Dear Group Members,

The numbers are in from Peace Corps Headquarters on the success of "Super Tuesday", March 7th. Nearly 12,000 RPCV's spoke to around 600,000 students. Our own Madison group had approximately 25 speakers who spoke to around 1,500 students. Way to go group!

I would like to begin by thanking everyone who attended the Sunday Family Brunch, and especially Sheila Przesmicki who organized the event. If you weren't there, you missed a wonderful Brunch! There were around 150 people who attended. The room was filled with RPCV's from all the decades, prospective volunteers, family and friends. We even had a current Wisconsin Volunteer from Bolivia speak about his experiences. Also, Erika Zager (Nepal) from the Minneapolis office spoke at our event. I would like to thank them for coming to our event and to the Minneapolis office for helping coordinate with us. Their efforts make events like this much easier to plan. I would also like to mention that Sheila will be stepping down and we are looking for someone to take her place. So, if you have always wanted to become more involved, but not take up too much time, this would be a great project for you. Please contact me if you are interested in planning next year's event. Once again thank you Sheila!

If you missed April's meeting, read Buck's column for details. In addition to a great meeting, we had a great slide show by Doug Larkin and Melissa Naud on their service in Kenya. They also spoke a little about their travels in Papua New Guinea. We all really enjoyed hearing about their experiences. Thank you Doug and Melissa for sharing.

May 3, 7pm, Union South is our next meeting. We will vote on small project funds, so please come and share your thoughts. We are also lucky to have two recent (January 2000) RPCV's from Tanzania: Jesse Strassburg, Rhonda Maronn and her husband Laos Mwakalebela, who are going to show a short video and talk about their experience. Please come and support our recently returned Volunteers as they try to re-adjust back into the crazy North American culture we live in.

Also, don't forget about the Cardinal Benefit, May 13th at 5pm, Cardinal Bar. Please read in the newsletter for further details. I hope to see you soon!

Hasta Pronto, Melissa Kaltenbach
Officers and Contacts

Executive Committee
President    Melissa Kaltenbach 249-3545  
E-mail: sauri_s@hotmail.com
Vice President Mai Ensmann (608)260-0553  
Email: ensmann@redgym.wisc.edu
Secretary    Buck Trawicky (608) 241-2392
Treasurer    Troy Rutter (608) 245-9964

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

Registered Agent  Terry Stark  (608) 233-9140
Community Projects  (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 Przesnicki  (608) 244-6454
Cardinal Benefit  Kathleen Quinlan  (608) 249-6437
Finance  Rose Ann Scott (608) 241-0845
Global Education  Marc Brand  (608) 255-1339

Membership
Membership Directory/Mailing Labels  
Peter J. Joyce (608) 249-8573  
E-mail: pjrjnce@aol.com
Pre-Connect/ Re-Connect  
Sharon Lewandowski 241-2392

Visibility
Newsletter Editor  Theresa A. Jenkins  
(608) 966-1282  E-mail:  
rpcv_editor@broadnet.com

WebSite (Currently off-line)

Campus Peace Corps Recruiter  
Eric Stonebraker  
(608) 262-1121  E-mail:  
estonebraker@students.wisc.edu

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, then pay for 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 ($15 for overseas) to cover costs.
- I'm Moving! Please change my mailing address.

$___ TOTAL ENCLOSED

Name:
Address:
Telephone #’s (H) (W)
E-mail Address:
Country of Service:
Service Dates:
PC Job:
Birth date: (Optional - MD/YY)

The RPCV’s of Wisconsin are an active group, and there’s always a need for helpful hands. If you are willing to lend a hand, please let us know:

I am interested in doing something: call me.

Send completed form & check to:
RPCV’s of Wisconsin - Madison  
P.O.Box 1012  
Madison, WI 53701
## Treasurers Report March 2000

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<thead>
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<td>Global Education</td>
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**Account Totals** 123,191.66

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## Editor's Spot

**Oh** the grass is growing like a weed and the lawn mower is zooming through the yard with a crazed 14 year old at the helm. I love spring time and the renewal process that it brings!

Job hunting has landed me a job at Beloit Memorial Hospital. I start a week after my classes end. Counting the days till that first paycheck!! Now to conquer the Board Examination!

Thank you to all those who have summated articles to the Newsletter, I thank you for being prompt. It makes this position much easier to tackle. Please make sure when e-mailing something to the Editor type in the "_underline_" key and NOT the "_hyphen-_" key with the editor's e-mail address. It will 'bounce' back to you. Please send everything concerning the RPCV's to the Editor's address thanks! and my personal E-mail is theresa@brodnet.com

BUT please send any RPCV articles for the newsletter to the following address: **RPCV_editor@brodnet.com**  
or snail mail W8407 Davis Rd., Browntown, WI 53522. Thank you. Theresa
Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Madison

Minutes of April 4 Gen'l Meeting
Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin/Madison
General Meeting of Tues., April 4, 2000
We met at 7:00 p.m., in Union South. 25 were present. We introduced ourselves, and gave
a favorite word or phrase from our country's language.
The officers and committees had noting startling to report.

Cardinal Bar Benefit (Sharon): see elsewhere for details, but in summary: On May 13, our
group will host a benefit meal at the Cardinal Bar, 418 E. Wilson St., to aid Iraqi children
suffering from leukemia caused by the Gulf War and its aftermath. All money raised will be
handed over to the Iraqi Children's Leukemia Fund, after arrangements for its effective le-
gal use have been completed. (See April Newsletter.) Sharon proposed in March, and in
April, that our group match whatever money is raised, up to $1500. This was to have been
discussed and voted on at the April meeting, but her proposal wasn't published in the April
NL, so we'll vote on it in May.

March 2001, Peace Corps' 40th Anniversary: Patrick Ganey, Recruitment Coordinator of
the Minneapolis PC Office, was on hand to enlist us in celebrating Peace Corps' 40th an-
niversary next March. UW/Madison has consistently provided more PCVs than any other
college or university, so there's to be a BIG bash here, not just in DC. Peace Corps/Wash-
nington, Peace Corps/Minnepolis, the UW—Madison (which has about 150 RPCV's among
the faculty, staff, and students) and, if we want, RPCV's of Wisconsin will all be involved.
Space at the UW, especially the Great Hall, has already been reserved for March 1-3, 2001
(Thurs.-Sat.) There'll be a Peace Corps Exposition, aiming to inform both college and high
school students, and also the general citizenry, about Peace Corps and about the wide
world in general. Ideas are still being fermented, but we are warmly urged to involve our-
selves.

Moreover, there'll be a kickoff in Minnesota in October '00, to commemorate Hubert
Humphrey's and John F. Kennedy's original proposals for the idea of Peace Corps.
We passed around a sign-up sheet of persons interested in working on the 40th Annu-
sary Exposition: lots of people signed up. Buck and others will contact everyone and get
discussions started. One nifty idea is a poster exhibit, made from the best International
Calendar Photos since 1988. And we surely know how to host parties (witness the one we
hosted at the 1999 RPCV Conference in St. Paul)--we could do one at Pres. House, per-
haps.

Calendar Photo Selection Process, Reformed: Jim Good was on hand to present his
thoughts on improving the photo selection process. He handed out copies of his proposal,
which, in very terse summary, is this: (*) Retain our present selection method, which is that
the slides getting the most votes are the winners. Irrespective of anyone's post-selection
objections. (*) However, have 2 stages of selection. (*) 1st Round: We view all the submitted
slides (typically, about 350 slides), and vote, as at present. This would happen only
once, instead of twice. (*) 2nd Round: The top 45 slides are identified, with no more than 3
slides/country. These 45 are viewed, and we vote again. Each of us votes for 13 slides—the
number needed for a Calendar. The winners win (only limit is 1 slide per country, though
the Cover photo can be from the same country as a month-photo). We live with any imper-
fections in the slides, and no post-selection objections about suitability will be entertained.
(*) The small group of people who wish to be involved in Calendar production will select the
Cover photo, and will tune up the slides as needed.
This will be an agenda topic at the May meeting.

Calendar Photo Coordinator Guy: Jim Good needs a replacement. It's fun, and it doesn't
eat up your life! Call him: 246-2818.

Family Brunch: (Sheila Przesmicki): We all solemnly promised to come to the Family
Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Madison (cont.)

Brunch, on Sunday, April 9. [It was a big success; 121 people were there, mostly families missing their overseas PCV kin, but proud of them.]

Sheila needs a replacement honcho for the Family Brunch: it's an easy job, PC/Minneapolis helps a lot, and everything you need to do has been distilled into a couple of pages of instructions. Phone Sheila at 244-6454.

MOTION re. Donation to Peace Corps Partnerships: Rose Ann Scott proposed, in the April Newsletter, that 20% of our Calendar proceeds donations go to Peace Corps Partnerships. (E.g., of $40,000 "profit" from the 2000 Calendar, $8000 would be donated to Peace Corps Partnerships.) After discussion, we voted AYE. However, we did not agree just to send a check to Peace Corps/Washington; some wanted to pick the individual partnerships, and try to establish a direct relationship with the particular projects. We'll discuss this at the May meeting.

MOTION re. distribution of 2000 Calendar proceeds: (Walt Zeltner): (*) We voted, AYE, to transfer $40,000 from the Calendar account to our General Account. (*) We voted, AYE, to divide this $40,000 thus: $10,000 for the small-donations Giftaway in May; $1000 for additional small donations for the rest of the year; $29,000 for Large Donations. (In addition to amounts carried forward from last year.)

Walt also enlisted an ad-hoc Giftaway Donations Proposal Review Committee, to meet on April 17, 7:00, at Sharon and Buck's house, 2330 Willard Ave; 241-2392.

We voted, AYE, for our group to join the Wisconsin Peace and Justice network, at $40/yr. John Kaltenbach will be our group's liaison.

And that was it for business.

Presentation by Doug Larkin and Melissa Naud about their Peace Corps experiences in Kenya, with additional remarks on Papua New Guinea. With slides, and objects to fondle. Very nice. — Buck Trawicky

CARDINAL BAR BENEFIT
To benefit Iraqi Children Afflicted with Leukemia
On Sat. May 13, our group will host a Benefit meal at the Cardinal Bar; 418 E. Wilson St.
All monies raised will be donated to the Iraqi Children's Leukemia Fund, after arrangements for its effective legal use have been completed. Many Iraqi children are afflicted with fatal and excruciatingly painful leukemia, in great part due to the US use of spent uranium in armor-piercing artillery shells fired during the Gulf War. (See 'Eileen's Story pg. 10)

It is proposed that our group match whatever monies are raised, up to $1500. (Usually, a Cardinal Bar Benefit takes in $400--$600, but with this spur, some Madison activists may be inspired to make a donation.) This Motion will be discussed and voted on at the May General Meeting. Food served 5--7:00 p.m.

Kathleen Quinlan has made arrangements with Ricardo Gonzalez, the Cardinal's owner, for us to use his bar. We can serve food from 5:00 p.m. until about 7:00 (or until it runs out!). We should plan to arrive and set up at about 4:30. (Ricardo has given us free space for a Benefit whenever we've asked him, about once a year since we were founded--what a mensch!) (Of course, he does sell a load of beer.)

Sharon has passed out sign-up sheets, enlisting those of us willing to prepare and bring food. But even if you haven't signed up, bring something! The Theme is Middle Eastern Food (even pita bread will do, for the kitchenly-inexpert). Sharon will bring recipes to the May meeting. Each of us should bring LOTS of Food! --enough for about 5-8 people.

Sharon will have Flyers at the May meeting, for us to post throughout town. She'll also get some to other allied groups, for their members to post. And she'll get the Benefit listed in Isthmus and other public service announcements. Attendance may be unusually large. Our group will pay for expenses (flyers, and paper plates etc). For more info, call Sharon Lewandowski, 241-2392.
# Recommendations of the 2000 Calendar Donations Committee

Date: April 17, 2000  Members of Committee: Walt Z; Buck T; Sharon L; Terry Stark; Troy Rutter; Sheila P; Rochelle Goedken; Peter Joyce; Rick Lackey

<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>$450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healing Conference June 2000 WCCN</td>
<td>Managua, Nicaragua</td>
<td>Sheila Przesnicki</td>
<td>$950</td>
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<td>Wisconsin Public Radio</td>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>Buck Trawicky</td>
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<td>$450</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Aqueduct System (PCV request)</td>
<td>Colon, Panama</td>
<td>Melissa Kaltenbach</td>
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<td>$750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oasis Counseling Centre</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>Walt Zeltner</td>
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<td>$450</td>
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<td>Ban Bhee School Library (PCV request)</td>
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<td>Muraviovka Park</td>
<td>Far Eastern Russia</td>
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Number of Requests: 20  Total Authorized for Donations: $10,000  Total Recommended Donations: $10,230
LARGE DONATION PROPOSALS

We will consider requests for large donations (over $1,000) at our monthly meeting in June. In order for a request to be considered, the request must have been published in the newsletter that comes out at the end of May. Such requests should be a half to one page long and generally should include a budget that indicates how the money will be spent if it is donated. (Note that we do not provide money for travel expenses for any project.) Please e-mail these requests directly to Theresa, as I can make a copy of the request for my records. Any additional information in support of the request should be sent directly to me. Contact me to get more details about the type of information we would like to see in these applications. Walt Zeltner, 393 Lake Kegonsa Road, Oregon, WI 53575; Home: 608/873-5257; Work: 608/262-1321; FAX: 608/262-0454, E-mail: zeltner@engr.wisc.edu.

Family Brunch Notes

The Annual Family Brunch took place on Sunday, April 9th, and once again was a great success. We had 121 adults and 5 children in attendance this year, with approximately 35 countries of service represented. Thanks to Kevin, Peace Corps Minneapolis, for again making up the invitations and mailing to the families of current volunteers. Thanks to Erica Zager, Peace Corps Minneapolis, and Melissa Kaltenbach, our esteemed president, for their talks about current PC events, the 40th Anniversary, and the activities of the RPCV's- Madison SPECIAL THANKS goes to Al Liu, PCV Bolivia - yep, PCV, not RPCV. Al is coming up on the end of two years in Bolivia, and we were able to take advantage of his brief visit home, to hear of his tales of PC entry, his current activities and his experience with reverse culture shock. Thanks again, Al!

And a SPECIAL NOTE of APPRECIATION TO Dave Marcoullier, who helped get labels for the invitations at the last minute. Dave came through in a pinch, and was kind enough to take time out of his busy schedule to help us out. THANKS, DAVE!

We are still looking for someone to coordinate next year's Family Brunch. It's easy to do - all it takes are a couple of phone calls and a couple of hours to put labels on the invitations. The rest of the work is done for you, thanks to PC-Minneapolis. I have all the information and phone numbers. Please feel free to give me a call at 608-244-6454.

Thanks again to all! Sheila
Donation Proposals, to vote on at May Gen'l Meeting

MOTION, by Sharon Lewandowski:
The RPCV's of Wisconsin/Madison will match whatever monies are raised at the Cardinal Bar Benefit (May 13, 2000), up to $1500. All monies will be donated to the Iraqi Children's Leukemia Fund, after arrangements for its effective legal use have been completed. Madison resident Phil Kerkhoff, of the Taliesen Foundation and the WI Coalition Against Domestic Violence, administers the Fund; he is personally known to Sharon Lewandowski. See the April '00 Newsletter for background information.

MOTION, by Sharon Lewandowski: RPCV's of WI will pay for expenses for the Cardinal Bar Benefit (May 13 '00), for these items: (1) flyers; and (2) paper plates, cups, utensils, napkins, etc. Total not to exceed $60.

MOTION: Project title: Remodeling of the Cooperativa Paz y Desarrollo Popular (Guaymi's Building and Storage Space)
Amount Requested: $1,414.00
Where: Ngobe-Buglé Indigenous Reserve, Republic of Panama
RPCV-WI/MAD Sponsor: John Kaltenbach
Contact: PCV Anne Fazioi (River Forest, Ill.)
Project description: This project is the remodeling of a local cooperative's main office and storage space. The Cooperative has been in existence for 29 years, and at present has 89 associates (both men and women). One of the Cooperative's main activities is making and selling indigenous crafts. The majority of the 45 female associates sew traditional Ngobe-Buglé tagua dresses and weave crafts such as chácaras (bags), hats and hammocks out of natural fibers. The infrastructure of the building has deteriorated to the point that several robberies have occurred and inventory and sewing machines have been stolen. Leaks in the roof have led to damaged goods and equipment. The Cooperative is asking for $1,414.00 for the supplies to use to remodel the building to create a safe space for the women to hold meetings and seminars, to work, and to store their inventory.

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The LUPINE LOLLYGAG is Saturday, May 20th.
Come at noon to lollygag around the prairie or thru the woods. Bring a dish to pass for the evening meal. You may camp overnight indoors or outdoors. This is occuring at Don Olson’s place 27788 Jeffers Lane, which is 5 miles east of Richland Center, 53 miles west of Madison. To find Don’s place follow the signs to the Oakwood Fruit Farm. Jeffers Lane is a right off of Nebraska Hollow Rd. The Richland Center phone number is 608-585-2023 (Sat and Sun only).
For further directions or questions call Rose Ann at 241-0845 before the 20th.

GROUP CAMPOUT AT WYALUSING STATE PARK
SAT. JUNE 10TH
The snow may still lay think on the ground, no robins yet on the feeders, and gardeners are dreaming of spring planting but it is not too soon to mark our calendars for the summer campout!
This year come and explore an area rich in history and natural beauty, a unique place at the junction of the Mississippi and Wisconsin rivers. WYALUSING STATE PARK, just south of Prairie du Chien on Hwy 18. This park is site of many geological features including caves, waterfalls and rock formations. 500 foot high bluffs cut by the adjacent rivers allow long distance viewing of the bottomlands and the various birds of this region. Pure stands of black walnut trees in mature forest hosts hiking and cross-country skiing trails. Boating, canoeing, swimming, fishing, camping, nature education programs and many other outdoor activities are also available.
In 1909, a report on park commissions by the State legislature recommended four sites in the state for immediate acquisition. Wyalusing was one of these four, the purchase was approved in 1912, and the park was established in 1917.
Our confirmed reservation Number is 1-90464, for group tent campsite B on Saturday June 10, 2000. There will be plenty of room for tents camping so come one and all. Please call Terry Stark 608-233-9140 if you have any questions or comments.

Would you like to get published?
Well, the International Agriculture Department has contacted me and are in need of several beautiful photographs from the following regions for a publication highlighting international study abroad opportunities: Either scenery (nature shots), national treasures (monuments, etc), or typical street shot—either with or without people.

1) Thailand-(or Thai-esque) The key is that the picture should either be from Thailand or look Asian—but not easily give away that it is not from Thailand.
2) Tropical—just about anything flies for this subject area.
3) African- Also anywhere these photos aren't in high demand—we already have lots.

Please provide (in order of preference):
1. Slide 2. negative 3. print
Slides/negatives/prints will be returned to you in good condition!
If interested, please forward on to me at my address listed below or stop by my office.

Spring 2000 Office Hours
240 Agriculture Hall: Red Gym (Morridge Center for Public Service)
Mondays: 1:45 - 4:45pm Thursdays: 12:30 - 3:30
Tuesdays: 12:30-3:30 Ph: 263-2432
Fridays: 9:00am - 12 Noon
“Dominican Republic”, An Invitation

I have finally received my invitation and will be leaving July 2000 to go to the Dominican Republic to work in small business development for the Peace Corps. On Sunday May 7 at 10:00 a.m I will be giving a talk about the DR at the Prairie U U Society. Toward the end of my service the youth group will show us how to dance the merengue. RPCV's who attend will have an opportunity to introduce themselves and talk a little about their experience(s). The Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society is located on Madison's West Side at 2010 Whonona Drive just off the frontage road- west beltline Hwy which is off of Seminole Hwy. The service is scheduled for Sunday, May 7 at 10:00 a.m. Please call me at 259-0556 if you want more information. I am really looking forward to this service and I hope you can come!!

Karen A Gross
(608) 259-0556, karengross@q Qin.com

Eileen’s Story
by Phil Kerckhoff

My partner, Eileen Cyncor, was first diagnosed with leukemia in September of 1996. She was very lucky to have a supportive employer, good health insurance and to receive treatment at one of the nation’s foremost cancer treatment hospitals. For two years, Eileen went through chemotherapy. Occasionally, she was hospitalized because she developed a fever - once, she developed a blood clot. She never had nausea or pain during the two years of her initial treatment, responding well to the treatments. The leukemia was controlled. She felt well and was confident that she would beat the disease. In September of 1998 her treatments ended, she was in remission.

In April of 1999, Eileen relapsed. A new chemotherapy treatment was begun. This new treatment was much harder on Eileen, she had to spend much more time in the hospital to receive the chemo drugs. Over the next several months Eileen, her doctors and nurses fought hard to gain control over the disease again.

In late August 1999 Eileen was hospitalized because of pain. For the first time in three years of her illness, Eileen had pain because of leukemia. And the pain was extreme. Eileen said to me, ‘that she now knew how the children of Iraq were suffering as they died of leukemia and that when she got well, she would do something about it.’

As long as I’ve known Eileen (over 12 years) she’s worked to help others. She’s worked for many progressive social change non profit organizations. When she was first diagnosed she was the Associate Publisher of The Progressive magazine. She has worked for groups active in Central America, the poor, civil rights and many other good causes. Eileen has always been an activist for the issues she’s cared about.

Through her work she knew what the effects the sanctions against Iraq were having on the population. She knew that for a child in Iraq to get a diagnosis of leukemia was to get a death sentence. What she didn’t know until she experienced it was how the children of Iraq died. Eileen felt the suffering of the children of Iraq.

Eileen’s pain came and went over the next six weeks. As a wave of pain got too much for her, the medical staff would administer medication to ease her suffering. She had always cared about the hardships caused by the sanctions against Iraq, but now her perspective transcended the geopolitical, liberal/conservative intellectual arguments. All she could see were the children and their pain. Eileen saw a truth with a clarity and understanding that may only come with such a shared personal experience, and she explained it to me. She spoke with a simple and determined conviction: the children should have pain medications, they should have the relief they need. This she knew - it was that simple. She no longer cared about who was right or wrong, she only cared about ending the suffering of the children.

On September 30, 1999, Eileen died. In her memory and in her honor, those of us who loved her can think of no better tribute to her life and courage than to continue her wish to help end the suffering of the children of Iraq with leukemia. We have established a fund, the Iraqi Children’s Leukemia fund, through the Wisconsin Community Fund, to raise money to this end. Eileen’s surviving partner, Phil Kerckhoff, was the Executive Director of Physicians for Social Responsibility-Madison during the U.S. Gulf War against Iraq. PSR-Madison helped organize one of the first medical aid delegations to Iraq following the Gulf War.

Arrangements are being made for the group Life for Relief & Development, of Southfield Michigan, to coordinate the delivery of the aid. Life, formed in 1992 to address the consequences of the sanctions imposed against Iraq, is lead by Iraqi-Americans, mostly Moslem. Regularly working through the Iraqi Red Crescent (their version of the Red Cross), Life was recommended by other aid groups because of their success in delivering aid to their intended recipients. Unlike some other aid groups, Life receives the necessary permits from both the U.S. and Iraqi governments to bring medical supplies into the country. In early February 2000, Life’s Executive Director, Yarub Al-Shiraida, traveled to Iraq to seek permission for Eileen’s project and oversee a project to construct a water treatment plant.

To contribute to this fund and help with the project, please send checks made out to: WCF/Iraqi Children's Leukemia Fund, 122 State St., Suite 507A, Madison, WI 53703. All gifts are tax deductible.
THREE THOUGHTS ON THE PHOTO SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE RPCV INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR
From Jim Good – Photo Coordinator Guy
March 22, 2000

THOUGHT 1 – BALANCING PROCESS WITH PRODUCT

Well, everyone has an opinion. We all tend to think that if we could only explain ourselves well enough that everyone else would agree with our opinions or choices of slides, for example. I believe that this is not true, and that people have whole worlds of different experiences and agendas that guide their decisions about what they like and what they would choose for a calendar photo. Everyone is as right as anyone else, since this is a purely subjective undertaking. Each of us is the de-facto expert on our own opinions, and while anyone might be swayed by a good argument, they may also rightly be unswayed. Given this context, one good way to reach a conclusion, without having to reach an agreed consensus, is to vote. This allows everyone’s opinions to count equally, but precludes planning of many kinds of pre-set agendas or themes to the calendar, since who knows how everyone will vote?

If this calendar was produced by almost anyone else, there would be no thought of group process or weighing everyone’s opinions equally. Most publishers would look to expert advice, esthetic gurus, or an art director or editor to set a style, look, and vision for the publication. In this model themes can be set, careful balancing of images and countries, men, women, children, and all sorts of things can be managed, with an eye towards a final specific product. The result is a closely crafted coherent work that represents the artistic vision and values of the art editor. This works well as long as everyone is happy with the look. When things start going wrong the art editor is fired, and a new one selected.

I think that voting, where everyone’s thoughts count equally, suits our group’s nature and purpose better than the art editor approach. But that, of course is my own opinion, and if I could only explain it better I am sure everyone would agree....

THOUGHT 2 – TOWARDS A NEW AND IMPROVED CALENDAR SLIDE SELECTION PROCESS.

Here is a process that might be an improvement over the current one, and which still maintains a more or less purely democratic, non-loaded agenda or program. The process would need to be done in two voting rounds, as it is now, but the two votes would be a bit different as described below:

VOTING ROUND ONE: GETTING TO A “SHORT LIST”

Step One: After the photo submission deadline, say January 20, all entries received will be placed in to carousels and set up for balloting exactly as it is now done. Rules are that photographers may only submit 5 slides, and these only from present or past Peace Corps countries. In case of too many slides, the photo-coordinator selects a representative sample of 5 slides.

Step Two: Within the last two weeks of January, the big balloting is held, in a space large enough to accommodate everyone who might wish to vote. All received slides are viewed and voted on. This is a “weeding out” pass only, and votes received are used to narrow the range of the slides under consideration – these votes are not for final selection of 13, but for the “short list”. The ballots are counted immediately after the viewing and a total of 45 slides will be selected as the “short list finalists”.

Selection into the short list is made by total number of votes each slide receives. The slides receiving the highest number of votes win, except for these additional rules that must be followed.

A. No more than three slides from the same country go into the short list of 45.
B. All 45 slots will be filled, this will guarantee a minimum of 15 countries to choose from in the short list. The maximum number of countries possible is 45. My estimate is that the results of this process will provide about 20 different countries.

**Step Three:** After the ballots are counted and the short list slides are known, they are then pulled out from the carousel and put into the “Short List” carousel, and a new ballot is prepared for the final voting.

**VOTING ROUND TWO: SELECTING THE WINNERS**

**Step One:** At the February General Meeting a second “Winner’s Circle” balloting is conducted. This balloting is taken to decide on the final 13 images to be used for the calendar. Each voter present has a total allocation of 13 votes to use which cannot be exceeded. Only one vote can be given to any slide, so each person votes for their favorite 13 pictures. The slides can be seen two or three times, or as often as anyone would like to look at them. This is done at the end of the meeting, after other business has been dealt with, hopefully on an “express” basis, to allow as much time as is needed, and to allow those who are fast or pressed for time to get home if need be.

**Step Two:** When everyone has voted, these ballots are tabulated and the top vote getters from 13 different countries are selected. Voila – the winners! **No tampering allowed beyond this point on photo selection.** The group lives with the decision, and sends the pictures forward to the working committee and Artifax to make the very best use of these photos by cropping, patching, color correcting or whatever other clever means at their disposal. This smaller group also decides on which photo is the cover, and which ones go with which months, etc.

I think that this would be a good system.

**THOUGHT 3 –TOWARDS A NEW AND IMPROVED CALENDER SLIDE COORDINATOR**

The upcoming calendar slide selection season will be my last as the official “Photo Coordinator Guy”. I need a replacement. This could be you. If there is one person who would like to take on the photo coordination role, that person should contact the calendar committee (or me) as soon as possible. This could be brought up at the general meeting or through the newsletter in order to let everyone who might be interested know about it. The name of the new photo-coordinator, address, phone number, etc. will need to be included in the calendar currently being set up for printing. The deadline is around May 1. If there is only one such person he or she would need to work with me in December and January to log in slides and set up ballots, etc. The database I am currently using is Access. It is not too difficult, but some experience with Access would help.

If more than one person is interested, we might form a small working group, and we can carry on from there. There is no reason why there needs to be a single Photo Coordinator either, actually, except that it provides people who have questions with a specific name and address. It could be done anonymously by simply using the Group’s PO box, and the title Photo-Coordinator or something similar.

All in all, I think there should be a specific name or names and contact numbers provided, I guess.

I hope that this can be discussed, accepted, changed, improved, and agreed upon both in the general meeting as well as the calendar committee meeting.

Jim
Crisis Corps Volunteers (CCVs) are needed to provide short term assistance in countries devastated by natural disasters in Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala the Dominican Republic and Venezuela. Other assignments are available for CCVs to work with organizations serving refugees in Guinea. All assignments require strong language skills and 2 years of Peace Corps experience. Most assignments require a minimum three month commitment (Guinea is six). Some of the anticipated needs for an April or May start date are listed below:

* **Community Organizers:** Habitat for Humanity International is in need of two Volunteers to serve in the Dominican Republic doing community organization/ training, program administration and resource development. Excellent Spanish skills are required. Computer skills and experience with NGOs are desired.

* **Water Sanitation Volunteers:** Two Dominican NGOs are in need of RPCVs with experience constructing latrines and gravity fed water systems and training local community members to do the same.

* **Social Work Volunteers:** Several NGOs in Honduras have requested Volunteers to help provide services to Hondurans who lost their homes in Hurricane Mitch and are in shelters or in resettlement communities.

* **Health Education Volunteers:** Several international NGOs in Honduras and Nicaragua have requested health CCVs with a health and training background and strong Spanish language skills to assist them in their community outreach programs.

* **Agriculture/ Agroforestry Volunteers:** Two Nicaraguan NGOs need Volunteers to assist a cooperative of organic growers to maximize organic crop yields and expand peanut production; another NGO is looking for a Volunteer to assist in the development and maintenance of hillside terraces, kitchen gardens, live fences, and reforestation nurseries.

* **Agroforestry, and Hydrology Volunteers:** These Volunteers will be working with two NGOs in Guatemala to help with disaster preparedness initiatives, including the development of emergency action plans, in the Polochic and Motagua river watersheds in Guatemala. Training experience is required.

* **Disaster Preparedness Volunteers:** A number of Volunteers are needed in Nicaragua and Honduras to assist communities in developing emergency action plans for anticipated natural disasters. Training and community organization experience is required and a background in natural resources, environment or agroforestry is desired.

* **Organizational Development, Health & Program Monitoring Volunteers:** Several multi-national NGOs (ARC, IRC, WFP) have requested CCVs with strong French language skills, health and/or program development/ monitoring skills to assist in program development, capacity building and/or training in Guinea.

* **Venezuela Opportunities** * The Crisis Corps will be sending Volunteers to Venezuela in May to assist communities damaged by the tremendous floods last December. Volunteers will be assigned to non-governmental organizations engaged in relief and construction activities. RPCVs who have strong Spanish language skills and backgrounds in water sanitation, health, youth development or community organization skills will be needed for these assignments and should apply ASAP.

Applications and information are available at:
1-800-424-8580 ext.2250 or by email: crisiscorps@peacecorps.gov.
April 7, 2000
May 3, Wed General Meeting, Union South, 7:00 (Dayton & Randall St., Madison)
A major topic will be Giftaway Donations
Large Donation Proposals due by end of meeting.

May 7, Sun. "Dominican Republic" An Invitation from and good bye to Karen Gross,
Prairie UU Society 10 AM call 259-0556

May 10, Wed Poker at Deb Stapleton's, 7:00 2406 Sommers, Madison, 244-8609

May 12, Fri Deadline for June Newsletter

May ..., Calendar Steering Committee Meeting, 7:00 (Prudence, 251-0852)

May 13, Sat Cardinal Bar Benefit, 4:30 (Sharon, 241-2392)

May 14, Sun MOTHER'S DAY

May 20, Sat Lupine Lollygag Don Olson's place 27788 Jeffers Lane, Richland Center
questions call Rose Ann at 241-0845

June 1, Thu General Meeting, Union South, 7:00 (Dayton & Randall St., Madison)
A major topic will be Large Donations

June 10, Camping Trip, Sat.-Sun., Wyalusing State Park. (contact Terry Stark)

June 14, Wed Poker at Deb Stapleton's, 7:00 2406 Sommers, Madison, 244-8609

Jul 7, Fri General Meeting, POTLUCK; host needed!

Jul 12, Wed Poker at Deb Stapleton's, 7:00 2406 Sommers, Madison, 244-8609

Jul ..., Canoe Trip (Sat.-Sun.); on the Kickapoo River?

Aug 7, Mon General Meeting, Union South, 7:00 (Dayton & Randall St., Madison)

Aug ..., Pig Roast (Sat.-Sun.)

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Returned Peace Corps
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