Annual Winter Retreat This Month

Do you live outside of the city of Madison, in Green Bay, Appleton or elsewhere, for example? Have you ever expressed a desire to take part in an RPCV activity but didn’t feel like making the drive to and from Madison for a meeting or event, for chrissake? Well, read on, because there’s something coming up that was made to order for you, your family and any friends you care to bring along.

Rose Ann Scott has made arrangements for the Annual Winter Retreat for Wisconsin RPCVs, friends and families. Reserve Friday, February 21 and(or) Saturday, February 22 for this invigorating event. As in the past, this gathering will occur at the Lake Lucerne Camp & Retreat near Waunakee. While it’s called a “retreat,” it’s not nearly as formal as the term suggests. Instead of flip charts and post-it notes, you’ll find ski trails and fireplaces. There will probably be a lot of ideas created and shared, but informally.

Elm Lodge is reserved for Friday night, and Elm & Pine Lodges for Saturday; the Camp Director expects us to use the lodging on Friday night. The prices are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st night’s lodging</td>
<td>17.00</td>
<td>9.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd night’s lodging (per night)</td>
<td>14.75</td>
<td>9.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sleeping on the floor (per night)</td>
<td>9.50</td>
<td>9.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Lunch</td>
<td>4.75</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday breakfast</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 night’s lodging, breakfast and lunch is $25.00 for adults and $13.75 for children.

Lunch and breakfast must be ordered no less than one week in advance; call Rose Ann at 241-0845.

What? You can’t stay the weekend? That’s okay, just come up/down/over for the bounteous potluck Saturday night in the Retreat Center, and then stay over or drive home. Rose Ann will have details about that: 241-0845.

Directions (sort of): the Lake Lucerne Camp & Retreat is 4 miles south of Waunakee on County Road YY. Find your way to Waunakee and then take Highway 73 south (or maybe east) out of town; then go east on YY, and look for the signs. There are signs on 73, too. (Can you tell I’ve never been? Don’t worry - it will be easy to find.)

Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Feb 6</td>
<td>General Membership Meeting (see back)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Feb 10</td>
<td>Calendar Steering Committee, 2714 Oakridge Avenue, Madison; 7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Feb 15</td>
<td>2nd chance to cast your votes for the photos for the 1998 Calendar; the home of the Good family, 2325 Willard Avenue, Madison; 2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Feb 17</td>
<td>Join your host, Mike McQuestion, for an overview of Peace Corps past and future and the RPCV movement on the WORT-FM (89.9) Access Hour; 7-8 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday &amp; Saturday, Feb 21 &amp; 22</td>
<td>Winter Retreat (above)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 1</td>
<td>Cardinal Bar Benefit; call Kathleen Quinlan to see how you can help pull this off: 249-6437.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the Membership ....

Dear Friends,

Our fellow RPCV member, Peter Joyce, has asked us for our help. In the January World Roots he explained that a Guatemalan friends of his, Moises Pedro Amador, was brutally murdered in the municipality of Olopa, Chiquimula. I won’t repeat the whole story; Peter explains it well. Please read about this appalling issue.

There are many reasons for which the ex-soldiers who murdered Moises should not be allowed to go unpunished. In a way, it’s an attack on all people working in community betterment projects, as Moises was doing.

(continued on Page 7)
**Officers and Contacts**

**Executive Committee, 1996-1997**

- **President**
  - Deb Stapleton, 244-8609 (home)
  - e-mail: stapdale@dhfs.state.wi.us
- **Vice President**
  - Melanie Brooks, 255-8131 (home)
- **Secretary**
  - Buck Trawicky, 241-2392 (home)
- **Treasurer**
  - Rose Ann Scott, 241-0845 (home)
- **Members-at-Large:**
  - Don Sauer -- in Pakistan (truly at-large)
  - e-mail: tahlers@mailbag.com
  - Rochelle Goedken, 243-0298 (home)
- **Registered Agent**
  - Gordon Malaise, 255-3261 (home)

**Project Contacts**

**Community Projects**
(your name here?)

**International Calendar Project**

- **Coordinator**
  - Rochelle Goedken, 243-0298 (home)
- **Calendar Order Hotline**, 608-829-2677

**Events**

- **Freeze for Food**
  - Dave & Deb Hamilton, 873-5437 (home)
  - e-mail: davesidme@aol.com
- **Family Brunch**
  - Rochelle Goedken, 243-0298 (home)
- **Cardinal Benefit**
  - Kathleen Quinlan, 249-6437 (home)
  - David Wakeley, 244-0405 (home)

**Finance**

- Rose Ann Scott, 241-0845 (home)

**Global Education**
(your name here?)

**Membership**

- **Coordinator**
  - Melanie Brooks, 257-8630 (home)

**Membership Directory / Mailing Labels**

- Susan Mendrysa, 255-7053 (home)
  - e-mail: mendrysa@students.wisc.edu

**Pre-Connect / Re-Connect**

- Sharon Lewandowsk, 241-2392 (home)

**Speakers' Bureau**

- Erik Jensen, 262-1121 (office)
  - e-mail: enjensen@students.wisc.edu

**Visibility**

- **Newsletter**
  - Earl Bricker, 244-0289 (home)
  - e-mail: dbbricker@facstaff.wisc.edu
- **Website**
  - Dean Jefferson, 224-4787 (office)
  - e-mail: wiprev@execpc.com

**Campus Peace Corps Recruiter**

- Erik Jensen, 262-1121 (office)
  - e-mail: enjensen@students.wisc.edu

---

**Treasurer's Report**

11/01/96 to 11/30/96

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar</th>
<th>Bal Fwd</th>
<th>21,122.55</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calendar Sales</td>
<td>+16,998.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace Corps Check</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>+ 154.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Postage</td>
<td>+ 312.55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>65.79</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ads</td>
<td>490.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photocall Postcards</td>
<td>42.16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Computer</td>
<td>1,464.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPS</td>
<td>344.64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Calendar Balance**

35,611.06

**Group**

- Bal Fwd 459.04
- Dues + 350.25
- NPCA Rebates + 60.00
- Peace Corps Check + 70.00
- 35th Anniversary + 70.00
- Newsletter Printing 91.51
- Newsletter Postage 312.55

**Group Balance**

465.23

**Global Education**

2,096.20

**Large Projects**

7,414.00

**Giftaway**

0.00

**Annual Projects**

1,954.00

**Account Balances**

- Checking 3,535.69
- Market @4.80% 44,004.84
- Total 47,540.53

**Calendar Inventory**

- Print Run 20,350
- On Hand 800
- Shipped 15,275
- Local Sales 586
- Vendors 261
- Consignment 1,347
- Marketing 106
- Production 488
- Informants 99
- Donations 1,388
- **20,350**

---

**Dear Friends,**

Just a short note to say thanks to those of you who so generously donated gifts to this year's Wil-Mar Holiday toy drive. Through your efforts, and those of others, this was a very merry Christmas!

It is truly a joy to be part of a group with such generous and thoughtful people!

Happy New Year!
David Wakeley
Let the errata begin! In last month’s newsletter I put together an annual Calendar of Events because it seemed like a good idea, and after 15+ years we should have a pretty good idea of what happens when. But with so many dates and the advance planning required, one or two errors were probably inevitable, no matter how many different sets of eyes looked it over. (Hey! We’re volunteers here!) Two corrections: (1) the April meeting will indeed be on the 1st Monday, but that day is the 7th, not the 1st as it says on the calendar, and (2) the canoe trip will indeed be on a Saturday & Sunday in July, but on the 26th & 27th, not on the dates listed. Sigh. Any other errors you’ve noticed?

A special thanks to people who helped me get out last month’s oversized issue, which in addition to being almost twice the usual length was sent to twice the usual number of people. Plus the holidays made everything more difficult, so thanks to Sheila Przemicki for picking up the heavy boxes from the printer, and to Sharon Lewandowski, Prudence Barber and Troy Rutter for helping me to label, staple and postmark nearly 600 newsletters. It took us just around 2 hours, not bad! Hopefully you thought it was worth it, too.

Turn on your radio, on Monday, February 17, at 7 p.m.! Mike McQuestion, Erik Jensen, Henry Nehls-Lowe and I (in that order) have been developing a plan to make use of WORT Radio’s Local Access Hour. It should be very interesting, combining local & national perspective.

The Thorn Tree will return (again), but there was just too much stuff to justify making space for it this time out. I got the message from Don and didn’t want to edit it, and the piece by the Mongolia PCV’s notebook struck me as being of possible interest to folks. Of course, all I can do is guess. Give me some feedback, but make it specific to content -- I’m not fishing for compliments.

Any potential “Assistant Editors” out there? I appreciate the help I get from a number of people now, but it’s occurred to me that it might be a good idea to involve someone at the top level sooner rather than later because I’m not going to do this forever. I’ll follow Barbara Chatterjee’s lead and start putting the idea in your heads now. Don’t be shy, and don’t think it will be a huge time commitment, and keep in mind that you’ll be able to ramble on every month in this space, saying whatever you want! Is that a perk or what!? Give me a call, and we can talk about it.

The deadline for the March issue will be Fri, Feb 14. I’ll need some help on Wed, Feb 24, getting it ready to mail. Until next month, thanks for reading and for any comments!

Earl Bricker

---

Message from the President

“Talk doesn’t cook rice.” --Chinese Proverb

Greetings! Take some time to check out the Minutes (on Page 4) of the January 8th meeting. There was a good turnout, and we had a couple of interesting and informative speakers (Thanks, Heidi! Thanks, Tim!). Peter Joyce’s account of a friend’s assassination in Guatemala, adding to his letter in last month’s World Roots, generated some heartfelt support for a new project. Dave Hamilton enlisted further assistance for our 16th Freeze For Food. A big thanks to Dave and Deb H., for their long hours and excellent coordination of what local runners call “a really classy race”.

We heard about lots of new and veteran projects and plans from enthusiastic members willing to offer their blood, sweat, and time to make this world a better place. If you weren’t at the meeting, you missed a very interesting two hours! And we missed YOU: your opinions, your suggestions, your advice, your sparkle.

Meeting attendance has been slowly increasing, and I hope it continues to do so. My goals for general meetings include the following:

- Devote about 1/2 hour each month to a presentation that will teach us something new; e.g., slides from new members, info about a particular project, maybe an update from a community agency;
- Keep meetings to two hours; and
- Help new folks to feel welcome and want to come back.

So far, so good. If you haven’t been to a general meeting for a while, come on and join us! The February meeting is one of the favorites, a preliminary selection of slides for the ‘98 calendar. What a treat to see quality shots from around the globe, in the comfort of the Wil-Mar Center. We do need to discuss some business and have very little time in which to do so, so I will start the meeting at 7:00 SHARP! Please be there beforehand so we can get through with little disruption. We’ll dispense with introductions this month, so if you see a new face, show him/her how welcome s/he is! See ya there.

Peace, Deb Stapleton

---

1997 Family Brunch
Sunday, April 13
Jingles Coliseum Bar / Restaurant

Needed:
(1) Guest Speaker(s) - if anyone knows of any parents willing to speak at the Brunch, please call Rochelle Goedken at 243-0298 and let her know.
(2) Table Decorations - if anyone has fabric from overseas that can be used as tablecloths and/or if anyone has knick knacks (souvenirs) that can be displayed and/or if anyone has time to help set up the tables around 8:30 a.m. that day, please give Rochelle a call at the above number. Thanks!

According to Buck Trawicky, we are all invited to help celebrate Tibetan New Year (Losar) on Saturday, February 1, at 12:30 p.m. at the home of Skip & Tsering Kindy, 211 Campbell Street, Madison: 255-5019. RSVP, so the Tibetans can plan how many momos to make.
28 were present. We introduced ourselves, and each told a currency story from our country. New persons were Tim Berg and Mai Fischer (who provided the Poland cemetery photo for the ’96 Calendar), and Bill Unger, father of a PCV in Paraguay.

Holly Deniston gave an informative talk on the Dominican Republic, particularly the current PC programs there. With slides. Yummy. Tim Berg spoke about Honduras. He recently finished his PC service there, and can't wait to get back. He's going to open a cafe or juice bar on the coast, near the Bay Islands.

Committee Reports:
• Freeze For Food (Dave Hamilton) is on, the day before the Super Bowl. The follow-up party will be at the home of Chris Antonuzzo and Wade Dalla Grana; Wade was the Freeze honcho, in its first years.
• Sharon Lewandowski wants to gather a working group to discuss Guiding Principles to help us in making Donations. About half a dozen signed up.
• Sharon also passed around a sign-up sheet for continued work on the Reconnect group. But only Sharon and Buck signed up. A signal.
• Melanie Brooks is working to get the Membership Committee going. *(Note: There will be a meeting held soon, and Minutes will be shared in the next World Roots.)*

Announcements:
• Deb Stapleton reported that a PC family is coming here from Uzbekistan, and wants help with both temporary and long-term housing, and with work opportunities.
• Peter Joyce spoke about his friend in Guatemala assassinated by local landowners *(Note: as shared in detail in last month's World Roots).* He is going to work to raise funds to help pay pro bono lawyers in Guatemala to bring the killers to trial. One task will be to solicit a lot of small donations from all his friends (us). We could also help put on a Benefit, in cooperation with some of the Latin America groups in town. Peter will do all the initial heavy lifting. Sharon and Dean Mahon will help. We agreed, AYE, that Earl would give Peter a set of mailing labels to send a letter to group members, and Peter will write up a pitch for World Roots.
• The Milwaukee RPCV group is starting up again! *(Loud cheers)* Allegra Troiano (another Calendar photographer: hers is the February ’96 photo from Senegal) lives in Milwaukee, and is working to get things going. Buck will liaise to help her, and invite them all to come to our Winter Retreat. We also spoke briefly about helping groups get started elsewhere in Wisconsin.
• John Elder introduced Bill Unger, whose daughter, Megan, is a PCV in Paraguay. She's engrossed in a project to get a high school built in her village (and won't leave until it's done, school loans be damned). John and Bill were appealing to us to consider donating money. John will write something for the February World Roots, so we can discuss it at the February 6 meeting. *(note: look right)*
• Earl Bricker, speaking to the theme of better visibility, urged us to build up a standard table display, and put out frequent press releases. Peter Joyce will help.
• John Ashbaugh, reverend Old Member, was visiting from Texas! His address is 2712 6th Avenue, #12, Canyon, TX 79015.
• Come to the Slide Selection Shows for the 1998 Calendar. *(note: see details on Page 6)* This is great fun. Everyone gets a voting list; the top 13 vote-getters are the winners. *(Because we jointly represent the height of average Midwest Good Taste and Discrimination.)*

Respectfully submitted, Buck Trawicky, Secretary

---

**Request for Funding**

**Funding Support Sought for Construction of Secondary School in Paraguay**

Megan Unger of Madison is a PCV in Planta Urbana, Paraguay, an agricultural village of 1000 persons, 75 miles SE of Asuncion. Since mid-1995, Megan has been working with the community on construction of a 4-room school. Currently, the nearest secondary school is 10 miles away over a road that is not passable during the frequent heavy rain.

The people of Planta Urbana have demonstrated their commitment. Even without a building, Unger received permission of the community and the Ministry of Education to begin a high school program last year that meets at night in the elementary school building. Elementary teachers volunteer their time as instructors for the 39 students enrolled.

The people have also provided the labor for the school construction project and obtained the Ministry of Education's approval and support for teachers. In 1996, they manufactured 10,000 bricks and constructed the walls. What remains to be finished is the roof, requiring the single most expensive item that needs to be purchased, about $1,500 for roof tiles. The total project budget is $3,911, of which about $2,900 has been pledged to date, thanks in large part to the efforts of Megan's parents, Bill and Margaret Unger.

Can we help them out? I am suggesting a contribution of $600 from RPCVs of Wisconsin - Madison, virtually assuring that Megan will be able to see the project through to completion during her term of service.

John F. Elder
International Calendar Project

Calendar Steering Committee Meeting Minutes for Monday, January 13, 1997

As normal, we met at Rose Ann Scott's house. All are welcome. Present were Rose Ann Scott, Barbara Chatterjee, Buck Tra-wicky, Walt Zeltner, and Rochelle Goedken

Gift-calendars to schools: The process for getting free calendars onto classroom walls in well in hand. Elinor Gbedey has collected requests from teachers all over Wisconsin (good for her!), and they're ready to go out. (Note: 475 went out on 1-22.)

The new computer is set up in Rose Ann's house for now; later it'll be moved to the calendar packing site. She's programming the software to do just what we want it to do, and she's also training a team of data entry maven's, so the work of invoice generation can be done with no strain. (Hooray! Call her if you want to learn: it's fun. 241-0845.) All will be well-organized for the next selling season.

Sales: We've sold more than we expected to, and almost all our calendars are gone already -- demand went nuts this year. (It's all the fault of those pesky photographers and artists and layout mavens, producing something so superb: people ordered a single copy, took one look, and turned around and ordered another 5.) Packing parties are winding down. (They'll be all done (continued on Page 6)

At-Large, by Don Sauer

PESHAWAR  Your member-at-large has made it safely to Peshawar and is ensconced in an apartment. I won't call it cozy because the walls are plaster, the floors are some kind of gravel composition concrete and there is the heat which can be generated only by my overstuffed Holidayself and a tiny electric heater that seems destined to fail in heating this rather large apartment. Fortunately, the air seldom goes much below 50 degrees F even in the darkness of dawn. I'm living on the 5th floor of the Gul Hajj Plaza on Jamrud Road here. These apartments are used by a number of organizations who attempt to assist the Afghans in their struggle to regain some sense of security and sanity as the ongoing Civil War proceeds. For instance, the International Organization for Migration has its offices on the same floor and the Taliban newspaper Shariat has its offices one floor down. As you might guess, this apartment might be little grand for me but it seems to be relatively secure, as these things are understood here, and it costs less than $100 a month. Security and cost are important to me and so I will stay here for the time being. There is some irony in all this. My water must always be boiled before I drink it and there is no hot water for showers or washing up. It's amazing how 50 degrees can seem warm after a cold shower. It also keeps the bazer of my urges under control. I have a cot with a foam mattress which is actually quite comfortable when I snuggle up to read after my days of walking around meeting people and beginning the process of trying to find a reasonable niche in which I might make a useful contribution. That this will happen is not at all clear yet.

My primary contact here is Abdul Rahman Sahak of the Afghan Disabled Society (ADS) which he founded and of which he is the director. ADS is currently on hiatus due to his inability to get funding for any of his projects of late. That may be changing because he had meetings with people from UNDP the last two days in Jalalabad, just inside the Afghan border. There is a prospect that he may be able to expand and enhance a workshop which he has established in Khost, a city in Paktia province of eastern Afghanistan. This workshop trains disabled people to make and repair footwear. In this rugged land one always needs footwear and disabled people always need work. If you think disabled people are marginalized in American Society, cube it and you have some idea of their status in Afghanistan. Afghans have a harsh tradition that seems to be very 'survival of the fittest' and disabled people, by definition, are not very fit. Sahak, missing both legs, his right arm and a small chunk of his left ear, is disabled himself but refuses to settle for a status of useless person. Currently, the workshop in Khost supports itself but can do no more, especially in terms of turning part of its proceeds back to the ADS. Therefore, if this project is to be enhanced or others like it constructed Sahak seems compelled to find sources of outside funding. If the UNDP approves the project I hope to help with the planning and implementation of his hoped for expansion.

My search for contacts has led me to Arne Strand of the Norwegian Church Relief / Norwegian Refugee Council. This is one of several expatriate NGOs which have been working to assist the Afghans as they struggle to regain some sense of normality in their lives. We had an interesting and, for me, enlightening discussion which led to more contacts as well. He raised a challenging point that echoed one Sahak had raised in conversations we had had. The Taliban now controls approximately three quarters of the land area of Afghanistan including Kabul. They have good support in the countryside and in the cities they control, largely because they have been able to suppress the rape and pillage that has plagued the people due to the anarchy that has reigned since the fall of the Communists 6 years ago. Extortionate checkpoints are gone; people can move about in their villages with relative security and there is a sense that people can begin to put their lives back together. It is true that they have a rigid and many would say limited view of the practice of Islam. However, things are never quite as simple as they seem. The fact of the matter is that they are reestablishing a mode of Islam that is very like what was practiced in Pashtun areas prior to the war. Before Taliban took Kabul, the U.N. and many NGOs were operating in Taliban-controlled areas and were pleased that (continued on Page 8)
Help pick the photos for the 1998 International Calendar.

The dates for the first step(s) in the annual process of selecting the 13 slides to be included in next year’s calendar have been announced by Calendar Photo Coordinator Guy Jim Good. Anyone reading this will have two opportunities to offer their opinions:

• Thursday, February 6, 7 p.m. at the Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer Street, Madison (this date is also the regular membership meeting); and
• Saturday, February 15, 2 p.m. in the living room of the Good home, 2325 Willard Avenue, Madison.

At each viewing, every slide submitted to date will be shared one at a time, and everyone present will have a “ballot” on which they can register their favorites.

For Your Information

Call for Contributors

The Journal of African Travel Writing seeks scholarly articles, true narratives, reviews, and other literary artifacts related to past and contemporary African travel.

Journal of African Travel Writing
P. O. Box 346, Chapel Hill, NC 27514
e-mail: ottowo@email.unc.edu
web-site: http://www.unc.edu/~ottowo

Interested in native plants? Want to help grow a prairie?

Come to a meeting and slide show about the Atwood Prairie Garden on February 12 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM at the Atwood Community Center, 2425 Atwood, or call Laura Ward Good (246-2818) or Rose Ann Scott (241-0845).

Of a Like Mind

The Dane County Committee for UNICEF is a group of volunteers who help to support UNICEF, the United Nations Children’s Fund, with education about its humanitarian work and with fund-raising.

UNICEF helps children and mothers in 140 developing countries, where programs focus on health, nutrition, safe water, sanitation, education and emergency relief. Other UNICEF programs help women and children who live with hardship every day - on the street, in the workplace, or as a result of war. Every U.S. president has supported UNICEF since its founding.

We assist the following programs at present:

• National UNICEF Month & Halloween fund raising through schools, churches and community groups (e.g., Trick or Treat for UNICEF, collections through store donation boxes, and so on). These activities raised $15,542 in 1996.

• Sales of UNICEF greeting cards, stationery and gifts raised $11,000. Part were sold through participating churches before the holidays; the rest was sold at the non-profit Global Express gift shop, located in one of the train cars at the Madison Depot on W. Washington Avenue. UNICEF cards and materials are available there all year, along with hand-crafted items from the developing world.

We thank our volunteers for their assistance in 1996. We need more volunteers and organizations to help with these and other programs. Please call us (Ted & Mary Page) at 233-2753 for details.

UNICEF’s goals for the remainder of the 1990s are:

• reducing mortality rates for infants & children by one-third;
• reducing malnutrition by half;
• working toward universal immunization for children;
• providing universal access to safe drinking water & sanitation;
• insuring universal access to basic education; and
• protecting more children from the ravages of war.

There is now new hope for overcoming the worst aspects of child poverty. All of us in the world, both citizens and governments, must strengthen our commitment to protect, nourish and educate our most important resource: children.

(In an accompanying note, the local coordinators, Ted & Mary Page, reminded me that UNICEF is now led by Carol Bellamy, a former Peace Corps Director, the first (and still the only) RPCV to hold that position. They also described what sounds like excellent educational materials for use in schools, mentioning that last fall’s kit for teachers included classroom exercises in conflict resolution. The Pages are in their 70s now and would enjoy passing the baton. If we only had a functioning Global Education Committee.......)
Where Does the $ Go…..?

Our Money Works for So Many…..
by Sheila Przesmicki

Along with our annual approvals of small donations coming from calendar proceeds, throughout the year we accept and approve larger donations. These constitute anything over $500, as a rule.

One of the large donations we approved in June 1996 was $1000 going to the Women’s Empowerment Project in Nicaragua. The project currently helps three women’s collectives in the poorest areas of Managua. Each of the collectives assists women affected by domestic violence and helps them achieve justice through the legal and social systems. The collectives also provide reproductive and other health care for poor women and undertake economic development and educational projects. This is the third year the RPCVs of Wisconsin - Madison have funded this project. It has great accountability: Wisconsin residents visit regularly through the Wisconsin Coordinating Council on Nicaragua (WCCN), providing an ongoing relationship.

This year the money is being targeted to build the first shelter for battered women in Nicaragua. The need to address domestic violence is enormous in Nicaragua, and starting a shelter project is a very radical step for the women of the collectives. The women are very talented organizers and are committed to making this project work. Given the “structural adjustment” that economic policies have imposed on Nicaragua (and the consequent cuts in social services), international assistance is necessary for this project.

We recently received a letter of gratitude from Judith Stiers, the WCCN Development Director:

Dear Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin,

On behalf of WCCN and the Managua Inter-Collective of Women, I want to thank you for your generous gift of $1000 for the Battered Women’s Shelter in Managua. Your contribution will greatly assist the women of the Inter-Collective in their pursuit of social and economic justice for all Nicaraguans.

(continued from Page 1)

Peter is trying to apply pressure on the Guatemalan government to vigorously investigate this murder by working to involve an attorney with a human rights group out of Chicago. This effort will cost $2,000-$3,000. If we all give $10, $20, $30 or whatever you feel you can give, a good part of the money can be raised almost effortlessly. I would like to appeal to everyone reading this to help.

Won’t you act against this crime and fight for justice in this cause, by donating some money right away? Send it to Peter directly: Peter Joyce, 320 Russell Street, Madison, WI 53704. Thank you, very much.

Terry D. Stark

What are other RPCV groups doing?

Connecticut RPCVs:
- They just had their Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner, featuring speakers, including Sherwood Guernsey, PC Director of Domestic Programs (World Wise Schools).
- They’re considering supporting a PC Partnership project in Nepal, the Shree Sharada High School Compounding Fencing Project, at a total cost of $2,077.

Northern California Peace Corps Association:
- Their Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 22.
- NorCal will celebrate 15 years of existence in September and a mini-conference is being planned around it.
- NorCal has quite an interesting organizational structure, with the larger group (NorCal) serving as an umbrella and coordinator, with at least six local groups (San Francisco, North Bay, and so on).
- There’s a “Peace Corps Park” in the East Bay town of Martinez. Officially named the Nancy Boyd Park, after a Philippines PCV who died during her PC service, and dedicated in 1965 to PCVs in countries around the world. The park has a fountain with a globe.

RPCVs of Greater New York:
- On Friday, March 21, there will be a whiskey-tasting event sponsored by Johnnie Walker Scotch; no charge but donations will be requested for Peace Corps Partnership.
- They sponsor a monthly TV show, Peace Corps TV, on the Manhattan Neighborhood Network. (Note: Maybe WYOU would welcome such a show from us?)
- More than 35 RPCVs went into classrooms as part of the World Wise Schools Day.
- They have an Info-Line that’s updated weekly with events and activities sponsored by the group.

Chicago Area Peace Corps Association:
- A group went caroling to senior housing with great success, so much that they were invited back to sing some more later in the year.
- The Annual Ski Weekend will take place at Camp Vista, near Dundee, Wisconsin, on January 24-26 (Note: the same weekend as the Freeze for Food).

For Your Information

The Annual Cardinal Bar Benefit will be on Saturday, March 1, from 5-7 p.m. You know the drill: you supply the delicious food, spread the word to your friends, and then pay $5 (for adults; $3 for kids) to come and eat it. The date coincides with Peace Corps’ 36th Anniversary, which was intentional. Proceeds will be donated to United Refugee Services of Wisconsin.

The Madison Literacy Council is always looking for tutors and provides training workshops, ongoing support and a resource library on site. Next month’s World Roots will contain a lot more information about this organization, but call them today at 244-3911 if you can’t wait to volunteer!
RPCV Citizen Action

(The following article is re-printed from Peaced Together, the newsletter of the Connecticut RPCVs. The origin isn't clear, although it appears to have a national perspective.)

The 1996 election produced very little change. If anything, the election demonstrated that Americans are moderate, and the 105th Congress and Clinton's 2nd term will probably act accordingly. Efforts to balance the budget, reduce taxes and control spending will remain priorities, but human services, education and environmental programs will be protected as much as possible within budget constraints. International issues were not priorities for either party. Unlike the past, few candidates proposed cutting foreign aid as the key to a balanced budget. Nor did the candidates propose restoration of American leadership in overseas development.

This is the time to begin to promote peace, economic development and social progress where it is needed most - in the world's least developed and often the most violent countries. There will probably not be any more funding for international development and peace initiatives, but current levels might be maintained. Resources could be allocated away from guns and toward sustainable development - health, education, skill development, microenterprise, food production & distribution and environmental protection. The Peace Corps, as America's most efficient and effective sustainable development program, could gain support and grow.

Please send a letter today to the winning members of the House and Senate in your district and state, and to President Clinton. Congratulate them on their victories, and urge them to work in a bipartisan way to restore positive U.S. global leadership for sustainable development in countries that need it most. Please be sure to emphasize the value of the Peace Corps and the need to restore its size and impact.
(There were 15,500 volunteers in 1966; there are fewer than 7,000 today.)

All members of Congress can be reached by writing to:
The Honorable [Name], U.S. Congress, Washington, D.C. 20515. The address for Senators is the same, but the zip code is 20510. The address for the president is: The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500.

At-Large (continued from Page 5)

they were able to have a more reasonable level of security than had been possible when roving bands of partially demobilized mujahadeen had made travel and communication iffy to say the least. The question of gender issues has often been glossed over as a matter of cultural idiosyncrasy by the aid agencies in their efforts to provide programming. Then, when Taliban took Kabul, in full view of world media, the issue of gender equity suddenly gained lots of credence and political importance. Now the U.N. and many NGOs have gotten on their high horses and are holding aid hostage to a change in the Taliban approach to the question of their treatment of women. While I cannot agree with the harsh measures reportedly taken by Taliban for the "protection" of women in this situation, it does strike me that this may be a convenient political out for U.N. agencies and NGOs who have become frustrated with the seemingly intractable Afghan conflicts and are experiencing increasing "donor fatigue." Two notes and then I'll drop this touchy matter. Taliban clearly has the support of large segments of the population under their control because they have established a situation which is closer to status antebelum than any other group prior to them. Additionally, it can be of no service to anyone -- child, woman or man -- if vital aid and resources are pulled out on the basis of media-driven political pressures. Humanitarian agencies have a much better chance of making a positive impact by staying engaged than they do by washing their hands of the whole situation.

Afghan attitudes about the role of aid agencies also make the whole situation much more difficult. There seems to be a strong sense of entitlement to aid. This seems to be based on the idea that we, the Afghans, whipped the Russians for you and our country was destroyed in the process. Now you, by God, owe us. While there may be some justice in this sentiment, it is one which is unlikely to play very successfully in the corridors of power where decisions about where scarce aid resources will be used are made. So it would seem important to encourage and assist those Afghans with the will and the energy to take responsibility for their own world and its reconstruction rather than simply following the path of least resistance about where the money should go. If, in my efforts here, I am able to identify programs and organizations which meet this criteria I may well be requesting funds from Calendar proceeds to assist in this kind of self-sustaining work.

I sit here typing this in my cold water flat using Microsoft Word on a computer that I bought yesterday. The irony of using a very modern tool while living in a type of flat that has been unknown in the U.S. for 60 years or so has not escaped me. My regular mail address is: UPO Box 1463, Peshawar, PAKISTAN. If you send regular mail please do NOT include enclosures like photos. That will make it more likely that the envelope will be opened. I can also be reached via email at: asiasoft@soft.psh.brian.net.pk. Email is quick, handy and reliable but my computer benefactor here must pay for messages both sent and received so I hesitate to wear out my welcome in this regard. Best wishes to all and send good thoughts my way.

01/14/97

Sappy Valentine's Day

Interested in environmental issues? Join RPCVs for Environment and Development. For a free copy of their newsletter, contact Katy Hansen, Box 256, Orange City, Iowa 51041 or e-mail her at: katywhansen@ipc.apc.org.
Cold Mornings, by Matthew Heller

Our family always lived where we needed a snow shovel. I can remember one snow storm when I was nine. My best friend Bobby Frost and I shoveled the entire driveway ourselves, which is no small feat for nine-year-olds. When we were done, my father was waiting in the kitchen to reward us with grilled cheese, tomato soup, and on top of it all a silver dollar for the good work we had done. Dipping my grilled cheese into the steaming tomato soup, in my opinion truly the best way to eat the two together, I am sure I was oblivious to how lucky I was; how Norman Rockwell beautiful shoveling the driveway was.

Growing up in New England, winter was always my favorite season. It meant ice hockey, snow days off from school, and sledding until dinner was ready. Winter meant scratchy wool hats, scarves that always choked me, jackets that made me look like a mini sumo wrestler, snow pants that made peeing an ordeal, and moon boots. My moon boots were my favorite. I may have even worn them to bed a few times, afraid someone would take them from me while I slumbered. I loved winter as much as I loved those moon boots.

I still love winter, but to say I enjoy it like I did when I was nine-years-old would be a lie. I've been a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mongolia for eighteen months now and I live in a ger—a yurt. It's a big felt tent with a small wood stove in the center. It is strong and practical; the perfect domicile for a nomadic herder living on the Asian steppe. It packs up in about half an hour. I, however, am not a herder, but an English teacher in a small secondary school in rural Mongolia. Ger life is not easy. It makes twenty-year-old men look thirty-five. It makes your soul hard. Chingis lived in a ger.

Mongolians are very proud of their history and traditions. Once while sitting on the train going from Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, to my town, Bor-Undur, a Mongolian pointed to his arm and said, "In here is the blood of Chingis Khan. Beware." Really, there is no argument to that statement that I can think of. My response was, "Yes, older brother (a respectful title addressed to elders), your country is beautiful. Mongolians are lucky people."

Unfortunately, Mongolians are big vodka drinkers as well, and this very drunk herder was on his way home from selling cashmere and meat in the city. He had been successful in his business and celebrating, was trying to teach me the custom of taking the traditional three shots of vodka that new acquaintances must drink. His shots were too big, and I only wanted to taste it instead of help him finish the bottle. That's when Chingis' blood came into the conversa-

tion. I hope you're not surprised when I tell you I drank the three shots. Herders are tough people. They don't wear moon boots.

Maybe if I had been born here and lived in a ger all my life I would be tough too. But I wasn't, and I'm not. I can trace no lineage to the world's most powerful ruler that ever was, but I am blessed. I am blessed with the gift of a Peace Corps Mongolia standard issue sleeping bag rated to 30 below. When combined with another sleeping bag of my own and some wool blankets, I am completely protected from the cold in my ger every night when the fire goes out.

At seven o'clock, when it's time to wake up and start my day the first thing I do is build a fire. In the quiet darkness of morning, huddling next to the stove and sipping hot coffee, I listen to the Voice of America on my short-wave radio and remind myself of who I am, where I'm from, and what I'm doing. I'm a young volunteer spending eight hours a day with Mongolian children helping them learn. I'm building a greenhouse with the other teachers in my school so there are more vegetables in our town. I'm, along with many other things, learning how they live. In the steppe there is very little snow, only biting wind and dust. It is as cold as 50 below Celsius, not counting the wind factor. If I leave leftover tea in a mug it will freeze solid by morning. I've broken three mugs doing this. When it is this cold I sometimes ask myself, how valuable is the contribution I'm making? And is it really worth being this cold? For eighteen months now I've been waking up and thinking, yes, it is. I love working with Mongolians, but the time of day I look forward to the most is building my morning fire. It is my time of epiphany. As I feel the warmth that my own hands created, push back the cold and the dark replacing it with light and warmth, I know I will live another day. Such an experience defines being a Peace Corps Volunteer in any country. We all build fires in one way or another, and the warmth we create is as good as eating grilled cheese and tomato soup and a winter day when you're only nine years old. Being a volunteer in Mongolia and having the opportunity to live in a ger may mean enduring very cold mornings, but it's worth more than all the silver dollars I could hope to be given.

Matt Heller is a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mongolia (M5) He can be contacted through the Peace Corps Office:

Peace Corps Mongolia, Central Post, P.O. Box 1036, Ulaanbaatar, 13, MONGOLIA

Hankerin’ to get involved? Have questions or comments on specific issues? Any great ideas for events or projects? Check out the Officers & Contacts List on page 2 and call any of them directly -- this is your organization, after all, and it is what you make it!
Thanks to the following folks for kindnesses rendered:

- Belated thanks to Meredith Green for tracking down an old version of the Thorn Tree and Scott Christensen for making a new one.
- As always, thanks to the people behind the International Calendar Project. Getting orders fulfilled has been difficult this year due to an inadequate database system, but that will not be the case in the future. Those people helping to get orders out since last month include: Barbara Chatterjee, Rochelle Goedken, Buck Trawicky, Alan Weiner, Troy Rutter, Earl Bricker, Prudence Barber, Jim Schelly, Terry Stark, and John Ashbaugh.
- To Deb Stapleton for hosting the best sort of send-off for Don Sauer, and to Don himself for being such a good friend to so many, for so long. His promise to keep in touch has already been realized -- check Page 5.
- To Peter Joyce for agreeing to make sure press releases are sent out about meetings & events.

The next General Membership Meeting is:

Thursday, February 6
7 p.m.
Wil-Mar Center
953 Jenifer Street
Madison

** Note the change in location! **

The program will be the first of two viewings of the slides submitted for the 1998 International Calendar. Come and vote for your favorites!

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin - Madison
Earl Bricker, Editor
P.O. Box 1012
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-1012

Rose Ann Scott
2714 Oakridge
Madison, WI 53704

Exp. Date: 1/98

Don't forget the Cardinal Bar Benefit is scheduled for Saturday, March 1, from 5-7 p.m. Plan to cook and/or come -- and spread the word!!!