraits to numerous countries. Rather than simply sending the portraits through UPS or DHL, all portraits are delivered in person by individuals who travel to each country specifically for that purpose. We need extremely reliable individuals for this, given that we need them to methodically take a photo of every single child receiving every single portrait.

For example, a given country might have 500 children spread among 2 or 3 different locations (typically orphanages, community centers, etc) who are due to receive portraits. Since we have 4 different portraits made for every single child, that means that there are roughly 2,000 portraits to deliver to the 500 kids (in case you're wondering, 2,000 portraits fit into 3 suitcases). Each child needs to be photographed with each of the 4 portraits separately, which usually takes 1-2 minutes per child. Usually the entire delivery and photo-taking process can be accomplished in 3-4 days, depending on the site. You can see examples of these "delivery photos" here: www.memoryproject.org/slideshows

We are interested in sending people to deliver portraits who are impressively reliable, diligent, detail-oriented, resourceful, and accustomed to international travel. It is not at all necessary to be a professional photographer, but it is helpful to at least have some basic talent for shooting good photos. All around we feel that RPCVs are excellent candidates to deliver our portraits. The Memory Project will pay for your whole trip, and in some cases may even pay for you to bring a helper. If you'd like to remain in the country after you are finished delivering the portraits, you'd be welcome to do so (though in that case you would be responsible for any expenses not related to delivering portraits).

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'M INTERESTED?
Please email Ben Schumaker (ben@memoryproject.org) to say that you've read the above information and that you are interested in this opportunity. Ben will communicate with you to explore the possibility, and will then add your name to a list of candidates to deliver portraits.

Ideally we would like to send RPCVs to the countries in which they served, but we are also open to sending RPCVs to deliver portraits in other countries. Please bear in mind that there is likely to be a waiting period. For example, if you express interest in making a trip right now, we might be able to send you on a trip during 2012, but more likely the trip wouldn't happen until 2013 or even 2014.

Ben looks forward to hearing from you if you're interested!

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Peace Corps Funding

Congress is attempting to finalize Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations. Both the Senate and House Appropriations Committees Subcommittees for State/Foreign Operations have recommended that Peace Corps funding to remain at just over $374 million for Fiscal Year 2012. Time is running short – we urge you to raise your voice for the Peace Corps once again.

Contact your Congressional Representatives

Get information on what to Say/Write

Help Spread the Word

Get more information at http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/advocacy/peace-corps-funding/
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 ask that members pay for a full year membership in September - or whenever they join. Reduced rates are available for those in extreme financial circumstances. We prefer that you join the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) directly with them. We encourage you to join the NPCA, which provides us a way to affect national issues.

**New RPCVs receive a complimentary year's membership.**

___ Individual - $15
___ Joint - $20
___ 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: RPCVs of Wisconsin - Madison, P.O.Box 1012, Madison, WI 53701