Sorry, Folks! The requests for small donations (Giftaway donations) as well as recommended amounts of funding are given in a full-page table later on in the newsletter, not here. These recommendations were made by a small group of interested members. While I would like to get more members to attend this meeting in order to get a more representative sampling of opinions on which projects should be funded and what amount of funding each should receive, it doesn’t always happen. We should all thank Sophia and Helene for their input into this process. If you have concerns about any of the requests, be sure to attend the May meeting of the group (May 3 at Union South) to let your opinion be known.

By the way, requests for large donations ($1,000 and over) will be discussed and voted on individually at the June meeting of the RPCVs of WI. Contact Walt for info on submitting a request for a large donation. All requests must be received by the newsletter editor (NOT Walt) in time for inclusion in the newsletter you will receive at the end of May. We have already received one request for $1,500.
Spring is coming! May is my favorite month, and it's almost here. (Not that we've had any winter worth speaking of.) Soon we'll be able to go camping and rock climbing, if we can ever get our registration in—the State privatized the registration system, so it doesn't work at all.

The Family Brunch last week was a pleasure, as always. Thank you, Sheila, for arranging it so well.

I've been engrossed with preparing the text for the Y2K Calendar. A real treat is in working with the photographers' stories. I'm especially charmed by one about the golden stone of the Dogon country in Mali.

Next meeting we have our Giftaway, when we make most of the year's small donations; and at the June meeting we'll make the large donations. It is such fun, being able to play Santa Claus. High praise to Walt for being our donations honcho.

At our April Poker Night at Deb's, the most amazing hand was with 4 of us at the table, playing 7-card stud, and 3 flushes were dealt! Ace-, King- and Queen-high. Terry Stark had seen a bunny that morning, and so was the lucky one.

And, for your mental delight: I've been reading "Black Athena," vol. 2, by Martin Bernal. He has some amazing information on massive drainage projects in the 3rd millennium BC in Boiotia, Greece. Lake Kopais was drained, and then cultivated, by connecting underground limestone caves through mountains to the sea. By Egyptians! Jeepers.

--Buck

THANK YOU, ONE AND ALL!!!!

Thanks to everyone who attended the 1999 Family Brunch on Sunday, April 11th! Nearly 130 people were in attendance, and had the opportunity to exchange names, addresses and bits of travel information as well as consolation for those worried about their volunteers abroad.

Special thanks goes to Peter Quella and Erica Zager (from the Minneapolis office) and several family members who helped set up while I was trying to get all the early birds signed in.

Extra special thanks goes to our speakers, Erica Zager — who spoke about what is currently happening with Peace Corps and recruitment; our own president Buck Travicky — who gave friends and family a few thoughts about what to expect when their volunteers come home; and our main, and VERY enthusiastic speakers, Dr's Mary and John Frantz, and their daughter Winifred.

For those who do not know, John and Mary went into PC WITH their three daughters in tow, and Winifred, the youngest, was 9 years old at the time. After John and Mary gave us an overview of their work in Afghanistan, Winifred gave us a perspective on their life there, through the eyes of a 9-year-old. It was a very interesting, as well as entertaining bit of information that certainly sparked curiosity among those who HAD been overseas, as well as those who had not.

Thank you, again!!! I look forward to seeing you all again next year!

Sheila
Executive Committee

President: Buck Travikey (608) 241-2392

Vice President: Rick Lackey (608) 223-9995
E-mail: rick.lackey2@gte.net

Secretary: Peter J. Joyce (608) 249-8573
&Terry Stark (608) 233-9140

Treasurer: Troy Ittter (608) 274-9332

Members at Large: Don Sauer - in Pakistan
Email: sauer@liveal.net
Rochelle Goedken (608) 243-0298

Registered Agent: Terry Stark (608) 233-9140

Community Projects (HELP, your name here?)

International Calendar Project

Coordinator: Rochelle Goedken (608) 243-0298
Calendar Order Hotline: (608) 829-2677

Events

Freeze for Food: Peter J. Joyce (608) 249-8573
Family Brunch: Sheila Przesmicki (608) 241-6454
Cardinal Benefit: Kathleen Quinlan (608) 249-6437
Finance: Rose Ann Scott (608) 241-0845
Global Education: AGAIN, HELP (your name here?)

Membership

Coordinator: Melanie Brooks (608) 244-4484
E-mail: mkbrooks30@yahoo.com

Membership Directory/Mailing Labels
Peter J. Joyce (608) 249-8573
E-mail: pjrjoyce@aol.com

Pre-Connect/ Re-Connect
Sharon Lewandowski 241-2392

Visibility

Newsletter Editor: Theresa A. Jenkins (608) 966-1282
E-mail: theresaJ@tds.net

WebSite: (Currently off-line, will be back soon)

Campus Peace Corps Recruiter
Peter D. Quella (608) 262-1121
E-mail: pdquella@students.wisc.edu

Speakers’ Bureau: Peter D. Quella 262-1121

Officers, always appreciate a lending hand, if any are available please call!

RPCVs of Wisconsin—Membership Information

All RPCV of Wisconsin-Madison receive a monthly Newsletter, World Roots, on payment of annual dues shown below. To avoid record-keeping hassles, we prefer members pay through December of the year joining, then pay for a full year membership at that time. 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 $25. We strongly encourage you to join the NPCA, which provides us a way to affect national issues.

(Please check all that apply)

___ I want to Join RPCV of WI, Inc.
___ Individual - $15 for one year
___ Joint - $20 (Two people receiving one newsletter)
___ Overseas Individual - $24
___ Overseas Joint - $29
___ I am also enclosing $25 for NPCA membership
($32.50 for joint membership - two people with the same address)
___ I do not want to join, but would like to receive World Roots and am enclosing $7 ($13 for overseas) to cover costs.
___ I’m Moving! Please change my mailing address.

$___ TOTAL ENCLOSED

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________

Telephone #: (W) (H)
E-mail Address: __________________________

Country of Service: __________________________
Service Dates: __________________________

PC Job: __________________________

Birthdate: (Optional - M/D/Y) __________________________

The RPCVs of Wisconsin are an active bunch, and there’s always a need for VOLUNTEERS. If you are willing to be called to help, please let us know:

___ I might be interested in doing something, but would like additional information first. Call me.

Send completed form & check to:
RPCVs of Wisconsin - Madison
P.O. Box 1012
Madison, WI 53701
Calendar Balance 84,021.24
Sales Calendar 8361.32
Interest 365.79
UPS Shipping -25.00
Phone -82.40
Refund 100.00
Stamps -26.40
Marketing -34.84
Ending Balance 92,679.71

Group 1694.48
Dues 411.50
NPCA rebate 75.00
NPCA dues -574.00
World Roots printing -118.70
World Roots labels -70.27
Nominee reception -91.25
Special mailing -38.00
Group Totals 1288.76
Global Education 2096.20

Large Projects 3932.00

Giftaway 672.35
PC Partnership -500.00
uncashed donation (Tibet, 11-98) -700.00
uncashed donation (Step Up, 11-98) -500.00
uncashed donation (Waisman, 11-98) -500.00
uncashed donation (Arcatao, 11-98) -400.00
uncashed donation (Step Up, 1-99) -500.00
uncashed donation (Tibet, 4-98) -600.00
uncashed donation (WCCN, 4-98) -600.00
Giftaway Totals -3627.65

Annual Projects 5080.93
Freeze for Food donation 62.50
Freeze for Food expense -13.81
Camp Lucerne 590.25
Hurricane Mitch benefit #2 464.00
Annual Project Totals 6183.87

Account Totals 102,552.89
Checking Account 2936.28
Market Yield Account 103,416.61
Bank Account Totals 106,352.89
uncashed donations -3800.00
Actual Total 102,552.89

### Thanks to Deb S and Kathleen Q

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Editors Column

So far away from the action but still close in heart. Busy beavers down here in the woods of the stateline.

First year anniversary this past weekend and we 'escaped' for a couple of days to a large quite place complete with a fireplace and a much needed time alone with each other. Time goes by much too quickly when things are going well.

When submitting items for our newsletter send, as much as possible, the articles, notices, announcements, etc. via E-mail. I do have Word and Word Perfect. Windows 95 versions for those 97 Office please save as 6.0 Thank you.

I also ask that information is sent ASAP to me by MAY 12.

HEY DOES ANYONE REALLY READ THIS :

   Thank you to the ones that do :)

Articles etc. should be sent to theresa@tds.net
Or mail a disk to :
W8407 Davis Rd.
Browntown, WI 53522

Thank you very much for your cooperation on putting “Our” newsletter together!

And, THANK YOU ALL who contributed articles, minutes, and reports for this months World Roots!!

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Other RPCV organizations have permission to use any articles of interest within this newsletter
NEXT meeting time and date - either Mon or Tu, Ap.26 or 27. Call Rochelle or Prudence.

1) CALENDARS TO WORLDWISE SCHOOLS - We donated nearly 5000 for 1999. We agreed to donate for 2000 approximately 6000, depending on the number of teachers who participate in the program. This year there were around 6000.

2) 1999 CALENDARS REMAINING - 300 plus: A few will be saved for posterity; some will be given away at the Family Brunch to all the Peace Corps Families; not many more will be needed for marketing.

3) MARKETING - The TNT guy (distributor for calendars to all bookstore chains) is out around the country selling calendars now, and presumably will have an order for us. He has all our info, including barcode and price on calendar ($10.95). Pru will check with him.

- Rose Ann presented mock-up for marketing in the new brochure, which will be somewhat modified from the '99 glossy brochure. The ordering page will encourage people to order quantities of 6 of less from 4 other RPCV groups which answered Rose Ann's query and expressed an interest in selling the calendar (UT, MT; N.CA, + LA). Madison will be on there too, at the top, and most likely the NPCA also. Each group will list where they will donate their benefits.

- A 5th tear-off section will be the actual order to be sent in, and will include prices, etc. This form and approach seemed very good to us, and we'll keep perfecting it. We discussed various details for it, and talked about pricing, shipping costs, etc.

4) CREDIT CARDS - Rose Ann and Troy set it all up at our bank (Anchor), where it seems they treat people like people, and not just digits. This year, for starters, we expect to use the "zip-zap" machine, in RA's kitchen to write up the credit card orders, and we will then take the little papers to the bank for them to process.

- If anybody has a zipzap machine to lend, they should tell RA, and save us $40.

5) PRICES - Will be very similar, probably 1-$10, 2-$17, 3-$24, etc. (including shipping). We discussed aspects of this, including the 3% charge for credit card orders.

6) POSTCARD AND BOOKMARK SALES - Al presented a flyer for this. We want to offer postcards to the PC, RPCV groups, and to PC-and-volunteers in the countries the photographs are from. Both the postcards and the bookmarks are in packages of 250, and the prices, including shipping will be $25 for postcards, and $15 for bookmarks.

- They will be offered at the national conference in Minneapolis in August. Some have been sold individually by or to our members, at a cost of 5 postcards or 6 bookmarks for $1.

7) 1999 SALES - Rose Ann presented a summary of all calendars sold (not including shipping).
## CALENDAR BREAKDOWN FOLLOWS!

Total receipts were $92,363.25

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
<td>(6044)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-24</td>
<td>$6.50</td>
<td>(1959)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-49</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>(689)</td>
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<tr>
<td>50-99</td>
<td>$5.50</td>
<td>(960)</td>
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<td>100-299</td>
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<td>(720)</td>
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<td>300-499</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
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<td>(260)</td>
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<td>1000+</td>
<td>$3.75</td>
<td>(6377)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-Sept group rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-Sept.</td>
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<td>(66)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Convention</td>
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<td>(91)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consignment</td>
<td>$7.75</td>
<td>(59)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc.</td>
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<td>(26)</td>
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Donated .......... 4954  
Marketing ........ 253  
Production ........ 462  
Damaged in transit .... 4

Total accounted for .... 24,981

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Dear RPCV's of Wisconsin - Madison,

We would like to thank you for donating 25 calendars to our group to give to the schools in our area as part of our Peace Corps Days presentations. Students all over the Sacramento area now have a daily reminder of friends around the globe, and perhaps some have a dream to one day be Peace Corps Volunteers.

Sincerely,

The Sacramento Valley RPCV's
### Recommendations of the 1999 Calendar Donations Committee

Date: April 19, 1999   Members of Committee: Walt Zeltner; Sophia Zermuehlen; Helene Pesche

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>RPCV Sponsor</th>
<th>Amount Requested</th>
<th>Recommended Donation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WORT-FM Radio</td>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>Terry Stark</td>
<td>Equal Share</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healing Conference/WCCN</td>
<td>Managua, Nicaragua</td>
<td>Sheila Przesmicki</td>
<td>$950</td>
<td>$950</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tarahumara Microenterprise Project</td>
<td>Juarez, Mexico</td>
<td>Sandy Moss/Buck T.</td>
<td>Equal Share</td>
<td>$600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Habitat for Humanity – Harmony Court</td>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>Walt Zeltner</td>
<td>Equal Share</td>
<td>$600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistance for Victims of the Nairobi Embassy Bombing</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>Walt Zeltner</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>$600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bahn Cow Mag Ga Two School</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Brice Lainberger</td>
<td>$950</td>
<td>$950</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bang Kaew Well</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Brice Lainberger</td>
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<td>Wolf Watershed Education Project</td>
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<td>Terry Stark</td>
<td>Equal Share</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medicine for Guatemalan Hospital</td>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>Peter Joyce</td>
<td>Equal Share</td>
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<td>Rose Ann Scott</td>
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<td>Craig Gjerde</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playground for Malawi Children’s Village</td>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>Craig Gjerde</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Friends of Chernobyl Centers, US</td>
<td>Russia/Belarus/Ukraine</td>
<td>John Elder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trickle Up</td>
<td>Worldwide</td>
<td>Rose Ann Scott</td>
<td>$995</td>
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<td>Goose Pond</td>
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<td>Rose Ann Scott</td>
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<td>Shipping Postage for Donated Books</td>
<td>Morocco/?</td>
<td>Sophia Zermuehlen</td>
<td>$200</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Requests: 17   Total Authorized for Donations: $10,000   Total Recommended Donations: $10,200
BOOK REVIEW

The main questions dealt with by most commentaries of David Stoll's new book on the 1992 Peace Prize Laureate Rigoberta Menchu are

A. Is David Stoll a racist? or B. Is Rigoberta Menchu a liar?

Welcome to the new peace in Guatemala. Now that the war is officially over, the battle of words is still going strong.

Stoll tries to find the truth of Rigoberta Menchu's life as explained in her famous testimony (*I, Rigoberta Menchu*, Burgos-Debray, 1984) that eventually led to her receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992. Stoll, an anthropologist, goes to Rigoberta's former home in Chime1 (1), visits nearby towns such as Uspantan and Chajul, and interviews extensively her family and neighbors. He quickly finds out the obvious. *I, Rigoberta Menchu* is not a literally accurate depiction of her life and the life of her family.

Stoll explores the different shades of truths and non-truths in *I, Rigoberta Menchu*. For example, Rigoberta describes her brother Petrocino being kidnapped, tortured, and burned alive in front of hundreds of witnesses in the main plaza of Chajul, a nearby town. Stoll finds out that the burning in Chajul never took place. Members of the army have been calling Rigoberta a liar for years, but Stoll is not really agreeing with the Guatemalan army. He does not say that the Guatemalan army didn't torture their victims publicly there. He goes over several gruesome accounts. He does not say that the army didn't burn their torture victims alive. They did plenty of that. He does not say that they didn't torture victims in front of family members. The army specializes in that. Stoll goes over all these angles in gory detail. The army just didn't happen to burn Petrocino alive in Chajul as described in *I, Rigoberta Menchu*. According to Stoll, Petrocino just *disappeared* after his kidnapping on September 9, 1979, like thousands and thousands of other Guatemalans.

The book goes into most of Rigoberta's testimony explaining that while all these things happened to Guatemalans commonly, they just didn't happen exactly in the way she said they did to Rigoberta and her family. Is Rigoberta lying? Rigoberta actually started out *I, Rigoberta Menchu* by stating that her testimony is the testimony of all poor Guatemalans. In other words she's blending in stories of other Mayans into the book, and she told everyone this upfront.

So why is Stoll picking on Rigoberta? Why does he have to apply Western standards on a Mayan testimony? Why doesn't he go after the thousands of outrageous lies sent out by the army on a regular basis? Is Stoll being racist?

One of the themes in his book is that the vast majority of Mayans were just caught in the crossfire between two armed factions. While the army committed the vast majority of the killings (over 90% according to the UN Truth Commission), the guerrillas sparked the whole mess and should share more of the blame than what The percentages show. In Uspantan, the guerrillas assassinated two ladinos and then the army came down like a ton of bricks and massacred hundreds, perhaps thousands of innocents in the area. You're either with the guerrillas or with the army, if you're in between, you become a victim. Stoll feels that *I, Rigoberta Menchu* is primarily a guerrilla propaganda tool which does not speak for the majority of Mayans who are just caught in the crossfire.

I am a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (2) (RPCV) from a town in Guatemala, that also experienced similar massacres from the army in the late 1970's. I share Stoll's fascination with finding out exactly what happened in those chaotic times.

(CONT NEXT PAGE)
Rigoberta does little to help clear any controversy in her book "Crossing Borders." She restates issues in the book without adding many details. The new details on the Xaman massacre (3), the kidnapping of her niece's baby and her story of "getting burned" as a young CUC worker were much more interesting. The map of Guatemala in her book is grossly inaccurate.

So, is Stoll a racist, or is Rigoberta a liar? That's not the point. The Guatemalan left and right have been putting their spin on events in Guatemala for years. The left thinks Stoll is racist, the right thinks Rigoberta is a liar. OK, now you know what they think, you may have a different point of view. Hopefully there will be space in Guatemala for more than one opinion.

Read the books and decide yourself.

I highly recommend reading the Stoll book if you are interested in an account of what happened in Guatemala. It gives a very detailed account into the life of the Uspantekos in the late 70's and early 1980's. And while you're at it, be sure to read Rigoberta's direct accounting of her life. Both books are available at the Madison Public Library, as soon as I return them.

Peter Joyce

REFERENCES


FOOTNOTES
1. The land in Chimel, as described by Stoll, is gorgeous. It is (was) virgin highland tropical rainforest (between 2000 and 2600 meters high), home of the nearly extinct quetzal. The quetzal is a native bird to Guatemala, and the national symbol and currency of the country. Virgin highland rainforest, once the common ecosystem, is now very close to being eliminated in Guatemala.

Chimel is huge. There are 2753 hectares that were squatted on by 60 families. That's over 45 hectares per family. That's a lot of land, for anyone, if your a campesino from Guatemala or a potato farmer in Wisconsin. Most peasant farmers I worked with in Guatemala subsisted on less than a half hectare. Stoll mentions that Rigoberta, with help from residents in Chimel, now is applying to get 85 hectares.

2. Peace Corps plays an interesting role in his analysis. First, Stoll only speaks Spanish and would not have been able to begin this book without the aid of a Peace Corps Volunteer Barbara Bocek. Barbara's site was Uspantan, and apparently spoke fluent K'iche, the Mayan language of Rigoberta and the area. Without Barbara's extensive help in the interviews, Stoll would have had in over his head.

Second, Stoll cites that the Menchu family worked extensively with the Peace Corps Volunteers in Uspantan until 1979, and he interviews the former volunteers from there. He cites the Menchu's active participation in Peace Corps and other international projects as a sign of their lack of faith in violent revolution.

3. She mentions Madison correctly as being the place she was when she got news of the massacre. She gave a talk at the Memorial Union that night and cried as she told the audience of the news.
Announcements

- MAY 12 Deadline for Newsletter
- May 3 Mon. General Meeting, at Union South; 7:00.
- June 2 Wed. Sharon Lewandowski's Birthday.

RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS
Theresa A. Jenkins
PO Box 1012
Madison, WI 53701-1012

World Roots
Volume 19, Issue 5

Rose Ann Scott
2714 Oakridge
Madison, WI 53704-5749