December 1997

Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time/Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gnr Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 p.m./Dec. 4th</td>
<td>Union South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cal. Steering</td>
<td>7:00 p.m./Dec. 8th</td>
<td>Rose Ann's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Party</td>
<td>6:00 pm/Dec. 13th</td>
<td>Sophia Z's Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freeze For Food</td>
<td>Jan. 24, 98</td>
<td>Vilas Park</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chicago RPCV Cross Country Skiing Weekend will take place January 16-18, 98 on the Northern Kettle Moraine. Meet us at Camp Vista, Dundee, WI. For more information contact Ralph Maffucci at (773) 248-4354.

Calendar for data entry and packing parties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Entry</th>
<th>Packing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 11/24</td>
<td>T 11/25</td>
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<tr>
<td>DECEMBER</td>
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<tr>
<td>M 12/01</td>
<td>W 12/03</td>
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<td>M 12/08</td>
<td>W 12/10</td>
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<td>M 12/15</td>
<td>W 12/17</td>
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<td>JANUARY 1998</td>
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<td>M 1/05</td>
<td>W 1/07</td>
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<td>M 1/12</td>
<td>W 1/14</td>
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<td>M 1/19</td>
<td>W 1/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 1/26</td>
<td>W 1/28</td>
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All packing parties start at 7:00 PM and usually end before 9:00 PM.

To Volunteer for data entry call Rose Ann 241-0845 Show up at 2714 Oakridge between 6 and 8 PM.

For Calendar Packing call Alan 831-3554 Show up at backdoor of 1447 Spaight starting at 7 PM.

Volume 17, Number 12

RPCV of WI - 1998 International Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
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<td>2-3 Cal.</td>
<td>($7.00 plus $3.00 S&amp;H)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-5 Cal.</td>
<td>($7.00 plus $4.00 S&amp;H)</td>
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<td>6-24 Cal.</td>
<td>($6.50 plus $7.00 S&amp;H)</td>
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<td>75-99 Cal.</td>
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<td>100-299</td>
<td>($5.00 plus $16/100 cal S&amp;H)</td>
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</table>

Send orders to:
International Calendar RPCV of WI - Madison, PO Box 1012 Madison WI 53701
Or call (608) 829-2677 for quantity pricing info.

The Annual General Meeting in San Diego voted overwhelmingly to support a $5.00 dues increase. Therefore, beginning January 1, 1998, NPCA dues will be $40 per year ($55 family). This amount includes our $15 local dues.

Nominations for Board Members

By: Kevin Jenkins, New VP

I have been to a total of 2 meetings and 1 social event and have been really impressed by the energy possessed by RPCV Madison's members. My one ascribed duty is to run elections and so I will take my first step to proceed along that path.

Rochelle Goedken and Alicia Leinberger have accepted nominations for the two vacant board seats. Any other nominations may be submitted to Kevin Jenkins at 1-608-966-1282 before the December 4th meeting. Elections for the positions will be held at the December 4th meeting.

Visit us at: http://www.execpc.com/~wrpcv
**Officers and Contacts**

**Executive Committee**
- **President**: Peter J. Joyce (608) 249-8573  
  Email: ptrjoyce@aol.com
- **Vice President**: Kevin Jenkins (608) 966-1282
- **Secretary**: Buck Trawicky (608) 241-2392
- **Treasurer**: Troy Rutter (608) 274-9332

**Members-at-Large:**
- Don Sauer -- in Pakistan (truly at-large)  
  Email: sauer@dhsa.psw.erum.com.pk
- Rochelle Goedken, (608) 243-0298

**Registered Agent**
- Gordon Malaise, (608) 255-3261

**Community Projects** *(your name here?)*
- *International Calendar Project*
  - Coordinator: Rochelle Goedken, (608) 243-0298
  - Calendar Order Hotline: (608) 829-2677

**Events**
- *Freeze for Food*
  - Dave & Deb Hamilton, (608) 873-5437

**Family Brunch**
- Sheila Przesmicki, (608) 244-6454

**Cardinal Benefit**
- Kathleen Quinlan, (608) 249-6437

**Finance**
- Rose Ann Scott, (608) 241-0845

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

**Membership**
- Coordinator: Melanie Brooks, (608) 257-8630
- Membership Directory / Mailing Labels: Susan Mendrysa, (608) 255-7053  
  Email: mendrysa@students.wisc.edu
- Pre-Connect / Re-Connect: Sharon Lewandowski, (608) 241-2392

**Speakers’ Bureau**
- Peter D. Quella

**Visibility**
- Newsletter Editor: Isabel Molina-Jefferson (608) 846-1736  
  Email: imolina@inxpress.net

**WebSite**
- Dean Jefferson Email: wirpcv@execpc.com

**Campus Peace Corps Recruiter**
- Peter D. Quella, 262-1121  
  Email: pdquella@students.wisc.edu

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**PCVs of Wisconsin – Membership Information**

All RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison receive a monthly newsletter, *World Roots*, on payment of annual dues shown below. To avoid record-keeping hassles, we prefer that members pay through December of the year of 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 $20. **We strongly encourage you to join the NPCA, which provides us a way to affect national issues.**

*(check all the following that apply)*
- I want to join RPCVW, Inc. and am enclosing $___.
- Individual - $20 for one year
- Joint - $25 (two people receiving one newsletter)
- Overseas Individual - $29
- Overseas Joint - $34
- I am also enclosing $20 for NPCA membership.  
  ($32.50 for joint membership - two people with the same address)
- I do not want to join, but I would like to receive *World Roots* and am enclosing $12 ($20 for overseas) to cover the costs.
- I'm moving! Please change my mailing address on your records.

Name: _______________________________

Country of Service: __________________

Address: ____________________________

____________________________________

Service Dates: _______________________

PC Job: ______________________________

Telephone(s): ________________________ (H) ___________________ (W)

Email address: _______________________

Birthdate: (optional – month & day) ____________

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**The RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison are an active bunch, and there’s always a need for new blood. If you’re willing to be called to help out, make your mark:**

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I might be interested in doing something, but I’d like to get more information. Call me.

Send completed form & check to: RPCVs of Wisconsin - Madison, P.O. Box 1012, Madison, WI 53701
Treasurer's Report
for the month of October 1997
By Rose Ann Scott

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Newsletter postage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Craft Fair Reg</td>
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<td>NPCA Rebate</td>
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<td>Newsletter Post</td>
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<td></td>
<td>39,072.99</td>
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Since we're always trying to get new members, we'll send three copies of our Newsletter to anyone we think will be interested. After that, they have to join (or subscribe) to stay on the mailing list.

One exception to that rule is that contacts in other RPCV organizations can continue to receive our newsletter, as long as they send us a copy of theirs.

Request for Funding Proposal

Amount Requested: $1,000
RPCV-WI Sponsor: Dean W. Jefferson
Project Title: Share Your Holidays Food Drive by Second Harvest Food Bank

Telephone: (608) 846-1736
Project Description:
Second Harvest Food Bank was established in 1986 by a group of volunteers who saw the need for helping the needy and hungry people in our area. The mission of the "Share your Holidays Food Drive" is to collect the maximum amount of good food and contributions toward the purchase of food from donors and make it available to 501-C3 charities, providing food to the ill, needy, infants and elderly.

Food Distribution: Each month, the foodbank distributes nearly 130,000 pounds of donated food to more than 160 non-profit charities that serve hungry people in Wisconsin.

Funding Source: While there is no charge for the food, each member contributes a service fee of 14 cents per pound to cover transportation and storage expenses. Other sources of funding include individual and corporate contributions as well. The foodbank is also a United Way participating agency. Sponsors of this year Food Drive include: NBC Channel 15, Park Bank, Econoprint, Dane County ExpoCenter, Cub Foods, Wisconsin National Guard.

Thank you for considering this donation.
The request was made by Marie Llanos-Flickinger, Executive Director of Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin and Mike McKinney, News Anchor, NBC 15 via letter dated 10/31/97.

"Please submit your notices, minutes, etc. by the deadline Friday, December 12, 1997. My Email address is imolina@inexpress.net or to PO Box 1012, Madison, WI 53701

Thank You! - Thank You!"

Visit us at: http://www.execpc.com/~wirpcv
Whose holiday is it, Jesus or Mattel®?
Last Christmas was my first in the comfort of my parents' country home after working as an Agroforestry volunteer in El Salvador. For two and a half years I served in the first Peace Corps group in that country since 1979, when PC pulled out at the onset of what was to be a 12 year long civil war.
Rather abruptly, I was enlightened to the political and social dynamics of a country ravaged by popular revolt, in the process of piecing itself back together. The years following the peace accords were a hopeful and yet disparaging setting. As so many volunteers do, I became forever enmeshed in solidarity with a people and a country far from my home land.
In the final days of October of 1996, when I finally made my way back to Cedarburg, WI, I realized that I was in for a new sort of challenge. The transition from the balmy climate of the tropics to the chill of late fall in Wisconsin was not as smooth as I'd hoped it would be. Even more unsettling was my eventual plunge into the North American holiday season shopping frenzy. Frivolous consumption and media hype in fast gear, no way to avoid it, constantly catching the eye with its flash and glitter. Call it culture shock, or call it what you will, but I was sickened by the very lifestyle to which I had always been accustomed.
As RPCVs it is likely that most of you felt this to some extent shortly after your return to country and perhaps some of you still get pangs from time to time. I began to wonder what, if anything, I could do for the friends that were now so far away. I thought of the young girls I paid to wash my laundry who saved for months to buy a backpack or a pair of shoes, while parents in my country fought over buying the last of the $110 Elmo dolls. The pain of this injustice quickly numbed into despair. I found myself longing for the kind of Christmas I'd become accustomed in the past three years of my life.
In rural El Salvador, tradition dictates that on this day, and the three before and after Christmas, everyone must cook lots of food and open their houses to the community. All day long people walk the dirt roads and back country paths to visit distant cousins and mothers' uncles. When they return there is news to be spread and good cheer truly does reign.
There are no shopping mall jingles ringing in your ear at every turn; there are no cookies and candies wrapped in red and green plastic; no trendy toys or electronic pets to capture the kids' attention for a few hours; no Santa Claus making up lists of naughty and nice; no count down to the day that glittery dreams come true under a spray painted spruce tree. It's a day just like any other day, except that it's Jesus's birthday. I don't remember any part of his story where he suggests that one must "max-out" the charge card to celebrate the miracle of his birth. Though perhaps this would have been my impression were it not for my PC years.
In my search for some sort of solution, I started to attend meetings of Latin American solidarity groups in the community. This allowed me to continue working on the struggles that had become mine too. As time went on, I began to get a much clearer picture of what has happened to cause the conditions which exist across the world in small agricultural communities. The globalization and privatization of the universe by North American corporations, dependent upon the massive level of consumption of resources by this population of people, has created a startling imbalance of quality of life. My question was this: how does one go about fighting forces of this size on a grassroots level?

A Just Holiday Season
Through the process of this search, I came upon an interesting economic system concept. With Fair Trade, the relationship between the producer and consumer changes in nature. By adhering to the following guidelines, companies act as partners to the producers, and consumers act as members of larger global community. The company must:

- Buy directly from the producer group, reducing the middlemen's profit margin cuts.
- Pay a fair guaranteed market price (set by the International Fair Trade Association, IFTA).
Maintain long-term relationships with producer groups to ensure healthful living and working conditions

Respect the cultural and ecological sustainability of the community and environment

Provide assistance to producer groups, when appropriate, with small micro loan programs and technical guidance

The result is greater economic sustainability, in the sense that the community is now working within capitalism, in their own interest, to compete with the larger businesses. The long term stability of such a deliberate change to the system relies on the demand curve of the basic Econ 101 model. Consumer preferences for Fairly Traded products cause that imaginary curve to shift out, resulting in a bigger market and more security for the farmer or artisan in all corners of this globe. That is where the grassroots re-enters the scene.

In the spring of this year a group of members of the Madison community, with the support of Equal Exchange Coffee Co., initiated an educational outreach and voucher campaign to provide a Fair Trade coffee option to customers of the larger supermarkets. As of this fall Equal Exchange Coffee is available in ten retail locations including Woodman's and both Mifflin St. and Willy St. co-ops (look for it at your local grocery) and several coffee joints around town including Cafe Assisi and Michaelangelo's. Coffee is an ideal market because it is the third most traded commodity in the world. But not all of the world grows coffee.

Other organizations that support Fair Trade have existed right here in Madison for years. One treasure trove of Fair Trade hand crafts and art is The Global Express store. Artisans from around the world benefit from the sale of goods through 10,000 Villages and SERRV International, that are available to us at the train car on the corner of W. Washington and Regent. Another example of Fair Trade, on a more local scale, is Community Supported Agricultural farms, which are based on the notion that the consumer pays the farmer directly to produce yummy non-toxic food. Look for their Spring Fair in April or so, to get more information and sign-up with a farm.

On this note, and in the spirit of a Just Holiday Season, I would like you to invite you all to an Alternative Holiday Fair on the 6th of December at the Pres House at 731 State Street, (on Library Mall). The event is sponsored by the Coalition for Labor Rights and Fair Trade, and will be held from 10:00-5:00. Cookies and treats will be for sale to benefit the Coalition as well as coffee from Equal Exchange. There will be Fair Trade information and gifts from around the world provided by The Global Express and Nicaraguan Potters for Peace. Gifts that give twice, once to the receiver and also to the producer. Hope to see you there.

If you go by any of these stores, you can check on the RPCV International Calendars:

- Room of One's Own
- Rainbow Bookstore
- Pic-a-Book
- Paul's Bookstore
- Canterbury
- University Bookstore
  (State Street and Hilldale)
- Little Luxuries (State Street)
- Lighten Up (Next to Barrymore)
- Willy St. Co-op
- Global Exchange (Old RR Station on West Washington Ave.)
- Orange Tree Imports (Monroe St.)
- Borders Bookstore (University Ave.)
- Pooh Corner - Highsmith (Mineral Point by Island Drive and Thierer by Sergio's)
Tenant wanted for RPCV House

Kathleen Quinlan has lost her upstairs tenant. She is looking for someone to either rent the upstairs flat (one-bdrm) or share the house with her and Lena. The house is at 1858 Jenifer (a great neighborhood), with nice amenities. Rent is negotiable.

Please call ASAP if interested. (608) 249-6437

CHRISTMAS PARTY!

On Saturday, Dec. 13 (St. Lucia's Day, and a time of meteor showers). This is an annual tradition. It's at the home of Sophia Zermuehlen, 317 Bordner Dr., Madison. 233-7886. Come at 6 for the Potluck. Also, each person brings a wrapped present. Mark the ones for kids. Presents can be inexpensive gems (a used book), a real treasure, or some hideous gift from your aunt that has been haunting you for years (that macramé blender cozy). The protracted gift-distribution is our one chance to manifest selfish greed: perfect for the Christmas season. And St. Lucia's Day is very auspicious: in Nordic countries, this is the real start of Christmas time.

WANTED TO LEASE

Peter Joyce is looking to lease land somewhere in rural or semi-rural Dane County to put up a screenhouse for growing seed potatoes. Requirements:
1. About 2000 square feet
2. Full sunlight
If you have some extra land or know someone who does, please give him a call at (608) 249-8573.

Sulfide Mining Moratorium Bill

By: Terry Stark

SULFIDE MINING MORATORIUM BILL: This bill would prohibit the opening of a new mine in a sulfide ore body in WI until a similar mine has operated for 10 years and has been closed and reclaimed for 10 years without polluting ground or surface water.

No mine in a similar sulfide ore body anywhere in the world has operated and been closed for ten years without polluting area ground water and the environment. For more information about the proposed Exxon sulfide mine near Crandon, at the headwaters of the Wolf River, contact Terry Stark, at (608) 233-9140, PO Box 55412, Madison, WI 53705.

UPDATE. March 11, 1997: the Senate passes the Sulfide Mining Moratorium Bill. November 11, 1997: the Environment Committee of the State Assembly passes adoption of the Bill, so the full Assembly can vote on it, probably in January, 1998. This is a genuine grass-roots movement of Wisconsinites fighting against the enormous economic and political power of Exxon/Rio Algom. Your help is extremely important. Call or write your state Representative (1-800-362-9472) and urge them to support the Sulfide Mining Moratorium Bill!

LET'S AUDIT THE BOOKS

contributed by: Rose Ann Scott

Once upon a time I belonged to an organization, that had a monthly balance of less than $100. The national charter of the group required biannual audits of the group's treasury, which we dutifully did. I have often thought of this as our income has steadily increased and our balance is approaching $100,000. Therefore, I would like to do an auditing of the books for our accounting year, which ended August 31, 1997. We will meet for an hour where I will explain how I handled the books and you can look through the checkbook, bank statements, receipts, etc. Then if someone wants to spend longer looking, they can do that independently. I think it is important that we have a base of people knowledgeable about our finances. This is an opportunity to learn. Call me, leave your name and number, and I will arrange a time that we all can meet. Rose Ann 241-0845(11) 825-5444(w) scott@genca.com

Mark your calendars and Make A Commitment to Help with the 17th Annual Freeze For Food 10K Run & 5K Run/Walk Saturday January 24, 1998 - Vilas Park To Benefit Oxfam America 5K Run/Walk at 12:00 noon & 10K Run at 1:00pm

Submitted by: Dave and Deb, FFF Co-Directors (Volunteers needed about 11:00am for the 5K; 12:00 if you can only help with the 10K)
(Please call us before the 24th so we can cover as many positions as possible before the hysteria begins)

Yes, it's time to make that commitment to help with the FREEZE FOR FOOD run and pleasure walk, one of the longest standing fund-raisers of the RPCV group. It is a great way to mingle and enjoy ourselves while raising lots of money for Oxfam, an agency which mirrors the Peace Corps. Oxfam shares our values of development through teaching self-sufficiency and working for
change through long-term solutions at the village level.

To date The Freeze has raised a total of $22,120 for xFam; $2,700, $2,400, and $3,000 in the last three years respectively. It has been an enjoyable and fulfilling project to work on with so many people cooperating in the spirit that embodies our RPCV group. Alas, it is time to pass the baton. This will be the last year that Deb and I direct the Freeze For Food. There will only be an 18th Annual Freeze if someone steps forward to do the organizing, and now would be the perfect time for you to come on board since we have a wealth of knowledge and experience that can best be passed on by showing you the ropes as we gear up for the 17th Annual Freeze For Food. Our primary way of getting runners (and therefore pledges, after all, fundraising is what this is all about) is via the Flyer which we distribute through fitness centers, sporting good outlets, and community bulletin boards. We have a list of locations for delivery of 25-50 at a time and we need people willing to do the delivering. It's a valuable way to pitch in without taking up a lot of time. We'll bring flyers to the next RPCV General Meeting, or call us and we'll find a way to get some flyers to you. If you have ideas on locations where we should consider dropping off flyers don't hesitate to call.

We can always benefit from ideas about promotion and media coverage. If this is an area of interest for you, we encourage you to get involved this year and take on this piece next year. The Freeze could be organized by a committee next year with someone taking on flyer production and distribution, someone else doing media promotion, someone in charge of equipment, someone to solicit food donations and prizes for top pledge raisers, and so on.

For those who want to pitch in but not do the organizing, there are lots of opportunities on the day of the event. We need about 27 people between both events to stand on the route and guide the runners along the way, ideally 4 vans to shuttle these folks out and back, at least 6 people helping at the finish line, people to register runners, serve food, and tally results. What makes the Freeze a success, and a lot of fun, is the large turnout of RPCVs the day of the Freeze. It makes our job as directors a lot less stressful if we know ahead of time who is coming so we can cover all the positions needed. So mark your calendars and plan to volunteer at the Freeze, and one last plea, call us so we know we can count on you as we plan for who will do what.

After the Freeze we traditionally gather for a Chili Feed and Pot Luck where we bask in our good feelings of accomplishment and warm up. This year Mike McQuestion and Lillian Manfredi have graciously offered to host the Chili Pot Luck. Typically 2-3 people volunteer to cook up a pot of vegetarian chili and a pot of the other kind. How about you? There is money in the budget to reimburse for the cost of ingredients. Perhaps the best way to support the Freeze is to participate as a runner and raise lots of pledges for xFam. While you're at it, get all your friends and family to run as well, and encourage them in raising pledges.

So, give us a call, Dave and Deb Hamilton, at 608/873-5437. You can also reach Dave during work hours at 251-6137. And thanks in advance for your response!

Mesaje del Presidente
By: Peter Joyce

This presidential message is brought to you from Ireland. My partner, Kathleen, and I are doing a little R+R in a B+B keeping our feet warm by a peat fire. (By the way, Kathleen has volunteered, in the spirit of Hillary Clinton, to reform health care as we know it.) Ireland is a unique country of many contrasts. It vigorously exports its people, being the only country I know of that has a lower population now (4M) than it did in 1840 (8M). Yesterday Mary McAleese was inaugurated as Ireland's President, replacing the popular Mary Robinson, (whose next challenge is to solve the political problems of Algeria.) McAleese is the only President who cannot vote in her own country. She lives in the North and can't vote in the South, which apparently didn't affect her popularity.

Thanks to Alicia Leinberger, who informed us her life as a volunteer in El Salvador. I'd like to have a Rookie of the Month that can make a short presentation of their life on the front lines. Rookies get to drink for free after the meeting.

Profile of an RPCV of WI
Jennifer Greenwald Guzman
Dominican Republic

When I was asked to write about my experiences as a Volunteer I thought it would be a fun article to write. Now, as I sit down at the computer I can't think of anything to say. How do you describe those two years of service? When I read about other volunteers experiences, I always marvel at the similarities in the types of living and work situations across countries. As volunteers it seems we all struggle to fit into a culture that is not ours, to make foreign words our own, to do some kind of
meaningful work. Is there even one of us who doesn't know the mix of feelings that come with being know as The American? Some of us served in the vast deserts of Africa, some in the cold and damp of Russia and me on the tiny, Caribbean paradise of the Dominican Republic. The landscape may change but the experiences are remarkably similar. So, instead of trying to come up with some kind of reflection now, three and one half years away from my close of service, I will include impressions less colored by time and distance.

March 8, 1992: life in the Capitol during training I'm living with my new family in a barrio of Pantoja about a 30 minute walk from the training center. Everything is new. There are people everywhere, all day long. There are loads of niños. The houses are all painted in a mix of bright colors and there are all sorts of little store thrown in with the houses. There are cars, buses and billions of motorcycles racing by at all hours. And once in awhile a donkey passes by. Almost every household has pets - dogs, cats, birds and loads of roosters. All of life is outside. Doors and windows are always open and instead of knocking people yell into houses ("Jennifer, Como estas? "Mayra, estas aqui?"). Everybody yells here. If you see a buddy across the street you yell, "Hi, how are you? What's happening?" A whole conversation can happen without either person crossing the street. Everybody, even the kids are sure to tell me to be careful crossing the street. My doña, my new madre, Mayra, told me at least 4 times today, "Jennifer, cuidado. La calle es muy peligrosa. Cuidado." There's music playing constantly. My new diet consists of: plantains, fried and boiled; rice and beans; lots of juice and fruit (the pineapple is amazing here); carrots, beets, onions, a tomato and cucumber here and there and yuca (which tastes like a potato with threads). The buses don't have clearly marked routes and bus stops are unmarked, you just sort of go where you see other people or you flag one down. How do you figure out where they're going? The guy who collects the money yells the name of the last stop as the bus rolls by. And forget about getting a map of the routes, there's not even an accurate map of the city with all it's streets. In my house there is no toilet seat, running water or telephone. I take a bath in the shower with a bucket. I sleep under mosquito netting and the roosters crow all night. (It is some kind of weird myth that they only crow at first light.

Made up to what end I can't imagine). I learned a new expression. I mean, I really learned it. Se fue la luz. The lights are gone. We have blackouts everyday, once or twice during the day and then every night around 6:30 or 7:00. Se fue la luz. Good thing I have a foco (flashlight). March 28, 1992: Caña Segura This land is amazing. It's very desertish and surrounding me on all sides are beautiful mountains. It reminds me of Arizona. What's really amazing is the variety of vegetation here. You can have a patch of lush green surrounded by desert. They grow coconut, banana, tomatoes, corn, rice, yuca, plantains and delicious red peppers. I had my first mango today. It's been another weekend of firsts. I bathed last night in the latrine. And I thought life in the barrio was outside! What a great feeling to shower with a cool breeze drifting through the stick walls and a view of the mountains ("Shower" of course is a lie - hand pour, is more like it). The air here is clean and it's so quiet at night you can hear the crickets. Today, we walked all around the campo meeting, having coffee and looking at different types of tree farms. Dominicans like their coffee really strong and really sweet and they grind their own beans, so as they grind, they add sugar. Thus, there is no such thing as coffee without sugar. Animals (chickens, goats, sheep and pigs) just kind of roam freely, but they all know where they live and all the people know what belongs to whom. The cows are pretty much kept inside the fences to graze, but everybody else has free run to roam, even through the houses sometimes. This must be chicklet season because there are tons of babies around. I carried water from the river to the house (not on my head, but others do it) and helped take beans out of their pods (while squatting on the dirt floor of the kitchen). We went to a fiesta in the next campo (a 45 min. walk) and danced merengue. Jan. 1993: Día de Campo. 64 people showed up! It was great. Plinio opened the day by saying hello and then Confesor and Liberato led the group in a song. The song is about "el hombre en el campo" - it's about loving campo life and how important campesinos are (in this country they produce like 90% of the food produced here). It was very nice. Then Carlos told some jokes and Confesor told one and when we were all warmed up, Plinio explained how to make a simple level to use to measure the slope of the land (to know where to put barriers to erosion) and
Carlos explained what we were going to do for the rest of the day. We had sites at 4 farms - one to see barreras muertas (rocks and sticks), one for barreras ivas (trees, sugar cane, tall grass), one energy farm and Liberato's farm to see the change in level of production (he used to have a desert in his backyard, now he's got guandules and sweet potatoes and tomatoes and corn). It was a great day.  
So, that's the little sample of what my life was like as a volunteer. I hope it brings up good memories for you.

Minutes from the General Meeting of Thursday, November 5, 1997 at Union South

by: Buck Tramicky

22 were present. We introduced ourselves and described our favorite in-country vacation spot.

We started off with a Treat: Alicia Leinberger, freshly back from El Salvador, presented an interesting show of her slides, and we all asked questions. A very fine start to Peter Joyce's presidency.

Calendar: See the Treasurer's Report for sums. Sales are going well, but "Worldview" hadn't yet appeared, and since many small sales to individuals are sparked by our ad there, the calendar mavin were concerned.

Freeze For Food: This is our annual 10k run and 5k walk (often in wickedly cold weather) with runners & walkers thing to register, and raising pledges from their friends.

Dave Hamilton is honcho again. It'll happen on Sat., Jan. 24, 1998. COME! We unanimously approved a MOTION to allow expenses for up to $720. This will be paid out of profits from the 97 Calendar (our traditional practice). Last year we raised about $3000; we always send whatever we raise to Oxfam, for their world hunger programs. We always have a potluck after the Freeze. We all thought Mike McQuestion's house would be perfect (especially since he hadn't yet appeared); Dave will side up and ask him. Dave also said that runners have said they don't really need prizes, so we don't have to hustle these from Madison businesses (a big chore we're glad to give up). Finally, Dave wants this to be his last year as honcho, and so we need a new FFF Honcho for 1999. It's not complicated (we've done this since our first year, and all the lore is written down). Kevin Jenkins said he might be interested. (Thunderous cheers.)

Donation Policy: re. making donations only at certain times: Barbara Chatterjee had proposed this at our last meeting, and after a month of mulling we returned to the subject. Without much quibbling, we voted AYE on a MOTION to this effect: (1) We shall continue to decide on "small" donations at our May meeting, the "Gifftaway." (2) We shall decide on "large" donations at our June meeting. (3) We shall decide on both small and large donations at our September and January meetings. (4) We shall not consider donations at other meetings, but will allow exceptions for proposals that are genuinely time-sensitive. If the President judges that a proposal is such, he/she may allow it to be considered at any meeting. (5) All proposals must of course be published in a Newsletter preceding the meeting where they are considered. (6) And remember that our by-laws allow the President to allocate up to $100 for emergency requests, if in her/his judgment this is wise; this must be reported at the next meeting, and in the Newsletter.

We discussed Don Sauer's 3 Donation Proposals: (See previous Newsletter.) Basically, Don asked that we consider funding these: (1) A modest stipend when he comes back to the States to do fundraising for his NGO in Pakistan that assists refugees from the Afghanistan troubles. (2) A donation to his NGO for 6 months' rent, so they'd be secure (they operate on a shoestring). (3) A matching fund, to be used as it's equalled by other donors. We discussed all this, but need more hard information. Mike McQuestion is in touch with him by Email, and will find out more. We can perhaps consider this at our January meeting. (By the way, I just learned that the Taliban fundamentalists in Afghanistan intended to dynamite the 180 foot statue of the Buddha, in Bamian, because this world treasure is "idolatrous." They only backed off when the whole world yelled at them.)

Election of a Treasurer: Troy Rutter is our new Treasurer. We elected him with huge cheers, and a feeling of relief. At our next meeting we'll consider the 2 At-Large Directors (who don't have heavy responsibilities). Rochelle is willing to continue, and Alicia volunteered! Any other nominations, anyone?

Christmas Party: Saturday, Dec. 13 (St. Lucia's Day, and a time of meteor showers). This is another annual tradition. It's at the home of Sophia Zermahlen, 317 Borden Dr., Madison. 233-7886. Come at 6 for the Potluck. Each person brings a wrapped present. Mark the ones for kids. Presents can be inexpensive gems (a used book), a real treasure, or some hideous gift from your aunt that has been haunting you for years (that macramé blender cozy). The gift-distribution is our one chance to manifest selfish greed: perfect for the Christmas season. The calendar research department reported that Sunday, Nov. 9, would be the fast day (not feast day) of Our Lady of Perpetual Responsibility in Lake Wobegon, Minnesota. Garrison Keillor had finally answered persistent requests that he go back home and do some anthropological research.

And, promptly at 9:00, we adjourned. Another of our President's campaign promises kept.

Calendar Steering Committee Minutes of Monday, November 10, 1997

By: Rochelle Goedken

Present: Walt Zeltner (WZ), Elinor Mbedy (EM), Rose Ann Scott (RAS), Rochelle Goedken (RG)

Advertising/Marketing: The total advertising cost for the 1997 calendar was $1,778.00. For the 1998 calendar we printed a new glossy brochure which will put our advertising costs well above last years total. The brochure cost total is $2,280.00 to print 200 brochures ($1,635.00 for printing and $645.00 for layout and other costs). We will need to determine if the increased advertising costs generated more
sales. The brochures will be distributed as follows: EM (200), Prudence Barber (100) RPCV groups that have not ordered our calendars in the past (100), PC Washington (500), calendar Hotline (400), PC Regional offices (200), UW departments (200), Post card reminders (50), organizations that order 50+ calendars will receive 5 brochures with their mailing (150), local establishments (100). This distribution is tentative and will be altered as needed. Barbara Chatterjee placed a 2 page ad in the NPCA's World Roots Magazine. Nobody has received their magazine yet (due out on October 15th) and we are concerned because this ad is time sensitive regarding number of sales generated and it's getting late in the year. We will need to contact Meredith McLanahan (membership director for the NPCA and our primary contact for any issues relating to the calendar) next week if the World Roots is not out by then. BC also placed an ad in the United Nations Volunteer magazine.

RAS contacted National Geographic to see how much it would cost to advertise in their magazine. Although the magazine reaches 6,600,000 readers worldwide and could expand our market considerably, the cost at this time is prohibitive. Four color (full page $159,345 half page, $95,000) black and white (full page $122,570, half page $65,000). Prudence Barber submitted a list of local retailers who are selling our calendar this year. She will recontact the large bookstore chains at a later date.

Deb Stapleton organized a group of volunteers to sell calendars at the International Holiday Festival. Thank you Deb and volunteers who helped: Ken Coffeen, Buck Trawicky, John Elder, Melanie Brooks and Susan Mendrysa.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to purchase the hardcover version of the National Peace Corps Association Directory.

**Donations:** In 1997 there were 1266 calendars donated to schools and various other projects. In 1998, 2000 calendars were set aside for donations. To date, 281 have been distributed including 100 set aside for the Freeze For Food race and others taken by Mary Grace Ott and Henry Nehls-Lowe for distribution to schools outside of Madison. EM turned in over 400 requests for calendars from teachers attending the annual Wisconsin Education Association convention held in Milwaukee this year. She discussed several ways to let more teachers know about the availability of donated calendars for use in the schools and will work on these ideas. She also presented some ideas on how to distribute any surplus calendars if they are not all gone in January/February.

**Distribution:** To date 12,442 calendars are out the door. 23,815 were printed so we're a little over half way there. We anticipate a rush of orders when the World Roots ad finally appears. RG will contact some current members to see if they could spend an hour or two helping to enter orders in the computer and/or to help pack the calendars for distribution. Thanks to RAS and Alan Weiner for taking charge of the entry and calendar packing parties. Thanks also to Troy Rutter, Ken Coffeen, Terry Stark, Prudence Barber, and Buck Trawicky for helping at these parties. The calendar project would not be possible without our many volunteers. Thanks to all. Next meeting is Monday, December 8th.

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A thank you letter from the Board of Directors of Madison-Arcatao Sister City Project

**Prudence Barber - Julie Derwinski - Marc Rosenthal**

Dear Returned Peace Corps Volunteer of Madison.

Thank you for the $500 contribution for the town of Arcatao, El Salvador. The money will be used to help keep the daycare going. They need food items for the children, and minimum pay so the two daycare workers can put food on their own tables. This allows mothers to work to help develop the community.

The money goes to the National Sister City Organization, which sends it to CRIPDES (Corporation for Rural Community Development in El Salvador). This NGO (Non Governmental Agency) provides us with our in-country contact person (currently Michael Ring). They require specific plans before disbursing the money, as well as reports of its use. Thank you again for your help. We will report to you on the daycare project within a few months.

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Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin-Madison

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Exp. Date: 1/98